



# 351 SSC News



**351 Silver Star Squadron Sponsoring Committee**

**Volume 6, Issue 1**

**August 31, 2016**

## Message from Maria Shea - Chairperson

This year, we were honored to receive the Top Overall Squadron Sponsoring Committee (2014-2015) - OPC Chairperson's Award. I would like to thank everyone - SSC members and parent helpers for all their contribution. Without them, 351 would not be what it has become today. I am so proud of our strong and passionate team. I wish 351 will continue to grow and succeed in every aspect in the future.



In order to have less interruption during the tagging weekend, we suggested our CO to implement two shifts for each cadet. Congratulations to our hardworking cadets of 351, we were still able to maintain our tagging income for both Fall and Spring tagging. The money will continue to support the extra activities of 351.

351 will continue to grow, but without you parents/volunteers, this program would not be so successful. Please do get involved, don't be shy, your kids will need your support. If you are interested to join us and work together to help cadets as a SSC member, CV (Civilian Volunteer) or want to provide monetary donations, please feel free to email us at [ssc-chair@351silverstar.com](mailto:ssc-chair@351silverstar.com)

## Welcome message from Major W. Westernacher-Schneider CD - Commanding Officer

Hello 351 Silver Star Squadron

Thank you for welcoming me to be part of this fantastic unit. As a former cadet myself I can appreciate a strong well-run Squadron makes a big difference for all the cadets that are involved as it helps everyone get the most out of the program. 351 has stood as a high-performing unit and I expect nothing less. I'm a big proponent of "you get out what you put in" whether you are interested in aviation, music, physical fitness or other activities that the cadet program has to offer you should always put the most you can into it as the returns will be far more rewarding.

This is the 30th anniversary of the squadron and to be your Commanding Officer is a great honor. I look forward to celebrating it with you and look back on how far Silver Star Squadron has come.

I'm excited to work with the staff, sponsor, cadets and parents to continue 351 Squadron's success. Work hard and good things will come.

## SSC Finances

Due to our good tagging results, we can expect to fund extra activities in the coming year. Every year will be another challenge for us. Due to unforeseeable tagging results, rising expenses, etc, we are welcoming parents' suggestion to find more sources of income to maintain extra activities for our cadets.



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## Tag Days

Tagging is the major fundraising event. We are only allowed to have it twice a year on Fall and Spring. It is mandatory that ALL cadets to participate in this event. We will need parents' full support by **STAYING BEHIND** to drive their sons & daughters to and from the tagging stores



## 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 2015 – 2016, we sold 270 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. One book per cadet is mandated in order to be considered for the prestigious senior courses such as Gliding and Power courses. 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 \$ 60.00. Cash only and no cheque please. The coming year, we had been assigned again with 250 books and will need parents/cadets to help selling extra books.

## Nevada Program

The OPC Nevada program is a shared fundraising initiative across the province. It is fully voluntary, but does provide a good opportunity to generate extra revenue for any Air Cadet Squadron. Nevada Break-Open Ticket is a lottery ticket that sells in the participating location; funds will go directly to our cadet and benefit our Squadron. How Can You Help.... Sell the Nevada Tickets!! Parents, if you are holding a business or know someone who is and are interested in being one of our Nevada Retail Locations, please kindly contact SSC and we will be happy to provide you with full details. The OPC have created a revenue sharing opportunity with the license to increase your profit and support our local fundraising activities. Help in the Nevada Program!! Volunteers, please contact our SSC members if you want to help out in this program. The more



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assistance we may be able to get, the greater support for our Cadets.

## United Way



**United Way**

If you are planning to give to United Way this year through one-time donations, workplace pay-roll deductions or special events, and you do not have a preferred charity to donate to, please consider designating 351 Silver Star Squadron as the recipient of your donations

On the United Way pledge form, you can designate all or part of your contribution to 351 simply by specifying the following:

Our Organization name: "351 Silver Star Air Cadet Squadron"

Our Charitable Organization number: **130387665RR0060**

## Squadron Photo Sales

Every year, we will have a photo night. Please support the Squadron by ordering those photos when available. All photo proofs will be posted during parade night for selection and ordering through SSC. All funds collected will be going back to the Squadron's activities.

## Canteen Sales

On every Thursday during break time, SSC will operate a Canteen for cadets' refreshments. All funding will be going back to Squadron's activities. Please provide some spare changes for your sons and daughters to support this event.

## Parent Info Night

With the successful feedback in past years, we held our parent info night again this year. Hoping by hosting this night, it will continuously helping new parents to know more about our squadron, the program and some form of communication with our new and existing parents



## Christmas Banquet

This year our Christmas Dinner was held at Milliken Mills Community Centre. We had invited parents and guests, so we can join our kids and get to learn more about the cadet program.



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## Awards Banquet

This year our Awards Banquet was held at the Dragon Legend. Everybody enjoyed the unlimited supply of food and drinks. We invited parents and guests to share and recognize their kids' achievement and enjoy the fun atmosphere. All parents are encouraged to join next year. SSC has subsidized part of the cost to participate cadets and this year's grand prizes for raffle are CASH prizes and gift cards. Please provide them with some money to support this event for next year.

