



Media Release

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Women in Canadian Aviation History: Celebrating a legacy of trailblazers

Women have played an integral role in shaping the aviation industry for hundreds of years. Their journey began in the era of hot-air balloons and dirigibles, where they defied conventions and shattered barriers. Often viewed as anomalies in a male-dominated field, they have persevered in spite of societal expectations.

Lola Reid Allin, a pilot, flight instructor and commercial aviator with over three decades of experience, also encountered the notion that women can't fly. As a young girl, she witnessed the awe-inspiring aerobatic displays of the Royal Canadian Air Force's Golden Hawks.

Despite discouragement from her parents, who told her, "Don't be silly; only men can be pilots," Lola pursued her dream and obtained her pilot's license. Today, she is a successful aviator, world traveller, an acclaimed author and an award-winning photographer.

On June 10, Allin will talk about women's history in Canadian aviation, including the Ninety-Nines: International Organization of Women Pilots. The event is happening at the Isabel Turner Branch from 2-3:30 p.m. Register online at <https://calendar.kfpl.ca/event/7669845> beginning on Saturday, May 27, or phone (613) 549-8888.

"From balloonists to barnstormers and bush pilots, and from ferrying Spitfires to piloting the space shuttle, women have been an integral part of aviation history for more than 225 years," said Anne Hall, Local History and Heritage Librarian. "By telling her own story and the stories of other Canadian women pilots, Lola will motivate girls and young women, demonstrating that their dreams can take flight."

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