

Event hopes to put more women in the cockpit

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scenic view of Caledon from 2,000 feet up in the sky, in a Cessna 172 - a four-seat, single-engine propeller plane.

In addition to complimentary flights, the centre offered talks from local female pilots, as well as the opportunity for visitors to sit in the cockpit of two flight simulators on site.

It was a day of firsts for many, including sisters Alessandra and Sara Reda, who had never flown in a small aircraft prior to the event.

"I had a great time. I like flying so for me it was fun, it was enjoyable. My boyfriend flies and I fig-

ured I'd learn a little bit more about it to understand what he goes through and see how it is," Alessandra said. "I enjoy being up in the sky."

"I liked it and I'm scared of heights, so I was surprised I wasn't as scared being up there," Sara added.

For Childs, it's grassy, green fields in the summer and colourful leaves in the fall that make her swoon when she's flying.

"Just being up in the air, all the cross-country, seeing different parts all around Ontario. I just find it really rewarding when you're finally in the air - it's a lot of work when you're on the ground . planning, checking the

weather, making sure the airplane is ready to go," she said.

Childs says the Free Flights for Females event is a great chance to showcase all the fulfilling aspects of flying.

"I hope (visitors) take really good experiences and gather up as much information as they can for themselves. It's definitely a very rewarding experience," she added.

Types of permits and licences

There are a number of permits and licences available through Brampton Flight Centre to suit the needs of each individual. Students who would like to learn to fly at their leisure can opt for the

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self-paced program, whereas students looking to obtain a degree can apply to the college program.

A student pilot permit can be obtained at as young as 14 years of age. In order to achieve this permit, students must have a valid medical certificate, pass their PSTAR and Radio Operators exams, and be trained to fly alone.

In order to obtain a recreational pilot permit, students must be 16 years of age and have a valid medical certificate. They

must also have 25 hours of inflight training and are required to pass both a written test and a flight test. The minimum cost of this permit is \$6,668.50. This permit allows pilots to carry one passenger and fly during daytime hours only.

A private pilot licence costs a minimum total of \$10,918. To achieve this licence, students must be 17 years old, complete 48 hours of ground school and a minimum of 45 hours of inflight training.

This licence can be upgraded with night (\$3,205),

multi-engine (\$4,893.80) and instrument flying (single engine is \$9,251 and multi-engine is \$10,895) ratings.

To achieve a commercial pilot licence, first you must get your private licence and night rating. The licence costs a minimum of \$15,033.50 and requires completion of ground school, 35 hours of dual flight training, 30 hours of solo flight training, five hours of briefing and a flight test.

Note: Prices are based on the minimum requirements specified by Transport Canada. Any additional training is not included. Editor's note: This story has been updated from a previous version.

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