

Orchard View
BY THE MISSISSIPPI
ALMONTE

The Monthly Review

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Resident of the Month: Dave Cummings

Written by: Brent Connelly

Takeoffs Are Optional, Landings Are Mandatory —title of a book by Penelope Grenoble O'Malley

I had a dream when I was a young lad growing up in the lower Ottawa Valley town of Brownsburg, Quebec, the home of a large Canadian Industries Ltd. (CIL) ammunition factory, which, during World War II huffed and puffed non-stop to produce ammunition for the massive war effort in Europe from 1939 to 1945. My dream was to become a jet pilot. But, alas, my boyhood fantasy fizzled out before I even got off the ground. However, there is one resident of Orchard View (OVM) who, by the time he was steady enough to stand up and peek out over the side of his crib, knew that someday he was going to become a jet pilot—and he did, and he was a good one at that. His name is Dave Cummings, and he has lived at OVM with his close companion and best friend, Anne Gilkinson, for the past four years.



Dave was born in Beamsville, Ontario (twenty-five kilometres west of St. Catharines, Ontario). His father, George Cummings, was a member of the RCAF, and his uncle, Lloyd Southward, was a bomber pilot in World War II. So there was no shortage of “high-in-the-sky yarns” to arouse his interest in becoming a pilot one day. His dad’s RCAF administrative job allowed the four-member family, which also included his mother, Verna, and Dave’s younger sister, Diane, to live in various locations throughout Canada, such as Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and Goose Bay. Dave has two children from a previous marriage—namely, Rob, who is self-employed and lives in Almonte, and his sister, Catherine, who now resides in Toronto and is employed by the Bank of Montreal.

Nobody was surprised when young Dave loaded up his packsack in his eighteenth year and headed to Kingston, Ontario, to attend the Royal Military College (RMC) for four years. It was here that he received his wings, followed by obtaining a BSc degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Toronto (U of T). Upon graduation from RMC, Dave flew T-33 jets out of Rivers, Manitoba. And then he was off to an Operational Training Unit (OTU) posting in Chatham, New Brunswick, to acquire some experience in the cockpit of the F-86 or Sabre jet. This was the aircraft used by the Golden Hawks, the RCAF acrobatic team (1959–1964), which preceded the present-day team that we all know as the Snowbirds.

The following are selected excerpts from a published book titled *Biographies 1953–1954 to 2003–2004* by Howard Ross Wheatley (a classmate of Dave’s), which is referenced to outline some of the main postings in Dave’s very successful career as an airman, engineer, and aviation instructor.

In January 1961, Dave was posted to No. 1 Fighter Wing at Marville, France, where he flew with the 441 Sqn for three years. Upon returning to Canada, he spent ten months at the Telecommunications Training School at RCAF Station Centralia, ON.

His next posting was to Repair Depot near Trenton, ON, where he served as an Engineering Officer, while also attending Staff School in Toronto. In 1966, Dave returned to flying duties, and after completing the Flight Instructors Course at RCAF Station Portage La Prairie, MB, he was posted to instructor duties on Tutor aircraft at RCAF Station Moose Jaw, SK.

Two years later in 1968, Dave was selected for a flying instructor augmentation program with the United States Air Force (USAF) and began a three-year tour at Williams Air Force Base near Phoenix, AZ. This was a time to work on his golf game, while the rest of us were going snow crazy and howling at the moon back home.

In 1971, a very tanned and fit-looking Dave Cummings returned to Canada to cross-train to helicopters and do land environmental training in communications, air borne reconnaissance and artillery observation, and was assigned to 427 Tactical Helicopter Squadron at CFB Petawawa.

Dave's next destination was in 1974, when he was transferred to the National Defence Medical Centre in Ottawa, to undergo open heart surgery for an arterial bypass. While sadly his military flying days had suddenly come to an end, he still had his engineering skills and experience to fall back on. He was retained in the forces and encouraged to remuster to an engineering classification. The Land Element offered the most promise, and his extensive environmental training paid off.

Dave was posted to the Land Engineering Test Establishment (LETE) in Ottawa where he worked as a test officer on military vehicles and various pieces of army equipment. Two years later in 1978, while still at LETE, he retired from the military after 24 years of service and took the *civilian* position of Chief Engineer of Mobility Systems Squadron for 15 subsequent years.

There are two more things that struck me as being noteworthy in Dave's twenty-four-year career in the RCAF: first, I am amazed at the large number and variety of aircraft that he had flown himself, before instructing other aspiring pilots, including training jets such as the Harvard, the T-33, T-37, T-38, and the F-86 or Sabre, as well as the Jet Ranger Helicopter; second, I am surprised at the huge number of locations that either he or his dad had been posted to—estimated to be around twenty.

