

- June 2016 -



*This year's fly-in was another success with a large number of KWRAA members and their wives in attendance. Gary Wallace braved the high winds and arrived in his Cessna 140. The rest of us drove in to the event.*

## President's Message

Well, the 2016 fly-in season is officially under way. What an excellent start this weekend!

It was great to see so many KWRAA members and friends show up at the Largo Woods fly-in. As always, Cam and his family were gracious hosts, opening the doors to their home for all to enjoy. The chapter is very lucky to have members like Cam that are willing to hold fly-ins on their property and let other pilots have the opportunity to land and takeoff from their personal strip for the day.

Unfortunately, high winds gusting 30 to 35 knots prevented most of us from actually flying in to the event this year, but we had 25 people attend the event. Thankfully too, Cam's place is centrally located for our members, so driving to the event wasn't an issue even for our

northerly members; in fact it's closer for them than attending a regular KWRAA meeting.

Thanks to Cam for supplying the BBQ, master griller, Mike Thorp for his broiling skills and all of the attendees for bringing salads and desserts. No one left hungry!

It was good to see quite a few of the members' wives at this fly-in again this year. We need to make sure the rest know they are welcome to attend fly-ins.

I am still looking for interesting photos and articles for future newsletters. Consider sharing an idea with the members through our monthly newsletter this summer!

2016 is going to be a great year for KWRAA!

- Dan

## 2016 Flying Adventures – Sun and Sand!

Many of us dream of flying through the Rockies or up to Alaska, or some other very scenic trip, but so seldom we recognize that we are located so close to some of the most beautiful scenery Canada has to offer! With three great lakes within easy flying distance, there is an entire world to explore.

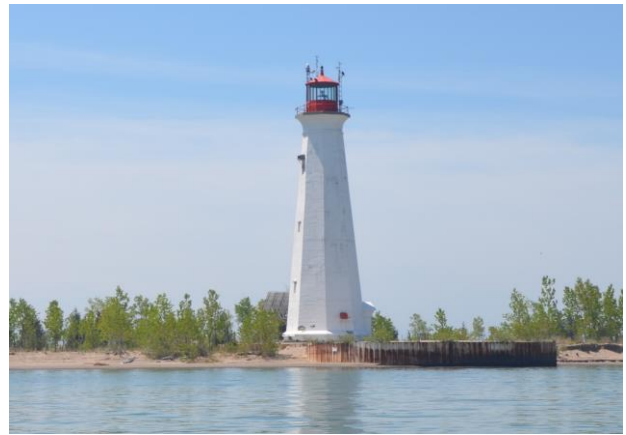
As a kid, I remember going to Lake Erie with my family to sun and swim, but in the 60's it was an entirely different lake. I remember the constant smell of rotting fish and the murky brown water that was likely heavily laden with fecal matter, pesticides, industrial waste and only God knows what else.

Fast forward half a century or more and my impression of the lake is the total opposite as I experienced as a kid. I'm sure there are still some of the same contaminants that were there so many years ago, but the levels must be way down because it looks more like the Caribbean now, compared to the 60's at least. It's likely that the zebra mussel invasion helped with the clean up too, since they filter so much water when feeding.

I recently had an opportunity to take my wife Chris out to the end of Long Point for a stroll along the secluded beach near the lighthouse.



**The lighthouse at Long Point is popular with boaters on long weekends in the summer, but midweek, a deserted paradise of sand beaches.**



**The lighthouse at Long Point is a vestige of the past; long before GPS and computer guidance systems it no doubt saved many ships from running aground on the long sand spit in Erie.**

I flew of course while Chris took most of the photos, which capture the intense and almost unbelievable colours of the vegetation, surf, sand and sky.



**Every time I see this I am in awe of the beauty we have so close to home. I will try to link this photo to a high resolution one on the website. The water on the other side of the point is so blue, it blends right in with the sky at times.**

I flew over this area a couple of times last year, but now that I have floats on the plane, a whole new level of adventure has opened up. As long as the water is reasonable calm, I don't have to stay so close to shore as I did when it was on wheels. Often the best views are from just a little further away from shore where you can take in a bit more of the scenery and colour variations of the water on either side of the point.

