

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 138



March/mars 2020

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 month has been highlighted by a highly successful Teaching Excellence Award presentation that carries some potential overflow for enhanced Class dialogue. More on both in this edition. In addition, there are some thoughts from **Richard Archer** on the content of the TEA presentation; and, a comment from **Larry Taylor** on **Gord Forbe's** blog in the last edition. But first, it has been announced that the next Commandant of RMC will be BGen Lise Bourgon, the first woman to hold the post. More on the announcement and her career can be found in the following link to an Ottawa Citizen article <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/incoming-rmc-commandant-hopes-to-make-a-difference-for-the-next-generation>

2021 Teaching Excellence Award



This year's recipient of the Class of 65 TEA was Dr. Jennifer Shore, PhD of the Department of Physics and Space Sciences. In a marked change from previous award ceremonies and, in light of the ongoing pandemic, the award winner's presentation and associated discussions were held via a Zoom Conference rather than the traditional in-person event in Currie Hall.

Despite some fears that this method might somehow dilute the effectiveness of the ceremony, they proved unfounded as a record number attended. A total of 95 persons attended, of whom 19 were Class of 65 members. Following introductory remarks by Dr. Phil Bates, Vice Principal Academics; Dr. Harry Koval; **6496 Charlie Emond**; and, Dr. Greg Wade, Dean of Science, Dr. Shore provided a fascinating and ominous look at the impact of global warming on ocean temperatures in recent years and its potential for catastrophic results for the planet. She concluded her presentation with a number of ways in which she believed these dire results could be mitigated.

Her presentation stimulated a lively discussion and, as indicated in the next item, thoughts on the use of Zoom as an instrument for increased Class dialogue.



Numéro 138

March/mars 2020

Page 2

ZOOM Meetings

The success of the recent TEA presentation via Zoom has led to some discussion on the use of the medium as a means to encourage greater intra-Class dialogue. Many Class activities, including the annual TEA presentation have ended up by involving only a small portion of the Class membership and usually only on a limited regional basis. It is thought that Zoom has the potential to bring a larger proportion of the Class into play.

Your views on this suggestion are sought, both positive and negative. Some considerations include the manageable size of such events; their frequency; the format—topics, need for keynote speakers, etc.; and, technical arrangements

Some initial thoughts are to start small, with regional meetings before branching out into bigger affairs, and to meet 2-4 times a year.

Anything that you could add to this discussion would be very welcome

TEA 2021 Follow-up by 6585 Richard Archer

I enjoyed the virtual RMC '65 Teaching Excellence Award presentation and lecture held on March 15th. Dr. Shore is certainly a deserving teacher, and I appreciate the effort and the meticulous thoroughness that went into her selection. In my own way I feel proud to be even a minor participant in the award, which does much to raise, maintain and recognize superior educational standards at RMC.

After Dr. Shore's convincing lecture on there being no Planet B I had a comment to make, but couldn't get around my iPad to either raise my hand or send a text. So let me divulge here what would have been my comment/question....

It strikes me that we have it wrong when we use just increasing average temperatures to indicate the scale of the climate change problem. When the climate scientists say that by such and such year the average temperature is expected to be 1.5 degrees higher than this year, this figure simply has no clout. Joe Six Pack will look at this and just shrug his shoulders...and the figure will not influence his voting choice.

In any case, the temperature is not the issue. The issue is the volumetric heat that the temperature is reflecting. It is the heat, not the temperature on Joe's patio, that is the actual problem. It is the higher atmospheric heat that is causing all of our severe weather, acidifying our seas, melting the ice sheets, releasing toxic gases and whatever other dire consequences coming down the road.

So it seems to me that a first step would be to stop referring to "global warming", and to start referring to "global heating".

I can understand the scientific urge to use the temperature as the indicator of the heating changes facing us, as it simplifies the forecasting and is a useful measure understood amongst the scientific community. But if we do away with increasing temperature as the public forecasting tool, I have a question.... What can we come up with to replace it?



Numéro 138

March/mars 2020

Page 3

TEA Follow-up (Concluded)

I am not a scientist, but to me it seems necessary to come up with a way to both reflect reality and at the same time capture Joe's attention. I've no idea how much heat is contained in say the North American air mass, let alone the world's, but I would guess that expressing it in say mega joules or mega British Thermal Units just won't cut it. Perhaps a better way would be to use a simple percentage, such as, "By the year 2100 and given current trends, the amount of heat in the atmosphere will be increased by X per cent. This extra heat burden will result in...."

I would welcome feedback.

Dick Pound and the Vaccine (follow-up by 6575 L.T. Taylor)

You included an editor's note after J.G. Forbes' insightful item on Pound's recommendation to vaccinate Olympic athletes asking for comments.

I have had thoughts on our national and provincial priorities for vaccinations against Covid 19. First off when original priorities were discussed, front line workers were listed after front line health care workers and residents in long term care facilities and before old people starting from the oldest. I agreed with this as these people keeping grocery stores and pharmacies operating were providing essential services as were long haul truckers keeping shelves stocked. These front line workers have fallen off the list since vaccines roll out and priorities have been more solidly tied down. I would like to see people in my grocery store safe so that they don't spread the virus. We could go back to having established hours for seniors to shop if numbers again increase.

Living in Nova Scotia where we seem to have lived by the health guidelines and have kept the Covid numbers well down, I even question giving priority to seniors. At 78, I have had a very good life even though I have been a widower for 25 years. I have 12 grandchildren to dote on, although 3 are in AB & BC; 6 children, although 1 is in BC; and, all 5 of my siblings, 4 in ON & 1 in AB. Vaccinating my children so that my young grandchildren have parents is more important to me than my own and my siblings vaccination. I look forward to the lifting of travel restrictions so I can drive across the country again and visit them all again.

