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Kincardine Municipal Airport Council Report to the end of March 2022.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we all know that our lives and businesses have suffered, and Airports are no different.

We witnessed an immediate shut down of all air traffic when the first wave hit here in North America and as we learned more about the Virus there was some movement in private aircraft flying with the owner going up and solo flying and returning to their home airports.

Since those days air traffic has slowly rebounded and now training schools are back in business at a low capacity but are hopeful to build back up to pre-covid numbers. Unfortunately, some schools did not survive the long shut down period and have shut down without any sign of reopening.

We have continued to search for a Flight School to come and operate out of the Kincardine Municipal Airport and have had success in making contact with potential established companies as well as new start-ups but nothing has been fruitful with this so far. We continue our search for a school.

The Food Trailer idea has worked out well for the airport so far. In the summer months they have been able to survive through the pandemic because they can do take out. As more people discover the Food Trailer at the airport location it attracts pilots as well as the general public into the airport and helps to establish us as a destination. The Food Trailer once again will be setting up for business from the long weekend in May till October 2022.

In 2021 we had an Aviation Weather Operating System (AWOS) installed. This system provides 24/7 weather including wind speed, cloud cover, moisture readings, rain, ice and snow readings as well as an on-going altimeter reading, all of which are imperative to assist a pilot into the airport and especially in poor weather.

With Covid it took some time before the installers could come and do adjustments etc. because of cross provincial restrictions. However, we forged ahead and the unit became operational in January 2022 with licensing and final permits obtained after final inspections from Transport and Nav Canada.

The cross-strip runway 05 23 which runs from the main runway towards the Municipal offices was cracked filled and this may help to extend the life span of the runway with minor touch ups in another ten (10) to fifteen (15) years.

Some cosmetic work has been done in the terminal building over the past two (2) years such as painting the washrooms, the hallway, office, and main lobby. We did a cleanup of old items that are no longer needed or are obsolete and had upgraded windows in the building to help with energy costs. Further energy savings were the replacement of some lighting which is now LED style in the terminal as well as external lights with timers and sensors.

One of our larger projects that is presently underway is the Fuel Farm pumps and pay system upgrades. The tank system is being updated with newer piping due to changes in the federal and provincial regulations. The pay at the pump system change is to allow customers to continue using Credit Cards and now Debit with the new chip system. This new regulation comes into effect at Airports in September 2022 so we will be compliant before the deadline expecting our completion date of May 1, 2022.

A new sign has been erected out at the highway using the universal symbol for an airport. We have had people already drop in and say they noticed the sign and had no idea the airport was here. We hope this continues as well as attracts business owners to utilize the airport more for themselves and potential clients to increase economic development in the area.

Events are in the planning stages for the 2022 summer season such as Walk the Runway for charity, the 50th Anniversary of the airport (postponed due to Covid), Trillium Fly-In and Lunch, Military Day, Show and Shine Cars and Motorcycles, and the annual COPA for Kids which provides a free flight for kids aged eight (8) to seventeen (17) to introduce them to flying. Volunteers are always needed for these events and knowledge of airside safety is an asset. We will see how we get along recruiting volunteers and this will determine how many events will transpire.

The Airport is just starting to see the return of commercial flights in and out of the airport as businesses reopen and once again travel is getting back to normal. We hope this will continue the regrowth in the industry and build on these numbers to service present and potential customers in the near future as more and more people and businesses look to more rural settings to set up work from home or brick and mortar offices.

Respectfully submitted,

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