## The Leading Edge



**Seclusion and scenery await travellers to the far end of Long Point midweek. The occasional boat may pass as they make their way around the point, but they are few and far between.**

In one of the pictures, the water looks a little brown, but it's only because the water was so shallow where we beached the plane that the sand was only a foot or so below the surface for 20 or 30 feet out into the lake.



**To take this photo, I stood about 40 feet from shore and the water was barely to my knees.**

Lake Erie is so shallow compared to the other great lakes that it warms quickly in the spring, so a walk in the water along the beach is

actually enjoyable by early June. The West side of Long Point is the most secluded and in my opinion has the best beaches to visit. This trip alone was almost worth the hundreds of hours spent building the floats for my Highlander.



**A beautiful lady on a beautiful beach on a beautiful day! What more could a guy ask for?**



With several scenic trips and a few fishing trips planned for this year... 2016 is going to be another great year!

I will try to share as many as I can to encourage all of the builders in the chapter to keep going on their projects.

Whether your plane ends up on floats or not, get it finished and flying because there's so much to see and do right here in Ontario!

- Dan



### REGION OF WATERLOO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Once again, Waterloo Regional Airport is hosting Aviation Fun Day in August. Last year we had a number of members participate in the event and we are hoping get a significant number of KWRAA volunteers again this year.

The airport terminal, maintenance centre, aprons and a number of businesses will be opening their doors to the public to see the inner workings of the airport and get a close up view of some aircraft on static display. There will be rides available for a small fee from WWFC and GLHC.

It should be a great event, even without the airshow component. The airport and Region of Waterloo are hyping things up in the media and throughout the community, so there should be a fairly good turn out from the public. The Doors Open event usually draws upwards of a thousand people, so this aviation-focused event will likely draw significantly more.

We have been asked to participate and hope to have at least a couple of finished planes as well as some tables set up to demonstrate

aircraft building techniques. We hope to be able to give the public a good idea of what the RAA is all about and maybe even encourage a few potential builders.

There will be food available in all four areas and both COPA 26 and the Cadets will be trying to raise funds that day.

Please volunteer a little of your time to help us with this event on **August 20<sup>th</sup>**.

- Display your plane and talk about it
- Demonstrate a construction technique
- Assist us in building a display or banner beforehand or assist with setup
- Hand out information and talk to people about amateur-built aircraft

**We need your help!** Please volunteer to assist us on **August 20<sup>th</sup>** for Aviation Fun Day!

We will release more details as they become available in advance of August 20, 2016.

## Flying Adventures – Unique Spots to Visit

On a recent flying adventure, Lee Coulman and I had an opportunity to drop in on a hidden treasure in the aviation community. We had been flying through the Beaver Valley and along the Georgian Bay shoreline in our Searey and Highlander. As we were returning to CPR3, Lee suggested a splashdown in Williams Lake on the way back.

In the 70's Glendale Aerodrome, on Williams Lake was in its hay day with as many as twenty or so aircraft calling it home. Today, it still exists and is much less well known, but it is still a great place to visit.



**Looking back towards Williams Lake from mid-runway at Glendale Aerodrome near Chatsworth**



**Upon landing at Williams Lake, we lowered our wheels and taxied up the ramp directly onto the airstrip, known as Glendale Aerodrome.**

We were greeted by Tim Dault one of the owners of the property and asked to come up to the house for a visit and a drink. As we sat and chatted with Tim and his wife Susan Comber-Dault, we knew we had stumbled onto something unique and fascinating.



**We were greeted immediately by Tim Dault, who invited us up to the house for a visit and a drink.**

Susan's father had started Glendale Aerodrome and ran it as an active and vibrant aviation hub for Grey County pilots. When he passed away, his daughter Susan took over the property. A land claim dispute a number of years ago caused Susan and Tim to de-register the aerodrome, but it is still in pretty good shape and a treasure trove of historical items from the early history of the settlement of Grey County by the Europeans.

