

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 133



September/septembre 2020

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Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

I hope all of you have enjoyed the Labour Day weekend even though it heralds the end of summer. For many of you it will also be a nervous time as your grandchildren return to school despite the fact that many of your children are still not permitted to return to work.

I am pleased to note that this edition contains an eclectic mix of entries thanks to responses from a number of classmates (or “losers” as the US President would probably characterise you for your military service!). Rather than summarise those entries here, I am just going to leap in. Sadly, the first article is on the passing of another classmate.

6482 Ron Salmon (1943-2018)

By Ernest Salmon

When Georges Wilson contacted me and asked if I would like to write a few words about my brother Ronald Salmon (#6482) I didn't really know what I should write or where I should start. The relevant part of his life, as far as this alumnus is concerned, covers just two years of his life. However, there is just so much more about him to share.

Memories and recollections from that time in his life came to me second and third hand. I know he entered CMR at age 17, no doubt eager to show his mettle and take on this challenge. He was the definition of meeting challenges head-on, a skill he would have to depend on again and again as he shifted gears in education (he did not finish with CMR and instead completed an engineering degree from University of Alberta), starting and running his own IT consulting business, learning to fly (both powered and glider) and later in life, successfully battling stage four non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Ron was born November 14 1943 to Jean and Harold Salmon in Port Arthur (Thunder Bay) Ontario. At the time Harold was a serving wartime member with the RCAF as an aero engine fitter, having volunteered with two of his brothers from North Bay in 1940. He later applied to become a pilot, earning his wings in 1944, assigned to fly with an RAF Dakota squadron based in the UK. After a brief stint as a civilian, he re-upped and finished a 26.5 year career at RCAF Rockcliffe (Ottawa) 1966. Jean had been a teacher briefly before marrying and starting a family and would eventually have three sons, all of whom were influenced by their father's love of aircraft and flying, each of them accomplished pilots, both power and glider.



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6482 Ronald Salmon (Concluded)



As a young boy, Ron moved with the family to several RCAF stations across Canada. He distinguished himself in the Air Cadet program as a W01 for both the MacDonald and Portage La Prairie squadrons. The family was eventually posted to Edmonton and it was from here that Ron left to attend CMR in 1960. To put our ages in perspective, I hadn't yet been born.

When Ron returned from St. Jean, he headed to the University of Alberta to complete a degree in Civil Engineering. He later attained the certification to become a Professional Engineer. He took an early interest in computing sciences at AESL (Associated Engineers Services Ltd) in Edmonton. Computing science became the thrust of his later career, eventually forming a partnership with a friend in IT consulting.

Volunteering was an important aspect of his life. While living near Edmonton, he was active with CASARA - Civil Air Search and Rescue Association - as a pilot as well as a volunteer firefighter for the Town of Saint Albert (where he lived). When he briefly worked from Vancouver for AESL, he joined Sixth Field Engineer Squadron in the Army Reserves, enjoying his time building Bailey bridges and, as he told it,



"blowing stuff up" as combat engineers like to do.



Ron held a lifelong love of flying. His first plane was an Aero Coupe and later he had a quarter-share in a Cessna 172. He was also a keen glider pilot. A favourite memory of mine was he and I flying in his 172 from Villeneuve to the Edmonton Soaring Club, based at the Chipman glider port, for an afternoon of gliding on an unforgettably beautiful day. Later, time and distance prevented too many shared outings and in fact, the three Salmon brothers flew together only once: me as pilot on a round-trip flight from Victoria to Nanaimo BC

with Derrick and Ron as co-pilots.

Ron's work in IT took him all over the US, working for CalTrans (California Transportation systems), Hewlett Packard and eventually for a Seattle Washington company that provided 911 'points of presence'. He took an interest in travel, and with his wife Jean, visited every single US state in their motor home. Always seeking the next challenge, Ron involved himself in the community he lived in, lastly volunteering with the Newport Police department (Oregon), conducting traffic support as well as applying his computer expertise in the office environment.

Ron spoke of his time at CMR with great pride. He was a hard-worker, dedicated husband and a life-long learner. Sadly my brother passed too soon, on June 13 2018, with family by his side.



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Reunion 2020 Weekend Update

As many of you are aware Reunion Weekend will be different this year as RMC has decided to forgo our typical Reunion activities.

