



351 SSC News



351 Silver Star Squadron Sponsoring Committee

Volume 2, Issue 1

September 17, 2009

Message from Chairperson – Angela Wong

On behalf of the Squadron Sponsoring Committee, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to everyone. This newsletter is created for the parents' benefits. I hope that through this newsletter, you will gain a better understanding of the roles performed by the Squadron Sponsoring Committee (SSC). SSC plays a key role in ensuring that the Squadron has the required operational and financial support. We are looking for parents who are willing to volunteer their time to either join the SSC team or the Staff team to provide squadron support for the benefits of our cadets. You will find it rewarding and I strongly urge you to consider this option.

Your feedback is always welcome. Periodically, we would like to communicate with you. If you would like to continue to hear from us, please fill in your contact information in the authorization form and return it to us.

Welcome Message from Commanding Officer – Major R. Scott Harvey

*Welcome to all of our returning cadets, new cadets
Welcome to Lt. Scannell, joining the staff team as Training Officer
Thank you and good bye to Civilian Instructor Peter Wong*

I hope all the returning cadets had a great summer and enjoyed the summer camps. My staff and I have been busy planning activities for a great year ahead. The highlight of this year will be our Inter-provincial Exchange with an Army Cadet Corp from Val Cartier Quebec.

To the new cadets, you are about to join one of the most exciting youth groups in Canada. You will have as much opportunities as you can handle. Remember school comes first!

I would like to welcome our new Training Officer, LT Scannell who comes to us from 818 Squadron. I would also like to thank Civilian Instructor Peter Wong for his services to our squadron. He has decided to take on other challenges and will not be returning this fall.

By the time you read this we will have already had our first Gliding day, NCO kick off meeting and started our recruiting efforts for this year. Tagging is coming up very soon. This is a mandatory event. The cadet program is intended to be a no cost program but we must raise funds. If your cadets do not tag, do not expect to participate in other activities. As you can see we will be hitting the ground running so, cadets, hold on to your wedges for a great year ahead.

SSC Finances

The SSC generates funds through various fundraising events, which include Tag Days in the spring and fall, annual Provincial Lottery ticket sales, weekly canteen sales, raffles and special activities. All cadets are expected to take part in fundraising and thus contribute to the financial success of 351 Silvers Star Squadron. The squadron also receives donations from Veteran associations, local organizations and parents. As a registered charity, the squadron welcomes and encourages these donations.

In order to meet the financial challenges of the squadron, the SSC operates on a tight budget. Cadet scholarships, cadet trips, band equipment, banquets, rental of meeting facilities and operation of the squadron office are just a few of the expenses we support.

The Ontario Provincial Committee (OPC) oversees the squadron finances. OPC ensures the squadron's financial activities benefit cadets as well as the financial health and long term viability of the squadron.

Ontario Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada (OPC) Lottery

The OPC Lottery is a long-standing annual project and an essential source of revenue for the Air Cadet Program in the Ontario province. Based on the size of the squadron, each squadron is required to sell a minimum number of books of tickets (quota). In 2008-9, we sold 210 books.

A portion of the sales proceeds is used to pay for all lottery costs (ticket printing, prizes.. etc.). The remaining proceeds are used to support OPC gliding program, the Air Cadet Effective Speaking Competition and to cover the hosting expenses associated with the International Air Cadet Exchange Program as well as to contribute to the OPC overhead costs associated with supporting the Squadron Sponsoring Committees.

We need to fundraise in order to offer a full and attractive program. Many squadrons mandate a minimum number of books sold per cadet in order to be considered for the prestigious senior courses such as Gliding and Power courses. Though 351 Silver Star Squadron has not implemented such a rule, it is very important to recognize that it is every cadet's responsibility to buy or sell OPC tickets. Exceptions will only be granted if there is a valid reason and the cadet must inform the Commanding Officer in writing from his/her parents or guardian. Cadets who do not purchase any book will be reported to the Commanding Officer. Selling of books will begin in September. Each book is \$30.00. Cash only and no check please.



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Tag Days

Tagging is the squadron's major fundraising event. It is mandatory that ALL cadets to participate in this event. For continual success of this squadron, this event requires parent's full support. Tagging events are held twice a year, in spring and fall.

The Tag day coordinator is responsible to ensure stores approvals are obtained to allow our cadets to tag outside their locations. The tasks of approaching the store managers to get their approvals are shared among committee members. During the tag days, SSC members volunteer their time to track and count the monies collected. At the end of the event, the book is balanced. It is then handed to our treasurer for bank deposit. To show our appreciation, we follow up with a thank you letter to all the stores that give us approvals.

Squadron Photo Sales

As in all previous years, the photo sales were very well received. We will be doing it again in early 2010. Photo proofs will be posted when they become available. Cadets can order their favorite photo packages. Funds collected will go directly towards supporting the squadron's activities.

Canteen Sales

Canteen is run on every parade night. It is organized and supervised by the Sponsoring Committee members and operated by the cadets. In addition to provide snacks for the convenience of the cadets, the goal of this activity is to train cadets to be responsible and to provide an opportunity for them to practice their leadership and organizational skills.

Awards Night

The first Awards Night was held in June last year and it was a success. The Awards Night was held just before the Annual Inspection. The purpose is to recognize cadet achievements and to have some fun time in a friendly and casual environment as the training year comes to a close. To encourage cadets to attend, SSC subsidized part of the cost. Special thanks go to all the gift sponsors for their generosity and to the parents who continue to support our activities. Watch for this again in 2010, we will post the information in 2nd quarter of 2010.

Mess Dinner

Mess Dinner is held every year in late fall/early winter. Last year, it was held at the Stouffville Legion. Unlike previous years, the format of the Dinner was changed last year to align more to the military style. Only cadets were invited. Due to the size of the banquet hall, we have to limit space to first come first serve basis. It was a very pleasant evening and the food was fabulous.

Annual Inspection

This annual event, which signifies the ending of a training year, is normally held in late May or early June. Facility and refreshment arrangements are the responsibilities of the SSC. ALL cadets are expected to attend and perform in the parade. It is critical that we have a good attendance because the attendance information will also be used by DND to determine funding we will receive for the following year. Parents are invited to enjoy the outstanding performance by the cadets and to share their achievements.

Testimonial from Irene Wong – Secretary and a new cadet parent

The Squadron Sponsoring Committee is my first attempt in volunteer work. As the secretary of the committee, I am responsible for capturing the discussion items and documenting minutes of monthly meetings. As a member of the committee, I have ample opportunities to contribute to the squadron. For example, in addition to acting as a secretary, I am also a Tag Day co-coordinator; I have also participated in many other activities such as selling of OPC Lottery tickets.

In my opinion, I believe Air Cadets is one of the best teenager and young adult program available. Since joining the program, my son has improved his time management skills. He is now willing to sacrifice his time selflessly and take the initiative in doing tasks. The cadet program has influenced my son in a positive way. It has met its goal of developing young people in leadership, citizenship, aviation, physical education and a lot more interesting subjects.

Testimonial from Leon Tang - a parent of a Senior cadet

As a parent of a child who is going into his 6th year of cadets, I am really proud of him. This youth organization has allowed him to develop independence and confidence through local training and other courses. He has been able to learn something different and special, something which not every teenager his age could experience. He has been able to gain valuable life experiences and friendship unavailable outside this organization. Although I was not fortunate enough to go through this myself, I have felt the impact and joy through my child's stories as if my own.