

September 2014

**Dear Parent/Guardian:**

We are anticipating another great cadet training year and are looking forward to welcoming returning cadets, and new ones!

Our commanding officer & staff have already started to plan a new and exciting training year for 2014-2015. Events will include military parades, Santa Claus parades, orienteering and drill competitions, band, ground school, two field-training exercises (FTX), gliding and the much-anticipated annual March Break trip. Additional events include fund-raising initiatives, such as air cadet tag days, Remembrance Day poppy sales and Ontario Provincial Committee lottery tickets.

The squadron is a member of the Air Cadet League of Canada and is therefore required to adhere to strict guidelines, such as weekly parade nights, drill, and ground school, however each individual squadron is responsible for its own fund-raising initiatives. (For example, 608 has a fantastic band, but we are not provided the funds to purchase instruments; it is our job to acquire the instruments we need.)

As members of the sponsoring committee, we are approved civilian volunteers through the Air Cadet League of Canada and the Ontario Provincial Committee. We strive to support the squadron in various ways, particularly through fund raising. Our most important fund raisers are cadet tag days and the sale of OPC tickets. When the cadets sell tags on tag days, all monies raised are kept in the squadron (minus the cost of the tags).

Every squadron receives a set number of lottery tickets as determined by the OPC; these tickets are not returnable, nor are they refundable. The squadron has no control over the number received, and all tickets must be SOLD! There is no cost to join air cadets; however each and every cadet is required to sell at least ONE book of tickets every training year.

***Come prepared the first or second week in September to pick up your book of tickets. You pay $50 for the book but you are reimbursed as the tickets are sold – you keep the money! Cheques can be postdated and made payable to 608 Duke of Edinburgh AC SSC. Encourage your cadet to sell them to their teachers, family and friends for an opportunity to win one of a number of NEW CARS and CASH PRIZES for just $2.50 a ticket!***

Additional ongoing fundraising initiatives include:

* canteen items sold each parade night (fruit, such as apples, bananas and clementines, is provided for free by the squadron but all donations are welcome)
* 608 Dukes sports bags with our logo - $10.00 (handy for monthly sports night)
* 608 Dukes metal water bottles with our logo - $7.00 (also handy on monthly sports night)
* the sale of Christmas planters and wreaths – so successful last year, we are doing it again this year! \* Details will be posted on the website \*

Monies raised from all of these fund-raising initiatives is what makes it possible for our cadets to enjoy a full year of fun, interactive and learning events, many of them off-site. When all cadets participate, all cadets benefit.

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

If you would like to speak to us at any time, one of us can be found every Wednesday evening at the Belleville Armouries. We can also be reached via the squadron email at [608dukes@live.com](mailto:608dukes@live.com) .

Your 608 Duke of Edinburgh Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron Sponsoring Committee:

Susan Vincent (chair) – Cathy Henry (treasurer)

Audra Kent (secretary) – Mike Henry (member)

**Dates to mark on your calendar:**

* Monday Aug 31st - Warrior's Day Parade at Coe Hill – please send message on Facebook if you plan to attend
* Wednesday Sept 3rd – new training year starts - COs Parade (summer dress)
* Friday Sept 5th – first band practice – 5pm- 9pm
* Saturday Sept 6th - Scottish Irish Festival (Trenton) – band come prepared to play in parade
* Monday Sept 8th - ground school starts - Monday’s 6pm -9pm
* Saturday Sept 13th – NEW this year – Senior Cadets Leadership Day \*details to follow \*
* Wednesday Sept 17th -- **Change of Command Parade & Parent Information night** - All parents are encouraged to attend
* Sunday Sept 21st – Battle of Britain Ceremony (Trenton)
* Saturday Sept 27th – Ad Astra Ceremony (Trenton)
* Sunday Sept 28th – Gliding Day – details will follow
* Saturday Oct 4th & Sunday Oct 5 – **MANDATORY** Tag days
* Saturday Oct 18th – Orienteering competition
* Saturday Oct 25th – Sun Oct 26th – FTX Trenton - details will be provided
* Wednesday Oct 29th – Halloween theme night

The squadron will also be participating in the Remembrance Day Parade on November 11th, which is mandatory to attend. Other events will include the Santa Clause Parade in Belleville (Nov 16th) and Christmas concerts to local seniors homes (Nov 28th). We hope to attend another Santa Clause parade if the band is up for it! Attending the parades helps the community see how great Belleville’s 608 Dukes are and encourages other youth to join our squadron.

**For more information, please visit the following websites:**

**The Air Cadet League of Canada – Ontario Provincial Committee** at[http://aircadetleague.on.ca](http://aircadetleague.on.ca/)

**608 Duke of Edinburgh Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron** at <http://www.608dukes.com/>

**608 Dukes Facebook** page at <https://www.facebook.com/608RCACS>