

Two Air Cadets earn glider wings

Talk about top guns.

Two Acton 197 Typhoon Squadron Air Cadets earned their glider wings this summer, finishing at or near the top of their National scholarship classes, and earning a lot of respect in the Glider Pilot Scholarship Program.

Funded by the Department of National Defence and the Air Cadet League of Canada, course candidates learn to fly, earning a Transport Canada Glider Pilot's Licence through approximately 50 hours of academic and 45 hours of flight training.

Sergeants Mark Crha 16, and Will Richards, 17, both of Rockwood, excelled in glider school – Crha at Comox, British Columbia, and Richards at Debert, Nova

Scotia. They were able to train out-of-province because they scored in the top-10 per cent of all Cadet applicants in Ontario.

Crha (pronounced seer-haw), described by his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Kati Nuttall, as “very spit and polish” and “very academically-inclined,” also earned three awards at his course – top academic Cadet, top pilot, and top over-all Cadet, an Air Force award which came with a medal.

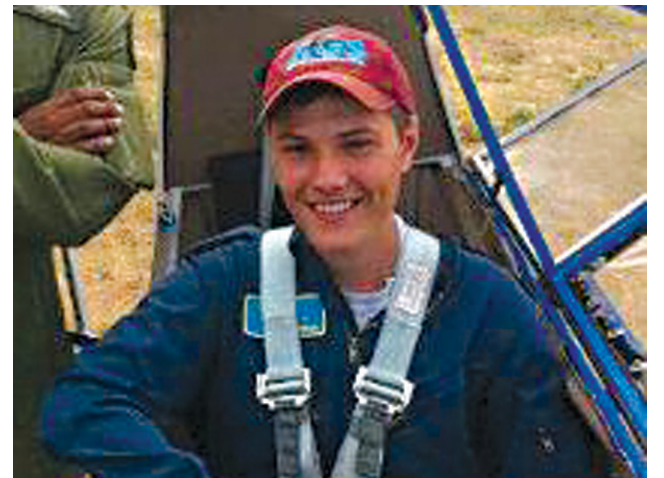
He joined Air Cadets when he was 12, eager for years to learn how to fly after being taken for a flight by a friend of his father, who is an aeronautical engineer. Sergeant Crha said he was “pretty confident” for his final glider test, but his first solo flight was “quite

interesting” and a once-in-a-lifetime thrill. The Grade 12 student at St. James' high school in Guelph has short-term plans to earn his Glider Pilot Licence and longer-range plans include being a commercial airline pilot, or perhaps a bush pilot.

Sergeant Richards “found his voice” and the confidence of a leader with the 197 Squadron, Lt. Nuttall said. Sergeant Richards agreed, allowing that the course was “tougher than I expected, but an intense thrill.” Richards, who said he wanted to fly as a very little boy, joined Cadets when he was 13. A Grade 12 student at John F. Ross High School, Richards hopes to get his powered pilot licence next summer, attend university and join the Armed Forces as a pilot.

Lt. Nuttall is understandably proud of the 197 Squadron after applying for, and receiving, all four of the National course requests it made this year. Sergeant Amit Mehta, 16, of Acton, earned a National aircraft maintenance certificate, and Flight Corporal Ellen Dobbs earned her airport operator accreditation said these successes set the scene for a great year, beginning with a recruitment night on September 11, at 7 p.m. at the Legion. “It is a free program for 12 to 18 year olds. We live in a small town. We've got kids that can't afford to do other things – that's just the way things are going right now,” Lt. Nuttall said, adding Cadets is all about leadership, discipline, sports and effective speaking.

For those who might not think of Cadets as “cool” Lt. Nuttall has two ‘weapons’ – air rifles and aviation. Add in camping weekends, March Break trips and the opportunity to learn how to fly and Lt. Nuttall can't understand why Cadets “is one of the best-kept secrets in youth organizations.”



GILDERS ACES: Acton Air Cadet 197 Typhoon Squadron members Sergeants Mark Crha (top photo) and Will Richards both earned their glider pilot licences at Air Cadet courses over the summer. – Submitted photos



TED ARNOTT, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills



Web: www.tedarnottmpp.com

Phone: 1-800-265-2366

ARE YOU THE NEXT MISS ACTON FALL FAIR?

The Acton Agricultural Society is now accepting entries for the
2012 Miss Acton Fall Fair Pageant
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at the
Dufferin Rural Heritage Community Centre
in Prospect Park.

If you are between the ages of 16 and 22, attend Acton High School or live in Acton, Limehouse, Ballinafad or Rockwood areas, you are invited to be a Contestant!!!

More information is available at Blooms Away Flower Shop,
www.actonfair.ca or Email: missactonfallfair@hotmail.com

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WED. & THURS. SEPT 12th & 13th @ 7 p.m.
Deadline for entries is 9 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2012

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