

Chris Hadfield a finalist in Canada's astronaut program

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Most little boys dream about one day becoming an astronaut. At 32, Chris Hadfield's childhood wish may come true.

The Milton native and captain in the Canadian Air Force is one of 20 finalists vying for a spot in the Canadian astronaut program which will have an active role in the much-talked about American space station.

Next month, the Canada Space Agency will choose four to six people among the 20 finalists in its astronaut recruitment program, said Chris's mother Eleanor Hadfield, who still lives in town.

She and her husband Roger are keeping their fingers crossed that their son, who is currently stationed in Maryland, will be one of the successful applicants.

"I think he's wanted this ever since he saw Neil Armstrong walk on the moon when he was a boy," said the proud mother. "He's worked really hard to make it come true."

The husband, and father of three children was among 5,300 Canadians who submitted resumes for the position.

This week he is in Ottawa undergoing various tests to determine if he can endure the conditions faced by astronauts.

Chris, who holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, grew up in Milton and was a student of Percy W. Merry School. He attended high school in

Oakville, but transferred to Milton District High School for Grade 13.

The captain, who flies F18 and A7 aircrafts, has always had an interest in aviation, said Mrs. Hadfield. He joined air cadets when he was a teenager and went on to Royal Military College after Grade 13.

Chris finished at the top of his class at the United States Air Force Test Pilot School in 1989 and this month earned his Masters of Aviation Systems at the University of Tennessee.

"He's got good brains and he uses them well," added his mother. "He continues to amaze us."

Specializing in research, high performance flight, and test work, he has also won several prestigious aviation awards and is the author of numerous related publications.

Chris currently lives near the Potomac River with his wife Helene, eight-year-old son Kyle, six-year-old son Evan, and five-year-old daughter Kristin.

The captain is accustomed to a large family. He has two brothers David, 34, of Winnipeg; Phillip, 28, of Brantford — who are both pilots for a commercial airline — and two sisters A.J., 30, and Patricia, 21.



Chris Hadfield

Museum has 65 cent days for seniors

Seniors' Days at the Ontario Agricultural Museum are back from June 1-12 and so is the 65 cent admission fee for visitors age 65 and over.

The celebration of seniors' month in Ontario will include special activities and tours in addition to regular museum attractions. There will be musical entertainment, a quilt display, square dancers and line dancers as well as wagon tours.

In conjunction with the 12-day event, Springridge Farms, located just minutes from the museum, is offering a picnic lunch under a marquee.

Back at the museum, visitors experience the evolution of rural Ontario through costumed interpreters, farm animals, displays and unique rural buildings.

Located on Tremaine Road just south of Hwy. 401, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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