

**From:** [Dan Gieruszak](#)  
**To:** [Cyndy Abell](#); [Chris Peabody](#); [James Lang](#); [Steve Adams](#); [Dean Leifso](#); [Tim Elphick](#); [Kym Hutcheon](#); [Trish Serratore](#); [Fiona Hamilton](#); [Sarah Johnson](#); [Sonya Watson](#)  
**Cc:** [Filomena McDonald](#)  
**Subject:** RE: selling SMA  
**Date:** Monday, November 15, 2021 10:20:53 AM

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Dear Ms. Abell,

Thank you for your concern for the Saugeen Municipal Airport and your 30 plus years commitment to the Cargill area.

I can assure you the Saugeen Municipal Airport has never been in a better situation than it is now. Despite the difficulties of the pandemic, the airport for the first time in its 70 year history now has a full time business manager guiding operations. Under this leadership, new rental and lease agreements have been signed, updated Rules Regulations and Access Agreements have been signed and insurance policies updated. Our new airport manager is now in regular contact with Transport Canada to ensure we are doing all we can to keep pilots and the general public safe. By addressing these issues, the airport is now safer than it has ever been, which reduces risk and unanticipated cost to the Airport and member municipalities.

During 2021 the restaurant has reopened with the most professional staff ever providing this service to local residents as well as pilots from across the province.

We have two new hangar builds this year, well over \$500,000 in value, and several requests for home hangar builds. We have a new flight school, with a plane built specially for flight instruction and a very experienced, well respected flight instructor.

The levy to the three municipalities for 2021 remained at 2020 levels because the Commission anticipated that all municipalities and taxpayers would have difficulty with covid related expenses in 2021. The Commission was proactive in supporting our three member municipalities. The asset value of our 243 acre airport has more than doubled (\$3.6M) over the last seven years and the airport now boasts 32 hangars, six owned by the Airport.

While keeping our budget flat, under the leadership of our new airport manager and guidance of the Commission, year to date revenue at the airport is up 11% while expenses have been reduced, despite unanticipated legal costs. And we have experienced a record number of donations, even with the uncertainty caused by conditions at other regional airports. With this record of success, the Saugeen Municipal Airport, with the support of area pilots, will offer a new inflight information broadcasting system in 2022. The information broadcasting service will benefit all those flying in South Western Ontario, at no cost to taxpayers.

Earlier in the year we had the most successful single day fly in event ever, with over 88 planes participating in the Hope Air event. We anticipate with all of these positive things happening at the Saugeen Municipal Airport, combined with new events in 2022, the Airport will continue to build on the positive reputation it has developed across the province over the past 70 years.

It is clear from all of our success in 2021 that the opportunity for greater success has never been better. To that end the Commission recently revised its strategic plan to draft a business plan to guide decisions moving forward. Your email illustrates the importance of publicising the good news we have to share with the communities we serve and incorporating that pillar in our business plan.

Again, thank you for your interest in the Saugeen Municipal Airport and the 30 plus years you have supported the Cargill Area.

Dan Gieruszak  
Chair  
Saugeen Municipal Airport