

**TOWN OF CANMORE**

**AGENDA**

Heliport Monitoring Committee  
Canmore Civic Centre Council Chambers  
**Monday, June 12, 2023, at 9:00a.m.**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. **Agenda for the June 12, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting**

**B. MINUTES**

1. **Minutes for the January 31, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting attached and approved on February 23, 2023, in compliance with Bylaw 2018-18**

**C. REVIEW OF HELIPORT COMPLAINTS SINCE LAST MEETING**

1. **Stephen Hanus to Discuss any Complaints Received in 2022. (Verbal Report Only)**

**D. REVIEW OF THE HELIPORT PAD REHABILITATION PROJECT**

1. **Stephen Hanus to Discuss the Heliport Pad Rehabilitation Project (Verbal Report Only)**

**E. REVIEW OF ALPINE HELICOPTER 2022 OPERATIONS REPORT**

1. **Public Report**
  1. **Todd Cooper Discuss 2022 Annual Report**
  2. **Todd Cooper to discuss why certain data is considered confidential.**
  3. **Stephen Hanus to confirm if Confidential Information supplied by Alpine Helicopters complies with the Lease requirements**
  4. **Recommendation:** that the Committee approve Alpine Helicopters is operating in accordance with the Conduct of a Helicopter Business as set out in Schedule D of the Heliport Lease.

**F. REVIEW OF ALPINE HELICOPTERS GHG REDUCTION PLAN**

1. **Todd Cooper and Robert Humphrey to discuss Alpine Helicopters GHG Reduction Plan**

**G. OTHER ITEMS**

**H. ADJOURNMENT**



# Alpine Helicopters Inc. Annual Report

## Reporting Year: 2022

Robert Humphrey / Todd Cooper

March 31, 2023

### Annual Highlights

In 2022, Alpine's early season sightseeing operations continued to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic with early season tourism shutdowns due to new variants. The safety of our staff and passengers remains our number one priority. As with many tourism-based operators in Canmore, we operated at a reduced capacity throughout the year, resuming full capacity mid-summer. We are starting to see tourism operations recover with late summer/early fall numbers showing significant gains over previous years. Similarly to 2020/21, 2022 was dramatically affected by continued international travel restrictions, with major markets such as our Asia-Pacific groups having yet to return.

On July 5<sup>th</sup> 2022, Alpine contracted KCP Energy Inc. to design and install a Photovoltaic Solar system on our hanger facility in Canmore. The system comprises of 32.76KW (DC) array containing 84 panels. This is the maximum allowed capacity for the existing electrical infrastructure. The system completion is forecasted for spring 2023. Alpine is excited to have invested in a sustainable source of energy for the future operations of the Canmore Base.

Backcountry facility operations remained one of the most utilized services provided by Alpine. These services range from personnel transfer, maintenance material flights, and resupply flights. In 2022 we worked with Alberta Parks', Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG) and Banff National Parks to service backcountry facilities. We also aided in trail maintenance, trail construction, reclamation, backcountry campground maintenance and supply flights.

Rescue operations are central to our business and we take pride in our provision of uninterrupted essential services for our community. In 2022 we conducted an average of 0.76 Rescue flights per day. By providing these keystone services we have the opportunity to work with many highly skilled individuals and agencies to provide technical rescue, search, enforcement, and fire suppression.

In 2022, we continued our focus on donations to local charities and non-profit organizations in Canmore and the Bow Valley. This year our donations were upwards of \$17,000 to help support our community. We are proud to support the Canmore Legion #3, the Make a Wish Foundation, The Hospital Activity Book for Children, Project All In, and the Canmore Folk Festival.

Alpine strives to support our community and also rebound from some of the most fiscally and operationally challenging years in Canadian aviation history. Canmore is a diverse and unique community that we are privileged to be an important part of. In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

## Regulation Updates

- Alpine Helicopters Inc. is subject to regulatory audits performed by Transport Canada (aviation, maintenance, and dangerous goods) and AOHS.  
Transport Canada PVI - 2022
- December 2022 - new changes to Transport Canada’s “Flight and Duty” regulations took effect. The new regulations provide more stringent rest and duty times for all Canadian Commercial Operators. Alpine is monitoring activity and implementing the new rules for pilot fatigue management.
- New flight duty restrictions are effecting operations due to the reduced times and length of shifts for pilots to carry out flights. Combined with peak season volumes and aircraft availability this creates a further restriction to all operations including rescue and fire fighting.
- **Accreditations**  
*BARS* - Basic Aviation Risk Standard  
*ISNET World* – Contractor and Supplier information management  
*COR* - Certificate of Recognition Workplace safety  
*Energy Safety Canada* – National Safety Association for Canadas Energy Industry  
*Complyworks* – Compliance Management  
*CONTRAIL* – Aviation safety
- **Internal audits**  
Quality Assurance - annual  
Safety Management Systems - annual  
Certificate of Recognition - annual  
Dennis Ford - Safety Management System (2017)
- **Inspections**  
Fuel storage and handling - daily, monthly, annually  
Base - daily, monthly  
Fire suppression - daily, monthly, annually  
Foreign object debris - daily

