



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.

“From Feathers to Wings”



When the idea of a Museum surfaced in the minds of interested individuals some 50 years after the No. 6 Service Flying Training School officially closed in 1944,

the property was being used as a turkey farm. In support of the project, entrepreneurs Russ Cameron, Vic Powell, and Dan Silverthorne bought the property, opened the Dunnville Airport, and provided the No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum with a future home.

At the May 11 monthly meeting, the picture below of some of the charter members of the Museum was taken. When asked about memories of pre-Museum days, Jack Murphy recalls that some of the founding members—Charlie Fox, Ray Deils, Jim Hopper, Gerry Jones, and John Scholfield—held meetings in the old No. 6 SFTS Fire Hall. He also remembers the work required to turn a turkey farm into a Museum: “When



Standing from left: Don Oatman, Paul Segui, George Cowell, Jack Murphy, Sandy Murphy and Ross Watterworth. Seated: Joanne Villeneuve.

renovations started, a fire truck was employed to hose down the ceiling, walls and floors to try to eradicate the turkey smells and old turkey carcasses stuck in the wall corners. The walls for the meeting room had to be rebuilt as...only the wall beams and roof remained. I was instrumental in the rebuilding and design work to give the No. 6 a home. Many, many hours of work was put in by many charter members in the first few years of 2000.”

Paul Segui joined the effort in the same way lots of other volunteers did—through talking with a friend who was already involved. He remembers well helping with the renovation, at one point wielding a jack hammer.

There were few women at the first meeting Sandy Murphy attended at the Fire Hall. Raffle fundraisers were discussed and Sandy, knowing all the requirements (she worked for the Town of Dunnville issuing lottery licenses), offered to do the paperwork. She recalls: “I had always vowed I would have nothing to do with Lottery Licences when I retired. Now, 20 years later I am still obtaining and looking after the Lotteries!”

Don Oatman saw finding the funds and the volunteers to get the project started as the greatest challenge in the formative years. His most rewarding moment was when the Museum finally opened. With that sentiment, he surely speaks for all the volunteers who worked so hard to give the Museum its “wings”.

Flight Instructor Hanna Returns to Base

Harvard Armour Hanna was a trainee at the No. 6 SFTS from August through October 1941. He returned as a flight instructor from September 1942 through August 1944, and then was transferred overseas to England. While at Dunnville in 1943, he was given "permission" to marry, which he did. His wife passed away in 2000.

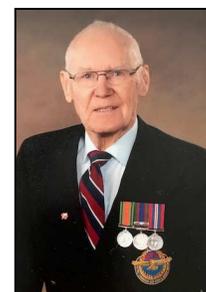
Hanna turns 99 on July 1. He and his family are planning to attend our Annual Open House & Car Show on July 6. Hanna has kept records from his military service and is looking forward to visiting the Museum and sharing some of his experiences. This is a unique opportunity for us as we have little information about flight instructors at the No. 6 SFTS.



Flight Instructor Hanna, 1942-44.

CLASS 51—"X" GROUP
 1, Ashleigh, D. D.; 2, Barton, P. S.; 3, Davis, H. E.; 4, Gain, A. M.; 5, Hanna, H. A.; 6, Hellard, H.; 7, Geggie, G. J.; 8, McClean, L.S.; 9, MacLean, G. M.; 10, O'Sullivan, P. G.; 11, Paskiewicz, J. T.; 12, Roberts, B. S.; 13, Shulemson, S.; 14, Stout, T. L.; 15, Welsh, F. H.; 16, Veenis, R. M.; 17, Beazer, M. A.; 18, Burley, L. E.; 19, Campbell, E. D.; 20, Davenport, R.; 21, Davidson, A. M.; 22, Dougherty, H.; 23, Frey, J. H.; 24, Gilchrist, V.; 25, Keenan, J. A.; 26, Monkman, R.; 27, Parrott, J. M.; 28, Smith, A. J.; 29, Turcott, J. C.; 30, Warner, A.; 31, Welham, H. R.

Hanna's graduating class. He is # 5, middle of the bottom row.



