



**NIAGARA CENTRAL**  
*Airport Commission*

P. O. Box 234  
L3B 5P4

WELLAND, ONTARIO

**April 12, 2018**

City Clerk City of Port Colborne 66 Charlotte Street Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 Via email to <a href="mailto:ashleygrigg@portcolborne.ca">ashleygrigg@portcolborne.ca</a>	City Clerk City of Welland 60 East Main Street Welland, Ontario L3B 3X4 Via email to <a href="mailto:clerk@welland.ca">clerk@welland.ca</a>
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk Township of Wainfleet 31940 Highway 3 P.O. Box 40 Wainfleet, Ontario L0S 1V0 Via email to <a href="mailto:wkolasa@wainfleet.ca">wkolasa@wainfleet.ca</a>	Town Clerk Town of Pelham 20 Pelham Town Square P.O. Box 400 Fonthill, Ontario L0S 1E0 Via email to <a href="mailto:nbozzato@pelham.ca">nbozzato@pelham.ca</a>

**Mayors and Councils of City of Port Colborne, City of Welland, Township of Wainfleet, and the Town of Pelham:**

Following is brief synopsis of issues and developments at Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport through the first quarter of 2018 for your information:

**Of Note:**

- We note with sadness the passing of Dorothy Rungeling, Order of Canada, in her 107<sup>th</sup> year of a full and remarkable life that included spectacular successes as a pilot that brought great honour to her home airport which now carries her name, and to Canadian aviation generally.
- We welcome Leo Van Fliet, Councillor, City of Welland, to the Niagara Central Airport Commission, filling the vacancy left by the passing of Welland Councillor Rocky Letourneau.

**Condition and Maintenance:**

- Cost of completion of repairs to Taxiway Alpha, and repairs to the Secondary Runway and Taxiway Bravo was submitted in the 2018 capital budget. An estimated amount of

\$173,000.00 will provide remedial treatment to the treated surfaces such that they can be used safely for 10+ years.

**Other Repair and Maintenance Issues:**

- MOE has reviewed plans of new septic system designed by the engineering firm AMEC to replace the current greater than 70 year old system. Inasmuch as MOE review has taken longer than 3 years, we are updating the base premises of the plan to current status before proceeding with a permit application. NCAC met with Region officials on November 1, 2017, to review requirements and plans. Wood Group (previously AMEC Foster Wheeler) is redrafting the technical report required by the permit application.
- The runway lighting system is still operational but will require renovation as they system is aged and spare parts are scarce and difficult to source.

**Request to Upload Control and Governance of NCDRA to Region:**

- On September 26, 2016, Regional Council passed a motion supporting in principle that the Region adopt sole-responsibility for operations and governance of Niagara District and Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airports. Subject to completion of a phase 2 environmental assessment at each location paid for by the current owners/operators, Regional staff is authorized to initiate negotiations with funding partners of both airports to transition responsibility.
- The required Environmental Assessment of NCDRA was substantially completed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, and the Phase 2 report should be available within October to be forwarded to the Region.
- Niagara Central Airport Commission and NCDRA staff is working with our stakeholder municipalities to facilitate the negotiation process with the Region to make the transition of control to the Region. Mayors and CAO's met on March 9 to develop a process to develop a common negotiating position with which to approach Region. The process will be implemented in April, which should result in a motion passed by all stakeholder municipalities in time for the May 8 Niagara Region Transportation Committee meeting.

**Growth:**

- The local chapter of the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA Flight 149) has suggested that NCDRA rehabilitate the abandoned runway as a grass strip. They have offered to participate in the cost of construction and to undertake the maintenance of the strip. A plan and budget of this conversion has been approved by NCAC. The plan includes:
  - Excavation of a road a 1900 ft. roadbed on the south side of hangars along Taxiway Bravo to provide soil to cover the abandoned runway. The roadbed will accept fill from the wider community to eventually become the access to additional hangar lots required when lots along Bravo are leased.
  - The abandoned runway will be prepared, graded, and covered with the roadbed excavate provided above.
  - Preparation and seeding of the soil to create the grass strip will be undertaken by COPA.
  - Cost of excavation and placement of the soil will be undertaken by NCDRA with an upset limit of \$15,000.00, including HST.
  - Cost of creation of the grass strip will be undertaken by COPA, who have committed to the maintenance of the grass strip thereafter.

**Airport Activities:**

- Activities are at a low winter level. Weather in throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter produced a higher than normal snow plowing expenditure.
- The incident between aircraft on runway 05/23 in October resulted in the cleanup of spilled fuel, the cost of which will be borne by the insurance coverage of the aircraft involved. This item remains outstanding.

**Fundraising:**

- NCDRA have been notified that operating and capital budgets have been approved by stakeholder municipalities.
- It is anticipated that the \$173,000.00 capital infusion will be funded through loan agreements with the stakeholder municipalities in the same manner that capital was provided last year for hangar roof and septic system improvements.
- Discussions regarding application of Section 110 of the Ontario Municipal Tax Act will depend on the outcome of negotiations around Region's uplift of control of the airport.

**2015 through 2018 Niagara Central Airport Commission Members:**

Welland

Jim Larouche  
John Mastroianni  
Leo Van Vliet

Port Colborne

Barbara Butters (Vice-Chair)  
Bea Kenny

Wainfleet

Ted Hessels

Pelham

Richard Rybiak (Chair)

**Sincerely,**



**Richard Rybiak**  
**Chair**  
**Niagara Central Airport Commission**