



Wings & Tails

80 Kilometres for 80 Years:

611 Air Cadets Complete Historic Honour March

On November 1, 2025, the streets of Dunnville echoed with the steady rhythm of marching boots as the 611 Harvard Squadron Air Cadets took part in an extraordinary display of physical endurance and historical tribute.

In a powerful act of remembrance, the cadets performed an "Honour March" between two of the town's landmarks: the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 142 and the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum.

The goal of the march was as ambitious as it was symbolic. The squadron aimed to cover a total of 80 kilometres—representing one kilometre for every year that has passed since the end of World War II in 1945. By connecting the local Legion—a pillar of veteran support—to the Museum—a guardian of aviation history—the cadets bridged the gap between the generations that served and the youth who carry their legacy forward.

Through wind and weariness, the cadets demonstrated the core values of the program: leadership, citizenship, and physical fitness. The event was not only about remembrance but also about active support. Thanks to the relentless fundraising efforts of the squadron, the 611 Air Cadets were proud to present a cheque to the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum in the amount of \$715.00.

These funds will go directly toward the preservation of local history, ensuring that the stories of the pilots and personnel who served at No. 6 Service Flying Training School are never forgotten.

On site to receive the donation was No.6 member and former Air Cadet Dave Larmour.



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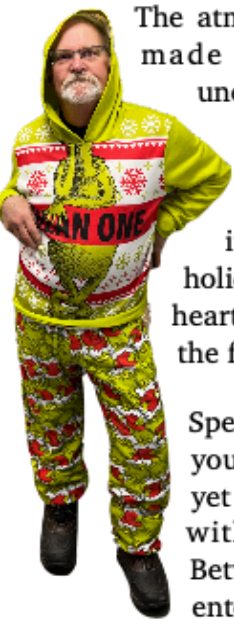
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Questions or comments? Contact the newsletter at no6newsletter@gmail.com or on our **Wings & Tails** Facebook Page

Festive Spirits and High Honours: A Wrap-Up of Our 2025 Annual Christmas Meeting

On December 13, 2025, the museum was filled with more than just history; it was filled with the warmth of friendship and the spirit of the season. Our Annual Christmas Meeting saw a fantastic turnout, bringing together volunteers and supporters to celebrate the close of another remarkably successful season.



The atmosphere was electric from the start, made even more memorable by an unexpected guest. Despite his reputation for loathing the holidays, the **Grinch** himself made an appearance! While he arrived with his signature scowl, it wasn't long before the museum's holiday cheer seemed to melt even his icy heart—or perhaps it was just the smell of the food waiting for us.

Speaking of the food, we owe a thank you to **Passmore's Diner** for providing yet another fantastic meal topped off with their traditional carrot cake. Between bites, the room buzzed with entertaining stories from the past season, reminding us all why we do what we do.

From quirky visitor encounters to the thrill of new acquisitions, the camaraderie was the true highlight of the night.

As we looked back on 2025, it was clear that the museum has reached new heights. We took a moment to reflect on our collective accomplishments, the exhibits we've launched, and the community we've built. This meeting serves as a vital "pencils down" moment, allowing us to recharge and appreciate the hard work that goes into preserving our local heritage.

The climax of the event was the bestowing of our most anticipated (and cheekily named) award: the "**Ass-of The Year.**" This year, the honour was awarded to the incomparable **Sandy Murphy**.

Sandy has been a powerhouse of dedication, humour, and reliability throughout the season. In keeping with our long-standing tradition, Sandy's portrait will now be ceremoniously hung in "**The Place of Honour,**" where it will remain for the duration of the coming year. If you see Sandy, be sure to offer her your congratulations (and perhaps a salute to her new place on the wall!). Cheers to you Sandy!

Thank you to everyone who made this event, and this entire season, possible. We look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in 2026!



We are thrilled to share that No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum was nominated for the "Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year" award and the "Tourism" award. This honour reflects our ongoing commitment to the community, and we couldn't be prouder. Winners in all categories were revealed during the Dunnville Chamber of Commerce Awards night on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 and **WE WON!** Our President Frank

Phillips and his wife Pauline were on hand to accept the award in the

Tourism category. Frank was quoted as saying, "Very proud of #6 and the dedicated crew."

Well done everyone!



We'll be bringing our Little Harvard to the annual Home, Garden and Craft Sale coming up on April 17th-18th. Hosted by the Dunnville Lions & Optimist Clubs, this event is always attracts a big crowd. Please consider volunteering by helping to set up or by staffing our booth.



