



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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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.

Aircrew'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 Aircrew 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

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.

NEW HOURS