

Southport

Newsletter

Student UAV Competition Soars to New Heights

On April 29 to May 1, Southport was filled with 130 students, representing 14 different Canadian Universities and Colleges, that traveled to Southport for the Student Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Competition. These teams spent countless hours programming and building their UAV from scratch to compete in the Precision Agriculture themed competition.

Preparation for the competition is intense. Students are responsible to manage their schedule, licensing, and finances, as well as seek out sponsors. At the competition, students performed simulations of agricultural tasks such as dropping a probe into a field, collecting data on crop health, and preparing a report for a theoretical customer.

The students were ranked on both their formal design presentation and the competition flights. The weather was excellent which contributed to both students and spectators enjoying the flights. The competition wrapped up with an awards banquet on Sunday, where students and sponsors gathered to celebrate months of hard work. The first place trophy was presented to Université de Sherbrooke (VAMUdeS), which marks their seventh consecutive victory.



*A Student Launches Team's UAV
Credit: Eric Edwards*



*Students Watch UAV Take Off
Credit: Eric Edwards*

Community Garage Sale Was a Sunny Success

Saturday, May 7 had the community of Southport come together to enjoy breakfast, as well as get started on spring cleaning. The Community Garage Sale kicked off with a pancake breakfast, followed by sales in over fifteen residential units. The Community Garage Sale drew a crowd of residents from Southport, Portage La Prairie, and other nearby communities. With stomachs full of pancakes and arms full of great garage sale deals, everyone returned home satisfied.



Enjoying Pancakes at the Community Garage Sale
Credit: Renata Nyhof



Credit: Martine Chénier, RCMP
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Southport Sponsors Upcoming RCMP Musical Ride

Southport is partnering with the Community Foundation of Portage and District and Portage Ex to bring the RCMP Musical Ride to Portage la Prairie. There will be two shows at the PCU Center at 2 PM and 7 PM on July 26th. Between the shows there will be entertainment and a barbeque on the island.

The RCMP Musical Ride is performed by a full troop of 32 riders and their horses. Their performance consists of intricate figures and drills choreographed to music. These movements demand the utmost control, timing and coordination.

Central Plains RecPlex Scheduled to Open Fall 2016

Construction on the RecPlex continues to move along, with more sections reaching completion each day. The climbing wall is currently being installed, while the welcome centre and change rooms are nearly done. When completed, the RecPlex will feature: a cardio area, weights area, indoor and outdoor running tracks, an indoor climbing wall, two outdoor baseball diamonds, a soccer field, and a full-sized gymnasium.

Watching the improvements is fascinating and creates anticipation for the grand opening! The grand opening of the Central Plains RecPlex is scheduled for September 8, 2016.



3-D Rendering of the Central Plains RecPlex
Credit: Peter Sharkey

RCAF Gala Celebrates 75th Anniversary of Flight Training

On April 23rd, one of the hangars at Southport was transformed into a ballroom for the sold out RCAF Gala. Over 450 guests were treated to a formal served meal in the traditional military style, which was a unique experience for civilian guests. Those in attendance also had the pleasure of listening to the RCAF Jet Stream Band who entertained the crowd. Proceeds from the event went to the local Portage Rotary Club.



*Snowbirds Lined Up at the Manitoba Airshow
Credit: Peter Sharkey*

High Turnout for Manitoba Airshow

Excited aviation fans gathered at Southport on June 4 to watch the Manitoba Airshow. The event drew in thousands of visitors who watched spectacular military and civilian aerial performances as well as enjoyed ground-level entertainment. The weather was gloomy at first, but brightened up to warm sunshine for the afternoon's performances.

Southport Welcomes New Employees

Southport has two new faces in the workplace. In April, Renata Nyhof started as the Marketing Assistant. In May, Curtis Tarr began as the Facilities Maintenance Technician. Southport welcomes them both!



*Portage Daycare Exterior Construction
Credit: Renata Nyhof*

Portage Daycare to Open Southport Location

Construction on the Portage Daycare in the Central Plains RecPlex is almost complete! Only minor details remain to finish up the space and then the daycare can be furnished and filled with equipment and supplies. The space is expected to hold 30 children from ages eighteen months to five years old.

This addition will be a great asset to Southport and Portage la Prairie as the high level of need for more daycare spots is very evident in the region. The facility is expected to open this fall.

Annual Yard Beautification Competition Begins to Bloom

For those who are gifted at gardening, the Yard Beautification Competition has begun. The challenge ranks participant's yards in four categories: Visual Appeal, Cleanliness, Ingenuity, and Yard Transformation. There are many contestants already hard at work. Winners will be announced at the community barbeque.

Prizes will be as follows:

- 1st (\$100 Canadian Tire Gift Card + 3-Month Rec Plex Pass)
- 2nd (\$75 Canadian Tire Gift Card + 1-Month Rec Plex Pass)
- 3rd (\$50 Canadian Tire Gift Card + 11-punch Rec Plex Pass)
- Three Honourable Mentions (11-punch Rec Plex Pass)

Congratulations to Graduates!

In April and May, Southport celebrated two more graduations. Two classes of 3CFFTS students received their RCAF Wings. A great accomplishment and proud day for these new pilots!

Hot Off the Press: Reaching New Heights Magazine

Southport now has a magazine! Readers can learn about what's happening at Southport, read about top careers and events in aviation as well as view an interview with the President of KF Aerospace. Copies are available in the Southport Office. The magazine is also available online in a digital edition at www.southport.ca



Southport Sponsors Community Events

Southport continues to sponsor community events. In the past months, Southport was a sponsor of:

- RCAF Gala (April 23)
- Manitoba Chamber AGM (May 6-8)
- Portage and District Arts Centre Celebration of The Arts Gala (May 12)
- MS Walk (May 29)
- Portage Padres Baseball

Events

Upcoming at Southport

Commerical Tenant Appreciation Evening June 29

Commerical tenants are treated by Southport to a dinner at Southport Golf Club, to show appreciation to the tenants.

Southport AGM July 4

Southport is hosting the 24th Annual General Meeting at the Central Plains Recplex-Daycare. The Board of Directors, General Members, and Commercial Tenants will review the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Community Barbeque August 17

Southport will host a barbeque for the residents of Southport. It will feature entertainment for all ages, free food, and the announcement of the winners of the Yard Beautification Competition.

Central Plains RecPlex Grand Opening September 8

Southport will open the doors to the state-of-the-art Central Plains RecPlex, which will feature a rock climbing wall, indoor walking track, weight and cardio areas, a full gymnasium, new changerooms, a spacious welcome centre, and a daycare.

Upcoming in the Community

Portage Ex July 8-10

Featuring 4-H achievements, horse and cattle shows, family and children's entertainment, a petting zoo, midway rides and games displays and fair food.

RCMP Musical Ride July 26

Two performances of RCMP performing intricate drills and figures choreographed to music will show at 2 PM and 7 PM. Between the shows there will be entertainment and a barbeque on the island.

Potato Festival August 5 & 6

Featuring fun, games, events, entertainment and great eats for the whole family on the Island. Free admission and free fries!

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