



Angelic voices

Georgian Manor in Penetanguishene was filled with music last Wednesday night when performers showed up to delight

shut-ins with Christmas music and skits. This large group of performers

represented Penetanguishene First Brownies. Needless to say their songs

provided a great deal of joy to all those who heard them.

Hurononia Airport saga continues...

The management of Huronia Airport will be transferred to a company headquartered in Coldwater officially as well as in practice as soon as the change of ownership is approved by the Canada Transport Commission.

Ingo Strackerjan, owner and operations manager of Parks Air Nautical Service, has replaced Robin Rich as manager at the municipal airport.

Strackerjan says satisfactory arrangements have been reached with Keith Rich, the last operator of the airport, and all other past principals, such as Tom Lembo, owner of the airport service before Rich, and Joe Rezspecki, Keith Rich's partner and man on the scene.

Plans are to expand services offered at the airport from private flying lessons.

Courses

Strackerjan said a curriculum for commercial flying courses is being prepared. Plans are also being made to teach aerial spraying. Businesses and individuals will be able to have a message of their choice trailed behind a Second World War aircraft on a banner for 20 minutes for \$40 - everything from ads to love notes.

The advertising service will be offered at night as well as day if it proves profitable.

The new management also is thinking of upgrading the lounge and instituting a snack bar for the benefit of visiting pilots and passengers.

Flying by instruments is another area that the airport staff is thinking of entering. The aerial spraying course would be a joint venture with Canada Manpower and Georgian College.

Strackerjan mentioned the possibility that the Park Air Nautical Service would hire some of the graduates of an aerial spraying course.

Since Park Air Nautical Service took over, the fulltime staff has been increased to six people from three fulltime staff and a number of part-timers, he said.

An official from the Ministry of Transport is coming to the airport in January to look into the

ramifications of allowing the airport to handle traffic travelling on instruments.

Airport

At the moment the airport is only used during daylight hours.

The unofficial new owner is also interested in seeing the length of the tarmac lengthened. Permission will be sought from the Huronia Airport Commission to change the layout of the hangar to allow spray painting of airplanes.

The aerial spraying course could start in mid-February. A minimum of 25 hours in the air and 100 hours of ground school would be involved.

Parks Air Nautical Service is headquartered in Coldwater and operates from Rice Lake, near Peterborough.

The Huronia airport management saga is an interesting one to say the least, almost from its very beginning.

Since the late 1960s the area airport has had several companies manage it for Tiny Twp., Midland and Penetanguishene.

Originally Collingwood Air (Collair) took over running the airport but later pulled out. Next came LemAire which was owned by Midland industrialist Tom Lembo.

Lembo hired Peter Crampton who had managed the airport for Collair.

However several years after taking over, LemAire's contract with the airport commission came to an abrupt end with the commission saying LemAire had not met all of its contractual agreements.

Crampton however stayed on and he along with Keith Rich formed Garrison Aviation which took over management of the airport.

Lembo later began legal action against the airport commission, Crampton and Rich.

His action was discontinued against Rich and Crampton after Crampton left the employ of Garrison and later became a pilot with Collair.

Rich and Lembo worked out an agreement whereby Rich would pay LemAire a certain amount of money in exchange for Lembo's action to be dropped.

In the meantime the web became more tangled when Joe Rezspecki, a partner with Rich (and the airport's manager) was fired. Rezspecki announced plans to take legal action himself over his firing.



Recalls a previous Christmas

Well known Midland-Penetanguishene area resident and broadcaster Bill Bramah was in the area recently filming a segment for his Bramah's Ontario feature which appears each week on the Global Television Network. While here in Huronia he "shot" footage on Christmas past, a rural setting.