

FRIENDS OF ONT

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

PHOTO SPOTLIGHT



A full rainbow spotted over our airfield after a day of So Cal rain.

Message from the President, Myron Saulpaugh



It's April and it's time for another meeting. I hope you can all make it to the ONT Museum on the 18th at 4:00 pm. There have been many things happening at the airport, including a book signing in the terminal with Terry Steele. Come and learn more about what's going on with the airport.

Currently, there is an opportunity to volunteer at the Full-Scale Emergency Response Exercise (ONT AirEx). It is required by the FAA to test the Airport Emergency Plan and we would love your help! More information on deadlines on page 5. See you all at the meeting soon!

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS

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**ONT AirEx 2024 Is
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COMMENTS/ QUESTIONS?

Email us at
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And We're Off! 2024 Continues ONT's Record Pace



This (still) new year is picking up where 2023 left off, with overall passenger volumes surging and international travel reaching record highs. ONT welcomed 449,893 passengers during February, a 9% increase over the same month last year.

It marked the 36th consecutive month of year-over-year increases, a remarkable feat by any standard but particularly given the struggles many airports have had in returning to pre-pandemic levels. After passenger volumes hit 6.4 million in 2023, ONT officials see the all-time record of 7.2 million – set before the Great Recession – as within reach in 2024.



But the big story is the continued growth in international travel. More than 36,000 travelers flew directly to or from international destinations during February – a 68% increase from February 2023. With flights to Taiwan, Mexico and Central America, ONT has become a premier international gateway for Southern Californians, offering the same convenient, stress-free experience that has become ONT's trademark.

[Learn More](#)

On Your Mark, Get Set ...

By all accounts, the 2nd annual 5K at the Runway was a huge success. The event attracted 940 runners and more than 1,600 community event attendees. Thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible, in support of USO at Ontario International Airport.

[Event Recap](#)



Signing And Singing ... Or The Other Way Around?



You might know Terry Steele for his career as a singer and songwriter but his love for gardening brought him to ONT for the Authors at ONT program in late February. Steele signed copies of his book, "From the Garden to the Table: Growing, Cooking and Eating Your Own Food," and sang a few original songs.

[Event Recap](#)

ONT Gets Enhanced Customs Designation



ONT's growth as a global gateway would not be possible without the support and partnership of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In recent months, this partnership has yielded a number of major international-travel enhancements, including our new [Simplified Arrivals](#) system and the recently opened [Global Entry Enrollment Center](#). Now comes the official announcement that ONT will transition to a designated Landing Rights Airport in September, allowing us to provide even greater international service for both passenger travel and goods movement.

Under the new designation, CBP will provide all immigration, customs and agriculture services at no cost to the airport. In addition, the Landing Rights Airport designation will allow ONT to accommodate the construction of a new DHL Express Carrier Consignment Hub, promoting a significant increase in international cargo processing. To meet the growing demand, CBP will increase its service level at ONT.

"This is a significant step forward in our long-standing partnership with Ontario International Airport," said Cheryl M. Davies, CBP Director of Field Operations in Los Angeles. "These expanded services will definitely boost the local economy fostering the airport's dynamic growth for years to come."

Since 2018, ONT has been operating under CBP's User Fee Facilities Program, allowing it to receive, for a fee, the services of a CBP officer for processing of passengers and cargo entering the United States.

[Learn More](#)



Fly to the West Texas Town of El Paso

Add El Paso to ONT's growing list of nonstop destinations! Frontier Airlines announced in February that the West Texas city will be its 10th nonstop designation from ONT and will operate three times a week beginning May 17.

Frontier also announced additional service from ONT to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) and Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH). Daily flights to Seattle will begin May 16, while the Houston service will be offered four times a week starting May 17.

This continues a trend that has seen ONT add a number of new destinations and flights over the past year, including Nashville and Houston/Hobby, among others. With Frontier's newest flights, ONT will offer travelers 26 nonstop destinations.

[Learn More](#)

ONT to Host F&B Travel/Hospitality Executives Around the U.S.



We're just a few months away from the 2024 Airport Food & Beverage (FAB) + Hospitality Conference and Awards, hosted by ONT and organized by The Moodie Davitt Report. The event will be held June 25-26 at the Ontario Convention Center and will mark the third major industry conference hosted by ONT in recent years as the airport's stature within the aviation world continues to grow.

[Learn More](#)

Bid Now on ONT Projects with OpenGov

ONT has a new procurement system. This will make it easier for our applicants to stay up to date on Requests for Proposals, Requests for Qualifications and competitive bidding opportunities. If you're interested in working with us, we encourage you to register at OpenGov. We look forward to utilizing our new system for upcoming projects!

[Register](#)

ONT AirEx 2024 is Coming



All hands will be on deck Wednesday, May 15, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., for our next Full-Scale Emergency Response Exercise (ONT AirEx). This will ensure the quality of ONT's safety operations with a simulation of a mass-casualty accident. *Sign up to volunteer by Friday, April 12.*

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)



*In 1923, ONT was just a small airstrip, but it has grown into an international airport with two terminals and one of the longest runways in Southern California. We'll be celebrating ONT's centennial this year by sharing photos from the ONT vault. **#100YearsONT***



This 1970s stained-glass mural, created by Artist Mike Hill, still stands in the now-retired Terminal 1 and was a true sight to see for passengers flying out of ONT from 1978 to 1998.

[Learn More](#)

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Mission

The Friends of Ontario Airport is a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization that unites people of all backgrounds into a special group with a common interest in aviation, and in the development and growth of Ontario International Airport (ONT) for the benefit of all persons.

Schedule of Events

Members Meeting 4/18/24 4:00 p.m. ONT Museum	Members Meeting 6/20/24 4:00 p.m. ONT Museum	Field Trip 8/15/24 <i>More details to come</i>	Members Meeting 10/17/24 4:00 p.m. ONT Museum	Holiday Party 12/19/24 <i>More details to come</i>
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