



Wings & Tails

Still Going Strong

We're happy to say that after a brief hiatus, the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum's newsletter is back and going strong. With a new look and some new content, we're hoping that this new format finds our members well and solidifies our commitment to 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 members continue to convene monthly meetings and dedicate time every Tuesday for work parties. Our members tackle ongoing maintenance of the building and museum displays, planning of upcoming fundraisers and events, new initiatives and public tours. All of this hard work has been noticed. By the end of September we had welcomed over 800 guests to the museum with consistent comments regarding the intimate, knowledgeable and enjoyable experience they had while touring the facility. Well done everyone!



Don't Forget, It's Membership Renewal Season!

Annual Christmas Meeting & Social

All members of the museum are reminded that the annual Christmas meeting will take place on December 9th at 1000 hrs. Immediately following the meeting we will be holding our Christmas social during which time we will be providing beef on a bun. A contribution of a "finger food" or dessert would be appreciated. Spouses are welcome to join in on the festivities.



****Please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to the Dunnville Food Bank****

In this issue:

Dunnville Aeros Kick Off Inaugural Season

Sgt. Wilson Swings Into The Hanger

A Word From Our President

Executive and Committee Members

2024 Meeting Schedule

Lottery Results

A Call For Sponsors

A Time To Remember

Hockey Traditions at No. 6



Questions or comments? Contact the newsletter at no6newsletter@gmail.com or on our **Wings & Tails** Facebook Page

The Dunnville Aeros Take To The Ice

After months of training, organization, practice, loads of hard work and dedication, the Dunnville Aeros took to the ice on September 30th in Tilbury, ON, to kick off their inaugural season. The Aeros will be playing in the Western Ontario Super Hockey League (WOSHL) as one of 11 teams vying for the championship trophy. In a statement released to Wings & Tails, team representatives commented that, "The team has a roster heavily comprised of local young men. Sporting a new red, yellow, white and black colour scheme the logo is deeply entrenched in the history of the town. The team has been working hard in training camp and is optimistic heading into the season. They will be playing a 24 game schedule with 12 games being held in Dunnville. The team is excited about the partnership with the RCAF No. 6 Museum and the agreement to have a story in each of those 12 home game programs."



Museum anecdotes are being developed and submitted to the Aeros so watch for them when you attend home games to cheer on the Aeros as they spread their wings and fly in this 2023/2024 season. A full schedule of games can be found on the Aeros website or Facebook page.

Committee Chairs

Building/Grounds	Arnold Link, Stan Swayze, Richard Egger	Membership	Joanne Villeneuve
Facebook Page	Don Hart	Merchandise	Lynne King
Fundscript	Pauline Phillips	Museum	John McKay
Lottery	Sandy Murphy	Newsletter	Brian Postma
		Website	Tim Logan



Sgt. Wilson's Army Show

Happy days were here again as Sgt. Wilson brought his cast of characters to the hanger on September 30th. The show used a combination of comedic routines and sound effects to bring to life hits from Glenn Miller, Doris Day, The Andrew Sisters and more. The enthusiastic crowd was treated to 2 hours of entertainment which included door prizes and a 50/50 raffle.



No. 6 RCAF Dunnville was the first stop on Sgt. Wilson's Army Show Canadian Tour.

The remainder of the month will be

spent performing shows in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. Based in The Netherlands, the group plays approximately 120 shows world wide every year. Unfortunately, due to rising costs, Sgt. Wilson revealed that after 26 years, this may be their last tour through Canada. We are grateful to have hosted his crew and wish them safe travels.

No backdrop required when you've got a Harvard mural

Museum Executive Officers

President	Frank Phillips
1st Vice	Dennis Briggs
Secretary	Tim Logan
Treasurer	Lori Lymburner

Directors	John McKay, Joanne Villeneuve, Steve McKay, Sandy Murphy, Dave Larmour, Scott Durward, Bruce Nevils
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A Word From Our President

Hello to all members. This is my first report as President of #6 RCAF Museum, Dunnville. I want to thank every one of you for your support, kind words and the trust you have placed in me to hold the office of President. It is truly an honour! My thanks too, to the Board of Directors for their support and guidance during the year.

2023 has a very successful year. Visitors to the museum numbers have gone up, some of which, I'm sure, can be attributed to improved signage at the roadway. Attendance at the Hangar Sale in May, the Open House in July, a beautiful summer day, so much so, that even Elvis attended, and the Sgt Wilson Show in September allowed our community to experience all the museum has to offer. These events were financially beneficial to the museum. The funds raised allow us to operate through the year as well as providing a 'By-donation' only admission fee.

It has been noticed by those staffing the museum many visitors have found us through the internet, ads in the Lighthouse Festival programs, 'just driving by', and word-of-mouth. Many of the visitors had relatives pass through #6 during the war and while researching their family history, find us. They are amazed by what we have. On that topic, I'm asking all members to consider staffing the museum once or twice during the upcoming 2024 season. If you have never done so, training will be provided. It is a rewarding task. Plus, after interacting with the visitors, you will come away feeling proud.

