



WINGS & TAILS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM

MAY 2015

Local Scouts Sleep Over at the No. 6

by Vincent Bulman, Troop Scouter, 1st Winona

Friday night is usually quiet at the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum, but not on Friday, April 17. That night, nine Scouts, two Venturer Scouts and five leaders from 2nd Dunnville, 1st Winona and 1st North Grimsby arrived with their kit to spend the night in the hangar beneath the aircraft! The group was met by Museum volunteers Tim Logan and Paul Segui. Paul served them his delicious chili in the meeting room. Several leaders showed their appreciation by having second helpings. One leader--who shall remain unnamed--is said to have had four servings. There should be a badge for that!

Most Scouts laid out their sleeping mats and bags below the Yale trainer. A few preferring a higher ceiling slept on the performance stage located at one end of the hangar. The leaders settled in either next to the Nieuport 17 or the Fleet Finch. After playing games, including "Flight Simulator", the Scouts went off to bed and continued making noise well past 12:30 a.m.

A coffee crunch ... and a taste of history

Reveille was not sounded, however, Scouters Vincent and Enrico were the first up. Not finding any coffee in their supplies (our quartermaster, Scouter Gary, doesn't drink coffee), Vincent and Enrico drove to the Tim Horton's in Dunnville and returned with coffee for all. Everyone got up and was served a hearty breakfast of bacon and pancakes prepared by several Scouts in the Museum kitchen. After grub, everybody packed up hurriedly and was greeted by Museum members Ian Durand and Ross Watterworth. The group broke into two; one group went with Ian and the other with Ross for a tour of the Museum and plane collection. Both men were extremely knowledgeable and visibly attached to the Museum.

Jim Bird and Joe Weir, veterans of World War II, came to recount their contrasting experiences. Joe, who was found to need eyeglasses after enlisting, was trained in communications and sent to England for further instruction, and participated in the landing

Continued on next page

Scouts Sleep Over at the No. 6

Continued from previous page

at Normandy. Jim, who became a pilot, completed part of his training at the No. 6 Service Flying Training School. He was sent on to other assignments in Canada and England. Jim volunteered for the Pacific Theatre and the war ended shortly after.



Left to right: Ian Durand, Jim Bird, Tim Logan, Joe Weir, Scouts and Scout Leaders.

Group gratitude

Our combined groups would like to thank Museum volunteers Tim Logan, Paul Segui, Ian Durand and Ross Watterworth, and veterans Jim Bird and Joe Weir for giving us a terrific tour. We shall remember it for a long time.

2015-2017 EXECUTIVE

At the Annual Membership Meeting on March 14, the following Officers and Directors were voted into office for the 2015-2017 term.

Officers

President	Don Oatman
1 st Vice President	Pat Logan
2 nd Vice President	Peter Gay
Secretary	Tim Logan
Treasurer	Joanne Villeneuve

Directors

George Cowell	Don Messner	Frank Phillips
Ian Durand	Jack Murphy	Paul Segui
Arnold Link		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Museum & Membership - Pat Logan
Building & Grounds - Jack Murphy
Fundscrip - Rick Pleasance
Lottery - Sandy Murphy
Merchandise - Lynn King
Newsletter - April Cormaci

611 Harvard Squadron Air Cadets Prepare for Annual Ceremonial Review

611 Harvard Squadron Air Cadets has been active for 33 years in Dunnville. Many young men and women have walked through the Squadron doors and have become outstanding leaders and citizens. Many have gone through the Canadian Forces where they are now full and part-time members and serve our country.

The Air Cadet program offers many opportunities for the Cadets. Flying, leadership, fitness, music and marksmanship are just a few. The Cadets have a chance to attend summer camps where they expand their knowledge and make life-long friends. 611 Harvard Squadron currently has 45 enthusiastic, determined and motivated Cadets. They parade every Tuesday evening from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Dunnville Legion. Anyone from the ages 12-18 can join!

The 611 Squadron is currently rehearsing for its 32nd Annual Ceremonial Review, which will take place on **Saturday, May 30**, in the hangar of the No. 6 Museum. This is a day that the Cadets show off what they have learned throughout the training year and are awarded for their hard work. Guests are welcome and are asked to be seated by 1:45 p.m. The parade starts at 2 p.m. Come see what these amazing Cadets are all about!

Vintage Fire Truck Purchased

The Museum was offered a deal it couldn't refuse last month--a vintage fire truck with all its original equipment and in excellent condition. The fire truck was in operation at the Brantford Airport in the 1970s. It was purchased for \$2,000, and was moved to the Museum at no cost by Chris Ricker of CJ Ricker Mobile Maintenance. The vehicle is expected to be used at community events such as parades where it will pull the Museum's scale model of the Harvard and display our advertising banners. It's sure to draw attention to the Museum.



Aircraft Profile: Fleet Finch

Among the Museum's vintage aircraft is a Fleet Finch. These planes were used extensively at Elementary Flying Training Schools (EFTS). Students graduated from an EFTS before coming to a Service Flying Training School (SFTS) such as the No. 6 at Dunnville, where Harvards and Yales were the primary aircraft used for training.

