

On Approach

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VICTORIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY



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Editor's desk

Welcome back to On Approach. In this issue we provide you with in-depth reporting on the Art at the Airport Program. The first commissions were awarded in 2002 with Linda Stanbridge's Genesis and Bob Wise's Roulette. Bob's untimely death in the fall of 2010 was a sad loss to this community, but the sight of Roulette floating below the ceiling of the arrival's rotunda keeps him in our memory. We've grown fond of all the pieces added to the airport collection over the past eight years: Bouquet of Memories, by Illarion Gallant; Eagles Landing, and other works by Charles Elliott; Airplay, the stained glass windows created by Ed Schaefer and Tom Mercer. Most recently, we've acquired three totem poles created by master carver Charles Elliott. The poles are located across the road from the arrivals area. "This just ties it up with a final bow," says VAA Chair Christine Stoneman.

This issue also marks the changing of the guard at YYJ. At the end of December, 2010 we said goodbye to long serving President and CEO Richard Paquette. In his place, we welcome Geoff Dickson, our new President and CEO, effective January 1, 2011.

Happy New Year, everyone.

Phil Jensen,
editor, *On Approach*



On the cover: Charles W. Elliott's three totem poles, installed across the road from the arrivals side of the terminal building. See the story, page 8.

Airport News

New President and CEO

Richard Paquette has retired from his position as President and CEO of the Victoria International Airport, effective December 31, 2010. Paquette has served in the leadership position since 1999, soon after the airport was transferred to the VAA from Transport Canada. He is replaced by Geoff Dickson, effective January 1, 2011. Dickson comes to the VAA from a senior position in air and marine transportation.

“Richard Paquette provided extraordinary leadership over the past decade and we have seen a 50 percent growth in passenger activity since 2002,” VAA Chair Christine Stoneman says. “Geoff is a seasoned professional with a strong consumer and stakeholder focus. His management style, his familiarity with the community and his passion for the industry will allow for a seamless transition.”

Routes Conference

The World Routes Conference was held in Vancouver in 2010. YYJ (Victoria International Airport) sent delegates to the conference for the first time this year. The annual conference attracts airport representatives, airlines, and tourism and economic development agencies from around the world. YYJ networked with air carriers, discussing some of the services we'd like to see here. Premier Campbell was in attendance, and announced the elimination of the tax on fuel for carriers operating out of BC with des-



Island Express Air added flights between Victoria and Comox airports in early autumn. Information and online bookings are available online at www.islandexpressair.com or call 1-888-856-6260.

tinations in the US and other countries.

Energy Saving Initiatives

The installation of solar hot water heating in the terminal building was completed in 2010, providing heat for approximately 25 percent of winter hot water and 95 percent of summer hot water. Many lights in the terminal building have been replaced with energy efficient lights in partnership with BC Hydro, resulting in significant savings..

Safety Equipment

A new Rosenbauer fire truck has been ordered for the Airport Fire Department. This vehicle is equipped with a high reach extendible turret capable of piercing the wall of an aircraft allowing it to inject fire retardant foam. Installation of new runway guard lights (wigwags) on the main runway has been

completed, and work is underway for a high intensity lighting approach system for the main runway.



Art at the Airport

Victorians are justifiably proud of their airport. The visually appealing terminal building, the nearby forests and grazing cattle, the encircling sea and mountains - all promise the traveller an aesthetic experience. And the promise isn't limited to the beauty of nature. Linda Petch,

a prior Victoria Airport Authority Chair, helped set the direction. "I sold the board on the idea of public art at the airport," she says. "It wasn't really a hard sell." Public art, Linda explains, is often incorporated into construction budgets during the planning phase of public buildings. Since the airport was on the cusp of a large expansion, the timing was just right. "The process involved members of the community, and the board made very wise decisions. We can be very proud of the result. It's a good process and great art."



Linda Petch, a past VAA Chair, originated the Art at the Airport Program.



