



# Wings & Tails

## A Year In Review

This past season was our 25th anniversary at the museum. The year was marked with many wonderful events starting in April with the solar eclipse, May brought the annual Hangar Sale and in July we celebrated with our Open House. Combined, these 3 events saw almost 3000 people visit our grounds. Our members set up information booths at the Heritage Day Celebrations in Selkirk, the Home & Garden Show in Dunnville and the C.H.A.A. Open House in Tilsonburg. Our weekend hours that spanned from May - September saw nearly 1500 visitors tour through the museum. We welcomed guests and provided tours for people from as far away as Australia and England. We opened our doors and welcomed rental groups like The Dunnville Community Theatre, Dunnville's Own Tiny Stitchers and the Dunnville Chamber of Commerce. Our members enjoyed live entertainment and fantastic food during the Elimination Night Draw and annual Christmas gathering. As we turn the page and begin 2025, the work continues and the planning commences for another season. New projects are on the horizon and see us partnering with other organizations to promote and protect the museum and all of it's treasures. We hope to see all our members out this year to help make 2025 another prosperous season.



If you have paid your **YEARLY MEMBERSHIP** fee through the **CANADA HELPS** Organization, please contact the museum to let us know so we can update your status

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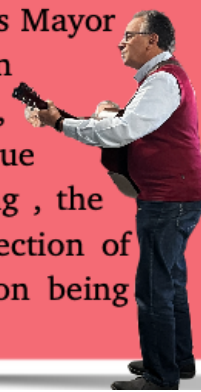
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## A Holly Jolly Good Meeting

On December 14th our members gathered for the traditional Christmas meeting and luncheon. Attendees included Haldimand County's Mayor and representatives from MPP Brady's office. Those in attendance enjoyed a hearty meal, festive music, fellowship and camaraderie exemplifying the true nature of the holiday season. In the spirit of giving, the generosity of the members was evident as a collection of non-perishable items resulted in a sizeable donation being made to the local food bank. Well done No.6!







Questions or comments? Contact the newsletter at [no6newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:no6newsletter@gmail.com) or on our **Wings & Tails** Facebook Page

### Remembering Their Faces

Last November a visitor came to the museum with a proposal for the members. Stephen Adams is a professor at Mohawk College and is one of the founding members of a project called Remembering Their Faces. The project utilizes computer aided facial recognition technology to help family members obtain photographs of loved ones that are archived in museums and personal collections. The team uses photographic and computer technology to scan pictures into a data base. Any additional information such as dates, names and locations are attached to the uploaded pictures. Through the group's website, users can upload a personal photo of a loved one who served in the Canadian Forces and the software will search the entire data base and show the user any additional photos that may contain the individual in the original photo. Thus allowing family and loved ones the opportunity of finding pictures that they may have never known existed.

The program has already partnered with The National Airforce Museum of Canada and started the arduous process of digitizing their photo library. In January, a formal contract was signed which partners No.6 RCAF Dunnville Museum with Remembering Their Faces which will result in every photograph in the museum's possession being scanned and added to the database. Entering into this agreement will aid in the process of telling the stories of the personnel who served at No.6 RCAF Dunnville to the world. During our initial meeting, Professor Adams stated that any and all help in the cataloging process will be appreciated and his team will gladly educate our members on how to assist with their efforts. We look forward to this adventure with our new partners and hope for your support when work days get posted.



### Partners In Action

On February 1st, John and Brian represented No.6 RCAF Dunnville Museum at the Partners In Action breakfast meeting. The group consists of local organizations that host events, programs and fundraisers within the local community. Hosted at the local Optimist Hall, there was approximately 75 people in attendance representing groups including the Lions, Rotary and Optimist Clubs, as well as organizations like the Horticultural Society, Youth Impact Centre and Chamber of Commerce to name few. Local dignitaries consisting of members of council, the mayor and MPP were also in attendance.

The main goal of the group is to promote the activities and events of all local organizations to the general public and to help each other out with ideas and suggestions regarding funding, organization and membership drives. It was encouraging to see the existence of so many groups in our local community that strive to make Dunnville a vibrant and progressive community.

On behalf of the museum, we extended an invitation to all of the groups to set up information tables or booths at our events, such as the annual Open House in July, to promote their activities. Additionally, we offered to host tours for their clubs or organizations to promote our mission statement of "Telling the stories of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, the No. 6 Service Flying Training School, and the RCAF Veterans, to the Communities of Canada."



We look forward to continuing to work with the PIA Committee and hope to see our members out at numerous events throughout the year.

### Open House

Our annual Open House will be on July 5th! If you or someone you know are a vendor or a member of service, community or special interest group, and are interested in setting up a table in our vendor area contact the museum for information. Reserve early!



## Leslie John Wearne

Les Wearne was born in Subiaco, Western Australia, in August of 1919. After enlisting in the Army at the outbreak of the Second World War, he found himself enthralled by the adventures of Royal Australian Air Force pilots being trained in Canada. In 1943 he left the army to follow his dream of becoming an aviator by enrolling in the British Commonwealth Air Training Program. After completing an Initial & Elementary Training Schools on the coasts of Australia, he found himself posted to #6 SFTS in Dunnville. Les was part of Course 106 - Section 2 and received his wings on November 17, 1944. As this was late in the war, this was to be the last course graduating from No.6. During his time in Dunnville Les made the most of his "down time" and travelled extensively through the area. These travels made a significant impact on his life as it was during this time that he met Elspeth Gibbon of Toronto, the woman whom he would marry on November 27, 1944 and raise 5 children with back in his native Australia. Les returned to Dunnville in 1985 and 1995 for the annual No.6 RCAF Dunnville Reunions. Les was a cherished member at No.6 and was known



as the last surviving graduate from the air base. His picture adorns the front counter in the museum and it is one of the first items you see when you enter. Sadly, we were recently notified of Les' passing on October 19, 2024 at the age of 105 years. Our thoughts go out to his family and hope that they take comfort in the fact that his memory will live on here at No.6 RCAF Dunnville Museum as we continue to tell his story to all who visit.



