



Wings & Tails

Blue Skies And Aircraft Over The Open House

The museum's open house on July 5th was a resounding success, blessed with beautiful weather that drew a large and enthusiastic crowd. Over 100 classic and custom cars lined the grounds for the car show, while 30 local vendors and displays offered everything from crafts to food & drink. Attendees enjoyed a lively atmosphere, highlighted by an entertaining Elvis tribute performance that had the crowd singing along. A thrilling Harvard & Stearman flyover added a dramatic touch to the day. With smiles all around, it was a memorable event for the whole community. Thanks to all of our volunteers that helped staff the event which raises funds for museum operational costs.



Don't Forget To Renew Your Membership For 2026!

Christmas Luncheon

Saturday December 13th will be the last general membership meeting of 2025. Following the meeting we will be holding our traditional Christmas Lunch and social event. Please consider joining us to celebrate the holiday season and the completion of another successful year at the museum. If attending, RSVP to either Sandy or Brian, or by calling (905-701-7223) or emailing (dunnvillem@gmail.com) the museum. As always, spouses are welcome and we ask that you bring a non-perishable food item donation for the local food bank.



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Please consider joining us on November 11th at the cenotaph in Dunnville's Central Park for Remembrance Day Ceremonies. The museum will be open that afternoon from 1-5.



General Membership Meetings are held at 10:00 on the 2nd Saturday of every month (3rd Saturday in June & October)

The RAF's Unsung Hero of World War II

During the throes of World War II, the Royal Air Force relied on a diminutive yet powerful workhorse to keep its formidable air fleet operational: the Clarktor 6 towing tractor. Over 1,500 of these American-made vehicles were supplied to the RAF under the Lend-Lease Act, where they played a vital, if often unsung, role in the daily operations of airfields across the United Kingdom and beyond.

Designated as the "British Heavy" (BH) in RAF service, the Clarktor 6 was primarily tasked with the crucial job of towing aircraft. Its robust chassis and powerful Chrysler flat-six engine gave it the capability to move even the heaviest of bombers, such as the iconic Avro Lancaster and Handley Page Halifax, with relative ease. This was essential for maneuvering aircraft out of hangars, onto dispersal points, and into position for takeoff, ensuring a smooth and efficient workflow on bustling wartime airbases.

Beyond its primary role as an aircraft tug, the Clarktor 6 proved to be a versatile asset for a multitude of ground support duties. Its significant pulling power (90 tonne pulling capacity) was also employed to haul bomb trolleys, laden with ordnance, to waiting bombers, streamlining the re-arming process between missions. The tractor was also frequently utilized for towing other essential ground support equipment, including fuel bowzers and maintenance stands, further highlighting its importance in the logistical chain of air operations.

The Clarktor 6 was a simple and reliable vehicle, designed for functionality over comfort. Its open-cab design offered the driver excellent visibility, a critical feature when navigating a crowded airfield.

The tractor's straightforward controls and rugged construction meant it could withstand the rigors of constant use in all weather conditions.

In essence, the Clarktor 6 was an indispensable piece of the RAF's ground support machinery during World War II. While the fighter pilots and bomber crews rightfully earned the accolades, the tireless work of vehicles like the Clarktor 6, and the ground crews who operated them, was fundamental to the success of every mission. These unassuming tugs were the logistical backbone that ensured Britain's aerial armada was always ready to take to the skies.

In September, the opportunity to obtain a Clarktor 6 was presented to the museum. After consulting with the Executive Committee and performing a site visit to evaluate the unit, the decision was made to add the "tug" to our collection. The unit was originally used at the airport in Mount Hope and was sold off to a local business for use with a car dealership. Years later, a private owner purchased the tug and painstakingly rebuilt several major engine components and converted the electrical system. The Clarktor 6 will be a cherished addition to the collection at No.6 RCAF Dunnville Museum.



A CELEBRATION OF THE GRAND RIVER!

Submitted by Camilla Wheeler
Photos by John Sims-Davies

On the evening of August 21, a beautiful chorus of voices and ukuleles rose up from under the Harvard in the Museum's Memorial Garden.



Recognizing the sacrifices of those who trained and served at the No. 6 Service Flying Training School during WW II was a moving

start to the Dunnville stop on the month long tour of the community play, "The Voice of the River." Participants paraded back to the museum's hangar, with many waving flags and wearing giant puppets created by the various communities



that hosted the production along the 310 kms of the Grand River. The Dunnville presentation incorporated the talents and creativity of local musicians, artists and quilters. Co-produced by the Canadian Centre for Rural Creativity and Grandview Theatre, the play was years in the making and a unique and entertaining



celebration of the people, stories, music, art and influence of the river on those living along and within the watershed of the Grand. This presentation was another great example of the museum facilities being rented by a private group to benefit the community and increase our involvement in local events.



Contact the museum at dunnvillem@gmail.com for all rental enquiries.

The People Came From Far & Wide

As of the end of September nearly 1200 visitors have come to the museum and that doesn't include the crowds on our Open House and Hangar Sale days. We've hosted numerous private events & individual tours and welcomed car clubs and business associations. This fall we'll tell the stories of No.6 SFTS Dunnville to a class from a local school and members of a youth organization. Thank you to all of the members who make this possible!

Christmas Shopping At The Museum

Shopping for Christmas gifts at the museum gift shop is a wonderful opportunity to find unique, thoughtful presents that stand out from the usual holiday fare. All of our items are supplied by local vendors, there's something special for everyone on your list. Even better, every purchase directly supports the museum's exhibitions, education programs, and preservation efforts—so you're not just giving a great gift, you're giving back to the community too. Check out these popular items:



****New Item****
Laser Etched
Wooden Ornament



****Back In Stock****
*Home Of The Yale And The
Harvard* T-Shirts



Lanyards



Multi-Coloured
Original No.6 SFTS Dunnville Logo T-Shirts

Contact The Museum For Pricing, On Site Sales Only.



From Dumpster To Canvas

This past summer the museum supported a local endeavour entitled, "Keep it Grand, Keep it Clean". This collaboration between Grand Disposal and local artists Gina McIntee and Francis Porter, sees local organizations sponsor garbage dumpsters to be painted and beautify the neighbourhoods where they are located. The endeavour also encourages young artists to come out and participate. The dumpster that the museum sponsored is located on George Street in the parking lot at Squires Pizza. One side depicts Hangar 1 nestled along the shores of the Grand River, while another side shows local legends Muddy the Mudcat and Wade the Heron piloting Harvard 47 over the Grand River Bridge.

On the day of the Open House, we were treated to a fly over by a Harvard from the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Association (C.H.A.A.). What many people in the crowd didn't know, was that our own Richard Egger was in the cockpit of that Harvard. It was not hard to imagine the grin on Richard's face when we heard the growl of the radial engine echo off the hangars as the Harvard roared overhead and banked into the beautiful blue sky.



Signed By The Author

The museum is thrilled to offer an exciting collection of novels by acclaimed author Ted Barris, now available for sale in our gift shop. Each copy is personally autographed by the author, adding a special touch for readers and history enthusiasts alike. Featured titles include The Battle of Britain, Dam Busters, Behind The Glory, and The Great Escape: The Untold Story. These compelling works shed light on the vital roles Canadians played in some of the most iconic and heroic moments of World War II, making them a meaningful addition to any personal library.



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