



Wings & Tails

In August of 1946 a dinner was held in Galt, ON, for 15 former No.6 SFTS personnel. Little did they know that they were laying down a foundation for an annual reunion and eventual development of a museum to honour those who attended No.6 RCAF Dunnville. The annual reunions that would be held in Dunnville every September saw attendance peak at over 200 former personnel. Former "No.6er", Frank Scholfield stated, "It's the camaraderie, the esprit de corps that keeps them coming back." And come back they did, from all over Canada, the United States and as far away as the U.K., Australia and New Zealand. As time caught up with many of the former personnel and graduates, fewer and fewer were able to make the pilgrimage back to Dunnville where it had all began. In the late '90's a group of driven individuals had the idea of establishing a museum to preserve the stories, artifacts and personal items of these truly legendary individuals. With countless hours of logistical work and physical labor, No.6 RCAF Dunnville Museum was established. 2024 marks the 25th Anniversary of the museum and members have planned a busy year of events. Our hope this year is to see many familiar faces and lots of new ones as we continue to celebrate the accomplishments of the staff and graduates of No.6 SFTS.



Mark your calendars, **April 13th at 10:00 AM** is our Annual General Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and hear about last years accomplishments and this years goals/projects!

A Holly Jolly Social

A great time was had by all who attended our Christmas social on December 9th. A fantastic meal with an assortment of delectable homemade treats for dessert was accompanied by a feeling of good will and camaraderie. The day also included a cooking demonstration and visits from some special friends. Thanks to the generosity of our members who brought non-perishable food items with them, a sizeable donation was made to the local food bank.



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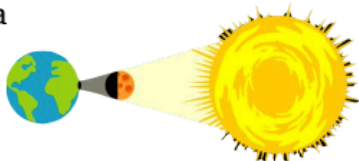
2024 Events



Questions or comments? Contact the newsletter at no6newsletter@gmail.com or on our **Wings & Tails** Facebook Page

Total Solar Eclipse

On April 8, 2024, Southern Ontario will be treated to a unique celestial event. On the afternoon of the 8th, the moon will completely cover the sun, known as complete totality, causing a period of ~ 4 minutes of darkness. Making this event even more special is the fact that the grounds of No.6 RCAF Dunnville Museum lay in the direct path of the eclipse!



Members will be welcoming the Waterloo and Hamilton branches of The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, to the museum grounds that day. The clubs chose the museum to set up their equipment to observe the eclipse because of the wide open areas that we have to offer. According to their website (<https://www.kw.rasc.ca/eclipse2024>), this is the first total eclipse visible in our area since 1925. The next time this will occur will not be until the year 2144! The branch members will have multiple viewing platforms set up and look forward to interacting with the public who choose to attend.

Museum members are working with Haldimand County to help promote the event as well as with local organizations. The Dunnville Fair Committee will be operating a food booth during the event to help raise funds for their upcoming season. The museum will be open on the day of the eclipse. As always, parking will be free and there will be a limited amount of eclipse glasses available for safe viewing of the event. Keep an eye on our Facebook page (Wings & Tails) and our website, www.rcafmuseum.org, for more details.

From The Workshop

In January, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 142 Dunnville, reached out to the museum with a special request. In the 1990's, the Legion commissioned members of The South Haldimand Sky Hawks to build a replica of Harvard 2766 to proudly display in Branch 142. Using a scale flying model kit as a base and detailed photographs of the original aircraft located outside of the Dunnville Library, the members painstakingly spent 2 years building and modifying a balsa wood based replica. With working ailerons, landing/navigation lights and hatches, this dynamic piece of art has hung proudly in the branch for the last 30+ years. As time has elapsed, the years have taken a toll on Harvard 2766 and she began to show signs of wear and tear. Branch 142 contacted the museum to ask if we would be able to use the members expertise, to restore her to her former glory. Without hesitation, members transported the replica to our workshop at the museum where she is currently being doted on by our members. Patience, precision and dedication will ensure that before long, Harvard 2766 will once again be soaring over the patrons at Branch 142 Dunnville.



