

AIRPORT NEWSLETTER

January 28, 2018



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CONFERENCES & TRAINING

	IAAE Canada Online Courses
Apr 9-10	QAA - Quality Assurance Auditing – Halifax, NS
Apr 24 -25	AAWOS - Advanced Airport Winter Operations Specialist – Toronto, ON
Apr 29-30	QAA - Quality Assurance Auditing – Red Deer, AB
Jun 10-11	TP312 5th - Aerodrome Standards & Recommended Practices – Red Deer, AB
Aug 12-13	BAWOS-Basic Airport Winter Operations Specialist – Toronto, ON
Sept 9-10	BAWOS-Basic Airport Winter Operations Specialist – Waterloo, ON
Oct 1-3	WAMSCR - Winter Aircraft Movement Surface Condition Reporting – Red Deer, AB
Oct 21-22	BAWOS -Basic Airport Winter Operations Specialist – Calgary, AB

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NOTE TO READERS: The links connect to many news sites where content is cycled rapidly. If you wait too long before reading, the links will disappear. We invite readers to submit articles and photographs related to their airport operation so others may benefit from the information.

January 1 to 8, 2018:

1. [Travellers say Pearson Airport pet zone gone to the dogs](#)

Pearson Airport may be one of the top-ranked airports in Canada, but some travellers say the dog park there is anything but world class. The pet zone, located by the departure gates in Terminal 1, is often the last stop for many animals before they board a plane. But for dog owners who use this park, they say the facility doesn't befit an airport that was recently named North America's best large airport for customer service.



Chrono Aviation, a charter airline, has recently expanded operations at CYXHU (BERGERON).

2. [Fatal air crashes and deaths up in 2018: watchdog](#)

A total of 556 people died in 15 plane crashes in 2018, significantly more than the previous year, but long-term trends show safety improving, an aviation watchdog reported. The year 2017 was the safest year in aviation history with only 44 people killed in 10 airliner accidents, said the Aviation Safety Network (ASN).

3. [Canadian airlines should make Indigenous landing announcements](#)

Why can't Air Canada and WestJet – the two airlines that fly across Canada – do what Qantas does? How hard would it be to add a standard message of reconciliation while you're asking passengers to put their seats back straight and put away their laptops? In fact, what better place and time to remind millions of Canadians of our enormous debt of gratitude to our Indigenous people than when we're in a plane flying over what was once the millions of square kilometres that was "theirs" and has now been claimed as "ours"? Canada's Minister of Transport, it is my pleasure to mark International Civil Aviation Day. As one of our most important aviation hubs, we could not be more proud to host the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. Since 1947, the Government of Canada has been working closely with ICAO and its international aviation partners to advance civil aviation in Canada and around the world. The progress we have made together is astounding.

4. [Full WestJet plane collides with truck on YVR tarmac](#)


It wasn't the most pleasant start to a trip to sunny Palm Springs for a plane-full of Vancouver International Airport travellers, as their WestJet aircraft collided with a catering truck on the tarmac Thursday morning.

5. [Room to grow](#)

In late August, a Boeing 737-200 airliner from Chrono Aviation, painted in the Quebec-based charter carrier's matte-black livery, landed on the newly-resurfaced main runway at Montreal Saint-Hubert Longueuil Airport (CYHU).

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6. No Canadian airlines on list of world's most punctual

Flyers aboard LATAM Airlines are most likely to make their connecting flight and arrive at their destination on time, according to a new ranking of the world's most punctual airlines. Air travel intelligence company OAG released its 2019 Punctuality League ranking, which recognizes the top airlines for on-time performance, defined as flights that arrive within 15 minutes of their scheduled arrival time.

7. At 21, this aerospace engineering student, former refugee has created her first invention

The distance from Aleppo to the lab at Montreal's Trudeau airport where a young engineer-in-training is perfecting her first invention is 8,580 kilometres, but Shoushi Bakarian's trajectory might better be measured in light speed. Three years ago, Ms. Bakarian was sitting in Lebanon, part of a family of four Syrian refugees facing an uncertain future with hope of making a new start in Canada. Fast-forward those 36 months: Ms. Bakarian is in her third year of aerospace engineering at Montreal's Concordia University. She has learned her fourth language, French – in addition to English, Arabic and Armenian.



