



Proudly celebrating the
75th Anniversary
of the Saskatoon Airport in 2004



A walk through time...
“Highlights of 75 years of Aviation History”



 Saskatoon Airport Authority

1929 to 1940's

June 1, 1929 • Saskatoon Airport is licensed for daytime aviation use, becoming the second licensed airfield in Saskatchewan, covering a 65-hectare area.

October 12, 1929 • Nellie Carson of Saskatoon becomes the first woman in the province to qualify for her pilot's license. Grace Hutchinson, also of Saskatoon, qualifies on the same day.

March 3, 1930 • The Western Canadian Airways inaugurates Saskatoon's first airmail service, linking all major cities in Western Canada. The service was discontinued March 31, 1932 due to the depression.

January 1937 • The City asked for a grant to improve the airport, but the Department of National Defense would give no assurance of help as the airport was not on the Trans Canada Airway. Future expansion would depend on the Post Office approving mail service on a future Regina - Saskatoon route. Finally, a \$20,000 grant was approved in April 1938.

1937 • The Aero Club, now called the Saskatoon Flying Club, reaches agreement with the Department of National Defense to give primary flying training to provisional RCAF pilots. At the beginning of WWII, the Club becomes part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) the "Aerodrome of Democracy."

1938 • During the summer of 1938, The City constructed three runways with more work done in 1939. Moose Jaw's Prairie Airways Ltd. begins daily passenger and mail service to Saskatoon. With some alterations over the years, this regional service continues under Canadian Pacific Air Lines, which purchases Prairie Airways in 1941.

December 17, 1939 • Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand agree to organize the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP), Canada's major contribution to Allied air superiority during the war.



Nellie Carson (right),
Grace Hutchinson (left)
Photo courtesy of Ray Crone, Regina

January 1940 • The City leases the airport to the federal government for the duration of the war and the Saskatoon Airport becomes home of No. 4 Service Flight Training School (SFTS). Work starts on five large hangars, barracks, classrooms, workshops, a hospital and a control tower.

1940 to 1945 • The RCAF takes over operation of the airport, which becomes an RCAF base.

1944 • Saskatoon Airport aeradio is installed, and later commissioned in 1945. In November the federal Department of Transport takes over maintenance of the airport from the RCAF.

1946 • Montgomery Place subdivision is built as part of the Veterans Land Act settlement plan for returning war veterans. In February of 1946 the provincial government establishes the first air ambulance service in North America and the Commonwealth, operating out of Regina's Airport. In November of the same year the Saskatoon Airport is transferred to the Department of Transport and civil aviation reigns once more.

July 1947 • Trans-Canada Airlines, the forerunner of Air Canada, begins scheduled passenger service to Saskatoon using a DC-3 aircraft. This service initiated the first direct, daily, scheduled commercial passenger and mail service. Saskatoon is linked with transcontinental flights between Toronto and Vancouver.

1948 to 1949 • Electronic technology brings rapid advances to the air industry. In 1948, instrument landing systems are installed on runways 08 and 32, and in 1949, a control tower begins operations.

1950's

1950 • Trans-Canada Airlines introduces the four-engine Canadair North Star to its Saskatoon service. In October, the RCAF establishes a training station on the airport, and maintains a presence until 1964.

1951 • Installation of a non-directional beacon at the airport puts Saskatoon on a par with the best equipped airports in Canada.

January 1, 1952 • The RCAF's 1 Advanced Flying School (AFS) opens at RCAF Station Saskatoon with B-25 Mitchells, to train RCAF, RAF, and Atlantic Treaty air crews. In April, Beech C-45 Expediter are added to the B-25s. By the end of 1952, permanent married quarters are completed and station personnel move in.

1954 • The airport becomes a Customs port of entry. Saskatoon's primary runway, 09/27, was lengthened this year, and again in 1960.

Sept 1955 • A new air terminal building opens, after a year of intensive construction and improvements. Trans-Canada Airlines begins serving Saskatoon with the Vickers Viscount, a four-engine turboprop aircraft.

