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## y UP FRONT





**Paul Ritchi, A.A.E.** Chairman, IAAE Canada Senior Manager Strategic Program Development Greater Toronto Airports Authority

he one thing about the aviation industry that holds true year after year is that it is anything but routine and boring. Airport leaders need to anticipate, adapt, change and be proactive in order to maintain a profitable and viable business in a very competitive and demanding industry.

## A Message from IAAE Canada's Chairman The Aviation Industry: Moving Ahead

It's one thing to tackle the opportunities, threats and challenges with new processes, equipment or procedures. But without properly trained and motivated people to drive the business, it becomes very difficult to succeed.

First and foremost, the International Association of Airport Executives Canada (IAAE Canada) is a training and development association that also encourages the development of a network of airport contacts within its membership base to share ideas, processes and experiences with each other.

Over the next number of months, we will be rolling out additional and unique training offerings that will meet—even more—the needs of airports and the next generation of airport leaders who are entering our industry. Stay tuned for more news to come!

In terms of what airport professionals don't know and what they need to know, it can be challenging. Many senior regulatory leaders are Baby Boomers who are starting to retire or will do so within the next five to seven years or so. IAAE Canada will be stepping up its efforts to become—even more so—the place for information and practical skills that are not otherwise readily available.

The future is ours to take! Are we ready and able to take advantage of the opportunity and fill the upcoming need? We say, "Yes." IAAE Canada will be there for you and your airport!

Please feel free to contact me at paul. ritchi@iaaecanada.org. I look forward to hearing from you.



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## y UP FRONT





Joe Mauro Executive Director, IAAE Canada

s the International Association of Airport Executives Canada (IAAE Canada) looks toward the future and plotting a new strategy, I have been reflecting: What is a strategy? Can a strategy be created when we're busy virtually all of the time? It is very easy in a small office like ours for me, as Executive Director, to get involved in something that "has to get done," but it is

## A Message from IAAE Canada's Executive Director Strategizing for the Future

equally important to set aside time to think and reflect.

I read that Bill Gates used to take a week off twice a year and spend it at his waterfront cottage to just think and reflect about Microsoft and its future. Now, IAAE Canada doesn't have a cottage retreat—and even if it did, with two kids under 12, I'm not sure how much "reflection" I could achieve if I were to go to it.

But, more and more, I am beginning to think that a strategy is not so much the result of a strategic plan but more a response to unexpected events and opportunities. Engaging in new activities, like attracting new members, exploring new markets, and training offerings, is triggered by external events. Those external events include demographics (aging boomers retiring; millennials entering the workforce), politics (regulatory changes), or something as simple as a staff departure.

However, in responding to these "external events" you have to continually ask yourself questions about your business, as IAAE Canada is currently doing. These responses are not reactionary—some may be because of the sudden appearance of an external event but, in large part, to be effective, the responses require time to be formulated.

Strategy, by one definition, is about making complex decisions when surrounded by uncertainty, with substantive, long-term consequences. As IAAE Canada moves forward, I am confident these complex decisions will create an invigorated organization with an exciting future.

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#### ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS A.A.E. – THE MARK OF AN AIRPORT PROFESSIONAL

The IAAE Canada Accreditation Program (A.A.E.) is the **industry standard for airport executives and equivalent of a fourth-year university academic level.** It challenges the candidates to prove their knowledge and skills in three distinct ways: passing the exam, researching and writing a management paper and passing the Board of Examiners panel interview. Candidates are given three years to complete the program.

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Distributed annually via memory stick to members in good standing, this contains **committee reports on activities for the past year**, including audited financial statements, a list of our corporate members, and a full outline of the items and services our corporate members can provide.

#### AIRPORT MANAGEMENT LIBRARY

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**CENTRAL ALASKA METALWORKS, INC.** PO Box 80300 | Fairbanks, Alaska 99708 | (907) 474-4037 | central.alaska.metalworks@gmail.com FEATURE

## Are We Evolving to Airports

#### By Bill Newman, A.A.E., Past Chair, IAAE Canada

nticipation was building as the recent federal budget approached to find out if the Trudeau Government would accept the recommendations of the National Transportation Act (NTA) review and the government's financial advisors and embark on a new era of governance for the country's airports. In February 2016, the NTA review headed by former Cabinet Minister David Emerson had recommended, in part, that the airports comprising the National Airports System be transformed into share capital corporations to enable them to access equity-based financing. Then, in September 2016, the government had retained Credit Suisse Group AG to analyze the options for privatizing the top eight airports as part of a larger initiative

to "recycle" publicly-owned assets to raise funding for new infrastructure investments.

