



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.

Lights, Camera, Action!

On Sunday, December 11, the director, a camera crew, and a complement of actors arrived at the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum at 9 a.m. to shoot a Haldimand County "Heritage Minute". The video will air on YouTube, local television, and other venues.

The production company, Lock3 Media, located in Brantford, specializes in documentary and promotional video production. The company has created 16 full-length documentary films, along with a collection of short narrative and promotional films over the past 8 years.

Museum volunteer Paul Segui met the group and helped them arrange the set. They positioned the Cornell facing the hangar doors and then choreographed the action. After the actors donned period costume and full makeup, they began filming. Actors portrayed a pilot trainee and instructor boarding the aircraft, and two Women's Division "ground crew" were positioned as if preparing to open the hangar doors for the training flight. The

filming took the entire day and will result in a 1-1/2 minute video. Volunteers Ian Durand and Ross Watterworth relieved Paul as the day wore on.

Funding for the project came through the Department of Canadian Heritage's Canada 150 Fund, whose goal is to create opportunities for Canadians to participate in local, regional, and national celebrations that contribute to building a sense of pride and attachment to Canada. The Haldimand Museum and Archives arranged for the No. 6 Museum to be the subject of one of several Haldimand County "Heritage Minutes".

The Dunnville area and the former Dunnville Airport have been used for many movies and television productions over the years. Notably, "Canada's Worst Driver" has been filmed on the tarmac for several years. Airport shots for the movie "Amelia" about the life of legendary American pilot Amelia Earhart, released in 2009, were also filmed at the Dunnville Airport.

2017 Elections Postponed

The No. 6 Museum faces the same challenges as many non-profit organizations. Our most pressing need is an infusion of new blood. Our long-time, dedicated, active volunteers are ageing and not enough younger volunteers are available to take over the arduous, physical tasks required to maintain the Museum and grounds, as well as providing the direction and governance for the organization.

After much discussion, the Executive Committee recommended to the membership at the January general meeting that we keep the existing officers and directors in place for one more year during which we will move to address our needs. Several officers and directors who did not want to take on another 2-year term are willing to stay on for another year. If any decide to resign from the Committee, the Committee will appoint a replacement to fill out their term. The motion was voted upon by the membership at the meeting and carried. We will resume regular elections in February 2018.

A Tip of the Wing...

Many thanks to our 2017 Memorial Garden flag sponsors:

Australia - Jack & Sandy Murphy
Canada - Floyd Smelser
New Zealand - Lynda Bain
RCAF - Lois & Joe Weir
Union Jack - Veronica Head
United States - April Cormaci

...and to the sponsors of our aircraft:

Anson - Don Oatman
Cornell - Lynda Bain
Fleet Finch - Carolyn & Derek Burrage
& Dave Mundell
Mosquito - Lynn & Charlie King
Nieuport - Alma & Ross Watterworth
Tracker - Floyd Smelser
Yale - Michel & Joanne Villeneuve

The [Spitfire](#) is still available for sponsorship (\$200) If interested, please call the Museum (905-701-7223) and leave a message.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

*Your membership counts!
Membership dues account for about
25% of our annual income. Look
for your 2017 Membership Renewal
Form included with this newsletter.*

**...AND INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND
FRIENDS TO JOIN OUR
MUSEUM FAMILY!**

A Letter from the President

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and will enjoy a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2017. The December Christmas meeting rounded out the year with good food, good fellowship, and fun.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave so much of their time to the Museum last year. We hope that more long-time and new members will step forward in 2017 to help with and support our many scheduled events and to help staff the Museum during our summer season.

As you can see by our "Calendar of Events", we have quite a lot planned for the upcoming year. Some successful annual events, such as the yard sale and the Open House, will return. And we have a country/gospel group performing here for the first time in June.

We do have some challenges to address in 2017 and I am confident that we will meet them successfully.

Your President, Don Oatman

Memorial Bricks

The number of memorial bricks placed around the Harvard Memorial continues to grow. These bricks are a special way to acknowledge the sacrifices made by our veterans and family members. The cost of a memorial brick is \$85. To be installed in time for the July 8 Annual Open House, bricks must be ordered by March 15. Please call the Museum or send email through the website for information.

Museum Update

During 2016, many changes occurred at the No. 6 Museum designed to provide visitors with a more enjoyable and educational experience.

The Entrance. The entrance has been changed considerably. Manikins placed throughout the Museum have replaced the counter showcasing sales items, and the stock of inventory has been moved to a cabinet adjacent to the furnace room. The file cabinet and copier are now in the meeting room. The space created is being filled with display cases. An addition to the area is the original base clock found by Sandy and Jack Murphy at an auction and secured by Curator Peter Gay.

In the Museum. A new special feature under preparation is a display of artifacts recovered by the Canadian Harvard Aircraft Assn. from Harvard #2963 that crashed in Lake Erie in 1943. The last ensign to fly over the No. 6 SFTS has been conserved and is waiting to be hung.