Terminal Operations Officer Anita Kardos administers the Art at the Airport Program

Terminal Operations Officer Anita Kardos administers the Art at the Airport Program. She describes it as having two tiers. Tier one is commissioned artwork that becomes part of the airport's permanent collection and Tier two is the rotating component of the program. Tier two art is the rotating component of the program. It features art rented from the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, as well as contemporary community art. "It adds warmth and charm to the airport, and enhances the airport experience. One of my favourite things to see is when someone pushing a baggage cart through the terminal stops just to take in the art for a moment." Anita says.

The first commissions for the permanent art collection were awarded in 2002. Artist Linda Stanbridge created Genesis, a ceramic work displayed in the passenger hold area. In this work she celebrates the harmonic structure of nature. The spiral form of



Genesis is displayed in the hold area, above the doorway leading to the ground level covered walkway.



Linda Stanbridge, creator of Genesis

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Art at the Airport continued

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the shell is mirrored in the structure of galaxies, the swirling patterns of weather and the structure of the universe. The central spiral is a focal point within the piece, suggesting a place of arrival and of departure. The lines on the surface of the artwork recall lines of latitude and longitude.

Artist Robert (Bob) Wise created the unusual floating structure suspended from the ceiling of the rotunda. The work is connected to a wind vane on the roof causing it to circle around the room with wind direction changes. "I'm delighted with the reception of the work," Bob says. "I think it has engaged the public in a way that I'm happy with. I call it Roulette - like the croupier's game. It's such a complex technical device, that I can't possibly understand how it works. I just jumped into this thing with a million micro systems. We do that every day in our lives using technical equipment we don't understand ... for example, I can barely make my new telephone work."

The second round of calls for

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Roulette effortlessly floats below the ceiling, its position on the room depending on wind direction.



Artist Robert (Bob) Wise explains Roulette.



Woman in Red, by Francis Baskerville. This painting is part of the rotating component of the Art at the Airport Program



(Above) *Bouquet of Memories* has become an icon for the airport. (Below) *Installing the poppies.*

Art at the Airport continued

FROM PAGE 5

art resulted in presentations were of such high quality that the board commissioned two \$50,000 works, instead of just one as originally intended. Illarion Gallant (Rusnak Gallant Ltd.) created *Bouquet of Memories*, the large aluminium and steel structure located on the plaza across the road from the departures area. Illarion explains that he was inspired for the work by old memories that illustrated for him the tenacity of life in nature. "When I was on a motorcycle trip through the Mojave Desert, I saw these lines on the distant horizon. As I got closer, I saw they were horizontal columns of Monarch Butterflies migrating north. I think that parallels with today's flight. And



Artist Illarion Gallant discusses roots of *Bouquet of Memories*.

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Art at the Airport continued

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I remember something I saw as an Air Cadet in Ontario. We were at an abandoned airfield, and I noticed dandelions growing up through the cracks in the airfield. So I decided I wanted something resembling plant material busting through the urban landscape."

Ed Schaefer and Tom Mercer (Mercer and Schaeffer Glasstudios) were commissioned to create a series of 45 hand-crafted stained glass windows for the departures area. Ed speaks of their vision for AirPlay. "The windows add colour to our grey winter sky. And when the sun is shining, pools of colour are cast onto the floor, moving with the sun and the seasons, and creating an energy without any moving parts. On days with scattered clouds these colours switch on and off as the sun is obscured. It's as much about this magical effect of the stained glass, as it is viewing the actual physical piece."

"The glass installation is over one hundred feet long, and as you're walking the length of the building it's a presence that follows you," Tom says. "For me it's a metaphor for a trip. But it's open to interpretation ... visitors might see butterfly shapes, kites, sails, or pieces of paper riding on a current of air. AirPlay is intended to be friendly and fun, and this point is illustrated by the children seen hop scotching from one pool of colour to another."

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AirPlay adds welcoming colour to the terminal building interior.



Thomas Mercer and Ed Schaefer at their studio.