## Itinerant Helicopter Operations

- Arrival and departure procedures as set out on Google Earth continue to be well received by transient aircraft frequenting the heliport.
- The main users of the itinerant parking are the RCMP, Canadian Military, other commercial operators, and some private aircraft.

## Heliport Operations

### Sightseeing Flights

- In 2022, Alpine's sightseeing operations continued based on fluctuating public health restrictions and recommendations. These operations continue to be a vital part of our business and the business of Canmore's tourism industry.
- Tourism Operations continued to operate inside the guidelines and rules, set forth by the Town of Canmore's lease for the Canmore Heliport. During the 2022 year, Alpine exceeded the allowable flights **zero (0) times**. Flights remained in designated areas and intervals did not exceed as required.
- Computerized booking programs have been implemented to cap and limit daily tourism flights, thus restricting activities within approved limits as set out in the Lease (Schedule "C" section 3 (a)) To Further ensure compliance with the restrictions Alpine has assigned the task of verification to the Senior Tour Pilot to confirm no exceedances have occurred. Full year (365 day), daily count flight numbers are provided to the Town of Canmore in this report (Schedule "A") to further show that no exceedances have occurred.

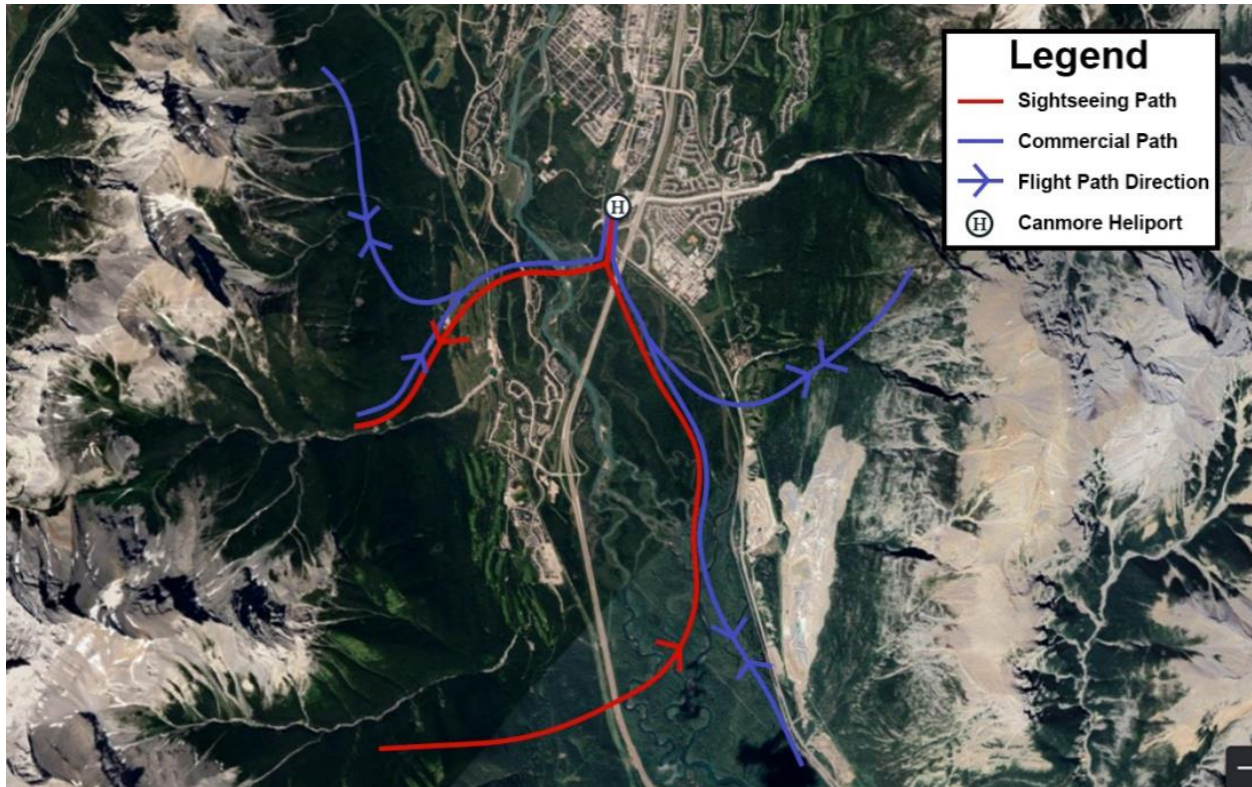
### Commercial Flights

- Alpine continued to support the weather monitoring station in Cougar Creek for the Town of Canmore.
- In 2022 Alpine provided aircraft services for major trail reclamation and campground maintenance projects in Ribbon Falls, Forks Campground, Johnston Canyon, Plain of Six Glaciers, Lady McDonald and Red Rock Canyon (Waterton NP). Many smaller projects were completed, throughout Banff National Park, Yoho National Park, Kananaskis Country, and in Canmore.
- Avalanche control was facilitated for Kananaskis, Banff/Lake Louise/Yoho National Parks, CP Rail, Sunshine Village, Mt. Norquay, Lake Louise Ski Resort, Baymagg. We also aided in control work for the Trans Canada Highway and Highway 93.
- Many utility infrastructure projects in the Bow Valley are ongoing and have used Helicopter services in the past year. Power line construction work for Trans Alta, K-Line, and Fortis, as well as transmission line patrols for Altalink have been conducted by Alpine.
- Wildlife survey and research projects where also assisted by Alpine. Surveys for target wildlife, insects, human impact, water, aquatics, and fossils. These surveys were conducted by government agencies, research groups and University groups.
- Alpine provided aircraft external load services for the local reclamation of old infrastructure removal from Mt. Lady Macdonald in the fall of 2022.

### Emergency Flights

- Alpine continued to provide essential services including rescue, firefighting, medivac transport, and avalanche control seamlessly throughout the year.
