



Ready for take off

Huronia Airport manager Robin Rich says some cottagers fly to the airport and leave their planes for the summer. The two planes at the end of this

row are used to teach people to fly. Rain this summer has disrupted flying at the airport, Rich says.

Airport could take off with longer runway

by Murray Moore

Huronia Airport shared by Midland, Penetanguishene and Tiny Township six miles southwest of Midland has the potential to be more than a parking lot for private planes, says airport manager Robin Rich.

The 3,000 foot runway in place can at best handle a DC-3 with 35 people, but most of the traffic is private pleasure planes.

This could change if the federal government approves expansion and puts up the money to pay for a 1,000 foot runway extension.

Also needed for improvement is the capacity to take planes flying on instruments, in addition to the present case where visual flight rules confine landings

and take-offs to good weather.

Airport

If the airport got the equipment needed to qualify it to handle planes flying on instrument approach, bigger airplanes and more commercial traffic might be attracted, she suggested.

As it stands, adverse weather can cut down the hours the airport is used. This summer for example has been 'rotten,' says Rich, because of the hours of rain. The rainy weather has affected other airports in this general area as well, she said.

Flying lessons are offered at the airport, with a minimum of 35 hours of instruction and practice needed to qualify for a private

pilot's licence.

A woman waiting for her husband to land said he chose to take his lessons in Florida, where she and her husband winter, because poor weather there is very rare.

A person would pay between \$1,500 and \$1,600 to learn to fly, Rich said. This includes instruction, rental of aircraft, and the time of an instructor.

Instructors

In addition to a manager, the airport employs two flight instructors, a mechanic, an apprentice mechanic and a gas pump attendant.

A ground school course will be offered starting later this month as part of the night school program offered through Midland Secondary School, she said. The course runs one night a week for 12 weeks. Subjects include

navigation, the theory of flight, and meteorology.

The course can be put towards gaining a licence to fly but some people will take the course out of general interest, or because they are glider pilots, or they build and fly model airplanes, Rich explained.

The airport is open seven days a week year 'round in daylight hours, which means longer hours in the summer.

Lights along the runway are on through the night.

Planes are tied down near the runway and a storage hangar can take a small number through the winter.

The mechanics work in a separate shed. Summer is a busy time because commercial planes have to be checked every 50 hours, and private planes need an annual check.

Last Bash not a smash

The Last Bash, the concert featured at the Wasaga Stars Arena Sunday night, was not the 'Bash' organizers had hoped for.

A handful of people showed up to view the performance of the Montreal area group, and most straggled back out the door once they realized there was no crowd of onlookers.

According to Dayle Reynolds, publicity person for the band, the lack of interest shown was a result of the fact that no liquor was being served.

She also stated, "This is so typically Canadian. No one wants to be the first to come. They

think they can't have fun without liquor."

About a dozen or so people gathered in the parking lot of the arena and listened to the music from there, occasionally drifting to see the band in person. Even the cover charge was lifted in an effort to entice concert lovers but unfortunately only those at the site were aware of this development.

Undaunted, the band played on though, and a great deal of credit must go the spirit displayed by the men.

The music was exciting and the potential for a good solid concert was evident in their show.

New vandalism trespass laws aims at cutting losses

John McCullough, Midland's trustee on Simcoe County Board of Education, thinks changes in Ontario's new Trespass Law are "super."

The law, which comes into effect on Monday, is expected to cut the enormous cost of vandalism caused by trespassers who steal farm crops or who break school windows.

According to McCullough, "Hundreds of thousands of dollars damage are inflicted on our schools each year through vandalism so I welcome the new changes in the law."

The Trespass to Property Act will provide school property with increased protection from trespassers and vandals, says Attorney General Roy McMurtry.

Certain provisions of the new Ontario legislation will be of key importance to schools.

Under the new legislation, convicted trespassers can be fined up to \$1,000. The same court that fines a trespasser may also order him to pay up to an additional \$1,000 for proven damages.

Designation

The legislation more clearly provides for the designation of principals and other school officials as agents in enforcing school board policy with respect to entrants and activities on school premises.