Art at the Airport continued

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On May 22, 2009, the third floor observation lounge opened as Eagles Landing. First Nations Artist Charles W. Elliott created several works of art for the lounge, including the Eagles Landing carving, and two spindle carvings. His Swimming Salmon are installed on the wall above the main floor baggage carousels. "I want to congratulate the Airport Authority for their bold new move," he says. "There was no First Nations presence here before. I feel a part of the airport now. It's going to lead to better things."

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Charles W. Elliott. works on one of three totem poles now installed at the airport.



Eagles Landing, by Charles W. Elliott.



A series of Swimming Salmon, by Charles W. Elliott, are located above the domestic luggage carousel in the main terminal.



The Coast Salish Mural, by The Creative Peace Mural Society. This mural is part of the rotating component of the Art at the Airport Program.

Art at the Airport continued

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Charles W. Elliott's three totem poles, installed across the road from the arrivals side of the terminal building, provide a balance to Illarion Gallant's Bouquet of Memories at the opposite side. He shared some thoughts about the project while working on one of the poles last autumn. "This pole has a raven, a wolf, maybe an owl, and a bear and a salmon. Bears are respected for their human qualities; they always travel together as a family. The salmon means food and wealth. The wolf is a protector ... caretaker of sacred places. And the raven is the messenger. The raven goes back to the great flood story (in our tradition)." Charles has been carving for more than 40 years,

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Sul Sul Tan, Spindle whorl #2, from red cedar by Master Carver Charles W. Elliott

Art at the Airport continued

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and created 25 to 30 poles, as well as other art.



VAA Chair Christine Stoneman says public art takes a building from "great to sparkle".

Victoria Airport Authority Chair Christine Stoneman expresses great satisfaction with the Art at the Airport Program. "Some wonderful pieces have been acquired. The poppies (Bouquet of Memories) have become iconic of the airport. When you drive up and see the flowers ... and now the totems on the other side ... this just ties it up with a final bow.

It's not just that we enjoy it. The art program gives us an opportunity to support the arts community. There are so many great artists in Victoria. We've been barely scratching at the surface. I'd like to encourage more public buildings to support the arts. I think adding art to a building adds colour and vibrancy. It takes it from great to sparkle."



A Fine Balance, by Francis Baskerville. This painting is part of the rotating component of the Art at the Airport Program.



Foam Within Series #1, by Adelle Andrew. This painting is part of the rotating component of the Art at the Airport Program.



Domestic Graffiti, by Tanta Pennington. This painting is part of the rotating component of the Art at the Airport Program.



Pilgrim, by Linda Darby. This painting is part of the rotating component of the Art at the Airport Program.



Eagles Perch, by Blu Smith. This painting is part of the rotating component of the Art at the Airport Program.





CANEW group shot. VAA Director Facilities Scott Cunningham is third from left in the front row.

Electrical Workers Take in Tour

There's no doubt that Vancouver Island draws its share of tourists. It's also a prime location for professional conferences. And if they are held when the weather is turning cold back home, all the better. In October, electrical workers from airports across Canada converged on Victoria for the Canadian Airports National Electrical Workshop (CANEW). Scott Cunningham, Director Facilities at the Victoria International Airport explains: "It was a week of presentations and plenary sessions. We always include a half day trade show and a half day technical tour as well. This year, we had two presenters from Public Works and one from the Electrical Safety Branch in BC. The plenary sessions are for ideas that come from the

floor. Contributions directly from delegates reflect challenges and solutions. The technical tours this year included the Viking Air facility, the new Airside Operations Center here at YYJ, and the powerhouse on the airfield."

The annual workshop began during the early 1980s, under the guidance of Transport Canada. It was intended as a means of sharing knowledge in the field from one airport to another. Over the years it proved enormously valuable to those on the ground at airports across the country. After control of the airports was transferred to local authorities, CANEW assumed the role of host.

