HUATULCO AWAITS

Travellers from YYJ now have easy access to a fourth breathtaking Mexican destination, thanks to Air Transat’s new seasonal service to Huatulco, Mexico, which runs December to April.

Take advantage of this opportunity to see one of Mexico’s most recently developed, planned coastal resorts and explore protected parkland, agricultural operations and sweeping sandy beaches.

visit victoriaairport.com for the latest information about the airport, including flight status reports and, of course, links to the airport’s social media sites.

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CONTENTS

Huatulco Awaits 2
The Flight Path Circles Airport Lands 5
WestJet Encore Provides More Daily Flights to Vancouver 6
Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Bestows Awards 7
Remediation Efforts Earn Honours 8
Spinnakers On the Fly Opens for Business 10
Wilson’s Transportation Provides Airport Shuttle Service 12
Behind-the-Scenes Talent Shines in the Spotlight 13
Garden Memorial Honours Ramesh Sharma 14
FEATURE STORY:

THE FLIGHT PATH
CIRCLES AIRPORT LANDS

The Flight Path has taken off. Construction of Victoria Airport Authority’s 9.3-kilometre multi-use trail around the perimeter of the airport lands was finished in October 2013, much to the delight of locals, airport staff and tenants, and visitors to the area.

The Victoria Airport Authority is pleased to see the project complete. “It’s important to us to be a positive part of our community,” said President and CEO Geoff Dickson. “Projects like this allow us the opportunity to contribute in a very meaningful way.”

Boasting views of the ocean and distant mountain ranges, the three-metre-wide pathway also provides a comfortable vantage point for people of all abilities to view the arrivals and departures of many exciting aircraft. Dickson notes that aviation enthusiasts using the trail will “be able to see, up close and personal, everything from 737s to military helicopters as they come and go from the airport.”

This $4.2 million project, which was funded through non-aviation revenue, is a reflection of the Victoria Airport Authority’s mission statement to enhance the quality of life of our region. The trail meanders around the airport lands and connects with West Saanich Road and Ocean Avenue along the Patricia Bay Highway as well as with Beacon Avenue, which leads into downtown Sidney. It provides an ideal environment for enjoying some fresh air, as well as useful amenities, including a water fountain, complete with dog bowl, at Hospital Hill. Future plans include installation of a number of picnic areas and, in recognition of the important role that the military played at the airport during the first and second world wars, trail signage that features historical information and geographical points of interest.

While parts of the trail have been in use since 2008, when the Mills Road bike path was created, the entire route was officially launched with a VIP event on October 17, 2013. The celebration began in the Eagles Landing Observation Lounge on the third floor of the air terminal building. It included a narrated bus tour around the path, during which guests enjoyed hand-decorated ‘Flight Path’ sugar cookies and coffee from special edition travel mugs.

Special guests included the VAA board of directors; Larry Cross, mayor of the Town of Sidney; councillors from the Town of Sidney, District of North Saanich and District of Central Saanich; and representatives from Tourism Victoria, Draycor Construction, Delcan Engineering and the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition. Gary Holman, MLA - Saanich North and the Islands, represented the Province of BC. Also in attendance was former VAA President and CEO Richard Paquette, who initiated construction of the first phase of the path.

Victoria Airport Authority will celebrate the opening of this new public amenity with the community in mid-2014.
WestJet launched its new Canadian regional airline, Encore, from YYJ in 2013, connecting islanders to the larger airports that WestJet serves. Vancouver service commenced in June with convenient one-stop, same-plane service between Victoria and Fort St. John.

Local travellers got the opportunity to experience even more options, starting in October, when daily service between Victoria and Vancouver increased from one to three flights a day.

