

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Numéro 115



November/novembre 2018

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

For those of us living in the Ottawa area, I guess we can officially mark the beginning of winter with our first snowfall, although I know some of you in the Prairies beat us to it by a couple of weeks and about 40 cms!

It is my sad duty in this edition to report the passing of two classmates—**6524 Barry Corden** and **6616 Stephen Crutcher**.

This edition will also feature a report on the 2018 TEA Lecture held on 29 October, and a number of reminiscences of times past.

6524 Barry Corden (1943-2018)

We were informed of Barry's death by his daughter, Debi, who wrote: *"I am very sad to tell you Dad passed away on Friday, October 12th. Dad always spoke highly of RMC.*

He was so proud to have graduated from RMC and would share stories of his time there and the people he knew...all who he considered friends. During the telling of these stories there was always lots of laughter and you knew these were memories he truly cherished.

A few years ago he took me to RMC and there was a Commandant's Parade (I think that's what it was called); Dad was so excited he could hardly sit still in his seat. He was explaining what was going on and why and when he was at RMC what was the same and what had changed. We drove around the grounds and he pointed out the building he lived in and the window to his room. It was wonderful to be able to see the place that had such a positive impact on his life."

Barry's Obituary is copied on the next page. The Class joins in offering it's deepest sympathies to his family.



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CORDEN, John Barrie August 18, 1943 - October 12, 2018

It is with sadness we announce the passing of Barrie on October 12, 2018, at the Brockville General Hospital at age 75. Barrie will be deeply missed by his wife Geraldine; daughters Karen and Debi (Rob Soria); granddaughters Kohl and Sarah; stepchildren Hugh, Keri (Gary Dayanandan), and Fraser; step- grandchildren Kyle and Jade; sister Ruth Whiston, niece Fritha Fisher and her son Ben. He was predeceased by his parents Stanley and Marion; sister Amelia Corden; and aunt Ruth Low. Born in Montreal, Barrie loved to play football and hockey and would spend summers at the family camp Birch Grove on Lac Quenouille. Barrie was a proud graduate of the Royal Military



College of Canada, Class of 1965, and always spoke fondly of his time there and the friends he made. After graduation he was stationed in North Bay with the RCAF, earning the nickname Blast. He joined the private sector in 1969 and moved to Brockville with Jeri after his retirement. Barrie loved to fish, cook, read, tinker around the house, listen to music - especially Neil Diamond, and spend time with his family. We will miss his smile and hugs, his practical advice, those infamous lists, and of course that laugh. The family wishes to thank the staff at the Brockville General Hospital ICU and Emergency departments for the compassion and care they provided during this difficult time. Arrangements are entrusted to the Irvine Funeral Home, 45 James St., E. Following Barrie's request there will be no funeral service and a private burial will be held at a later date. As expressions of sympathy donations to the Brockville General Hospital Foundation will be gratefully acknowledged. Send condolences or make a donation online at www.irvinememorial.com

"If there comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever." - A.A. Milne



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6616 Stephen Crutcher (1942—2018)

Steve's wife, Dianne passed along the following note to Doug Cope, *"It's with deep sadness and a heavy heart that I send you the news of Stephen's passing on Thanksgiving Sunday morning. My only solace is that he is finally at peace and rid of pain and anguish. Ours was a long journey but he never complained. The last month must have been torture for him lying in a hospital bed on his back 24/7.*

At least he died at home and I was beside him until the end.

I'm planning a private funeral with a Celebration of his life to follow near the end of this month. I need time to rest and collect myself.

I will let you know date and times and location as soon as I know them."

The sincere condolences of the Class of 65 are passed along to Dianne and her family. The following obituary appeared in the Ottawa Citizen.

Stephen passed away at home in his 76th year with his beloved wife Dianne by his side on Sunday, October 7, 2018 after a long and courageous battle with prostate cancer.



Stephen was predeceased by his father Gordon, his mother Bernice and his younger brother Anthony.

He leaves behind his loving and devoted wife of 49 years Dianne (Keith), his older brother Gordon (Sandra) of Thornhill, Ontario, his cousins Tom Collings (Jackie) of Stratford, Ontario, Rodney Crutcher (Janice) of Calgary, Alberta, and Anthony Crutcher (Susan) of Kemble, Ontario, his sister-in-law Randi Keith of Cobden, Ontario, his niece Barbara Keith Badour (Don) their boys Logan and Lucas of Perth, Ontario, and nephew Brian Keith (Deena) and their daughter Madeline of Prescott, Ontario as well as many friends and colleagues across the country and beyond.

Stephen had a wonderful thirty six year career, which he loved, with Air Canada flying all over the world and ended his career in 2002 on his beloved Boeing 747.

He will be remembered for his love of Nature, wildlife, music and the tranquility of his "cabin in the woods". He was able to enjoy all of these on their property, Wingswept Farm, near Apple Hill, Ontario where he and Dianne lived for thirty eight years.



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Reliving the 1961 CSC Royal Roads Recruit Obstacle Race By **6611 Doug 'Copious' Cope**

From 7 to 9 September, 2018 a number of ex-cadets from the Class of 1961 entry year gathered at Royal Roads University outside Victoria, BC for a reunion. It was 57 years almost to the day since we stumbled off the buses at CSC Royal Roads and just over 55 years since we graduated and moved to RMC.

