



# Representing Ontario's Airports





## The Airport Environment and You

### From the Desk of the CEO

#### Up Next at AMCO

Scotty will be starting school this fall at a French school. He asked me why he had to go to French school, and I responded that it would give him more opportunities when he is older if he knows both English and French. His response was that they were only going to teach him French. He was incredulous when I told him that he already knows English! He had no idea! Sometimes we just don't give ourselves enough credit for the things we know and do that comes naturally to us. We don't realize all the positive things going on as we can sometimes get bogged down with what we don't know or what isn't working. Take a moment now to celebrate the positive things going on – with yourself, and with your airport or business.

At AMCO, we are celebrating the opening of Convention Registration! This year, we will be in Thunder Bay from Oct. 1-4. We are excited to be able to bring you another opportunity for learning, networking, and discovering new products and services to enhance your airport. We look forward to this event every year and it's great to see old friends and new faces alike. Visit [www.amco.on.ca/convention](http://www.amco.on.ca/convention) for more information and to register. There will also be SMS and Root Cause Analysis training following the Convention so make sure to register for this as well!

Another celebration AMCO wants to share is the success of the Spring Airfield Workshop! To begin, we had an excellent Small Airports and Aerodromes meeting at the Huronia airport. There were informative presentations and great discussions all around. The Workshop itself was well attended and very well received. The presentations were timely and interesting, and we received a lot of good feedback. AMCO would like to thank the sponsors for this event:

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- Sioux Lookout – Coffee Break Sponsor
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Finally, AMCO loves to celebrate the awesome things that our members are doing. We love to hear and share good news stories such as the ones you will find on the following pages of this Ezine. Stories of expansions like the new Chartright facility at the Region of Waterloo International Airport. Stories of company growth as evidenced through creation and hiring for new positions, like the General Manager of Northern Airports position at The Loomex Group. Even stories of improvement such as much higher on time performance at Toronto Pearson International Airport over last summer. Share your good news with AMCO so we can celebrate you too!

Sincerely,

Laura McNeice  
CEO, AMCO

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## Progress: Airport generates \$200M annually to local economy

Original Article by Nicole Stoffman, The Daily Press, April 10, 2023

For full article click here

The Timmins Victor M. Power Airport's revenue dropped sharply during the pandemic, but rose again over the past two years as flights resumed and passenger loads increased, though not yet to pre-COVID levels.

"Our revenue is generated by passenger and aircraft movements, so when those airplanes ceased to operate and their passenger loads dropped by about 80 per cent, Timmins airport was looking at a loss of \$2 million over two years or so," said airport manager Dave Dayment.

The airport's total operating budget is \$4 million.

Staying open and staffed as an essential service while losing revenue, exacerbated the problem, said Dayment.

The Timmins airport serves medical and fire evacuations, OPP, Nishnawbe Aski Police and Ministry of Natural Resources aircraft, and more.

In June 2022, Air Canada began to resume service and is now operating two Toronto-Timmins flights a day, down from four or five pre-pandemic. In October 2022, Porter Airlines resumed its two return flights a day. That means 600 people are coming through the airport daily, Dayment said.

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## **New eyes on the sky: NAV CANADA moving forward with digital air traffic services**

Original Article by Kenneth I. Schwartz, Skies, May 9, 2023  
For full article click [here](#)

In October 2015, aviation history was made in northern Sweden when Örnköldsvik Airport became the world’s first remotely controlled airport managed by a controller at a workstation 140 kilometers (87 miles) away at the Sundsvall remote tower center. [...] This is known as the “remote tower” or “digital tower” concept invented by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in 2002. The concept uses optical sensors, microphones, video screens, and other digital technology to allow ATS operators to provide safe and efficient service from a location independent from the airport site.

In early 2022, Nav Canada put its hat into the ring when its new strategic direction identified digital facilities as one of three revolutionary technologies (along with space-based surveillance and gate-to-gate flight management) that will transform how airspace users safely transit Canadian skies in the coming decades.

The first public milestone occurred in mid-January 2023, when Nav Canada announced that it had selected Kingston Airport in Ontario as the site for its first digital facility under its Digital Aerodrome Air Traffic Services (DAATS) program — customized for Canada’s unique geographic and aviation landscape.