With that being said, the College, as well as the RMC Foundation, will attempt to live stream some of the Obstacle Course and the Badging Parade for you to watch from the comfort of your home. The Obstacle course will still be run on Friday 18 September (Time to be Confirmed) and the Badging Parade on Saturday 19 September (Time to be Confirmed).

Although you won't be front and centre enjoying these pastimes, we thought you'd still want to be part of the competitive nature of Reunion Weekend. Therefore we have broadened our Battle of The Classes Challenge to start a little early this year. Starting 1 August - 31 December any/all donations received by you and your classmates to any fund/project will be included in your class cumulative total. This includes any recurring monthly donations as well.

Now more than ever our future leaders need your support. The Commandants have made it clear that your support will be crucial this year in order to deliver the programs and training our Officer Cadets need in order to succeed in these uncharted times.

Please feel free to give me a call at 613-328-3923. We look forward to your support.

Kindest Regards,

Jennifer Jordan

RMC Foundation Fundraising Coordinator

Letters

Re: Passing of Ron Staple (Edition 132)

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Ron Staple. Hockey is also a passion of mine. I had the pleasure of playing with Ron on the CMR team.

We shared not only the comradery of playing together, but also of making some memorable road trips i.e. Halifax for a game against the Navy, Middlebury, Vermont against the college, and the trip(s) to Quebec City under the guise of playing hockey, but really to partake in the Carnival d'Hiver.

Best wishes and stay safe, please

L. Kirk Miller 6460



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Letters (Concluded)

Re: Carbon Taxes—(Edition 132)

My personal opinion is that human induced climate change is insignificant and for Canada much more positive than negative.

Reality check: It increases utility and energy costs for Canadians and Canada's allies.

It is a waste of a competitive edge for Canadian industry.

It makes housing in Canada expensive for young people.

It tends to move the new capital equipment that is a huge source of income off shore depriving Canadian workers of jobs and decreasing the tax base and so raising tax rates for Canadians.

It fosters supply chains and movement of declared income to off shore where it avoids taxation and fosters tax avoidance.

Support for it is a security risk.

It makes less money available for national defense.

Sincerely,

6632 Don Leroy Hansen B.A. B.Ed. LLB (fully retired)

I wouldn't be here if not for ...

By 6582 Brent Abbott

The Covid 19 has brought many things into better focus. Recently, Mike sent out a survey to confirm readership, to get some feedback, and to get an indication of what interested readers. In that regard, one of the magazines I subscribe to as an Air Force oriented guy, includes a short invitation to respond to the challenge, ***I wouldn't be here if I had not been an Air Cadet.*** Those who responded include Chris Hatfield and Jeremy Hansen, two astronauts. I would like each member of the class of 65 to provide a response to the challenge, ***I wouldn't be here if not for...***



To start this off, I can say that I would not have been a Milcol cadet if not for Canadian Pacific Railroad.

I need to start with the selection process which was scheduled for Easter 1961 at No.2 Personnel Selection Unit (PSU) at RCAF Station Centralia. While attending Rideau High School in Ottawa, I had been in the Militia as a member of the IV Princess Louise Dragoon Guards. My father, an RCAF WO1 had regularly counselled me that if I could get into MilCol (and to use his expression), I would have the world in a down hill pull.

Four students from Rideau High were selected to proceed to the 2 PSU over the Easter week of 1969. Fraser Holman and I along with two others were to board the midnight CN train out of Ottawa, change trains in Toronto and arrive at the London station at about 2 PM. We were all excited and seen off at the station by family and girlfriends with great expectations. Sleeping was a challenge as the RCAF, ever mindful of cost, had booked coach for the entire journey.



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I wouldn't be here if not for ... (concluded)

The trip to Toronto included stops in Smiths Falls, Brockville, Gananoque, Kingston, Belleville, Cobourg, Oshawa and then Union Station. The meal car was not in operation and on arrival at 0700 we had one hour to get into the one diner area and get breakfast before our connecting train departed at 0800. All the other passengers had the same idea and the diner was swamped. It took until 0735 to get a seat. By the time we had ordered and had some food served it was 0755. Fraser and the other two grabbed as much as they could manage and headed for the train. A few minutes later, my friend Bob rushed in to say I had better come as the train was about to leave. No chance, I needed my breakfast, besides the CN trains were notorious for late departures.

When I depart the diner at 0805 the train had indeed departed. Dilemma indeed. I recoiled at the thought of telling everyone I had missed out on the selection process for some scrambled eggs and toast.

