



# WINGS & TAILS

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM**

**FEBRUARY 2015**

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## **A Bright Future for the Museum**

A recent visitor to the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum remarked: "I have been in many Air Force museums, and this is one of the best". As the Museum moves into its 16th year, members and volunteers can look forward to a long, bright future.

The Dunnville Airport closure to flight operations in June 2013 resulted in the loss of three, privately owned, airworthy, vintage aircraft. However, thanks to generous donations from Samsung and other benefactors, we purchased a Yale and a Cornell for static displays. In 2014, we obtained a scale model of a Mosquito bomber and a full-scale fiberglass fuselage of a Spitfire that was made for the classic film "Battle of Britain". Thanks to the support of Airport owner, Russ Cameron, several years ago, we own a Fleet Finch. Our 7/8-scale replica of a World War I Nieuport 17 provides a good reference for the major advance of aircraft technology represented by the Yale and Harvard.

We now also own the Grumman Tracker. While it is post-World War II, it is popular with visitors--they can sit in the cockpit and get a full appreciation for how cramped it is inside an operational Air Force aircraft. The search continues for a Harvard that can be put on static display to complement the Harvard on the pedestal in the Memorial Garden.

Thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and hard work by the Tuesday Work Crew, the Memorial Harvard has been renovated. The grant also helped pay for replacing areas of flower beds with concrete painted to match the previous colour scheme, resulting in savings for the cost of the flowers and the back-breaking work to continuously weed the flower beds.

The Museum has signed a 10-year lease for our half of Hanger 1, with a provision for a 10-year

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# A Bright Future for the Museum

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extension. A major advantage of this lease is that we pay no rent, only our share of property tax and insurance, which reduces our annual operational expense by nearly \$17,000. As a result, the Museum is on a firm financial footing. Revenue from our lottery ticket sales makes significant contributions to our revenue stream. Russ Cameron donated a 1,000-gallon water tank to free us from the vagaries of the airport well and water system which had been a problem handling large crowds during our Annual Open House and fundraising events.

The stream of Museum visitors continues unabated, in part because of campaigns to raise awareness with both local residents and tourists. Opening the Museum on Tuesday mornings has brought in a surprising number of visitors.

The Museum Executive continues to search for ways to enhance the Museum as a unique part of the area's heritage.

## *A Letter from the President*

I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and is looking forward to a healthy and prosperous New Year!

I would like to thank everyone on the Executive for their support and dedication this past year. It has been a challenging year with the Memorial, the new roof, cleaning the hangar, and rethinking the hangar space.

Thanks also to our members for their continued support. It is people like you that keep the museum going.

Best wishes for 2015!  
Your President, Don Oatman

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

Membership dues account for about 25% of our annual income. Look for your 2015 Membership Renewal Form included with this newsletter.

### INCREASE YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT WITHOUT SPENDING A CENT!

Printing and mailing costs increase every year. Help reduce those costs, **leaving more financial resources to operate the museum**, by opting to receive newsletters and other notices via email. Add your email address to your renewal form. If you have already renewed your membership, let us know your email address through the website ([www.rcafmuseum.org](http://www.rcafmuseum.org)).

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the members of the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum, will be held on

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015, 10 A.M.**

All members are invited to attend to elect officers and directors for the 2015-2017 term, and to transact other business as is necessary.

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY FORM BY MARCH 1.**

### 2013-2014 EXECUTIVE

#### Officers

Don Oatman, President	Tim Logan, Secretary
Pat Logan, 1st Vice Pres.	Joanne Villeneuve, Treasurer
Ian Durand, 2nd Vice Pres.	

#### Directors

April Cormaci	Don Messner	Paul Segui
George Cowell	Jack Murphy	Stan Swayze
Jim Mattice		

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Museum & Membership - Pat Logan  
Building & Grounds - Jack Murphy  
Fundscrip - Rick Pleasance  
Lottery - Sandy Murphy  
Merchandise - Lynn King  
Newsletter - Carolyn & Derek Burrage

## Museum Items Donated in 2014

First of all I would like to extend a "Thank You" for all of the many and varied items donated to the No. 6 RCAF Museum in the past year. It is surprising after all of this time that articles appear on a regular basis.

Some of the items are donations to add to a family section that is already there by a member of the family. Another being an item found when the donor was moving, the grandmother of the donor had been a friend of the pilot trainee while he was at the base. Some involve entirely new donations like the one that gave us a body money pouch--an item that I had never seen before. Information on the various Squadrons are a great source of information as to what went on.

We had a rather large donation this fall from a family who had a member that graduated from this base--James Barbour. His mother saved everything. This is wonderful as not many of our donations come with so much information. Log book, pictures, letters written by the service man to his family at home, letters/telegrams of condolence upon his death.



Barbour

There was also information included on his friend--Gil Brown--



Brown

who had also graduated in the same class. They trained together, they served together in the same squadron and they are together in death, buried seven graves away from each other in a cemetery in Scopwick Church Burial Grounds, Scopwick, Lincolnshire County, England, having both been KIA just 47 days apart. In this wonderful package of items was also information about John Gillespie Magee Jr. who wrote the poem High Flight, he is also buried in the same burial ground. Another member of the same graduating class --H.E. Gay--was the father of one of our members.

