

# Margaret Rutledge



Learning to fly in Edmonton, on 2 October 1933 she became the first woman in Western Canada to receive her Commercial Pilot License. Shortly afterwards she moved with her family to the West Coast and continued flying there. After being rejected when she attempted to create a Canadian Chapter in the American Ninety-Nines, an organization for women pilots, she was the impetus behind The Flying Seven; a pioneering association for Canadian female flyers. As such, she was involved in a number of efforts to promote women in aviation and raise funds for the war effort during World War II.

Shortly before World War II broke out, she landed a job with Ginger Coote Airlines; serving as reservation manager and radio operator at the Zeballos station during the Vancouver Island gold rush. At times she was allowed to co-pilot flights, thereby becoming the first women in Canada to work as a commercial pilot.

When the airline was purchased by Canadian Pacific Airlines in 1941 she return to Vancouver where she continued working for another 20 years, becoming the supervisor of reservations for the airline.

Margaret Rutledge was a trailblazer for women in Canadian aviation, and at the time she passed away, she took satisfaction with the fact that many women were enjoying productive careers in all facets of aviation.

## **Pioneering Female Pilot**

*Inducted:*

*Born:* 13 April 1913  
Edmonton, Alberta

*Died:* 2 Dec 2004  
Richmond, BC

*"Marg was a free spirit, and as a woman, was years ahead of her time. She was an aviation pioneer and encouraged many other women to pursue their dreams."*

- Margaret's obituary published in The Vancouver Sun, 7 December 2004.

