



# 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 9**

**10:00 a.m.**

***Spouses Welcome!***

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

**Finger foods & desserts would be appreciated!**

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

### Museum a Popular Destination in 2017

**Drop-in visitors, private tours, and special groups made 2017 our busiest year since the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum opened.**

More than 1,100 visitors to the Museum signed the guest register this past year. The greatest number visited during the Annual Yard Sale on our opening weekend (May 20-22), the Annual Open House (July 8), and the Dunnville Agricultural Fair (August 18-19).

While most came during weekend open hours, more than 100 stopped in on Tuesday mornings, with an occasional visitor on other days of the week. Members of the Tuesday work crew took time off from their labors to show visitors around. If a volunteer was at the Museum on days when the Museum is normally closed, he or she did the honors.

The majority of the visitors came from outside of Haldimand County. Of those who indicated how they learned about the Museum, most came at the recommendation of family and friends, indicating the importance of "word of mouth" advertising. The next highest number of visitors were just "driving by" and saw the sign.

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

With great sadness, we acknowledge the passing of our curator, Peter Gay, on September 3, 2017. Peter arrived at the No. 6 Museum in 2012 at the end of a long search for information about his father's military career. His father, H. E. Gay, graduated from the No. 6 SFTS in February 1942 and went on to become an instructor.

From the moment Peter arrived, it seemed he had found his passion. He soon became heavily involved in the Museum and became Curator and First Vice President. Peter had many innovative plans for the Museum, some of which he was able to implement before becoming ill. He was also very active in publicizing the Museum. His energy, commitment, and dedication will remain with us.

We were honored to host a Celebration of Life for Peter on September 16. Present were members of his family, his partner, and members of the Museum and the community. Charlie King played the bagpipes as he led us from the meeting room to the Memorial Garden. Once there, Tim Logan and I spoke for the Museum. We returned to the meeting room for lunch. Thanks to Sandy Murphy for organizing the day and to the volunteers who contributed to the lunch. Peter's family really appreciated seeing how much we valued him and his contributions to the Museum.

We now have challenges without Peter, and I am confident we will continue to maintain our unique Museum with your continued support and involvement. We have had a very good year with many groups touring the Museum and using our facility for events, and more visitors than any year in the past.

While funds are important, volunteers are our life blood. Thank you to all the members and dedicated volunteers who spent so much time and talent running and maintaining the Museum this past year--the Tuesday morning work crew who maintain the building and grounds and take on special projects; the volunteers who organize and staff our fundraisers; those who staff the Museum during public hours, take visitors around out of public hours, and give private tours; the volunteers who provide lunch for the monthly meetings; those who handle membership, merchandise, and publicity; and the Executive Committee.

My best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Your President, Don Oatman

## **Museum a Popular Destination in 2017**

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Several groups arranged for private tours. A group from the U.K. stopped in on a cross-country tour of Air



Force bases. A local chapter of the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club visited twice during the summer.

In October, 22 graduates of Dunnville High School Class of 1965 arrived for a tour. This group has met four or five times a year for the past several decades. Don Hart, their former history teacher (52 years ago) and No. 6 Museum volunteer, showed them around the Museum assisted by Ross Watterworth and Charlie King. One member of the tour group, Faye



Baker, had lived in the Fire Hall during her school years when her father was the Fire Chief for the No. 6 SFTS.

Younger folks—Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Air Cadets—took advantage of the opportunity to sleep under the aircraft and tour the Museum. Whenever we hosted an event in the hangar, one or more volunteers were on hand throughout the event to help with logistics and provide tours.

Thanks to all the volunteers who provided our visitors with a great experience!

### **2015-2017 EXECUTIVE**

#### **Officers**

Don Oatman, President	Tim Logan, Secretary
Frank Phillips, Vice President	Joanne Villeneuve, Treasurer

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

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Building/Grounds - Jack Murphy	Merchandise - Lynne King
Fundscrip - Rick Pleasance	Newsletter - April Cormaci
Lottery - Sandy Murphy	Website/Facebook - Ian Durand
Membership - Joanne Villeneuve	Don Hart



## **Holidays at the** **No. 6 SFTS**

Articles from the base newspaper, *The Skywriter*, give an idea of some of the kinds of activities enjoyed by base personnel and guests during the holiday season in December 1943 and January 1944. There were stage shows, a variety show put on by the No. 6, a weekly music appreciation hour, a weekly informal "hop" and popular movies shown three nights a week.

On December 22, the base held the largest children's Christmas party to date. About 100 children were treated to movies, songs, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, gifts and bags of fruit. A New Year's party and dance held in the Recreation Hall was enjoyed by 400 guests.

The December 1943 issue of *The Skywriter* also published suggestions for gifts from Santa to the Women's Division. Here are some examples:

- **Orderly Room girls** - An automatic D.R.O. compiling machine, absolutely amendment proof.
- **Cooks and Messwomen** - A dozen or so dummy waiters or perhaps a week of fasting.
- **Control Tower girls** - Noise eliminators on all aircraft.
- **Met. Observers** - New teletype machine with its own map-plotting attachment.
- **Equipment Watchers** - A revision of Air Force Law outlawing the practice of stock-taking.
- **Canteen Stewardesses** - Boomerang attachment on all pop bottles, effective when emptied.
- **Parachute Riggers** - Sweet-smelling perfumed dope or hole-proof Ansons.

