

Saugeen Municipal Airport

Bringing Our Communities Together

On Sunday June 22, 2024, the Saugeen Municipal Airport (SMA) was a hive of activity from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. when the Friends of the Saugeen Municipal Airport held its annual Kids Fly SMA. At this event, children from the surrounding communities between eight and seventeen years old get an opportunity to experience the feeling of flying in a small aircraft over Hanover, Walkerton and surrounding areas.



Registration



All strapped in for safety -- Priceless Smiles

The day started out cloudy but soon cleared up to give 170 smiling faces the thrill they were waiting for. Registration started in the terminal building, and safety being foremost, each child was given safety instructions along with information about the basic parts of an airplane before being safely escorted to a volunteer pilot waiting in his plane. Only when all were safely strapped into their seats, and the all clear given did the pilots proceed to start their planes and begin the ride.



All smiles



Certificates of Flight

The kids were thrilled with their twenty minute ride over the local area, and returned with big smiles for their parents who snapped as many pictures as their hearts desired. Each child was presented with a "Certificate of Flight" as a memento of the day and parents expressed their sincere thanks to the organizers and the local pilots who participated.

The thrill continued with each child receiving a free lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs with fries and a drink, all compliments of The Landing Gear Restaurant operated by Chef Crystal who was delighted to make a contribution to “Kids Fly SMA”.

Friends of the Saugeen Municipal Airport is an organization of local aviators who believe in promoting aviation. Its members give unselfishly of their time, volunteering their planes and covering the expenses to ensure that local kids get a chance to experience a flight in a small plane. This introduction to flight has sparked interest in some kids to become pilots and some of them are today flying for commercial airlines such as Air Canada.



Vivian Octave got the spark at SMA at age ten and now flies for Air Canada

With the growing demand for commercial pilots, SMA is seeing increased traffic of student pilots from Toronto, Lake Simcoe, Brampton, Burlington, London and even farther afield who use the airport for their training. We are also attracting many foreign students who are studying in Canada in hopes of becoming commercial pilots in their home countries. These students often comment on the friendliness of SMA.

Moe Hanif on behalf of Friends of the Saugeen Municipal Airport