

Young eagles fly high

Scholarships available to train fledgling pilots

By DONNA DANIELLI

Breaking the bounds of gravity can be a heady experience, one shared by pilots worldwide. But when statistics began to show that fewer and fewer young people were reaching for the skies, pilots around the world stood up and took notice. Their objective: to expose more youngsters, aged eight to seventeen, to the wonders of flying through actual flight experience.

"You can't really visit a cockpit anymore, not since September 11," explains Young Eagles Co-ordinator Dave Cooper. "(so) there's nothing to interest you in flying or to inspire you to seek it out as a career."

The members of Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) 28, have joined forces with pilot associations worldwide to provide the experience of real flying to children all over, allowing them the opportunity to see the skill, discipline and fun in aviation. Over one million children have been introduced to aviation through the Young Eagles Program, with COPA Flight 28 adding hundreds more to this list every year.

COPA Flight 28 volunteers offer their time and aircraft in approximately 150 rides every year, as a way of inspiring young people to pursue aviation as a personal mode of transportation or an interesting and rewarding career.

COPA 28 members can be counted from all over the Golden Horseshoe, with large numbers residing in Halton and the neighbouring communities of Waterdown and Hamilton. As well as monthly meetings, this highly motivated group of volunteers is heavily involved in local charities. Along with the Young Eagles program, COPA 28 also organizes several flights a year for Big Brothers and Sisters. These events, which include lunch, offer the volunteer Big Brothers and Sisters a unique and free outing to offer their young partners.

"I always probably have more fun than the passengers," laughs Cooper. "Those of us that fly tend to be quite passionate about it."

Another initiative of COPA 28 is its scholarship program. Annually two scholarships of \$2,000 each are given in the memories of COPA members Norman Leach and Bill McArter to deserving student pilots for use in offsetting their flight training costs. Cooper explains that it is only natural for flying enthusiasts to help support those wanting to get into the industry. "Everyone sitting in the front seat of a 747 started in a small plane," he explains.

The regular workings of COPA 28, the newsletters, meeting hall rentals and more are funded through membership dues, and members of COPA 28 volunteer their time and aircrafts for the charity events. Fundraising however, is a large part of COPA 28's organization, providing the funds for the scholarships, refreshments for the Young Eagles and Big Brothers and Sisters and more. COPA 28 will be hosting its 12th Annual COPA Flight 28 Dinner, Dance and Auction on Saturday September 25. This fundraiser takes place at the renowned Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton and offers dinner and dancing to an eighteen-piece orchestra amongst the magnificent display of warplanes. "It's really a wonderful venue," says Cooper. "The band usually sets up right in front of North America's only flyable Lancaster. It's really something special."

Tickets for the event are \$60 per person and include a family style dinner. The evening will also include both a silent and live auction. For ticket information, please call Jan Slavik at 905-829-0237. And if you'd like to know more about the Young Eagles program, you can call Dave Cooper at 905-689-1688.

kith 'n' kin

Happy 50th Louise



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Welcome

Damara Margaret Marshall

Born Saturday, September 11, 2004, 2:36 a.m. at Milton District Hospital. Weighing 7 lbs 0 oz., Dr. Glen Hunter & Nurse Marilyn attending. Ecstatic first time parents are David & Michelle (nee Lunau) Marshall.

Grand Daughter of Wayne & Ann Marshall (Guelph), Cindy Lunau (Nassagaweya/Milton), Dwight Lunau (Huntsville). Great Granddaughter of Robert & Lilian Marshall (Acton). Niece of Andrea & Jennifer Lunau (Milton), Stephen & Vicki Marshall (Guelph), Mike & Kim Marshall (Vienna, Austria) and Cousin of Cassandra & Ethan Marshall (Vienna).

Also welcomed by numerous Great Aunts, Uncles, Cousins & extended family & fans "We love you, Peanut!"

Special thanks to Dr. Hunter & all of the wonderful nurses at MDH.

Water witching, the Harold Middlebrook story

Continued on page 21.

Harold's youngest son, Keith, operates the farm located on Walkers Line south of Derry Road.