Shoushi Bakarian, an aerospace engineering student at Concordia University, poses for a photograph with a ventilation device that she redesigned for Cessna Aircraft, at Stratos Aviation in Montreal on Oct. 30. Bakarian arrived from Syria in 2016. (Ayala, Globe and Mail)

8. Landa Aviation cancels flights between Hay River and Yellowknife

Landa Aviation announced it will no longer be offering flights between Hay River and Yellowknife as of Feb. 15 in a press release on Friday. The company is also making changes that will start on Jan. 15. Landa Aviation will no longer be flying on Tuesdays, and on the remaining days they will be continuing the 7:45 a.m. departure from Hay River and the 6:00 p.m. departure out of Yellowknife.

9. Pilots in Alberta plane crash had used hay field before fatal crash

The Transportation Safety Board says two pilots in a fatal small plane crash in a southern Alberta field had landed and taken off from the site several times. One of the pilots died when the four-seat Piper aircraft went down and burst into flames near Black Diamond last July after clipping some hay bales. The other pilot suffered head injuries but was able to escape from the plane.



A small plane went down near Black Diamond, Alta. on Sunday night, July 30, 2018. (KING, Global News).

10. Airport flight path properties expropriated

The seven property owners whose homes are directly beneath the flight path of planes coming in for a landing at Peterborough Airport were expropriated at the end of October, The Examiner has learned — though no confirmation that expropriation has taken place came from the city on Friday. City council voted in March, 2018 to begin the process of expropriation of seven properties on Greenwood Rd. in Otonabee-South Monaghan Township, just east of the airport. All seven homes front on the Otonabee River.

11. Safety concerns raised as Markham's Buttonville Airport tower closes, leaving pilots on own

Pilots taking off and landing at Markham's Buttonville Airport no longer have the benefit of a flight control tower to guide their movements. Nav Canada decided several months ago to close the flight control tower at Buttonville due to what it determined were insufficient movements. That decision took effect Thursday, Jan. 3.

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12. [Charlottetown Airport looking to expand number of seats and flights to Canadian hubs](#)

The Charlottetown Airport Authority is working to expand capacity for flights destined for Canadian hubs, but not necessarily to new destinations. Airport CEO Doug Newson said in planning for the upcoming summer schedule they've had conversations with different carriers about what can be done this year. "Both Air Canada and WestJet, their strategy is to hub stuff over to Toronto and Montreal and even Halifax to a certain extent and those are our top markets as well," said Newson.

13. [Sarnia Airport renovations helped by new network spot](#)

Sarnia's is the latest to join a group of southern Ontario airports that meet regularly to discuss operations and planning. And the \$3,000 membership fee for Sarnia to be in the Southern Ontario Airport Network (SOAN) is well worth it, said Daniel Byskal, assistant city solicitor and risk manager with the City of Sarnia. "I'm anxious to move forward on it, because it provides a lot of benefit for relatively low capital investment," he said. Sarnia officially joined SOAN in the early days of 2019, after membership was granted in November, he said. The network, including airports in Toronto, Hamilton, London, Oshawa, Peterborough and elsewhere around the province's south, meets quarterly to discuss goings-on with Transport Canada, he said.

14. [Red Deer Airport riding wave of momentum into 2019](#)

After a successful 2018, 2019 is shaping up to be a potentially huge year for the Red Deer Airport. CEO Graham Ingham tells rdnewsNOW a recent announcement from ultra low-cost carrier (ULCC) Enerjet that they are officially moving ahead with operations is likely to have huge implications for Red Deer and central Alberta. "As a low-cost secondary airport, we are in a great position to capitalize on these opportunities, specifically with Red Deer and our access to what amounts to about three million people within 80 minutes," Ingham says. "It's these types of opportunities that really represent the future of the Red Deer Airport."



Red Deer Airport terminal (Red Deer Airport)

15. [UAVs remain a persistent problem around Canadian airports](#)

Transport Canada data on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) flown in or near controlled airspace in 2018 show that this remains a persistent problem, even as the federal government continues to work on updated regulations.

16. [On this airline, your flight attendant is now accepting tips](#)

Use your credit card to buy a taco, a beer or a taxi ride, and it's very likely the receipt screen will solicit a tip. A few years ago, that same option arrived on airlines, to the chagrin of passengers who remember when most food and drink up there was free. Frontier Airlines, a pioneer in the tip-your-attendant department, used to split their tips on each flight. As of Jan. 1, however, Frontier's 2,200 flight attendants no longer pool their gratuities. Now it's every man and woman for themselves, and perhaps one beneficiary will be the harried airline passenger.

