

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport Terminal A Restoration

Quick Facts

- Terminal A was designed and built by Toronto Harbour Commission (Toronto Port Authority's predecessor), with construction completed in 1939.
 - The building served as the airport's terminal from 1939 until 2010.
 - The Federal Government recognized Terminal A as a national historic building in 1989.
 - The building was moved from its original site to the south side of the airport runway in 2012.
 - In June 2014, the Toronto Port Authority (TPA) announced an agreement in principle to repair, restore and re-open the historic Terminal A building at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (BBTCA) as a public space and hub for the general aviation community.
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Terminal A: Overview

Prior to the opening of the new terminal in 2010, Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport's Terminal A building served as the airport's primary terminal. From 1939 to 2010, the building's ground floor was used for passenger and baggage handling while the second floor served as the airport's administrative space.

The Toronto Port Authority has invested significant resources into preserving the historic Terminal A building and its aviation heritage and moving the building to its current site.

Recognized as a national historic building in 1989 by the Federal Government, the Terminal A building is a rare, surviving example of early airport terminal construction. It is one of the oldest buildings of its kind in Canada and one of only a few in the world. A similar building to Terminal A at Malton Airport, now Toronto Pearson International Airport, was torn down in the 1960s.

Terminal A was decommissioned in 2011 and was moved from its original site to the south side of the airport runway in March 2012.

Terminal A: Architecture

The rectangular two-storey building is typical of 1930s terminal buildings with its flat roof, projecting cornice and columned entry porches.

Architectural elements that contribute to the buildings historical value include:

- A control tower on the roof
- Large windows and minimal detailing
- Views of the outdoors from the control tower as well as the first and second floors
- Clapboard cladding
- Original interior finishes and building configuration

Terminal A: Fun Facts

- Canada's first female air traffic controller, Marg Dunseith, worked at Terminal A in the 1950s through to the 1970s.
- The first official commercial aircraft passengers to arrive and pass through Terminal A in 1939 were famed big band leader Tommy Dorsey and his band, all of whom were in Toronto to play at the CNE Bandshell.
- Terminal A had a small part in the movie *Tommy Boy* (1990), in which the building masqueraded as Sandusky Municipal Airport in Ohio.
- Terminal A had a plaque mounted on the wall with a Norwegian flag that marked its time as part of the Little Norway base in 1940.
- The old control tower is the last known surviving example of its type of architecture in Canada: Depression-era functionality and simplicity.
- BBTCA was meant to be Toronto's main Airport. Malton (which became Pearson International) was built by the Toronto Harbour Commission (THC) as an all-weather backup site. The THC sold Malton to the Federal Government in 1957 for one dollar—in exchange for improving the runways at Terminal A.

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport: Overview

Opened in 1939, Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (BBTCA) is located minutes from Toronto's downtown core.

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport:

- Is owned and operated by the Toronto Port Authority (TPA).
- Welcomed approximately 2.3 million passengers in 2013.
- Is residence to two commercial carriers – Porter Airlines and Air Canada – and home to ORNGE air ambulance which flew more than 2,300 flights out of BBTCA over the last year.
- Is Canada's ninth busiest airport and serves businesses and leisure travellers alike.
- Has service to more than 19 North American cities with connections to over 80 cities across the globe.
- Is a thriving and successful airport that contributes \$1.9 billion in annual economic output and supports 5,700 jobs in the GTA.
- Ninety per cent (90%) of Torontonians believe "the airport is a valuable asset for the City" and more than one-third of Torontonians have used the airport (*Ipsos Reid 2014*).