"The objective of the association is to continue this workshop every

year," Scott says. "It includes electrical managers, supervisors, engineers, and electricians. We've had delegates from airports all over the world. CANEW is all volunteer and relies heavily on sponsorship. It's high value for the delegates, the sponsors and trade show people."

VAA CEO Richard Paquette points out that the event has value for the local community as well. The influx of delegates to the workshop made a substantial business impact when normal tourist trade was slowing down for the season. "This was a very significant meeting, and an important part of bringing business to Victoria," he says. "We can all be ambassadors for Victoria."



Left to right: North Saanich Mayor Alice Finall; Tseycum Chief Vern Jacks; Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands; Sobey's CFO Francois Vimard; Christine Stoneman, Chair Victoria Airport Authority; Milford Sorensen, CEO Thrifty Foods.

Thrifty's Ground Breaking

Sobey's grocery chain has announced the construction of a new \$31 million distribution centre designed to meet certification as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

The internationally recognized green building certification calls for features such as waste recycling, heat capture, energy use monitoring, gas leak protection systems and environmentally farmed wood products.

The 150,000 square foot facility will be located on 19

acres of airport land near the intersection of McDonald Park Road and Mills Road in North Saanich. The project is scheduled to begin in 2011 with a target completion date of late 2012. "Sobey's remains committed to the future growth and development of Thrifty Foods here on the Island and across BC," remarked Sobey's CFO Francois Vimard at the ground-breaking in October.

"The Victoria Airport Authority is proud to welcome such a notable community-based com-

pany to the airport," said VAA Chair Christine Stoneman. "The investment by Sobey's in this 18.91 acre site will stimulate the local economy and provide jobs for British Columbians for years to come."





It's a tough job, but someone's gotta do it. (Inset) The Air Pullers won first place with a time of 12.24 seconds.

Chopper Challenge 2010

The annual Chopper Challenge took place on October 16, 2010. The event was organized by Melinda Orlowski of the Victoria Airport Authority, and Sgt. Patricia Kyle, Lt. Eric Girard, and Lt. David Anderson of the 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron.

Six teams participated in the event:

- The Aircraft Servicing Organization (Air Pullers) at first place with a time of 12.34 seconds;
- The Victoria Flying Club in second place with a time of 13.21 seconds;
- The Victoria Airport Authority in third place with a time of 14.37 seconds;
- The Department of National Defence Ping Bosuns;
- The Saturday Pullers from 443 Squadron; and
- The United Way team.

The event was also attended by Jack Knox of the Victoria Times Colonist.

Following the awards ceremony, Melinda Orlowski thanked all the event sponsors, including:

- Save -on-Foods,
- Jenner Chevrolet,
- The Sidney Pier Hotel & Spa,
- Harbour Air Seaplanes,
- The Fairmont Empress,
- Ocean Promotion,
- Buchart Gardens,
- Think Communications,
- Canem Systems,
- Canadian Construction Association,
- Victoria Airport Authority,
- 443 Maritime Helicopter Squadron

The event raised a total of \$1,808 for the United Way Campaign.



Left to right: Debbie Hansen, VAA Manager Corporate Services; Richard Paquette, VAA President and CEO; Beverley Elder, Sidney Lions Food Bank Administrator; and Anita Kardos, PSAC Local 20209 Union Representative.

Sidney Lions Food Bank

Once again this past year, the VAA joined with the Canadian Transportation Employees Union Local 20209 to support the Sidney Lions Food Bank, each group contributing one cent per hour worked. This year, each group contributed \$1,704.36 for a total of \$3,408.72. Beverley Elder, Food Bank Administrator, expressed her thanks: "The Sidney Lions Food Bank is very pleased to receive the generous contributions from the Victoria Airport Authority and the Local Union. Cash is particularly useful, as it can be put towards what is most needed. September was

a particularly busy month providing food to 368 households and 1006 people. The average number of people per month receiving food is about 900." You may contact the Sidney Lions Food Bank at 250-655-0679 or by email fdbank@telus.net.