17. [Canadians warned about U.S. travel delays as TSA agents call in sick amid shutdown](#)

Canadians travelling to the United States anytime soon may want to prepare for longer lineups at the airports as more Transportation Security Administration employees (TSA) agents are calling in sick amid the partial government shutdown.

A business card for Marshall Lines 2014. The card features the company logo, contact information, and a list of services. The background shows a road with a large '05' painted on it.

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January 8 to 15, 2018:

18. Drone Disrupts Heathrow, Prompting a Scramble to Improve Security

The British police and military forces were working on Wednesday to upgrade the security of airspace around London Heathrow Airport, the busiest in Europe, after drone sightings briefly interrupted service there Tuesday evening, a statement acknowledging sick days began “over the holiday period and have increased.”

19. Porter Airlines to open maintenance base at Thunder Bay International Airport in February

People in northwestern Ontario who are keen to get a job in the aviation industry might soon be able to do so after an announcement by Porter Airlines that the company is expanding their operations at the Thunder Bay International Airport, beginning in February. Airport and company officials along with the city's mayor, Bill Mauro, gathered at the airport on Tuesday afternoon as Porter decalred its intention to open an aircraft maintenance base in Thunder Bay.

20. WestJet passengers describe 'nightmare' after flight from Mexico delayed

A WestJet flight from Mexico to Ottawa turned into a 33-hour ordeal of delays and confusion, passengers say. “Basically I would call it a nightmare,” Betty Clarke told CTV Ottawa. The flight was scheduled to take off Saturday morning from Cancun, Mexico. Clarke says the approximately 150 passengers on the flight spent 4.5 hours sitting in the plane, being offered only one glass of water and one bag of pretzels, before they were told their flight had been cancelled due to a mechanical issue.



Swoop starts flying this month between Hamilton and two destinations in Mexico, Puerto Vallarta, and Cancun (CNW Group)

21. Swoop airline starts flying between Hamilton and Puerto Vallarta

Seven destinations in Mexico and the Caribbean can now be reached from Hamilton's airport. Swoop's inaugural flight from Munro International Airport to Puerto Vallarta takes off at 8 a.m. on Tuesday. That will be followed by the first flight from Hamilton to Cancun on Jan 14.

22. Kamloops Airport has best year ever in 2018

The Kamloops Airport (YKA) took off in 2018, surpassing the previous year's traveller numbers by nearly 40,000 people to establish a new record. At the end of year, 351,631 people had passed through the gates of the local airport, up 37,267 travellers from 2017. Those numbers were aided by a record December that had 35,132 passengers pass through over the holiday season.

23. Ottawa airport offers last chance to jettison cannabis before int'l flights

The Ottawa airport has installed a pair of cannabis disposal bins for the forgetful international traveller. While they were installed the same week recreational pot became legal last October, the airport hasn't yet called on city police to empty them. One bin is at the domestic and international pre-board screening checkpoint and the second is at the transborder checkpoint for U.S.-bound passengers.



Cannabis disposal bins at the Ottawa Airport (U/JPAN08)

24. GTAA announces 2020 retirement of president and CEO

The Board of Directors of the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) has announced that GTAA president and CEO Howard Eng will retire in 2020 after 40 successful years as an airport executive, culminating with eight superb years at the helm of Canada's largest airport.

25. No-deal Brexit could disrupt international air travel, airline association chief says

Disruptions to air travel are possible if Britain crashes out of the European Union in March without a deal, the head of the leading association for airlines around the world warned Thursday. Alexandre de Juniac, director general and CEO of International Air Transport Association, said the risk to traffic flow is partly under control after the announcement of contingency plans.

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26. [Canada prepares to roll out new drone regs](#)

Persistent incursions by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) into controlled or restricted airspace have prompted the Canadian government to announce new regulations which will take effect June 1. A Transport Canada spokesperson explained to Skies that the delay in putting the new regime into effect is designed to give UAV operators time to not only familiarize themselves with the new rules, but also to take an online exam to get a "drone pilot certificate" and register their UAV.



New drone regulations will impact drones with a gross weight between 0.25-35KGs

27. [Man working on helicopter hit by main rotor blades, killed](#)

Authorities say a man was hit in the head by the main rotor blades and killed while working on a helicopter at a Florida airport. A Hernando County Sheriff's Office news release says 62-year-old Salvatore Disi died Thursday afternoon near the hangars at Brooksville-Tampa Bay Regional Airport.

