

Dr Sunil Mehta



July 18, 2021

Owen Sound City Council

Re: Billy Bishop Regional Airport

Dear Madams and Sirs:

I write this letter to you to express my concerns regarding the possible decision to close the Billy Bishop Regional Airport. I have noted articles in the local news media reporting the expectation that council will be advised to close the airport and instead allow the Wiarton-Keppel facility to be developed into a regional hub. While I have no familiarity with the costs involved, other than those reported in the media, or the proposals that have been evaluated, I do have an expressed interest in the maintenance of the facility from the perspective of a health care worker. I have no financial association with the Billy Bishop Regional Airport – I do not own a plane, I am not a pilot, and I do not pay/lease/rent anything from them.

As an Emergency physician it is fairly regular that the most appropriate and best care for a patient requires their transfer to a more suitable facility. Often the treatment these patients require is time sensitive and we attempt to transfer by the provincial ORNGE service. Unfortunately, especially in the winter months, this becomes increasingly difficult depending on the weather patterns. Often our only alternative to a 3-hour one direction land transfer is the use of fixed-wing transport via the Billy Bishop airfield.

It should be clarified that for these patients transfer by land not only requires the loss of a local EMS crew to facilitate the transfer, but almost universally requires that the Emergency Department also lose a nurse (and potentially a physician) for the duration of the transport (typically 6-8 hours). I'm not sure how familiar City Council members are with the current nursing shortage, but our department seems to be running short by one nurse on a daily basis as is. Losing another nurse/physician for a land transfer that could have been averted by having ready access to a fixed wing crew is potentially devastating for our ability to continue providing high-quality and timely care in the Emergency Department.

The Owen Sound Emergency Department sees approximately 36000 patients per year. Our acuity levels are higher than those in the surrounding hospital and, as a result, we require flight transfer more often than other Grey Bruce Health Services sites. The Owen Sound site of GBHS also contains our regional pediatric beds, critical care beds, stroke beds, and intensive care beds. The Ontario Trillium Gift of Life network uses the airport a portion of its organ procurement visits. All these hospital-based services have occasional need for the airport and are therefore at risk.

I recognize that, theoretically, we could have our patients shipped 30min north to Wiarton to fly fixed wing. It should be kept in mind that these transfers also require the loss of a nurse and/or physician for the land portion of the transfer and, instead of a total 30 minute period of detainment away from the Emergency Department (or other sending area), we would be looking at a period of more than 60 minutes. Given the potential impact on care when minutes can matter, I believe it behoves us to maintain service closer to home.

Our community deserves access to this facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sunil Mehta', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr Sunil Mehta, MD CCFP(EM) FCPC

Chief - Owen Sound Department of Emergency Medicine
Grey Bruce Health Services

Chief Medical Informatics Officer
Grey Bruce Health Services

Local Medical Director – Grey and Bruce EMS
Southwest Regional Base Hospital Program

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Briana Bloomfield](#)
Subject: Airport discussion for tonite
Date: July 19, 2021 11:52:07 AM

To Mayor, Deputy, and council members: I feel compelled to address an unanswered question from a councilor regarding the 2860 name signed petition that was submitted at the start of the airport discussions. A councilor questioned that out of the 2800 names, only 120 were 'local', and the petition didn't mean much. To be clear, many who signed the petition, are (were) fuel customers and do not live in the area. They would include other flight schools that use Owen Sound for training, private pilots travelling north, commercial traffic bringing people or products to and from Owen Sound, as well as local aircraft who used our facility a lot, at the time fuel profits were 35 cents per litre when sold at market value. 'Should' council reconsider tonite, they would be doing a service not only to medivac patients, but to the reputation of the City of Owen Sound. Thank you, I needed to clarify the value of the petition submitted by Owen Sound Flight Services.

Respectfully, Steve Meades, Past President CYOS Aviation Management Group

Dr. Jon Caulfeild BSc MD FRCS(C)
Division Chief, General Surgery

July 19, 2021

To the Members of Owen Sound City Council,

I am writing to express my significant concerns about closing or selling the Owen Sound Billy Bishop Airport. I have received a copy of a Staff Report that apparently will be presented today, suggesting that the airport should close.

I am the Division Chief of General Surgery for Grey Bruce Health Services. I received training in trauma surgery at the University of Toronto during my surgical residency, and served as Chief Surgical Resident at both Sunnybrook and St. Michael's Trauma Centres. I also hold a commercial pilot licence and have a fair degree of aviation knowledge and experience, having been a pilot for over 30 years. I am part owner of a hangar at the airport as well and own a small fabric covered airplane.

When trauma arrives at our hospitals and patients require emergency life-saving surgery, the general surgeon on call is usually deeply involved. My partners and I have operated emergently on many patients over the years that were victims of trauma, having suffered from car accidents, intentional or accidental penetrating trauma, farm accidents, or other serious injuries.

Unfortunately, trauma patients are often complex with multiple injuries requiring tertiary care. In particular, severe head injuries require expedited transfer for neurosurgical intervention. In trauma, we discuss the "Golden Hour", where minutes count in the prognosis and survival of patients.

Fortunately, Ontario has an excellent system for transferring such patients in a timely manner. The ORNGE helicopters fly day and night saving lives. Unfortunately, during inclement weather, this is sometimes not possible. Thunderstorms, fog, snow, etc. prevent them from landing safely at the hospital helipad. Sometimes in these situations, helicopters and fixed wing aircraft can still land at the airport using instrument approaches and are still able to evacuate patients. This was the case only recently following a serious accident in our area. The option of a 3 hour land transfer was not favourable. The helicopter could not land anywhere else nearby.

You mention that the Wiarton airport is an adequate backup that is maybe 30 minutes further than Owen Sound. This extra time could mean the difference between life and death for our residents in certain cases. I do not know how many times a year this situation occurs. Maybe it's only once. Maybe it's five times. Maybe more. I know it happened a couple of weeks ago. I know that if one day one of my loved ones needs an emergency medical evacuation on a bad

weather day, I am thankful the airport is so close. How many of these life-saving flights are required to make the money invested in the airport worthwhile? A few dollars per year per household seems reasonable to me.

I know that the Gift of Life organ donation teams fly into Billy Bishop airport when the need arises as well. I have not even mentioned medical evacuation needs during acute stroke or cardiac events.

A regional airport is an important part of the infrastructure of a community and provides an essential service to its inhabitants. I see it in the same light as a fire department or an EMS service. Communities who do not have this service are at a dangerous disadvantage.

On a more personal note as a hangar owner and pilot, I see the implementation of a landing fee as an obvious intentional route to airport closure. I have heard council members say "you pay a fee to skate at the ice rink, you pay a fee to land at the airport." I am no business expert, but if every other ice rink is free, people are just going to skate elsewhere and the rink will be empty and close. As someone who has a lease at the airport, paying a landing fee seems a lot like charging an apartment tenant to use the elevator to access their apartment in addition to their rent. I certainly think it is unreasonable to charge a pilot \$350 plus tax if they were practicing ten take offs and landings in an hour, especially if that pilot was already supporting the airport through lease and fuel payments.

If the landing fee were a viable option to help the airport, maybe local pilots would be more open to it. The issue is, in fact, that it is obvious that this fee will result in drastically decreasing airport utilization by the general aviation community, and kill the airport, not save it. That is why local pilots, and indeed all members of the aviation community, are against this plan.

I implore the Owen Sound City Council members to do what it takes to maintain a viable airport in Owen Sound. Our community deserves this service, and you will save lives.