Members of the South Haldimand Sky Hawks present their original work to No.6 Reunion Committee Chairman Frank Scholfield



Museum Curator John and members Richard and Steve survey the project



Of the hundreds of tools in the shop, Steve finds the perfect one to clean the canopy

Stage Productions In The Hanger

The museum is not the only local organization celebrating a milestone this year. The Dunnville Community Theatre is marking their 50th Anniversary in 2024 by taking their show on the road. The group has 3 venues scheduled to perform their homegrown original play with the first stop being the hanger at No.6 RCAF Dunnville on June 14th and 15th.

In a recent conversation with writer and director Kathryn Stengel, she described the Theatre's newest project, "Next". "The production is a One Act Comedy Play/Event like you have never experienced before! An entertainment experience that includes both a theatrical performance, musical performances, food, drinks and where our audience.....are not just an audience!"

The story, which was co-written by Stengel and Claire Vanden Pol, revolves around 12 lonely people at loose ends with their lives who attend a disorganized speed dating event at a local pub, where it takes a missing person and Tom Jones to help them see that they might be in the wrong place at the right time. It guarantees laughter and tears for all those in attendance. Come check them out on June 14th/15th 2024 at No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum, or at either of their other two venues, June 22nd 2024 at the Fisherville District Lions Community Centre and Sept 14th 2024 at the Jarvis Lions Community Centre. Doors open at 6:15 pm. Event starts at 6:30.

If the appeal of live stage theatrics doesn't entice you to attend maybe one of the cast members inaugural performance can convince you to be in the audience. Debuting his first time on stage is No.6 RCAF Dunnville Museums very own President, Frank Phillips. With minimal persuasion I am sure we can set up a post performance session for pictures and autographs from Frank. Check out their website, <https://dct73.com>, for ticket information.

Special thanks goes out this month to member Bruce Nevils. Last November Bruce headed up a project to update the lighting throughout the museum. With his knowledge of electrical systems and government programs, Bruce was able to utilize Ontario's Save on Energy Program to obtain LED lighting and have it all installed under the parameters of the initiative. Thanks to Bruce and his ingenuity, the upgrade of ~\$3000.00 was free to museum. Well done Bruce!

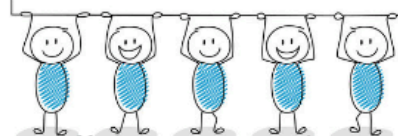


Community Support

Last fall a representative from the Hagersville Lions Club contacted the museum and arranged for a time to come out and meet the members. During the visit, Lions member Michelle Campbell presented a cheque in the amount of \$1000.00. Accepting the donation on behalf of the museum were members Don, Richard, Bruce and Museum Curator John. The proceeds were raised during last year's successful Catch The Ace campaign which is now allowing the Hagersville Lions to support other County organizations and clubs. The Hagersville club is part of an international network consisting of 1.4 million members who dedicate their time and efforts to improving the areas where they live.



WE NEED YOU



To help staff the museum during open hours. Please consider signing up to help out



2024 Events!

Solar Eclipse April 8th

12:00 - 4:00
Museum Tours,
On site Astronomy Experts
Food Vendor

Dunnville Home and Garden Show

April 19th-20th
Come visit us at our booth to learn about our
upcoming events

Museum Season Opens

May 18th
Tuesdays 10:00 - 1:00
Saturdays 12:00 - 5:00
Sundays 1:00 - 5:00
Holidays 1:00 - 5:00

Hanger Yard Sale

May 18th - 19th
8:00 - 3:00
Who knows what treasures you'll
find

Quilt Sale

May 31st 10:00 - 6:00
June 1st 10:00 - 5:00
Cozy up with a new homemade
purchase

"Next" A Dunnville Community Theatre Production

June 14/15th
For Ticket Info and Show Times go to
<https://dct73.com>

25th Anniversary Open House

July 6th
Museum Tours, Car Show,
Live Entertainment, Vendor Market

Elimination Draw & Dinner

August 17th
It could be your lucky night!

Thank You to our Newsletter Sponsors



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