Islanders also enjoy a broad range of final destinations, thanks to WestJet’s large route network and number of code share partners. Code sharing enables WestJet to fly its guests to destinations outside of its own route network by connecting to flights operated by its code share partners. WestJet travellers benefit from the convenience of purchasing their tickets through WestJet and the increased selection of destinations. WestJet’s code share partners include American Airlines, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, China Eastern, Delta Airlines, Japan Airlines, KLM and Korean Air.
The Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce recently recognized Victoria International Airport during their 2013 Crystal Awards for Business Excellence event. Victoria Airport Authority was the winner of the Contribution to the Community Award for the Flight Path, its new public multi-use trail, and Business of the Year Award for overall achievement. Victoria Airport Authority was also a finalist in the Green Business of the Year category.

Through the Crystal Awards, which are awarded by a panel of judges from the community, Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce extends the appreciation of the community to businesses and not-for-profit organizations for their contributions to the local economy and quality of life.

“We are honoured to receive these Crystal Awards from the Chamber and pleased to know that our efforts are appreciated by our community,” said Geoff Dickson, president and CEO of the Victoria Airport Authority. “We thank the Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the Victoria Airport Authority with these awards.”
When Victoria International Airport led an effort to remediate a small fish-bearing creek on airport lands, people took notice.

While Reay Creek is one of the few creeks on the east coast of the Saanich Peninsula to provide spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, it suffered from historical contamination that occurred as a result of practices that were once considered to be acceptable. As part of its ongoing environmental stewardship efforts, Victoria Airport Authority worked, with the support of volunteers, the Town of Sidney and local groups, including Sidney Anglers and Peninsula Streams Society, to reduce the flow of pollutants from airport lands and improve water quality and conditions within the creek.

The $232,000 two-year Reay Creek Remediation Project includes a 200-metre-long channel that diverts stormwater drainage around the historically contaminated area of the existing creek channel, which has been transformed into a bio-remediation wetland. The diversion channel includes a spill gate and a wetland complex. It incorporates aquatic habitat features to improve stormwater quality and provide favourable conditions for resident species.

By filtering stormwater pollutants and improving water quality, the diversion channel has already begun improving the health of the creek. This project also galvanized enthusiastic volunteer involvement and produced almost immediate benefits for the local watershed.
In addition to garnering a 2013 nomination from the Town of Sidney for the Capital Regional District Eco-Star Award for Integrated Watershed Management, the Reay Creek Remediation Project has recently received the following positive recognition:

In October 2013, the BC Aviation Council awarded its Silver Wings Environmental Award to Victoria Airport Authority for its work remediating Reay Creek.

Established in 1938, the BC Aviation Council represents and promotes the shared interests of the aviation community. It envisions an aviation and aerospace industry that is visible, connected and thriving.

“This year is particularly significant for the aviation community in BC,” according to BC Aviation Council Chairman Mark Duncan. “As we celebrate 75 years of representing aviation and aerospace, there is growing recognition that our industry makes valuable contributions to the economic well-being and growth of this province. By highlighting the accomplishments of individuals, companies and students, we shine a spotlight on the leaders of yesterday, today and tomorrow.”

The Airports Council International – North America also recognized Victoria Airport Authority’s Reay Creek project with their Environmental Award in the category of Mitigation.

Airports Council International is a non-profit global trade organization of airports around the world. Airports Council International – North America grants Environmental Achievement Awards to recognize its airport members that strive to protect and preserve the environment through their programs, initiatives and projects. The annual awards, which are intended to acknowledge the hard work and achievements of Airports Council International – North America members, are evaluated according to environmental benefit, innovation, effective implementation, widespread applicability and cost effectiveness.
Victoria’s popular Spinnakers Gastro Brewpub recently opened its On the Fly location in the post-security area of the lower passenger departure lounge, where it will cater to passengers arriving and departing YYJ.

Spinnakers On the Fly serves delicious fresh food crafted from local ingredients. Its full service dining area and relaxed bar/lounge provide travellers with the option to choose the experience that best suits their schedule. Even those in a rush can select something delicious to take on board and enjoy en route to their destination.