Our Fleet Finch 16 B (RCAF Finch MK II), #4708, is a refined version of a 1934 design with structural strengthening suitable for aerobatics. It was built by Canadian Fleet Aircraft Ltd. in Fort Erie. With the RCAF designation C-GQWE, this plane served at the No. 7 EFTS in Windsor and the No. 13 EFTS in St. Eugene, before going to St. Thomas for repair training. Powered by a 125-hp Kinner B5 5-cylinder, air-cooled radial engine, it had a maximum speed of 104 mph, a cruising speed of 85 mph and a service ceiling of 10,500 feet.

This plane was extensively renovated by a local flying enthusiast. It was purchased by the owner of the Dunnville Airport, Russ Cameron, and donated to the Museum. It flew up until the closure of the Airport to flight operations and was then mothballed, but it is ready to fly again if the opportunity arises.



A Tip of the Wing...

Many thanks to the 2015 sponsors of our vintage aircraft and the flags that fly over the Memorial Garden.

Aircraft Sponsors

Cornell - Joseph Manighan & Lynda Bain

Fleet Finch - Michael Villeneuve

Nieuport - Don Oatman

Spitfire - Jamie Logan

Tracker - In Honour of Floyd Smelser, WW II Vet

Yale - Gordon & Beverley Minor

Flag Sponsors

RCAF - Joe & Lois Weir

Canada - Ed & Lois Carter-Edwards

Union Jack - Lynda Bain

Australia - The Bird Family

New Zealand - The McKee Family

United States - April Cormaci & Ian Durand

World War II Tribute Pin and Certificate Available

To mark the 75th anniversary of Canada's engagement in World War II, living Canadian veterans of World War II are eligible to receive a commemorative lapel pin and certificate in recognition of their service to Canada. The program began in September 2014 and continues through the end of 2020.

Veterans (or their families on their behalf) can apply three ways:

- Fill out an application online. (Go to www.veterans.gc.ca. Search for "commemorative medals". Scroll down the list and click on "Second World War Tribute Request". You will be routed to the application.)
- Call Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) at 1-866-522-2122 to have a form sent by mail.
- Visit a VAC or Service Canada office where staff will print out a form.

The design of the lapel pin is based on the original "Victory Nickel". It features a flaming torch and a large "V" standing both for victory and the denomination of the coin. The coin was originally circulated from 1943-1945, and was reissued in 2005 to commemorate the anniversary of VE-Day.



(Excerpted from the Veterans Affairs Canada website.)

VISIT THE NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM

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

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

Phone: 905-701-7223

Website: www.rcafmuseum.org

Visit the website for pictures, upcoming events, and more. If you don't have internet access, most libraries have public computers.

Hours: Victoria Day weekend through Labour Day weekend: Saturdays & Holidays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sundays 1-5 p.m. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., year round. Remembrance Day, noon-4 p.m. To arrange for a tour, call 905-774-4799.

Mark Your Calendar!



Museum Summer Season Opening

Saturday, May 16 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Sunday, May 17 (1-5 p.m.)

Monday, May 18 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Yard Sale - Museum Fundraiser

Saturday, May 16 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Sunday, May 17 (1-5 p.m.)

Drop donations off in Hangar 1 (no clothing, please). For information, call Jack Murphy (905-774-3068). If items remain, the sale will continue Saturday & Sunday, May 23 & 24, during Museum hours.

611 Harvard Squadron Air Cadets

Annual Ceremonial Review

Saturday, May 30 (2 p.m.)

Annual Open House

Saturday, July 4 (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

Displays from heritage groups, crafters and vendors, Dunnville Cruisers Car Club, and more. Memorial ceremony at the Memorial Garden.

Annual Chicken BBQ

Saturday, July 4 (4-6 p.m.)

Delicious meal! Includes 1/2 chicken, sides, dessert & beverage. Tickets \$15. Call 905-774-4799.

Country Croonin' at the No. 6

Sunday, July 26 (2-4 p.m.)

Enjoy the country music of the "Riders of the Western Stage" & the rock-a-billy music of Randall Hill.

Tickets \$10, sold only at the door.



Elimination Draw & Silent Auction

Saturday, August 15

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m.

Remaining 2015 Monthly Meetings & Lunch

Museum Meeting Room, 10 a.m.

June 20 (one week later than usual due to Mudcat weekend), July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12.

GUESTS WELCOME!

ELVIS

WILL BE IN THE BUILDING...

Saturday, September 5

World Champion Elvis Impersonator Roy LeBlanc returns to the No. 6 Museum. His appearance here in 2011 brought out hundreds of fans. His voice and stunning resemblance to The King takes audiences back to the glorious days of rock and roll. For this event, the Museum is partnering with the Dunnville Lioness Club. For more information on Roy LeBlanc, visit www.royleblanc.com.

WATCH THE WEBSITE AND MEDIA FOR DETAILS.

DOORS OPEN HALDIMAND 2015

Saturday, September 19

From April through October for the past 13 years, communities across Ontario have opened the doors to hundreds of interesting heritage sites. The No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum has been one of Haldimand County's sites in the past, and will be again in 2015.

The theme for 2015 is *Sports*. The pilot trainees, instructors, and staff at the No. 6 Service Flying Training School participated enthusiastically in base sports events, and played against other RCAF teams and local community teams. They held track and field events, and played softball, volleyball, basketball, soccer, hockey and other sports. The Museum plans to have a special display related to sports activities at the No. 6 SFTS. For a list of all the Doors Open Haldimand 2015 sites, visit <http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/Events/Haldimand-County.aspx>.



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