Harvard Armour Hanna in a recent photograph.

A Letter from the President

Our 2019 Summer Season opened with a huge success—our Annual Yard Sale! No one could have predicted the income, but in retrospect, we shouldn't have been surprised. We received so many generous donations. Volunteers spent many hours unpacking donations, culling and sorting, and arranging items in categories, making it easy for visitors to find what they wanted.

Our next big event is our Open House & Car Show on July 6. This also promises to be bigger and offer more diversity than ever before. We're expecting a special guest, Harvard Armour Hanna, a former flight instructor at the No. 6 SFTS. It will be our honour and privilege to welcome Hanna back to the base after 75 years.

To commemorate our 20th Anniversary and to thank you for your continued support, we have commissioned a special lapel pin (shown at right) which will be given to all current members.



Invite your family and friends to join us at our 2019 events and help us celebrate our 20th Anniversary.

Your President, Don Oatman



We Need You

We continue to need additional volunteers to help staff the Museum during the summer season, Saturdays (noon-5 p.m.) and Sundays (1-5 p.m.) from now through Labour Day weekend.

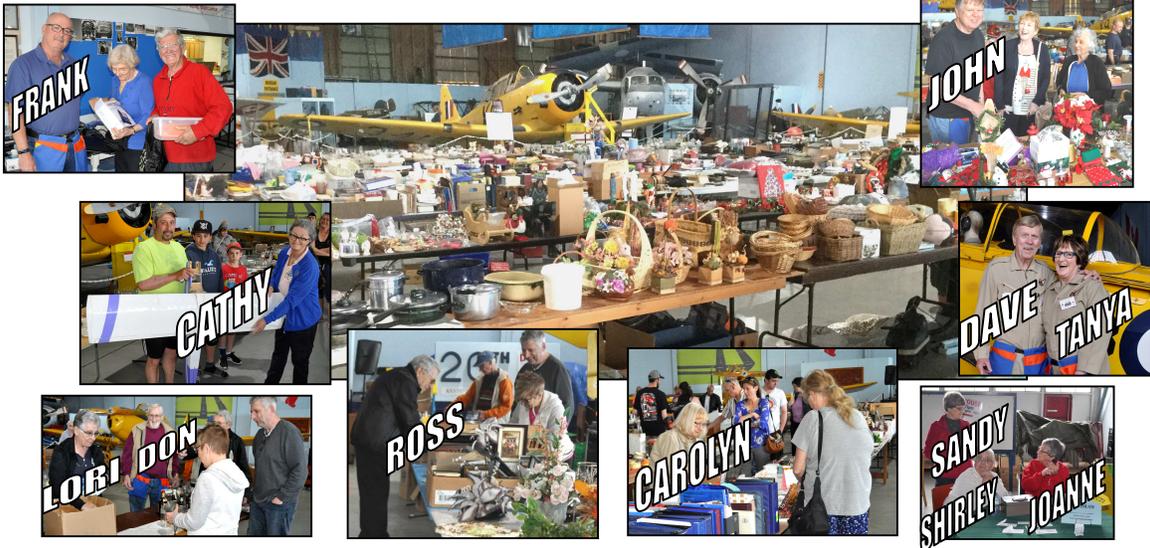
Why not give it a try? Call Lynda Bain at 905-774-6705 or send email to her at lyndaperu@yahoo.ca. She will pair you up with an experienced volunteer or, perhaps, you know a volunteer with whom you would like to work. You'll learn a lot about the Museum you generously support, and have a great time with your fellow volunteers and visitors. Please consider helping out one day this summer. Thanks!

Congratulations to Our 50/50 Draw Winner!



Kathy Rozon won \$432 in our first 2019 50/50 Draw. Tickets are on sale now for our second 50/50 Draw of the year. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Museum's annual Open House on July 6.

At the Museum...



The Museum's fourth annual Yard Sale fundraiser brought in **over \$6,000!** As usual, it was held on the summer season's opening weekend, May 18-20. More items were donated than last year and the hangar was bursting with trash and treasures. In addition, **more than 100 visitors** signed the Visitor Log in the Museum. Thanks to the many volunteers who set up the sale, cashiered, and handled the remainders. Volunteers and visitors alike had a great time!

