

Celebrating 100 years of flight with the community

Big plans underway for fly-in to open up the wonders of aviation to all

Mary Beth Hartill
News Staff

SOUTH RIVER – Plans are rolling along for the Celebration of Flight to mark 100 years of aviation in Canada.

The two-day celebration, slated for June 20 and 21, will bring fun for the whole family.

Jason Ready, chair of the Celebration of Flight committee, says there is no formal schedule; however, events will run from about 10 a.m. Saturday through to late afternoon on Sunday.

Pilots will be camping under the wing and in motor homes.

The North Bay Astronomy Club will also be setting up on Saturday for those who wish to look beyond the sky.

Admission to the event is free. "The purpose is to get the communities involved with the airport as part of our plan to promote and seek funding from provincial and federal levels of government," said Ready.

MPP Norm Miller will be dropping by Saturday and Sunday visitors to the event can expect to see MP Tony Clement, who, according to South River-Sundridge Airport committee chair Barry Morris, may make an important announcement.

Morris is also hoping that Miller will fly in to the airport.

There will be plenty of music with local bands setting up to entertain and, according to Morris, singer Murray McLaughlin

has expressed an interest in performing.

McLaughlin may not be the only celebrity to set down at the celebration. Morris has been in touch with actor Harrison Ford's agent. Harrison flies a deHavilland Beaver and has been known to fly all over the United States.

"(Actor) Edward Norton has been in and out of the airport for about 10 years as well," said Morris, who is hoping he will choose the Celebration of Flight weekend to touch down again.

The Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) of North Bay will be holding COPA for Kids flights.

"It's a national program that matches up youth with pilots to give youth their first aviation experience," said Ready, adding that it is free for children aged 7 to 17. "It involves a small amount of ground-based instruction about flight followed by a flight in a small plane with a COPA member."

But it's not just the kids that get to head up into the clouds. Canadian Helicopters of North Bay will be offering rides.

There will be plenty of food available for purchase with a barbecue on Saturday and Sunday over the lunch hour. Sunday morning pancakes with fresh maple syrup will be on the menu.

Hangar movies, aviation adventures on the silver screen, will be shown throughout the weekend. A hangar converted into a movie theater will screen aviation-related shows and movies such as the



BIG PLANS: Sundridge councillor and chair of the airport committee Barry Morris, left, and chair of the Celebration of Flight committee Jason Ready have big plans for the South River-Sundridge Airport. They would like to see things really take off.

1939 classic *Captain of the Clouds* starring James Cagney, which Morris says was filmed in North Bay.

"*The Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines* will be a great one for kids," said Morris.

"The OPP have been invited. They are hoping to bring their helicopter and new Cessna Highway Safety Division aircraft," said

Ready. "They will also bring a recruiting booth."

Another feature of the weekend will be prizes for those flying into the airport. Details have not yet been confirmed, but Ready says there will likely be prizes for things like oldest plane, newest plane, most passengers and the plane coming from the farthest away.

The North Bay Classic Car Club has been invited down to show off their cars, and several area businesses and vendors have also been invited to participate. If anyone wishes to set up a booth during the celebration they are asked to contact Ready at 724-6945 or Myles Jeanneault at 382-2710.

Pave it and they will come say airport boosters

Mary Beth Hartill
News Staff

SOUTH RIVER – The South River-Sundridge airport committee would like to see the airport soar.

Committee chair Barry Morris likes the saying, "One mile of highway takes you a mile. One mile of runway takes you to the world," because he wants to bring the world to Almaguin through the airport.

He says he can envision 300 people working at the airport within three years provided the federal government comes through with funding to get the runway paved.

"This airport is not going anywhere unless we can get the runway paved. Then we can talk about jobs," he said.

"For every full-time job at the airport there is potential for another six jobs outside," said committee member and chair of the Celebration of Flight commit-

tee Jason Ready, adding that beacon and runway lighting would need to be added to allow for night flights to turn the airport into a 24/7 operation.

"The next big hurdle the airport faces is getting the runway paved and improving the existing infrastructure," he said.

The airport committee has applied for funding under the G8 budget for the \$3.8-million cost of paving and lighting.

"Parry Sound and North Bay have already seen huge federal funding compared to what we're asking for," said Morris.

He said additional improvements for expanding the airport would include water and sewage for anticipated development of the airport lands. High-speed Internet access would also be added to the airport station.

"All communities are 100 per cent behind the development of

and have a long history," he said. "To build an airport today from scratch is a long and onerous task."

Ready says getting through regulations and approvals would be a lot of work and finding required lands that are long and flat would be very difficult, particularly with land values going up.

The airport committee is also interested in exploring green operations including solar, geothermal and perhaps even wind power.

The airport has a long and rich history and they would like to see it flourish once again.

Established in the 1930s, it was built as a make-work project by the federal government as part of development of a network of airports for TransCanada Airways.

During the Second World War the airport took an upward swing, used for training pilots of the British Commonwealth and her allied forces.

The airport also thrived with the birth of the Dionne quintuplets with press planes from all over North America, including the New York Daily Times, touching down. There is also a vague rumour that Amelia Earhart stopped in for a visit mere weeks before she disappeared, a rumour that is actively being investigated by the

historical society. "It fell into a state of disuse but was being used for Medivac and TransCanada," said Ready.

