

## DRAFT MASTER PLAN

### *studies helping to develop bigger picture*

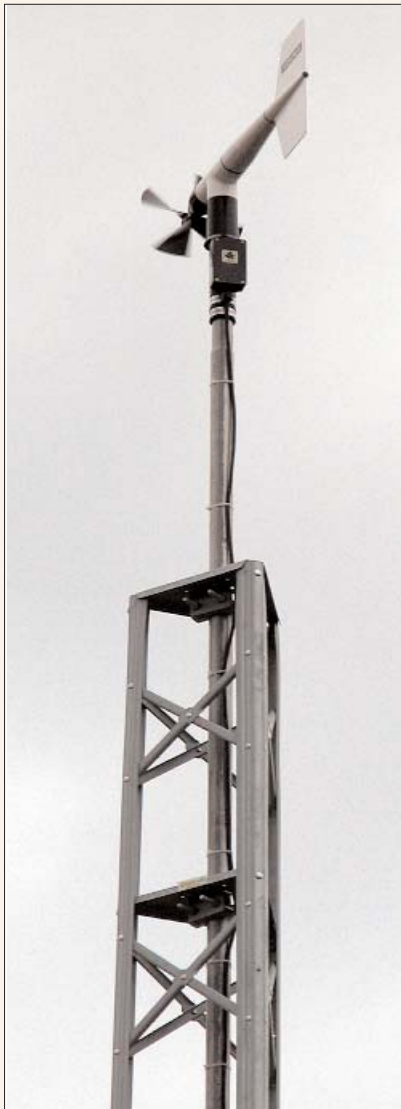
As part of the preparation of the draft master plan, the GTAA is undertaking a series of technical studies in 2003 on the various components of a possible airport in Pickering.

A draft master plan will detail a sustainable phased development over a 30-year period of all key components of a possible airport, including:

- an analysis of aviation demand (passenger and cargo)
- an assessment of the ground transportation and utility requirements
- a preferred airside layout (runways and taxiways)
- a facilities layout (including roads, terminal buildings and other support facilities)
- a baseline environmental information report.

The baseline environmental information will include a compilation of the available natural environmental data, such as flora and fauna, hydrology/water, soil and air quality, and fish habitat. Data gaps will be identified and further studies scheduled. Fisheries, archeology and heritage field studies will be undertaken in order to produce an inventory of areas impacted by the proposed project.

The draft master plan is scheduled to be completed in



*The GTAA is testing wind patterns on the Pickering lands in order to help determine where possible runways could be sited.*

early 2004, at which time it will be presented to the public for review and comment. After hearing from the public and taking into consideration all comments and suggestions, the GTAA's project will be submitted for review under the federal environmental assessment (EA) process. The EA process will involve significant community input and is anticipated to take as long as three years to complete.

While the draft master plan work will involve the collection of preliminary baseline environmental information in order to propose an airport facility that minimizes impacts on the surrounding environment, more detailed environmental studies will be required as part of the EA process. For example, future studies will be undertaken to provide the GTAA with information with respect to the cumulative impact of the proposed airport.

Other work being undertaken by the GTAA in 2003 include an economic development study, which is being done in co-ordination with the local, regional and provincial governments. The purpose of this study is to assess the community economic opportunities that may be generated by the development of an airport. The study will identify the strategies and related land use policies that governments, as well as the airport operator, could implement to foster local economic development, should an airport be constructed.

## Pickering workshops well attended

*Airport planning and the process behind it is a little clearer to the Pickering community thanks to a series of public workshops recently hosted by the GTAA.*

The workshops, which relate to the interim planning work being undertaken for the Federal airport lands in Pickering, began in February and continued into May.

“It is very important that the Pickering community remain actively involved in the planning process,” said Steve Shaw, GTAA Vice-President of Corporate Affairs and Communications. “These workshops are proving to be useful for both the Authority and local residents.”

The Aviation Forecasting workshop, held in February, focused on how the estimation of future demand for aviation services is conducted. Possible future



*Vice President of Airport Planning Lloyd McCoomb answers questions about criteria for runway siting at the May 14 workshop.*

forecasts for Pickering are still being developed.

In April, the GTAA hosted two workshops on Airports & Communities. This workshop provided residents with information on the typical impacts airports have on communities.

Held in May, the last workshop focused on the various criteria used for siting runways and the relative weight given these criteria to determine a preferred alignment. Workshop attendees were asked for their input on the criteria and weighting.

The final workshop will be held June 3 on the same topic.

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