Spinnakers On the Fly is just one of several improvements to the air terminal building that are underway as part of the Circulation, Security and Concessions Capital Improvement Project. These changes include increased passenger processing capacity at pre-board security screening; new shopping options pre- and post-security; a centralized circulation core for the elevators, escalators and stairs; and enhancements to the upper passenger departure lounge.

As part of the Victoria Airport Authority’s efforts to create the best experience possible for those passing through YYJ, these changes create a recognizable, functional and comfortable atmosphere within which travellers can relax and enjoy every stage of their journey.
Wilson’s Transportation has been awarded a five-year contract to provide shuttle bus service between the Victoria International Airport and downtown hotels. This local, family-owned and operated charter bus company has been operating from and providing community support to the Victoria area since 1962.

“We have been providing exemplary ground transportation services for more than 55 years. We are very pleased to have them join our airport community in this capacity,” said Geoff Dickson, president and CEO of the Victoria Airport Authority.

“We are excited to add the Airport Shuttle Service to our portfolio of services in Greater Victoria,” said John Wilson, CEO of Wilson’s Transportation Ltd. “We look forward to contributing to the success and accolades credited to the Authority for excellence in the worldwide airport community.”
It’s not surprising, given the many awards attributed to the Victoria Airport Authority over the years, that many talented and dedicated people work behind the scenes to make this a remarkable airport.

James Bogusz, director of airside operations, technology and environment, is one of those people. While his colleagues have been aware of his strengths for many years, his good reputation is growing.

Bogusz has been recognized as one of Airport Business magazine’s Top 40 Under 40. The magazine, which is written for professionals who manage airports, airport-based businesses and corporate flight facilities in North America, initiated this feature to “highlight some of the outstanding up-and-coming individuals in the business of aviation and airport management who are shaping the future of the industry.” The Victoria Airport Authority Board of Directors nominated Bogusz for this honour in recognition of his numerous accomplishments at Victoria International Airport.

Bogusz was also a finalist in the Vancouver Island’s Top 20 under 40 Business Achievement Awards, which honour young professionals who have made outstanding contributions in business or community work.

As a contractor, Bogusz was a key part of Victoria International’s Airport Terminal Expansion Project in the early 2000s. He joined the Victoria Airport Authority as manager of information technology in 2007. Shortly thereafter, in 2008, he took on additional responsibilities for air service development, airport marketing and tourism development. In 2010, he began his current role as director of airside operations, technology and environment.

When asked about his recent recognition, Bogusz said “Being rewarded like this for doing a job I already love doing is amazing! The award and nomination from the Victoria Airport Authority board was an honour and I truly feel recognized for my contribution to the airport.”

The Victoria Airport Authority thanks James Bogusz for his dedication and professionalism, and congratulates him on his recent accolades.
GARDEN MEMORIAL HONOURS RAMESH SHARMA

Victoria Airport Authority has created a garden in memory of Ramesh Sharma, the 57-year-old father of three who was killed in a tragic car accident at the airport two years ago.

The garden includes a memorial plaque that reads “Forever remembered, forever missed.” It sits near the spot where Sharma was playing cards with fellow taxi drivers when they were hit by an out-of-control vehicle. Seven men were hurt, including Sharma, who died of his injuries.

Shortly after the accident, the Victoria Airport Authority created for the cab drivers a new, re-located shelter where they can wait for passengers. The garden was unveiled in July 2013.

Referring to the memorial, Geoff Dickson, president and CEO of the Victoria Airport Authority, said, “This is where the taxi drivers used to gather, and it’s where Mr. Sharma’s life was taken. We felt that the creation of a garden with a commemorative plaque would be a fitting tribute for a good man, father and friend of many in the community.”
In Memory of Ramesh Sharma

On July 29, 2011, Yellow Cab driver Ramesh Sharma’s life was tragically taken in a motor vehicle accident at Victoria International Airport. This plaque is dedicated in honour and recognition of his life.

Forever remembered, forever missed.

Husband • Father • Friend