Dave Cummings retired permanently in 1993, which came on the heels of his next posting to the nearest golf course or curling rink—thus winding up an amazing career in the service to all Canadians, for which we thank you and your fellow airmen. God bless you all!

When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.—Leonardo DaVinci

Keep on



I think the best part of the summer and fall, other than the sun and flowers, has been our bike rides!





Our Memory Living Residents have enjoyed the joys of summer, the patio, the flowers, the change over to corn and the changing of the leaves.



Employee of the Month - Cathy Neil

Cathy Neil is an Almontonian and joined the Dietary department about a year ago and has proven to be an asset to the Orchard View team. She is cheerful, has a contagious positive attitude, and jumps in to help whenever she is needed. She has also stepped into the activities department, to give the staff a much needed weekend off before they started college this past fall. Her willingness to accommodate residents with all of their requests with a smile is what makes her our Employee of the Month. We are so lucky to have her on our team, thank you Cathy!

Testimonial - Hope Cain's Family

Thank you for everything. We cannot say enough about the exceptional care Hope received while living there. The care and compassion that the staff offered Mom and our family during her time at Orchard View was exceptional and heart-warming. Although Mom wasn't keen on moving in, it didn't take long for her to adapt and enjoy seeing, talking and laughing with her neighbours. She enjoyed her quiet time but loved to share her great-grandson during Joe on the piano each week. We always felt welcome to join the fun and well informed on what was going on at Orchard View and with Mom. It truly felt like her home.

Laugh out Loud at Orchard View

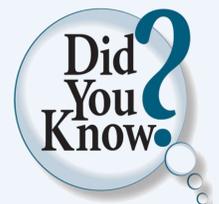
**If you boil a funny
bone it becomes
a laughing stock.**

That's humerus.

**People who
wonder whether
the glass is half
empty or half full
miss the point.
The glass is
refillable.**

JoJo's Did You Know? Rules for Living

1. Stand up straight, with your shoulders back.
2. Treat yourself like someone you are responsible for.
3. Make friends with people who want the best for you.
4. Set your house in order before you criticize the world.
5. Pursue what is meaningful.
6. Tell the truth—or at least don't lie.
7. Assume the person you are listening to might know something.



Open Activities

- ~ Bistro ~ Puzzle Tables
- ~ Wellness Centre Bike and Walking Bars
- ~ Joe on the Piano
- ~ Adult Colouring
- ~ Social Distanced Bingo with Joanna and Friends
- ~ Massage Chairs (Wellness Centre/ 3rd Floor Lounge)
- ~ Docking Station for phone calls or Video Calls on the computer
- ~ Library ~ Tuck Shop
- ~ Church Services / Rosary Prayer
- ~ Fitness classes on Main, 3rd and 4th Floor from Almonte Physio
- ~ Door to Door Mind Work Games
- ~ Bistro Activities
- ~ Jumbo Bowling
- ~ Scrabble
- LOTS MORE!

Pumpkin Pie Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who purchased a pie over the Thanksgiving weekend. We hope you enjoyed your time in your bubble. We are pleased to announce that we raised \$430 for the Rethink Breast Cancer initiative. Below is more information on the initiative.

Freedom Dog Rescue

BOTTLE DRIVE Pick Ups

Our volunteers have enjoyed this time away from the bottle return line and are ready to get back to it! Thank you for your support & donation

Should you need a pick up please email freedomdogdonations@gmail.com

Drop off locations:

Cassleman: 705A St. Isidore Street

Embrun: 32 Rembrandt Prom

Orleans: 208 Chaperal Private

Gloucester: 4417 Goldeneye Way

Kanata: 10 Collingwood Cres.

Carleton Place: 338 Lake Ave East Apt. 4



There's no such thing as a good kind of cancer.

Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) is a stage IV incurable cancer that takes the lives of 5,000 Canadian women every year. The average survival is only 2-3 years - something that hasn't improved in over a decade.

Improving outcomes for those with MBC cannot be placed on those with MBC alone. They've got too much already.

We need to lift these women up and have their backs. We need to advocate on their behalf. These women need your help.

Wear the pin and sign the MBC Ally pledge today.
rethinkbreastcancer.com/allies

Remembrance Day

Wednesday

11 NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day is very special at OVM, and this year it will be a bit different. If family have any kind words to say to our Veterans at OVM, please send/drop of a letter to Michael our Recreation Director, before November 9th

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Chosen letters will be read at our private service.

