

## Cherry Capital Airport News



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### **Cherry Capital Airport Director Plans Retirement Effective February 2011**

**Traverse City, MI** – Cherry Capital Airport Officials announced that Airport Director Stephen Cassens plans to retire this upcoming February after 34 years of service to the aviation industry at Traverse City's Cherry Capital Airport.

Regarding the retirement of Airport Director, Stephen Cassens, Northwestern Regional Airport Commission Chairman, Jon Schmidtke stated, "We are in a fortunate position to have had the exceptional operations team led by Mr. Cassens over many years, and we will take care to make sure there is a smooth transition of management, so as not to jeopardize the airport's FAA Part 139 Operating Certificate."

Mr. Cassens realized one of his major career goals in making the Cherry Capital Airport financially free of funding from the three local governments that once provided financial support to the airport.

Mr. Cassens took a lead role in the conception, financing, and development of the new airline terminal campus on the south side of the airport. Further, he has been instrumental in nearly \$100 million in capital development. The airport, under Mr. Cassens leadership, has been recognized with a number of FAA and industry safety awards including Airport of the Year by the Air Line Pilots Association in 2005.

"I am humbled to have had the opportunity to serve the people of Northwestern Michigan. It has been an honor to work with the NRAC to develop the Cherry Capital Airport into a first class facility that reflects the quality of the people that live and work in the Grand Traverse Region. The pleasure of coming to work every day was made possible because of a competent staff and support team."

"Cherry Capital Airport will continue to fulfill its' commitment to convenience and dependability – in a valued small town atmosphere," stated NRAC Chairman Schmidtke.

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