

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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| Happy Birthday | Happy Anniversary |
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UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

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| July 12: | July 19: | July 26: |
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ROTARY MEETING JULY 5, 2022 SPECIAL PROGRAM



The new 40,000 ft.² airport terminal building which opened in 2022

For this week's Rotary meeting, Eric arranged for us a tour of the Pitt Meadows Airport (YPK), where we were greeted by



Guy Miller, CAO and General Manager and



Amanda Zannet, Airport Administration.

Rotarians in attendance were Laurie, Ineke, Peter, Clint (with daughter Caitlyn as guest), Mark Forster, Brenda (with husband Al as guest) Sharon Kyle, Lynda Lawrence, Eric, Libby, and Chili.



One of the highlights of the tour was to meet **Chris Georgas** and visit one of his two hangars (he owns 50,000 ft.² of hangar space that he rents to other pilots). Chris taught high school for over 20 years before starting Pacific Rim Aviation Academy, a flight school located at the airport. Chris is a pilot and instructor who's been flying since he was 16 years old, clocking thousands of flight hours. He currently lives in Sechelt but flies his Cessna 152 plane almost daily to the Pitt Meadows Airport. He is 78 years young and very enthusiastic about aviation. He is a supporter of General Aviation in every way imaginable.



Chris Georgas, founder of Pacific Rim Aviation Academy

Chris is a great and enthusiastic admirer of his enthusiastic father, **Bill Georgas**, who was an enthusiastic Rotarian and a member of the Rotary club of Owen Sound, in southwestern Ontario, for over 60 years. (Enthusiasm and talent obviously run in the Georgas' DNA.) Chris says of his father, "He was a champion among men, athletic beyond imagination, but his true passion was the Rotary Club and his fundraisers.... He was a Miracle Man and was recognized with the Paul Harris Award for his unswerving dedication and service to his community". He was a sportsman, musician, and a champion of children's charities. Through "Skiarama", Bill raised tens of thousands of dollars for Easter Seals. He always had time to teach a child how to ski or roller blade. He was a constant supporter of the Easter Seals' summer camp.



Bill Georgas, father of Chris and a great Rotarian (1918 – 2007)

An Interesting Rotary Fact – Rotary Clubs founded Easter Seals in Canada.

In Canada, Easter Seals is a group of charitable organizations which support the development and advancement of people living with different types of disabilities. **It was founded in 1922 by representatives from seven Rotary clubs who came together to form the "Ontario Society for Crippled Children", later to be renamed "Easter Seals Ontario".** It sought to emulate the success of the American Easter Seals program. In 1923 Rotary clubs started helping families get mobility devices for their children with disabilities – 500 items were purchased over the organization's first three years. In 1931 Ontario Easter Seals launched a public campaign for the universal pasteurization of milk to help stop the spread of tuberculosis, and in 1935 was the first organization to employ nurses to carry service into homes. In 1937 through the generous support of Rotary clubs, Easter Seals open Blue Mountain camp in Collingwood, Ontario, the first Canadian camp for children with disabilities. Today, Easter Seals is set up as a federated led by Easter Seals Canada which represents the organization's national interests, and provincially-licensed member organizations in each of the ten provinces that directly provide a range of programs, and services locally. Across Canada, Easter Seals supports over 40,000 children, youth, adults and their families each year. The best-known and largest of Easter Seals services are the summer camp programs. There are 12 Easter Seals accessible camp facilities across Canada that are geared towards providing camp opportunities to over 4,600 children with physical or mental disabilities

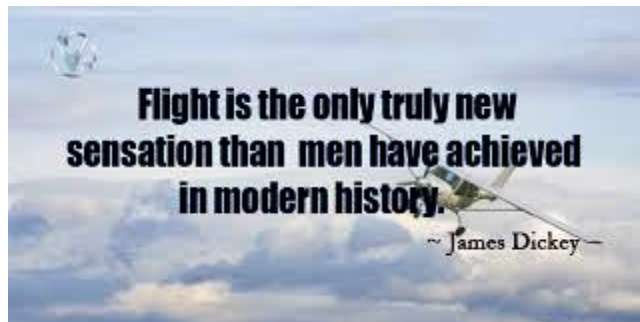
Back at the new airport terminal, **Guy Miller** talked to us about the Pitt Meadows Airport. In 1998, the districts of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows jointly took custody from the federal government under the offices of the **Pitt Meadows Airport Society**, a non-profit organization which is governed by a Board of Directors who are appointed equally by the city of Pitt Meadows and the city of Maple Ridge. It gets no tax support from either city and must operate as a business and support itself. Its primary income comes from leasing the land. When the Society was formed, a \$14 million endowment fund for the airport was set up from proceeds generated from the sale of some land, but the airport does not rely on that fund to keep going. The airport is situated on 770 acres, and it still has 120 acres yet to develop. YPK generates hundreds of jobs, and contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax revenue to the city of Pitt Meadows.



By 1972 – 1973, Pitt Meadows was the busiest airport in the whole of Canada with over 250,000 aircraft movements annually, but with the opening of Boundary Bay Airport in Delta in 1983, air traffic at YPK declined. Currently, 35% of all air traffic which use the six local airports (including Vancouver airport) in the lower mainland comes through the YPK. Its control tower has a three nautical mile radius. In addition to small private planes, it also accommodates private jets, float planes and helicopters. The jet used by BC air ambulance also uses the airport (without landing fees). Its lease rates are very competitive (about five dollars per square metre compared to the Vancouver airport which are about 10 times higher). Nine flight training schools are located at the airport, which features three asphalt runways, three helipads, and a separate float plane dock along the Fraser River. The air traffic control tower operates from 7 AM to 11 PM 365 days per year.

Following Guy's talk, we ate lunch at the **Charlie Foxtrot airport café** in its temporary location. It is scheduled to move into the main airport terminal within a couple of weeks. The food was good and the prices reasonable.

Today' Quote:



Submitted by Laurie Anderson