Airport Beacons Light the Way

LOWER PASSENGER DEPARTURE LOUNGE EXPANSION PROJECT UNDERWAY

Huatulco: The Perfect Break from Canada's Winter

TENTEN CREEK SEDIMENT REDUCTION PROJECT WINS

YYJ Fire Crew Chief Expects the Unexpected

INTRODUCING ROD HUNCHAK, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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Lower Passenger Departure Lounge Expansion Project Underway

Construction continues as Victoria Airport Authority works to expand the lower passenger departure lounge of the Air Terminal Building. While completion of this $19.4 million project is expected in the spring of 2020, phase one will be available to travellers in the summer of 2019.

The 1,765-square-metre addition to the terminal building will create a spacious and bright lower passenger departure lounge that will better accommodate the increasing number of passengers that travel through Victoria International Airport each year. Besides sleek, modern architectural details and great views of the runways, the new space will feature several large amenities and many small details that travellers appreciate, all of which were chosen to improve the overall experience for those in the airport.

The lounge, decorated in soft neutral tones, will feature floor to ceiling windows; inviting, carpeted areas with comfortable seating – both near the gates and further away, where it is typically less busy pre-flight; and convenient power outlets for charging electronics.

A new public art piece will also add to the ambiance. The majority of the flooring will be finished with smooth tile to facilitate easy movement of pulled bags, wheelchairs and strollers. The space will also have accessibility features typically seen at larger airports, including a pet relief area for service animals, a gender neutral restroom and a family restroom equipped with an adult-sized change table, complete with a hoist.

More dining and shopping options will enhance the pre-flight experience. New standalone coffee bars in the upper and lower departure lounges, expanded seating for the existing Spinnakers On The Fly restaurant and a new retail offering will provide travellers with new options.

At the gates, the counters will be equipped with state-of-the-art audio systems that allow the airline agent to broadcast their voice directly to hearing aids so the people wearing them can hear the announcements clearly. Covered walkways leading from the gate to the aircraft will keep travellers dry throughout the rainy season.

NEW ADDITION TAKES SHAPE

The project kicked off in January, with the creation of temporary installations to minimize passenger disruption and discomfort during the construction phase. The 2,400-square-metre building site was fenced off, and a 9.5-metre-tall and 25-metre-wide hoarding wall was built to separate passengers from the construction. To help the carriers’ representatives overcome the loss of visual connection to the apron created by the wall, large-screen monitors with closed-circuit television images of the apron were installed. A large rendered view of the new interior space helps passengers visualize the changes that will come in August of 2019.

Construction began in earnest in late March and continues today. So far, the project has:

- excavated 7,000 cubic metres of clays and existing gravels to make way for the basement
- placed 830 cubic metres of concrete for the ground floor of the building
- installed 110,000 kilograms of reinforcing steel in the concrete
- installed 4,500 lineal meters of electrical conduit in the concrete
- employed 20-25 tradespeople on any given week

The 900-square-metre basement structure is in place and the main floor slab has been poured. Construction of the concrete monoliths that provide the majority of the ground floor structure is nearing completion. Once the structural steel elements are erected, the building will start to take shape.

"While we will do our best to minimize inconvenience, travellers will notice hoarding walls, temporary pathways to and from aircraft, and regular construction activities. We appreciate everyone’s patience during construction as we continue to improve the airport experience for our customers," says Victoria Airport Authority President and CEO, Geoff Dickson.

Pictures of the project and time-lapse videos of each week of construction are available via www.victoriaairport.com.
TenTen Creek Sediment Reduction Project Wins BC Aviation Council’s Silver Wings Award

BC Aviation Council has awarded Victoria Airport Authority their Silver Wings Environmental Award for its TenTen Creek Sediment Reduction Project. The Council, whose mission is to promote, stimulate and encourage the development, growth and advancement of aviation and aerospace in British Columbia, recognizes leadership in environmental stewardship through the Silver Wings Award program.

TenTen Creek, which originates on Mount Newton and flows towards Patricia Bay, had been threatened by pollution caused by historic activities, including a decommissioned federal dump site adjacent to the stream. For many years, fish and other aquatic life were rarely seen in the creek.

