By Barney Danson (L-York North)

OTTAWA — As those of you who live in the vicinity of Buttonville Airport know, the recent runway expansion has been a source of concern to both the residents and the municipal governments of Markham and Richmond Hill.

All parties have legitimate concerns. The residents are worried about increased noise, deviations from standard operating procedures by aircraft using the airport, and the prospect of the runway expansion opening up the way for larger aircraft.

Markham shares those concerns of course, but is also worried about the jurisdictional "grey" areas in

matters of zoning and land use.

Toronto Airways, as operators of the airport, have concerns inasmuch as they must provide the services for which they are licensed but attempt to be "good neighbors" and encourage the pilots using their facilities to be as considerate as possible of local residents.

Logical approach

The logical way to approach this problem, it seemed to me, would be to bring all parties together to try and reach a greater understanding of everyone's concerns and attempt to find feasible solutions.

Accordingly, I was successful in obtaining agreement from my colleague, the Hon. Otto Lang, minister of transport, to convene a series of meetings under the auspices of his ministry.

Len Fitton, regional controller, civil aviation for Ontario, ministry of transport, was appointed as chairman of the meetings.

Those groups represented include the town of Markham, led by Mayor Tony Roman; the town of Richmond Hill, led by Mayor David Schiller; the Association of involved Residents (representing all affected residents), led by Murray Billinghurst; Toronto Airways, led by Michael Sifton; and an official of the ministry of state for urban affairs, in view of their interest in the impact of airports on urban and urbanizing areas.

A member of the minister of transport's personal staff, together with a member of my own personal staff, also attend each meeting.

Co-operative spirit

To date, the discussions have been conducted in a spirit of goodwill and co-operation, which is essential if we are to obtain lasting results. I am confident this atmosphere will continue to prevail.

For the first time, the residents are being given the opportunity to participate on an equal basis. While some of the residents may be unhappy with

the fact the meetings are not being conducted in public, I should stress it was the consensus more could be accomplished within a shorter time if discussions were conducted with a small group.

The Association of Involved Residents will speak for all affected residents.

Anyone else wanting input into the meetings should communicate with Murray Billinghurst at 297-2913. He will be pleased to represent their interests. Making progress

Significant progress has been made to date. The question of jurisdictional parameters has been established.

This is an important first step. There was some confusion on this point, particularly with regard to the amount of control which Toronto Airways has over the pilots using their facilities.

As an example, air traffic controllers at the airports are ministry of transport employees as opposed to employees of Toronto Airways.

As such, it is MOT who have jurisdiction over the pilots once they are airborne.

Secondly, the ministry of transport has expressed a willingness to increase as much as they can their inspection role at the airport to make sure the regulations are properly observed.

Thirdly, Toronto Airways have co-operated in advising their customers that violations of the operating regulations will necessitate the offender seeking accommodation elsewhere.

Not important

Fourthly, and most importantly, transport officials in conjunction with Toronto Airways have:

(a) worked out alternate flight circuit patterns to try and relieve the more populated areas from heavy traffic to the greatest extent possible;

departure shall be made at lower than 500 feet above ground level; and (c) no circuits below 1,000 feet above ground level

(b) specified that no turns on either arrival or

may be made without special authorization by Air Traffic Services. The turns and circuit height provisions will go into

effect as soon as possible. Changes to the circuit patterns are in abeyance,

however, pending further investigation. They will be implemented only when agreement of all parties concerned has been obtained.

Zoning question

The question of land use and zoning has been deferred to a later date on the basis flight operating procedures should be dealt with immediately as this area could give the greatest amount of relief to the largest number of people.

The land use and zoning question is much more complex. It will have to be tackled in conjunction with legal

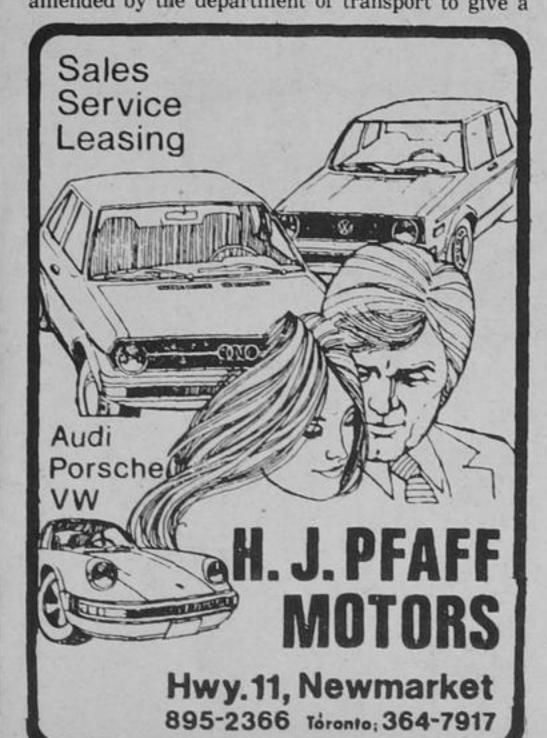
counsel, and with provincial government representation, at a later date.

I believe all parties - with the exception of Richmond Hill (who reserve the right for further review) - are reasonably satisfied the current runway addition is not sufficient to allow a major change in the character of the airport, given present day

technology Generally speaking, it would not be practical for the extended runway to be used to accommodate the types of executive jets currently in use with the exception of the Citation (which, incidentally, is quieter than many of the propeller-driven aircraft currently using the airport).

Licensing change

In addition, airport licensing procedures are being amended by the department of transport to give a





ottawa report

greater degree of municipal input into proposed

major expansion of airport facilities. This should assure residents that arbitrary airport expansion can not be undertaken, once the new procedures are in place, without appreciable input

from their elected municipal officials. I am sure we all realize it will not be possible for everyone concerned to attain 100 per cent of everything they seek in this situation.

The airport is there and it existed before the majority of residential development in the area. On the other hand, there is no doubt the amount of

Pilot violators Nor is there any doubt a small percentage of pilots

There are, therefore, degrees of responsibility fester for too long.

incumbent on everyone involved to do their part. It is up to the pilots to make sure they adhere to the between the airport, the residents, and the operating regulations and be as considerate as municipality. possible of those on the ground.

It is the moral responsibility of Toronto Airways to meetings will be required to solve them. get rid of those who refuse to abide by the rules. Report violations

It is up to the residents to report violations which fident of a successful conclusion.

they witness, with as much corroborating evidence as possible, to Murray Billinghurst who will report to appropriate MOT officials.

It is incumbent upon MOT to investigate these traffic has increased and will continue to increase. violations and enforce the regulations to the best of

their ability. I am hopeful these meetings will lead to a using the airport refuse to abide by the rules all of the satisfactory resolution which will bring to an end once and for all a situation which has been allowed to

It has inflicted untold damage to the relationships

The problems are complex and several more

If cool heads, reason, and the present spirit of cooperation can be maintained, however, I am con-

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