

RunwayReport

Pembroke & Area Airport

2023



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www.laurentianhills.ca



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www.whitewaterregion.ca

2023: A Key Growth Year at the Airport

A strong Q4 finish and opportunities for 2024

For most of 2023, it was business as usual at the airport serving Renfrew County and the Pontiac with quality of life aviation services. The final quarter of the year saw the airport expand opportunities to support DND training, by providing facilities and fuel for an exercise, which resulted in the most significant financial gain in recent history.

Airport staff arranged to provide DND with over 630,000 litres of fuel during a six-week period, requiring a well-managed operation of fuel deliveries, sometimes twice a day, giving the newly installed fuel tanks a workout. The result was the strongest financial gain in the airport's recent history, and a solid foundation to provide



future services to DND if required. The DND-YTA partnership continues to provide strong value for both parties in a year that saw active world issues that connect to the Canadian

Forces. The airport's ability to facilitate the training of Canadian soldiers has significance to the entire country as well as to our local units.

Renewing Communications with the County

Renfrew County staff invested in airport operations

In the second half of 2023, the airport made a presentation to the County of Renfrew council, detailing the value of the airport to the region. Lobbyists from Grassroots Public Affairs stressed the importance of the facility in a regional, provincial, and federal context, connecting the airport's role in facilitating many of the services that benefit the county and its residents.

Following the presentation, the County of Renfrew's economic development team - Melissa Marquardt and Jason Davies - connected with the airport to pursue ways to strengthen communications between the



Artem and Peter from Grassroots Public Affairs address the County

airport and the county government, and offered to assist the airport to build awareness for necessary funding for the runway and infrastructure needs that would help ensure a long-

term operation of the airport. The airport continues to provide regular updates to the county's committees on activities and initiatives, including a lobbying effort by AMCO (Airport Management Council of Ontario) for greater provincial recognition of the role Ontario airports provide. YTA has been a long-standing member of AMCO and currently sits on their governance committee with representatives from other airports across Ontario and a dedicated staff member tasked with pursuing province-wide outreach efforts.

A Year in Review: The Highlight Reel

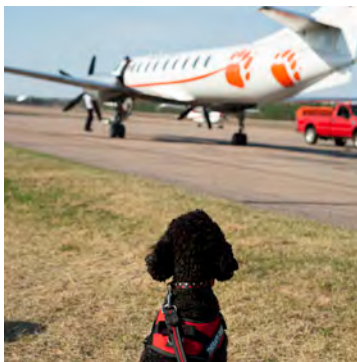
International guests, student impact, partnerships and more at YTA



Aya Hammond

Students Fly To Success with YTA Co-ops

The airport welcomed three co-op students this year, two from local high schools and one post-secondary aviation management student. Kaden Currins of Barry's Bay plans to pursue a career in aviation maintenance, while Will Hugli of Pembroke has his sights set on becoming a pilot. Tori Trainor plans to work in aviation management and is enrolled at Georgian College. Another local student, Aya Hammond, earned her flight attendant credentials with Jazz Airlines. Hammond was a co-op student at YTA a year earlier! Our flight movements include local aviation schools around Ontario and Quebec as students pursue careers in aviation.



K9 Headquarters Visits YTA For Dog Training

The airport is passionate about developing community partnerships and in April, K9 Headquarters connected with us for dog training. They were part of a day where the Bearskin Airline flight for local vision and hearing-impaired children arrived and several pups got used to being around the aircraft activity on the apron.



Connecting with the Pontiac

Our close border with Quebec results in many partnerships unique to the region, including the airport. Sûreté du Québec used the airport for search and rescue operations during hunting season, while tourism charters to Quebec land at YTA due to its convenient proximity. The Canadian Coast Guard is also usually an annual visitor, patrolling the Ottawa River to note any concerns, including brush clearing of navigational lights that benefit local and tourism boaters alike. In addition to refueling, these services often use YTA as a base of operations from which to plan and organize their work with access to a boardroom and common area that accommodate people and supplies.



Supporting The Ottawa Valley Outdoor Lifestyle

In May, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources visited 57 lakes throughout the County of Renfrew to support the fish stocking efforts. Communities including Brudenell Lyndoch and Raglan, Killaloe Hagarty and Richards, North Algona Wilberforce, Head Clara & Maria and others welcomed 95,000 new residents to their lakes in 2023. The pilots and personnel base out of YTA to deliver many natural resources programs that benefit tourism and our local lifestyle.



Jamaican President Visits CNL

October was a busy time at YTA and one of our flights was a delegation from Jamaica, including the country's president. They flew into the airport to meet with key people at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories in Chalk River. For many organizations with ties to international business, the airport provides a vital transportation connection as a certified airport.



