



**Mountain View**  
C O U N T Y

# Olds/Didsbury Airport Update

## OVERVIEW

Mountain View County remains committed to providing ongoing information to all users of the Olds/Didsbury airport on County initiatives, upcoming events, and other topics that you may be interested in. As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any ideas or concerns that you would like brought to our attention.

It has been just over a year since the County began managing the operations and maintenance of the Olds/Didsbury Airport, with a significant amount of learnings, challenges, and successes in that time period.

## OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

As of January 1, 2022, the County entered into an agreement with KS2 Management Ltd. for the maintenance of the facility, resulting in the approval of a winter and summer maintenance plan that details the high level of services that KS2 has provided on our behalf. These plans can be found on the County's website and Mobile App.

## FUEL SYSTEM

The County was pleased to arrive at a mutually agreeable arrangement with the Olds/Didsbury Flying Association (ODFA) for the purchase of the fuel facilities at the airport, which will ensure that they remain available to airport users well into the future. The transfer of the fuel system operation as of January 1, 2023, has gone smoothly with the support of the ODFA members. In response to feedback from airport users on fuel system outages, mainly due to rural internet connectivity, the Aviation Advisory Committee has recommended that a backup cellular system be considered. This system has been installed at the Sundre Airport with success. Should you find the fuel system down, please use the information as posted in order to contact KS2 so that they may resolve the issue.

## AVIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Aviation Advisory Committee is a board established by Mountain View County that has representation from members of the general aviation community at both the Olds/Didsbury and Sundre airports, Mountain View County Councillors, County Administration and KS2. The committee has been busy reviewing the current operations of the airports, future development potential and short-term action items that have arisen either from committee members or other airport users. Members from the general aviation community include Glen (Bruno) Bradley, Jim Smith, Don Bell, Mike Kennedy, Thomas Thomas and Neran Persaud.

## AIRPORT LOTS

Specifically, at the Olds/Didsbury Airport, the Aviation Advisory Committee recommended the reconfiguration of three lots at the airport to create two larger lots, both with airside and groundside access. These lots are currently awaiting registration at Alberta Land Titles but should be available for purchase in the coming months.

The Aviation Advisory Committee recommended that Council consider auctioning two lots at the airport in order to establish market value for lots and to drive greater economic activity. This auction occurred in October of 2022, and resulted in both lots being sold. Interest for lots at the Olds/Didsbury Airport remains high.

## FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING

At the February 22, 2023 Regular Council Meeting, the Terms of Reference for the review of the Olds/Didsbury Airport Area Structure Plan (ASP) were approved and council appointed the Aviation Advisory Committee as the Steering Committee. This Committee had their first meeting for the ASP review on March 15, 2023. This is an exciting project, as our County Airports are part of the County's Economic Development Strategy.

The ASP review will propose revisions to the document for Council consideration with the purposes of supporting future development at the airport and the ability to develop further lots in an efficient manner. This process will continue over the summer, with anticipation that the revisions are available for Council review prior to the end of the year. Mountain View County Council will be the decision-making authority on the ASP.

### **MOBILE APP**

Have you heard about Mountain View County's mobile app? We have made the airport section on it much more robust and hopefully a valuable tool for your use. Through the app, you are able to check on fuel prices at both Mountain View County Airports, submit service requests directly to the County and KS2, and obtain quick access to a variety of links such as Foreflight and NAV Canada weather. This app, along with Mountain View County's Economic Development Website ([www.mvcecddev.com](http://www.mvcecddev.com)) will continue to be populated with airport related information, including minutes of the Aviation Advisory Committee meetings.

### **EVENTS – ALBERTA AIRTOUR**

On an exciting note, the Olds/Didsbury Airport has been selected to be the 'lunch' stop for the Alberta Air Tour on Saturday June 3, 2023 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We appreciate the commitment from the ODFA to assist with the logistics of handling visiting aircraft to the airport while the County works to plan the event! Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

### **FEEDBACK FROM OPEN HOUSE**

In the next few months, in addition to the long-range planning already identified, the County will be working to remediate some of the items that users raised during recent conversations, including:

- Providing clarity on the tie-down area and a process for collection of fees;
- Reviewing highway directional signage;
- Revamping the security system located at the airport; and
- Seeking Council approval for the purchase and placement of a radio within the terminal building.

As we head into the spring season, we join you in looking forward to some nice weather, clear skies, and calm winds. If you have any questions on the above, please do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to continuing to build strong relationships with hangar owners and users of the airport.

Safe Travels!

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### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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