

# Schwatka Lake Seaplane Facilities

To the Mayor and Council City of Whitehorse  
% Erica Beasley, Planner for the City of Whitehorse

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing to ensure that proper consideration is being given, in the planning process, to the importance of seaplane activity at Schwatka Lake to the local residents and also to the visitors to the City of Whitehorse .

Seaplanes provide a necessary transportation link, in your area, to remote locations in Alaska, British Columbia and the Yukon.

Schwatka Lake is a key component for this activity. The provision of seaplane facilities, and the safe operation of seaplanes and vessels that co-exist on the lake, are prime concerns of the seaplane owners and pilots.

The provision for adequate sheltered docks, seaplane floats, moorage, fuelling facilities and a dedicated seaplane launching ramp are critical to the safe and viable operation of seaplanes on the lake.

Mr. Christoph Altherr, a resident of Whitehorse, is a floatplane owner and pilot that is based at Schwatka Lake and is the Secretary for the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association's Flight 106 that is based in Whitehorse.

I request that Mr. Altherr be the main "Personal Aviation" contact for your planning department and that if a committee is struck to consider the options and future of seaplanes and their requirements at Schwatka Lake, that Mr. Altherr be placed on that committee as an advisor.

As a retired Transport Canada Civil Aviation Inspector, Superintendent, and Director, with 31-years-experience in the Pacific Region, I am also willing to act as an advisor to your planning department. Over the years, I have had extensive experience with large scale seaplane operations and in particular at Campbell River, Naniamo, Prince Rupert, Vancouver, and Victoria harbours. I helped draft both the past and currently proposed Transport Canada seaplane regulations and guidance material. I also assisted in drafting an information booklet entitled "Seaplane Facilities" that was published by the FAA's Alaskan Region.

The COPA website at <http://www.copanational.org> has a wealth of information on the value of General Aviation Airports & their Economic Impact on the community. It also contains COPA's Guide to Private Aerodromes.

The seaplane facilities at Schwatka Lake are not only an important part of the aviation infrastructure in the Yukon, but are also an important link for visitors from other parts of Canada and the U.S.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

**W.T. (Tim) Cole**

**BC & Yukon Director**  
**Canadian Owners & Pilots Association**  
[tcole@copanational.org](mailto:tcole@copanational.org)

**Response from the City of Whitehorse:**

Thank you for your submission! And for offering your assistance to our department for finishing and implementing the Area Plan. I'll keep you posted on our next steps.

I will be out of the office from Sept 5 to 10, and will be looking into revisions to the plan after that.

**Erica Beasley**  
**Planner II**  
**Planning Services**  
**City of Whitehorse**  
[www.whitehorse.ca](http://www.whitehorse.ca)