In the weeks leading up to budget day on March 21, various stakeholders weighed in with recommendations both for and against a change in policy direction on airports. Three airports-Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa-partnered to launch a new website supporting the continuation of the not-for-profit airport authority model. Under the masthead of No Airport Selloff - Canada's Airport Partnership, the site, www.noairportselloff. ca, stated that under the existing governance model, Canada's airports are recognized as being among the most efficiently operated in the world. Privatization would erode this reputation by increasing costs to users, removing local influence from airport boards and undermining Canada's economic

competitiveness. While being critical of airport authorities in other instances, the National Airports Council, representing the major air carriers, added its support by indicating that privatization would "fail the most elementary test of stewardship of the public interest."

Part

Concluding that private owners would place profits ahead of the interests of airport users and taxpayers, Senator Dennis Dawson, Chair of the Senate Transportation and Communications Committee, suggested in a speech to the Association québécoise du transport aérien that "privatization is a bad idea."

Advocating for a change in organizational model, the C.D. Howe Institute enumerated, in two separate reports, the merits of converting the current airport authorities into share capital Broadening the ownership of airports would not only raise funding for new infrastructure but would also provide opportunities for institutional investors to participate in Canadian projects.

corporations. The equity value of the eight largest airports was estimated to total between \$7.2 and \$16.6 billion. Broadening the ownership of airports would not only raise funding for new infrastructure but would also provide opportunities for institutional investors to participate in Canadian projects. Similar to the privatization experiences of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, regulatory safeguards could be put in place to preclude multiple airport ownership and abuses of market power. Powerhouse Canadian investment funds such as Brookfield Infrastructure Partners and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, which currently hold equity positions in foreign airports, have signaled their interest in domestic airport privatization projects of sufficient scale and acceptable risk-adjusted rate of return.

The budget speech delivered by the Finance Minister was silent on airport privatization. In comments to the media, Minister Morneau stated that "...we haven't come to any conclusions on airports." The government, he elaborated, will continue to consider its options and "...look toward ensuring that we have a positive passenger experience and a good airport system."

Reacting to the budget speech, the Calgary Airport Authority stated that the government "acted in the best interests of Canadians" by not proceeding with privatization. The Vancouver Airport Authority, for its part, thanked the government for listening and noted its intention to continue educating Canadians on the value of the current not-for-profit model. The Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), however, voiced a willingness to entertain changes to the airport's business model. In promoting its plans to develop a regional transit centre and evolve Toronto Pearson into a mega-hub airport, the GTAA offered that a review of the current model "may present an opportunity to leverage investments and policy changes that could help to realize the GTAA's long-term strategy."

Despite the pre-budget speculation, the Trudeau Government evidently felt it was not ready to take a position on airport privatization. Does that mean the issue is still under consideration, or that it may now just quietly fade into the background? The latter eventuality could be the case, but for the government, the conundrum remains: How does it generate the capital to finance the country's public infrastructure needs while managing deficits to acceptable levels? The time ahead will hopefully yield conclusive answers to these questions.

#### REFERENCES

For a full list of sources for this article, please e-mail awalld@matrixgroupinc.net.



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-Josh Bergsteinsson, GRM Inc.

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—Terry Bos, A.A.E., BBA

CEO, Sault Ste. Marie Airport Development Corporation

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## FEATURE



Welcome to the Region of Waterloo International Airport, which had over 110,000 aircraft movements last year.

## **Developing an Airport Master** Plan for Growth at the Region of Waterloo International Airport

By Chris Wood, BSc., A.A.E., Airport General Manager, Region of Waterloo International Airport

he Region of Waterloo International Airport (YKF) is one of the top 20 busiest airports in Canada. More than 120,000 passengers used the airport in 2016, and there were over 110,000 aircraft movements. Waterloo Region has a highly mobile population and is projected to grow to 835,000 residents by 2041.

It is estimated that by 2043, southern Ontario will also be home to 15.5 million people and regional air travel volume will reach more than 90 million passengers annually. Air travel demand over the next two decades alone puts Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) at roughly 70 million passengers annually-with no signs of slowing down. With this potential demand, the time to plan is now.

The Region of Waterloo recently approved a \$371-million, 20-year master plan to guide the future of YKF until 2036. To ensure YKF can meet the travel and connectivity needs of its own growing community and to respond to future capacity challenges at YYZ, a number of factors have been taken into consideration while planning.

