

Message from Our Chair

Bram Tilroe



This was an excellent summer for flying activities for General Aviation in Alberta. Although the weather was very hot at times, many pilots took the opportunity to fly and participate in the three Airtours as well as explore many of the airstrips in this great province. The smoke from the wild fires kept us grounded at times and the August Airtour was delayed until August 28 when ideal weather returned. We were warmly received by each community who provided food and swag bags. The local population also showed up at each airport to see the planes and interface with the pilots. These tours were an excellent public relations opportunity to showcase the importance of each airport to the local population as well as the local politicians.

The council took the opportunity to advertise, promote and distribute our membership forms and key tags. We also ensured that our 2020 laminated map was on the wall at the various terminal buildings. The AAC put up a one year membership and a \$200 gift

certificate from Calgary Pilot Supply which was won by **Dave Mclean** at the last stop in Drumheller.

Vice Chairman **Bruce Sinclair** and I also flew up to High Prairie to attend their BBQ and toured this fabulous airport which boasts the lowest fuel price in the region.

We are now very active on various social media platforms, thanks to our Director, **Sophia Wells**, which increases our visibility with the aviation community.

These activities are detailed further on in this newsletter along with some of the photos. Our summer participation in aviation activities, meeting pilots and airport operators has translated into increased membership and has elevated the role and awareness that the AAC is alive and well and meeting its mandate in Alberta.

Unfortunately the recent COVID restrictions caused many Fly-Ins to be cancelled.

The airline industry is also picking up and we see a general increase in air

traffic. Nav Canada has also decided not to pursue closing facilities and/or reducing hours, which is well received as with the increase in traffic the services will be required. They had to make some tough decisions during COVID due to the severely reduced revenue.

Thank You for the Donation

Alberta Aviation Council would like to thank **Jay Kemp** for his donation to the council in memory of **Derek Umbach** an AME who worked at the Edmonton International Airport.



IN THIS ISSUE

What Has the Council Been Doing Over the Past Few Months?

additional information about member's activities found within this newsletter

Bram Tilroe & Bruce Sinclair, Representing the Council on all three Alberta Air Tours this summer. These directors also flew to Del Bonita airstrip. (page 3)

Michael Stimac, Attended the Air Tour #2 & #3 for AAC in Drumheller & Wetaskiwin. (page 3)

Kendra Kincade, Michael Stimac, Rick Achtmichuk, Working with Elevate Aviation on a grant submission

Brian Andrus & Kendra Kincade, Planning the AAC / Elevate Conference in April 2022. (page 2)

SAAC Members Announced at the Alberta International Airshow



L to R: Brian Andrus, Elizabeth Evans, Richard Gotfried (Chair), Rajan Sawhney (Minister of Transport), Kendra Kincade. Missing: Justin Jimmy, Ferio Pugliese, David Wheeler

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Upcoming Aviation Events

- **November 3-4, 2021, Saskatoon**
Wings of Saskatchewan Conference & Tradeshow
- **November 16-18, 2021, Montreal**
ATAC Conference & Tradeshow
- **November 20, 2021,**
AAC AGM
Virtual meeting
- **March 1-2, 2022, Calgary**
Western Innovation Forum
- **April 21-23, 2022, Calgary**
AAC & Elevate Aviation Conference
- **August 12-14, 2022, Villeneuve**
Alberta International Airshow



SAAC - MOVING FORWARD

SAAC Update

Alberta Aviation Council is pleased to announce the first eight members of Strategic Aviation Advisory Council (SAAC). These members were announced at the Alberta International Airshow on August 21, 2021. (Note: additional members of the council will be announced in the coming months.)

We wish to congratulate the following individuals who have been appointed by the Alberta Minister of Transportation for a term ending June, 2024:

- 1) Richard Gotfried, MLA - Chair of the Strategic Aviation Advisory Council
- 2) Brian Andrus
- 3) Elizabeth Evans
- 4) Lynda Holden
- 5) Justin Jimmy
- 6) Kendra Kincade
- 7) Ferio Pugliese
- 8) David Wheeler

SAAC will provide recommendations to the government for aviation strategies in Alberta. This council does not develop or dictate policy for the government. It is an independent, industry driven body representing the aerospace and aviation business segments to provide direction for Alberta's aviation future. A significant emphasis will likely be placed on a post-COVID recovery plan along with many other important strategies at the provincial and possibly even at the national level.

AAC is very fortunate to have two of our directors sit on this Council, **Brian Andrus** and **Kendra Kincade**.