The primary difference when compared to a traditional ATC tower or flight service station building is that ATS professionals no longer have an out-the-window view. Instead, they utilize a digital technology solution with high-resolution optical sensors, external microphones, and other sensor technology to capture what is happening at an airport in real time.



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## Planes fly in to support Hope Air

Original Article by Susan Gamble, The Expositor  
May 15, 2023

For full article click here

Ed Johnston loves taking folks for their first plane rides but he's apt to tear up over some of his passengers. [...]

On Saturday, Johnston helped organize a fundraiser for Hope Air that drew dozens of pilots and supporters to the Brantford Airport for food, fun and the chance to support the group.

The event caused a bit of a traffic jam in the skies as 50 to 60 small planes circled, waiting for a chance to land.

Pilots were encouraged to consider joining an expedition – a five-day jaunt in June that will help raise funds and awareness for Hope Air while visiting communities that include some of the regular stops for the charity.

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## Saugeen Municipal Airport announces co-chairs of fundraising campaign

Original Article by Walkerton-Herald Times, April 26, 2023

For full article click here


Dave Hocking, chair of the Saugeen Municipal Airport, announced on April 20 that Connie Sancu and Dave Schmidt have agreed to be co-chairs of the Saugeen Municipal Airport Fundraising Campaign. [...]

“Everyone with an interest in the airport will appreciate their commitment to raising funds, for the long-term benefits of the airport and related aviation activities,” state officials in a press release.




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## ‘We’re in a much better place.’ Minister says Canadian airport chaos of last summer (likely) won’t be repeated

Original Article by Josh Rubin, Toronto Star, May 24, 2023

[For full article click here](#)

He didn’t promise it will be free of hiccups. But federal transportation minister Omar Alghabra says this summer likely won’t see a repeat of the chaos that plagued Canadian airports last year.

In a meeting with the Star’s editorial board Tuesday, Alghabra said some of the biggest issues underlying last year’s problems have improved substantially.

“I’m confident that we are not going to see the same level of disruptions that we saw last summer. There were so many other factors that we saw last summer that are not present today,” said Alghabra, who said air travel in Canada this summer could top levels not seen since before the global pandemic.

Airports across the country, including Toronto’s Pearson International, were plagued by cancellations, delays, crowded customs halls and lost or delayed baggage last year, as demand for air travel exploded in the wake of pandemic travel restrictions being lifted. There were three big factors behind most of the trouble, argued Alghabra.

“First, it was the massive labour shortage, combined with airlines wanting to sell as many tickets as they could, because there’s a lot of demand. Plus, there was extreme peak scheduling,” said Alghabra. “There were certain hours of the day where almost every airline wanted to schedule a flight.”

## Toronto's Billy Bishop Airport pushes electrification, renewables to decarbonize

Original Publication by Tyler Choi, SustainableBiz Canada, May 11, 2023

[For more details click here](#)

To create a greener and cleaner experience in 2023, Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport is continuing with its sustainability initiatives, including the electrification of its vehicle fleet with the introduction of Canada's first all-electric ferry and sourcing of renewable energy.

In its 2022 Sustainability Report, the airport laid out its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimize noise and air pollution in the area it occupies on Toronto's waterfront.

Billy Bishop Airport, which was Canada's ninth-busiest airport in 2019 before the COVID pandemic drastically impacted air travel, says it remains the only Canadian airport to power all its operations with renewable energy through a partnership with Bullfrog Power.

The airport has a target of a 35 per cent reduction in carbon below 2015 levels by 2030.

In an email exchange with SustainableBiz, Roelof-Jan Steenstra, the president and CEO of PortsToronto, the owner and operator of Billy Bishop Airport, said, "combatting climate change will require strengthened targets and ambitious goals in the years to come."

"To this end, my team and I are working to better understand the sources of our emissions, to identify efficiencies within our operation, and to develop new objectives as part of a strategy that will bring us to where we need to be in order to meet this climate challenge."

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## Airport hopes to land more funding

Original Publication by Darlene Wroe, The Temiskaming Speaker, Local Journalism Initiative, May 17, 2023

[For more details click here](#)

The Earlton-Timiskaming Regional Airport Authority has put forward a request to the provincial government to help fund the airport's operational costs.

Airport Authority board member Kerry Stewart, who is reeve of Chamberlain Township, represented the airport in a meeting with Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney during the recent meeting of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

In a later telephone conversation, Authority chair and Temiskaming Shores Mayor Jeff Laferriere said that the request is for operational funding that would represent the share of the residents living in the unincorporated townships.