In the late 1970s the federal government downloaded the airport onto the provincial government. It was occasionally used by the Ministry of Natural Resources for fish-stocking programs. Because of lack of activity, the airport was slated to close and be reforested as Crown land, but local opposition prevented that step from being taken.

Members of the flying club, in combination with local municipalities, stepped forward.

"It was dumped down on South River. It wasn't long before South River discovered that it costs a lot of money on a small tax base and encouraged the five municipalities to come to join in and form the South River-Sundridge Airport.

The airport is shared by South River, Sundridge, Strong, Machar and Joly, where the airport is located.

Despite a rich past, the future of the airport, without paving, may not be bright. But in the eyes of Morris and Ready, with a little financial boost the airport could take flight and bring a world of economic possibilities with it.



MOOSE VS. PLANE: This moose is spotted walking around the grounds of the South River-Sundridge Airport. Airport committee members are concerned that the moose could present a potential hazard for aircraft.

the airport. It's the catalyst for economic development in the area," he said.

Once the runway is paved the committee members feel they could attract more businesses to set up shop at the airport.

Ready says that flight schools are reluctant to set up at the airport with its unpaved runway for insurance reasons and Medivac flights could run out of the airport.

"It's the 'If you build it, they will come' idea, and we want to build it," he said.

With an active airport Ready also predicts an increase in residential development around the airport area.

"The advantage the airport has is that we are already established

DECK REFINISHING
Highest Quality Non-Peeling or Flaking, Satin Sealers.

ALL DECKS SANDED, STRIPPED & REFINISHED BY HAND
We are the cedar specialists.

Restore & Preserve

FREE ESTIMATES ISLAND SERVICE

CALL 705-645-0426

TCM Acupuncture Call for FREE Consultation (705) 783-8901

Do you suffer from pain in your:
Shoulder - Back - Neck - Knees
Headache (Migraines) - Tennis Elbow
Or any other complaints. Acupuncture can help!

Serving Huntsville and Almaguin

1662 Pevensey Road, Sundridge, Ontario

Northern Meat Packers Ltd. 266 McFadden Line off Hwy. 11, Trout Creek 705-723-5573
After Hours: 723-5578
Open 6 Days a Week

Your European Retail and Wholesale Store
Prices in effect until June 25, 2009

BARBECUE SEASON

Side Ribs \$1.99/lb.
Butt Chops by the box \$1.99/lb.
Blade Steaks by the box \$1.99/lb.
Beerfest Sausage \$2.99/lb.
Hamburg Patties by the box \$30.00
Ritter Chocolate Bars \$2.29/ea.
Alpros Chocolate Bars \$2.99/ea.

Barbecue Rental and Barbecue Pigs Available

Spring Beef Sale — Corn Fed Black Angus
Sides \$2.39/lb. Hinds \$2.79/lb.
Sides of Pork \$1.39/lb.
Cut - Wrap - Freeze

Attention Hunters - Bring in your wild game to be made into sausage

STORE HOURS Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

BLOWOUT PRICING

6x6 Pressure Treated Landscape Timbers
#2 Grade
\$2.50 per lineal ft.
(while quantities last)

For All Your Lumber Needs
Call now to reserve your quantity

SOUTH RIVER PLANING MILLS INC.

2 km south of South River on Hwy. 11
Call for pricing 705-386-7442
www.srplaningmills.com

WEST END MOTORS CHRYSLER Dodge Jeep

YEAR	MAKE/MODEL	KM	PRICE
2008	Dodge Avenger, moonroof	24,000	\$19,995
2008	Chrysler 300C, loaded	24,000	\$24,888
2008	Caliber SXT	47,000	\$14,888
2007	Chrysler Sebring	31,800	\$14,995
2007	Hyundai Accent	41,000	\$11,995
2006	Chev Optra	33,000	\$9,995
2006	Dodge Ram Quad 4x4	61,000	\$23,995
2006	Chrysler 300	35,000	\$14,995
2006	Grand Caravan	33,000	\$15,995
2006	Jeep Liberty	89,000	\$14,995
2006	Ram Quad 1500 4x4	58,000	\$22,995
2005	Grand Caravan	49,000	\$13,495
2005	GMC Sierra 4x4	119,000	\$15,995
2005	Grand Cherokee LTD, loaded	61,000	\$19,995
2005	Dakota Quad SLT 4x2	39,000	\$15,888
2005	Caravan SE	85,000	\$9,995
2005	Caravan SE	76,000	\$10,995
2005	Grand Caravan SXT	88,000	\$11,995
2005	Grand Caravan Quads	106,000	\$13,995
2004	Dakota Quad 4x4	79,000	\$14,995
2004	Grand Caravan with DVD	71,000	\$9,995
2004	Chrysler Sebring Convertible	71,000	\$13,995
2004	Olds Silhouette, loaded, AWD	141,000	\$10,995

Prices exclude taxes, registration and licence. Vehicles may include daily rentals.

WEST END MOTORS

HOURS:
Mon. to Thurs. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

134 Main St. W., HUNTSVILLE 1-800-765-1837 • 789-5591