As at RMC, part of our 'trial by fire' at Roads in that era was to run the Recruit Obstacle Course. And on 20 October 1961 we ran that course through a freezing mountain stream, full of senior-made obstacles, uphill to the upper playing fields, where there were more obstacles, then downhill to the lower pond. The race was grueling and as I was exiting that lower pond, almost totally spent and looking like a drowned rat, a photographer from the local Victoria Colonist newspaper took a photo of me and it ran in the local paper that day.



As part of the reunion I thought that it would be a laugh to have that photo retaken down at the lower pond at RRU. To see that this happened, the RRU Alumni Relations Manager, Meghan Cabrera, arranged for their photographer to take a few photos on Saturday afternoon.



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1961 Obstacle Race (Concluded)

With me clutching a copy of the original photo, I was joined by 5 others from my class on the edge of the lower pond. [We just missed getting a fifth member of Fraser Flight into the photo but 6598 George 'GAS' Brown got lost on his way to the pond – no, he did not fall in.]



At the Lower Pond - on the left in the safari hat is 6610 Dave 'Coop' Cooper (Fraser Flight and my first year cabin-mate), next to Coop in the blue is 6602 Jim 'Jacques' Cale (Fraser Flight), next to Jacques is 6604 Jim 'Fats' Carruthers (Fraser Flight), then 6611 Doug 'Copious' Cope (Fraser Flight), 6587 Doug 'Army' Armstrong (Cartier Flight) and on the far right of the photo in the black RMC cap is 6705 Matt 'General' Wilson (Thompson Flight).

At the initiative of the reunion staff, Peter Mallett wrote an article on this event and it was published in the CFB Esquimalt Lookout E-magazine (<http://www.lookoutnewspaper.com/volume-63-issue-39-october-1-2018/> see page 12)

At the beginning there was mention of re-enacting the scene in the original photo of me emerging from the pond at the end of the Obstacle Race. However, I told them that there were a number of reasons why that would not happen: I am at least 40 kilos heavier; I had no intention of getting into a freezing pond; and it could take some searching to find a WWII kapok life jacket.

A good time was had by all at the reunion and the incident at the lower pond at Royal Roads allowed me and my old comrades to relive our harrowing day in the cold stream along with other horrors of our first year at Roads. The 1961 CSC Royal Roads Recruit Obstacle Race and other stories are described in detail in my book 'The Roadants'. (Available at the RMC and RRU Gift Shops or see www.dougope.ca)



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6439 Hugh Spence Reflects on Another Era At RMC

By 25336 Anna-Marie Shewfelt (for eVeritas)

6439 Hugh Spence (CMR/RMC 1965) first learned of the Canadian Military Colleges when he was in grade 9 or 10. As he recalls, *“I had to give an oral presentation on an academic institution based on a random pick from a large selection of academic calendar books lined up on the blackboard rail. I happened to pick RMC’s.”* His reasons for applying were simple enough. He was interested in military history, he had several military forebears, and he was also in Sea Cadets where the senior staff officer happened to be a navy recruiter. As he explains, he had also *“come to dislike high school and wanted to get out of having to go through Ontario grade 13.”* As Ontario students were accepted for CMR’s Prep Year after Grade 12 back then, he applied, was accepted, and entered CMR de St. Jean in 1960.

Hugh arrived at CMR during the National Film Board filming of a Canadian Military College recruiting film and as a result had to “debus” three times while being loudly harassed by senior Cadets in scarlets. As he recalled, little else from his time at CMR stands out now except pride in being a 3-bar and then a 4-bar in his final year there before making the move to Kingston. *“Mounting guard on the ramparts without ammunition in my spit-shone rifle magazine and with only a chromed ceremonial bayonet to protect the College (and me) during the FLQ crisis stands out the most,”* he said.

Like many Cadets, Spence had his challenges to overcome. At CMR, as he explained, *“It was learning French fast.”* As he joked, *“It was not just French immersion but French coercion.”* At RMC, in contrast, it was *“staying awake in class and avoiding in Third Year the petty harassment of certain overweening seniors.”*

As Spence also recalled, it was another era at RMC back then: *“The fine practice of mentoring was not in vogue at the time; it was sink or swim sans aide.”* As a result, there are few staff who stand out for him, with the exception being then Commandant of RMC Air/Cdre Len Birchall who was *“a legend in his own time and then in mine and a fine fellow for a Cadet to talk to.”*

After graduation in 1965, Hugh Spence spent six months doing his navy Pre-Fleet training before spending a year and a half on sea duty as a S/Lt watchkeeper and ship’s information officer aboard the destroyer HMCS GATINEAU based in Halifax. In early 1967, he was posted to the Regional Information Office in Esquimalt, B.C., to work on DND public relations efforts for Canada’s Centennial. Following his promotion to Lieutenant, he was posted to DNDHQ in 1968 to work as a public enquiries officer and then head of the DIS photo/film shop. *“I escorted press/media on tours, attended NATO meetings and military exercises with the media,”*





Spence (Concluded)

he explained. *“I actually submitted my resignation from the Forces while acting as the admin and escort officer for an NFB film crew recording army and air force activities in Germany for a recruiting film. How’s that for a bookend to my military career?”*

With his military service behind him, Spence moved on to serve in a number of roles in the civilian world, including as a senior admin with St. Lawrence College of Applied Arts & Technology; with Transport Canada public affairs as the marine liaison officer; with the Atomic Energy Control Board as the Chief of the Office of Public Information (from which he retired in 1997) and as a PR consultant until 2003.