Sincerely

Dr. Jon Caulfeild BSc MD FRCS(C)

From: [Andy Plater](#)
To: [Ian C Boddy](#); [Brian O'Leary](#); [Travis Dodd](#); [Scott Greig](#); bhamely@owensound.ca; [Marion Koepke](#); [Carol Merton](#); [Richard J Thomas](#); [John A. Tamming](#); [Briana Bloomfield](#); Alex.Ruff@parl.gc.ca; bill.walker@pc.ola.org
Cc: [Tim Simmonds](#); [Dennis Kefalas](#); [Hub, Owen Sound \(Media\)](#); [The Meaford Independent](#); rcurrie@postmedia.com; osst.news@sunmedia.ca; cgervais@copanational.org
Subject: Open Letter - should Owen Sound Billy Bishop airport close?
Date: July 19, 2021 7:55:45 AM

Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors
 Constituents and Taxpayers in Owen Sound and region,
 MP Alex Ruff, MPP Bill Walker,

Hello everyone! My name is Andy Plater, and I have some questions for you. I'm a Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor based out of the Owen Sound Billy Bishop regional airport, and I'm concerned by the recommendation by City Manager Tim Simmonds to close the Billy Bishop airport.

I think it's best if I ask these questions 'face to face', so I've linked a video with my questions. It may be a bit long for some, so I included links in the description to jump ahead to the sections you may be most interested in. I've also summarized my questions below:

<https://youtu.be/eZ1hR0nYBY8>

I've also sent this letter to the City Clerk. I understand my video wouldn't be played during the July 19th council meeting (today), I'm hoping my questions to council may be fit in:

1. What is the true economic impact of the Billy Bishop airport? Would we consider an economic impact study to see the indirect community losses of airport closure?
2. Why must the facility pay for itself? Some municipal assets do pay for themselves, others don't, how are these decisions made?
3. What is the current serviceability of the asphalt at the runway? Could we look at an engineering report to estimate lifespan, repair costs, and load rating?
4. How does the Billy Bishop airport fit into the Owen Sound and Grey Bruce emergency management plans? What would be the impact on time to evacuate or get help into the community in a major disaster? How is the air ambulance system affected?

In the video I've also added some questions for the Constituents of our region, and our Federal and Provincial representation:

For citizens and taxpayers:

1. Do you think the Billy Bishop airport is an asset, or a liability? and why?
2. Do you know of all types of aircraft that can land at Billy Bishop and the roles they serve?
3. What will you personally lose, or gain if the airport closes?

For Bill Walker and Alex Ruff:

1. How will operations of Medevac, OPP, and Military be affected in our communities if Billy Bishop airport closes?

2. What is the financial impact of this change? Look at fixed wing air ambulances replaced for more expensive rotary wing, and further distances to the nearest airport increasing logistics, number of aircraft, and specialist staff operating costs.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my questions and thoughts!

Regards,

Andy Plater

Flight Instructor - Owen Sound Billy Bishop Regional Airport



Video full transcript:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i1l8PONj_bL-B_H6dvmg_dbnNzF1FPi6Jo7DG-3t9o0/export?format=pdf&attachment=false



July 19, 2021

City of Owen Sound Council and
Mayor Ian Boddy
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON
N4K 2H4
Email: Mayor@owensound.ca

Re: Closure or the Sale of Billy Bishop Regional Airport

Greeting Mr. Boddy,

On behalf of the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA), Canada's largest aviation association and the world's second largest, with over 16,000 members, we write to you today to respectfully request that The City of Owen Sound (City) reconsider selling or closing the Billy Bishop Regional Airport.

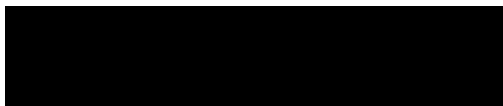
COPA wrote several months ago regarding the City's plan to impose a two-stage landing fee for all airport users. At the time, we recommended that the City develop and implement other measures of generating revenue for the airport, such as a restaurant as well as institute other aircraft-friendly services that would welcome itinerant pilots. We warned the City that implementing a landing fee would only redirect air traffic elsewhere and would not generate the projected revenue it had budgeted. General aviation contributes over nine (9) billion dollars to the Canadian economy and your community could have benefited and still can. A copy of the general aviation economic impact study was provided to demonstrate the many ways general aviation contributes to municipalities such as yours.

It is unfortunate that the City did not engage with the local aviation community such as potential business owners, airplane and hangar owners to collaborate on practicable solutions the revitalize this once thriving aerodrome. Engaging with this passionate community could yield viable and sustainable economic opportunities.

COPA has read the most recent and comprehensive report on the financial state of the Owen Sound Airport. We were not surprised to read the financial impairment caused by the implementation of the landing fee, as acknowledged by the City. We are very surprised that Council has made no effort to engage with a professional subject matter expert consulting firm to adequately study the viability of the airport and how to invest in this asset and turn it into an economic contributor of the community.

Today the Council meets to decide the next steps in the future of the aerodrome which has for many years honoured the name of a great Canadian aviation icon. Before deciding to sell or close the airport, COPA would like to remind the City of the importance of this airport not only to the pilots who call it home but to all the others who use it as a node in a safety network of aerodromes.

This safety network stretches beyond the Grey Bruce region, across Canada, and beyond our borders. The pandemic is



slowly easing its stranglehold on travel. Air travel, commercial and recreational, has returned to pre-COVID levels, and has even seen an increase. This increase in general aviation traffic in Canada will undoubtedly help businesses rebuild, provide opportunities, and allow the tourism industry, among others, to flourish. There is an opportunity for the Owen Sound community to benefit from this and City Council members should not isolate Owen Sound from this economic impact.

The Owen Sound Municipal Airport is also home to a diversity of operations that attract not only aviation students but aircraft owners to receive flight training as well as technical and mechanical aeronautical services. The airport should collaborate with these residents on a sustainable viability plan.

Lastly, Billy Bishop Regional serves your local hospital as a critical location in the aero-medical evacuation transfer system operated by ORNGE. This network is vital and saves lives, and has been crucial this past year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Travel by surface vehicles can be very problematic during the winter months. The Owen Sound Airport is equipped to support Instrument Flight Rule (low ceilings and low visibility) conditions. Keeping the airport open is vital to the users of your health care system. There is a moral responsibility to your citizens that goes well beyond a balanced budget.

COPA recommends that City Council consider the following options regarding the future of Owen Sound 's Billy Bishop Regional Airport:

- engage the province and seek financial assistance for airport operational costs in light of the role that your airport plays in the critical care and transfer of hospital patients between Owen Sound and larger medical care centres, especially during the winter months;
- engage in constructive and open dialogue with the airport residents. You will find a wealth of knowledge and experience in this group than could become a trusted ally;
- engage with a consulting firm and prepare an Airport Strategic Plan to overcome the challenges and threats faced by the Owen Sound Airport and to capitalize on the facility's strengths and opportunities.

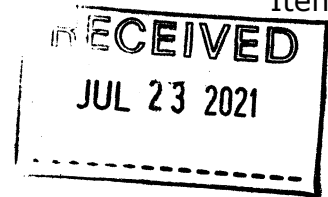
Closing and/or selling the Owen Sound Airport will be detrimental to the community in terms of safety, viability and community economic development. It is in the best interest of City Council to develop a strategy that will see this aerodrome flourish once again.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Gervais
President and CEO
Canadian Owners and Pilots Association



cc: Mr. Alex Ruff, Member of Parliament, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Bill Mahoney, Chair, Board of Directors, COPA
Peter Campbell, Director External Relations, COPA



The City of Owen Sound
City Council Members and Staff..

Re: Closure of the Billy Bishop Airport.

Dear Mayor Boddy, Council Members & Staff.

July 23, 2021.

I have been following the activities /discussions regarding the financial woes related to our regional airport and wish to express my concern for the direction you seem to be headed, selling the airport!

Over the years I follow council's actions as a local resident and tax payer. It seems to me you have spent money on numerous studies over the years on a variety of items, some of much lesser importance, with much smaller impact on the outcome. Traffic studies come to mind as a good example! Some of these have been studied numerous times with little if any noticeable improvement.

I watched city council when you received a delegation from the local aviation group as this topic was debated. I was appalled at how he was attacked for what he was presenting, rather than hearing him out, questioning his ideas and attempting to come to some form of civility and maybe a path forward! Everyone seemed to have already set their mind on "SALE" as the only viable solution.

