



# WINGS & TAILS

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

*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.*

### Local Boy Visits Museum

On January 10, the Museum was honoured to receive a visit from Bill Davidge, son of long-time Museum member and World War II veteran Rod Davidge who passed away in February 2015.

Bill is a long-time broadcaster and TV analyst for the Columbus Blue Jackets. His youth, though, was spent on Lake Erie in Dunnville. A camera operator and friends accompanied Bill on his visit to his home town. After touring some of the spots Bill remembered in town, they stopped at the Museum to see the display about Rod and some of Rod's gear from his service days. Their last stop would



*Bill Davidge in front of the display about his father*

be the Dunnville Canadian Legion for a look at the banner erected for Rod in the Dunnville downtown core this past November as part of recognizing the sacrifices of Dunnville military veterans.

### Tiger Moth Model Donated

A new aircraft model will soon find a place above the library in the meeting room. A 1/12 scale de Havilland Tiger Moth was donated to the Museum by Graham MacDonald - P.Eng. Museum volunteer Ross Watterworth commented: "It's the same scale as the Fleet Finch over the meeting room's front table. It's great to have both of these basic training plane models." The Tiger Moth model is especially exciting as the parts are a very detailed and accurate representation of the aircraft.



*Tiger Moth model awaiting its propeller*

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## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

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

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018, 10 A.M.**

All members are invited to attend: to receive the financial statement for the year ending December 2017, to elect officers and directors for the 2018-2020 term, and to transact such other business as is brought forth.

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

## ***A Letter from the President***

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and 2018 will be a happy, healthy and prosperous one for you and your families.

We have been faced with major challenges in the last couple of years. And with challenges often come opportunities. Several volunteers have formed a committee to take on the tasks of doing an inventory and organizing our collection, and creating displays for the Museum. Others will be offering an orientation for additional volunteers who are interested in staffing the Museum during our summer season. The Tuesday Work Crew has completed a major renovation of the upstairs storage space and work area.

To honour the substantial contributions of the two curators we have had over the years, Patricia Logan and Peter Gay, we will be designating the reorganized and enhanced library as the "Patricia Logan Memorial Library" and the renovated storage and work area upstairs as "Peter's Room".

Your President, Don Oatman

### **CURRENT EXECUTIVE**

#### **Officers**

Don Oatman, President  
Frank Phillips, Vice Pres.

Tim Logan, Secretary  
Joanne Villeneuve, Treasurer

**Directors:** Lynda Bain, April Cormaci, George Cowell, Arnold Link, Don Messner, Jack Murphy, Paul Segui

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Building/Grounds - Jack Murphy  
FundScrip - Rick Pleasance  
Lottery - Sandy Murphy  
Membership - Joanne Villeneuve

Merchandise - Lynne King  
Museum - Ad hoc committee  
Newsletter - April Cormaci

## **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018**

*Your membership counts! Help us maintain and enhance our unique Museum.  
Look for your 2018 Membership Renewal Form included with this newsletter.*

**INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
TO JOIN OUR MUSEUM FAMILY!**

## **A Tip of the Wing...**

To our 2018 Memorial Garden flag sponsors:

Australia - Lynda Bain

Canada - Ian Durand in memory of Fred Cash

RCAF - Sandy & Jack Murphy in memory of  
Beverley Cowell

Union Jack - Floyd Smelser

United States - April Cormaci

*Sponsorship for the New Zealand flag is  
available at \$100.*

To the sponsors of our aircraft:

Anson - Don Oatman

Cornell - Lynda Bain

Fleet Finch - Carolyn & Derek Burrage,  
Dave Mundell, Tonya Neuert

Mosquito - Lynne & Charlie King

Tracker - Floyd Smelser

Yale - Joanne Villeneuve

*Sponsorship for the Nieuport is  
available at \$200.*

If you are interested in sponsoring the New Zealand flag or the Nieuport, please send email through our website.

## **Memorial Bricks**

The memorial bricks placed around the Harvard Memorial are a special way to acknowledge the sacrifices made by our veterans and family members. The cost of a memorial brick is \$85. To be installed in time for the July 7 Annual Open House, bricks must be ordered by May 1. Please send email through the website for information.



## Tiger Moth Model Donated

*Continued from page 1*

*The following is an excerpt from the website of the Bomber Command Museum in Alberta. Visit [www.bombercommandmuseum.ca](http://www.bombercommandmuseum.ca) for more information.*

The de Havilland Tiger Moth first flew in 1931. It was used by the RAF, the RCAF, and in many other countries, becoming one of the best known primary trainers of World War II. During the early years of the war, the aircraft was vital to the BCATP as thousands of Commonwealth pilots' first solos were in Tiger Moths. A total of 8,389 Tiger Moths were built by de Havilland and its licensees between 1931 and 1945.