January 1956 • Saskatoon's 1 AFS takes on the training role for instrument flying. In a route swap in 1957, Pacific Western Airlines takes over Canadian Pacific's Edmonton, Lloydminster, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Regina route, using a DC-3.

1958 • The Saskatoon Airport becomes the first airport in Canada to have an air traffic control unit. Airways surveillance radar is installed, and later commissioned in 1959.



1960's

In the 1960s • Potash and uranium mining undergo expansions. Significant traffic is generated by the mining industry and new electronic navigation aids help the airport handle the increasing air traffic.

1962 • Saskatoon's 1 AFS moves to RCAF Station Rivers, Manitoba. Oversight of RCAF Station Saskatoon is transferred from Training Command to Air Transport Command.

1963 • Runway 15/33 is rebuilt and lengthened to 6,300 feet.

Summer 1964 • The RCAF closes Station Saskatoon, turning four hangars over to the Department of Transport. Also during this time period Trans-Canada Airlines becomes Air Canada.

March 1965 • Saskatchewan Government Airways is purchased by Prince Albert businessmen and becomes "North Canada Air", or Norcanair. In the late 1960s, some maintenance facilities are moved from Prince Albert to Saskatoon Airport.

1967 • Is Canada's centennial year. Air Canada introduces DC-9 jet service to Saskatoon, gradually replacing Viscounts. Saskatoon is established as a telecommunications management area, including North Battleford and Prince Albert aeradio stations.

In March • Wardair Boeing 707 charter landed to pick up 180 passengers bound for England.



1970's

"Plans For A New Terminal Building Are On The Horizon"

1972 • Plans are unveiled for a new terminal at Saskatoon Airport. Norcanair takes over an existing Prince Albert-Saskatoon-Regina route.

1975 • On November 29, the new airport terminal building is officially opened. It doubles the size of the old building, opened in 1955.

1977 • The former terminal building is renovated to serve as the operations building.

Other Milestones of the 1970s include Wardair Canada providing 747 charter service to Saskatoon. Late in the decade, Saskatchewan Air Ambulance moves all operations to the Saskatoon Airport. Two flying schools are located at the airport, Mitchinson Flying Service Ltd. and Saskatoon Flying Service Ltd.



General aviation including pilot training, recreational flying, privately owned aircraft and rentals - peak across Canada in this decade, and Saskatoon is no exception. Pilot training has been a part of Saskatoon Airport since the beginning. A tradition which started with the Saskatoon Aero Club continued later with such companies as Mitchinson's, Ray's Flying Service and Saskatoon Flying Service. Harold Mitchinson, the founder of Mitchinson Flying Service, began flight training at the Saskatoon Aeroclub in 1936. After serving with the RAF, Harold returned to Saskatoon and established his own flying school in 1946. The company still operates today under the Mitchinson name at the Saskatoon Airport.



2000 to Present



2000 • For the third year in a row, passenger traffic exceeds 800,000, with a building designed to handle 500,000 passengers annually. But relief is on the way as terminal expansion and renovation begins. A new Nav Canada Air Traffic Control Tower opens. The 30-metre high concrete and glass tower is the first of its kind to be built at one of Canada's smaller airports. Transwest Air is formed with the merger of Athabasca Airways and Air Sask. Also in the year 2000 Air Canada acquires Canadian Airlines International and merges that company into its own operations.

2001 • September 11th Terrorists attack the World Trade Centre in New York City, despite challenges in the aviation industry, the Saskatoon Airport reaches over 809,000 passengers. Norcanair is a new company operated by Northern Dene Airways Ltd., a charter airline based primarily in Northern Saskatchewan. Norcanair began servicing Saskatoon in November.

Dec. 2001 • The first phase of our airport redevelopment project opens, with Phase II to be completed in 2002.

October 2002 • The newly expanded terminal is completed. The 110,000 square foot facility is designed to handle 1.4 million passengers annually. Saskatoon's Airport is presented with the "Airport Partnership Award" by the North West Council of Air Shows.



2003 • The Saskatoon Airport ranked among the top airports in Canada in a national survey of customer satisfaction and Saskatoon's Airport is named "2003 Airport of the Year" by WestJet.

