

September 2013 News Letter for Parents

**PARENTS: We would like to invite you to attend an information evening on Wednesday October 9th – 6:00 PM in the Armories for a quick introduction to our Sponsoring Committee**

We are so glad to see returning cadets, and welcome all new cadets!

The officers and staff of 608 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron have put together a full and varied number of events this year. Our CO recently sent out an email to all cadets to advise them of coming events in the next month or two. Events will include military parades, Santa Claus parades, orienteering and drill, band and ground school, and of course gliding – **hope all new cadets enjoyed their first glider experience, including some of our parents!**  Additional events include fund-raising initiatives such as Air Cadet Tag Days, Remembrance Day poppy sales and the sale of Ontario Provincial Committee lottery tickets.

Monies raised from all of these fund-raising events is what makes it possible for our cadets to enjoy a full year of fun, interactive and learning events, many of them off-site. Events can include orienteering, band, sports and drill and range competitions.

We also plan an annual trip during the March Break. Last year 38 cadets enjoyed an overnight trip to Montreal, staying overnight in the Cosmodome Space Camp. We also had a fun Cadet Day spent at Wonderland in June that more than 35 cadets attended. During March Break 2014, we hope to make a trip to Ottawa to visit the Houses of Parliament, and places of interest such as the Air & Space Museum and the Canadian War Museum. Details will follow.

Fund-raising also enables us to purchase other items for our cadets – things like instruments for the band, a fridge in which to keep tuck items for parade nights (such as juice and water), books for their gliding and flying lessons as well as computers for cadets to use for learning instruments, such as flight simulators.

As a member of the Air Cadet League of Canada – **Ontario Provincial Committee** (http://aircadetleague.on.ca/), we adhere to strict provincial guidelines, such as weekly parade nights, drill and ground school. However, each individual squadron is responsible for their own additional initiatives. For example, 608 have a fantastic band, but we are not provided with the funds to purchase instruments; it is our job to acquire the instruments we need.

Members of the Sponsoring Committee are Approved Civilian Volunteers through the Air Cadet League and the Ontario Provincial Committee. We strive to support the Squadron in various ways, including fund raising efforts. **Our most important** fund raisers are through our **Cadet Tag Days** as well as the sales of the **OPC tickets**, however we are always looking for ways to maintain and grow our squadron in Belleville. This enables your cadets to go on trips at a lower cost when they help in supporting our squadron through these important fund raiser events. As a reminder, we require the $50 for the book of Lottery Tickets in advance and you get your money returned when the book is **SOLD!** Pick up your book of tickets Wednesday night before Thanksgiving .

**We will continue this year**

* Canteen Items sold each parade night – apples are free – snacks between a quarter and a toonie
* We still have yearbooks for sale -- $12 and $24 – A nice keepsake of our cadet year designed by the yearbook committee last year! We hope to continue this every year.

**NEW THIS YEAR!**

* Handy sports bags with our 608 Logo - $10.00 (handy to carry their sports gear back and forth)
* Metal Water Bottles with our 608 Logo $7.00

We want you to be aware of the things that our squadron is looking for either by donation or financial support.

* Fridge for our Canteen items
* Used music equipment no longer being used (drums/wind)
* Garment bags to carry our uniforms in for competitions
* Monitors for our training throughout the year

The air cadet program is a fantastic opportunity for youth in our country, we are happy and proud to be a part of 608 Dukes and support and encourage your children in any initiatives they wish to pursue through air cadets.

If you would like to speak to one of us at any time, one of us can be found Wednesdays at the Belleville Armories. We can also be reached via the squadron email at 608dukes@live.com .

Your Sponsoring Committee Members are

Susan Vincent (chair) – Karen Champaigne (co-chair) - Cathy Henry (treasurer) – Audra Kent (secretary) **608 Duke of Edinburgh Royal Canadian(RC) Air Cadet(AC) (SSC) Squadron Sponsoring Committee**