## Federal government announces new program to streamline airport security

Original Publication by Peter Zimonjic, CBC News, May 23, 2023

[For more details click here](#)

With the aim of avoiding the travel chaos that gripped the country last summer, the federal government is rolling out a new Verified Traveller Program it says will streamline the airport security check-in process.

Beginning next month, eligible airline passengers will be able to keep their laptops, electronics and liquids in their carry-on bags and will be permitted to clear airport security without having to remove their shoes, belts and jackets.

The changes to the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) security screening practices will affect six international airports across the country. They were announced by Transport Minister Omar Alghabra on Tuesday.



## Hamilton airport expansion pays off with cargo and passenger traffic up in 2022

Original Publication by Don Mitchell, Global News, April 27, 2023

For more details click here

Hamilton's airport moved more cargo in 2022 and saw passenger traffic rebound amid declining COVID-19 restrictions.

The annual report for John C. Munro international revealed the airport dealt with some 877 million kilograms of goods in 2022, up 14 per cent compared to 2021. That makes the airport the third largest for cargo in Canada just behind Toronto Pearson and Vancouver International.

"We are the largest in overnight dedicated freight and we are the fastest growing cargo airport in all of Canada," managing director Cole Horncastle told the city's airport subcommittee Thursday.

E-commerce goods, perishables, manufacturing products and pharmaceuticals are some of major cargo the airport handles through partners Cargojet, DHL Express, UPS, Canada Post, Purolator and Amazon.

At the root of the airport's recent success is rehabilitation of the 10,000 foot main runway through strengthening of the surface in a 2019/2020 initiative. With the upgrade, it became one of only four commercially usable 10,000-foot runways in Ontario that operates 24/7.

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## Small airports could be affected by WestJet possibly integrating Swoop

Original Article by David Zura, CityNews, May 24, 2023.

[For full article click here](#)

A tentative deal between WestJet and the union representing its pilots likely includes a provision to fully integrate Swoop into WestJet by October of 2024, eliminating the airline.

WestJet has declined to comment, citing the fact the agreement is tentative and hasn't been ratified. However, the development could be a big deal to the 13 Canadian airports that welcome the airline, most of them smaller operations welcoming just a handful of carriers.

"Generally, in the short term, there's not a whole lot of change, but what happens is the parent airline that they're getting merged into starts looking at the profitability of the routes. And over time what you'll see is eventually those smaller routes and the less profitable routes start to get eliminated," explained Wayne Smith, a hospitality professor at Toronto Metropolitan University.

Smith said the loss of Swoop could represent a five-to-10-year setback for some of these smaller airports. In a written reply to CityNews, Hamilton International Airport said they're aware of and continue to monitor the results of the tentative agreement between the WestJet Group and the ALPA. [...]

On the flipside, Smith tells CityNews this development might become a big advantage to medium-sized airports with higher traffic. "If they see a growth market potential, they can bring a bigger plane or they could bring more frequent service [...]."



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## Members of Sioux Lookout's emergency services conduct training exercises

Original Article by Tim Brody, Sioux Lookout Bulletin, May 9, 2023

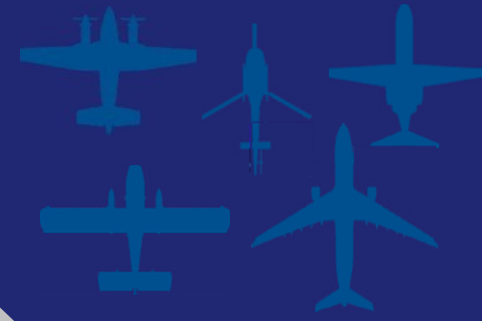
[For full article click here](#)

Members of the Sioux Lookout Fire Service conducted training on the ice east of Frog Rapids on April 29, while on April 20, members of the Sioux Lookout Fire Service joined members of the Ontario Provincial Police and Northwest EMS (ambulance) for emergency exercises at the Sioux Lookout Airport on April 20. [...]

Sioux Lookout Airport Manager Ben Hancharuk said the training exercise at the airport on April 20 and its mock scenario, "involved emergency responders, airport staff, and related stakeholders responding to an "airplane crash."



# Airport Management Council of Ontario



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