



For Immediate Release

FSGT GABRIELLE BUTONI TAKES HOME TOP PILOT

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ON – August 18, 2009: Local Air Cadet Flight Sergeant Gabrielle Butoni took home the Top Pilot award from the Central Region Gliding School.

FSgt Butoni expressed her excitement over the award. “It is amazing that after all of this hard work I can fly a glider! I’m thrilled about receiving this award.”

Rank first name last name was awarded the Top Pilot trophy for demonstrating the greatest aptitude for academics and flying during the six week training course located at Mountainview, Ontario. FSgt Butoni accumulated five hours of flight time during her training this summer while also juggling the intense academic program that accompanies the licensing.

FSgt Butoni has been a member of 809 “Newark” Squadron in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the past four years where she has been an active participant in the ground school program, and commander of the precision drill team.

This summer, the Central Region Gliding School graduated 92 Air Cadets from the gliding program. An additional 50 cadets were awarded their power licences from various schools across Ontario and can now operate Cessnas.

“The real draw to this program is the fact that cadets can get their pilot’s licences, but what they don’t realize are the many, many other incredible skills they pick up along the way as well,” said 809 Squadron Commanding Officer, Captain Mitchell Godfrey.

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 and training 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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