### Aircraft's Quiz Column

*This quiz was published in the Jan. 1943 issue of The Skywriter. How well can you do? Answers below right.*

1. What is the oil capacity of the Harvard aircraft?
2. Where is our bombing range located?
3. Can you fly over it when bombing is being carried out?
4. What puts the prop on a Harvard into coarse pitch—  
(1) Oil? (2) Counterweights? (3) Centrifugal force?  
(4) Gremlins?
5. What is a diameter of a service 'chute?
6. What is the normal hydraulic pressure necessary to operate the Harvard undercarriage?
7. Which way does the prop turn on the Harvard, as seen from the pilot's seat.
8. Why should you avoid flying through rain or overcast when the temperature is 70 degrees F or less, unless your aircraft is specially equipped?
9. What should the carburettor heat be when carrying out a spin in Harvard aircraft?
10. Why have the air vents on Harvard fuel tanks a flexible rubber extension on them?

## ‘Tis the Season...

**Looking for a way to say "Merry Christmas", "Happy Holidays", or "Thank You"? Shopping is as easy as a stop at the Museum!**

### The Versatile Gift Card



Gift Cards are perfect for family, friends, service providers and others. Need stocking stuffers? Look no further. Want to support a favorite charity? Many charities can use Gift Cards to buy needed items or provide them to clients. The Museum has Gift Cards available for **Sobeys, Food Basics, Giant Tiger, Canadian Tire, and Home Hardware**. For every one you buy, the Museum gets a rebate. Buy Gift Cards at monthly meetings or call Rick Pleasance at 905-701-4833.

### Gifts from the Museum

Our merchandise buyer, Lynne King, added attractive shoulder bags (14" long, 11" high, 3.5" wide) made of heavy cotton twill with appliqué patches for the 2017 Open House. They proved to be so popular that a second order was placed. At \$40, they are a great value and make a unique gift.



In response to many requests, our clothing choices have been expanded, including more women's options in style, size and color. Check out the **women's golf shirts** in navy, pale pink and royal blue, and in sizes M to 2XL. **Men's golf shirts** are available in royal blue and black, also in sizes M to 2XL. The high-quality, 100% Pima cotton fabric makes them soft yet strong. Because of the quality, the golf shirts are priced at \$50.00.



Or you might consider one of our new 100% cotton t-shirts in sizes M to 2XL. **Women's t-shirts** come in bright red, light blue and black. **Men's/unisex t-shirts** come in navy, heather red, and dark red (2XL only), sport grey, and light blue. The shirts are \$25.

T-shirts, golf shirts, and sweatshirts from earlier inventory continue to be available in a variety of colors, in limited sizes. These items are now on **SALE** at these prices: Adult t-shirts - \$10.00, Children's t-shirts - \$5.00, T-shirts with the Yale logo - \$5.00, Golf shirts - \$20.00, Sweatshirts - \$20.00.

*Answers to Aircraft Quiz: 1) 8.5 gals. plus 1.5 gal. air space. 2) Approx. 5 miles N.W. of the Main Aerodrome. 3) Yes, provided you are 4,000 feet or over. 4) Centrifugal force. 5) 24 feet. 6) 800 to 1,000 pounds. 7) To the right. 8) Carburettor ice. 9) Full cold. 10) To prevent the vents from freezing over in slushy flying conditions, and so stopping the flow of gas to the carburettor.*

# Some Moments To Remember in 2017



(L to R) Joe Weir, Floyd Smelser and Fred Cash at the 6th Annual Vet Dinner honoring our members who are veterans of WW II. Charlie King piped the 47 guests in to the dinner which was held at the Dunnville Golf & Country Club on September 30.



Great fun on Elimination Draw Night! Volunteers acted out verses from "7 Old Ladies Locked in the Lavatory". The song is a parody of the traditional English nursery rhyme, "Oh, Dear, What Can the Matter Be?" Google the name of the song for the various verses. Names have been withheld to preserve some dignity.



This year's Open House on July 8 included historical displays, vendors, crafters, the Dunnville Cruisers' classic car show, and our annual Chicken BBQ dinner. A penny sale and merchandise sales were added features. Shirley Poolton helped staff the sale tables. (L to R) Chefs Arnold Link, George Cowell, Ross Watterworth and Bob Hopper were on hand to do the grilling for lunch.



Our third Annual Yard Sale on May 20-22 featured 1000s of items. Donations have already started coming in for 2018!



On September 9, the Museum hangar was the site of the first annual "Swing Under the Wings" dinner and dance fundraiser of the By The Willow Hospice Day Away Program of Dunnville. The Swing Shift Band from Toronto provided swing music and the Niagara Lindy Hop Dancers (photo on right) provided dance lessons and entertainment.

## 2017 Draw Winners

### 50/50 Draws

April 8 - Judy Culp won \$426.00.  
July 8 - Paul Segui won \$628.00.

### Elimination Draw

\$100 prize winners - Leanne & Mike Cunliffe, Joe Weir, Barbara Gough & Steve Ellis, Bill & Marlene Topp, Donna Harkness, Smilka Dean, Rick Pleasance, Nick & Kate Head, and Leona Crumb.

\$1,000 Grand Prize winner - Nancy Boyt.

## VISIT THE NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM

**Location:** 536 Port Maitland Rd., Dunnville  
(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)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/rcafdunnvillemuseum/](https://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, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Remembrance Day, noon-4 p.m. To arrange for a tour, send email through the website or call 905-701-7223.

**NEW HOURS**