## 2025 Election Results

**President: Frank Phillips**

**Vice President: Brian Postma**

**Secretary: Paul Young**

**Treasurer: Katelyn Best**

**Directors: Steve McKay, John McKay, Richard Egger, Bruce Nevils, Andrew Klunder, Gloria Jean Thompson, Dave Larmour**



Thank you to all members who offered to run for a position and to all of those who voted.

## Hangar Sale

Our annual Hangar Sale will run from May 17-19. If you are willing to come out and help with the event, it would be appreciated. Members are needed to assist with parking, packing items, collecting donations, selling 50/50 tickets and crowd control. These are very busy days made much easier by the work of many hands. There are generally quite a few laughs and lots of stories to tell by the end of the day.

**BIG SALE**



## Open For Business

Regular operating hours start on Victoria Day weekend. From May 17th until September 1st, the museum will be open on holidays, and every Saturday and Sunday from 1 - 5. We need your help to staff the welcome desk, provide tours or just be on site to help our visitors. Please consider donating some time to come out and help tell the stories of those who trained and served at this amazing facility.

## The Curator's Committee

In response to the increasing list of responsibilities at the museum, a Curator's Committee has been formed. The committee, made up from active members, is tasked with maintaining, preserving and displaying the artifacts and possessions of the museum. The committee held its first meeting in January and moving forward, is set to hold monthly sessions. The first monumental task of the committee is to establish a data base of all of the artifacts and items that the museum possesses for the purposes of preserving and relating the stories of those who served at No.6 RCAF Dunnville. The members are collaborating to develop a digital inventory of all of the donated items on display and in storage. This consists of modifying existing software programs to meet our needs. Through this process all items will be assigned unique inventory identification numbers, their location within the museum will be documented, overall description and condition will be noted, and each item will be photographed. In addition to this, a new donation form will be created to record any new items given to the museum. Through this lengthy process, a comprehensive, detailed inventory will be kept digitally to ensure that all items may be located quickly when/if required. It will also serve to catalogue all of the artifacts on site to aid in future research projects. Finally, it will serve as an insurance ledger in case of an emergency such as a fire or flood.



## From the desk of our Lottery Coordinator, Sandy Murphy

In the year 2024 we held several raffles and lotteries, realizing a profit of \$3,532.81, being up considerably from 2023. This included the 50/50 raffles held at the monthly meetings, and also at the Eclipse Day, Home and Garden Show, Garage sale, Open House in July, as well as proceeds from the Super Draw.

The Super Draw 100 Lottery continues to be successful, we held our Elimination Draw in August. The evening consisted of dinner, entertainment, silent auction and the draws. The Elimination Draw realized a profit of \$1,494.81 and the Silent Auction \$692.00, however, we treated ourselves with entertainment by Elvis and dinner, after expenses realizing a profit of \$1,538.09.

Proceeds from the Lottery Account are used for museum expenses, public relations and advertising No. 6 to the public. A detailed Financial Statement giving full details of receipts and expenditures is included below.

The support and cooperation received from our members and the community is appreciated.

### 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM 1999 INC.

#### LOTTERY ACCOUNT

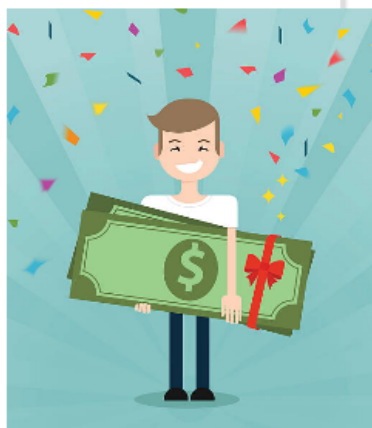
Balance forward from 2023 \$4,183.75

#### INCOME

Raffle Lotteries Proceeds	\$3,871.00
Proceeds from Super Draw 100	1,494.81
Total Income	\$5,365.81

#### EXPENDITURES

Raffle Lottery Licences	133.50
Raffle Prizes	1,699.50
Bank Charges	51.60
Advertising and Public Relations	2,312.34
Newsletter	244.76
Jeep Motor	300.00
Museum Workshop Registration	300.00
Flags	822.64
Dehumidifier	338.99
Museum Supplies	87.47
Folding Chairs	1,824.94
Total Expenses	\$ 8,115.74
Balance as of end of December 31, 2024	\$1,433.82



2025

#### Meeting Dates

April 12

May 10

\*June 21

July 12

August 9

September 13

\*October 18

November 8

December 13

Unless indicated (\*), all membership meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 1000 hrs at the museum. All members are encouraged to attend and participate. Meetings are typically followed by a light lunch and a chance to socialize with fellow members.



The **Memorial Project** will be completed this season. Anyone interested in purchasing a memorial stone should contact the museum for details!  
Cost for the engraved stone is \$100

**Thank You To Art Service Office Supply For Helping With All Of Our Printing Requirements**



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The Hangar Sale is quickly approaching and items are already starting to collect. We will be starting to sort and organize items on Tuesdays from 10:00 - 1:00. If you're available, your help would be greatly appreciated.