28. [Charlottetown Airport registers third straight hike in traffic in 2018](#)

Passenger traffic continues to fly higher at the Charlottetown Airport. The airport registered an increase in passenger numbers for the third straight year in 2018. There was a total of 370,730 passenger movements in 2018, up slightly from the previous year. Over the past five years, traffic has increased by 25 per cent.



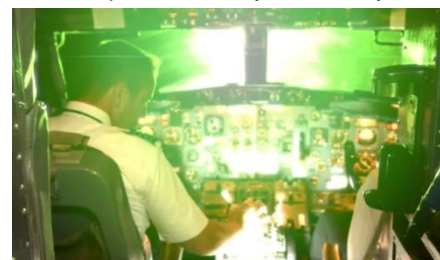
Airline staff deice an aircraft in Northern Labrador (OneillyatesCBC)

29. [Thunder Bay, Ont., airline says province needs to get into de-icing business](#)

An airline based in Thunder Bay, Ont., says the provincial government needs to start funding de-icing services at northern and remote airports, after an interim report was released by the Transportation Safety Board, looking into a plane crash in Fond-du-Lac, Saskatchewan.

30. ['A challenge' for Thunder Bay airport crews to clear mounds of snow from 2 storms in 2 weeks](#)

Two major winter storms in less than two weeks kept crews at the Thunder Bay International Airport Authority Inc., busy through late December and early January. "It's been a challenge," said Ryan Brading, the manager of airport services at the northwestern Ontario facility, which is the fourth busiest in Ontario, and number 16 on the list across Canada.



Aircraft cockpit during a laser pointer attack (Transport Canada)

31. [Thunder Bay film maker says new drone regulations will "put him out of business."](#)

A Thunder Bay based film-maker says the new federal drone regulations, introduced earlier this week, will have a major impact on his business. Alan Auld, who owns Imagine Films, said the regulations will ground small operators like him and make it very expensive to get aerial work done in the city. Auld said after the new regulations come in on June 1, he will need an upgraded type of drone to legally fly in the city.

32. ['Laser strike' on Porter flight into Windsor to be investigated](#)

Porter Airlines pilots had to take 'action' after they say a laser strike occurred in early January on flight from Toronto to Windsor. Pilots of a Porter flight that was on its initial approach to Windsor International Airport saw the laser above Tupperville, Ont. around 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 4. "It was at an altitude of approximately 4,000 feet when a laser strike occurred," said a spokesperson for Porter via email. "The pilots took appropriate action and reported the incident."



Jumbo jet lands at YLW (Global News)

33. [Miami airport to close terminal as gov shutdown continues](#)

Miami International Airport is closing a terminal this weekend due to the government shutdown because security screeners have been calling in sick at twice the airport's normal rate. Friday marks the first day screeners will miss a paycheck, and airport spokesman Greg Chin said there's a concern there won't be enough workers to handle all 11 checkpoints during normal hours over the weekend.

34. [Kelowna cracks top-10 list of national airports](#)

With more flights coming and going on a daily basis, Kelowna International Airport is a busy place. So busy, in fact, that it's now one of Canada's top-10 airports. This, despite one website ranking the Central Okanagan as just the 22nd largest region in the nation with an approximate population of 195,000.

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35. Ottawa airport surpasses 5M annual passengers for the first time

The Ottawa International Airport cracked a coveted milestone this past year as more than five million passengers walked through its gates over the course of 2018. The local airport authority says it passed the five million mark on Dec. 23 and finished the year with 5,110,801 travellers, up 5.6 per cent from 2017. The total number of passengers passing through YOW has been steadily rising for more than a decade, but the leap from 2017 to 2018 is the largest in recent years.

36. Government of Canada invests in Webequie First Nation airport

The Honourable Bob Nault, member of Parliament (MP) for Kenora, on behalf of the Honourable Marc Garneau, minister of Transport, visited the airport in Webequie First Nation to tour the recently completed project to replace the airfield electrical system.

37. I Spent a Day at the 'World's Best Airport' and It Was Pretty Good

At roughly half the size of Los Angeles, Singapore is one of the smaller countries on the planet. But what it lacks in land mass, it makes up for in opulent, massive edifices that convey the country's wealth, draw in tourists from around the globe, and give the tiny nation more superlatives than a high school yearbook. Though they lay claim to the world's first double helix bridge, and its highest pool, Singapore's crown jewel is undoubtedly its massive airport, Changi.