- During the 2022 Fire Season wildland fire fighting activities included water bombing, fire crew movements, fire patrols, controlled burns and initial attack standby. During the season Alpine completed 60+ days on Fire Fighting activities in the Bow Valley/Banff region. During peak activity, Alpine provided up to 3 aircraft per day.
- In response to the wildland fire season, Alpine was part of a multiple-agency training session with the Canmore Fire Department, Alberta Wildfire, Banff National Parks Fire, Kananaskis Mountain Rescue and other agencies to increase the timely deployment of available resources to our community.
- A total of 277 rescue flights were performed by Alpine in 2022, which is a slight decrease from the 281 conducted in 2021.
- We continued to have multiple aircraft and rescue pilots engaged in simultaneous rescue operations on a consistent basis. In 2022, we helped support various government agencies including Parks Canada (Banff) and Kananaskis Public Safety/Alberta Parks, who perform the vast majority of these missions. Once again, the Calgary Medical Examiner, Golden SAR, BC Air Ambulance, RCMP, Parks Canada (Waterton, Glacier, and Jasper), Crowsnest SAR, and Alberta Health Services also used our services.
- In 2019, Alpine became the fourth operational location in North America to host and operate the RECCO helicopter search device, which is used to locate individuals wearing garments with the popular RECCO technology.
  - Alpine re-signed a RECCO equipment use contract on; April 27, 2022 for another 24 months.

**Flight Departure/Approach Route**



**Fly Neighborly Program**

Noise abatement is a top priority for Alpine. Pilot initial tour and recurrent training highlight noise mitigation procedures, including techniques recommended within the Fly Neighborly Guide issued by the Helicopter Association International (HAI). The Fly Neighborly “Helicopter Noise Abatement Recommendations” are posted in our facility in high traffic areas to help actively promote noise mitigation procedures. Annual company-wide digital training is also used to keep noise abatement a top priority for all staff.

## Noise Reduction

### Research

- Airwork Helicopters blades “Operators flying in areas with stringent noise restrictions will find these blades especially valuable. Helicopters operating with the AMT-206-1 tail rotor blade demonstrate noise levels compliant with Stage 3 Noise requirements with an overflight noise level of 80.0 db”
- Airwork Helicopter blades are **still in development and not approved** in Canada at this time.

### Implementation

- In 2019 we purchased a new set of Van Horn Aviation main rotor blades to match our previously upgraded Van Horn tail rotor blades to help reduce our aircraft noise footprint.
- **Unfortunately** in 2022 Alpine removed the Van Horn Main Rotor blades from service within the company due to safety concerns. Aviation occurrences in the industry with this blade type lead to this decision from Alpine at this time.
- Operational changes continue to be implemented to help reduce idling and movement of aircraft.

