

Acton teen flies high

First solo. It's a defining event in the training of a fledgling pilot and for 17-year-old air cadet Alexander Gawlina, it's a dream come true. The Acton resident took a major step on Tuesday, becoming a fully qualified air pilot by successfully manoeuvring his Cessna-172 around the circuit of Oshawa Airport completely alone.

First solo, as the phrase implies, is the first time a flight candidate controls the aircraft without an instructor aboard. Before taking this significant step, Gawlina first had to demonstrate competence in basic piloting skills to his flight instructor, Andre Chen.

"I liked flying ever since I was a kid and when I joined Air Cadets I learned it would be a possibility," Gawlina said.

Gawlina has been a member of Acton 197 Typhoon Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron for six years and has risen to the rank of Warrant Officer First Class, a testament to his dedication to the air cadet program and leadership potential. In that time, Gawlina has mastered theory of flight, navigation, meteorology, airmanship – all the basic skills a good pilot must know. He has achieved high standards in leadership, citizenship, ceremonial drill and other cadet related training.

Last winter, Gawlina applied for an Air Cadet League of Canada flying scholarship; one of the most sought-after advanced specialty training courses in Canada. Of the more than 140 applicants in Ontario this year, only 79 were selected for this prestigious award.

The flying scholarship candidates started their training on June 27 at one of five training centres being used for the summer of 2010, which are located in Brampton, Oshawa, Windsor, London and Breslau (Kitchener Waterloo). Over the following weeks, cadets will spend long hours studying volumes of written material and honing the intricate skills of flying. The cadets will accumulate an average of 45-50 hours flying time during the course



SOLO FLIGHT: Warrant Officer First Class Alexander Gawlina (left) of Acton is congratulated by his flight instructor Andre Chen following his first solo flight on the Air Cadet Power Pilot Scholarship Course.

– Submitted photo

in qualifying for their Transport Canada Private Pilot Licence and coveted Royal Canadian Air Cadet "wings" qualification badge.

The Flying Scholarship program is one of the longest-standing projects of the 69-year-old Air Cadet League of Canada, national sponsor of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. Of the scholarships, the majority are funded by the Department of National Defence and the other by the Airline Pilot's Association. One of the best known graduates of the Flying Scholarship program is retired

Colonel, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, who stated, "Cadets taught me how to fly. I never knew how high it would take me."

Sponsored in partnership between the Department of National Defence and the Air Cadet League of Canada, the Royal Canadian Air Cadets welcomes young people aged 12-18 to its community-based youth program focusing on citizenship, leadership and physical fitness. In due course, many will qualify for flight training and follow in the footsteps of Chris Hadfield and Gawlina.

Chamber hires tourism specialist

Summer has finally arrived and the busiest tourist season of the year has come with it. This summer Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce,

with funding assistance from the Town of Halton Hills, has hired Jennifer

Stennull to cater to the community's tourism and travel needs. As Travel Councilor, Stennull will aid residents and visitors to discover the wonders of Halton Hills.

Stennull will help local tourists by providing information on Halton Hills and all Southern Ontario. Her responsibilities include providing current

information on the events and attractions in the area, directions, and information on accommodation in the area. The Chamber is open to walk-in requests, emails, and phone inquiries for information. Many brochures and information packages are available at the Chamber for those interested and any questions on tourism in the

community will gladly be answered.

The Chamber of Commerce is located at 328 Guelph Street, Georgetown and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached at 905-877-7119 or e-mail at tourism@haltonhillschamber.on.ca. Inquires can also be made at the Web site: www.haltonhillschamber.on.ca.

WE'VE MOVED!

we create

SMILES

We are now located at the
Acton Urgent Care Centre
10 Eastern Avenue.

Dr. Jones Chan

10 Eastern Avenue
Suite 104
Acton, ON
L7J 0A5
519-853-1900

Acton Tire Stop

Tires + Wheels - New, Used, Repairs and Service

WE CARRY ALL MAJOR BRANDS

BEST NEW AND USED TIRE DEALS!

Alloy Wheels also available!!

Quality/Service/Price

with 23 years experience

Tel: 519-853-8530

www.besttiredeals.ca

12865, Hwy 25

Acton, ON.