Hugh Spence has remained heavily involved with his class over the years. *“I was ‘elected’ Class of ’65 Secretary for Life at our very first reunion in 1970 which I organized, being a Kingston resident at the time. I have organized nine reunions since then and I am looking forward to our next one in 2020.”*

Like many older ex-Cadets, he also has strong opinions about the College today. *“For the past twenty years or so,”* he said, *“Cadets don’t seem to have been taught how to wear the pillbox properly, which makes them look idiotic and they don’t seem to even realize that.”* He added, *“I suspect Cadets today are somewhat embarrassed to wear the poxy box in public, as I was over half a century ago.”*

(Ed Note: With thanks to eVeritas)

John’s Bench by 6567 Gary Running

This past August when Moninna and I were in Ontario for a few weeks we went down to Kingston for a day to see if we could find “John’s Bench”. I had known **7310 John Shaw** since 1958 when we were dependents, both going to high school in Metz France at the #1 Air Division Head Quarters high school. John’s older brother **6570 Doug Shaw** and I were in the same grade and were (and still are) great friends. A few years later both Doug and I entered RMC in 1961.

A year or so later John also entered RMC. John and I had both played on various Metz high school basketball and football teams together. We also ended up playing together on the RMC 64/65 senior football team.

After he graduated, John took flying training and after getting his wings had various flying jobs before eventually being posted to Europe as a CF 104 pilot. Very sadly he was killed along with a fellow pilot on duty in a CF 104 flying accident.

Several years later his RMC classmates erected a bench in his honour at RMC. It is located a hundred metres or so directly in front of the commandants house, and looks across the water towards the staff school.

The photo on the next page shows Doug and his wife Maureen standing behind John’s bench.



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John's Bench



Factoid

With the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War approaching, it might be of interest to note that of all the officers serving in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 23% were RMC ex-cadets. In all, over 900 ex-cadets served in the CEF and/or other Imperial armed forces and 147 were killed.

The Taking of Vimy Ridge, Easter Monday, 1917 by Richard Jack





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2018 Class of 65 Teaching Excellence Award

As reported in the last edition, the 2018 recipient of the Class TEA Award went to Dr. Nicholas Vlachopoulos of the Department of Civil Engineering. On Monday, 29 October, he gave his public lecture in Currie Hall to a large audience including the Commandant, the Principal, members of the Class of 65, two previous winners of the award, and his wife and two children.

His presentation was a detailed account of his approach to teaching civil engineering—a multi-faceted, hands on, collegial approach far removed from the very one-way education this editor received during his stay at RMC. His presentation strongly underlined his qualification for the award while, at the same time emphasizing the value the award brings to the College’s educational program.

Six classmates travelled from Ottawa (Adams, Braham, Cale, Carruthers, Colfer, and Emond) and met with Arnold and Mueller for dinner prior to the event . Joining for the event itself were Cowan, Glynn and Houghton—overall, a pretty good class representation. Also joining for the dinner were the Commandant, BGen Sebastian Bouchard; the Principal, Dr Harry Kowal; Bill Oliver, Editor of eVeritas; and three Officer Cadets.

Prior to Dr Vlachopoulos’ presentation, Charlie Emond provided the audience with a very good description of the award and its background, and of the continuing efforts of the Class of 65 to support the College in a number of ways. Steve Arnold presented the recipient with his cheque following the presentation.

In a message after the event, Dr. Kowal had this to say, *“It was ...great to see ...so many representatives of the class of ’65. You have an amazing class and one that has been so generous to RMC. Thank you for coming and for all you do for RMC! “*

The following photos of the event and the preceding dinner are provided courtesy of Gerry Mueller.





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Closing Notes

A clap on the back to the entire Class for the TEA initiative. It is clearly an honour for the recipients and is a huge value added for the College and the cadets who benefit from the resultant high standard of instruction. Special thanks to those members of the Class who attended this year's event. That attendance underlines the Class of 65's dedication to the College and to future generations of cadets.

A reminder to all to provide Waine McQuinn with updates to your contact information if it has changed and with a short bio if you have not already done so. In the case of the bios, I would be grateful if you could copy me, along with a recent photo so that they might be included in future editions of this Newsletter.

Keep those inputs coming.



1965 Alpine Ski Team

REAR: Guthrie BH, Williams CM, Kocher YA, Tyrrell CJ, Rowley BO, Colbertson WE, Delegante JS, FRONT: Wylie JD, Estlund JC, Capt JP Fortin (Chairman), Bulman DF (Captain), Carwood JO, ABSENT: Gilmore JG.