

She flew with Orville Wright



by PAUL SANDERSON

When you can sometimes look up into the nighttime sky, and spot the slowly moving white trail of the space shuttle in orbit, it is staggering to realize that we have yet to see even the 100th anniversary of man's first heavier than air flight (by Orville Wright, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Dec. 17, 1903.)

And some of aviation's earliest pioneers are still alive and well today to witness the wonders of modern, manned flight.

Ivonette Miller was just a little girl in 1911, when she earned a place in the history books after "Uncle Orv" sat her on the wing of the model B Wright flyer, and took her for a ride: the third woman in history to fly in a heavier than air, mechanically propelled airplane.

That flight lasted only eight to 10 minutes, "just above the telegraph poles and treetops," near Dayton, Ohio.

Saturday morning, the vivacious Miller was off and flying again, in the skies above Georgian Bay, from Huronia District Airport.

Midland's Guy Johnstone, owner of Johnstone's Music Land and a friend of the famous Wright family since purchasing their classic wooden yacht, the Kitty Hawk, several years ago, arranged the flight as a special treat for aviation pioneer Miller.

A fast and sleek twin engine Piper Seneca was chosen for the sightseeing trip with Four Season's Flight Academy Manager Ron Scout at the controls.

Mrs. Miller's husband Harold, the Wright brothers' grand-nephew Wilkenson and his wife Marion Wright, and Guy Johnstone joined the crew, but fittingly enough it was Ivonette Miller who chose to co-pilot's seat up front.

The morning's flight plan, with perfect weather for sightseeing, included a tour over Franceville: the old home and resort hotel built in 1932 north of Beausoleil Island near Freddy's Channel, that was a favourite haunt of the famous Wright Brothers.

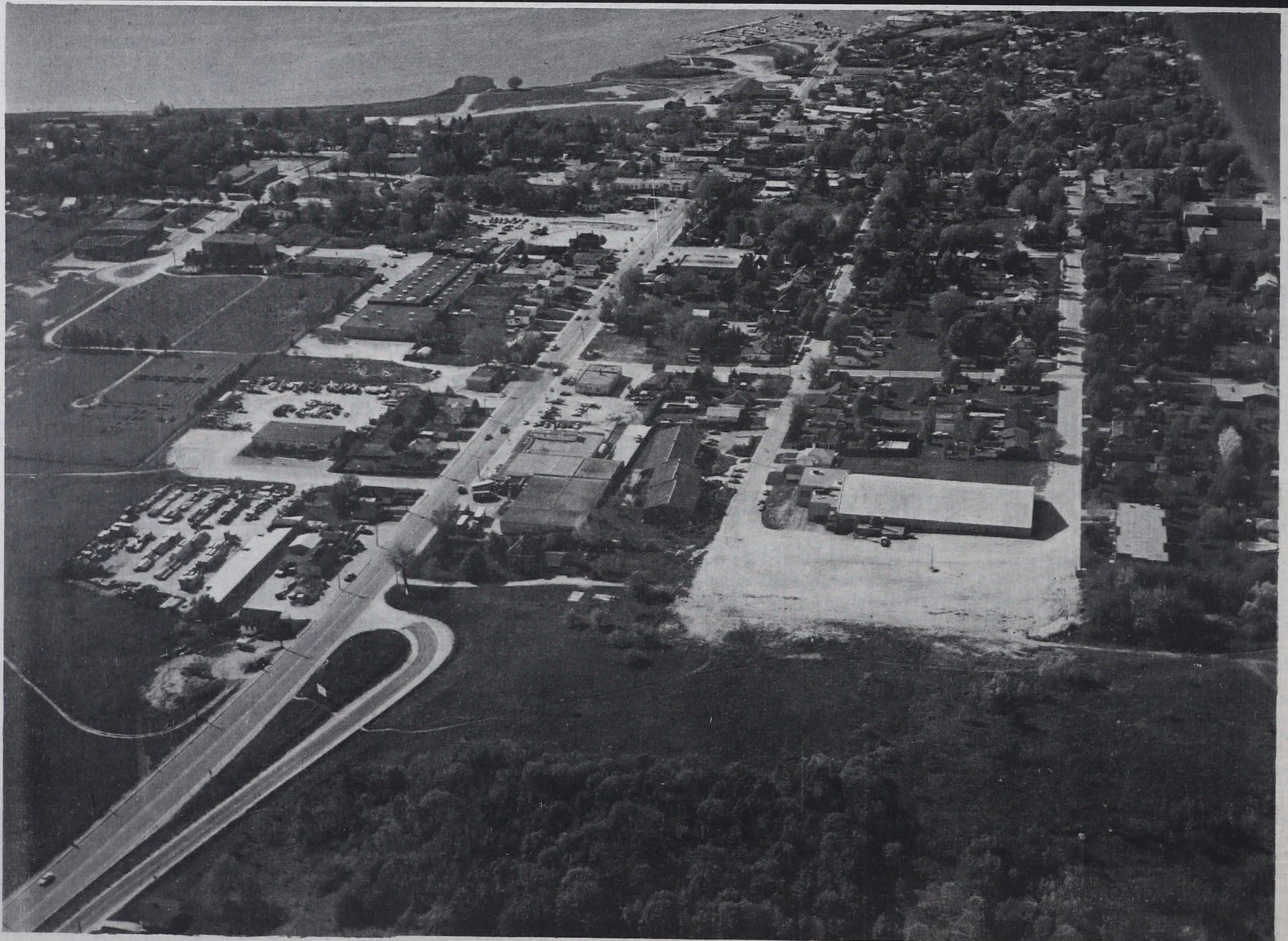
Wright brothers' relative takes to the skies of Huronia

Seventy four years ago, Ivonette Miller (left) sat on the wing of her uncle's plane while he flew her just above the treetops near Dayton, Ohio. Her uncle was Orville Wright, the first man in history to fly in a

heavier than air, mechanically powered airplane, at Kitty Hawk North Carolina, December 17, 1903. Miller, the third woman in history to fly in such a fashion, took to the skies again, from Huronia

Airport Saturday afternoon, with Four Season's Flight Academy Manager Ron Scout (right), during a special visit with friends from Midland.

Photo by Paul Sanderson



A view of Penetanguishene from the air here in cottage country