

Acton Air Cadets return from summer training

For the past seven weeks, fourteen cadets from 197 Typhoon Squadron have been away at three different Cadet Summer Training Centers (CSTC). There they joined cadets from all over Ontario on various courses designed to complement and enhance their local headquarters training, as well as providing the opportunity to meet new friends and of course have fun. The eight youngest cadets attended Trenton CSTC for General Training, a two-week course designed to give them an introduction to the summer training center and the various specialized courses they can apply for in the future. Three older cadets attended three-week

courses at Blackdown CSTC in Borden focusing on Sports and Fitness and Drill and Ceremonial. Three of our Senior cadets were selected for advanced courses, Flight Corporal Sheldon Hannaford attended the six-week Drill and Ceremonial Instructor course at Trenton, and Sergeant Bart Amroz the six-week Survival Instructor course at Blackdown. Our new squadron chief, Warrant Officer Second Class Ellen Dobbs won a Power Pilot scholarship and is now completing her seven week course at Durham Flight Center in Oshawa where she is earning her private pilot's license. Being selected for Power Pilot is the pinnacle of Air Cadet Summer training, earned through a highly competitive process of examinations and interviews. 197 Squadron is looking forward to welcoming back all these cadets, and looking forward to them teaching their newly learned skills to the rest of the squadron.

“Great experience, best friendships, and I couldn't have asked for a better summer,” beams Sgt. Bart Amroz.

Participation in the summer training program is not limited to the cadets, as two of our officers, Captain Kati Nuttall and Second Lieutenant Alex Gawlina, served at the Canadore CSTC in North Bay for the past seven weeks, leading and supervising cadets from across Canada who were selected to attend the national Advanced Aviation Technology courses. 197 Squadron Commanding Officer, Captain Scott Legge notes “summer courses are a great opportunity for cadets to grow personally, learn new skills, expand their knowledge base and gain confidence and independence. Air cadet summer courses really give teens the opportunity to spread their wings and push the limits of their comfort zone in a positive, supportive and enabling environment that will benefit each of them in their future cadet, academic, social and employment endeavours.”

197 Squadron's 2014/2015 Local training season will be commencing soon, offering a dynamic and exciting program to all interested youth between the ages of 12 and 18. As well as a comprehensive local training program, 197 Squadron offers a Drill Team, Marksmanship Team, Military Band and a Flight Scholarship program. We also plan an annual trip at March break and weekend activities including sports days, orienteering, survival field exercises, glider and power flying. 197 Squadron cadets can regularly be seen at local community events, assisting Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197 and Acton BIA with their events.

197 Squadron will be holding a recruiting night on Monday, August 25 at the Acton Legion from 7 to 9 p.m. All interested local youth and their parents are encouraged to attend to find out more about this free program. 197 Squadron parades at the Acton Legion on Tuesday evenings from 1830 to 2115 throughout the school year. For more information please contact Captain Scott Legge at (519) 831-9925.

The aim of the Canadian Cadet Program is to develop in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership; promote physical fitness; and stimulate an interest in the activities of the Canadian Armed Forces. Our local unit is sponsored by the Air Cadet League of Canada in partnership with the Canadian Armed Forces and our Squadron Sponsoring Committee. We are afforded a great deal of support, including our accommodations by our primary sponsor – Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197.



SOLO SENSATION: Warrant Officer Second Class Ellen Dobbs received her first solo flight certificate recently from instructor Matt Dobbs at the Durham Flight Center in Oshawa. - Submitted photo

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