Our numbers for the monthly general meeting have been declining. I would urge those not attending to consider doing so. The meetings are held at the museum the second Saturday of every month beginning at 10:00 AM. A lovely home-cooked lunch is always served right after the meeting. I am aware COVID concerns continue. Feel free to wear a mask, plus we have lots of hand sanitizer on site.

In closing, I want to recognize two of our long-time members, who because of health issues, were forced to leave our area to be closer to family. They are Ian Durrand and April Cormaci. Ian was responsible for putting together a training pamphlet for museum staffers, among many other things, too numerous to mention. Ian was very passionate about #6. April was our newsletter's editor, and of course did many other things. She was forced to step away because of health issues. Sadly, April passed away last month. Ever the giving person, it was requested by



April, instead of flowers a donation be made to an animal shelter in her name. #6 respected her wishes. Additionally, #6 sent Ian and April a framed Certificate of Appreciation. Sadly, it arrived after April's passing, but Ian has assured us, it has taken up a prominent place in their home.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next General Meeting.

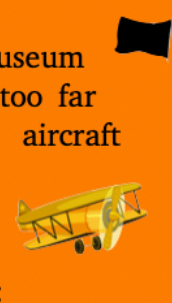
Frank Phillips CD



Sponsors Required

Have you wanted to help the museum but don't have the time or live too far away? Consider sponsoring an aircraft display or flag in our memorial garden. Sponsorships range from \$100 - \$200. Contact the newsletter for more information:

no6newsletter@gmail.com



Lottery Report

Thanks to the generous support of our members and community, our lottery continues to be popular at all of our events. Funds from the lottery help maintain and develop our museum. Lorna Swayze was the big winner from our Yard Sale Event back in May, while Ray Murray won the jackpot at our Annual Open House in July.

On August 5th the Elimination Draw for all Super Draw ticket holders was held. Lucky winners of \$100 included Scott Hines, Lynne and Mike Cunliffe, James and Donna Real, Doug Kiefer, Michelle and Rick Barry, Jack Graves, Ray Harkness, crowd favourites Don and Grace Messner, and Jeanne Cowan. The grand prize winner of \$1000 was a very surprised Don Oatman. Don revealed that he forgot he had even bought a ticket as he hadn't won any of the draws throughout the year!

Sgt. Wilson drew the winning name from our last event allowing Janet Coates to take home the prize.

The 2023/2024 Super Draw has completely sold out once again. Weekly and Monthly draws continue throughout the year leading up to next years Elimination Draw Event.

A huge thank you goes out to Sandy Murphy for coordinating all of our lottery events.



Hockey Life At No. 6 Dunnville

A Time To Remember

While spending time at the museum, whether guiding tours or chatting with members, our conversations at some point turn to the adventures of the personnel who lived and trained at No. 6 Dunnville. The stories bring smiles and laughter as we relive the antics, bravery and camaraderie that the pilots and trainees shared. In November, our thoughts turn to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country, especially the 47 personnel that perished while stationed at No. 6 RCAF Dunnville. The loss of a pilot/trainee was deeply felt by all on the station. Two days prior to graduation on April 4, 1944, Bruce F. Johnston wrote a tribute to three of his fellow



REMEMBER

A thought for those who gave their lives
And as we move along, a pause
In tribute to those pals of ours,
Who paid supremely for the cause.

To those swell fellows, and they were
The best of friends to all they met;
Respected, loved, and missed by all;
Those are three lads we'll ne'er forget.

And to their families and friends,
Now left behind to mourn their loss,
We send our deepest sympathies
They gave their best, at highest cost.



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Hockey has always been a part of life in Dunnville. During their time at No. 6 RCAF Dunnville, many young pilot trainees laced up their skates to partake in the Inter-Station League that saw teams travel from base to base to compete for a coveted trophy and bragging rights. According to the bases Sky Writer newspaper, the team would always play hard and “play with a fine fighting spirit (in more ways than one).” The paper goes on to say that when the team played home games, the entire town came out in full force to show their support. One of the biggest challenges that the team had to overcome was their constantly rotating roster due to players completing their training and being shipped overseas for active duty. Coached by local legend Lloyd “Soggy” Green the Dunnville Mosquitoes battled their way to victory and won the league championship in 1943. To honor their achievement, the team created their own trophy and labelled it “The Dunnville Stanley Cup.” After the championship season the trophy mysteriously disappeared only to resurface 40 years later at one of the No. 6 reunions in Dunnville. A trainee who had been stationed at the base took it home with him when he left and the trophy resided in Wentworthville Australia some 15,549 km away. Original members of the team that attended the reunion in 1985 were ecstatic to see it returned. The trophy now rests safely on display at the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum.



2024 Meeting dates

13 January	13 July
10 February	10 August
09 March	14 September
13 April	19 October*
11 May	09 November
15 June*	14 December

Unless indicated (*), all membership meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 1000 hrs at the museum. All members are encouraged to attend and participate.