

JUNE 2022



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.

Museum Holds Another Successful Yard Sale!

The Museum held the Annual Yard Sale fundraiser on May 21 and 22, with leftover items for sale by the carload for the few days following. The sale grossed around \$10,000 to support the Museum. Thanks to the community for the many generous donations, to Dunnville Food Basics for the loan of shopping carts, to Julie's Care-A-Closet for taking the remainders, and to the Museum volunteers who spent countless hours sorting and arranging items, staffing the event, and all the other tasks necessary to hold a successful sale. Also thanks to the visitors who bought tickets for the 50/50 Draw. Myrna Wilson of Springvale was the lucky winner of \$402.



Letter from the President

It has been my privilege and my pleasure to be a member and an active volunteer at our Museum for many years, and to serve on the Executive Committee. I have enjoyed by time and have wonderful memories of my volunteer activities. Unfortunately, I am now facing significant health challenges that impact my ability to continue to participate. As of this newsletter, I am resigning as president and, for the foreseeable future, will not be able to volunteer. I hope to become well enough to attend Museum events in time.

Carolyn Burrage

On behalf of the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum, the Executive Committee thanks Carolyn for her many years of dedicated volunteer service and wishes her well. She will be missed.

Annual Air Cadet Review

On June 11, family and friends of 611 Squadron Air Cadets gathered to observe the 611 Harvard Squadron Annual Ceremony and Review in the Museum hangar. On this day, the Cadets display what they have learned throughout the training year and are awarded for their hard work. Frank Phillips (photo below left), who had worked with the Air Cadets for 42 years before retiring in 2019 and Don Oatman (photo below right), past president of the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum participated.



DONATE ONE DAY

THIS SUMMER TO THE MUSEUM YOU SO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP...

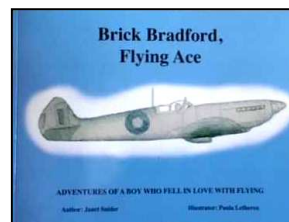
We need volunteers to greet visitors Saturdays (noon-5 p.m.) and Sundays (1-5 p.m.) from now through Labour Day weekend. *Why not give it a try?* You can ask for an experienced volunteer partner or bring a friend. You'll learn a lot about the Museum and have a great time with your fellow volunteers and visitors. Call the Museum and leave a message (905-701-7223).

Flying Career of No. 6 SFTS Graduate "Brick" Bradford Subject of April 9 Presentation

John William ("Brick") Bradford obtained his wings at the No. 6 SFTS in December 1942. Bradford's son Scott recounted the story of his father's flying career at the April 9 General Meeting,

John Bradford was born in Hamilton and learned to fly at the Hamilton Flying Club in the late 1930s. He trained at the No. 6 SFTS, was an instructor at the No. 7 Elementary Flying Training School in Windsor, and went on to fly Spitfires for RAF reconnaissance in the Far East during World War II.

He continued his career in aviation after the war and retired at age 77, having logged more than 29,000 hours of flying time.



Scott's wife, Janet Snider, wrote a children's book about Bradford's career called "Brick Bradford Flying Ace," available from amazon.ca.

Feeling Lucky? Super Draw Tickets Still Available!

Call Sandy Murphy at 905-774-3068 for your Super Draw ticket. Tickets are \$50 each.

A \$20 winner is drawn each week, and a \$50 winner each month over a one-year period. Winning tickets go back in the draw so you can win over and over! The draw for the final \$1,000 prize is held at an event in August.

RCAF Dunnville Museum Rep Speaks on Ukraine Invasion

by Mike Renzella

From *The Haldimand Press*, March 31, 2022

DUNNVILLE – Recently, The Haldimand Press was contacted by the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum with a request to do a story on the current invasion of Ukraine, and how it compares to historic conflicts such as World War II.

We spoke with museum representative John Van Luttikhuisen, who shared some of his thoughts on what he is seeing unfold overseas right now.

“What have we learned from the past about the war?” asked Van Luttikhuisen. “The short answer is nothing. Leaders still want more and seem to go back in history and make excuses to get what they want.”

He is deeply concerned by what he sees as history repeating itself, citing some of the atrocities taking place today, including the murder of innocent people: “In WWII is was the Jews, handicapped, and gypsies. Now in Ukraine it’s all Ukrainians.”

Although Van Luttikhuisen said that while any WWII vets in the area who might have some more specific insight into the strategies being used in Ukraine have since passed away, he has his own experiences with war that colour his viewpoint.

“My mom and dad went through the war in the Netherlands—and war is different when your country is invaded with soldiers that take away all your rights and freedom....We in North America don’t know what the feeling is like; that is a good thing.”

“War in the Netherlands was different than in Ukraine. Hitler’s invasion took less than a week,” he said, noting that was done through extensive bombing. “My dad was taken to France to work, my mother had to go to the ‘soup kitchen’ for weekly rations, at night the shutters were closed, lights out, and they went to the basement. That lasted for five years.

He said the line between these historic conflicts and the current invasion of Ukraine comes down to one simple word: freedom.

“Ukraine is fighting for their life, literally, for their sovereignty and freedom, but they need help from us. Putin has the upper hand at this point with a larger army plus his threats, propaganda, and win-at-all-costs mentality towards lives, both Russian and Ukrainian.”

He is sickened by the “horrendous conditions” Ukrainians are faced with, including “running for their lives, lack of food, water, medical attention, and difficult and dangerous travel to get out of the country.”

He believes there is a strong possibility that Canada will eventually get more involved in the growing conflict, “not by themselves, but certainly along with NATO.”

He added “NATO and their sanctions are the only ways to stop the war here unless they cross the line, and then all hell will break loose, which nobody wants.”

On Russian President Valdimir Putin, Van Luttikhuisen likened him to historically infamous leaders, including Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin: “Putin seems to want to destroy buildings, houses, apartments, hospitals, and schools, leaving nothing standing or useable. He is a monster with no regard for life, women, children, or even his own soldiers.”

On Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Van Luttikhuisen said, “President Zelensky has set the tone for all Ukraine, through his leadership and bravery and always looking to find a solution, despite being outmanned 10 to 1.”

For now, Van Luttikhuisen, like the rest of us, can only watch the ongoing conflict unfold and hope that the people of Ukraine remain as safe as possible, and that this war comes to a swift end.

2020-2022 EXECUTIVE

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First Vice President, Frank Phillips
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Directors: Don Hart, Lori Lymburner, John McKay, Steve McKay,
Sandy Murphy, John Van Luttikhuisen

Past President: Don Oatman

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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:

Victoria Day weekend through Labour Day weekend: Saturdays and Holidays, noon-5 p.m., and Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Tuesdays, year round, 9 a.m.-noon. Remembrance Day, noon-4 p.m. To arrange a tour, send email through the website or call 905-701-7223.



Mark Your Calendar!

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, July 2, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Exhibitors and vendors are invited to attend.

Tables, chairs, and hydro provided free. To reserve a space and for additional information, please **CONTACT** the volunteers listed below **BY JUNE 26.**

Don Hart (don.hart@hotmail.com, 519-718-2751)

Frank Phillips (fphillips@hotmail.com, 905-701-7670)

SUPER DRAW ELIMINATION

Aug., date to be determined.

SGT. WILSON'S ARMY SHOW "HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN"

Sat., Oct. 8, 2 p.m., Museum Hangar
Tickets \$20

Billets for five crew members are needed. If you have a spare room, please call the Museum (905-701-7223) and leave a message.

MONTHLY MEETING DATES: July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10.

Thank you to our newsletter sponsors!



Zana Djurkovic
President
2-536 Port Maitland Road
Dunnville, ON
N1A 2W6
905-401-1314
E: dkwood1works@gmail.com
W: www.dkwoodworks.ca



Mark Mulholland
Associate Consultant
210 Martindale Road, Suite 100, St. Catharines, ON L2S 0B2
Tel (905) 682-7292 Toll Free 1 (877) 857-7280
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