I'm not party to the total investment we have in our airport, but I think it deserves much better action from all of you, especially considering its history and the original thinking that brought it into being? What ever has changed in that regard? Are we so short sighted that the only solution is a "Fire Sale"! I believe \$180,000 was the shortfall mentioned to meet budget. This spread over a population of 21,000 would mean about \$3.00 per month each. I believe this asset also has value for Grey County and surrounding townships. If a member of our community needed a medical emergency airlift to London, or Toronto I personally would be saddened it couldn't happen because you sold the airport! The local medical doctors see a value that seems to have been missing by all of you!

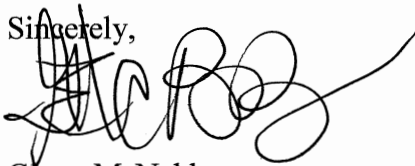
I believe a study of this valuable asset is called for by a person knowledgeable in developing, operating and expending a small regional airport. Anything less is unacceptable! Have any of you considered what the picture might look like in 25years? Will Owen Sound still be a dot on the map, or a thriving community with a busy little regional airport. What will transportation look like in 25 years? Might even you be using it? What about your grand children?

A few years go while golfing at Scenic City Golf Course we would witness the Canadian Military fly in with their huge cargo plane and spend time there practicing parachuting and landing, followed by the crew coming to the golf club for lunch. That

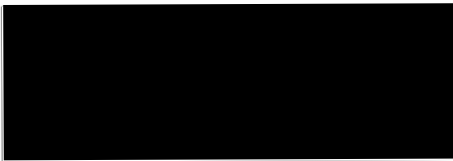
was prior to the airport having a restaurant. That surely must have generated income. As an aside, when watching the photos shown by staff, one could not help notice the filthy restaurant kitchen, left that way months ago when the former tenant vacated the building! It begged the question, who is managing the airport now and why was this never cleaned up? It should have happened the following day!

I beg you to please give this project the time and attention it deserves by contracting a specialist to gain some valuable knowledge and an action plan before holding a "Fire Sale"! History will not look kindly on taking an easy out on this valuable asset! If Billy Bishop's name is attached to the airport someone must have thought it was worth building and developing and I agree!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn McNabb', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Glenn McNabb.



From: [Pauline Dantas](#)
To: [Ian C Boddy](#)
Subject: Owen Sound Airport
Date: July 29, 2021 7:45:09 PM
Attachments: httpsmark-barbosa.c21.cafbclid=IwAR27grzwakSZt-iSRMJXHwBdEvg9weF8ViEeTYXn9-ODuqPRbUHgxGZS6Nw_aem_AbESSqySZgN14M7KXmplqKAnfh.png
[ATT00001.txt](#)

Good points raised here Mayor.. I appreciate the challenges of fiscal management but it would be a great initiative for the city and their residents to find ways to work together..

From: [Dennis Kefalas](#)
To: [Tim Simmonds](#)
Subject: FW: Owen Sound Airport
Date: July 30, 2021 10:49:29 AM

Dennis Kefalas, P. Eng.
Director
Public Works & Engineering Department
City of Owen Sound
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1201
dkefalas@owensound.ca



From: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>
Sent: July 30, 2021 9:57 AM
To: Dennis Kefalas <dkefalas@owensound.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Owen Sound Airport

IAN C. BODDY
Mayor of the City of Owen Sound

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kenneth Peter [REDACTED]
Date: July 29, 2021 at 8:57:21 PM EDT
To: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>
Subject: Owen Sound Airport

Hello Mayor Boddy

I am writing in regards to Owen Sound Billy Bishop Airport. I chose this airport as my home airport. I could've chosen another location - but I am proud to fly at Owen Sound. I am currently a student at this school with about 40+ hours logged to date. I intend to take many of my certifications here with the excellent program offered.

I didn't want to be just another student in Collingwood (where I work) or even farther, Wiarton. Again, I chose Owen Sound. I love the area, and I enjoy watching the flights that come and go. The community of pilots and flight instructors there are second to none. The school is the best in the area, hands down. When the medevac, search and rescue, or C130 Hercules from the army comes in - or a pop-up air show happens - and we are grounded - it is a delight to see all aviators in action, even if it means I don't get to fly.

The city once had a grand vision for the airport. I know times are tough - but the airport is a vital community hub, a rallying point of sorts, much like a park or a greenspace - and not to be viewed as an expendable burden or ability.

It would be a disgrace and a reflection of poor leadership and short-sightedness by the council to stop support for the airport. It is a valuable asset to any community, one I am sure less fortunate cities would jump at the opportunity for.

The City of Owen Sound should modernize and grow into its future self, a bright future - one I know we can all see - and removing the airport from that master plan or vision is the opposite approach, one that will most assuredly be regretted by future councilors or residents. I stand by the airport and I trust the city will do the same.

Thank you for reading and listening to my thoughts.

Cheers,

Kenneth Peter



From: [Dennis Kefalas](#)
To: [Tim Simmonds](#)
Subject: FW: In Consideration of the Owen Sound Airport
Date: July 30, 2021 10:48:14 AM

FYI

Dennis Kefalas, P. Eng.
Director
Public Works & Engineering Department
City of Owen Sound
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1201
dkefalas@owensound.ca



From: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>
Sent: July 30, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Dennis Kefalas <dkefalas@owensound.ca>
Subject: Fwd: In Consideration of the Owen Sound Airport

IAN C. BODDY
Mayor of the City of Owen Sound

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: July 29, 2021 at 8:56:34 PM EDT
To: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>
Cc: "Hub, Owen Sound (Media)" <owensoundhub@gmail.com>, Alex.Ruff@parl.gc.ca,
bill.walkerco@pc.ola.org
Subject: In Consideration of the Owen Sound Airport

Dear Mr. Mayor Boddy, Members of Council, and Residents of Owen Sound:

I am writing this letter as a former resident and forever Owen Sounder to express my concerns for the future of the Owen Sound Billy Bishop Memorial Airport (CYOS).

I was born and raised in Owen Sound, but one of my fondest childhood memories was watching airplanes takeoff and land at Pearson Airport in Toronto with my Granddad. For my tenth birthday, my Dad got me an introductory flight of Owen Sound Airport. This was my first flight, but it fueled a passion that continues to this day. When I was

fourteen, I joined the 167 Air Marshall Bishop V.C. Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron. I remember one of my first familiarization flights out of CYOS when I was handed the controls to do some circles over the Santa Clause Parade. When I was seventeen, I earned my private pilot's license through the Air Cadets' scholarship program, and one of my first flights after earning my wings was to fly home from Kitchener and meet my parents on the tarmac in Owen Sound. I know how excited I was, but I can't imagine how proud my parents must have been. All of these memories are forever tied to the Owen Sound Airport.

I currently reside in Waterloo Region and work as an Aviation Consultant. In my professional career I have managed multiple corporate flights departments whose clients included Bruce Power; I have been advisor to provincial governments and consulted on airports that serve remote and isolated communities across Canada, as well as air ambulance operations; and I have worked with numerous municipally operated airports in almost every Province. All this because of a passion for aviation that was sparked in Owen Sound.

I've been following the goings-on at Wiarton Airport for many years, and more recently Owen Sound's Airport. While I recognize taxpayers' liability for the airport and the unwillingness of some to pay for it, I also want to share my own perspective: airports rarely, if ever, break even. Particularly in small municipalities, airports are critical infrastructure to be supported through investment rather than squeezed as a source of revenue.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global aviation industry was facing a shortage of skilled labour: pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers, and air traffic controllers. While the global downturn slowed the crunch, we are already starting to see increased consumer demand and a shortage of personnel. The aviation industry is again grappling with this issue. There are plenty of opportunities for Owen Sound to invest and grow their airport, rather than close it forever.