## Annual Ceremonial Review

This year our Annual Ceremonial Review was held at the Arena of Centennial Community Centre. We have a successful 29<sup>th</sup> year for 351 Silver Star Squadron. This is the most important date for all cadets to show what they have learnt for the whole year. I would like to thank you for those parents' donation for a lot of different refreshments and drinks. Thank you parents again...



## Change of Command

Every three years, there will be a change in the Commanding Officer. This year the retiring Commanding Officer is Major A. Mobbs CD and the new Commanding Officer is Major W.

Westernacher-Schneider CD. We are looking forward to working with our new Major in the coming years.



## Testimonial from Major A. Mobbs CD - Former Commanding Officer

Welcome back to a new training year! As this is the last time I will have the opportunity to address the parents and SSC members of 351 Squadron, I wanted to let you know sincerely miss all of you. I am very lucky to have been given the opportunity to be part of this dynamic squadron, an opportunity I will cherish for the rest of my life. Though we worked together to achieve great results, I am more proud of the people, personalities and friendships I have cultivated. Thank you for the warm welcome, stay and departure... it was appreciated.

I have spoken several times with Major Westernacher-Schneider over the past 4-months; I am extremely excited and proud of the future that lies ahead. 351 Squadron has the type of character and resiliency that will continue to foster a dynamic and results orientated training program. I



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look forward to hearing the many 'success stories' in the months and years ahead. I will always consider myself a member of 351, you have struck a chord within me which will resonate for years to come.

Should you ever be venturing in the Richmond Hill area (at 778 Banshee Squadron) on a Thursday evening, feel free to stop into Richmond Green SS. I would be happy to chat (if even for a few minutes) and catch up with close friends.

## **Testimonial from Maria Shea – Outgoing SSC Chair, current OPC Director**

Being in the Air Cadet Program for over 7 years, I have seen all cadets learnt so much throughout their career. It has always been a pleasure to watch them grow and expand their horizon to prepare for the endless challenges ahead.

During the past 2 years, I also have learnt a lot from all the dedicated SSC members, officers, staff and parents. Although we have our differences on ways of doing things, we all understand that the cadets' benefit is the most important thing. With this thought in mind, we have no problem with making the best choice for the cadets.

During the past years, I have met amazing people, made everlasting friendships, and dedicated countless hours and effort to 351. But what I have gained and helped to achieve has made everything worthwhile. As people always say, no pain no gain.

I will continue to show support to the squadron as an OPC Director. I wish the squadron and the committee best of luck in the future and continue being the best.

## **Testimonial from Godfred Wong – Past SSC Chair, current OPC Director**

I still remember when I first brought my son to join the Air Cadet program 5 years ago. We didn't know much about it, so we listened to the slides from the staff during the recruiting night. Since then, I have joined the SSC and started helping out with Tagging, Annual Ceremonial Review, Parents Info Night, Christmas Banquets, etc..

It took a little persuasion, but my son ended up joining Air Cadets along with a classmate. He almost quit during his second year when his classmate left, but due to my involvement with the SSC, I was able to convince him to stay. My involvement in this program made me understand that this program would benefit him much more than having him stay at home.

My son did not put much time into the program until his last year; he participated in sports, effective speaking, helped out with award dinners, taught in FTX's. Not to mention, he also retired as a Flight Sergeant. He said he did not regret joining the program as it taught him how to be a leader, built his confidence, taught him conflict resolution skills, and increased his ability to plan events.

For the last 3 years, I have seen numerous awards given to SSC, Staff, and most importantly Cadets. We must have done something right. In order to make this program successful, I encourage parents to get involved rather than to just drop their kids off every week.



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Last but not least, I am very pleased to be part of the 351's family....

## **Testimonial from Sandy Chan – Service Award SSC member**

When my daughter decided to join cadets 7 years ago, I had no idea how much it would change our lives. I decided to join for no particular reason, but when I did, I realized how much behind the scenes planning, time, dedication and hard work this team of volunteers puts into creating the optimal experience for the cadets. For the past 6 years, I have had the privilege of watching the young ones grow up and become mature, responsible leaders. Along with meeting some amazing people and creating lifelong friendships, I have also had the chance to witness both my children's progress through the program and graduate from it. Although there have been ups and downs, it has been an unforgettable experience and I am proud to be part of this team. I encourage other parents to reach out and support the squadron, as it is a once in a lifetime experience. You are always welcome to join!

## **Testimonial from Eva Ng –1st year SSC member**

In my opinion, I believe joining Air Cadet program is one of the best youth programs especially in 351 Silver Star Squadron. I have two sons, one is his 4<sup>th</sup> year and one is his 1<sup>st</sup> year. So I can be a volunteer while waiting for them during their training. This is my first time as a volunteer in Canada. I think volunteering can give me a chance to meet new friends and also able to gain a valuable life. Also, I think it would be a great way for me to put in some effort at 351 Silver Star Squadron. I am glad to be a new Squadron

Sponsoring Committee member. I had the opportunity to get involved in some events such as tagging and annual parade in this year. I observed that SSC members have a lot of work and planning to do before starting the events and the team work is very important. 351 SSC has a team of hardworking, smart and efficient members. They all get along well. I feel honored that I become part of them. I strongly advise parents to join us as part of the family to help the cadets and the squadron.