Indoor pool at Singapore Changi Int'l Airport (MAK)

38. Another record-breaking year at Abbotsford International Airport

More and more people are flying through Abbotsford's airport these days, and YXX is now marking a record year for passenger volumes. Just over 840,000 people passed through last year. That's up about 25 per cent from 2017, which was also a record year. The only hiccup was in June, when the airport saw a slight (2%) dip in the number of passengers coming through.

39. Canadian air traffic controllers send pizza to US counterparts amid government shutdown

Air traffic controllers in Canada attempted to relieve some of the stress of the U.S. government shutdown with pizza. Pizza makes everyone smile. Proud to help even a little bit!" the Canadian Air Traffic Control Association tweeted Sunday. "Our members have sent over 300 pizzas so far!" an additional tweet read.

40. Lethbridge Mayor Spearman delivers 2019 State of the City Address

One particular point of emphasis was the continuing growth the Lethbridge Airport is seeing since the City of Lethbridge took ownership of it from Lethbridge County back in July. Spearman referenced airports in smaller cities like Moncton, New Brunswick and Charlottetown, P.E.I. that see more flights and more direct economic spinoff in the areas near their airports as examples the city can follow as they continue to grow that sector.

41. North Peace Regional Airport traffic soars to new record in 2018

Passenger traffic at the North Peace Regional Airport jumped six per cent to a new record in 2018. The airport saw 268,240 passengers through its terminal last year, up from 252,898 passengers in 2017.



Collingwood Airport (Collingwood Today)

42. Kamloops Airport seeks space for development

Kamloops Airport wants to open up lots for aviation development after seeing an increased interest in airside land. Seven new leases were negotiated last year and managing director Heather McCarley told council on Tuesday the airport has applied for provincial funding for a taxi lane extension that would open 10 to 12 additional lots.

43. Collingwood Airport sale is closing this month

The business of selling the Collingwood airport should come to a close this month, but it may not be the last discussion this council has on their soon-to-be former asset. Winterland Developments issued a statement late Wednesday afternoon (Jan. 16) confirming the company is working toward a sale closing date of Jan. 31. "We have an exciting plan to operate and expand the Collingwood Regional Airport for the benefit of the local community, the aviation community, and the entire region," reads the statement sent out by Proof, a communication and marketing agency.

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44. Nunavut government hopes for new bidders to drum up competition in airline market

The government of Nunavut is trying to drum up competition in the territory's airline market as it looks for new bidders for its medical and work travel business. Its airline contracts are due for renewal this year. In the request for proposals issued on Jan. 11, the government deviated from its previous contract configuration by breaking out the most travelled routes connecting Nunavut to southern Canada.

45. Lethbridge air show postponed until 2020

The Lethbridge International Air Show will be on hiatus for a second consecutive summer, with a return now planned for 2020, organizers said this week. Since 2013, the event had been taking place every two years at the Lethbridge Airport. The last show occurred in July 2017. In December, event officials notified both Lethbridge city and county councils about the postponement.

46. WestJet gets first of 10 new Dreamliners

A big coup for Calgary-based WestJet, which welcomed the first of 10 Dreamliners to YYC Calgary International Airport on Thursday. The airline will use the planes for longer-range destinations, and three of them will be hubbed out of Calgary. "Today's delivery marks a new chapter for WestJet," WestJet President and CEO Ed Sims said in a news release. "Boeing's 787 Dreamliner is one of the most technologically advanced aircraft ever flown and is the perfect platform for our transition to a global network carrier."



Officials at WestJet accepting their first Dreamliner (WestJet)

47. WestJet plane slides off taxiway at Edmonton airport amid icy conditions

A WestJet plane that was to depart for Victoria ended up sliding off a taxiway at Edmonton International Airport on Friday night. A spokesperson for the airline said nobody was injured but the flight was cancelled as a result.

48. Passenger count down, fuel sales up at Trail Regional Airport

The long winter of 2018 and a summer of wildfire smoke had the annual passenger count at Trail Regional Airport landing with a bit of a thud. The final tally for all 12 months stands at 18,643 commuters, which is down about 1,900 passengers from 2017. "It looks like winter weather in January, February, and November affected our landings and passenger counts," noted Robert Baker, airport manager. One reason this statistic is important is because fewer passengers means less revenue for the city to offset operational costs. For each seat sold, Trail takes in a \$13 passenger fee from the airport carrier, Pacific Coastal Airlines.

