



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.



A Letter from the President

We celebrated our 20th Anniversary in 2019 thanks to the efforts of our dedicated volunteers and the continued financial support of our members. This past year, we hosted more than 1,000 visitors, a record number, held our most successful yard sale to date, and had fun along the way with two musical programs and our annual Super Draw Elimination night.

Special guest, Armour Hanna, 99 years young, a Flight Instructor at the No. 6 SFTS, honored us with a visit during our Annual Open House and Car Show.

Special interest groups such as the Mustang Addicts of Canada, hundreds of young scouts and cadets, families, couples and individuals came through our doors. Two brothers from New Zealand were overwhelmed upon finding the records of their father who trained at the No. 6 SFTS. Most recently, a visitor from California stopped by. He is restoring a Harvard aircraft which his research showed was used training at the No. 6 SFTS.

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

Your President, Don Oatman



Annual Christmas Meeting & Social

Saturday, December 14

10:00 a.m.

Spouses Welcome!

BEEF ON A BUN WILL BE PROVIDED.

Finger foods & desserts appreciated!

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



Christmas in the Canteen

From the January 1943 issue of the "Skywriter".
[These decorations were all made and hung by Women's Division members to give the canteen a festive atmosphere for those remaining at camp for Christmas.]

There were blue, gold, red and silver paper, folded to form rosettes, with a marshmallow for its centre; long white wool tassels, doughnuts with toothpicks stuck around them, and a cranberry at the end of each; strings of popcorn and pipe cleaners woven to form snowballs. A huge silver star topped the tree. The walls of the canteen were decorated with red pictures of Santa Claus, and huge red candles in blue candlesticks with yellow flames, all made from paper. Across one end was tacked up a red streamer paper in letters "Merry Christmas," and at the other end the same effect, forming the words "Happy New Year." In an aperture in the wall was a little scene of a snow covered village, blue sky and silver stars, with sleigh and reindeer and Santa Claus, all made from cotton wool and coloured stiff paper, and the reindeer of twisted pipe cleaners coloured brown....The windows of the canteen were draped at the top with white crinkly paper cut to form icicles, and paper doilies cut to form snow flakes on the panes of the window, while the sills were covered with cotton wool and sparkly crystals. In the archway was draped ropes of red, and over them strings of silver. Green and red ribbon made the centre from which big red and silver bells hung. The lamps were also covered with soft red paper and trimmed with white bows.

Did You Notice...

...a bright red addition at the entrance to the Museum? Volunteers John and Steve McKay refurbished and painted this fire plug headed for the scrap heap. It's not in working order, but was one of the original fire plugs at the No. 6 SFTS.



Congratulations 2019 Draw Winners

50/50 Draws

May - Kathy Rozon won \$432.

July - Margaret Middleton won \$820.

Elimination Draw

\$100 prize winners - Roberta Cash, Gordon & Nina Little, Michelle & Frank Winkle, Rena Culp, Bill Weir, Margaret Middleton, Glenda Toll, Lynne King, Don Hart.

\$1,000 Grand Prize winner - Art Gerry of Toronto



2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE IN JANUARY

Your membership counts!
Help us save postage costs by sending in your renewal (\$50/person) as soon as possible. Thank you.

Mail your cheque today to:
No. 6 RCAF Dunnville Museum
P.O. Box 232, Dunnville, ON N1A 2X5

2020-2022 Executive Committee Elections

In February and March 2020, we will be accepting nominations for President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors for the Museum. Proxies will be included in the February newsletter. The Election will take place at the March 14 General Membership Meeting. If you are interested in becoming involved with the administration and governance of our fine organization, please consider running for an office or directorship. Terms are two years.

2018-2020 EXECUTIVE

Officers

Don Oatman, President
John VanLuttikhuisen, 1st Vice Pres.
Frank Phillips, 2nd Vice Pres.

Tim Logan, Secretary
Joanne Villeneuve, Treasurer

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building/Grounds - Jack Murphy
Fundscrip - Rick Pleasance
Lottery - Sandy Murphy
Membership - Joanne Villeneuve

Merchandise - Lynne King
Museum - John VanLuttikhuisen
Newsletter - April Cormaci
Website - Tim Logan

VISIT THE NO. 6 RCAF DUNNVILLE MUSEUM

Location: 536 Port Maitland Rd., Dunnville
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.

Some Moments To Remember in 2019



At our **Annual Open House** on July 6, we were privileged to host a visit from Armour Hanna who had been a Flight instructor at the No. 6 SFTS from 1942-1944 and to award him an Honourary Membership in the Museum. After leaving the Museum, Hanna went to the Dunnville Library to have his picture taken next to the Harvard Memorial. In the picture above, Hanna is surrounded by Museum volunteer Don Hart, President Don Oatman and Hanna's daughter, Jenn Maddigan, who arranged the visit.



Lest we forget...

In 2019, we lost Floyd Smelser, our last World War II veteran who was a member of the Museum in this part of the world.

We extend our best wishes to our last remaining member veteran Les Wearne in Australia who turned 100 in August.



Sgt. Wilson's Air Force Show performed as a fundraiser for the Museum on October 26. Direct from the Netherlands on their annual cross-Canada tour, the show took the audience back in time with the nostalgic tunes from the 1940s and 1950s. Museum volunteers Joanne Villeneuve and Ian Durand gave the show a "thumbs up".

The official celebration of our 20th Anniversary took place at the August 5 **Old-Time Bluegrass Jamboree**. Breezee Creek and Bits of Bluegrass entertained an enthusiastic audience. Distinguished guests included MP Diane Finley, MPP Toby Barrett, and Haldimand County Councillors Bernie Corbett and Rob Shirton. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to individuals and businesses who have provided continued support to the Museum.



Our fourth **Annual Yard Sale** on the opening weekend of the 2019 Summer Season was our most successful yard sale to date!



Elimination Draw Night, August 24, had a wild and whimsical character. The ladies entertained the audience with horsey high jinks. And the men took to the "catwalk" in specialty aprons. The aprons were then auctioned off to the audience.

One-Stop Holiday Shopping at the Museum!

Camo T-Shirts



NEW this year!
Trendy tees in
style everywhere.
Sizes small to
2XX. \$20.



Black T-Shirts with "Aircraft in the Clouds" Design on Back



NEW this year!
Black & white crest
on front, aircraft
design on back.
Sizes small to large.
\$20.



World War II Aircraft Puzzle



1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle for puzzle
lovers and aircraft enthusiasts.
Finished size 19-1/4" x 26-1/2". Aircraft
of Allied and Axis forces, including
many of the greatest warbirds. \$20.

20th Anniversary Mugs



NEW! Mugs in vintage design
commemorating our 20th anniversary.
\$10.

RCAF Shoulder Bags



14" long, 11" high,
3.5" wide, in heavy
cotton twill with
appliqué patches.
\$40.

Gift Cards



Perfect for family, friends,
service providers and charities.
Available for Sobeys, Food Basics,
Giant Tiger, Canadian Tire, and Home
Hardware. For every gift card you buy,
the Museum receives a rebate. Call Rick
at 905-701-4833 to purchase gift cards.

PLUS hats, polo shirts, sweat shirts, golf shirts and more in various colours and sizes!