



Katie Rees is an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) apprentice with Helicopters Canada, North Bay. Katie grew up in Trenton, Ontario, surrounded by aviation. At thirteen, she became an Air Cadet and began exploring the wide world of aviation. She got to fly in gliders, a C-17 Globemaster, and spent lots of time at the National Air Force Museum of Canada, CFB Trenton.

In 2019 she enrolled in Canadore College's School of Aviation 3-year Program for Aircraft Maintenance & Avionics (aircraft radios). In her third year, she started a part-time apprenticeship with Helicopters Canada and, upon graduating with an advanced college diploma, was hired full-time.



At Helicopters Canada, Katie works on a variety of Airbus, Bell, and Robinson helicopters. She travels with her crew all over Ontario repairing and maintaining the helicopters hired on contract in various capacities, including those that fight forest fires. This has been an especially busy season for Katie and everyone fighting fires!

Katie loves her job and wants to promote careers in aviation to young people.



Lexi Tosh is an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) apprentice with Doug Ronan Aircraft, Brechin, ON. Lexi grew up with a passion for aviation in Mount Forest, ON and, at age thirteen, she became an Air Cadet to help her explore the opportunities of aviation. She participated in the three-week Basic Aviation Technologies and Aerospace (BATA) course at CFB Trenton. At sixteen, Lexi spent her summer at the York Soaring Association Club, Belwood, ON learning ground operations, ground schooling, and getting glider flight time.

At eighteen, Lexi was nominated and received an award from Canadore College's Aviation Innovator Recognition Awards program. In 2019, she enrolled in Canadore College's School of Aviation 2-year program for Aircraft Maintenance. In her last year, Lexi was hired by Doug Ronan Aviation and graduated with a college diploma and 18 months of accreditation towards her license.

Lexi's job at Doug Ronan Aviation allows her to work on a variety of Cessna (150, 170, 172, 180, 185, and 210) and Piper Aircraft. She maintains and repairs aircraft on wheels, floats, and amphibious (wheel-float combinations), works on structural projects as part of the shop's AMO, and participates in the company's Salvage Air Aircraft Recovery in Ontario.

Lexi loves the diverse opportunities her job offers and wants to promote careers in aviation to young people.



As **Meera Bissonauth** was completing her undergraduate degree in Nutrition and Food, she started exploring the field of aviation by working at the Toronto Pearson International Airport. Her various roles as a passenger service agent, weight and balance specialist, and airline operations coordinator allowed her to connect with aircraft crew and their aircraft, e.g., B777, B787 and B737. This direct contact inspired her to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a pilot.



She is grateful to aviation communities that have supported and motivated her to strive for her goals and, as the recipient of several scholarships (the Women in Aviation/Conrad N. Hilton International Chapter Scholarship, the Captain Judy Cameron Scholarship, the 99s Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship, and the 99s New Track

Scholarship), she has been able to advance in her training.

Now, as a flight instructor at Brampton Flight Centre, her acquired knowledge and passion for flight enables her to inspire students and create safe pilots.



Lola Reid Allin is Commercial Airline Transport Pilot certified for Land & Sea and a Class I Civil Aviation Flight Instructor with approximately 6000 hours. She's a Scuba Dive Master with 500 dives, a graduate of University of Waterloo, and an award-winning author and photographer whose adventurous spirit has guided her on solo explorations to more than 60 countries.



Her professional aviation affiliations include [Women in Aviation International](#), [The 99s International Organization of Women Pilots](#), and the [Northern Lights Aero Foundation](#). To promote the role of women in aviation, Lola is a speaker with the Northern Lights Aero Foundation & the Eastern Ontario 99s Education & Outreach Committee. In 2022 she and Robin Hadfield, International 99s President, created the New Track Scholarship. lolareidallin.com

She was the first female to fly the DHC-6/300 on a scheduled service, the first female Chief Flying Instructor (Waterloo-Wellington Flight Centre and Vanderhoof Flight Services), and the first female employee and supervisor at DeHavilland/Flight Safety, Downsview.

