

Family breakfast takes place at Sexsmith Airport

WILLIAM PROULX

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The Canadian Pilots and Owners Association (COPA) Flight 177. Exeter and Sexsmith Pilots Ltd. held its annual Family Breakfast on May 27.

Those who attended the annual breakfast weren't only treated to a meal, but they were also able to see planes flying in and out of the airfield. Between 25-30 aircraft from all over Southwestern Ontario flew in to eat and showcase their planes or helicopters.

The event has been going on for more than 50 years and is open to flyers and locals who just wanted to drive in or fly in to enjoy breakfast cooked by volunteers from the airfield. A breakfast of eggs, sausage, pancakes and toast was served to 260 people at the drive in fly in event.

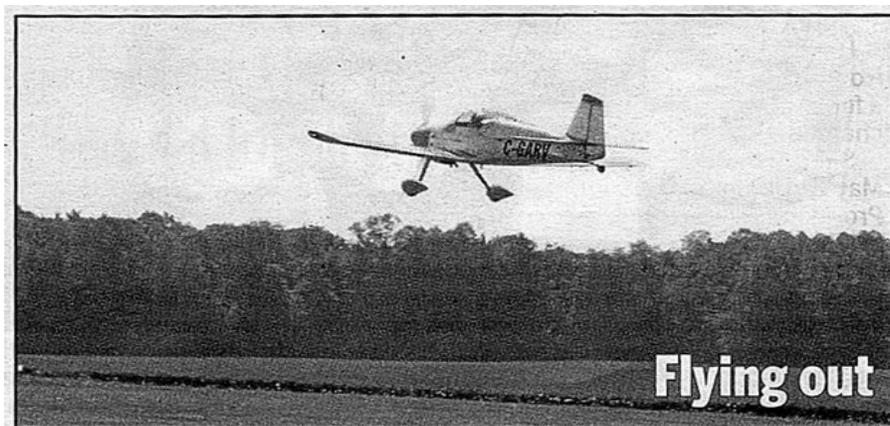
Tom Hartai, who is a pilot and is involved with the Sexsmith Airfield, says the airfield hosts a couple events a year to showcase the airfield and let people know flying is something that is open to everyone.

Hartai explained that there's no history of pilot's in his lineage but he's always been interested in planes and flying. "I've wanted to fly since I was six years old. The first time I was on a plane was in 1972 when we went to England for a wedding and that was my first experience on a jumbo jet plane. I just thought it was the coolest thing," said Hartai who has now been flying for 14 years. He says events like this can introduce children and adults to flying and potentially inspire them to get their pilot's license one day.

The aircraft that attended the breakfast from the farthest away came from Gore Bay on the Manitoulin Islands, which is about a six hour drive away from Exeter. "The event really does bring people to the field," said Hartai.

COPA and Sexsmith Pilots Ltd. received \$260 in donations that will go towards a scholarship program in which they sponsors new pilots who are about to receive their pilots license. COPA and Sexsmith Pilots Ltd. is presented to a new pilot within 50 nautical miles of the airfield in Exeter. The 2018 scholarship will be presented on Oct. 31.

The airfield will also be hosting a corn boil on the last Sunday of August later this summer. The corn boil will also help support the airfield.



WILLIAM PROULX/EXETER LAKESHORE TIMES-ADVANCE

A Southwestern Ontario pilot departs the Sexsmith Airfield's fly in/drive in family breakfast on May 27.