Rather than closing the airport to save taxpayers a few dollars a month and accepting the loss of service that comes with that, Owen Sound should explore funding opportunities and grow the tax base to invest in vital infrastructure.

The high cost of running the City spread across a relatively small population is something Owen Sound has struggled with my entire life. As someone who grew up in Owen Sound and left to pursue a career and raise a family, the irony is not lost on me. I've often considered moving back if there was an opportunity, but there hasn't been much. It is interesting to see how successful the recent "Work from Home Capital of Canada" campaign has been. Demand for homes in Owen Sound increased, and housing prices soared. While this causes growing pains for many, it also pushes property taxes higher and adds to City coffers in the long-run. These are difficult decisions for politicians but should be strategies considered by staffers.

It is also true that when the Federal and Provincial governments handed responsibility for airports to municipalities, there was little or no funding that went with it. Airport operators across the country struggle with this issue. There are countless industry associations and professional organizations lobbying all levels of government for increased funding, with significant results of late. Airports were hit particularly hard by travel restrictions introduced to curb the COVID-19 pandemic, and funds are being made available to support their recovery. There's significant pressure to make these supports permanent to make up for decades of underfunding. Now is the time to lobby upper-tier governments for funding, not shutter airports.

Selling the airport to a private buyer and asking them to operate a facility that loses money every year is simply unrealistic. It's also an irreversible decision; once the airport is gone, the City will never have the means or the will to build a new airport from scratch. The same could be said for Georgian Bluffs and the Wiarton Airport. Right now, working in isolation, the region is at risk of losing both airports. It surprises me that there isn't more discussion about a regional plan to operate and maintain one airport to serve a wider population.

The current approach seems ill-conceived, uninformed, and rushed. It risks a very tragic result. The residents of Owen Sound, as well as the residents of broader Grey and Bruce Counties deserve better and should demand more from their representatives. Owen Sound Council would be wise to do their due diligence and invest for the future, rather than hammering one more nail in the City's coffin.

Sincerely,

Stephen Jordan

From: [Dennis Kefalas](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Cc: [Tim Simmonds](#)
Subject: FW: Owen Sound Sun Times Letter to the Editor
Date: July 30, 2021 4:55:22 PM

Hey Sharon,

Please put this in the airport file with the others.

Dennis Kefalas, P. Eng.
Director
Public Works & Engineering Department
City of Owen Sound
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1201
dkefalas@owensound.ca



From: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>
Sent: July 30, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Dennis Kefalas <dkefalas@owensound.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Owen Sound Sun Times Letter to the Editor

IAN C. BODDY
Mayor of the City of Owen Sound

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: The Moores [REDACTED]
Date: July 30, 2021 at 10:34:09 AM EDT
To: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>
Subject: Fw[5]: Owen Sound Sun Times Letter to the Editor
Reply-To: The Moores [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Boddy;

The following information is intended for you and your councilors.

We would appreciate your making copies available to each of them.

Thank you.

Sincerely

David and Brady Moore

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "The Moores" [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: 7/30/2021 10:23:52 AM

Subject: Fw[4]: Owen Sound Sun Times Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor Langlois;

We would appreciate your publishing the following timely article in the Sun Times.

Sincerely

David and Brady Moore

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Letter to the Editor - Owen Sound Sun Times

We are the owners of a small aircraft, which we hangar at the Owen Sound airport. The City's imposition of landing fees to offset operating deficits is resulting in many owners considering relocating their aircraft to other airports. That will only serve to increase any shortfall the City is facing, and, potentially, closure of the facility altogether. To be clear, we understand that City officials are charged with holding taxes to a minimum, and giving residents the best bang for their tax dollars. We also feel that there are other viable options to landing fees.

It is no secret that relatively high fuel prices at the Owen Sound airport result in most owners including a fuel stop at a less expensive airport as a part of their pleasure flight

itinerary. Wiarton is a good example, where lower fuel prices are readily available at their self-serve facility. Many choose to enjoy the restaurant there after refueling.

An investment in self-service equipment at our airport would (1) lower fuel prices to a competitive level that would not only entice local owners to purchase fuel here, while (2) at the same time attracting out-of-town fliers to stop here, both of which would provide a totally new revenue stream for the City, and (3) reduce the City's personnel costs of full-service personnel. This would, in turn, make a restaurant at the airport a much more viable business, providing another revenue stream that the City currently does not have. It is our understanding that unacceptable rental fees caused Tilly's and the Rusty Gull restaurants to close down, and that tax base has never been replaced.

The incalculable benefits of our airport to the hospital, and the medical community in general, were very aptly covered by local businessman and aircraft owner Rod Mathews in his letter to The Sun Times. The proximity of the airport to the Meaford military base, and to the hospital, provides a service to both the Ontario and Federal governments. Both governments should be approached to contribute to the annual operating costs of the airport.

Another potential source of revenue for the City is the tourism impact of a viable airport. We would encourage our City officials to take a flight from Owen Sound up the peninsula to Tobermory, or over to Killarney and the North Channel. The vistas are world-class and breathtaking. Our local flight school offers this service, and does a good job. However, if the City got behind a serious promotional program aimed at the GTA, and the Kitchener and London areas, this service could become a really big deal for both flight school, airport restaurant, and City revenues. Local hotels and restaurants would naturally benefit also.

Finally, we wonder how many locals are aware that a true Canadian aviation icon hangs his aerobatic Russian Yak at our airport. Gord Price is a true legend in this field, having performed in air shows world-wide, and winning countless awards for his skills in this exacting profession. You may have thrilled to some of his practice sessions over the bay from time to time. It would be a shame to lose this national treasure to another airport. Coincidentally, Mr. Price is also an experienced restaurateur, and is prepared to make a proposal to the City to operate a restaurant at the airport.

We are proposing spending a little money up front, amortizing these expenses over a reasonable period of time, for a win-win scenario for both the City and local aircraft owners.

Sincerely,

David & Brady Moore



From: [Dennis Kefalas](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Cc: [Tim Simmonds](#)
Subject: FW: Airport
Date: July 30, 2021 4:54:34 PM

Hey Sharon,

Please put this in the airport file with the others.

Dennis Kefalas, P. Eng.
Director
Public Works & Engineering Department
City of Owen Sound
Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1201
dkefalas@owensound.ca



From: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>
Sent: July 30, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Dennis Kefalas <dkefalas@owensound.ca>
Subject: FW: Airport

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: Jeff Burns [REDACTED]
Date: 2021-07-30 11:39 a.m. (GMT-05:00)
To: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>
Subject: Airport

Hello Ian:

I do believe we should continue to support the Owen Sound airport

Thank you in advance for your time

Jeff Burns

From: [Coty Brown](#)
To: [Ian C Boddy](#)
Cc: [bleary@owensound.ca](#); [ttodd@owensound.ca](#); [sgrieg@owensound.ca](#); [Brock Hamley](#); [Marion Koepke](#); [Carol Merton](#); [Dennis Kefalas](#); [stephanie@thedampub.ca](#); [alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca](#); [Reaney, Carol \(Ruff, Alex - MP\)](#); [Brian Pound](#); [Kevin Elwood](#); [gord.miller@gmail.com](#); [flightops@jetaircraftmuseum.ca](#); [Christine Gervais](#); [David M. MacRae](#); [Waterloo Warbirds](#); [bill.walkerco@pc.ola.org](#)
Subject: OWENSOUND AIRPORT
Date: July 31, 2021 3:37:21 AM

Good Day!!

I'm under the pre-concieved idea that you ill intention to cease operations of owensound airport as of December 2022, is extremely beligerant, ignorant and selfish pre-concieved notion that you believe ceasing all operations of the airport is a " good idea". That is where I beg to differ. I'LL STAND IN THE CROSSFIRE!

