



POST-EVENT NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Over \$20,000 Raised for Aviation Safety Grant through Savy's 5K Walk



AURORA, ON – July 16, 2026 — The local community came together on July 5, 2026, for Savy's Walk, raising more than \$20,000 to support the *Savanna May Royes Aviation Safety Grant*.

The inaugural memorial event drew over 350 registered participants to honour Savanna's legacy. In March 2025, Savanna began her flight training in Manitoba. Tragically, on July 8, 2025, she lost her life in a mid-air collision during a training flight.

Some attendees came as far as Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, to support the cause. Of note sharing remarks were Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas and Kurt Davis, Consul General of Jamaica in Canada, who was there with his wife, Suzanne Davis.

The event generated funds through direct donations, a silent auction that brought in over \$2,000, and custom t-shirt sales, with 50% of apparel proceeds going to the *Savanna May Royes Aviation Safety Grant*, administered by the Urban Pilot's Network. The single largest contribution came on the day of the event from Peter Josephs, Director of Maintenance at Kisko and supplier of the event's freebies, who donated \$10,000. All proceeds directly fund the aviation safety grant.

"It was a meaningful day of inspiration to follow our dreams, and to see the beauty of community supporting a family in grief was powerful indeed," said attendee Maggie Millwood in a post on the event's community board.

The walk also brought together key aviation safety advocates, including Warren Holt, President of the Urban Pilot's Network. "The support received for Savy's Walk was only outshone by the beauty of the day," said Holt. "I am happy and encouraged by the support received, which will go to this Aviation Safety Grant in Savanna's name and promote a legacy of aviation safety."

"It was incredibly moving to see so many friends, family, strangers, and members of our community come together in support of our family and in honour of Savy's memory," said the Royes family in a joint statement. "The love, kindness, and compassion shown to us during this unimaginable time have meant more than words can express. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has stood with us and helped keep Savy's memory alive."

Also in attendance were Warren Couch, father of Allison Couch—the first-ever recipient of the *Savanna May Royes Aviation Safety Grant*—and Jean Skeen, mother of Lloyd Christopher Skeen, representing *The Dream Never Dies Foundation*, which is the charity collecting and receiving all donations.

The family is thankful for the generous contributions of their Corporate Supporters who helped make the event a success. For more information on Savy's Walk, visit savyswalk.ca.

About the *Savanna May Royes Aviation Safety Grant*

The *Savanna May Royes Aviation Safety Grant* supports aspiring minority female aviators, and advances safety training and education within the aviation community. Founded in memory of Savanna May Royes, the grant empowers future pilots to achieve their dreams with a core focus on safety and excellence in flight.

The Dream Never Dies Foundation

The Dream Never Dies Foundation is a registered Canadian charity that funds scholarships for deserving students across Ontario, inspiring youth through aviation.

Urban Pilots Network

The Urban Pilots & Professionals Network Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that is geared towards training, mentoring, entertaining and enhancing aviation awareness for young people and other participants of their programs.

Photo captions:

#1 Warren Holt

#2 L-R Sam Royes, Breanna Royes, Tom Mrakas, Loraine Royes, Tim Royes

#3 Savy's Walk Participants