It also provides guidance to school boards that desire to post effective legal notice of the classes of persons and activities it wishes to permit on school premises.

Under the Act, an intruder to properly posted school property may be arrested by police without previous warning to the intruder from school officials.

For the first time, a police officer who has reason to believe that a person was trespassing on school property and has recently departed from the premises may demand that the person identify himself so that he may be charged. Refusal to provide such information is in itself grounds for arrest.

"I am confident the new trespass legislation will assist schools to combat the increasing problem of trespass and vandalism to school premises," McMurtry said.

Recreation

In an attempt to increase the outdoor

recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Ontario, the Ontario Legislature has actually enacted two new laws.

The Occupiers' Liability Act and The Trespass to Property Act will clarify and simplify earlier laws governing an owner's or occupier's legal liability for the safety of entrants to his property while increasing an owner's or occupier's protection from trespassers.

The Acts are intended to encourage owners and occupiers to permit access to parts of their land suitable for recreational activities.

Under the new laws, an owner of property bears a basic duty of care towards all who enter his land. That duty is to take care that in all reasonable circumstances, persons entering his property are reasonably safe while on the property.

This basic duty of care does not extend to situations where the entrant willingly assumes the risk of being on another's property or where an entrant is, under the new legislation, deemed to have assumed such risk.

Similarly, the new laws deem that the basic duty of care by the owner does not apply to those who enter his property with the intention of committing a criminal act. Also excluded from the owner's basic duty of care are non-paying recreational entrants on most rural land.

Changes

According to Penetanguishene's Police Chief John Geere, his department was notified of the pending changes last week in a letter he received from the Ontario Police Commission.

He said the commission also planned to send along not only copies of the changes in the law but pamphlets outlining the changes so members of the general public if interested could note the changes for themselves.

Although the police chief hasn't officially seen the changes himself, what he has heard about them "makes a lot of sense."

Only time will tell if the new laws are worth the paper they are printed on. If they can curb vandalism and trespassing the new changes should win the support of Ontarians all over the province, especially those plagued with the above kinds of crimes.

Montreal St. face-lift could start next week

Work on the reconstruction of Midland's Montreal Street can begin as soon as the town council gives its okay and the contractor can get in place, says Works Commissioner Percy Ehler.

He expects work will start Monday.

This year's program of surface overlaying, putting down an inch of asphalt over selected cracked pavements, is finished.

And work is progressing well on the expansion of the municipal sewage treatment plant.

In fact workers are making up some of the time lost in the spring due to a province-wide strike by carpenters. The race is on to pour as much concrete as possible so that workers will be able to work above ground through

the winter. Preparations are being made to lay sanitary sewer pipe in the town's industrial park.

Tunnelling is taking place in front of the Highland Motel so that a 12 inch sanitary sewage drain pipe can be laid under the road inside a

27 inch pipe.

Ehler announced that the installation of services for the Victoria Street and Rosslyn Court subdivision of the Hugel Heights subdivision is zoned for single family residences, with the remainder zoned for condominiums, he said.

Council meeting set for Monday

With just over two months to go before the next municipal elections, there are not that many more public council meetings in Midland left this year.

One of them will take place this Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers on Dominion West starting at 7:30 p.m.

As usual the general public is invited to attend these sessions.

Taxpayers seem reluctant to cough up cash to town

Tax demands with a Sept. 26 deadline have been in the mail to Midland taxpayers since Aug. 25 but payments have not been pouring in as of Wednesday.

Two town hall employees handling the incoming payments said they felt payments were coming in "more slowly" than in past years.

A noticeable number of the checks arriving are post-dated until the deadline. Mail did pile up the first two days but the amount of incoming mail quickly slackened, they said.

Both town employees said they wait to the last minute to pay their own tax bills.

A penalty charge of 1 1/4 per cent per month is due on late payments.

Midland Treasurer Al Goodchild said Wednesday a date is being set aside too, on which to interview candidates for the position of deputy-treasurer.

The post became vacant earlier this year with the resignation of long-time deputy-treasurer Hilda Martin.