

# LOCALNEWS

## ■ GRADUATION

# Cadets conquer Canadore aviation

EMILY HAWS  
The Nugget

Cadet Brittany Cooper never thought she would receive a cadet award, much less the top one.

Cooper was awarded the Army Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada Medal of Merit at the advanced aviation technology course aircraft maintenance and airport operations graduation ceremony Friday at Canadore College's Cadet Summer Training Centre.

The award is given to the cadet who demonstrates overall achievement in the course, leadership qualities, dress and deportment, motivation and co-operation with others.

"It's amazing, I never thought in a million years I would be up for a cadet award at a camp," Cooper said. "I got involved with cadets because my dad was in cadets when he was a kid... When my brother turned 14, my dad asked if he was joining cadets, and so he joined and said I should come with, so I did and I've been hooked ever since."

Cooper is from Major, Sask., and is a flight major at the 601 Squadron. She lives on a farm with her family "about an hour from anywhere," and decided to take the course because she likes academic endeavours that are hands-on.

"I've always been taking apart and putting back together trucks and tractors," she said.

"I figured why not aircraft, and so here I am.

"To apply, I had to write an essay, and from there had to go to a selection board at my home squadron, be picked there and then go to selection board in Regina. Out of the whole province of Saskatchewan, me and my friend were picked."

Cooper says the experience has been great, although the shift in landscape has been a change.

"There's a lot of trees and the weather is pretty bipolar compared to at home. And it's humid so it is different," she said. "You definitely feel it the first week – going on hikes was rough."

The course offered a basic introduction to aircraft maintenance and airport operations. It took place over the past six weeks at Canadore's Aviation Campus. More than 200 cadets took part while staying at the college residences.

Major (Ret'd.) John Scott, the national governor of the cadets, says that cadets come from across Canada.

"Canadore is the only host for the aircraft maintenance and airport operations course," he said, noting that is a prestigious program. "We're developing these young people for industry."

College president George Burton, said that although Canadore staff teach the course, the curriculum is set by the National Cadet Program.

"We're the host and they're using our

facilities," he said. "It gives us exposure, and it also gives them exposure to the college and hopefully someday some do come back as full-time students. But, more importantly, it gives them good memories of the college and North Bay.

"They have a full-rounded program that explores the nature around North Bay. They spent some time on Lake Nipissing and Trout Lake, they took them hiking – they have a full recreation program. It's about that work-life balance that we're trying to teach them in the program."

For instructor Robert Smith, who is a retired member of the military reserves, the best part is seeing how the students evolve over the six-week period.

Smith has been teaching the course for a number of years, and says that often the cadets take the course, and then go onto to study aviation at post-secondary school, eventually fixing airplanes all over the world for the Armed Forces.

"They're sponges, they absorb so much, and they also bring some of their own personal history to the program," he said. "It's interesting to see some of the skill levels. For example, we've seen some kids who came from Saskatchewan and they were farm kids, and they knew basic mechanics – they could take apart an engine. It's great to see young people have that sort of knowledge level."

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EMILY HAWS / THE NUGGET

Cadet Brittany Cooper receives the Army Navy and Air Force Veterans of Canada Cadet Medal of Merit from Brig.-Gen. John Fletcher, the chaplain general of the Canadian Armed Forces, Friday during the advanced aviation technology course graduation ceremony at the Canadore College Cadet Summer Training Centre. 220 cadets from across Canada have spent the past six weeks in North Bay learning about aircraft maintenance and airport operations.

## ■ FAREWELL COLUMN

# Summer at The Nugget a confidence booster

If last summer was the summer I learned that journalism is for me, this summer was the summer I became a reporter – a real one, not a student.

I mean, I'm still a student/intern, but this year I wasn't treated much like one. I was more of a reporter who was expected to make more mistakes. An equal part of the team, doing an equal amount of the work.

Has it really been almost a year and a half since I walked into The Nugget for the first time? I still remember shaking as I opened The Nugget's front door. Now, the newsroom feels like a second home to me.