June 1, 2004 • Saskatoon's John G. Diefenbaker International Airport celebrates 75 years since it became the province's second licensed airfield, back in 1929. The next 75 years begin here, and we look forward to serving Saskatoon and area as it continues to grow and change. In this anniversary year, scheduled and charter air service are provided by Air Canada, Air Canada Zip, Air Canada Jazz, WestJet, Transwest Air, Norcanair, Northwest Airlines, Skyservice, and Air Transat.

1980's

1981 • Frontier Airlines out of Denver introduces an international service with daily flights linking Denver, Minot, Regina and Saskatoon, using Boeing 737s.

1982 • Marks "Century Saskatoon" a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the original settlement's founding.

1983 • Saskatoon businessman Albert Ethier purchases Norcanair and in 1987 Norcanair becomes part of Time Air, which is later absorbed by Canadian Regional Airlines.

1988 • Canadian Pacific Air Lines merges with Pacific Western Airlines and others to form Canadian Airlines International; soon a new carrier is serving Saskatoon: Canadian Regional Airlines. Saskatoon Airport handles a new high of 625,000 passengers in 1988, the effect of an improving economy and air deregulation.

1990's

June 1993 • The Saskatoon Airport is renamed Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker Airport, to commemorate Canada's 13th Prime Minister and the first Prime Minister from the West.

From 1994 to 2000 • Passenger traffic sees an upward trend.

1995 • The Canada-U.S. "Open Skies" air travel treaty bears fruit: Northwest Airlines introduces two daily round-trip flights between Saskatoon and Minneapolis. This year the inaugural Canada Remembers Air Show is held in Saskatoon.



1996 • The airport undergoes major renovations to the terminal building, expanding to meet the growing needs of airport carriers and users. Four Calgary entrepreneurs establish WestJet, a low-fare airline to serve Western Canada. Operations begin with three Boeing 737 aircraft and five destinations. The discount airline is based in Calgary, with service to Saskatoon.

1998 • The Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport reached peak levels with passenger traffic exceeding 822,000.



1999 • Saskatoon Airport Authority takes over operation of the airport from Transport Canada Jan 1, 1999. Scheduled and Charter air services are provided at the Saskatoon International Airport (YXE) by Air Canada, Air BC, Canadian Regional Airlines, Athabasca Airways, WestJet, Air Sask, Northwest Airlines, and Royal Airlines. The terminal apron is reconstructed.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

* subject to change



75 Years of Aviation History

"The Airport History Display located on second floor of the terminal building"

(Take the elevator by the baggage claim area and follow the airside viewing signs)

May 30, 2004

• 702 and 107 Air Cadets Ceremonial Parade at the Airport

May - June 2004

• School Aviation Art Display at the Airport

Week of June 1, 2004

Champ Aircraft on display at the Airport

June 1, 2004 75th Anniversary Celebrations

• Saskatoon City Council Proclaimed June 1, 2004 as Saskatoon Airport Day
• Remote Broadcast by Magic 98.3 - Hosted from the Airport
• Airport Employee Appreciation BBQ at the Airport
• Military Fly Over
• 75th Anniversary Cake in the afternoon at the Airport

August

• Saskatoon Airport Float at the Exhibition Parade

August 21-22, 2004

• Canada Remembers International Air Show - Hosted at the Airport
• Mini Balloon Festival - Hosted at the Air Show
• Webster Trophy - National Competition

October 29, 2004

• Saskatoon Airport Authority's 75th Anniversary Hangar Dance

For More Information Contact: Saskatoon Airport Authority
#1-2625 Airport Drive Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L 7L1
Phone: 975-4274 Visit our website at: www.yxe.ca



