

CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

TO: Darla Blake, Chief Administrative Officer
 FROM: Cheryl Waugh, Transportation & Land Use Coordinator
 DATE: May 7, 2015
 SUBJECT: Transportation Services Report-Bella Coola & Denny Island Airports

Recommendation: That the Transportation Services Report dated May 7, 2015 be received
Bella Coola Airport

New Lease

A commitment has been received to enter into a new lease agreement for Lot 9 at the airport. This lot is located immediately to the west of Bella Coola Air and should see a new tenant by mid-summer.

Hangar Fire

Early on April 27th a fire was reported at the Stranaghan hangar at the east end of the airport. The cause of the fire is suspect and the open hangar was destroyed along with a baler, which had been stored inside the structure. Flames also burned or scorched a small section of the forested area that backs onto the site. The Hagensborg Fire Department attended and was able to use the access road near the dike to get to the structure. The owner is undertaking cleanup of the debris.

Wind Storm

The last week of April the airport was struck by a strong wind storm that tipped over the airside outhouse, knocked a taxiway sign post loose and downed a tree onto the dike. All recovery, repairs or removal will be attended to within the next two weeks.

Environment Canada Weather Station

Materials have arrived in preparation for installation of Environment Canada’s weather station. We have not yet been notified of the project start date.

BC Aviation Council Workshop

At the end of April I had the opportunity to travel to Kelowna to attend the BC Aviation Council’s 2015 Annual Workshop. Attendance was record-breaking with airport industry representatives from across British Columbia. Guest speakers focused on topics pertinent to large, medium and small airports, their operations and facilities.

Of particular interest to the Bella Coola Airport were sessions on infrastructure planning and procurement, capital/financial planning, Transport Canada’s proposed regulatory document TP312 5th Edition and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure’s *BC Air Access*

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Program (grant money, maybe!). This latter presentation culminated in a semi-private meeting with two policy analysts responsible for developing the *BC Air Access Program* applications. They heard from five small airports, including Bella Coola, and the needs of each and the lack of available funding for various projects and general upkeep. The exact date for this program roll-out is unknown but is expected to be late 2015.

A tour of Kelowna International Airport was provided as part of the BCAC workshop. We were escorted through the main terminal and went behind the scenes to the Emergency Communications Centre, located in the former air traffic control tower. A Canada Border Services agent shared some interesting insights about experiences in the customs arrival area, which, unlike YVR, has daylight windows and is heated using geothermal technology.

I was fortunate to be able to travel through three different airports on this trip, besides Bella Coola and YVR's South Terminal. Routing took me through Cranbrook's Canadian Rockies International Airport with its impressive terminal and departure lounge, which faces a stunning mountain panorama. Trail was part of the return leg and while I was not impressed with the terminal building the friendly agents at Pacific Coastal and the shop keepers in the town made the nearly four hour layover an enjoyable experience.

The workshop, networking and travel were very interesting and valuable and I'd like to extend particular thanks to Pacific Coastal Airlines for providing an exceptional industry rate, which assisted greatly with the travel budget.

Transport Canada

Work continues to conclude the Corrective Action Plans to remedy items cited during the Transport Canada Program Validation Inspection of October 2013.

Miscellaneous

-maintenance will soon take place to fill and level the gravel runway end safety areas

Denny Island Airport

The Denny Island Airport Commission met on April 23rd to discuss upcoming maintenance projects. *See separate agenda item – Minutes of Denny Island Airport Commission*



Transportation & Land Use Coordinator