I am a friend of Alex Ruff and believe it or not I've upstepped you by one!
 I've added Alex Ruff to this discussion incase you " try to pull anything funny" like you did about Doctor Ian Erra. It only takes one goon or bully (AHOLE) to push their selfish intentions before the good guy decides to blow the whistle - sorry gentleman but that just so happens to be me! I maybe 5'02 but I never loose an arguement.

I'm not going to play nice or fair beings some of you acted like " goons" on the " goon squad", I'm calling it what it is, is your ill concieved notions, thoughts, concept or idea's all of which are false pretense for created ambiguity, ans scandal on your part. I guess its fair to say " the goon squad" wants to run owensound.

I got news for you, I happen to be a friend of Alex Ruff and I've dealt with " goons" my whole life, they are beligerant, cowardice, ignorant, self concieted, all about me, selfish, boastful, proud, rude, arrogant, maliced, envious, and sometimes have malicious intent. All of these are some of the very bad notorious actions and or behaviours that " the pecking order or should I say " Tiny Clique clich'e have. I say most of the " goon squad here doesnt deserve to be in a position of leadership."

I can play politics and I know Politics including Law so your in a win loose arguement now fellas and I don't plan on backing down from " telling you off". Ah, you like pushing people around, but you dont like when someone steps on your toes... aint that too bad! I was always taught to stand up to a Grade A Bully, or GRADE A (AHOLE).

You pick on my airport instructors and the pilots who trained me, I'll happily oblige to sit here and argue.

I can argue all day - so just try me!

i'm in Hanover if you got something to say!

That owensound Airport has active military using their facilities including emergency management, which include military, search and rescue and o.p.p helicopter and the Rangers which take precedence over you building houses un-necessarily and by the way... wasting time because their not even being built for affordable housing, so I got you 1-0 on that one. What's more important seniors developement homes or our military... I'm glad you dont run our Legions.

I think your goon squad days are over!

You want to do something productive then sit your butts down in a comfortable chair as seniors yourselves and act like a bunch of two faced monkees (oh pardon me for

unparliamentary language - did I offend you? ... GOOD!!

get up off your hiny A** and put your money where your mouth is... and start helping our afghanistan interpreters you bunch of morons!

From: [Tim Simmonds](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Subject: FW: Airport staying....Because of the ambulance and possibly saving a life we would vote airport to stay in Owen Sound
Date: August 2, 2021 3:52:43 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Donna Robins [REDACTED]
Sent: August 2, 2021 5:52 PM
To: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>; bleary@owensound.ca; Travis Dodd <tdodd@owensound.ca>; Scott Greig <sgreig@owensound.ca>; bhamely@owensound.ca; Marion Koepke <mkoepke@owensound.ca>; Carol Merton <cmerton@owensound.ca>; John A. Tamming <jtamming@owensound.ca>; Richard J Thomas <rjthomas@owensound.ca>; Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>; Dennis Kefalas <dkefalas@owensound.ca>; Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Subject: Airport staying....Because of the ambulance and possibly saving a life we would vote airport to stay in Owen Sound

Donna Robins

From: [Tim Simmonds](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Subject: Fwd: Save Owen Sound Airport
Date: August 2, 2021 6:34:41 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Deborah Barker [REDACTED]
Date: August 2, 2021 at 6:12:52 PM EDT
To: Dennis Kefalas <dkefalas@owensound.ca>, Carol Merton <cmerton@owensound.ca>, Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>, bhamely@owensound.ca, bleary@owensound.ca, Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>, "John A. Tamming" <jtamming@owensound.ca>, Marion Koepke <mkoepke@owensound.ca>, Richard J Thomas <rjthomas@owensound.ca>, Scott Greig <sgreig@owensound.ca>, Travis Dodd <tdodd@owensound.ca>, Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>
Subject: Save Owen Sound Airport

This is the first letter I have ever personally written to council.
I cannot believe that the city would not recognize the many valid points presented by airport staff, medical personnel and local pilots about why this airport needs to remain operational. And families highlighting how many loved ones have been saved because they were able to get the medical care they needed thanks to the airport being here cannot be ignored. I feel strongly that the airport is an important asset for our city and should not be shut down.
Please do the work to explore funding opportunities, invest in and grow the airport.
Look forward to the future. Raise my taxes to keep this import asset.
Deborah Barker

August 6, 2021

Mr. Tim Simmonds
City Manager – Owen Sound, Ontario
tsimmonds@owensound.ca

Dear Tim,

We are writing to express concern, on behalf of GBHS, with regards to potentially closing the Billy Bishop Regional Airport in Owen Sound. In follow-up to your email, we hope to provide some information that highlights the importance of the airport in the provision of health care to community members here in Grey and Bruce Counties.

As the largest acute care facility and second largest employer in the region, we believe we have a responsibility to bring to light the time-sensitive nature of patient care and transportation necessary to save lives. Each year we see, on average, 30 to 33 flights departing from the Billy Bishop Regional Airport; statistics show that we have 21 fixed wing and 12 rotor. Overall, the helipad at the Owen Sound Regional Hospital is used for a total of 105 Air ORNGE rotor patient lifts annually.

While we recognize the challenges of running and maintaining the airport, we would strongly suggest that the service provided by the airport is indeed life-saving and paramount to the ongoing provision of critical emergency services. Should the airport close, please know that we are unable to move to helicopter-only services. As such, we would have to look at another fixed-wing airport which would mean slower transfer of critically-ill patients and would put lives in danger.

In closing, we strongly recommend maintaining the services of the Billy Bishop Airport. If you require any additional information feel free to reach out to me via the contact information below. I would ask you to forward this letter to Owen Sound City Council for their review and consideration as well.

Regards,



Gary Sims, GBHS President & CEO

cc: Dr. Paul Middlebrook, GBHS Chief of Staff

Dr. Sunil Mehta, GBHS Chief of Owen Sound Department of Emergency Medicine, CMIO

Dr. John Caulfeild, GBHS Surgeon, Past Chief of the Department of Surgery

From: [Tim Simmonds](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Subject: Fwd: Billy Bishop Airport
Date: August 8, 2021 9:22:51 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mari Laughlen [REDACTED]
Date: August 7, 2021 at 10:51:50 PM EDT
To: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>, Brian O'Leary <boleary@owensound.ca>, Travis Dodd <tdodd@owensound.ca>, Scott Greig <sgreig@owensound.ca>, "John A. Tamming" <jtamming@owensound.ca>, Carol Merton <cmerton@owensound.ca>, Richard J Thomas <rjthomas@owensound.ca>, Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>, Dennis Kefalas <dkefalas@owensound.ca>, Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>, Marion Koepke <mkoepke@owensound.ca>, bhamely@owensound.ca
Subject: Billy Bishop Airport

To Owen Sound City Council members:

As a resident of Owen Sound, I absolutely oppose the pending sale of our municipal airport.

Claiming that not all residents use the airport and therefore should not be expected to subsidise it, is a mute point.

I do not use Owen Sound bus service, but my taxes help subsidise it.

When there are doctors and other aviation experts declaring the importance of the airport to our community, that it saves lives,

and not having to depend on using the Wiarton Airport, I believe it is nothing short of irresponsibility to our community that you decide to sell/privatise our airport.

Please have some foresight and do the work it takes to save our little airport, actually study the existing recommendations from [experts.ie](#), asking the the provincial gov't for support. Keep our local airport for our community!

I'm sure if any of you had a sick son, daughter or mother in need of the airport runway,

you would do the right thing and recind your vote. Please do not sell Billy Bishop Airport, we need this little local gem that saves lives!!

Selling it would be a blatant failure on your part!

I'm tired of our city council's backward, inept thinking, sucking the life out of this community!!

SN: Ian Boddy, saying on cbc that you can walk around in your pajamas, as part

of "Owen Sound lifestyle"... are you kidding me?? Who the hell wants to walk around in their pj's you small town hick? We need better than this!!

Again, Keep Billy Bishop Airport for our community!

Thank you.