The Future of the Saskatoon Airport

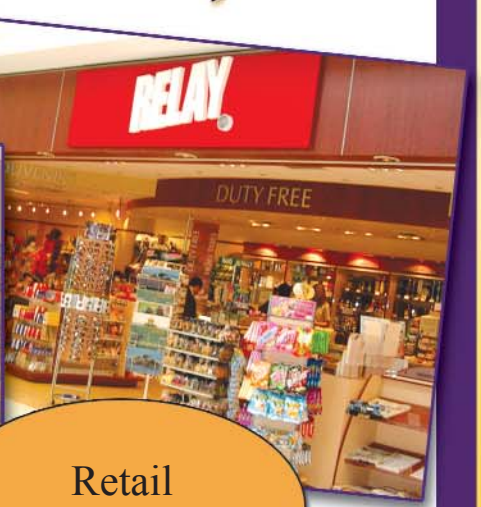
Four Aircraft Loading Bridges



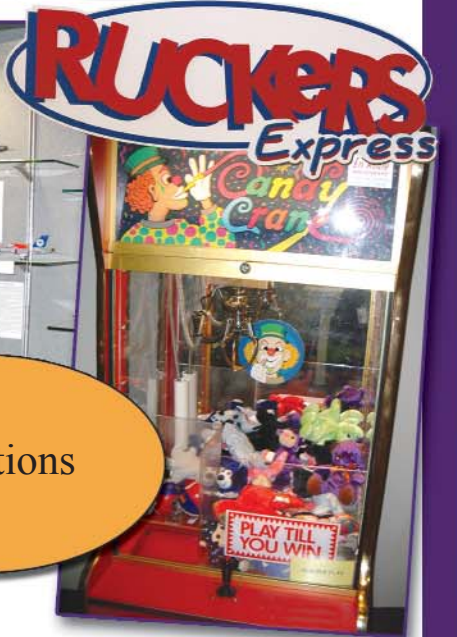
Concession Area Anchored by CARA Operations



Retail Services



Attractions

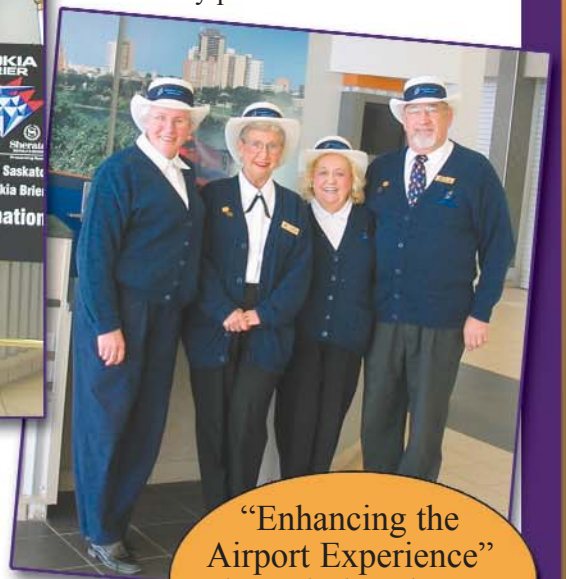


"Telling the Stories of our Community" through "Showcase Initiatives"



"Saskatoon Airport, Your Event Partner" Saskatoon Shines Reception Centre

If you are interested in utilizing the Saskatoon Shines Reception Centre for your event, or, if your organization is interested in showcasing your industry please call 975-4274.



"Enhancing the Airport Experience" through the Airport Ambassador Program

Enhancements at the Saskatoon Airport:

Concession and Retail

- Crossroads Grill • HDS Relay • Prairie Elevator • Prairie Unique Gifts • Tim Hortons
- **Opening Summer 2004: NEW** Concession and Retail Area, Past Pre-Board Screening

Airport Experience

- Airport History Display • Ambassador Program • Arts & Cultural Displays • Attractions Display Areas • Blairmore Ring Display • Children's Play Areas • Diefenbaker Canada Centre Display
- Parking Pay Stations • Ruckers Express Games Room • Saskatoon Shines Reception Centre
- SaskTel Business Centre

Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport and its tenants are committed to helping the community achieve its goals and we take pride in celebrating its successes. We are ready to supply transportation services to support the activities of a growing city and a growing economy - whatever the future brings.

The Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport
 "Growing with our Community"



Saskatoon Airport Authority
 #1 - 2625 Airport Drive
 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
 S7L 7L1

Phone: 975-4274 www.yxe.ca