I examined the departure board. The CN train was routed through Hamilton, St Catharines, Welland, Simcoe, and Tillsonburg with arrival in London at 2 pm. The next train departing for London was a CP which was routed through Kitchener, Woodstock and arriving in London at 12. I immediately boarded the CP train with my CN ticket. Somewhere between Kitchener and Woodstock the conductor finally arrived in our coach. Reckoning was at hand!!

As requested, I presented my ticket to the conductor. He was apparently a WWII veteran as he wore ribbons on his tunic. He dutifully observed that this was a CP train and I had presented a CN ticket. After what seemed a long explanation on my part, he grinned and handed my ticket back with a punch mark and a Good Luck. And in that brief exchange, I came to realize that I would not have been at Milcol if not for Canadian Pacific Railway.

The reception on the platform in London was somewhat unique when the NCO collecting the candidates noted that I was not due to arrive until 2 pm. I have little insight into the discussion on the CN train when the others noted I had missed the connection, but they were astounded that I had beat them to Centralia. The experience in the PSU is somewhat vague but I did meet Tom Barton and Bill Rattray in my barrack and learned first hand that they worked as a team to inject some esprit in the evening activity. But that is probably another story. My thanks to Canadian Pacific.



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Sidney, BC Class Denizens

The following rogue's gallery is of CMR Class of 60 colleagues currently known to live in the Sidney, BC area. Have we missed anyone?



6414 Steve Spicoluk



6425 Richard Phillips



6472 Rudy Roelofsen



6415 Tom de Faye



6395 Bowie Keefer



6400 Doug Hack



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Fraser Flight Greetings

The following is an exchange of greetings initiated by **6611 Doug Cope** to former member of the 1961 entry to Royal Roads Fraser Flight.

Subject: End of Summer Greetings

Hello Old Frasers,

I was on the parkway cycling on Sunday around 2 pm when I look to my left and there is Jacques looking back at me. I almost fell off my bike. Mind you he had to pedal hard to catch me on my 5 speed, step-through bike with the basket on the handle bars, not. We then pedaled several kilometers together while chatting at a social distance.

That encounter made me think; how are the other old Frasers doing during this strange time in our lives? I had hoped to see some of you at the RMC reunion in September but since that is not on I thought an email might do.

This July I turned 78. Now that is f...ing old. (Oh, sorry, Deacon, I must be reverting to my youth.) What did Carol and I do to celebrate my birthday? You guessed it, in time of the COVID crisis we did f.k all. (S..t there I go again, sorry, Deacon, I will try to buck up.) I did steaks on a BBQ at our cottage on the Rideau River and I smoked a big cigar on the dock – that was it. However, it beats the alternative. I am still on the right side of the grass.

Everything from our annual trip to Stratford, Ontario for a few plays to my Train and Nostalgia shows was cancelled so things have been a bit slow. We were very lucky to get in a 3 week trip to Hawaii in February just before the COVID really hit the fan.

Since the COVID shut down the Navy Mess we local Frasers have not been able to meet at Fats' monthly Class of 65 lunches. I have exchanged a few email with Fats, Orbit, Clem, and Jacques but that is about it.

My ride with Jacques on Sunday was the first old Fraser sighting in a long time.

I hope you all are doing as well as can be expected. Take care and stay healthy.

Cheers

Copious



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Fraser Flight Greetings (Continued)

Thanks again for getting the ball rolling Copius. We were really looking forward to the reunion, but in fact Bonnie could not have made it. She had hip surgery a week ago and is on the long painful road to recovery. Her sister stayed with her today while I escaped from my nursing and culinary duties and desecrated a nearby golf course. We golfers are lucky to be able to enjoy our pastime.

Otherwise, I am on my 4th jigsaw puzzle and about my 20th book since the pandemic started. I have also been active in my Rotary club through ZOOM meetings, although we are running out of agenda items since COVID has crippled fundraising efforts. I have also been "attending" board meetings of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust (HMCS SACKVILLE), and meetings of the Canadian Naval Technical History project.

Although we are part of the "Atlantic bubble" (and have been declared the safest area in North America) we refrained from going to Saint John NB to see our daughter and our two grandkids, because Bonnie was super cautious and didn't want to jeopardize her health prior to her hip surgery. Our only daring outing about 3 weeks ago was a pleasant drive to a resort about 1.5 hrs away for lunch on their deck overlooking the beach.