Mari Laughlen

From: [Tanja Sommer](#)
To: [Ian C Boddy](#)
Subject: Airport closure
Date: August 7, 2021 7:50:06 PM

This is not the time to close an airport. With Covid patients having to be transported, it leaves another avenue open for their emergency transfer. The airport is an asset to the community.

In the future perhaps more people will fly from Owen Sound to Toronto. As an Owen Sound taxpayer I don't mind paying a few extra dollars so it can stay open. After all, I may need it someday. I think it is interesting to watch planes landing on the airport. Many children in our area would not know what a plane looks like, but for this airport.

Maintain the runways, allow owners of small planes to rent a hangar and keep it for the good of our community.

Tanja Grasshoff, Owen Sound

Sent from my iPad

From: [Tim Simmonds](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Subject: Fwd: Very Important!!
Date: August 8, 2021 9:22:35 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christina Beirnes [REDACTED]
Date: August 8, 2021 at 8:15:44 AM EDT
To: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>, Brian O'Leary <boleary@owensound.ca>, Travis Dodd <tdodd@owensound.ca>, Scott Greig <sgreig@owensound.ca>, bhamely@owensound.ca, Marion Koepke <mkoepke@owensound.ca>, Carol Merton <cmerton@owensound.ca>, "John A. Tamming" <jtamming@owensound.ca>, Richard J Thomas <rjthomas@owensound.ca>, Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>, Dennis Kefalas <dkefalas@owensound.ca>, Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Subject: Very Important!!

If you were starting today, with a farmers field within 5 miles of our Regional Hospital and decided to build an airport having the same facilities that Billy Bishop Field now has, how much money would be required and where would it come from?

After purchasing the property at today's land prices, obtaining the necessary development permits from the Niagara Escarpment Commission and working with Transport Canada to conform to aviation regulations, you would then clear and grade the land, build a runway with a load rating that supports the RCAF C-130 transport.

Taxiways and interior roads would be carved out, graded and paved. Underground wiring would be required for the 50-60 runway and taxi lights. The terminal building would have to be designed, approved and constructed at today's construction rates. 17 hangers would be constructed at today's building material and labour rates.

My estimate is that it would require at least \$15,000,000.00 of today's dollars.

To realize the potential benefits of aviation requires imagination, vision, good planning, a concerted effort by dedicated and informed community leaders. The key to the success of an airport in to community development is the understanding of its potential as a development resource and putting it to use.

So how are we doing?

Frankly it is just plain sad. It is historical ineptness at it's best!

Owen Sound Council has failed miserably in the areas of imagination, vision, good planning.

There is no concerted effort by dedicated and informed community leaders. It has not been allowed. Council has never listened to the now defunct Airport Advisory Committee. The recent attempts to provide deficit solutions have been ignored and discarded.

Now the airport, which they have refused to maintain properly, has been declared surplus to their needs and is scheduled to be closed 31 December 2022.

The reasoning is that Owen Sound Taxpayers should not be saddled with \$1 per month extra tax to pay for an airport that most taxpayers never use.

Where are the leaders with vision? The airport is also for surrounding areas. What has this Council done to remedy the deficit problem? Have they brought the matter before the County Council for discussion? Have they approached the Federal Government for assistance since the airport is often used by the RCAF Hercules, Search and Rescue and the Coast Guard? Have they approached the Provincial Government to help since the airport is used by the OPP, and the Ontario Health System through life saving flights by ORNGE? Have they marketed the airport for development? Have they helped taxpayers understand the benefits of having a Regional Airport that so close to the city?

The answer is to all those questions is no.

What they have done is, instituted a landing fee that has caused airport traffic and fuel sales to plummet, admitted that the landing fee idea did not work however they refuse to remove it, reduced the commercial landing fee to \$75 from \$150, raised new land lease rates 350% which has halted any development, hired a new airport management group that will cost at least \$75,000 more than last year.

They have ignored the letters from Owen Sound's Top Doctors pleading with them to keep the Regional Airport, that is only 5 minutes from the Regional Hospital open. Even worse, in the meantime while it is still open, they have said that the runway is to be treated the same as class 6 roads so that it may be closed for over 72 hours during a snowstorm preventing Medevac flights from landing. Even then they will use city trucks, contaminated with calcium chloride on the airport in contravention to Transport Canada requirements.

Now they have the city employees cut the grass and plow the snow, pay them union wages as they travel to and from the airport and while they are cutting or plowing. Last year the airport manager cut the grass and plowed the snow. Now the airport manager watches it being done from his office.... but the management fee is still the same. It doesn't matter whether you are sitting on a tractor or

behind a desk. You have to be paid.

Instead of accepting their responsibilities properly, Council has chosen the easy way out. Villainize the hangar owners, let the airport deteriorate and ensure that the deficit increases to a level that will justify their decision to close the airport

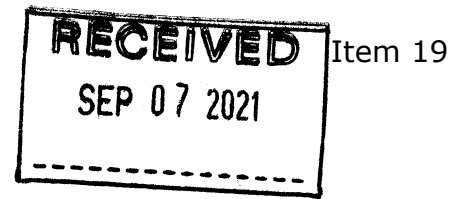
They have been advised by the City Manager that the way to solve a minuscule deficit problem is to sell an asset with a replacement cost of \$15,000,000.00 for \$1 or close it.

Council should be ashamed.

Please tell them what you think.

Council and Staff emails.

iboddy@owensound.ca boleary@owensound.ca tdodd@owensound.ca
sgreig@owensound.ca bhamely@owensound.ca mkoepke@owensound.ca
cmerton@owensound.ca jtamming@owensound.ca rthomas@owensound.ca
tsimmonds@owensound.ca dkefalas@owensound.ca
bbloomfield@owensound.ca



September 6, 2021

Mayor Ian Boddy and City Council
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue West
Owen Sound, Ontario
N4K 2H4

Dear Mayor and Council:

I just found out that Owen Sound City Council has listed Billy Bishop Airport as surplus and has listed the airport for sale with all bids being accepted no later than September 17, 2021.


This seems to be extremely short notice for an asset this large. Now that city council is going through with the process, and one that I don't agree with, why isn't this sale advertised across Canada? The short notice will only garner the smallest number of potential offers and possibly the lowest bids. I'd like to know what the city will accept as a viable offer for the airport. I also believe someone, or group, will benefit far more than the City of Owen Sound with the sale of this valuable asset.

I would also like to point out that selling this valuable asset during this pandemic is short sighted. Who knows what new monies might be available for economic and growth and sustainability.

This sale is a sign that Owen Sound is not moving forward and expanding for the future. If small communities like Edenvale can afford an airport why can't Owen Sound? Once you sell a fully paid for asset like the airport, you can't get it back.

Attracting new business and investment requires modern transportation assets, progressive incentives and a clear vision for the future.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald Nijboer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

From: [Briana Bloomfield](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Subject: FW: Airport
Date: September 10, 2021 4:44:38 PM

For Airport comments file.

Thank you.

Briana Bloomfield
City Clerk
808 2nd Avenue East
OWEN SOUND ON N4K 2H4
519.376.4440 ext. 1247

From: Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>
Sent: September 9, 2021 11:12 AM
To: Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Subject: FW: Airport

For Comments received

From: craig curran [REDACTED]
Sent: September 9, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>
Subject: Airport

To: City Council

Re: Sale of Airport

I urge the City to reject the sale of the Airport. After 30 years of use, it is a valuable asset which cannot be replaced. While I understand the pressure to cut costs, this is not one which should be considered. I recall a proposal was recently made to establish additional food and beverage services by Stephanie Price, who is relocating her Pub to Meaford from Thornbury. We need creative thinking to reduce the deficit that OS incurs. Disposal is not creative.

I served on the BOD of GBHS for many years watching the helicopters transport patients and organs to and from the pad. Clearly a backup location is needed to serve the emergency needs of constituents in the event of bad weather when 'copters cannot land safely. Putting the airport in the hands of a 3rd party will not serve our best interests.

I do not know how much tax revenue Meaford receives but this is a negotiation point. Similarly Grey County receives benefit and should be part of this process.

