



For Immediate Release

LOCAL AIR CADETS RECEIVE FLYING SCHOLARSHIPS

Toronto, ON – May 20, 2009: Local Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron 142 “Mimico,” was proud to announce that three of their cadets received flying scholarships from the Air Cadet League of Canada in conjunction with the Department of National Defence. Warrant Officer Second Class Ron Dudley, Flight Sergeant Leslie McRae and Sergeant Nikolas Tradvinski will be undertaking intensive training this summer while they learn how to navigate, operate and fly solo in their aircrafts.

“I feel that this is such an incredible thing to be able to offer our youth. For no cost to the cadet, we can train them how to fly an aircraft no matter how fortunate they might be in their personal lives. This is what makes this program a truly unique one. Any cadet with any socio-economic background can have the same advantages as the person next to them. Their success depends entirely on how determined they are to succeed,” said Squadron Sponsor Chair Kim Lea.

These cadets were chosen based on merit through an extensive evaluation process where they are graded against all the other applicants in Ontario. After participating in ground school for the training year, these cadets took the Transport Canada exam to qualify for the rest of the application process which includes a panel interview, a narrative expressing their desire to participate in the scholarship and also having their volunteer activities and school grades assessed.

“This is what we do – we make dreams come true for the youth of Canada. They have an opportunity to step up and show us their dedication to achieving this goal, and we have the resources to make that happen for them,” said Air Cadet League of Canada, Ontario Provincial Committee Chairperson Jerry Elias.

After successfully receiving their licence, cadets are encouraged to come back and participate in flying familiarization with other cadets in their squadron by taking them up for a flight. These pilots will also aid with the Ground School training and aviation related training such as meteorology and principles of flight at their local squadrons.

The Air Cadet flying scholarship program has graduated some very notable Canadians such as astronaut Col Chris Hadfield, CBC Meteorologist Nick Czernkovich and several members of the military performance flying team, the Snowbirds.

The Air Cadet League of Canada, Ontario Provincial Committee owns a fleet of 20 gliders and 10 tow planes which they use to facilitate familiarization flights for cadets across Ontario.

The Royal Canadian Air Cadets, in partnership with the Air Cadet League of Canada has been training youth in Canada for over 60 years. The Cadets are the largest government funded youth program in Canada with over 425,000 participants across Canada, with over 8,000 Air Cadets in the province of Ontario alone. The Royal Canadian Air Cadets accepts youth between the ages of 12-18 who have a desire to learn more about the air element of the Canadian Forces, wish to develop the attributes of leadership and good citizenship and who wish to promote physical fitness. There are no fees or costs to join Air Cadets and uniforms are supplied free of charge. While the program is military based, there is no obligation for a cadet to join the Canadian Armed Forces when he or she finishes their cadet career. Cadets are also encouraged to learn more about opportunities within Canada’s Aviation Industry.

For more information on the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, please visit www.cadets.ca

For more information about the Air Cadet League of Canada, please visit www.aircadetleague.com

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