Out and About...



For the Annual Dunnville Mudcat Festival Parade on June 8, Museum volunteers hitched up our Harvard model to George Cowell's big, red truck. Photos left: George and Arnold Link, and Frank Phillips who marched in the parade with the 611 Harvard Squadron Air Cadets. Photo right: our float traveling in the parade.



Air Cadet News

On June 8, Frank Phillips was honoured with a celebratory dinner on the occasion of his retirement after working with the Air Cadets for 42 years. The dinner was held in the Museum hangar.



A week earlier, on June 1, family and friends of 611 Squadron Air Cadets gathered to observe the 611 Harvard Squadron Annual Ceremony and Review in the Museum hangar.



2019-2020 Super Draw Tickets Now Available!

Feeling lucky? Call Sandy for your Super Draw ticket at 905-774-3068. Tickets are \$50 each.

The Super Draw runs from September 2019, through August 2020, with **62 chances to win!** Only 100 tickets are sold. There are 40 weekly draws for \$20 each, 11 monthly draws for \$50 each and 1 draw in December for \$100. After each one, the winning tickets go back into the draw. The final "Elimination Draw" will be held in August 2020. For that event, ticket holders and spouses are treated to a buffet dinner, silent auction, creative entertainment, and the final draws: every 10th ticket drawn wins \$100 and the final ticket left wins \$1,000.

Tickets make great gifts, especially for those who "have everything". If you want to see what all the fuss is about, purchase a \$5 ticket (just the cost of dinner) for this year's Elimination Draw on August 24.

Mark Your Calendar...

OPEN HOUSE & CAR SHOW

Saturday, July 6, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! NEW FEATURES + ANNUAL FAVOURITES!

Vintage Aircraft • Dunnville Cruisers Car Club • Local History Displays
Specialty Vendors • Handicrafts • Community Groups • Museum Tours

DON'T MISS THE MINI-HORSES! FREE ADMISSION.
Memorial Service at Memorial Garden, 11 a.m.

CHICKEN



Saturday, July 6, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious dinner of 1/2 chicken, sides, dessert & beverage. Tickets \$15.
ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED. Call Sandy at 905-774-3068 to reserve tickets.



Monday, August 5, 2-4 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of gospel & country music from Breezy Creek, Bit of Bluegrass & more. Then help us celebrate our 20th Anniversary with a great, big CAKE! Tickets \$15, reserve in advance or purchase at the door.

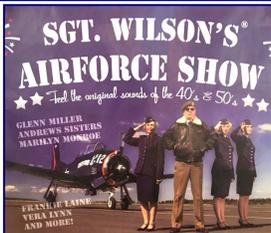


ELIMINATION DRAW & SILENT AUCTION



Saturday, August 24, 5:30 p.m.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. You could be the \$1,000 winner! Even if you don't have a Super Draw ticket, come for the fun for the cost of your dinner. Call Sandy for dinner only reservations, 905-774-3068.



Saturday, October 26, 2-4 p.m.

Direct from the Netherlands on their annual Canadian tour. Recall the sound of Glenn Miller, the Andrews Sisters, Doris Day, Rosemary Clooney & more. With lots of special lighting and special effects, enjoy good old memories. Held at the Dunnville Secondary School, Helena & Lock Streets. Tickets \$20, reserve in advance or purchase at the door.

Monthly Meetings

Museum Meeting Room, 10 a.m.

July 13 • August 10 • September 14 • October 12 • November 9 • December 14

2018-2020 EXECUTIVE

Officers

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

Directors: Lynda Bain, April Cormaci, Ian Durand, Don Hart,
Jack Murphy, Lori Lymburner, Paul Segui

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building/Grounds - Jack Murphy Merchandise - Lynne King
Fundscrip - Rick Pleasance Museum - John VanLuttikhuisen
Lottery - Sandy Murphy Newsletter - April Cormaci
Membership - Joanne Villeneuve Website - Tim Logan

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

Facebook: 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.