I should also say that the nephew of James Barbour who was the donor of the vast information donated --above--has become a member of our Museum.



Gay

It was too late in the year to have any of these items on display for 2014 but there will be a display ready certainly for our Annual Open House (July 4, 2015).

All donations, large or small, from practice bombs, pictures and many more items too numerous to mention here are greatly appreciated.

Another project of donations of sort is from the Vets who are Members of No. 6--having them tell of their wartime experiences, put them down on paper and make a display that is there for visitors to read.

It has been decided by the Board that as we were receiving requests from local residents if we would take items concerning their family members even if they were not in the RCAF, that we would do this as long as the person was a LOCAL. To date we have an Army display from WWII and a Navy display from WWI. Call 905-774-4799 and this can be discussed if any one out there is interested.

Without the help of 'you' the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum would not be what it is today.

Respectfully submitted  
Pat Logan, Member Museum Committee

## Membership Committee

Charter Life	10
Charter Corporate Life	8
Corporate Life	7
Individual Life Members	32
New Members for 2014	20
Renewal Memberships for 2014 to date	83
Honourary Members Veterans	9
Honourary Members Other	1
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New Members Since Last Report: Bill Rice / London  
Paul Barbour / Burlington Steve Ellis / Dunnville.

Welcome back: Tony Martin / Dunnville.

We also welcome the following members chosen from the tour of the Probus Club of Brantford: Bob Osborn  
Bill Hurley Bob Ion Jim Kent Duane Bower  
Paul LeBlanc Erle George Harold Offenhammer  
Frank McPherson.

## Museum Update

The Museum had a wonderful 2014. Busy Busy Busy. Tours can still be arranged by calling 905-774-4799 to make an appointment. Also every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. it is open for anyone who happens to stop by. It will be open for the official 2015 season as of Victoria Day weekend--May 16, 17 & 18. On the next weekend the members will be holding a garage sale to benefit the Museum.

## Memorial Brick Project

There were 9 Memorial Bricks ordered for 2014, bringing the total to 196. The cost of these has gone up to \$80.00 due to the rising costs of material from our supplier. The deadline for ordering for the 2015 Open House is May 15, 2015. Please get your orders in so that we can be sure to receive them from our supplier in time for the Open House which will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2015. To order a Memorial Brick, call the Museum at 905-701-7223, call Pat Logan at 905-774-4799, or send email to Pat at [pjlogan@rogers.com](mailto:pjlogan@rogers.com).

## Library

Our library is still growing. The books can be borrowed by members only -- sign out -- sign in -- just like a regular library. Thanks to all that have donated for the reading enjoyment of others.

Above reports respectfully submitted by Pat Logan

# Mark Your Calendar!

**Lions Home & Garden Show**  
Friday & Saturday, April 17 & 18  
Visit our table at the Dunnville Memorial Arena!



**Museum Season Opening**  
Victoria Day Weekend, May 16, 17, 18

**Garage Sale - Museum Fundraiser**  
May 23 & 24 during Museum hours  
Donations can be dropped off in Hangar 1 (no clothing).  
For information, call Jack Murphy (905-774-3068).

**Annual Open House**  
Saturday, July 4, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Chicken BBQ**  
Saturday, July 4, 4 - 6 p.m.

**Elimination Draw & Silent Auction**  
Saturday, August 22  
Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m.

**Monthly Meetings & Lunch**  
Museum Meeting Room, 10 a.m.  
March 14, April 11, May 9, June 20, July 11,  
Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12.

## BRRR! IT'S COLD OUTSIDE...at least in Dunnville!

How about a warm Museum sweatshirt to keep out the chill? Sweatshirts bear the Museum crest and come in red, blue and white, in a variety of sizes for \$25 each. A wide selection of other merchandise is also available for purchase.



Every Tuesday, a dedicated crew of volunteers gathers to maintain and enhance the Museum, service and maintain the planes and maintain the Airport grounds. The volunteers are also happy to give tours to anyone stopping by. The Tuesday Work Crew is shown in front of the Yale. Left to right: Ian Durand, Stan Anderson, Ross Watterworth, Don Messner, George Cowell, Bob Boan, and Ron Moody. Missing are Jack Murphy, Don Oatman, Paul Segui, and Stan Swayze.

## VISIT THE NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM

**Location:** Dunnville Airport, Hangar 1,  
536 Port Maitland Rd., Dunnville

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 232  
Dunnville, ON N1A 2X5

**Phone:** 905-701-7223

**Website:** [www.rcafmuseum.org](http://www.rcafmuseum.org)

Visit the website for pictures, upcoming events, and more. If you don't have internet access, most libraries have public computers.

**Hours:** Victoria Day weekend through Labour Day weekend: Saturdays & Holidays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m. Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., year round. Remembrance Day, noon - 4 p.m. To arrange for a tour, call 905-774-4799.



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No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum!

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*Thanks to John Van Luttikhuisen for  
starting the ball rolling.*