



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.

Letter from the President

Due to the lockdown of our province since December 26, 2020, our Museum has virtually become a "ghost town." I was there the other day and it was eerie. I miss seeing our volunteers on Tuesdays and other days when I pop in. I miss seeing our members who come out for the monthly meetings, and the great lunches provided by our gracious cooks and servers.

What a great organization we have! I look forward to us being able to reopen, hopefully, by March or April, so we can resume showing off our unique Museum. Until then, please keep safe.

Our 2021 Giant Yard Sale is tentatively scheduled for the Victoria Day long weekend (Saturday, May 22, and Sunday, May 23), and I hope we can have our Museum open also. In addition to grossing an amazing \$11,000 from our two yard sales last year, we learned a lot. The grocery carts for shoppers were a resounding success, so we will continue to use them at all our future yard sales. Keep purging at home and tell your friends and family that they will be able to drop items off at the hangar soon.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year even though we had to curtail our usual large gatherings.

Your President, Carolyn Burrage

COVID UPDATE

The Museum remains closed to visitors until further notice. Monthly general membership meetings and monthly Executive Committee meetings are suspended until further notice. Members will be notified via email or telephone when operations resume.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021

If you have already renewed, thank you!

If not, please send in your renewal (\$50/person) as soon as possible.

**Mail your cheque TODAY to:
No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum
P.O. Box 232, Dunnville, ON N1A 2X5**

***Renewal receipts
will be sent by mail.***

Your Membership Is More Important Than Ever!

From the Editor 2020 was a difficult year. Our personal activities--family gatherings, employment, leisure pursuits, volunteering--have been severely affected or disappeared altogether. Many non-profit organizations suffered decreased annual income and volunteer participation.

Thanks to the support of members and volunteers and successful fundraisers in the previous years, the Museum entered 2020 with the resources needed to cover required maintenance and upgrading, such as repainting the Museum sign on the building and the flag poles in the Memorial Garden, and upgrading the washrooms. And the Museum was fortunate to be able to hold two yard sales that brought in significant revenue.

However, most of our revenue comes through public participation--donations (especially from Museum visitors via the donation jars), raffles and lotteries, and merchandise sales. COVID restrictions that required the Museum to close to visitors had a major impact on revenue from these sources. As a result, our gross income for 2020 was down by approximately 27%. Yet, the Museum's annual overhead expenses don't change.

Please consider the importance of your membership to the continued operation of the Museum and renew as soon as possible.

A Tip of the Wing...

To our 2021 Memorial Garden flag sponsors:

Australia - Veronica Head & Jeanne Cowan
Canada - Lori Lymburner & Shirley Poolton
New Zealand - Lynda Bain
RCAF - Sherry & Stan Swayze
Union Jack - Sandy & Jack Murphy
United States - Connie & John McKay

And to our 2021 aircraft sponsors:

Anson - Don Oatman
Cornell - Lynda Bain
Fleet Finch - Carolyn Burrage, April Cormaci
& Ian Durand in memory of Derek Burrage
Nieuport - Sherri & Stan Swayze
Tracker - Pam Carom
Yale - Joanne Villeneuve

The Mosquito remains available for sponsorship at \$200. If you are interested in sponsoring it, contact the Museum.

In Memoriam

James Russell Cameron (1941-2020)

In the mid-1990s, local entrepreneurs Russ Cameron, Dan Silverthorne, and Vic Powell purchased the property built in 1941 as the No. 6 RCAF Service Flying Training School. When the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum Foundation was formed, they provided space in Hangar 1 for the future home of the museum. Several years later, Russ became the sole owner.

Russ continued his unwavering support for the Museum for more than 20 years. Notably, he significantly enhanced the aircraft collection by purchasing the Fleet Finch for the Museum, contributing to the purchase of the Cornell, and arranging for the acquisition of the Yale. After the wind turbines were installed and the Dunnville Airport was closed to flight operations, Russ gave the Museum a 10-year lease with free rent and an option for a 10-year extension.

Russ Cameron passed away on May 13 at his Home in Smithville. Our deepest condolences go out to the Cameron family.

2020-2022 EXECUTIVE

Officers

Carolyn Burrage, President Tim Logan, Secretary
First Vice President, Frank Phillips Joanne Villeneuve, Treasurer

Directors: Don Hart, Lori Lymburner, John McKay, Steve McKay,
Sandra Murphy, Paul Segui, John Van Luttikhuisen

Past President: Don Oatman

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building/Grounds - Arnold Link & Stan Swayze	Membership - Joanne Villeneuve
Facebook Page - Don Hart	Merchandise - Lynne King
Fundscrip - Pauline Phillips	Museum - John Van Luttikhuisen
Lottery - Sandy Murphy	Newsletter - April Cormaci
	Website - Tim Logan

THE NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM

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

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

Phone: 905-701-7223

Website: www.rcafmuseum.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rcafdunnvillemuseum/

Hours: **Normal open hours are suspended.**

Tours for small groups may be available.
Please contact the Museum.

