

Lola Reid Allin

Guest Speaker

EMPOWER

Lola Reid Allin is a former Airline Transport Pilot with 6,000 hours flight time, rated for wheels, floats, and skis. She worked as a pilot for the Ontario Government (DHC-6/300) and DeHavilland/Flight Safety (DHC-6/300; DASH8). She was also an examiner for Private Pilot Licenses, a Class I flight instructor, and the first female Chief Flying Instructor at Vanderhoof Mountain Flyers, BC, and Waterloo-Wellington Flight Centre.

After graduation from the University of Waterloo, where she studied psychology, anthropology, and genetics, she became an award-winning photographer and author. Her work has appeared in national and international publications, including National Post, National Geographic, Smithsonian Magazine, Globe & Mail, Verge: Travel with Purpose, Toronto Star, Grapevine, and Santa Fe Centre for Photography.

She is the 2025 recipient of the Quinte Arts Council's **Arts Recognition Award** for her patronage and contribution to the arts scene.

As a professional SCUBA Dive Master, she worked in Mexico. During this time, she traveled throughout Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, Belize, and Guatemala, living with the Maya in their homes. These experiences are the subject of her next book, **Mayalum: Travels in the Maya Lands**.

In addition to her personally narrated travel and adventure PowerPoint presentations to some of the sixty-five countries she has explored, Lola does outreach keynote presentations to promote the role of women in Aviation/STEM careers.

Her professional associations include The Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots, Women in Aviation International, and The Writers' Union of Canada.

Her memoir, [Highway to the Sky: An Aviator's Journey](#), was released Sept 2024 by She Writes Press/Simon & Schuster. In 2025, it became an Amazon bestseller in the Top 100 Dysfunctional Relationships and in Aviation & Nautical Biographies. Books will be available for purchase over lunch and across the afternoon program, Tuesday August 25, 2026.