As an analogy I urge you to look at the sale of the 407 by the Province. Here are some key points from Wikipedia:

Highway 407 ETR has been the subject of several controversies over its two decades of existence.

Privatization

The privatization of the road, the toll rate increases, and the 99-year lease period have been widely criticized. [\[67\]](#):Chapter 2

- *The original plan was for the tolls to end after the construction cost was paid off, probably after about 35 years; there is no indication that the private owners will eliminate the tolls.* [\[68\]](#)
- *Although [Premier Mike Harris](#) promised that tolls would not rise by more than 30 percent, they have risen by over 200 percent by 2015, from about 10 cents to over 30 cents per kilometre.* [\[13\]](#)
- *There have been criticisms and lawsuits arising from [plate denial](#) issues.*
- *Another criticism is that taxpayers did not receive a fair price for their highway: In 2002, just three years after the original sale for C\$3.1 billion, [Macquarie Infrastructure Group](#), an Australian investment firm, estimated that the highway was worth four times the original price.* [\[69\]](#) *By 2019, the estimated value had risen to C\$30 billion.* [\[70\]](#)[\[66\]](#)
- *Both the length of the lease, and the fact that the road is controlled by private corporations, mean that decisions about the road and the tolls are less accountable to the public.* [\[67\]](#):Chapter 2 *The Harris government failed to put any restrictions on toll increases (as long as the road attracted a certain volume of cars). As a result, commuters in the densely-populated Toronto area will have no protection against ever-rising tolls on this key highway during the entire 99-year span of the lease.* [\[](#)

Please reconsider the decision to sell which may be viewed as a 'distress sale'.

Craig Curran
Grey County Resident.

From: [Briana Bloomfield](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Subject: FW: Owen Sound Airport
Date: September 13, 2021 8:43:26 AM

For the file.

Briana Bloomfield
City Clerk
808 2nd Avenue East
OWEN SOUND ON N4K 2H4
519.376.4440 ext. 1247

From: Stephen Alexander [REDACTED]
Sent: September 10, 2021 7:41 PM
To: Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Subject: Owen Sound Airport

I want to register my opposition to the declaration that the airport property is being considered as surplus.

An airport is a critical piece of transportation infrastructure. Like roads, bridges, Marina's etc.etc.

I have followed this issue with interest and in particular the well prepared presentation by Mr Farmer. It cover many important aspects of airport use.

I have considerable background in aviation matters, and sat as a municipal staff support for an airport commission at a different airport in Eastern Ontario, in addition to being a pilot.

Please note my objection to this matter.

Stephen Alexander
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Briana Bloomfield](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Subject: FW: Airport
Date: September 13, 2021 8:41:42 AM

For the file.

Briana Bloomfield
City Clerk
808 2nd Avenue East
OWEN SOUND ON N4K 2H4
519.376.4440 ext. 1247

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>
Sent: September 13, 2021 8:30 AM
To: Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Subject: FW: Airport

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@owensound.ca <noreply@owensound.ca> On Behalf Of Janet Walker
Sent: September 13, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>
Subject: Airport

To the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager of Owen Sound.

If not for the Save Owen Sound Airport Facebook group, I might not have seen the Public Notice of Intention to Declare Surplus and Dispose of Municipal Property in the Owen.

I'm surprised by the timing and the tight deadline to respond. In July, the city manager suggested that a full report, including property valuation, be presented to the council in the fall. Have we seen that information yet?

Relying on landing fees seems unlikely to be sufficient to offset losses. If operating costs are an issue, why are city staff doing grounds maintenance that the airport manager once did? These are critical services for the safe operation now relegated to a low priority, making the airport less viable.

Has a whole-hearted effort been made to source alternative funding, given that Billy Bishop is a regional resource used by residents outside of Owen Sound?

Rather than making the airport surplus, how could we best leverage it to attract new residents, businesses and industry? As Canada's 'work from home capital', a commuter service could be valuable for people who meet elsewhere.

As a relatively new resident of Owen Sound, the city's status as the regional centre, including a highly regarded hospital and airport, was a factor in my decision to move here. Yes, services like transit and healthcare are expensive and don't generate revenue, but they are essential. In a rush to save money, I worry that we may be overlooking the real economic and human impact of losing the airport.

Finally, I wonder if the pandemic restricting our non-essential activities and many peoples' income affects the airport's financial viability. Perhaps the city could extend the timing of this decision to allow time to recover.

I ask you to please consider carefully before letting go of an irreplaceable asset.

Sincerely,

Janet Walker
Owen Sound Resident

[REDACTED]

Origin: <https://www.owensound.ca/Modules/contact/search.aspx?s=IX5gXDTyLH1cm6hWbDEAUgeQuAleQuAl>

This email was sent to you by Janet Walker [REDACTED] through <https://www.owensound.ca>.

Jean Stephenson



Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound ON N4K 2H4

To Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk, all Members of Owen Sound City Council and City Manager Tim Simmonds.

PLEASE save Owen Sound Billy Bishop Airport.

I have lived in Owen Sound since 1981. We have, as a city, come through some hard times. Just when I think Owen Sound is getting its act together, real estate sales are booming, the River District branding is exciting, the Pride sidewalk shows a level of equity and sophistication, a fiscally short sighted recommendation comes forward.

We are currently poised to “take off” as many of our neighbouring municipalities have. We have had unique marketing campaigns, which promote Owen Sound as the “work at home capital of Canada”. Willy Waterton recently wrote an article saying that Owen Sound should be the “outdoor” capital of Canada. It was impressive and is featured on the Rrampt website. An airport is arguably an asset to all these designations.

I am a licensed pilot, who learned to fly in Owen Sound and have been renting aircraft for 14 years now, from Owen Sound Flight Services. I take so many friends for flights, and post pictures regularly on my social media to rave reviews from near and far. People are amazed at the beauty of our region.

Owen Sound is the largest municipality in our beautiful region. It needs to act like a big shot and take some risks that encourage people to come here, and present a "city" image. Owen Sound should be the center of Bruce and Grey County, like it used to be. We have central facilities, like a state of the art hospital, court house, Art Gallery, regional services and we DESERVE an airport.

I really believe the airport has not been given a fair shake in recent discussions.

What if people instead looked at all of the wonderful parts that make this City whole. What if we celebrated the flight school and airport, maybe found a way to support them to make a Georgian college training facility, for example? What if we didn't target a flight school, or an airport, but looked also at parks, and pools, and

festivals, and art galleries etc.. I think there is a lot of money-draining happening from various streams. Most pools do not make money but do we drain the pool? No. It's great for the community!

Don't be surprised that the landing fee did not generate revenue. Virtually no other airport charges a landing fee, and you were clearly advised of the likely outcome, by those who know the industry. Good old Billy Bishop would be unhappy I am sure. I believe it is almost criminal that the landing fee decision was not reversed while this public consultation process took place. It sure makes the rationale and decision making appear skewed.

I get it. We are in very difficult times for local municipalities, after all the municipal reorganization, and the downloading of services by other levels of government. The timeline on this decision has been very short. Many people I speak with have no idea that the airport is potentially in jeopardy. It almost seems like the process has been designed to achieve a certain outcome. The optics are not good.

I think the way forward is to have the amazing marketing people work on something to promote Owen Sound and all the wonderful assets, including the airport. We need to honour the industry, and have open, honest conversations with all the interested parties at the table.

Please, at the very least, delay any decision to allow for honest and open dialogue on this important topic.

Respectfully,

Jean Stephenson
(Owen Sound address, Meaford Municipality, Chatsworth phone number)
Proud to live and play in this region.

[REDACTED]
Owen Sound Ont.
Sept. 14/21.

Owen Sound Council

Dear Sir / Madam.

Before making your decision re the airport sale plan. Please consider a note from the past. Rejection of the railroad and the subsequent decline of industrialization in the area following due to the inability to move needed equipment via rail to the factories.