Hopefully by this time next year we will have had the vaccine and will be allowed to travel. If so we should crash the 1966 class party at reunion weekend.

6606 Roger Chiasson

I usually do my cycling in the morning, but had other things to do, but it was such a nice afternoon on Sunday that I decided to go for a ride, and there he was, Copious moving along at a steady pace. Like Doug we have had a quiet summer, but we did have occasion to celebrate from time to time. In July we became great grandparents of a really sweet baby girl. Then in August I had my 79th birthday - really old! Unfortunately, these celebrations had to be low key.

Like Copious, I too miss our Ottawa lunches and general bullshit sessions, and haven't bumped into any other classmates. My grandson starts 2nd year in about a week with virtual classes. He moves back to Kingston tomorrow and is renting a place with one of his buddies.

Jane and I are well and trying not to miss the social side of life too much. Our best wishes to all of you.

6602 Jim Cale



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Fraser Flight Greetings (continued)

Well, it's been a quiet summer in Wezembeek-Oppem, on the edge of nowhere! Not so many tourists here, to see Europe in a week... [If this is Tuesday it must be Belgium]... We have the beer and chocolate all to ourselves.

Small groups of friends are allowed to congregate outside, with appropriate social distancing. So we have not been isolated. All our trips are canceled - though we did drive to France for a day for an abbey brewery tour and dinner with friends. Nothing more is planned 'til the plague subsides.

Really unfortunate that we could not get home to Canada this year. Missed seeing the kids and grandkids, and missed our opportunity for a Fraser flight reunion and our big events at RMC. Hope we are able to go to the 60th at Roads in 2023 .

6598 George Brown

This past year has not been great for the Busches. Bev was nicely recovering from a fall 2018 stroke and fall 2019 tumble down the basement stairs when, On Christmas Eve, I found out that I had malignant melanoma on my forehead. It was surgically removed in late January. During followup diagnostic imaging, they found two nodules on my thyroid gland (considered benign for now) and a completely filled sinus. I had surgery on the sinus two weeks ago and have pretty well recovered. The joys of growing old! This covid19 thing has not made it any easier.

In spite of all the above, we both remain active and busy and in good spirits. Hope all of you are able to do the same.

6600 Doug Busche

Its nice to hear from those who have answered that we are continuing to grow old together and from what I discern, keeping in fairly good heath. I credit our first 2 years at Royal Roads with contributing to that ! I think that all of that endurance stuff really pays off. Congratulations Jim for being perhaps the first great-grandfather.

Lida and I are doing our best to try to live life as normal as possible but we all know by now that socially, even with family, there are many important things missing...like a good hug from those you love the most. But we have succeeded in covid get-togethers and three covid-style family outdoor birthday celebrations, balloons included. Not so free -wheeling as we all would have liked but good enough until the next time. Also, I have been able to enjoy golf several times/week.

I had booked three nights in Kingston to celebrate with our class this year. I was really looking forward to it. Like everyone, I am sorry that it had to be cancelled.



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Fraser Flight Greetings (concluded)

Normally, we would be heading to Florida this November. That is not likely to happen before January and maybe not at all. So, Lida and I are bracing ourselves for winter here for the first time in ten years. We are thankful for not having disposed of our artificial Christmas tree and Lida's stack of new puzzles is growing!

6612 Bruce Corbett

Hello all old Frasers. Nice to hear from everyone after the Covid-19 spring and summer. By not not venturing into crowded areas Glenna and I did well avoiding the plague in the last 6 months or so.... she walks, I cycle, and we managed to keep busy with books, puzzles, and some minor travel. We spent a week on Vancouver Island in June getting Ailsa Jean ready to sail, but the sailing environment was not inviting...so no trips, and I shall probably button up the boat in a month or so. We did a short 2 day car trip to Whistler recently, and enjoyed that. Lots of social distancing (we were there during the week and not on the weekend), and a nice change from Port Moody and the Tri-cities area. However, there are many scenic areas to visit by car in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, and Vancouver Island area so we have not been bored. They say the Okanagan/Shuswap area has attracted many BC and Alberta residents, so if we decide to travel there we may wait until the crowds leave. Camping is extremely popular.

Medical appointments kept us busy; my skin after 30 years of sailing has rewarded me with many minor blotches of skin eruptions, most of which are benign. One cancerous on my ear, successfully removed, I believe, and half a dozen lumps, either no issue or out for analysis. I turned 78 in June, and this is the 1st year with skin lesions on my head and upper body. During my recent visit to my Dermatologist last week I felt like a pincushion with all the needles and then scalpels to remove the offending skin. Results pending, but on the surface nothing serious.

