

# BC AVIATION COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## General and Aerospace Scholarships

Please support our  
Scholarship Program

604.644.6426

[info@bcaviationcouncil.org](mailto:info@bcaviationcouncil.org)

[www.bcaviationcouncil.org/donate](http://www.bcaviationcouncil.org/donate)



## MARY SWAIN MEMORIAL AVIATION TRAINING (SUPPORTING WOMEN)

A true BC pioneer, Mary was born in on May 12, 1929, in Princeton, BC, in an old boxcar. Mary attended grade school in Cumberland and later King Edward High School in Vancouver. She was a draftsman in the 'Old Country', a waitress in Windsor, Ontario, and in the 1960's, hostess at the Hotel Georgia in Vancouver. For 30 years she billed herself as the "fishmonger" at Royal Seafoods in West Vancouver's Park Royal Mall.

Not only was Mary a pilot (and a navigator), she was a sailor, entrepreneur, and an avid supporter of the Delta Heritage Airpark. She and her husband Tony flew their Harvard "Bessy" out of the airpark with the Western Warbirds Flying Circus performing at numerous airshows across North America. You would know the Harvard to see it as Bessy was festooned with "Fish Lady" nose art.

For forty years, Mary was the heart of the airpark and was known to all as "The Mary" or "Mother Hen". She would bustle about the airpark coffee shop befriending pilots, cyclists, walkers, birdwatchers, and anyone else who came to enjoy the special magic of the airpark. Everyone who met her felt that they had met a new best friend.

Mary loved aviation and was a staunch supporter and booster of anyone wanting to pursue a career in the field. She particularly liked to support and encourage women to become involved in aviation. Following her death in April 2013, Mary's Celebration of Life was attended by over 300 people and this scholarship fund was born out of that event. How fitting that Mary's legion of friends and loved ones decided to set up a scholarship in her memory directed towards helping young women begin a career – and hopefully a lifelong love affair – with aviation.

*(Photo Courtesy: [deltaheritageairpark.org](http://deltaheritageairpark.org))*