Victoria Airport Authority funded a $450,000 capital project, which began in 2016 and is the latest extensive environmental improvement made to TenTen Creek. The project involved several stakeholders, including Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Peninsula Streams, Shore Keepers, Transport Canada, Tseycum First Nation and environmental consultants Kerr Wood Liedel and SLR Environmental.

The remediation project incorporated several modifications to encourage aquatic life and minimize the downstream impacts of the creek:

• Re-profiling of two large over-steepened banks, placement of stabilizing armourstone and modification of water flow in some sections of the creek to minimize erosion
• Construction of two large sediment traps to reduce the sediment transported to Patricia Bay
• Introduction of vegetation and rip-rap to provide aquatic habitat
• Removal of visible garbage from the nearby dumpsite to enhance the views

A LEGACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

This project is part of a larger legacy of Victoria Airport Authority’s environmental stewardship of TenTen Creek.

In 2000, Victoria Airport Authority and its partners built a wetlands complex that treats nutrient-heavy water from nearby farmland before it enters the creek. Not long after, the discovery of juvenile sea-run cutthroat trout and three-spined stickleback fish in the creek demonstrated the benefits of reducing harmful pollutants in the creek.

In 2013, a two-phased project enhanced the existing facilities and created a diversion channel. The project prevented heavy metals from leaching into the creek by forcing the creek to bypass contaminated areas, streamlining stormwater runoff into a pond and directing pond overflow into an irrigation retention area.

ENHANCED ECOSYSTEM

Collectively, these improvements have significantly improved the health of the TenTen Creek ecosystem. More than 60 fish have been observed in the creek recently. It appears that, as the health of the creek improves, it can sustain a greater variety of fish and other wildlife.

Ken Gallant, Vice-President, Operations, and Stacey Lee, Airport Fire Service Captain and Environmental Coordinator, attended the annual BC Aviation Council Silver Wings Industry Awards Gala in Vancouver, BC, to accept the award on behalf of Victoria Airport Authority. In addition to the honour of sharing this recognition with project partners, Ken says that the award is a great opportunity to draw attention to the long-term benefits that can be had by reducing pollutants, restoring creek habitat and supporting the environment.

“We are very pleased to receive recognition for this important environmental project. Our mandate is to lead the way in environmental management. Our operations are supported and guided by a strong environmental management plan and we are committed to being exemplary stewards of local watersheds and airport lands,” says Geoff Dickson, Victoria Airport Authority President and CEO.
Huatulco: 
The Perfect Break 
from Canada’s 
Winter

This winter, Sunwing offers travel between Victoria International Airport and Bahías de Huatulco International Airport in Mexico. Flights on Sunwing’s B737 aircraft leave Victoria every Tuesday at 7am between November 6, 2018 and April 23, 2019.

Plan some adventure and relaxation in one of Mexico’s least developed and most sustainable tourist regions. Huatulco, pronounced ‘wah-tool-ko,’ encompasses nine beautiful bays with turquoise water and white sand beaches. But Huatulco is much more than just a beach destination: Huatulco also offers opportunities to visit ancient archeological sites, hike in the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountain range, tour authentic coffee plantations and explore flora and fauna in Huatulco National Park’s protected ecosystem.

Whatever your favourite winter escape includes, you can find it in Huatulco. And, with about 330 days of sunshine per year, it’s likely the sun will shine on you wherever you go, whatever you do.

Convenient, Affordable Seasonal Air Service South to Mexico

As winter sets in, travellers begin dreaming of warm breezes and sandy beaches. Victoria International Airport delivers Mexican sunshine, via several affordable seasonal vacation options:

• Cancun: non-stop via Air Transat and direct via WestJet
• Puerto Vallarta: non-stop via Air Transat and Viva Aerobus, and direct via WestJet
• Los Cabos: direct via Sunwing
• Huatulco: non-stop via Sunwing
While his friends sometimes tease him for having little to do between fires, Stacey Lee, Captain of the YYJ Fire Service, can attest that his shifts are filled to the brim. Like many firefighters, Stacey works long days. Transport Canada regulations require firefighters to be on airport lands and ready to respond throughout the commercial flight schedule. Stacey’s 19-hour shifts are packed with routine checks, maintenance tasks and training exercises that ensure the airport is safe and the Fire Service team is ready and able to respond to a crisis.

