



Spotlight on ACL Female Volunteer & Former Cadet



Past Air Cadets find a future together and return as volunteers

When Nicholas Babineau was awarded his IACE scholarship in 2000, he had no idea just how much it would change his life! He was already a pilot and knew his future lay in flying commercial aircraft.

Kathy Lee was an Air Cadet in Hong Kong and was also on the exchange trip and was excited to explore France as an Air Cadet. She too loved planes and she and Nicholas became friends, sharing the same passion for flight. They kept in touch after the exchange in France back in the days when the internet was new and they had to visit the library to send a message, then go back the next day to find the reply.

The friendship bloomed to romance, Nicholas moved to BC to train as a commercial pilot and Kathy worked for Dragon Air out of Hong Kong. Pilot jobs were hard to come by so Nicholas' first job was as a baggage handler in Yellowknife. He would fly down to the coast whenever Kathy was in Vancouver.

Meanwhile Kathy was persuading her parents to move to Vancouver, which they did in 2005, and met Nicholas with whom they have a great relationship. They had a small wedding in Yellowknife and Nicholas got a job as a pilot working three weeks in Yellowknife and three in Calgary. He would drive home to Vancouver in an old Toyota Tercel.

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Kathy



He now works for West Jet out of Toronto so is a way from home a lot, leaving Kathy to look after their two children and run the house. They were both so grateful for all the things the Air Cadet program gave them, not just each other, that when their children joined the program, they both became involved.

Kathy is the vice chair of 637 Air Cadets in Vancouver and Nicholas does familiarisation flying as much as he can.

"We really wanted to give back" said Kathy. "It is a great program, we got so much from it and now our children are gaining from it".

Nicholas and Kathy Babineau are just two of the many volunteers to with we owe our thanks. Without you, this program simply would not happen.