49. Calgary International Airport replaces firefighters with private fire crew

A decades-old relationship between the Calgary Fire Department and the Calgary Airport Authority will be coming to an end next month. The contract between the two organizations is expiring, and once it does, Calgary firefighters will leave the airport station for the last time. Under a new contract arrangement, the Calgary Airport Authority will replace city firefighters with private crews on March 1. YYC owns the airport's fire station and all the specialized equipment inside.

50. Thunder Bay Airport sets passenger volume record for 3rd straight year

More people are taking to the skies at the local airport. The Thunder Bay International Airport for the third consecutive year set a new passenger volume record, with more than 869,000 travellers passing through in 2018. That increase amounts to nearly three per cent more than the previous year. Airport president and chief executive officer Ed Schmidtke said demand has grown by 12 per cent over the past three years.



Thunder Bay Airport terminal (TB News)

51. Saskatoon's airport authority implements flat rates for some taxi rides

Saskatoon's airport authority has instituted flat-rate pricing for taxi trips to the airport from different areas of the city. The flat-rate pricing, which only applies to taxi providers licensed by the airport authority, came into effect on Jan. 17. According to Skyxe, the airport authority, the most expensive rides within city limits will be to the airport from areas such as Stonebridge, Lakeview and Rosewood, where the trip will cost you \$41.

52. Hard working Indigenous pilot has her eye in the sky

For Meadow Lake resident Daniella Petitti, becoming a pilot was something she imagined she could do, but didn't have the confidence or resources to get there. While in her teens, Petitti first went on a flight with a friend and thought "it was so awesome, and so amazing. It really just opened my eyes." Eventually, in her late 20s, while working in a medical lab in Calgary, she had a chance encounter with a pilot who heard her story and gifted her \$500 to help her take the first step.

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53. Air Canada's confidence in Fort McMurray's economy soars

Despite the lack of pipeline access, low oil prices and a declining population, Air Canada says it's confident in Fort McMurray's economy. WestJet recently cut its sole daily direct flight from the oilsands capital to Toronto — a crucial air bridge for passengers heading to Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada. However, Air Canada said it's committed to maintaining this route over the long term.

54. United Airlines Passengers Stuck On Goose Bay Airport Tarmac For 16 Hours In Freezing Labrador

An end is finally in sight for passengers who spent 16 gruelling hours on a plane grounded on a tarmac in frigid Happy Valley-Goose Bay, N.L., though a passenger was left frustrated by the experience and wondering why it took so long to get help. "You're cold, you're tired, you're hungry," said Sonjay Dutt, a professional wrestler who was travelling to an event in China. "I've travelled for work pretty much on a weekly basis for the last almost 20 years, and I've never experienced something like this."



United Airline Passengers deplane after diverting to Goose Bay Airport (SONJAY)

55. Record Setting Year for Prince George Airport

For the first time in the airport's 77 year history, more than half a million passengers have come through YXS. The Prince George Airport Authority says this year brought 506,486 people through the doors of the airport, up from 499,125 passengers in 2017. Four airlines currently operate out of the airport to scheduled destinations across Canada as well as seasonal flights to Puerto Vallarta Mexico.

56. N.B. Airports Beat Passenger Records In 2018

New Brunswick's three main airports – Saint John, Moncton and Fredericton – beat their own passenger records last year. The Fredericton International Airport hosted 424,324 passengers in 2018, nearly a seven per cent increase from 2017. It was also the first time in the airport's history it has reached the 400,000 passenger milestone, said Johanne Gallant, president and CEO of Fredericton International Airport Authority.

57. Flights to Newark Airport in New Jersey temporarily halted due to drone activity

Arrivals at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J., were temporarily halted early Tuesday evening due to drone activity above another airport in the area. NBC reported that two drones were spotted some 3,500 feet above Teterboro Airport, located less than 30 kilometres from Newark Liberty. Some flights were grounded at their departure locations to reduce the backlog of incoming flights, ABC reported.



Driverless bus as Tokyo Haenda (TOSHIFUMI.AFP)

58. Tokyo airport tests driverless bus to shuttle visitors

Visitors pouring into Japan's Haneda airport for the Tokyo Olympics next year may find themselves ferried to and from planes on driverless buses, currently being tested at the major hub. Six Japanese firms, including national carrier ANA, jointly started a 10-day experiment with a self-driving prototype minibus last week. On Tuesday, officials allowed a sneak peak at the automated transportation, which is being tested with a safety driver in the front seat.

