

BRANTFORD AIRPORT BOARD

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

Dec. 12, 2022

Operational Update

Canada Customs and Executive Visitors

We're slowly seeing an increase in corporate travel, now that customs has been available. Discussions with corporate pilots often revolve around how much of a hassle it's become to fly in and out of larger airports in the area (inflated landing fees, service delays, aircraft ramp access, etc.), and how much of a pleasure it is to visit Brantford.

Airport Showcase BBQ

On June 22nd, the Airport Board and Flying Club hosted Mayors, Councillors, and Representatives from Brantford and Brant County to highlight the airport and the opportunities it holds. There were about 20 people in attendance, and the event proved to be a worthwhile opportunity to network and consider how the County and City can work together with the airport to support our communities.

2022 Municipal Elections

A special note of thanks to Airport Board Members and their supporters who went to bat for the airport this Fall, educating the public about this incredible asset in the midst of some strong negativity from opposing parties. Thank you.

Airport Management Council of Ontario

In October, representatives from the Airport and City travelled to Kingston for the Annual AMCO convention and meeting. The event is always an excellent opportunity to network with other airports and vendors, but this year proved to be an exceptionally good event as we saw twice the attendance of last year's convention. The workshops were largely relevant to our operations, and we managed to make some contacts with one of the presenters from 8 Wing at CFB Trenton, who have now added Brantford to their roster of Training Airports to visit. (They've flown in twice so far this Fall with the C-130 Hercules)

Airport staff also attended the (virtual) SW Regional AMCO meeting last week, and will be attending the Small Airports Working Group/workshop in Midland in May.

Winter Ready

Airport staff have winterized the airport in preparation for the upcoming snow season. Radios have been procured for all airside contractors to ensure a safe winter season. The decelerometer used to measure runway friction is STILL on backorder as they await parts availability. We expect to receive it early in the new year.

Hangar Demand

Demand remains high, as always. With Brant Aero's procurement of Hangar 140 (formerly solarship), some of those on the T-Hangar waiting list are reaching out to them for interim storage. Inquiries about the forthcoming T-Hangar builds are still coming across my desk several times per week.

Alternate Airport Use

There's been no film production since our last meeting, although we have had several inquiries from productions such as "Reacher", "Hardy Boys", etc.

We've also been fielding inquiries for uses outside our usual scope (Drag races, police training, bicycling, etc.) City and Airport staff have been meeting regularly to develop a thorough application process that will allow us to quickly determine the supports and insurance needed for such requests, and make the decision that best supports our airport and community at large. This has involved critical work from city staff preparing and distributing surveys to airports across Southern Ontario to develop industry standards. Stay tuned for more progress on this item.

T-28 Trojan Training

June 15-18/2023, the Flying Club will be hosting T-28 aircraft and pilots from around North America, as they train and recertify for airshow performances. There won't be any aerobatics flown here at the airport, but we have arranged to meet with flight instruction staff from both flight schools to address safety and procedural concerns as we work with these faster aircraft in the circuit. We're expecting up to ten aircraft and crews.

Airport Promotion

After a long break throughout COVID, the Flying Club is once again hosting airport tours for schools, daycares, and service groups. There's been a number of tours this fall, and more planned throughout the upcoming semester.

The Flying Club has also renewed our presence at the Chamber of Commerce events in Paris and Brantford, with the hopes of reminding local businesses that the airport is ready and able to play a part in their business models. We are also planning to host a "Business After 5" event next Summer, and would welcome the Airport Board to join us in hosting. Date TBD.

Airport Fencing and Perimeter Road

City and airport staff have met to determine where funds allocated to fencing and security would be best spent. Several areas were identified, but the most pressing concern is the low, 70 year old fencing along Hwy 53. This section will be replaced with proper chain-link fencing not only making the airport more secure, but also giving it a more professional appearance as viewed from the busy highway.

Changes have been made to the on-site automated gate controllers, allowing city staff to review and update gate logs and schedules while off-site, a measure that will help with getting timely security information.

The Airport Perimeter Road/Conestoga Student Project continues, with more progress expected this Spring.

Imperial Oil Soil Remediation Area

Additional drilling and sampling took place in October inside and outside Hangar 130. No further results received.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shawn Broughton – Airport Manager