

Brampton Flight Centre aims to inspire more women to fly

On March 11, dozens of local women took flight for a scenic view of Caledon - from 2,000 feet up in the sky

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Thirteen.

That's the percentage of female pilots who work for Porter Airlines, according to first officer and Brampton Flight School alumna Yvonne Tsang - a number that soars far above the national average of five to six per cent.

It's also the percentage of women who graduated from the Seneca College Bachelor of Aviation Technology program in 2017 - the highest number of females in the past four years - Brampton Flight Centre instructor Brittany Childs said.

These figures may not seem substantial, but to many female pilots across Ontario and beyond, they signify progress.

Childs says the only way to understand the stark imbalance between male and female pilots worldwide is to take a look back through history.

"I think from history it always was (a male-oriented industry), starting with the Air Force and the military that only let males go, but we've come a long way since then in terms of females and aviation," she said. "I think it's important to get females involved in it and try to break that barrier."

In celebration of Women of Aviation Worldwide Week, the Brampton Flight Centre hosted its third annual Free Flights for Females event on March 11, in a bid to inspire more women and young girls to consider a future in aviation - whether it be as a career path or as a recreational endeavour.

As part of the event, women were invited to sign up to get a

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Toronto residents Alessandra (left) and Sara Reda (right) ahead of their flight with Brampton Flight Centre pilot Eric Bardutz-Alegrias (centre).



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