To make things even busier, he’s also on call for the unexpected, including the medical emergencies, wildlife calls and operational interventions that happen regularly. Given that the Airport Fire Service responds to approximately five hundred urgent/emergency calls and more than one thousand operational/routine issues every year, there are a lot of unplanned events in the course of his days.

**A TYPICAL DAY**

While there is no such thing as a ‘typical day’ for Stacey, each of his shifts begin before most people are out of bed. At 4:45am, he completes a cursory vehicle check to be sure he has what he needs for the tasks ahead and performs the first of several daily airfield checks to ensure the runways are free from debris.

After this pre-dawn check, which he completes before the first aircraft land, Stacey submits inspection reports and scrutinizes the emergency response vehicle to ensure that all apparatus and equipment function properly. This is just one of many regular checks intended to ensure that the Fire Service team is always ready in the case of an emergency.

Before the airport begins to buzz with the arrival of airport workers and travellers, Stacey uses the relative quiet to focus on some of the many administrative tasks required to maintain the team’s long-term readiness to respond to all types of situations. Some of his current projects include updates to the recruitment training plan, working alone procedures and confined space policy; annual audits of tenant spaces; and preparation for annual insurance audits and next year’s training plan.

Stacey is also responsible for daily training exercises for the Fire Service team’s ten crew members. These exercises review fire, medical and operations-related drills, and/or new procedures. Regular training ensures that the fire fighters are always prepared, mentally and physically, to respond quickly and properly to any emergency. Stacey is always on the lookout for new, interesting and effective exercises to keep his team ready for whatever the day might bring.

Aftemornings include meetings with the various people, groups and committees that the Fire Service team works with on airport lands and beyond to ensure a vibrant and safe airport. This can include everyone from suppliers and airport tenants to committees focused on specific aspects of the airport, including Victoria Airport Authority’s environmental program.

When the majority of airport workers head home after their eight-hour day, Stacey heads back to his desk to focus on the administrative and planning work that he began earlier. Even though the airport has quieted down a bit, he knows that someone may call at any moment, looking for help to solve a problem.

**SERIOUS BUSINESS**

Captain Lee and Victoria International Airport’s Fire Service team are on hand every day to keep the airport and those in and around it safe. While they are prepared to be on site within three minutes of an airside emergency, they can also be counted on to quickly help people through all manner of tough times, from a medical distress to an equipment malfunction.

Stacey enjoys the variety and excitement his job provides. And, while he can laugh along with a good natured ribbing from his friends, he recognizes that fire fighters have a leading role in maintaining the safety of the airport and use their skills to help those in need. And that’s serious business.
Victoria Airport Authority welcomes Rod Hunchak to Victoria International Airport. As the new Director of Business Development and Community Relations since June, Rod has been working with his team to identify and implement opportunities for enhancing the customer experience, growing ancillary revenues and engaging in the local community.

Beginning with a summer job as an architectural draftsperson for Transport Canada’s Airports Division, Rod’s career has included two of his favourite elements: airports and architecture. He brings significant experience with commercial property development, tenant management and construction, including 14 years at Calgary International Airport, where he worked as GM of Tenant Construction, as well as in other roles. His new position will see him in charge of the revenue generating aspects of YYJ, including land development, concessions, advertising and more. All of these responsibilities encompass an aspect of airport experience that he takes very seriously: everything that affects passengers, from curb to gate.

Throughout his career, which has taken him to the Northwest Territories, Calgary and Fort McMurray, Rod has seen Victoria International Airport as the ‘jewel in the crown’ of Canadian airports. Rod says “YYJ has always had an amazing reputation, and I’m honoured to be part of that now and have the ability to continue the legacy.”

Victoria International Airport Supports Local Economy

Victoria Airport Authority keenly supports the Vancouver Island region in many ways, including economic stimulus, community involvement and charitable contributions.

