

Welcome aboard

Buttonville flying school takes off

By GREG COATES
Business Editor
Toronto Buttonville International Airport is producing a lot of

"Top Guns" lately. Recent response to an advertisement for Buttonville airport's flying school was overwhelming.

Expecting under 100 applications, they received well over 300. "We knew there was some interest, but we received quadruple

the response expected," said Bob Squires, manager of the flight training division of Toronto Airways.

The course starts with a flight preparation lesson and familiarization flight.

"Within that first half-hour, students are actually flying an airplane and that's a thrill for people," said Mr. Squires.

The ground school program takes 17 weeks with one three-hour lesson per week. There are three time slots in which they can be attended.

The estimated cost of getting your private pilot's licence is between \$3,000 and \$4,000. The price varies depending on the number of flight hours it takes to complete the course.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens, 16 years of age, pass a medical test which can be done at Buttonville airport and be able to read and write in English or French.

For those thinking career, Mr. Squires said the aviation job market is improving steadily.

"There's a tremendous variety of aviation jobs in Canada from the captain of an Air Canada 747 to the bush pilot delivering mail to a northern community," he said.

He noted, however, that more and more people are learning to fly for recreational purposes only.

"Flying offers a continual challenge. It's something you can never say you've fully completed," said Mr. Squires. "You can always broaden your knowledge. It's very addictive."

Operated by Toronto Airways, the flying school is one of the largest in Canada with approximately 30 training aircrafts and 20 instructors.

Students strive to be either recreational flyers or career pilots.

According to Mr. Squires, Buttonville airport has a good reputation for training pilots, and is well known around the world. There are currently students attending from the Caribbean, Grenada, Africa and parts of Asia and Europe.

While many think becoming a pilot is difficult, Mr. Squires said that it's really not too hard. However, it does take dedication and an investment of time.

"It's not beyond anyone's ability, but it does require some dedication and commitment," he said. "It's interesting because classroom work can be seen or used in an airplane the next day."

"The work is not abstract. It's very hands-on," he added. "You get to use the equipment right away."

The private pilot course consists of two parts—in-flight training and ground school instruction. The course requires a minimum 35 hours of flying, 12 specified as dual and 12 as solo.



Taking flight. Interest in learning to fly is soaring at Toronto Buttonville International Airport. The flying school recently received more than 300 applications from would-be pilots. Shown above at the

airport are Bob Squires, manager of the flight training division for Toronto Airways, Joan Williams, assistant chief flight instructor, and Richard Jarvis, flight instructor.

— Greg Coates

Stouffville's Century 21 moving to new location

By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

Century 21 Gerry Meharg Ltd. is preparing for what's billed as "the move of the century."

After 18½ years at its present location in the town's A&P Plaza, the Stouffville real estate firm is relocating to larger facilities across the street.

The Meharg office will occupy two units on the west side of the Steerburger building, effective Nov. 20.

"We're bulging at the seams with business and we just need the space," manager Gerry Meharg explained. "The move is basically because of our plans for expansion in the area."

The new site features increased parking space plus a training room for new sales personnel.

Mr. Meharg said his staff of 12 will eventually increase to about 26 through an on-going sales training program provided by Century 21.

And the broker/owner will use his recent affiliation with that massive real estate network to help keep pace with a rapidly-growing property market.

"They (Century 21) provide us with a tremendous amount of expertise that I couldn't afford as an individual broker," said Mr. Meharg, a Markham native who now resides in Stouffville. "We must be available to serve the industry."

Access to a world-wide referral service is viewed as one benefit for the Meharg franchise, which serves a large territory including

Whitchurch-Stouffville, Uxbridge, Beaverton, Mount Albert and Pefferlaw.

Also moving into new space behind the Steerburger restaurant on Main St. West is Meharg's plaza neighbor, Stouffville Shoe Repair. Owner George Maras said he hopes to transfer his operation by April of next year.

The old real estate location has been subletted to a fast-photo business, while the plaza's existing Brewers' Retail outlet will expand into space vacated by the shoe repair shop.

The moves are the latest of several developments that have seen Stouffville's west-end plaza grow in leaps and bounds. Among other improvements is the expansion of the A&P food market and the beer store.



Stouffville realtor Gerry Meharg displays plans for the new Main St. location of his Century 21 office. The firm's first move in more than 18 years takes place next week.

— Chris Shanahan

Good prices and the coffee is free

Have you ever tried shopping for clothing for yourself with kids in tow? Take it from me, it is about as much fun as sky diving without a parachute.

Their sweet little psyches get bored very quickly and before you know it they are weaving a maypole with the most expensive clothes in the store. Or chewing pricetags. Or building a fort under the racks. (I promised myself never again.)

Now, imagine a clothing store where children are actually welcome. A place that has a play area with a table, chairs, paper, crayons and a big, full toy box to keep those sweet little hands busy.

Imagine a place where, instead of being greeted at the door with a sign that says "No food or beverages," you are offered a cup of coffee in a comfy lounge area.

Instead of a sign reading "Only three items allowed,"



there is a sign outside the changerooms that says "Take in as many items as you want. Have fun!"

A place that will provide disposable diapers and has a microwave in case your baby's bottle needs warming up. Imagine a place that has great casual and active wear for women from 12 years to infinity for 30 to 50 per cent off the suggested retail price.

It sounds like shopper's heaven, doesn't it? Too good to be true? Not anymore!

Yes, fellow bargain-hunters (and mothers), there is a Santa Claus. Located at 2600 John St. in Unit 220 is Alive and Well, which offers all of the above and more, in the form of wonderful, well-made clothing at terrific prices. I had so much fun—I didn't want to go home.

Donald Cooper, the very perceptive creator of this revolutionary new style of retailing, kept me enthralled for 2½ hours, explaining his innovative store policies and how he

can offer prices 30 to 50 per cent lower than other stores.

Most stores plan four to six months ahead and pay full price. Alive and Well buys Right at the season; when Donald can do deals on what is hot. (That's fashionable, not stolen.) Then, they mark up the price less.

Let me give you some examples of the savings: 100 per cent cotton hand-knit sweaters regularly \$125 for \$55, thick and cuddly flannel shirts regularly \$55 for \$26 and \$75 pinwale cords for \$48.

Sweat tops or pants are priced at only \$12 to \$14 each. Just \$14 will buy an Alive and Well silly shirt: big, comfy sweat tops in weird and wonderful fabrics. (Silly is a priority at Alive and Well. I'll have to take Mr. C. next time. He could use some loosening up.)

Donald Cooper has come up

with a way of helping the community as well as satisfying his customers. If your group or organization needs to raise funds, Alive and Well will donate 10 per cent of all purchases made by members and friends for three full weeks, if they simply mention the name of the organization. (It's a lot more fun than having a bake sale. And less fattening.)

I can't wait until pay day. Don't tell Mr. C. but I have my eye on a winter jacket and a lambswool outfit and a terrific corduroy suit. (I'm just going to have to get a sixth part-time job to finance these excursions. I wonder if Alive and Well is hiring?)

Alive and Well is an amazing place. It's zany, it's silly, it's "chirpy," as Donald would say. It's also convenient, honest, and hassle-free. Take your kids to Alive and Well, and tell them Deb sent you.