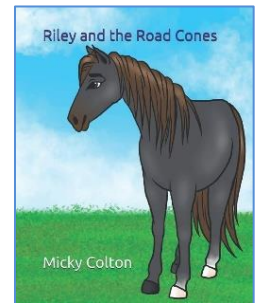


Major (retired) **Micky Colton**, RCAF, joined the military in March 1980 and graduated with wings in 1982. She was posted on the C130 Hercules at Squadrons 436 Trenton, 429 Winnipeg, 435 Edmonton, and twice at both 424 and 426 Trenton. She was the Air Transport Duty Officer (dispatch), Wing Flight Safety Officer and twice the C130 Standards & Evaluation Officer of the Transport & Rescue Evaluation Team (TRSET) at Trenton.

In 2000, Micky became the first female pilot to log 5000 hours on the Hercules, and in 2009 was honoured by being added to the 100 names to commemorate 100 years of flight in Canada gracing the side of a CF18 demonstration Hornet.

She accumulated approximately 6900 hours on the C130 before retiring from the regular Air Force October 2011. The next day, she joined the Air Force Reserves. During her time with the reserves, she enrolled at the Veterinary Assistant program, St. Lawrence College. On May 30, 2018, she retired again and later that year received the Northern

Lights Aero Foundation Pioneer Award.



Micky operates Horse Sense Equine Guidance, a FEEL (Facilitated Equine Experiential Learning) ® Facility. In 2021, she published *Riley and the Road Cones*, the first of six children's books.



Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) **Georgina "Georgie" Jones**, RCAF was the last of 8 women to receive their Canadian Forces Air Navigator Wings in 1983, under the auspices of the Service Women in Non-Traditional Environmental Roles (SWINTER) Trial for female aircrew.

Throughout her 31-year military career, she flew to six continents during multiple flying tours on the CC130 Hercules and the CC115 Buffalo aircraft in transport, tactical, and search and rescue roles. Her ground jobs included Deputy Wing Operations Officer, Directing Staff at the CF Officer Candidate School, Joint and Combined Warfare Planner at Canadian

Forces College, Lessons Learned at the CF Aerospace Warfare Centre, and Business Planning for the Chief of the Air Force.

Georgie served in Germany for 2 years, coordinating transport operation in Canadian Forces Europe, and completed 2 tours in Italy in support of operations in the Former Yugoslavia.

Selected in late 2010 to be the second female Wing Commander of an Air Force Operational Wing, Georgie withdrew from the position for personal reasons and retired from the CF the following year.



She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Military Sciences degree from the Royal Military College of Canada.

Sophia Baldasaro is surrounded by aviation —her father, aunt, uncle, and grandfather are all pilots. At age 12, Sophia joined the 151 Chadburn Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron hoping one day to complete her pilot's license. As a young cadet, Sophia attended many summer courses and participated in various squadron activities such as music and athletic competitions, public speaking engagements, and field training exercises.



At 16, Sophia earned the Glider Pilot Scholarship and, during the summer of 2019, earned her license during the seven-week Glider Pilot Training Course at Mountainview Cadet Flight Training Centre. The following year, Sophia successfully earned the Private Pilot Scholarship through the Air Cadet Program, which was unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic.

Sophia started at Queen's University in the fall of 2020, pursuing an Honours Bachelor of Sciences degree in Life Sciences. In 2022, she completed her Recreational Pilot Permit with a freelance instructor on an Aeronca Champ. Sophia is entering her fourth year of university and, after writing her MCAT exam this summer, will apply to medical school this fall.



Madeline Baldasaro always aspired to become a pilot, following in the footsteps of many family members. In 2016, at age 12, Madeline joined the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program at 151 Squadron in Oshawa, hoping to earn her glider and power pilot's licenses. She attended numerous aviation-focused summer courses through the cadet program and earned a spot on the Glider Pilot Training Course in the summer of 2022, at Mountainview Cadet Flight Training Centre where she was awarded the Top Student Pilot Trophy for being the best student pilot in the glider course.



That fall, Madeline started first year studies at Queen's, where she currently studies Mechanical Engineering with a focus in Aerospace. During her first year of university, Madeline was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer First Class at her Cadet Squadron in Kingston. Despite

her rigorous class schedule at Queen's, Madeline completed the Air Cadet Power Pilot Ground School course with the hopes of being selected for training in the summer of 2023. She was successful and was sent to Gander, Newfoundland. Not only was Madeline successful in earning her PPL after 7 weeks, but she was also awarded the Top Transport Canada Exam Mark Award, the CFI Award for top written and practical examination mark, as well as the Royal Canadian Air Force Association Medal for receiving high distinctions on her course. Madeline is entering her second year at Queen's University.