Glenna and I celebrated our 53rd Anniversary with our daughter and family in a backyard barbecue, and we have had quite a few other outside visits on the large deck at their home in Port Moody. Nice. One grandson is at SFU in Computer Science and Engineering, and doing well, the other grandson is entering High School and also doing well..

So far no plans for traveling until a reliable vaccine is developed...so not til next summer I suppose. We cancelled 3 trips in the Winter and Spring, 2 to Mexico, and one to Napa, planned to be a cycling trip.

...

So, again, good to hear from you all, and best wishes. Keep on trucking, and as somebody said, stay on the right side of the grass.

6608 Patrick Colbert



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Telling Half-Truths Never Ends Well

By H24263 John Cowan

Canada's handling of the first phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, up to late May, has been moderately good compared to other developed nations. I would rate it at perhaps just at the lower edge of the top 20% in that comparison, if taking into consideration testing, public health practices and strictures, clinical adaptation, and speed and even-handedness of economic assistance. But there have been some things that ought to have been done, or done sooner or better, and these significant lacunae and failures have non-trivially exacerbated the harm done.

The reasons for these errors are sometimes obscure, but what is clear is that in virtually every case they were signalled by absurd official pronouncements. A wonderful mentor of mine, now sadly gone, had some marvellous aphorisms. One of them was especially apt for the way officialdom has handled this crisis. It was, "If someone doesn't want to do something, one reason is as good as another".

In Canada, with our fairly high customary standards of public probity, official pronouncements are rarely complete untruths. So the favorite deflection technique, when officialdom wants to somewhat mislead, is to answer a question rather different from the one implicitly posed by those advocating some action that the government (for whatever reason) wishes to sidestep. Thus a slightly related truth becomes a convenient half-truth that meets the "one reason is as good as another" test.

The first notable application of this technique to pandemic issues came in February, when various folk called upon the government of Canada to close off the entry of non-residents to Canada and to institute a fairly rigorous quarantine or self-quarantine system for citizens and permanent residents returning from abroad. Most of those advocating this step had no illusions that it would prevent eventual transmission of the disease here, but rather that it would reduce the initial seeding from known and unknown hot-spots and consequently reduce the size of the wave we'd have to deal with.

But the government really didn't want border closures and quarantines, for a variety of reasons including a desire to appear internationalist, and to sidestep any appearance of ethnic discrimination. So the official pronouncement was that we would not impose these suggested constraints "because they would not prevent the disease from coming here in due course". The government response was a retort to a hypothesis no-one had advanced. It did not address the legitimate mitigation strategy of entry constraints. Eventually, in mid-March, the government did adopt a softer version of the measures asked for in February, and that delay probably multiplied the phase one peak here by at least a factor of five, and put the infection numbers beyond the ability of traditional public health techniques to contact trace and isolate.

But this was not the only occasion on which government had to eat its words and do a U-turn. The lessons of SARS forgotten, the provinces and the feds had let their guard down on pandemic planning, and were short of lots of critical supplies. One supply of great interest to the public was masks, rated or otherwise. The shortage was exacerbated by the culture of disposability for convenience embraced by the health care field. (When I was



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Telling Half-Truths Never Ends Well (Concluded)

a young medical researcher half a century ago, very little was disposable. Almost everything got sterilized and re-used.)

Governments urgently wanted to safeguard the limited supply of masks for clinical settings. But lots of folk, including any with a modicum of scientific education, were suddenly reflecting upon how masks could reduce (not eliminate) their chances of contracting Covid-19. The official pronouncement used to deflect this tendency was that “masks would not completely protect someone from catching the virus”, and therefore should not be worn when going out in public. Again, answering a question no-one had asked. No one had expected complete protection. This statement was reinforced with the insulting addendum that the public, untrained in such use, would either do it wrong, or be emboldened to have close contacts they would otherwise avoid, vitiating any benefit. Apparently, the general public, many of whom have considerable scientific or technical training, are viewed as incapable, despite all the evidence that, with a modicum of instruction, they operate all manner of vehicles and computers, cook without poisoning themselves, use dangerous chemicals safely, etc.

