NAV CANADA, the country’s provider of civil air navigation services, conducted an aeronautical study that reviewed the air traffic and aviation weather services (AWS) at the Toronto/Buttonville airport. The study recommended closing the air traffic control (ATC) tower and contract weather office (CWO).

The part-time control tower service with Class D control zone (CZ) will be replaced with a mandatory frequency (MF) area using the current tower very high frequency (VHF) frequency 124.8 MHz. The CZ will become Class E airspace for 24-hours per day.

Note that a portion of the CZ ceiling was lowered to 2,000 feet altitude above sea level (ASL) and the above (ABV) 2,000 feet ASL Toronto terminal control area (TCA) boundary was adjusted as per AIP Supplement 50/18 on 13 September 2018. See the map sketch below for a depiction of the final CZ and TCA airspace changes resulting from the aeronautical study.

Instrument flight rules (IFR) approach clearances will continue to be issued directly to pilots from the Toronto area control center (ACC) on the terminal frequency 133.4 MHz. Arrival reports can be made to the London Flight Information Centre (FIC) after landing via the on-site remote communications outlet (RCO) on 123.15 MHz or by telephone. IFR departure clearances can be obtained from the London FIC via phone, the RCO, or direct from the ACC on 133.4 MHz airborne after a VFR departure.

The 24-hour aviation weather observation service provided by the CWO will be replaced with a Limited Weather Information System (LWIS). The LWIS provides hourly wind direction and speed, altimeter, temperature and dew point information. This information will be available 24-hours per day from the London FIC via the RCO on 123.15 MHz or from the Toronto ACC on 133.4 MHz while airborne. The aerodrome forecast (TAF) for the Buttonville airport will be cancelled.

The closure of the Buttonville control tower and CWO will take effect 03 January 2019 at 0901Z Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The appropriate aeronautical publications will be amended. Refer to this supplement and AIP Supplement 50/18 until the next editions of the Toronto VFR Terminal Area Chart (VTA) AIR 1900 and VFR Navigation Chart (VNC) AIR 5000 become available in April 2019.
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