Corporate Aviation a Key to Growing the Region's Economic Development

2023 was a busy year for business aviation with more than 200 corporate flights at YTA. This included new owners of businesses in the region, investors checking on current developments and pursuing new developments, and even a businessman from Saskatchewan visiting a local tech firm to test his MRI machine that would work in space! Having a certified airport to access in Renfrew County helps elevate the opportunity for more corporate aviation traffic which leads to more growth in our region for services and job creation opportunities.



New (To Us) Sweeper Arrives From Red Lake

The Red Lake Airport was successful in obtaining some government funding for their airport, so they donated a piece of equipment to YTA! Our current sweeper is almost 40 years old and this one, while used, has been a welcomed addition. Cassidy's Transfer & Storage made the pick-up for us and as more parts became available for us, Thomas H. Savage picked those up during a trip home through Northern Ontario and saved us having to pay for those parts to be shipped. It was a true community effort to obtain this piece of equipment.



Busy Firefighting Season in Calabogie, Algonquin Park

It was a summer of forest fires in the region with the smoke from the Quebec fires finding its way to Renfrew County for several days. In our own backyard, the forest firefighting crew from the Ministry of Natural Resources spend some time at YTA staging and refueling for significant fires in the Calabogie area and in Algonquin Provincial Park. The availability to refuel quickly was important in their decision to base operations out of YTA in these forest firefighting initiatives. The surveillance crews were also back in October as the warmer temps signaled a possible late season fire situation.

A Year in Review: The Highlight Reel

Patient transport, international guests, student impact and more at YTA



Jason Blaine Committee Makes Another \$10K Donation
Jason Blaine is determined to see the YTA runway repaved and contributed another \$10,000 to Project Runway. This brings his total commitment to \$30,000 in the past three years. 2024 will mark the 10th anniversary of the Jason Blaine Charity Golf & Concert where they hope to surpass \$1 million in total funds raised. For more info, visit: www.jasonblainecharity.com



Bearskin Airlines School Charter

One of the neat flights that happens at YTA is an education charter operated by Bearskin Airlines and supported by the Ontario Ministry of Education. Local students who are vision or hearing impaired have the opportunity to attend school where they earn their high school diploma in a school that is geared to better accommodate their needs. Students board a flight on Sunday afternoon from YTA (which is one of several stops on the route) and then return home on Friday afternoon. In the 2022-23 school year, four Renfrew County students took the charter in the 2023-2024 school year, two students attended the school. The cost to families is \$0. YTA has been a host airport for this service for several years. The schools are located in southern Ontario.



Search & Rescue Missions Are Always Emergent

There were eight search and rescue missions that involved YTA in 2023. This is a service that can be challenging for YTA to promote, given the nature of the rescues and recoveries. Aircraft are often part of the DND team which dispatches from Trenton, Ontario. Tourist searches are often part of the reason search and rescue aircraft are deployed. Given the tourism opportunities in Renfrew County, and the vastness of our area, this is an important service to be able to facilitate in support of the many businesses and natural areas that bring people to our region.



Ontario Opposition Leader Visits YTA

Marit Stiles, the Leader of the Official Opposition of Ontario and the leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) took time in her Ottawa Valley visit to learn about the airport and lend her support in any way she can to help the airport obtain provincial funding. Joined by local riding volunteers with the NDP party, Stiles expressed her admiration for how much the airport does with such few staff and no federal or provincial dollars contributing to the operations. She stayed well past her allotted time before heading back to Toronto.



Civilian Aircraft Less Than 50% of Movements

Many people think that the majority of aviation activity at airports is from private individuals who own an airplane. At YTA, this makes up less than 50% of our total movements in a year - most of our aviation services are quality of life (i.e. forest firefighting, wildlife management, police, search and rescue, emergency medical transport, Coast Guard, etc.) and military movements. However, included in our civilian flight count are the movements from physicians who fly to YTA in order to fill gaps in healthcare services in our region, some of whom have made it clear they would not practice here if the runway was unavailable to them. The aviation community at most airports, and certainly at YTA, has a good mix of users, all of whom have a positive impact on the community.



2023 Marked the 55th Anniversary at YTA
Being in the community for 55 years gives you a good look at how things evolve. 2023 marked the 55th anniversary of the airport being municipally owned. Our celebration happened in having one of our best years ever financially, and in growing our impact in the region by continuing to host important services and renewing stronger communications with key organizations. We look forward to a positive 2024 as we head towards 60 years in the community!



