

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**

A D D E N D U M

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Linda

Residents of Widgeon Road, Qualicum Beach, BC

2235 Widgeon Rd, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1Y9
2245 Widgeon Rd, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1Y9
2255 Widgeon Rd, Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1Y9

Regional District of Nanaimo
Board of Directors
Attn.: Joe Stanhope
6300 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC
V9T 6N2

RDN			
CAO	✓	GMF&IS	
GMDS		GMR&PS	
GMES		GMTS	
AUG 27 2007			
SMCA			
CHAIR	✓	BOARD	
<i>Com Communication</i>			

Dear Mr. Stanhope,

August 08, 2007

We write you regarding a local flight school named 'Qualicum Flight Center'. This company performs regular training flights out of Qualicum Beach Airport over the area where we live. Our properties are located on Widgeon Rd in the neighborhood of Dashwood (north of Qualicum Beach, BC).

Since mid July, we have been heavily exposed to low flying aircrafts of this fleet over our properties. Sometimes as many as three airplanes at the same time circle at high or low speed, go up and down, stall their engines, and suddenly speed up again, often at dangerously low altitude. This happens right over our properties and the villages around, from 7am non stop until 9pm. The ocean is near, there is a huge forested, uninhabited land behind, but it looks like the fleet is intentionally flying along the coastline and right over adjacent properties.

We inquired the flight school and were told they were holding a cadets training for some weeks as they did last summer and would do so again next year. They further said many residents already had complained, but we had to live with it.

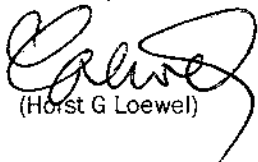
Some corresponding newspaper articles spoke about 9 aircrafts of the flight school going in and out of Qualicum Beach airport and that the cadets were transported by bus from Comox each day to perform their flight training. As this flight school is a division of 'Courtenay Flight Center' based in Courtenay/Comox, we have a couple of questions:

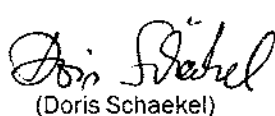
- Why could the cadets training not be held out of Comox Airport - as it was in previous years? Were there too many complains from local residents in that area?
- Why do the aircrafts always circle over inhabited land, not far remote, over ocean or mountains?
- How dangerous is the training operation at low altitudes over inhabited land? (As we know, there have been accidents involving aircrafts of this school.)
- Is the operation of a training school one of the main objectives for a regional airport like the one in Qualicum Beach? Is this worth the risk of loosing business in other, maybe more important areas, such as tourism?

During the peak summer season all outdoor activity is spoiled in a region much depending on tourism as a major economical factor. We spoke to a number of tourists visiting here, who are so concerned about the constant noise, that most likely they will not come back next year.

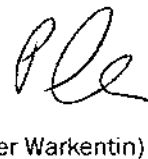
We know that there is not much regulation for air traffic once the operation of an air carrier is licensed. This is why we are asking you for help. The decisions are made in the town of Qualicum Beach, however with an impact on a much larger region. We urge the local politicians to take responsible action in the interest of all residents and businesses affected by this, and ask you to not only look at this particular kind of business. Please stand up for the many residents out there, who fear a permanent alteration of this quiet and peaceful recreation area.

Sincerely,


(Horst G Loewel)


(Doris Schaeckel)


(Karl Nachtsheim)


(Peter Warkentin)

J. Stanhope, RDN Board Chairman and Members
6300 Hammond Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2

RDN	
CAO	GMF&IS
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GMES	GMTS
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SMCA	
CHAIR	✓ BOARD
COW Communication	
(Petition available for viewing)	

August 23, 2007

Dear Chairman and Members:

Please find attached petitions regarding the Qualicum Beach Airport. These represent a very small sampling of the community. However, they do represent a large enough sample that had the survey been more inclusive, the results would be consistent with those obtained.

At about half of the residents visited by my wife and myself, no one was home. In the remaining 50%, approximately 80% felt that flight training at the airport, both for fixed wing planes and helicopters, should be discontinued.

A smaller number, about 50%, felt that if the noise could not be controlled, the airport should be shut down. Because of the small amount of time we had to visit homes, we discontinued presenting the second opinion survey partway through the process.

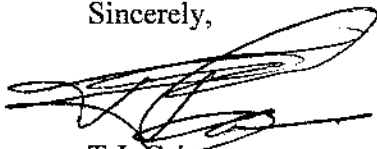
Also attached are other samplings provided by persons who obtained a petition form on line from the website, www.peacefuleasyliving.com created by Mr. P. Musgrave. People using these forms canvassed immediate neighbors.

In addition there are some petitioner's names attached which came from an on line petition. There are several places marked (signature rejected). These notes indicate occasions when one or more persons wrote obscene or threatening comments against those who supported the petition. They also contained non existent names. Therefore they were excluded.

When reviewing policy, formulating plans or considering the expenditure of tax dollars to "develop" the airport at Qualicum Beach, please consider that there is a strong feeling among many residents that this airport has a serious noise problem. The noise generated from the airport due to volume, types of crafts and usage has reached the point where it is adversely affecting the life style of the people of Qualicum Beach as well as throughout the district.

Your support in considering the feelings and concerns of this district is appreciated.

Sincerely,



T.J. Cairns
865 Hemsworth Road
Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1R3

I plan to be away from town for a period of time. If you wish to respond to the above petition or letter please do so through, P. Musgrave, 1240 Englishman River Road, PO Box 759, Errington BC V0R 1V0