

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Issue/Numéro 103



July/juillet 2017

*Disclaimer: This Newsletter is produced for members of the RMC Class of 1965 and is based primarily on inputs from members of the Class of 65. It is not an official publication of the Royal Military College nor does it purport to represent the views or opinions of all members of the Class. Unfortunately, the Editorial staff lacks the linguistic skills to produce a bilingual version. Items are published in the official language in which they are received.*

### Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

This is a special edition to mourn the passing of three more classmates. Earlier this month, I notified the Class of the passing of **6699 George Walker**, and, in Edition 102, it was my sad duty to report the death of **6386 Laurent Lord**. Since that time, **6375 Ken Eyre**, **6568 Ed Sanford**, and **6353 Pete Walker** have left us.

Reprinted below are the obituaries of our comrades and some notes of sympathy that passed my desk.

### 6375 Ken Eyre (23 Nov 42-13 Jul 17)

Ken was born in Shelburne, NS on November 23, 1942 to loving parents Winnie and Ralph Eyre. His father was a member of the Army Corp of Engineers and as Ralph carried out his duties, including the building of the Alaska Highway, Ken and his family lived in various places across Canada. He spent his formative high school years in Whitehorse, Yukon and there developed a lasting respect for Canada's North.

Ken graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada (BA) and served in the Canadian Army from 1965 to 1982, primarily with infantry and airborne forces. He was commissioned into the Queen's Own Rifles and was subsequently rebadged to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. During his military career he served twice on peacekeeping missions in Cyprus, one during the period of the coup d'etat and Turkish invasion in 1974.

A brilliant scholar, Ken received a MA in History from Duke University in 1967 and in 1974 became the first serving officer awarded a Department of National Defence Fellowship. He chose to work towards a Ph.D at King's College, University of London. His thesis was entitled *Custos Borealis: The Military In the Canadian North*, an examination of Canada's defence policy and operations. As part of his field research, he was posted to Yellowknife and had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the North, with emphasis on the Northwest Passage and the High Arctic. When it came time at King's College to defend his dissertation, the College asked the Canadian government for an expert on the subject to join the board in reviewing the paper and questioning the candidate. The single expert Canada could suggest was that of Major K.C. Eyre, MA. The dissertation was accepted and Ken was granted a Ph.D in 1981. In recognition of all his original work relating to Canada's North, he was nominated by the Department of National Defence for the 1982 Massey Medal.

After retiring from the army, Ken worked for several years at National Sea Products, then became Principal



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Ken Eyre

Scientist at Crisis Simulations, a research company designing military battle and disaster training simulations. In 1994, he was appointed the first Director of Studies at the Pearson International Peacekeeping Centre established by the Government of Canada in Clementsport, NS. During his tenure at the Centre, he served in various other positions, including Director of Research and Development, Director of Exercises and Executive Vice President. Ken was instrumental in developing an intellectual focus and a dynamic multidisciplinary approach for the Centre's peacekeeping training, one that was unique in the world and studied by other countries. Many people still working in the fields of peacemaking and rebuilding conflict ridden countries around the globe are using concepts and principles learned from his work.

Ken had an incisive and active intellect and curiosity and did not suffer intellectual sloppiness but as a teacher, friend and husband, he could be gentle and reassuring and was a loyal friend and inspiring mentor to many people.

He also had a great sense of fun and whimsy. In his retirement years, Ken took up Cowboy Action Shooting, combining boyhood pursuits with a love of target shooting. He and his friends spent many happy days participating in matches with titles such as " High Noon", " The Shooting of Dan McGrew" and "Ghostriders in the Sky. " Also in retirement, he created driftwood art and garden octopi- huge creatures made from spruce burls he harvested from local forests and lakes that he painted fanciful colours and often named after friends.

The love for the outdoors he learned as a boy never left Ken. He was an avid fly fisherman, both in salt and freshwater, and was most content when fishing, particularly on Nova Scotia's brooks and rivers in the spring of the year and on Florida's inland waterways during the winters he spent there. He used to quote from a Babylonian proverb often : "The gods do not deduct from man's allotted span the hours spent fishing. " All those who mourn his death wish the gods had given him many more hours.

Ken died on July 13, 2017, shortly after being diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. He leaves his wife Carole (Annapolis Royal), his sister Heather and brother in law Raymond d'Entremont ( Lower West Pubnico), niece Corinne d' Entremont (Killeen, Texas) and nephew Peter d'Entremont (Ottawa).

Cremation has taken place under the care and direction of Kaulbach Family Funeral Home, Annapolis Royal; a private interment will be held at Mountain Cemetery , Yarmouth, NS. A service to remember Ken will be held on August 17, 2017 at Hillsdale House Inn, St George Street, Annapolis Royal beginning at 1:30pm. Donations in his memory may be made to the Clean Annapolis River Project for use with the Youth Leading Environmental Change Program. (Box 395, Annapolis Royal, NS, B0S1A0) Online condolences may be made at [www.kaulbachfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.kaulbachfamilyfuneralhome.com)



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Ken Eyre

**6464 Dave Harries:** My condolences to Carole and rest of the Eyre family. Ken made a difference in so many ways, as I was privileged to know beginning soon after our arrival at CMR, on a September day long ago.

Soldier, scholar, peacekeeper, activist, artist and fisherman.

I will never forget the strikingly coloured *large* octopuses he created from stumps retrieved from flood-lakes. Unfortunately I never visited Annapolis Royal with the means to bring one home.