The first British-built Tiger Moth for Canadian use was assembled at Downsview, Ontario in 1935. In May 1936, Phillip Garratt, a First World War pilot, became General Manager of de Havilland Canada. Garratt designed an all Canadian version of the Tiger Moth incorporating the RCAF's requested changes to the original design. These included an enclosed cockpit suitable for winter flying, heavier axles that could accept skis, a padded instrument panel and other refinements. In early 1937, Garratt finally won a long sought after order from the RCAF for 26 Tiger Moth trainers. A condition of the sale was that the Tiger Moths would be manufactured, not just assembled, at Downsview. Eventually 1747 Canadian Tiger Moths were built by de Havilland and these aircraft equipped many Elementary Flying Schools throughout the country. RCAF Tiger Moths flew an impressive 1,778,348 flying hours during the war and equipped more than 20 flying schools.



*Volunteers Ross Watterworth and Stan Swayze working on the Tiger Moth model*

## Upstairs Storage and Work Room Renovated

The Tuesday Work Crew has spent several weeks renovating the storage and work areas above the shop in the hangar. Two rooms were connected by an internal doorway, new insulation, sheet rock and shelving was installed along with electric heaters. The photos below show the progress of the work on what will now be known as "Peter's Room".



*Measure twice, cut once!*

*George Cowell & Stan Swayze*

*Men with power tools!*

*Bob Boan  
John VanLuttikhuisen  
& Jack Murphy*



*Time for a little fun!*

*Don Messner & John VanLuttikhuisen*



*Tuesday Work Crew Taking a Well-Earned Break*

*Left to right: Paul Segui, John VanLuttikhuisen, Stan Anderson, Stan Swayze (leaning on counter) George Cowell, Don Oatman, Don Messner, Dave Mundell, Bob Boan, Ian Durand, Ross Watterworth. Photographs by Work Crew member Don Hart.*

# Mark Your Calendar!



## Hostess House Hospitality

*Below is an excerpt from an article in the March 1943 "Skywriter".*

The Hostess House likes to sustain its reputation for a homelike atmosphere and since at least a minimum of heat is necessary to preserve the illusion, it fully lived up to its tradition one memorable Sunday when the electric power was off on the Station. The hitherto despised old coal stoves now took the limelight and did extra duty in keeping tea and coffee ready for the half-frozen derelicts who poured in all day. In the afternoon, the W.D.'s took possession of the kitchen, and dished out sandwiches of their own concoction, along with the welcome hot beverages.

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A wedding might be classed as one of our more unusual events, and on Monday, March 8th, the Hostess House was the setting for a very charming ceremony, the marriage of AW Ketchell to Cpl. Berry. We will just comment to the extent that a profusion of flowers--a charming bridal table--interesting refreshments, and a happy bride and groom were the highlights of the occasion.

## Saturday Open Hours Have Changed

A review of the visitor logs for 2017 shows that few visitors come on Saturday mornings during our open days. The Executive Committee, therefore, has decided to change Saturday and Holiday hours to noon - 5 p.m. This will also allow more volunteers to participate in staffing the Museum.

## NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM

**Hours:** Victoria Day weekend through Labour Day weekend: Saturdays & Holidays, Noon - 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 a tour, send email through the website or call 905-701-7223.

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

**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 photos, upcoming events, and more.  
If you don't have internet access, visit your local library.*

# 2018

## SELKIRK HERITAGE DAY

**Mon., Feb. 19, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Selkirk Community Hall  
34 Main St. W., Selkirk

*Historical displays, food, music & more. Visit our table!*

## LIONS HOME & GARDEN SHOW

**Fri., April 20, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

**Sat., April 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Dunnville Memorial Arena  
275 Ramsey Drive, Dunnville

*Displays by local businesses and community groups, craft room, food, free draws & more. Visit our table!*

## MUSEUM SEASON OPENING

**Sat., May 19 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)**

**Sun., May 20 (1 - 5 p.m.)**

**Mon., May 21 (Noon - 5 p.m.)**

## YARD SALE (MUSEUM FUNDRAISER)

**Sat., May 19 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)**

**Sun., May 20 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)**

**Mon., May 21 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)**

*Donations welcome on Tues. mornings, at monthly meetings and during the sale.*

## ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

**Sat., July 7, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

## ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ

**Sat., July 7, 4-6 p.m.**

## ELIMINATION DRAW & SILENT AUCTION

**Sat., Aug. 25**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & LUNCH

Museum Meeting Room, 10 a.m.

<b>March 10</b>	<b>July 14</b>	<b>Oct. 13</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Aug 11</b>	<b>Nov. 10</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Sept. 8</b>	<b>Dec. 8</b>
<b>June 16</b>		