President's Report February 2026

Hello to all members. I'm sure you will all agree that 2025 was a highly successful year for #6. We had over 1500 visitors tour the museum-- several people returned as they could not take it all in, in just one day. This speaks to the quality and quantity of our exhibits.

The Hangar Sale (our major yearly fundraiser in May) was a huge success! This 3-day event attracts people from far and wide who travel to Dunnville to peruse all the many treasures and seek to buy that special item. Items not sold are donated to the Canadian Diabetes Association.

The Canada Day Open House also attracted a huge crowd. A vintage and classic-car show was once again organized by museum members. It, along with local artisans, historians, and vendors, contributed to the day's success. Once again, we were fortunate enough to have our own 'Elvis' tribute artist entertain our guests.

The improvement of the pylon for the museum's Harvard has been completed. There are a few finishing touches still to be done to '47', in the form of navigation lights.

Another milestone is the painting of the cement base at the memorial. Local painter, Dave Reynolds, did an outstanding job.

If you have not been out to the museum in a while, I urge you to make the trip and see the improvements and upgrades.... you will be amazed!

We have also signed a partnership agreement with Mohawk College for a project called "Remembering Their Faces." This collaboration involves the high-resolution scanning of photos in our collection with the goal of identifying the individuals in the photos by name and using facial-recognition software. Our secretary, Paul Young, is spearheading this project and is always looking for people, like you, to help with the scanning process.

Our visitors have found us by scanning the internet, reading ads in the Lighthouse Festival programs and the Curious guide, 'just driving by', and word-of-mouth. Numerous visitors had relatives pass through #6 during the war and while researching their family history, found us. They are amazed at the items we have collected. On that note, I am asking all members to consider staffing the museum once or twice during the upcoming 2026 season. If you have never done so, training will be provided. It is a very rewarding task.

Our numbers attending the monthly general meetings have been constant at twenty to twenty-five attendees. I would urge those not attending to, "come on out." The meetings take place at the museum the second Saturday of every month beginning at 10:00 AM. A lunch is always served right after the meeting.

In closing, I want to acknowledge all the events, staffing, maintenance, etc., that make #6 tick--they don't just happen. A dedicated, loyal group of volunteers make it all happen. Many, many hours of time, skills, and toil go into the successful operation of the museum.

I sincerely thank all members, and the Board of Directors, for their time and commitment to the museum. Without them, it would just be a building full of stuff.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next General Meeting.

Frank Phillips CD



Camilla's Corner

Editor's Note

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome a new edition to the Wings & Tails staff, Camilla Wheeler. Look for her insightful and entertaining contributions in Camilla's Corner. I would also like to thank everyone for their ongoing support and feedback on the newsletter. I truly enjoy producing it and learning more about our members, events and history.

- Brian



As we put the finishing touches on our Memorial Garden please remember that Memorial Stones can still be purchased. Nestled underneath Harvard 47 and surrounding the roundel, there are currently 225 stones honouring veterans and museum members. An engraved stone can be purchased for \$100. If interested, please contact the museum.

NO. 6 STFS/REMS
LAC WILLIAM H. LOGAN
DUNNVILLE 1943-1945
ENGINEER AVRO ARROW

Restoration Road Trip

Recently, our '42 Willy's Jeep and 40's Clarktor Tug hit the road for a little adventure. With the help of our members, the units were moved to the heated shop of member, Richard Egger. The key word there being, HEATED. Now we get down to starting the refurbishment of these classic vehicles. If you are interested in helping out with this project, reach out to the museum and find out when the work party days are being scheduled. Help bring these classic pieces back to working order.



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MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!

I'm coming up on my one-year anniversary of showing up at the museum one Tuesday morning in March or April of 2025, at the encouragement of John and Connie McKay. I knew them as a customer of Queen St. Paints, and post-pandemic seeing them at classic car shows and around town. "Come and check us out! We would love to have you as a member!" Being recently retired, I took the bait and forked out the \$50 membership fees for me and my husband. And good news - I'm not sorry I did!

There are lots of benefits: making new friends, learning about life in Dunnville during WWII, especially for those working at or training to be fighter pilots at the RCAF No. 6 STFS, greeting visitors, giving tours of the museum, assisting with the planning and hosting of annual and special events, and that wonderful feeling you get from volunteering time and effort for a good cause.

And there is more! Membership includes the ability to contribute to decisions made that further the vision and goals of our not-for-profit corporation. Take advantage of your right to vote at meetings of members, run for election to the Board of Directors, or join a committee! One final added bonus: the names of Life members and 5-year Regular members get added to the lists posted around the meeting room! I've only got four more years to go...

