

RCAF History



Success in a Pretty Package

NEWSLETTER

Point of Interest

Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump



Located just south of the community of Willow Creek and Claresholm, **HEAD SMASHED IN BUFFALO JUMP** is a World Heritage Site visited by thousands every year. As pilots, on The Great Southern Route, we gain an extra special perspective of this site from the air. You see it and can completely understand its importance.

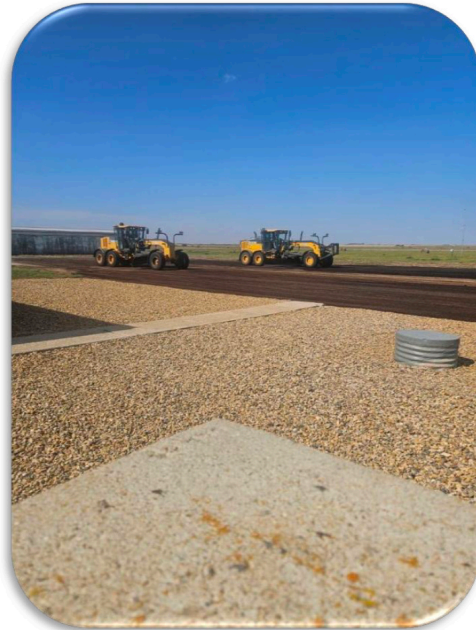
See, Learn,
Enjoy, Stay.
Fly the Route

Changes Happening at ASSINIBOIA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT



MISSION

The AMAA wants to revitalize the Assiniboia Airport to make it a vital and active place for the community and surrounding districts to enjoy the many attributes that an upgraded facility can bring. We hope to encourage organizations like Air Cadets and CASARA (Civil Air Search and Rescue Association) to utilize our upgraded airport.



Pictured is the resurfacing that took place at the airport in September 2025

2025 IMPROVEMENTS

The Assiniboia Municipal Airport Authority (AMAA) has been working on upgrading the infrastructure at the Assiniboia Airport in 2025. The AMAA is a joint municipal authority between the Town of Assiniboia, RM of Lake of The Rivers No.72 and RM of Stonehenge No.73. There are three representatives from Town and two from each RM.

TO FLY IS TO BE FREE-UNKNOWN

The Assiniboia Airport has seen the following upgrades in 2025:

- Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) has been updated.
- Commissioned an Engineering Report with All North Consultants which included a geotechnical investigation done by Ground Engineering which performed soil and runway testing.
- Serviced the Non-Directional Beacon.
- Contracted JetPro to supply a GPS Instrument Approach and Departure Procedures System. This will allow planes to land in low visibility weather conditions. Air Ambulance and STARS will be able to use the airport when they would otherwise be unable to do so.
- Resurfaced the taxiway and ambulance transfer area.
- Serviced runway lights.

2026 PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENTS

The Assiniboia Municipal Airport Authority (AMAA) has plans to continue raising funds and working with other entities such as federal and provincial government, local businesses and 15 Wings in Moose Jaw, SK.

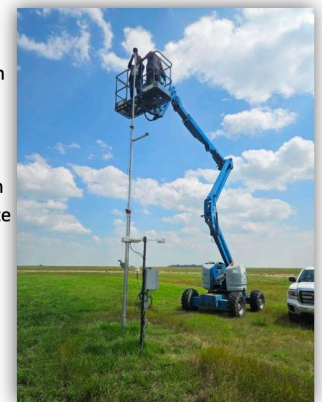
The Assiniboia Airport has plans for the following upgrades:

- Prepare a 1000 foot extension to the existing 2950 foot runway- removing overburden and pack gravel to engineer specifications.
- Resurface the entire 4000 foot runway.

FUTURE PLANS

The AMAA has the following projects on their radar:

- Install LED runway lights
- Relocate an old hanger to allow easier access to a new fuel system that may be used by 15 Wing Moose Jaw, private pilots and aerial applicators.
- The Engineering report will design our facility to better accommodate our space to bring it up to commercial standard.



Tour the Tower

Come along with the Manitoba Flying Farmers for a tour of CYBR (Brandon) Tower!

April 17, 2026 starting at 3:00 PM DST

All are welcome, no cost, however non-members of the Manitoba Flying Farmers are invited to make a donation to the

MFF Scholarship Fund

Space is limited, so please register by calling or email.

thegreatsouthernroute@gmail.com

204-228-2842



If you have an event upcoming and want to get the word out, send an email to:

thegreatsouthernroute@gmail.com Sign up for the newsletter, too!

RCAF HISTORY

Before No. 6 Squadron OTU students could fly practice low level missions in the Super Starfighters (CF133), they had to become familiar with new technology.

The drastically modified Dakota (DC3) was the platform for this training. The needle nose "Daks" were christened "Pinocchio", "Woody Woodpecker" and, "Dolly's Folly".

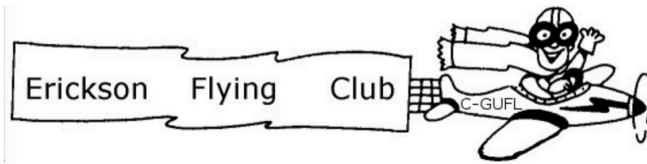
This picture is taken in front of 17 Wing hangar at RCAF base, Winnipeg.

Photo from the Corporal Peder Martin Rud collection now entrusted to the RCAF Museum in Winnipeg.



PLANE SPEAKING

An article of interest to the Aviation Community



A Club Plane Success Story

C-GUFL is the third aircraft to be owned and operated as a flying club member accessible aircraft. Starting in 1970, the Erickson Flying Club wanted an aircraft to offer to the membership to use, (this successful venture appears to be the only one in Manitoba). **UFL**, a 1969 PA28-140 was purchased in 1990. Since then it has logged some 3000 to 4000 hours by members. It is equipped for VFR day and night flights.

The rental structure is simple. Join the flying club, qualify with an instructor, and book the plane through a group email to give some notice. Using the plane for over night trips, flying in and out of grass strips and building time for commercial licences are all part of the opportunity that UFL provides the members with no restrictions placed upon the time and place you want to go. The most prevalent comment is “We can fly this plane that we could never have afforded to own by ourselves.”

Rental rate are “wet” rates with adjustments made for fuel purchased off the Erickson airport. Factoring in all costs including the insurance (Split among all the members, flying or non flying), the comparison to a sole owner similar aircraft shows **UFL** to be very reasonable.

Active flyers come from as far away as 120 km. The club has 20 to 25 members with less than 10 active users, (enough to make this plane viable for the club). Added benefit? **UFL** is an ambassador for the community. As part of the school curriculum, students get to see and touch the community plane. Requests for flights come from the area to ride in “our” airplane. There is no doubt that membership and usage of the plane has increased as the “plane belongs to the community”.

The future? Keeping the membership involved and finding ways to remind all of the wonderful resource they OWN. The aircraft has time slots available for more users. How to market this is easy! Call the Erickson Flying Club.



ERICKSON Airport, CKQ6, Neilson Field, has a good story to tell. Watch for an article in a future Newsletter on the unique ownership structure, the development that has happened recently and the future plans for this community airport.

The ROUTE ROLODEX

Here is the opportunity to showcase your connection and support by becoming:

“Your Aviation Partner”

If you would like to be an Aviation Partner on the ROUTE, email: thegreatsouthernroute@gmail.com



RESERVED
For You as an
“YOUR AVIATION PARTNER”

