

Once upon a time, as every story has its beginning, mine begins when I was a little girl. I was only 2 years old when my father took me on a flight in a glider. Although I didn't know it then it was the beginning of a lifetime passion, the love for flying.

Everybody wants wings to fly, so I took my wings and started to fly gliders and paragliders when I was 16. I soon found out that my place is between the birds where I could see them, fly with them in the thermals and even guide me in my flights.

I discovered gliding to be challenging. With experience I started to fly long hours cross country. Not having an engine and relying only on weather you sometimes have to land in different fields, known or unknown. It was not always the way I have planned and I remember that one time, after a very long flight of almost 6 hours, I had to land not on my gliding club airfield but close to a potato field. I had to wait almost 4 hours to be picked up! It was then that I discovered that raw potatoes are great when you are really hungry.

Paragliding has its challenges too because in order to fly you have to climb many different hills and mountains. The freedom and excitement that you feel in the air makes every step of the climbing worth it.

In the long summer days I learned a lot about the clouds, the wind and about different meteorological factors. For some people this might seem boring but for me it was a path to longer flights. After four years I choose to develop the skills and knowledge that were helping my flying by choosing my major in meteorology at the University. I've got the habit of watching the sky first thing in the morning to see how the day looks like, what the clouds and birds doing, and of course to observe the airplanes.

I took my passion further and obtained an airplane licence in a Zlin 142. The year was 2000. In 2008 after 11 years and 250 hours (700 flights) of flying gliders and 150 hours (800 flights) of flying paragliders as a hobby in Romania I emigrated to Canada to obtain a Canadian Glider Licence. I also started training for a professional carrier as a pilot.

As each and every pilot, when you start a carrier first, you have to find a school. It took me a while to hunt for a flying club. After I did my research I decided to choose the Brampton Flying Club due to its high level of professionalism. I was afraid in the beginning not knowing what to expect but when I met my instructor, Andy Midcalf, he took all my fears away. He is a very good instructor having great theoretical and practical aviation knowledge and above everything he is a very nice person. I feel extremely lucky and honored to have him as my instructor.

Although in aviation sometimes you have to wait and pray for good weather in the end the wait is always worth it.

The day I took my Private Pilot Licence my heart was full of joy and I found out that every sacrifice was worth it. If I had the chance I would do it all over again, but because we can never turn back the time, we can only move forward. I am continuing my flying and am currently training to obtain the Commercial Licence.

Every story has an end, but mine is not written yet ... life goes on....



Veronica's smile always is a welcome sight around the club. She also is first in line to volunteer for club activities.

*Thank you Veronica for your very touching
Story.*