Letters of Support Campaign

In early 2023, YTA had an opportunity to apply for funding with an agency that asked for letters of support from the community. We collected letters submitted from across Renfrew County and beyond from key organizations and businesses - everyone we asked was happy to submit a letter! That funding opportunity is still ongoing, but a critical element of being able to apply was to show the value of the airport to the entire community.



Project Runway Nears \$300,000

The airport is still raising funds in support of Project Runway, the campaign to repave the 5,000-foot runway. By the end of 2023, the campaign was nearing the \$300,000 mark with more than \$15,000 in donations coming in for 2023 from businesses and individuals across the region. Project Runway has persevered despite the COVID-19 shutdowns and other challenges that impact fundraising efforts. The donations made to date have been a signal to other funders that there is community support for this facility. As we continue to drive forward in this campaign, you can "buy" a foot of runway for \$250 and earn a charitable receipt for 100% of that donation. Call 613-687-5300 or email info@flycyta.ca. We welcome your support.

Your Community Partner in Healthcare

Patient transport, home and abroad ensures local residents have access to the healthcare they need

Assisting with emergency healthcare patient transport is one of the most impactful services that happen at YTA and it's how we started off in 2023. An international air ambulance flight arrived here from St. Lucia where the local resident was then transported by paramedics to the hospital for further care. When local residents fall ill outside of the country, they are flown back home to YTA. These flights happen annually.

How Air Ambulance Works

This year we had nearly 60 air ambulance movements, both fixed wing (airplane) and helicopter from Ornge's fleet. Airplanes can only land at the airport, while helicopters often choose to land at the airport if they require fuel, if the weather is unstable, or if the pilot has not landed at the hospital helipad within a certain timeframe. Many of the air ambulance transfers happen outside of regular operating hours, which results in the pilot calling the 24-hour service, and a YTA



When a local resident is outside of Canada and is flown home for further healthcare needs, they are flown into YTA

employee is dispatched to the airport, usually after midnight and before 5:00am. (You can tell by the photos below when there were night transfers.) In 2023, the airport staff were called out after hours 55 times, many of which were for medivac flights.

One of the challenges in promoting the services we provide at YTA is that much of the time, the work is confidential

in nature, so we are mindful about how and when we release air transport information. This applies always to air ambulance transfers, but also to search and rescue efforts and police surveillance missions.

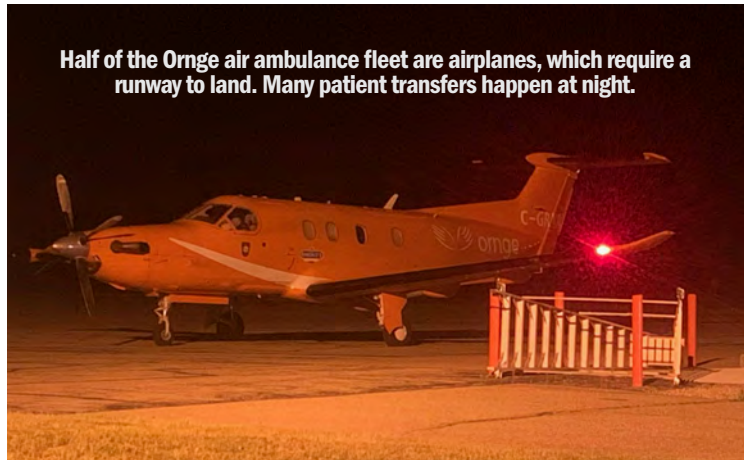
Local Health Providers Respond to Request for Support

This year we also asked the hospitals for which we provide air ambulance services, and

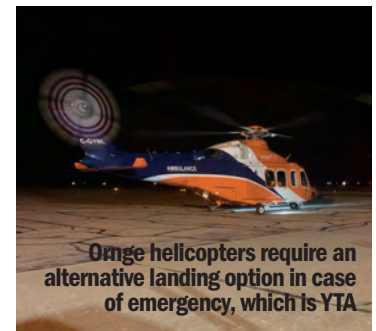
others in the healthcare industry, to write a letter in support for the airport. CEOs from Deep River & District Hospital, Pembroke Regional Hospital and St. Francis Memorial Hospital all provided those letters, as did physicians and health centres, among others. Even if a helicopter lands at a local hospital, they must file a backup flight plan, which is always YTA. Our ability to handle aircraft 24-7-365 assists our hospitals and visiting physicians, in providing excellent care.



Renfrew County paramedics have instant access to YTA



Half of the Ornge air ambulance fleet are airplanes, which require a runway to land. Many patient transfers happen at night.



Ornge helicopters require an alternative landing option in case of emergency, which is YTA



Buy A Foot. Save A Mile.

Join Project Runway!
Buy a foot of runway for \$250

Donations are 100% receipted. Call 613-687-5300 or info@flycyta.ca

