

## Up, up and away

# Local councillor the first woman to ride Fighter

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Ward two councillor Margaret Marland is used to pressure, fumes and hot exhaust.

"I've always been interested in flying," she says. "I grew up with three brothers who were very aviation minded.

"I find flying is probably the most exciting thing I've ever done alone in my life. It's a tremendous challenge just from the standpoint of interpreting weather and attending pre-flight briefings."

The first year councillor began her love affair with the skies as the first non-registered nurse to become a stewardess with Trans Canada Airlines.

"It was many years ago," she remembers. "When my kids ask which airline I was a stewardess with, I always tell them the one that followed the arc."

As it turned out, her stewardess career did not last much longer than 40 days. She met her husband after a mere eight months off the ground and gave up her wings to raise a family.

She continued her interest in flying, however, and has since become an accomplished pilot and veteran member of the Ninety-Nines.

Three years ago, a chance encounter at a seminar on high altitude flying led her to become the first female civilian to fly in a Canadian Forces CF 101 Voodoo Jet Fighter Interceptor. Only the Prime Minister had flown in the plane prior to Marland

After receiving security

clearance from the RCMP and training in a de-compression chamber, Marland took off from Trenton Air Force Base for a one-hour flight.

"We did an afterburn takeoff to 40,000 feet," she recalls. "It was like sitting on top of a rocket. We were at 40,000 feet in one and a half minutes."

Marland confines herself these days to a slightly slower pace at a much reduced altitude, however she remains an avid flyer, renting a plane

regularly and travelling across the continent for both business and pleasure.

"The advice I'd give people interested in flying is, unless they're going to be in a position to own a plane, I'd recommend gliding," she says. "Gliding is much more recreational. When you compare gliding to power flying, it's like comparing sailing to boating. One is recreational, the other is simply travelling from A to B."



Ward two councillor Margaret Marland learns the use of an ejection seat in preparation for her flight as the first woman civilian at 40,000 feet.