In the Static Display Area. In the hangar, a major cleanup has taken place. The entire floor has been painted and concrete added to the bottom of the

hangar door to prevent rainwater from blowing in. Much of the material previously stored behind the movable partitions at the back of the hangar has been moved, resulting in significantly more display space. In an effort to make the interior of trainers more visible, a walkway has been built over the left wing of the Yale so visitors can see into the cockpit.

One of the “bright” spots in the static display area has been replacement of the compact fluorescent bulbs with 150-watt LED fixtures, which makes the area much brighter. While a commercial electrician’s crew was in changing the outlets for the LEC fixtures, they also added ceiling fans with thermostat controls to blow down warm air from the gas-fired radiant heaters. The fans are expected to extend use of the static display area during the late spring and early fall for events. Each string of LED fixtures and each set of fans have their own controls installed in the static display area. Coupled with locks on the doors to the meeting room, kitchen and Museum, this allows outside groups to use the static display area without needing to come into other parts of the Museum.

World War II Bombers Fly Again

No. 6 Museum Life Member, Ken Griffith, an avid airplane modeler, has generously donated five, 1/12-scale models of World War II aircraft to the Museum. The models include an MK-1 Avro Lancaster, a B-25 Mitchell, a B-26 Martin Marauder, an A-26 Douglas Invader, and a D-C3 Douglas Dakota. While the last four aircraft were American, they all saw service in the RCAF.

Ross Watterworth made a few repairs and the models are now on permanent display in the hangar. Don Hart, Don Messner, and Ross suspended them from the wall the hangar shares with the meeting room.

Ken previously donated a model of a Hawker Typhoon, the type of aircraft flown by late Museum member, Rod Davidge, during World War II. He also donated a partially built B-24 Liberator so visitors could better understand how bombers of this era were built.



Ross Watterworth and Stan Swayze inspect the Lancaster



Ross Watterworth and Don Messner prepare to hang the Lancaster

Many thanks to Ken Griffith for this unique display!



A job well done!

Mark Your Calendar!

Selkirk Heritage Day

Mon., Feb. 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Visit our table at the Selkirk Community Hall.

Lions Home & Garden Show

Fri. & Sat., April 21 & 22

Visit our table at the Dunnville Memorial Arena.

Museum Season Opening

Sat., May 20 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Sun., May 21 (1 - 5 p.m.)

Mon., May 22 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Yard Sale - Museum Fundraiser

Sat., May 20 (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Sun., May 21 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Mon., May 22 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Drop off donations in Hangar 1 (no clothing, please). For information, call Jack Murphy (905-774-3068).

Afternoon Concert

Featuring country & gospel music by "Over the Hill"

Sun., June 4, 2-4 p.m.

Annual Open House

Sat., July 8, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dunnville Agricultural Fair

Fri. & Sat., Aug. 18 & 19

Elimination Draw & Silent Auction

Sat., Aug. 26

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

Veterans' Dinner

Sat., Oct. 7

Location to be determined.

Monthly General Meetings & Lunch

March 11, April 8, May 13, June 17, July 15, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9.

Museum Meeting Room, 10 a.m.



Open House – 1942 Style

Below is an edited excerpt from a much longer article in the November 1942 "Skywriter".

More than 1200 people visited the No. 6 SFTS on Sat., Oct. 24, when the Station was thrown open to the public in connection with the third Victory Loan drive. Visitors came out of the experience with a newer, fuller realization of what is being done to train the boys in the RCAF and why a Victory Loan is so necessary to finance this training.

Visitors were greeted by members of the service police, the courtesy of whom was the keynote of the generous, friendly treatment accorded throughout the visit.

A route was mapped out, making sure visitors did not miss any of the points of interest. In spite of the large influx of people, the work of the Station went on--visitors saw the training as it is carried on day after day. Visitors toured the hospital; the firing range; the men's mess; the maintenance hangar; the flight hangars; the tarmac, which was a hive of activity as planes warmed up and flew aloft; the ground school; the lounge; the library; and the Link trainer. Some visitors donned a parachute harness and pulled the rip cord; others "flew" the Link trainer. The full trip around the Station took about 3 hours.

Comments heard on all sides regarding the efficiency of the training and the well-being of the boys on active service proved that the results were well worth the effort.

NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM

Location: 536 Port Maitland Rd.
(former 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 photos, upcoming events, and more. If you don't have internet access, visit your local library.

Hours: Victoria Day weekend through Labour Day weekend: Saturdays & Holidays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m. Year round, Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Remembrance Day, noon - 4 p.m. To arrange a tour, call 905-701-7223.

2015-2017 EXECUTIVE

Officers

Don Oatman, President	Tim Logan, Secretary
Peter Gay, 1st Vice Pres.	Joanne Villeneuve, Treasurer
Frank Phillips, 2nd Vice Pres.	

Directors: George Cowell, Ian Durand, Arnold Link, Don Messner, Jack Murphy, Paul Segui

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building/Grounds - Jack Murphy	Merchandise - Lynn King
Fundscrip - Rick Pleasance	Museum - Peter Gay
Lottery - Sandy Murphy	Newsletter - April Cormaci
Membership - Joanne Villeneuve	

2
0
1
7