



MILSTEAD WARREN, VI, C.M. -

October 17, 1919 - June 27, 2014  
VI passed gently on June 27 surrounded by caregivers and her good friend Marilyn. In the background Vera Lynn was singing White Cliffs of Dover while goldfinches looked in from their feeder just outside her window. Born in Toronto October 17, 1919 to Edith and Harold Milstead, VI had one brother Fred. All have predeceased her. As a young teenager VI wanted to be a surgeon, but when her mother opened a wool shop, VI was taken out of school, thus ending that dream. In the meantime VI set her sights on aviation. VI helped out in her mother's shop, saving all of her earnings to pay for flying lessons. When she began flying lessons, her instructor had a film made. Let's Learn To Fly, starring VI. No doubt he chose VI to demonstrate that "even girls can learn to fly." Soon after she completed her Private Pilot License, her mother sold the wool shop and VI lost her income source. So she started her own business to earn money to pay for her commercial lessons. Within the next 10 years, besides owning and operating a business in north Toronto, VI taught others to fly at Barker Field. When civilian flying ceased during WW II, VI joined the Air Transport Auxiliary in England, delivering airplanes from factories to military bases. With the ATA VI logged over 600 hours on 47 different types of aircraft. 74 if we count different marks. As a First Officer, she was qualified on all but the four engine planes. After the war, VI instructed again at Barker Field. One of the highlights of this time was flying 1946 Miss Canada to Washington to invite the President of the United States to Toronto for Canada's first international air show. While at Barker Field VI met Arnold, the man she later married. They moved to Sudbury, instructing and flying as bush pilots. They also worked stints at the Windsor Flying Club and then on the Sagano on Muskoka Lakes before moving to Indonesia where Arnold taught flying. Through officials gave VI a piece of paper allowing her to fly in Indonesia, they would not hire a woman as an instructor. Once Arnold completed the terms of his contract, they returned to Canada where they found more lucrative employment. Arnold at a community college and VI as a librarian at Orenda and the then Ontario Water Commission. They continued to fly recreationally after retirement, between the Magdalena Islands and Colborne. VI was active in several Colborne organizations such as Inner Wheel (Rotary), Second Helpings, Meals on Wheels and volunteering in the elementary school.

COLBORNE

# Community loses one-of-a-kind woman

COLBORNE — Colborne lost a beloved citizen, and Canada lost a premier female aviation pioneer, when Violet Milstead Warren passed away peacefully on June 27.

At home in the little log house she loved, Warren was surrounded by care givers, her beloved friend Marilyn Dickson and — fittingly, given her service in the Second World War — the sounds of Vera Lynn singing White Cliffs of Dover.

Daughter to Edith and Harold Milstead, sister to Fred, she was born in Toronto Oct. 17, 1919. Her dreams of becoming a surgeon came to a halt when she was taken out of school, but she soon set her sights on aviation. She worked in her mother's wool shop in order to save up for flying lessons.

Warren achieved her private pilot's license, but lost her income source to save up for commercial lessons when her mother closed the wool shop. Milstead started her own business and continued to save.

Over the next 10 years, she also gave flying lessons at Barker Field. When the Second World War put an end to civilian flying, Milstead joined the Air Transport Auxiliary in England, delivering airplanes from factories to military bases.

Milstead would log more than 600 hours with the auxiliary on 47 different types of aircraft (of 74 different marks). As a First Officer, she was qualified on all but the four-engine planes.

She returned to Barker Field after the war, and interesting things happened.

One was the chance to fly the 1946 Miss Canada to Washington to invite President Truman to Canada for its first international air show.



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