## Air Quality

### Research

- Continued dialogue with engine manufactures on equipment improvements.
- Research and acquisition into Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) as they become available and cost effective.
- During the annual Operations and Maintenance Conference from Bell Helicopters (Nov. 2022) the SAF update was given for current status;
  - Bell and Bell engine suppliers approve up to 50% of SAF blended fuels.
  - Fuel must meet: ASTM-7756 Specification
  - Bell Training academy is using SAF in training aircraft.
  - This has **not yet been approved** by Transport Canada.

### Implementation

- Implementation of “Smokeless Liners” inside our Rolls Royce Engines.
- Operational changes continue to be implemented to help reduce idling and movement of aircraft.
- Alpine Helicopters northern bases took part in tree planning operations, moving 2.8 million trees that were then planted for the 2022 summer season.

### Maintenance & Enhancement Summary of Leased Premises

- General maintenance and snow removal continue to be performed by Alpine Helicopters Inc. in addition to other activities including:
  - Staining decks and buildings
  - Replacing sodium bulb outdoor lights to LED Lights
  - Installation of Photovoltaic Solar System
  - Replacement / Repair of old fencing (scheduled for summer 2023)

### Climate Action

#### Annual aviation fuel consumption & GHG production

- Data Protected by the Freedom of Information (FOIP) Act 16(1)
  - Data provided to Town Of Canmore representative in Schedule “A” of Annual Report.

#### Annual natural gas, Electricity & GHG production;

Fuel Type	Units	Annual Consumption	GHG Coefficient <sup>1</sup>	Annual GHG Production
Natural Gas	GJ	612.3	0.052	31.84 CO2e
Electricity	MWh	39.76	0.550	21.868 tonnes

Table Notes: (1) Town of Canmore will provide GHG Coefficient on an annual basis.

#### Climate action strategies implemented to reduce GHG emissions.

- As stewards of the community, Alpine continues to pursue alternatives to limit greenhouse gases. Environmental initiatives are a priority for our management team.
- When it comes to jet fuel for our helicopters, unfortunately we continue to be limited by the technology available to us in the form of SAF that are certified and approved by Transport Canada.
- July 5<sup>th</sup> 2022, Alpine contracted KCP Energy Inc. to design and install a Photovoltaic Solar system.
  - System completion forecast for Spring 2023
  - System Size; 32.76KW (DC)
  - 84 Panels, 2 Inverters
  - Forecast to offset site electricity usage by 82%
- We are also researching the feasibility of solar generation for the remainder of our operational bases outside of Canmore as we gather information from our new solar system.
- Alpine joined a SAF working group to be at the forefront of SAF fuels as they become available to us.
- Installation of 220 gallon rain water collection tank to reduce water use for landscaping.
- Viability research for 2023, ideas currently being explored;
  - Tanis Electric Aircraft preheating kits to replace fuel heaters.



**TOWN OF CANMORE  
MINUTES**

Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting  
Canmore Civic Centre, Council Chambers  
**Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 6.00 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Nick Servos	Public Representative (Chairperson)
Frank Liszczak	Public Representative
Richard Berry	Public Representative
Todd Cooper	Alpine Helicopters Representative
Jeff Hilstad	Councillor

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Stephen Hanus	Manager of Facilities
Charlie Liley	Facilities Administrative Assistant (Recorder)

Chairperson Mr. Servos called the January 31, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee meeting to order at 6.03 p.m.

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
**Agenda for the January 31, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting**  
Committee members unanimously agreed to approve the agenda for the January 31, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee meeting as presented.
- B. MINUTES**  
Minutes for the May 17, 2022, Heliport Monitoring Committee Meeting attached and approved on May 20, 2022, in compliance with Bylaw 2018-18.
- C. REVIEW OF HELIPORT COMPLAINTS SINCE LAST MEETING**  
Mr. Hanus advised there were no new complaints received since the last HMC meeting on May 17, 2022.  
Mr. Cooper did not receive any complaints in 2022.
- D. REVIEW OF ALPINE HELICOPTER 2022 OPERATIONS**  
Mr. Cooper discussed 2022 operations.
- E. ALPINE HELICOPTERS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022 - DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION**  
A discussion of the 2022 annual report format and content was discussed.
- H. ADJOURNMENT**  
Chairperson Mr. Servos adjourned the January 31, 2023, Heliport Monitoring Committee meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Minutes approved by: SH CL

These Minutes confirmed and adopted this 23rd day of February, 2023



Stephen Hanus, Manager of Facilities  
Town of Canmore Designate  
*On behalf of the*  
GM of Municipal Infrastructure



Charlie Liley, Facilities Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by: SH CL