Eventually, the governments did have to backtrack on the mask issue, though even today some officials claim that the mask you wear protects others, but not you. A simple porous filter as a one-way valve? I think not. Yes, containing droplets near their source is a good idea, but any filter is better than none, in either direction.

And there have been myriad other dubious pronouncements, ranging widely from weasel-worded comments on some of the scores of clinical trials underway to explaining how airports have (not) adapted. Again, in most instances the pronouncements bear the twin burden of intentional slight misdirection and condescending oversimplification.

All these half-truths were promulgated for “a good public purpose”. But the problem is that taming a pandemic can only be accomplished with a huge amount of voluntary compliance by the public, once it is given direction. There can never be enough enforcement in a democratic society to compel the level of compliance needed, nor should there be. But a high degree of voluntary compliance will only be given by people who feel they can trust implicitly that they are being told the truth. The uttering of half-truths and condescending caveats, even for “a good public purpose” thoroughly undermines that trust. Prevaricating by halves and talking down to the people won’t end well. Just tell the damned truth.

(As published in Ottawa Life Magazine on May 29, 2020)



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Architects from the Class of 65

According to a limited survey, there are two architects among the members of the Class of 65 -



6460 Kirk Miller



6656 Andy Lynch

Some Current Oddities by 6533 Gord Forbes

Friends

During periods of lockdown and isolation, you find out that it is better to spend it with a partner that is your best friend rather than with a great lover.

Sports

If major league baseball is any example, it is unlikely that any of the sports leagues currently trying to salvage a season will actually succeed in that.

WE objectively

Let's look at the WE situation in a more objective light. Despite naysayers who say that "volunteers" shouldn't be paid, the idea of the student program was a good one. The people who it was aimed at were not able to find summer jobs but in many cases need the money to be able to continue with their education. So, the idea is good, now how to manage it to benefit students *this* summer. If the government had tried to do it themselves, it would have taken weeks if not months to gear up staff and facilities to do it. The government therefore had to find some organization that was ready to get started right away. The first thought would have been a competitive procurement project. The first thing on the agenda would have been the preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP). Now suppose that the work on that had started on the 1st of March (a wildly optimistic date since the pandemic was not officially announced until over a week later, but let's just assume that date). At a minimum it would have taken three months to prepare the document including the rules of the competition and evaluation criteria. That brings us the end of May. Then there would have been the time allowed for the bidders to respond. That would probably be at least 2 months (we're talking about a \$900 million enterprise



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Some Current Oddities (Concluded)

here). That would take until the end of July. Now we have to evaluate the bids, optimistically one month. Now we're at the end of August. The decision must now work its way through the approval process of the responsible department, Treasury Board, the PCO and finally get on the cabinet calendar; one to two more months. We're now at the end of October, and still no contract has been awarded for a student summer program. Doesn't look very promising for the student for this academic year, does it? The only way this program was going to fulfill its mandate was to find a willing partner right away and award a source contract. WE is a well-known Canadian organization with a presence across the country that appeared willing to get this program moving in a timely manner. A good candidate to turn to. Until, that is, people had to make it an ethics and political issue. I wish the students who would have benefited from this program the best of luck, but I think that there is going to be a lot of empty seats at colleges and universities this fall.

The threat

In my opinion the biggest threat to managing this pandemic is those people who plead that they have a constitutional right not to wear masks or physically distance. They have no more "right" to such an excuse than I have to kill or rob someone. Where it is required, it is required by law, the same as the prohibition against killing or robbing anyone.

Words of Wisdom: Lord Trenchard

Of Air Marshall Trenchard it was said: *Men who can make others do miracles are often hard task masters. Thus he built the first independent air service and thereby founded the RAF.*

Of those he sought as members of the RAF he said: *We want the mathematical genius - there is work for him. We want the literary genius - there is work for him, especially in my office. We want the scientific brain - there is more than enough work for him. We want the man of brains and we want the man of common sense and little brain. We want the man of initiative and the man of action, the methodical man and even the crank. We open our ranks widely to all.*

Extract from *The War Lords* by Michael Carver and provided by 6560 Andrew Nellestyn

Closing notes

Thanks to a variety of inputs this time, I think we've managed a pretty eclectic mix of material that I hope might elicit some comment or replication in future editions. Particular nod to those who contributed or were reported upon for the first time.

I hope that you are all managing to remain safe and sane during these trying times. Drop me a line when you have a free moment to provide an update that would be of interest to all of your classmates.