The September 2015 study, entitled Growth, Connectivity, Capacity: The Future





The terminal at the Region of Waterloo International Airport saw



of a Key Regional Asset, by the Greater Toronto Airports Authority suggests Toronto Pearson investigate working with regional airports in southern Ontario to design an integrated, multi-airport system which could move capacity from YYZ to other airports. YKF is well positioned geographically to play a larger role in this new system. Currently, YKF captures four per cent of passengers in its immediate catchment area, approximately 35 kilometers around the airport. However, it is estimated there could be up to two-and-a-half million passengers who travel from within this catchment area annually. More flights to more places would allow business and leisure passengers who currently travel to YYZ to fly from YKF.

With more passengers comes the need for airport enhancements, including increasing the size of the air terminal building, additional parking and improvements to road networks. There is also added pressure to connect passengers into local and regional modes of transportation. Added connectivity would allow passengers to easily get to and from YKF and potentially YYZ. A proposed new Breslau GO Train station, Kitchener GO Transit line and connection to Toronto Pearson's multi-modal hub would fully integrate the transportation networks.

The ever-changing nature of the aviation industry could also have an immediate impact on growth. The November 2016 Transport Canada change in legislation provided a foreign ownership exemption to two start-up, low-cost carriers: Enerjet and Canada Jetlines. YKF is a desirable regional airport for this type of carrier given its proximity to a significant affluent and underserviced market.

An aerial shot of the Region of Waterloo International Airport's Apron 7 runway. The Region of Waterloo recently approved a \$371-million, 20-year master plan to guide the future of YKF until 2036.



Unlike the traditional methodology to airport master planning, YKF has taken a "just-in-time" approach to mapping out its growth strategy. Preparing for each development stage is based on achieving levels of passenger growth and the ability to quickly respond to changes in the aviation industry. This approach will ensure infrastructure investment is maximized and financial risk is closely managed while keeping a keen eye on customer experience and service delivery.

The Region of Waterloo International Airport has the potential to play a critical role in connecting one of Canada's most dynamic regional economies to the world. As the airport prepares for the first phase of development, it is focused on maximizing existing infrastructure before investing into expansion. From attracting more scheduled air service to promoting the aviation business park, the airport is well positioned for arowth.

To learn about the opportunities that exist in Waterloo Region, its emerging aerospace cluster, and how the airport is preparing for growth, visit www. waterlooairport.ca/masterplan.

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## FEATURE

## **Emerging Technologies:** Remote Airfield Lighting

By Jordan Boucher, Project Manager, Seguin Morris Electrical Contractors



Installing and maintaining airfield lighting systems in remote locations under extreme weather conditions, like the Iqaluit International Airport, pictured above, can present a unique set of logistical challenges, from cost overruns, to scheduling mistakes, to project delays.

Installing and maintaining airfield lighting systems in remote locations under extreme weather conditions can present a unique set of logistical challenges. Cost overruns, scheduling mistakes, and project delays are magnified under these circumstances, especially when skilled labour is in short supply. These are just some of the hurdles that only the most experienced electrical contractors can overcome.

Today's sophisticated airport lighting systems involve technically complex installations that require a specific skillset to minimize unexpected downtime. That's why you need a highly-experienced crew of logistical and electrical experts who know exactly what it takes to succeed in Canada's far north. It's why the government of Nunavut trusted Seguin Morris to manage its lqaluit International Airport project.

#### **REMOTE AIRFIELD LOGISTICS**

Seguin Morris has developed an airfield logistics system that meets the demanding needs of remote locations across North America and its projects are meticulously planned and implemented with military-like precision to exceed standards in an industry governed by exacting specifications. The fusion of highlytrained foremen and crews with exceptional project management and logistical skills, and strict attention to detail, have set the company apart as a leader when it comes to airfield logistics systems. Since 2006, the team has delivered both electrical and civil engineering portions for several airport projects with unerring precision. Applying more than just high-voltage expertise, Seguin Morris' multi-trade crews also handle other project phases such as excavation and trenching for underground conduit systems. These additional competencies eliminate the need for subcontracting and promote more efficient project management, which gives airport operators greater control over project timelines and budgets.

#### WHAT YOU NEED

You need crews that are ready for the unexpected and can troubleshoot problems quickly, because when you're working on a live runway, there is no margin for error. This requires a team of dedicated project managers, accurate estimators, and administrative support staff, all focused on ensuring time is never wasted and that quality standards are always met. You need a team that can help you manage your operating and capital expenses as efficiently as possible while minimizing the risk of project delays and unnecessary overages. You need proven experts who can minimize the impact on your daily operations by eliminating any unplanned downtime. It's projects like the Iqaluit Airport that require a methodically coordinated service that reflects your airport's commitment to safety and security. You need crews that are ready for the unexpected and can troubleshoot problems quickly, because when you're working on a live runway, there is no margin for error.