In February 2014 I marched into The Nugget asking for a job, and in May of that year I started working here as a summer student. Why Bruce Cowan and the news team took a chance on me, I'll never know.

It was four months of incredible work experience for me, and I guess they liked me because they brought me back for three months this summer. Again it was a summer of incredible work experience, but more fine-tuned – less how to write a news story, more how to cover a bomb threat, a fire or a major accident.

As an intern you obviously learn a lot. But what I like about this career is that you keep learning. You're constantly thrown into situations you know essentially nothing about, and you're expected to figure it out, report it and get it right. It can be a lot of pressure, but it can be a lot of fun, as well. There's something to be said for a job that you are never bored at, because you're literally never doing the same thing everyday.

Without this job, I likely never would have become a blood donor. In the beginning of June I reported on a lot



of children who were going through, about to go through, or were just finishing cancer treatment. Although all had different forms of cancer, all mentioned how they were the recipients of multiple blood transfusions, and it haunted me. These kids were so sweet and so strong that the next blood clinic I saw I signed up. I've learned the people you meet often have an impact on you, even if you are supposed to be the reporter and not let your heart get involved.

I also never would have heard a first-hand account of the Residential School System. Yes, the stories of Judy Couchie and Patricia Sutherland were heartbreaking, but they were important. I feel so privileged to be able to have shared that story with everyone. And to this day, I think it was the most important story I've ever worked on. Nipissing First Nation, as a whole, embraced me whenever I found myself in their presence, talking to

me not only about whatever I was writing about, but also teaching me about their culture. I don't know where else I would have tried beaver, pike soup or bannock.

These are only a few examples, but you get the idea. My sources taught me more about life this summer than I ever could have expected. Of course, they weren't the only ones – the news team at The Nugget works as a great mentoring team for a young intern.

Jennifer Hamilton-McCharles taught me the importance of being connected, Gord Young showed me how important it is to not ruin a relationship with my sources, P.J. Wilson taught me how to see everything with the same amount of enthusiasm and Dave Dale taught me to not be afraid of sports.

Mark Sandford, the editor, never failed to teach me something new every time we spoke – whether it be that I have a talent for just going up and talking to people, or that I need to pay more attention when rewriting news briefs.

I've grown into a reporter who is more confident, more dedicated and more experienced this summer. Sure, I'm still nervous to cover breaking news or subjects I am not familiar with, but I hesitate less and jump in with both feet.

Thank you, North Bay Nugget team,

and thank you North Bay readers.

Farewell for now – you might see me next year, or I might be writing for another publication, but either way The Nugget will always be my home.

Editor's note: Emily Haws is returning this fall to her journalism studies at Carleton University in Ottawa. We sincerely hope we are given the opportunity to welcome her back next summer.

## ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF UNION GAS LIMITED

Union Gas Limited has applied for approval to change its gas commodity, storage and transportation rates effective January 1, 2016.

Learn more. Have your say.

Union Gas Limited has applied to change its rates to better reflect how it supplies natural gas to its customers. The proposed changes include the following:

- A change in the reference price used to set rates on a quarterly basis for a majority of its customers; and
- A change to how it allocates costs to the different types of customers that it serves.

An average residential customer would see the following annual bill impact, but these impacts would only start in 2018:

Residential Customer – Service Area	Approximate Bill Impact
Southern Ontario (Windsor to Hamilton)	Decrease of \$20
Northern Delivery Area (North Bay to Kapuskasing)	Increase of \$26
All Other Delivery Areas	Decrease of \$1.50 – \$51.50

Other customers in Union Gas Limited's service area, including businesses, will also be affected.

### THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Union Gas.

We will question Union Gas on the case. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent the customers of Union Gas. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the changes that Union Gas has requested in this application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

### BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review the application filed by Union Gas on the OEB's website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **August 25, 2015** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

### LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2015-0181**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2015-0181** from the list on the OEB website: [www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice). You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

### ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **August 25, 2015**.

### PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and e-mail address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



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