We shared a belief in the maxim; *The master does not count time spent fishing against each mortal's total.* Memorable days on the water did not depend on the number of fish caught, but on the number of stories to be retold.

**6475 Mike Houghton:** Philip, so sad to hear that Ken has left us so suddenly. You and I spent a lot of time with our old friend, with you as a special friend. Ken and I first met on a train bound for Kingston in 1960, Ken from Petawawa and I from Ottawa. We were coming to Kingston to suffer through entrance exams, plus appear before a really scary board that asked us difficult questions. We compared high school graduation scores and, while Ken's numbers were really high, mine were definitely not. Obviously a really bright guy that I knew would be accepted. Me, not so sure but hopeful!! We did not see each other again until 08 September when we all showed up at CMR. Suspect you went through a similar experience.

5 years at CMR/RMC, all of our Infantry training at Camp Borden (I have a phase two photo to back that up), serving in the Airborne Regiment together in Edmonton, even though we came from three different Regiments. A lot of quality time together. Ken came to my home in Florida a couple of years ago for our mini Class reunion and, unfortunately, that was the last time we connected.

6568 Ed Sanford (16 Mar 42-16 Jul 17)

Ed's family is deeply saddened to announce his passing on July 16, 2017, after a long and courageous battle with brain cancer and the ensuing medical issues. He is survived by his two children, Charlie (Kalli Lahtinen) and Laura (Chris Hetherington), and their mother, Dianne McArthur. His children were the pride and joy of his life and his love for them knew no bounds. He is also survived by his loving partner and best friend, Sharon McKeen, who provided much strength and support throughout their years together. He also leaves two incredible grandchildren, Sawyer and Anna, who meant the world to him. Special thanks to his always caring sister-in-law, Carole Sanford, and his cousin, Linda Parolin, with whom he shared a very special bond. Ed now joins his departed siblings, Mary Lou and Gord. In addition, he leaves several nieces and nephews. Ed had a long and distinguished career in the Canadian Armed Forces, beginning as a cadet at the Royal Military College and ending as Lieutenant Colonel, Director of Security, with DND. He was a kind and gentle man, with a great sense of humor and *joie de vivre*. He was an avid outdoorsman and nothing gave him greater pleasure than landing a giant Muskie. Ed will be missed by his family and a large circle of friends. A celebration of Ed's life will be held at the Central Chapel of Hulse, Playfair and McGarry, 315 McLeod Street (at O'Connor), Ottawa on September 9, 2017 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the doctors and staff at the Montfort Hospital who were so kind and caring during Ed's final days.



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### 6353 Peter Walker



Peter Walker passed away in Pointe Claire, QC on 24 July 2017, leaving to mourn, his wife Susan and their two children. - Tim who is a lawyer in Ottawa and Pam who is an Occupational Therapist in Vancouver, and their three grandchildren.

Peter graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1965 and embarked on a brief career as a naval officer, however, he decided that football (a sport at which he had excelled at RMC) might ease him out of the armed services into a civilian chemical engineering profession. To combine football and a full time job, he started in research. This allowed him enough freedom to play football and at the same time to become a specialist in paper drying.

After a few years, with the Canadian paper industry faltering he moved to Switzerland to become a specialist in paper dyeing where he remained for four years before returning to Canada.

Upon return he took up a position as a chemical engineer specializing in paper drying equipment and proceeded up the corporate ladder to eventually become Director of Sales and Marketing. He was then offered a job as VP & GM with a company specializing in maintenance and repair welding where he worked for several years before leaving to join a new business venture in machine vision – a new technology in which cameras fed images to computers and the computers then fine-tuned the production process and the product quality.

He became CEO and remained with the company for ten years until it was bought out by an American company at which time he decided to retire.

Retirement proved too slow for Peter and after only three months he joined several of his old employees in the paper drying business doing the same job that he had held over thirty years previously.

Peter is remembered fondly by his RMC Classmates as a gentle giant whose size and prowess on the football field earned him the nickname of "Baby Huey." All members of the Class of 1965 express their condolences to Susan and to his family for his sad and untimely passing.

*(Please note that this is a summary of a biography that Pete provided to this Newsletter and is not an official obituary)*

**6396 Rod MacKinnon:** I am profoundly sorry to learn of "Hunk" Walker's demise. Terry Colfer and I have known Pete since the autumn of 1959 when we were all on the Eaton's Junior Council and Executive together in Montreal. And then he and I were in Cartier Squadron for 3 years before we all ended up at RMC. To make matters even more compelling, I knew his wife Sue (now deceased) and her brother John (Bulmer) all thru high school in St Lambert. Later, Pete and Sue had a daughter living in Vancouver and I bumped into them at the Vancouver Airport a couple of times.

Despite the rule that every anglo had to have a franco roommate, somehow, Pete and Terry Pyne were roommates in our junior year at CMR. They were a pair to be sure!

Hunk was truly a gentle giant who spoke softly and rarely, if ever, spoke ill of anybody. Probably just as well that he blew his knee at his first Alouette Training Camp, and never had to bang heads in the CFL. Pete was one of a kind, and the world, and our Class, will be poorer for his passing.



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### Closing Notes

This has been a sad issue as we say farewell to so many classmates. I join all of you in expressing my condolences to Hunk was truly a gentle giant who spoke softly and rarely, if ever, spoke ill of anybody. Probably just as well that he