The Airport will act as a life line for the helicopter's fuel requirements. As a regional health centre we need to commit to effective and efficient transportation of patients to and from other health care facilities in a timely manner.

Having to fly over to Wrentham to get up is a blatant waste of time with a critically sick patient.

Also with the climate change format

We've experienced in this area road transportation is not a suitable option for the ambulance at times.

May you make a decision one that you'll be comfortable and happy to live with in the future.

Yours Sincerely
Anne Strain RN, BE.

From: [Briana Bloomfield](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Subject: FW: Airport
Date: September 14, 2021 9:41:26 AM

Airport comments file.

Briana Bloomfield
City Clerk
808 2nd Avenue East
OWEN SOUND ON N4K 2H4
519.376.4440 ext. 1247

From: Jane McKerroll [REDACTED]
Sent: September 14, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Brian O'Leary <boleary@owensound.ca>; Travis Dodd <tdodd@owensound.ca>; Scott Greig <sgreig@owensound.ca>; bhamely@owensound.ca; Marion Koepke <mkoepke@owensound.ca>; Carol Merton <cmerton@owensound.ca>; John A. Tamming <jtamming@owensound.ca>; Richard J Thomas <rjthomas@owensound.ca>; Tim Simmonds <tsimmonds@owensound.ca>; Dennis Kefalas <dkefalas@owensound.ca>; Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Subject: Airport

Please save the Owen Sound Airport
Jane

David H. Walton-Ball

Business Consultant

Mr. Tim Simmonds;

Owen Sound City Manager

Sept. 16\21

OWEN SOUND BILLY BISHOP REGIONAL AIRPORT

As a taxpayer & former President of the Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce I support the sale of the airport. Let me offer some background.

When the airport was first proposed the Chamber after consultation with members did NOT support the need for the airport while I was President. We were told that if we did not have the airport, we could kiss goodbye to the major manufactures e.g. Goodyear; RBW; Black Cloven Kennedy; Contential Printing et al just to name a few. Well, we have the airport but don't have these organizations anymore!

As a taxpayer who has lived in various places in Canada & used local airports my experience is:

Halifax airport is 40-50 KM out of the city.

Saskatoon airport 30 KM out of the city.

Toronto is 40K & 2 hours out of downtown.

We were told that Wiarton airport was too far away! Really, it was a perfectly good location & not that far out of town considering experience in other cities.

The result is we have the airport now located in "Meaford" with a hump in its runway & a drain on Owen Sound taxpayers. Enough is enough! Sell it & hopefully we will stop this drain on our tax dollars. The airport has never delivered what was promised in the original proposal.

We have had friends fly into BB Airport but we could just as easily driven to Wiarton to pick them up!



David Walton-Ball



From: [Briana Bloomfield](#)
To: [Sharon Edwards](#)
Subject: FW: Closing of the Owen Sound Airport
Date: September 17, 2021 4:37:48 PM

Airport file

Briana Bloomfield
City Clerk
808 2nd Avenue East
OWEN SOUND ON N4K 2H4
519.376.4440 ext. 1247

From: Kevin & Kathy Whitehouse [REDACTED]
Sent: September 16, 2021 8:51 PM
To: Ian C Boddy <iboddy@owensound.ca>; Brian O'Leary <boleary@owensound.ca>; Travis Dodd <tdodd@owensound.ca>; Scott Greig <sgreig@owensound.ca>; bhamely@owensound.ca; Marion Koepke <mkoepke@owensound.ca>; Carol Merton <cmerton@owensound.ca>; Richard J Thomas <rjthomas@owensound.ca>; John A. Tamming <jtamming@owensound.ca>; Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Subject: Closing of the Owen Sound Airport

Kevin Whitehouse
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

September 15, 2021

City Counsellors
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4

To the City Counsellors of Owen Sound:

I am writing to express my concern about the recent decision to discontinue funding of the Owen Sound Billy Bishop Regional Airport. I would like to outline

three reasons why I feel this is a poor decision.

Firstly, it is an important access point for planes and helicopters that are transporting patients or organs to and from the hospital. Much has been written about this and I feel it is a very compelling reason, even more so since the announcement that Wiarton is putting their airport up for sale. Wiarton was considered an alternative but if that sale goes through then Owen Sound would be the only option. This is a vital service and should be maintained.

Secondly, this is an important educational opportunity for people in our area. Our son completed his Private Pilot License through the Owen Sound Flight Service and this allowed him to go to college to study to become a Commercial Pilot. There has been some discussion of the airport working with Georgian College to provide the Commercial Pilot's course which would draw more students to this area.

Thirdly the airport provides access to the surrounding area for those people that are now moving to Grey County to work remotely. We know this is happening and is helping to drive the real estate boom in our area. The airport is an important part of the Grey County infrastructure and will help drive growth in our area.

I hope you will consider these and other concerns regarding the closing of the Billy Bishop Airport and reverse your decision.

Sincerely,

Kevin Whitehouse

September 17, 2021

Briana Bloomfield
City Clerk
The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4

Dear Ms. Bloomfield,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President and CEO of Ornge, Ontario's provider of air ambulance and critical care transport services, to offer some perspective on the Owen Sound Billy Bishop Regional Airport (CYOS). Through media reports, we have become aware of the municipality's intention to sell the airport property which could result in the airport's closure by December 2022. The intent of this letter is to provide you with information about the potential impact on medical transport services.

Ornge provides air ambulance service and medical transport to people who are critically ill or injured. We have a fleet of helicopters, fixed wing airplanes and land ambulances at bases across the province, including Toronto, London and Sudbury. Approximately 90 per cent of our transports are inter-facility: moving patients from community hospitals to larger centres where they can receive a higher level of care. Grey Bruce Health Services – Owen Sound is equipped with an onsite helipad, which permits our helicopters to land directly at the hospital. In 2020, Ornge helicopters landed at this helipad 92 times, with 104 and 105 landings in calendar year 2019 and 2018 respectively.

While an onsite helipad is undoubtedly an important resource, airports also play a significant role in our operation. They permit our fixed wing aircraft and contracted carriers (which provide both advanced and primary care) to service patients. Airports also provide a suitable alternative landing site for our helicopters in situations where the helipad may be out of service. This could be related to weather, maintenance and other factors. Airports also allow for the transport of organs and organ transplantation teams, all of which are carried out by fixed wing airplane carriers dispatched through Ornge. Finally, airports play a role in the provincial patient transport system by allowing our aircraft to make fuel stops when required as they transport patients over long distances across the vast geography of Ontario.

Since 2018, Ornge has landed at CYOS 237 times. At the date of this letter, Ornge aircraft landed at CYOS 44 times in 2021, with 64 landings in 2020, 66 landings in 2019 and 63 landings in 2018. CYOS is located 7.5 kilometres by road from the hospital. Of all of these flights:

- 46 patients required emergent care;
- 16 related to organ retrievals or transports;
- Six patients required urgent care; and
- 13 patients required non-urgent care such as a repatriation back to their home community.

The remaining flights were operational requests relating to patient transport requests.

If CYOS were to close, the two closest alternative airports are Collingwood Regional Airport (CNY3 - approximately 60 km from Owen Sound) and Wiarton Keppel International Airport (CYVV - 25 km from Owen Sound). If a patient transport from one of these airports to the Owen Sound hospital were to take place, this would require a local Paramedic Services land ambulance to meet the aircraft and help complete the transport by road (approximately 70 kilometres from Collingwood Airport, 25 kilometres from Wiarton). We are also aware that the neighbouring municipality is considering declaring CYVV surplus as well, which could mean this would no longer be a viable landing location for Ornge at some point in the future and further impact Grey Bruce Health Services sites in Tobermory, Lion's Head and Wiarton where there is no local helipad.

I hope this information is useful to you and that you consider it as part of your decision-making process. Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Homer Tien".

Homer Tien, MD
President & CEO

CC: Tim Simmonds, City Manager, The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound