



# 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.*



## Annual Christmas Meeting & Social

**Saturday, December 11**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Spouses Welcome!**

**BEEF ON A BUN WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**Finger foods & desserts appreciated!**

**Please bring non-perishable food items for the Dunnville Food Bank.**

## 2021 Fundraisers Successful

The Museum held two fundraisers this past year, grossing nearly \$12,000 to support the continued operation of the Museum. About 760 eager shoppers attended the Annual Yard Sale on July 31 and August 1. A 50/50 draw was also held during the sale. The Elimination Night festivities for the 2020-2021 Super Draw were held on the evening of August 21. The 75 guests enjoyed entertainment, the annual Silent Auction, and a delicious meal. Many thanks go to the dedicated volunteers who planned, organized, and ran these events on behalf of the Museum. See the back page for photographs.

## Open Hours Resumed July 17

Many visitors took advantage of the re-opening of the Museum's normal summer hours. Between July 17 and Labour Day weekend, 290 visitors toured the Museum. Note that Tuesday morning hours have been changed to 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## Letter from the President

The light at the end of the tunnel is getting bigger. We have resumed our Monthly General Meetings, Tuesday morning open hours, and tours, as we are in the off-season mode. We want to show off all the changes we have made thanks to our Executive Committee members and our many volunteers.

Our yard sale on the Civic Holiday weekend was a huge success thanks to the generosity of our donors and our customers, and the efforts of our volunteers. This is our biggest annual fundraiser with little expense. Everyone did a great job in spite of me being a pain in the butt. I know the guys hated seeing me because they knew I would ask them to set up more tables. We hope to hold the 2022 Yard Sale on the Victoria Day long weekend. That will also be the opening of the Museum for the summer season weekends.

Bring a friend to our monthly meetings and luncheon. After the meeting, you can give them a private tour of the Museum. Who knows? They may want to become a member or a volunteer. You do not need to be a member to volunteer your time.

Government COVID requirements will continue to be observed at all our functions.

## HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Your President, Carolyn Burrage  
P.S. Give your loved ones a big kiss and hug because you can!

### Congratulations to Our 2021 Draw Winners!

#### 50/50 Yard Sale Draw

Lindsay Kennedy won \$415.

#### Elimination Draw

\$100 prize winners: Dennis Book, Art Gerry, Deborah Hamilton/Mary Jane Ings, Donna Harkness, Scott Hines, Charlie King, John & Connie McKay, Margaret Middleton, and Lorna Williams.

\$1,000 Grand Prize winner – the late George Cowell.



### Past Presidents Plaque Installed

A plaque acknowledging the past presidents of the Museum Association now hangs in the Meeting Room. Honoured are first president the late Jack Harris, a World War II and a No. 6 SFTS veteran;

second president James Hopper; and third president Don Oatman who served for 18 years.



### Don Oatman Receives Leadership Award

At the August 14 General Meeting, Don Oatman was presented with a special award acknowledging his dedicated leadership of the Museum. The award is etched glass and reads:

*Presented to Don Oatman  
In recognition of your Outstanding Leadership  
as President of No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum  
2002-2020*

### Flags of Remembrance

The Flags of Remembrance initiative honours veterans, RCMP members, and first responders. Every year, rows of flags are erected at only a few locations across Canada. This year, Dunnville was one of two locations in Ontario hosting the flags. Wingfield Park was the Dunnville site.

A maple-leaf-shaped plaque bearing the name of an individual or group honoured is attached to each flagpole. The Museum sponsored a flag in honour of those who trained at the No. 6 SFTS.

A dedication ceremony took place on September 11. The flags were on display until Veterans Day, at which time the flags and plaques were given to the sponsors.



## In Memoriam

Many dedicated volunteers and long-time members have left their mark during the more than 20 years of creating and operating the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum. Every year, we are saddened by the passing of these wonderful people. In 2020 and 2021, the Museum said goodbye to Derek Burrage, George Cowell, Dr. Peter Dunlop, Symen Langeraap, Jack Murphy, Tom Murphy, Leah Ramsey, Paul Segui, and Marion Smith Tait. Our condolences go out to their families and friends.

### **A Tribute to Ann Ramsay**

**Contributed by Douglas Hildebrand, Life Member**

I was born in Dunnville but grew up in Port Colborne. My mother and her sister were emigrants from Scotland along with Ann Ramsay who settled in Dunnville.

My aunt married a local man and they had a farm on Marshagan Road near Moulton Station. As a result, my family visited Dunnville often. As a young boy I remember visiting the Dunnville Airport during World War II when it was a training school for airmen from Canada and other countries. The training school held "open house" days once or twice a year when the public was invited to visit the airport. As well, the planes used for training pilots were often seen in the air in the surrounding area.

Ann Ramsay was a friend of my aunt's, I believe they knew each other in Scotland before coming to Canada. Ann married a local commercial fisherman, Henry Crosby, who fished in Lake Erie out of Port Maitland. They lived at 231 Main Street E. in Dunnville. The Crosbys often entertained young trainees from the Airport, particularly those from other countries. I remember being at the Crosby home a number of times when there were trainees present. One of these trainees, Ian Rankin from New Zealand, subsequently married their daughter Jean and they moved to New Zealand after the war. Sadly, I don't believe the Crosbys ever saw their daughter again, no doubt due to the great distance between Canada and New Zealand. Their only other child, a son Robert, was lost overboard early in the war while serving in the Royal Navy. He was the first Canadian casualty from Dunnville.

For many years, Ann looked after the graves of the trainees who died during training and are buried in Riverside Cemetery. She passed away in 1962.

### **New Museum Display: The Lalor Trophy**

While most of the artifacts in the Museum are directly related to the history of the No. 6 SFTS, visitors find artifacts from World Wars I and II and aviation memorabilia as well. In the last few years, the Museum has also graciously provided space for artifacts related to the history of its host town. The No. 6 SFTS had a close relationship with the town and its residents, many of whom were employed at the base.

On September 5, the Museum was pleased to accept a unique Dunnville treasure--the Lalor Trophy. Impressive in size and topped by a silver-plated cup, the Trophy was donated by F.R. Lalor to the Dunnville Lawn Bowling Club in 1917. The donation coincided with the arrival of the Club at its new and final location on Main Street.

Mr. Lalor was an important figure in Dunnville's history. He served as member of parliament, was a

*Tom Pettigrew, one of the last presidents of the Dunnville Bowling Club, presented the Lalor Trophy to the Museum in early September, followed by a talk at the September 11 Monthly General Meeting.*

founder of the Monarch Knitting Co. (Dunnville's all-time largest employer), and a pillar of the community.

The first year of competition for the Lalor Trophy was 1918. The arrival of 55 teams (220 bowlers) to compete in a one-day tournament on the Dunnville lawn bowling greens attests to the importance of the Trophy. The Wettlaufer team from Kitchener was victorious. Besides taking home the coveted Lalor Trophy, members were presented with sports coats made, of course, by the Monarch Knitting Co.

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## The Lalor Trophy

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The Lalor Trophy was originally intended to be in competition for 10 years, with the club winning the most times allowed to keep the Trophy at its club. A problem arose with a tie between the Buffalo and St. Catharines clubs. Meanwhile, Mr. Lalor became ill and passed away in 1929. The Dunnville Club voted to keep the Trophy in competition in his memory.

As a result, the Lalor Trophy remained in competition for over 100 years. The final year the Trophy was played in Dunnville was 2016, with Tom

and David Pettigrew winning. From then until 2021, the Trophy was at the St. Catharines Glenridge Club for one of their tournaments.

At the final meeting of the Dunnville Lawn Bowling Club, it was voted that the Lalor Trophy should return and permanently reside in Dunnville.

While there is no record that those based at the No. 6 SFTS played on the Dunnville greens, some of the servicemen came from countries where lawn bowling was popular, such as Australia, New Zealand, and England. It is likely, they would have taken advantage of the Dunnville facility.

Many thanks to Tom Pettigrew for providing the information for this article.

## Annual Yard Sale Drew Hundreds

The setup of the Annual Yard Sale is a significant undertaking, spanning several months and requiring hundreds of hours of work. The results are worth it! This year's sale took advantage of experience from the 2020 yard sales to provide an efficient and safe shopping experience for all.



Christa Oatman and Brenda Erdelac sold 50/50 tickets

## Elimination Draw Celebrated "Christmas in August"



Hostess Sandy Murphy

"Dinner is Served" Halloween butler donated to the Yard Sale came in handy!



Lori Lymburner and friend handled the Silent Auction



Guests Carolyn Burrage and Christa and Don Oatman mugged for the camera



Contestants line up for "Crazy Christmas Outfit" (left to right): Lori Lymburner, Jean Bell, Joanne Villeneuve (winner), Sherry Swayze, Lynda Bain.

### VISIT 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](http://www.rcafmuseum.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/rcafdunnvillemuseum/](http://www.facebook.com/rcafdunnvillemuseum/)

**Hours:** Victoria Day weekend through Labour Day weekend: Sat. & Holidays, noon-5 p.m., and Sun. 1-5 p.m.  
Tues. year round, 10 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.



### 2020-2022 EXECUTIVE

**Officers:** Carolyn Burrage, President; Frank Phillips, First Vice President; Tim Logan, Secretary; Joanne Villeneuve, Treasurer

**Directors:** Lynda Bain, Don Hart, Lori Lymburner, John McKay, Steve McKay, Sandra Murphy, John Van Luttikhuisen

**Past President:** Don Oatman

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building/Grounds - Arnold Link & Stan Swayze

Facebook Page - Don Hart

Fundscrip - Pauline Phillips

Lottery - Sandy Murphy

Membership - Joanne Villeneuve

Merchandise - Lynne King

Museum - John Van Luttikhuisen

Newsletter - April Cornaci

Website - Tim Logan