Crews need to be ready for the unexpected and able to troubleshoot problems quickly, because when you're working on a live runway, there is no margin for error.

#### **COMMITMENT TO SAFETY**

Team safety is a primary concern and is the reason why the company continually invests in both internal and external training courses to further develop the skills and expertise of its people. They represent the cornerstone of success. In addition, an internal safety board (comprised of various levels within the organization) meets every month. This board governs the internal safety guidelines and reviews training and continuous improvement initiatives related to the health and safety of workers.

#### **GETTING THE JOB DONE RIGHT**

Smart professionals expect any company they work with to care as

much as they do about getting the job done right the first time. Project management, estimation skills and keeping everyone involved informed throughout the process with regular work in progress update reports will keep you on track to get the job done right the first time, every time.

Sustainability also leads the way to success. You might consider embracing a fleet of vehicles equipped with GPS systems and engine cutters to prevent vehicles from idling too long, which can reduce  $CO_2$  emissions per kilometer.

You want to feel confident that you are working with a company that is dedicated to helping you manage your projects as efficiently as possible and forming trusted partnerships with airport operations professionals across Canada.



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## MEMBER PROFILE

## Bruce Paige, Trenton Airport Ltd.



Trenton Airport Ltd., in Trenton, NS, serves up to 50,000 people throughout Pictou County in a general aviation capacity. The airport has about 800 movements annually.

#### By Paul Adair

For almost 45 years, Bruce Paige has been working in the aviation industry in several different roles. His career took off with apprenticing in the industry out of high school in 1973. He now manages the Trenton Airport in the small town of Trenton, Nova Scotia. Paige had discovered early on in his career that he had both the passion and aptitude for the care and maintenance of airplanes. Even now, he looks for opportunities to overhaul the occasional engine that comes through.

"I come from a mechanical family. My grandfather was a heavy equipment mechanic in the mines, and my father was a pretty good backyard mechanic," says Paige. "So, it may be just the way I've been programmed, but I've always had a pretty keen interest in everything mechanical."



Although small in size, Trenton Airport can be busy, serving up to 50,000 people throughout Pictou County in a general aviation capacity. The airport has about 800 movements annually, with substantial regional traffic passing through, as passengers fly to and from locations like Antigonish and beyond.

Trenton Airport has a limited crew, with Paige being the only full-time employee. Two other men round out the staff in a limited part-time capacity, used primarily for snow removal and general upkeep.

"I am in my own little corner of the world, where nobody is looking over my shoulder and—for the most part—I am left to my own devices," says Paige. "It lets me do a little bit of everything; I park airplanes, I fuel airplanes, and I still do a little bit of maintenance work for one of my tenants. There is really no day that is the same as the one before."

For years, the Trenton airport was in danger of falling into disrepair, as the cost of maintaining the facility was increasingly more than the Town of Trenton could budget for. In 2006, the Canadian grocery chain Sobeys, which happens to be based in the region, stepped in and purchased the airport from the town to use as hub for its fleet of company jets. The company was looking for someone to take over the duties of airport manager and Paige, thinking it sounded interesting, threw his name in for consideration and got the job.

Committed to maintaining and improving the airport's operational status quo, Sobeys' purchase of the Trenton Airport brought with it stability and a sense of renewal for Paige, "I am having a ball here and outside of writing the occasional report, I come to work to play—it's just that much fun."

who was accustomed to the shoestring budgets of smaller, struggling companies.

"Finding the money to keep an airport afloat in a small market like ours can be pretty tricky," says Paige. "But we have a budget we can work with, and coming from what I have been used to throughout most my career, I can tell you it's an absolute joy to know that if I need something, I'm allowed to go out and get it. And I thank my lucky stars this is the case."

While Paige found his calling in aviation, he recognizes that the industry is not for everyone. He encourages those who are considering a career in the business to think very hard about whether or not they have a passion for the kind of work they will be doing, as a love for the job will go a long way in making the less-enjoyable aspects more palatable.

"As long as my health holds, I'll still be doing what I love," says Paige. "I am having a ball here and outside of writing the occasional report, I come to work to play—it's just that much fun. I really can't imagine doing anything other than what I am doing right now."

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