Heads Up - Luxury Tax

Apparently the government will be moving ahead with the luxury tax on personal aircraft. More info, link <https://www.wingsmagazine.com/cbaa-responds-to-proposed-luxury-tax-on-personal-aircraft/>

Casinos Update - COVID-19

Casinos are opening but are still following some COVID restrictions. Our next AAC casino will be pushed out into early 2022. Cancelled casinos will be rescheduled which will cause a ripple effect to all previously scheduled casinos. AGLC will advise us when our date is secured.

Good link for Resources

The British Columbia Aviation Council (BCAC) has collected a number of useful resource links related to COVID-19 and the aviation industry.

LINK

AAC Webinar Series - AAC & Elevate Aviation Conference

Webinars

The AAC had a very successful webinar series in the spring offering six seminars focusing on Alberta aviation and the aerospace environment from both a current and post-pandemic perspective. Because of COVID, the series was presented through video conferencing.

The webinar series was sponsored by the Alberta Aviation Council and by Elevate Aviation. Elevate Aviation hosted each session and the AAC provided a moderator from its Board of Directors. The majority of the sessions had a panel of three speakers and the sessions were approximately one hour in length. The sessions were free.

Future dates and topics yet to be determined.



Thanks to **Kendra Kincade**, **Steve Michoulas** and **Brian Andrus** for organizing the event.

AAC, CAHF and Elevate Planning an In-Person Conference

The Council, Elevate Aviation and Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame are combining resources to have an in-person conference April 22-24, 2022 in Calgary. Plans are in the works in regards to the program, speakers and facilities for this event.

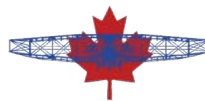
In developing our program, each organization will plan its own program objectives and where practical, we will have combined sessions. We are also looking at two key-note speakers to compliment our conference.

AAC will also conduct their AGM during the conference.

SAAC will also be attending the conference with a session on the status of the Alberta aviation strategy.

More information to follow in the months to come!

Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame
Pantheon de l'Aviation du Canada



ELEVATE AVIATION

Thank You Elevate Aviation

We were at the Alberta International Airshow, August 21 & 22 and shared a booth with them.

AAC PARTICIPATES IN AIR TOURS

The Alberta Aviation Council has participated in three air tours organized by **Dina Jammaz** from Elevate Aviation, **MLA Shane Getson**, and **Scott Holmes**, air racer and co-producer of Deadstick Radio. This was to promote general aviation, nonprofit aviation groups, and the aerodromes located in our beautiful province. The tour is promoting the importance of the aviation industry and how regional airports can play a role in Alberta's economic recovery.

The goal was to show off all these small airports and then the communities around them so private pilots when they're flying around, know where to land and know where to stay-and-play.

The aviation community collectively combined forces to visit several rural airports in central Alberta. The following is a list of the airports attended at each Air Tour:

- **Air Tour #1** - June 12, 2021
Villeneuve, Mayerthorpe, Whitecourt, Lac La Biche, Westlock, Villeneuve
- **Air Tour #2** - July 10, 2021
Drayton Valley, Rocky Mountain House, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin
- **Air Tour #3** - August 28, 2021
Sundre, Airdrie, Drumheller



AAC Directors Michael Stimac & Brian Andrus in Wetaskiwin, AirTour #2.



Bram Tilroe, Chair of the AAC Board, presents AAC prize to Dave Maclean in Drumheller



Michael Stimac, one of our AAC Directors travelling to Drumheller. Edmonton in the background.

HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER - DEL BONITA AIRSTRIP

Meeting at the Border

On June 16, 2021 AAC Directors **Bram Tilroe** and **Bruce Sinclair** participated in the annual Hands Across the Border Work Session at the Del Bonita airstrip on the border of Canada and USA. The event consists of parties from both sides of the border walking the strip and filling the gopher holes to prevent damage to aircraft. The fence



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was also checked, poles were replaced if necessary, and grass was mowed.

One photo shows Karen Speeg of Montana Aeronautics, talking to Wayne Wilderman of the Alberta Flying Farmers who coordinated the Canadian side. We were not able to have



the usual lunch BBQ however we had a tailgate lunch when the work was done. It was great to see Montana

Transportation Director Mack Long digging right in and we thank the support of Montana Aeronautics Division.

Approximately 20 people participated from both sides of the border. Some flew in and others drove. It is very important to keep this valuable airstrip open as it is one of the easiest way to cross the border to access Canada Customs and US Customs.