59. Swoop to connect London to Edmonton, Abbotsford, and Halifax

Westjet's discount airline, Swoop, will begin flying to and from the London International Airport later this spring. Daily flights will be available to Edmonton, Abbotsford, B.C. and Halifax, the airline announced Tuesday. Service to Edmonton will begin April 28, with flights to Abbotsford and Halifax beginning May 24. Swoop will operate 189-seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft for the routes. Fares will start as low as \$99 for one-way flights.

60. Bonnyville Gearing up for inaugural drag racing event

A local car club is one step closer to hosting the area's first drag race, and they're sharing what they have so far with the community. The Bonnyville Gear Grabbers are hosting an information session starting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 29 at the Bonnyville Neighbourhood Inn. "It's an opportunity for anybody that's interested in drag racing, in volunteering, or just in hearing what's going on in detail," detailed Shon Gamache, club director, adding attendees will have the chance to meet with other car and racing enthusiasts, and learn more about becoming a member.



Local Bonnyville club, the Gear Grabbers, are one step closer to hosting the area's first drag race. (Bonnyville Nouvelle)

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61. Dawson Creek plans \$22 million in infrastructure projects

At a special meeting of council last Thursday, Dawson Creek city council voted in favour of applying for grants for three infrastructure projects — the airport runway extension, the Encana Events Centre parking lot parking and access upgrade, and 96th Avenue paving upgrades. “In applying to these grants, we are committing to these projects — committing to restricting funding and making sure that funding is available if we are approved,” notes CAO Duncan Redfean on the significance of the City applying for these grants.

62. Ridge Riders to host snowmobile drags at airport

Engines will be roaring this Sunday at the Vermilion Airport. Snowmobile engines, that is. The Vermilion Ridge Riders Snowmobile Club have organized a snowmobile drag race event, along with the Straightline Snowmobile Racing Association (SSRA), with the first race set to go at 11 a.m. on Jan. 27. “It’s a sanctioned snowmobile race association, and they’re doing snowmobile drag races,” says Ridge Rider’s president, Warren Young. “There will be professional racers there, but they have amateur classes for everybody.”

63. Mystery plane that keeps buzzing above Kingston captured in photographs

While information about the airplane flying over the city is still largely unknown, one local aircraft enthusiast has parted the clouds and shed a little light on the mystery. When Neil Aird, a member of the international flight-tracking organization Flightradar24, heard the plane but couldn’t see it, he needed to know more. “I’m attuned to airplanes, and the first time I heard it was on the Friday night [Jan. 4],” Aird said. “It was cold, starry night, but I put my head out the window and I could hear it but I couldn’t see it.” Aird initially thought it could have been a drone, but when he looked on his personal radar, he said he saw “C-GMPB PC-12,” the call sign of the RCMP’s Pilatus PC-12.



The Pilatus PC-12 that has been “loitering” over Kingston, Ont., for more than two weeks captured on Jan. 13. (AIRD)

64. Detroit airport reopens after icy conditions closed runways overnight

Detroit Metropolitan Airport has reopened after icy weather conditions prompted officials to shut it down Tuesday evening. The Federal Aviation Administration reported Detroit airport was closed about 8 p.m. Tuesday. The shutdown stranded travellers, with dozens of flights Tuesday night and Wednesday cancelled or delayed.

65. 10 passengers hospitalized, dozen fall ill on plane at Quebec City airport

Ten passengers were transported to hospital after a dozen travellers on board a plane at a Quebec City airport reported feeling unwell. At 10:45 a.m. Thursday, firefighters evacuated the Air Transat plane on the tarmac at Jean Lesage International Airport after passengers experienced various symptoms including itchy eyes, dizziness, and vomiting, airport spokesperson Laurianne Lapierre said during a press conference. Paramedics looked at all 185 passengers on board Air Transat flight 782 to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. and sent 10 to hospital, Lapierre said. A spokesperson for the Quebec City’s CHUQ hospital said the patients were not seriously injured.

66. YVR working with Delta to address aircraft noise

The Vancouver International Airport is committed to proactively working with communities that could be impacted by increases in air traffic noise. That’s the assurance offered in the final YVR 2037 Master Plan, a 20-year roadmap for the airport that has been approved by the federal government.

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