

Cadet Nagel takes first solo flight

Miltonian Krystal Nagel is flying high — literally.

The 18-year-old Royal Canadian Air Cadet recently flew by herself for the first time, and in doing so completed the coveted 'First Solo' as pilot-in-command of an aircraft.

"Cadets has been a wonderful part of my life, going solo was the highlight of my cadet career," she said, adding she eventually wants a career in aerospace engineering.

Ms Nagel has been a member of Milton's No. 820 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron for six years. She recently rose to the rank of flight

sergeant, a testament of her dedication to the air cadet program and leadership potential.

In her six years with cadets, Ms. Nagel has mastered theory of flight, navigation, meteorology and airmanship — all basic skills a pilot must learn — as well as leadership, drill and ceremonial, aircrew survival, aircraft identification and aerodrome structures training.

Last winter, she was one of 69 cadets selected for the Air Cadet League of Canada flying scholarship, one of the most sought-after advanced specialty training courses in the nation. During the seven-week course, which began earlier

this month, the cadets will accumulate 45 to 50 hours of flying time in qualifying for their Transport Canada Private Pilot licence.

One of the best known graduates of the Flying Scholarship program is Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, who acknowledged, "Cadets taught me how to fly. I never knew how high it would take me."

The Royal Canadian Air Cadets welcomes young people aged 12 to 18 to its community-based youth program, which focuses on citizenship, leadership and physical fitness.



Royal Canadian Air Cadet Krystal Nagel (in plane) recently completed her 'First Solo' as pilot-in-command of an aircraft.

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