

McCutcheon, Jeremy

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# Youthful glider earns his wings

*McCutcheon one of the elite in Ontario*

By Jack Evans

The Intelligencer

A young Belleville man is one of a few in Ontario to have earned his glider pilot wings as part of the Air Cadet summer training program.

Sgt. Jeremy McCutcheon, 16, is a member of the Belleville Air Cadets 608 Duke of Edinburgh Squadron.

He achieved the honor after an intensive six-week training course based at Mountain View, for which only 74 of the approximately 5,500 air cadets in the 102 squadrons across Ontario are eligible in any summer.

Selection for the wings-qualifying course is normally from senior cadets nominated by the squadrons.

The process includes a written examination in January plus a formal interview with a panel including two directors of the Air



Jeremy McCutcheon

Cadet League of Canada and pilots from the cadet regional gliding centres.

From a potential of about 610 cadets which may be nominated, based on a quota of six per squadron, only 74 are accepted based

on the test results and interview.

The Central Region Gliding School, which Jeremy graduated from, is part of the Trenton Air Cadet Camp and is run by the Canadian Forces as part of its commitment to Canada's youth. Cadets live at the base for the six weeks and spend their days divided in half between glider flying time and classroom work.

Successful graduates will have logged a total of about nine hours gliding in 15-minute flights.

Gliding, offered through the air cadet movement, is regarded by cadet supporters as a key incentive to attract young recruits. Many have gone on to formal flying instruction and flying-oriented careers with either civilian or military organizations.

All air cadets have the opportunity to fly in a glider at least twice a year, officials note.

In Belleville, the local air cadets squadron will resume activities early in September with Wednesday evening parades in the Armouries starting at 6 p.m. There is no charge for membership. Age range eligible is 12 through 18, boys or girls.

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