Eventually, Leslie sold the property in what is now Etobicoke and moved further west. The reasons were simple for Harold: "You were offered good prices. So you packed it in." Harold's Dad settled in Brampton while Harold and Elva went to Nelson Township after they married in April of 1949. Elva can remember them driving off in their 1949 blue Plymouth Coupe after the ceremonies.

Harold's Dad, who had bought the property for them, wanted to know right away if there was water on it. Harold, who incidentally can wear a watch, was able to find the precious resource. They were desperately in need of water, something that's imperative if you have thirsty livestock. "With 30 head of cattle that's 40 to 50 gallons for each cow. That's about 1500 gallons a day."

Harold figures he's the last water diviner in his family. But there's always a chance he may be mistaken. A name like Middlebrook is one that holds possibilities for any emergent water diviner. Or so you would think. And then there's his eldest son, Carl, the veterinarian. Carl can't wear a watch. It seems he's afflicted with the same problem that his grandfather had - time stands mysteriously still. Maybe he'll be the next water witch in his family.

passages

MULLEN: Martin "Dan"

Peacefully, at Riverside Glen Long Term Care facility on September 10, 2004. Dan Mullen in his 88th year. Resident of Nassagaweya for 38 years. Member of the Royal Canadian Legion Acton Branch #197. Loving husband of the late Verna (Britton) Mullen. Cherished father of Bonnie Mullen and Jim (Barb) Mullen. Papa will be sadly missed by grandchildren Jason, Adam, Naomi, Kevin and Chris. Also loved by

great grandson Jaden. Friends and Family were received at the **J. SCOTT EARLY FUNERAL HOME, 21 James St., Milton, 905-878-2669** on Sunday September 12, from 2-4 and 7-9. A Funeral Service was held on Monday September 13, at 2pm from Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church. Cremation Followed. As expressions of sympathy donations may be made to Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church or a charity of one's choice.

McKersie-Kocher FUNERAL HOME

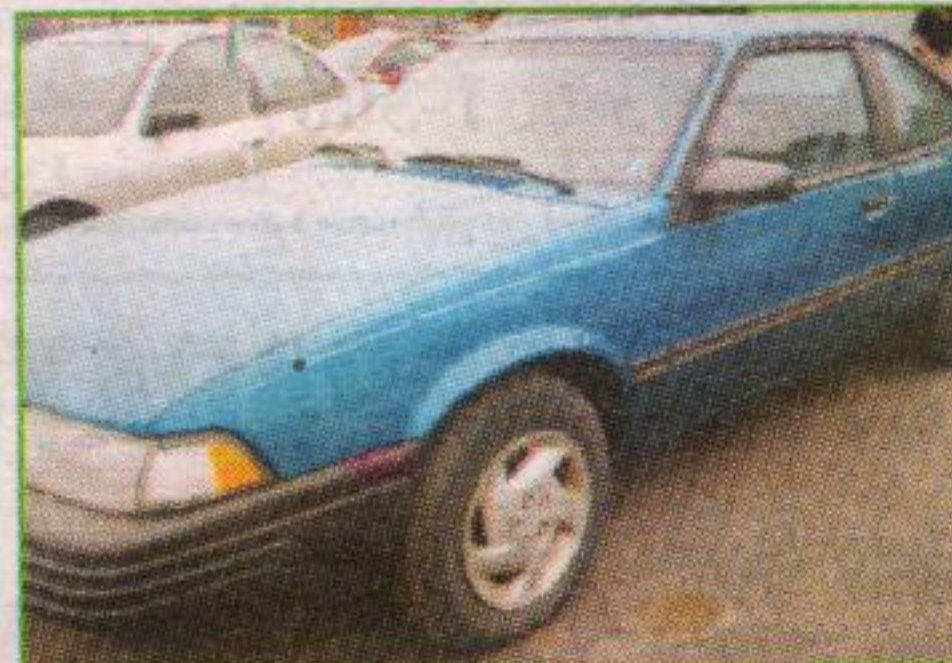
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