Normal Hours: Victoria Day weekend through Labour Day weekend: Sat. & Holidays, noon-5 p.m., and Sun. 1-5 p.m. Tues. year round, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Remembrance Day, noon-4 p.m. To arrange a tour, send email through the website or call 905-701-7223.



Life at the No. 6 SFTS

Excerpts from *The Skywriter, 1942-1944*

Letters to His sweetheart (December 1942)

Dear Gladys:

I'm leaving Manning at last, headed for some place called Dunnville. I don't know what it'll be like, but at least it isn't Security Guard—something called "Tarmac Duty." I guess Security Guard is pretty bad, nothing much to do while you stand around. One of my friends worked out the multiplication table up to 712 times 62. He talks to himself a little bit, but apart from that he's all right. All the lads say that Tarmac Duty is wonderful. You gas up planes, oil them and start the engines for the pilots and almost every day you get taken for a ride (in the planes, I mean).

Joe
24th November

Dear Gladys:

Here I am getting along fine. The men on the Station are swell to us, and every time we tell them we are on Tarmac Duty they smile—Tarmac Duty must be nice. I asked the Sergeant when I could go up in a plane, and he said soon, but I would have to get to know the Station first. He's letting me sweep out the boiler rooms in all the huts, and I'm getting to know my way around pretty quick. The Sergeant sure is a swell guy!

Joe
26th November

Dear Gladys:

Today I saw my first planes. The Sergeant says there are two kinds—the Yales are the ones with the wheels; the Harvards are the ones without. I'd rather fly the Yales, I think they'd be easier to land. I guess I must be going for a ride soon, because the Sergeant gave me my flying suit today. It doesn't look like the ones in the movies—it's just plain cloth—but the Sergeant calls it a flying suit, and I guess he knows. He says, so I can get used to it, I can wear it while I'm washing windows tomorrow.

Joe
27th November

Dear Gladys:

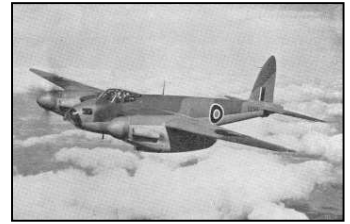
I made my first flight today, but not in a plane. I don't remember much about it, except we were putting up storm windows and there was quite a gale blowing. Anyway the Sergeant said I'd made one of the finest ground loops he's ever seen—whatever that is. I'm very proud of myself, even tho' he said my landing wasn't so good. Maybe soon I'll be doing ground loops in one of those Yales.

Joe
28th November

April 1943

No. 6 Service Flying Training School, Dunnville, Sets Itself a Laudable Objective

PROPOSES TO SELL ENOUGH BONDS ON STATION TO PURCHASE MOSQUITO BOMBER



It is our intention, by subscriptions to the Fourth Victory Loan, to raise enough money to purchase this Mosquito Bomber.

This aircraft, a twin-engine bomber and fighter, is the fastest machine in the air. With its special ply-wood construction, the mosquito is exceptionally light and strong and has...great manoeuverability. This versatile machine can be used as a fighter, carrying a crew of two, and is equipped with four cannons and four machine guns....

The mosquito bomber has a very wide range and was first used in operation against the German-held Norwegian capital of Oslo. It is in every way a formidable weapon and one which is constantly in use against our Axis foe.

A Canadian machine built in Canada and flown by Canadian pilots deserves the backing of all its countrymen. Let the No. 6 S.F.T.S. be the first R.C.A.F. Station to give such a practical and material contribution to our boys "over there." Back your Station on its Fourth Victory Loan Drive, and make this YOUR opportunity to send another mosquito over Berlin.

First Link trainer Experience (June 1944)



More Life at the No. 6 SFTS **Excerpts from *The Skywriter*, 1942-1944**

What They Were Watching (1943)



