



Saint-Lazare airport CST3 is up for sale

By Michel Moreau and Leo Nikkinen

Again this year the traditional June fly-in breakfast organized by COPA chapter 43 at the St. Lazare airport, CST3, in Quebec was a great success. Sixty-five aircraft visited us and we served 875 breakfasts. We were almost victims of our own success; at times the waiting line was very long, and the sun was very strong!

Flights in an airplane were offered by Lachute Aviation and AVITAS, as well as helicopter flights offered by Hélicoptair. Many exhibitors were on site: two flight schools, Laurentide Aviation and Ikaros, a new school based at St. Lazare itself, and last but not least CAHC/CCPA, the Canadian Aviation Heritage Centre from St. Anne de Bellevue with one of their projects, an impressive Bolingbroke cockpit under restoration.

Not all the visitors came for the breakfast. Many came for the chance to see the aircraft up close; proof that aviation fascinates many people and that there is still hope for our interest - Personal Aviation.

Holding an aviation event like the fly-in breakfast at St. Lazare, modest though it was, takes a lot of effort and planning but the volunteers who assist, year after year, are gratified to see such a large crowd visit the airport, surround the aircraft, ask questions of the pilots and find out what the possibilities are for flight lessons, or simply want to take a flight in an airplane or helicopter.

Finally, this is our way of introducing aviation to our community.

Mission accomplished again this year.

FOR SALE

Unfortunately there is a shadow on the horizon. Our beloved airport is up for sale. The owners wish to retire and they hope to find a buyer who will keep CST3 as a working airport, but nothing is certain. What a pity if it became a cornfield or a housing development!

Created in the late 1960s by Norm Cooper, St. Lazare airport has always benefited from a family atmosphere. Even though it is situated in the village, it has always been accepted by its neighbours. It provides tie-downs and hangar space for about forty aircraft but could easily accommodate double the number. The installations are not very new but the main runway was repaved five years ago. A flight school has just opened, and unlike some others, the municipality of St. Lazare is not looking to eliminate the airport; they have encouraged and supported the annual fly-in breakfast.

Saint-Lazare CST3 grew from a private field into a successful business for its owners, while retaining a unique country-style aerodrome environment. COPA Flight 43-Saint-Lazare Flying Club has enjoyed CST3 for many years. However, now that the airport is for sale, we hope that this opportunity will be recognized within the wider aviation community, and that a buyer will become interested in acquiring, and maybe further developing, our gem of an airport. Come and visit us, and appreciate it for yourself.

For all information concerning the sale, please contact:

Mtre Luigi Sorbo

Luigi Sorbo Advocate Inc.

222 Henri Bourassa Boul. East, suite 27,

Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3L 1B9

Telephone: (514) 948-6303 ext 32

Facsimile: (514) 948-0616 (between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm)

E-Mail: luigi.sorbo@multiprofessions.qc.ca