Williams Lake covers 148 acres and an unusual clover-shaped body of water which was named after the Williams family that owned a large portion of the land surrounding the lake. A railroad was built to Williams Lake in 1899 in order to dig up the grey-white muck known as 'marl' which is prominent at the lake. The marl or marlstone was quarried by a company in Owen Sound as an ingredient in their cement. The marl, which is similar to the chalk and limestone found in the white cliffs of Dover, UK, give Williams Lake its unusual shade of blue.



**Flying over Williams Lake, the unusual shade of blue in the water is your first clue you are someplace very special and unique.**

One of the original cabins in Grey County, and one of the original schools are on the property.



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**Across the runway from the main house sits an old log cabin with an interesting past and untold historical artifacts and treasures to explore.**

As we strolled through the cedar woods, we spotted many an item that reflected the history of the area and Tim, who has a US military background, took us on a fascinating tour inside the cabin.

The Comber family no doubt knew the value of a good story and supported the tales by keeping numerous artifacts from the past. As Tim took us through the cabin, we were astonished by the sheer number of items and their unique method of displaying them. In a small cabin, floor space is at a premium, so most of the items of interest were fastened to the ceiling, allowing the visitor to move about freely all the while gazing at all of the history contained within the cabin.



**Floor space is at a premium, so the artifacts are fastened to the ceiling for easy viewing.**

Tim has some fascinating stories about the history of the cabin, the Glendale Aerodrome property, the lake and of course many of the more interesting artifacts in the cabin. It's certainly worth a visit if you are in the area. Glendale Aerodrome is located about 10 nautical miles south of Owen Sound, just off of Hwy 10. The runway is oriented Northeast/Southwest and can be found at the northeast corner of the lake. Obviously it has a clear approach from the southwest over the lake, but there are trees at the north end as well as a house near the road. The runway is about 1600 feet long and paved, although it is getting a little worn after so many years.



**There are so many things to see in this cabin that a person could spend hours perusing them.**

If you are flying in the area of Williams Lake, drop in on Tim and Susan for a visit. You will be fascinated by the history and unique property they have. Tim and Susan are very friendly and welcome all visiting pilots.

- Dan

**Note: Thanks to Lee Coulman for several of the photos in this article and the cover photo!**



# The Leading Edge

## Upcoming Events in 2016: (Highlighted lines are KWRAA Events\*)

June 18-19	-	Great Lakes International Airshow in St. Thomas, ON
June 24-25	-	COPA National Convention in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
July 16	-	KWRAA Fly-In at Tom Shupe's Mount Forest, ON ( <a href="#">Get Directions</a> )
July 25-31	-	Air Venture 2016 in Oshkosh Wisconsin
August 6	-	Gathering of the Classics in Edenvale, ON
August 13	-	KWRAA Fly-In at CMZ2 – Metz/MacPat Field in Arthur ( <a href="#">Get Directions</a> )
August 19-21	-	UPAC Convention – Lubitz Field, Plattsville ON
August 20	-	Aviation Fun Day at Waterloo Regional Airport
August 27	-	KWRAA Fly-In at CPR3 in Teviotdale (Tentative) ( <a href="#">Get Directions</a> )
August 31	-	Rotary Charity Airshow in Brantford, ON
Sept 3-5	-	Canadian International Air Show – CNE Grounds
September 12	-	September Meeting at 7:30 pm in the Cadet building at CYKF
September 17-18	-	Air Power Demonstration at London International Airshow
October 17	-	October Meeting at 7:30 pm in the Cadet building at CYKF
November 14	-	November Meeting at 7:30 pm in the Cadet building at CYKF
November 25 (TBA)	-	KWRAA Christmas Party in lieu of a December meeting

\* KWRAA events are fly-in and/or drive-in (Please advise the host in advance if you plan to attend whenever possible.)

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Check out the KWRAA website regularly for the latest event details, chapter information and classified ads. <http://www.KWRAA.net>