February Hits	Jan. 22-23	FRIDAY AND SATURDAY Matinee Sat.—Doors open 1.30 YANK ON THE BURMA ROAD BARRY NELSON —PLUS— RIDERS OF THE BAD LANDS CHARLES STARRET	F. S. 5-6	LAST OF THE DUANES George Montgomery and Lynn Roberts —PLUS— SMALL TOWN DEB JANE WITHERS
	Jan. 25-26	MONDAY AND TUESDAY Matinee Tues.—Doors open 1.30 DESIGN FOR SCANDAL WALTER FIDGON, ROSALIND RUSSELL —PLUS— BOMBAY CLIPPER WILLIAM GARDAN	Feb. 8-9	SUNDAY MIDNITE, MONDAY AND TUES. Matinee Tues.—Doors open 1.30 PARDON MY SARONG ARHOTT AND COSTELLO —PLUS— A VARIETY PROGRAM
	Jan. 27-28	WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY THIS ENGLAND JOHN CLEMENT, EMLYN WILLIAM —PLUS— BLUES IN THE NIGHT BETTY FIELD, JACK CARSON	Feb. 10-11	WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY SYNCOPEAN JACKIE COOPER, BOVITA GRANVILLE —PLUS— THE GOLD RUSH CHARLES BRAYLEN
	Jan. 29-30	FRIDAY AND SATURDAY Matinee Sat.—Doors open 1.30 CHARLEY'S AUNT JACK BENNY	Feb. 12-13	FRIDAY AND SATURDAY Matinee Sat.—Doors open 1.30 STARDUST ON THE SAGE GENE AITNEY —PLUS— A VARIETY PROGRAM
	Feb. 1-2	MONDAY AND TUESDAY Matinee Tues.—Doors open 1.30 THEY FLEW ALONE ANNA STRALE AND ROBERT NEWTON —PLUS— INSIDE FIGHTING CANADA C.C.O.	Feb. 15-16	MONDAY AND TUESDAY Matinee Tues.—Doors open 1.30 TO BE OR NOT TO BE JACK BENNY AND CAROLE LOMBARD
	Feb. 3-4	WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY H. M. PULHAM, ESQ. BETTY LAMARR AND ROBERT YOUNG	Feb. 17-18	WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY TRUE TO THE ARMY JUDY CANOVA AND ALLAN JONES —PLUS— CONFESSION OF BOSTON Chorus: Harile and Jean Wandbury

What They Were Reading (July 1943)

Above Suspicion - Helen MacInnes
All This and Heaven Too - Rachel Field
Bombs Away - John Steinbeck
Captain Blood Returns - Rafael Sabatini
Green Mansions - W. L. Hudson
Landfall - Nevil Shute
Last Laugh, Mr. Moto - J.P. Marquand
Mein Kampf - Adolf Hitler
Money for Nothing - P. G. Wodehouse
One, Two, Buckle My Shoe - Agatha Christie
Over the Footlights - Stephen Leacock
Seven Came Through - Edward Rickenbacker
The Bridge of San Luis Rey - Thornton Wilder
The Fireside Book of Dog Stories - Jack Goodman
The Green Archer - Edgar Wallace
They Were Expendable - W. L. White
Winter's Tales - Isak Dineson



Top Notch Pro. Wrestlers at the Local Airport (March 1943)

The highlight in the field of sports and entertainment of the winter season just closed was the gala wrestling show at the Drill Hall on Tuesday evening, March 9th....

Three fine heavyweight half-hour bouts were staged, under the direction of Frank Tunney, the well-known wrestling promoter of the Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto.... The first bout was between "Texas" Dick Bishop from the State he carries as a nickname, against Al

"Bunny" Dunlop. The latter won.... The second bout was between Jan Gotch of Hamilton and John Katan of Palermo, the latter getting the nod.... The final—a draw—was between Gentleman Jack Claybourne... of Capetown, South Africa, and Pat Fraley of Omaha.

Every hold known to the professional wrestling game was demonstrated, and if the very large crowd (all ranks) liked action, they got both eyes full.

Ten Commandments for Budding Aviators (December 1942)

1. Thou shalt love thy instructor as thyself— or more so—he may have a wife and children at home.
2. Thou shalt not dress thyself absurdly in leather jerkin, with all trimmings for first flight.
3. Thou shalt learn for the good of the undercarriage, to make one landing, and only one. To choose the best out of three does not count.
4. Thou shalt not zoom over the roof of the hangar before admiring friends. This has curious and adverse effects upon instructor's temper.
5. Thou shalt not lean negligently against the aeroplane for said friends with kodaks.
6. Thou shalt not leap into thine automobile and drive furiously away at first sign of ships to be put away for the night, or odd spot of work to do. Who are you, anyway?
7. Thou shalt always glance at the wind sock before taking off. What did they put it up for?
8. Thou shalt not cadge free flights for Uncle Zek and Cousin Elmer. Let them pay for a flip. They probably have more money than you.
9. Though shalt not borrow a wrench and leave same to be trodden into earth around the tarmac. This will ruin the temper of the fitter.
10. Thou shalt not envy thy neighbor's skill nor his takeoffs, nor his landings, nor his steep turns, nor anything that is his. Regard him only as a wise youth who has listened wisely to his instructor.