A recent economic impact study indicates that Victoria International Airport’s ongoing activities and those of Victoria Airport Authority’s tenants, subtenants and associated firms contribute significantly to employment and economic development in the local community, throughout Vancouver Island and in British Columbia. In 2017, the airport’s operations generated 4,200 person years of employment, $270 million of wages throughout British Columbia, $420 million in gross domestic product and $880 million in total economic output.
Airport beacons are an important component of the overall safety measures in place at Victoria International Airport. These bright lights provide pilots with easily identifiable markers that signify the outer limits of the aerodrome and safe passage around hindrances that might be otherwise unidentifiable in the dark. As such, these beacons require regular maintenance to ensure that they work properly every day of the year, from dusk to dawn.

Victoria International Airport’s electricians are responsible for maintaining the airport’s rotating beacon and the five hazard beacons that are installed off airport lands. Each beacon uses two 620-watt incandescent light bulbs. This redundancy feature ensures that one light will continue providing pilots with the information they need in the event that the other burns out unexpectedly. While the hazard beacons flash between twenty and thirty times per minute, the tower beacon rotates 360 degrees so that it can be seen from all directions. This motion, which gives each viewer the impression that the lights are flashing, adds to the maintenance required to ensure that the beacon performs properly in all seasons.

The maintenance work includes much more than just replacing light bulbs. For starters, each of these lightbulbs is almost the size of a football, and most of them are in place high above the ground. While the airport rotating beacon is conveniently located on the airport’s air traffic control tower, some of the hazard lights are located on tall towers that can be reached only after some off-road adventure into the woods on Salt Spring Island.

Once each spring, after the snow has melted and before the bees and mosquitoes arrive, the electricians inspect and maintain the airport’s beacons according to the Aerodrome Standards and Recommended Practices set by Transport Canada. Besides changing the lightbulbs, workers clean the lens, test the photocell that determines when the lights will turn on and off, check the components of the beacon’s controller box and, where necessary, lubricate the motor that rotates the light. Frequently, they also need to remove bees and wasps nests, which can be a tricky manoeuvre when perched thirty metres off the ground.

Fortunately for Victoria International Airport’s electricians, the job includes hiking some of Canada’s most beautiful terrain and, once they are perched high above the ground, some stunning views of the BC coastline. While this task may be daunting to some, Victoria Airport Authority’s Electrical Supervisor, Yngve Martinsen, explains that it is a favourite assignment for the beacon’s caretakers, who relish in the opportunity to venture into the region’s wilderness and ensure that this important part of the airport’s safety system is ready and able to perform its important work for the coming year.

Airport Beacons
Light the Way

Cannabis Legalization and Travel

With the recent legalization of recreational marijuana in Canada, air travellers may wonder if and how they can transport cannabis during air travel.

In British Columbia, adults who are 19 years of age or older may bring up to 30 grams of legal cannabis, dried or equivalent in non-dried form, on a flight within Canada. This amount may be transported legally in carry-on and checked baggage. To bring up to 100 millilitres of liquid cannabis in cabin baggage, travellers must follow the current protocol for liquids and place it in a one-litre clear, closed, resealable bag with other liquids, food and personal items.

Travellers with what appears to be more than the legal limit for recreational possession must be prepared to show documentation that proves it is for medicinal purposes. Protocol requires security screeners to notify the police of passengers with more than the legal amount of cannabis in either checked baggage or cabin baggage, or a combination of the two. Attempting to transport too much marijuana could lead to charges and prosecution.

Flying outside of Canada with cannabis is illegal. Travellers are responsible for ensuring that their baggage does not contain substances that are illegal in their destination country.

Please note: travellers may not smoke or otherwise ingest cannabis or edibles in the airport or Canadian airspace.

To avoid disappointment and/or legal consequences, plan for the proper transport of your cannabis.

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15 ON APPROACH
Connect With Us

Victoria International Airport uses social media to communicate with travellers, business partners and community members.

Check out all the ways you can stay up to date on the exciting happenings at Victoria International Airport.

Visit our website for the latest information about our airport, including flight status reports and, of course, links to our social media sites: www.victoriaairport.com.

**Twitter**: twitter.com/fly YYJ
**Facebook**: facebook.com/Victoria International Airport
**Instagram**: yyjairport
**YouTube**: YYJ Victoria International Airport