I think that I heard on the news one night that Indonesia was giving priority to working age people before seniors. I wonder how some other nations are rolling out vaccines. In Russia I expect it is Putin and all his buddies, cronies and party officials even before health care workers.

It is heresy and totally politically incorrect to suggest that removing seniors from the vaccine priority list might help reduce health care costs due to an aging population. Our current societal norms would balk at such an approach to this pandemic although society does allow some situations in minority groups to persist to avoid costs.

Comments?



Numéro 138

March/mars 2020

Page 4

I'm Not Prejudiced by 6533 Gord Forbes

Sam Turnbull was not prejudiced. If you asked him, he would have said, "I am not prejudiced against any colour or religious group." And Sam believed it. But nonetheless Sam was very proud of his own heritage.

Samuel Josiah Turnbull, to give him his full name was proud of the fact that his ancestry in Canada went back to the pioneering days. The first Josiah Turnbull had immigrated to Canada as a young man in 1820 and had worked for Colonel John By as a surveyor during the building of the Rideau Canal. He married the daughter of one of the canal builders and had a family of seven children, one of whom formed the family line of Sam Turnbull. Sam took his ancestry quite seriously and had traced his lineage right back to Josiah Turnbull's parents. Sam's wife, Karen, said she sometimes felt like an unwelcome newcomer since her family had only immigrated to Canada in 1921 in the aftermath of World War One. Sam made sure that his two children knew of their heritage in every detail. He also frequently admonished them to avoid prejudice of any type.

A couple of years earlier, a new neighbour, a recent immigrant from Britain had move into the house across the street from Sam. Their names were Charles and Penelope Beckwith. Sam was ecstatic about the new neighbours both because the couple seemed to be real English gentlepeople and because they brought wonderful stories of Britain. Sam and the new neighbour became very good friends.

Sam worked for the federal government as a middle manager. He hoped one day get into the executive SX category. But the going was slow. One day a new person came into the same department as Sam. Bobby Hall seemed a very nice and hard-working man of about mid-thirties, but Sam found it hard to tell the age of Afro-Canadians, which Bobby and his wife were. Sam had barely spoken to Bobby, but one day he came up to Bobby and asked, "Are you one of those Somali's that have been flooding city recently?" Bobby was taken aback and wasn't sure how to answer this. Finally, he collected his thoughts and answered, "My parents are Canadian as am I. In fact, my family came to Canada in the late 1700s as slaves in Nova Scotia. When they were freed, they stayed in Nova Scotia. In fact, my great-great-grandfather was one of the first Canadian born winners of the Victoria Cross when he was a gunner in the Royal Navy^[1]. I came to Ottawa to go to Ottawa University and stayed after I got my master's degree." Sam was somewhat taken aback himself, particularly the fact that Bobby Hall's family had been in Canada longer than his.

The house next door to Sam's went up for sale. Sam and Karen paid very close attention to people who came to view the house. A couple from the Indian sub-continent seemed to be very interested in the house. They had a number of children. Sam could envision a strong smell of curry and spices permeating the neighbourhood. Charles seemed excited at the thought of Indian cooking saying it was a favourite in England where you could always find good food in Indian restaurants. Sam wasn't too sure. As it transpired the couple did not buy the house and Sam was relieved. But he reminded himself, he was not prejudiced.

The couple who did buy the house next door turned out to be full-blooded Algonquin aboriginals, Vic and Tina Proudfoot. Vic had lived off the reserve since he was a child. Tina had spent most of her life on a reserve in northern Ontario until she came south to go to Carleton University where she met Vic. They were married right after they both graduated. Sam was uncomfortable because all the stories he had heard about conditions on these reserves: run down houses; a large number of big dogs; guns and drugs; and dirty water. He wondered if this was the way aboriginal people lived in the city. He wasn't prejudiced, he told



Numéro 138

March/mars 2020

Page 4

I'm Not Prejudiced (Concluded)

himself, just concerned about his property value. Vic and Tina turned out to be model neighbours. Vic did a lot to fix up his house and garden and Tina kept her house spotless. Sam had nothing to worry about. Vic and Tina turned out to be very sociable and soon a significant friendship grew up between the two couples.

Sam wasn't prejudiced but he was starting to think that there were a lot of new immigrants showing up everywhere. He didn't know how the country was going to be able to handle them all. Were there enough jobs and were these people qualified for them? Where would they live? These immigrants were also different. They weren't from Europe anymore. There was a new political party being talked about and Sam became interested. He liked the things the party was saying about the dangers of too many immigrants. But Sam found out the leader of the party was a French-Canadian and Sam couldn't put up with that.

The culmination came for Sam when a family of Syrian refugees bought the house two doors down the street from Sam's house. These were strangers who didn't seem to know a word of English although they spoke a bit of French. Sam didn't know a thing about them, but he was upset at their arrival in his neighbourhood. On the Saturday that the new folks were moving in, Sam was standing outside watching them. Just then, Vic came up behind Sam and asked what was going on. Sam used the occasion to launch into a tirade about these new neighbours and all of these immigrants that were pouring into the country. Vic listened patiently until Sam had finished. Vic then turned to Sam and said, "Now you know how my ancestors felt."

[1] William Hall, VC. A Canadian gunner with the Royal Navy who fought in the Crimean War and the Indian Uprisings.

Closing Notes

Thanks to Richard, LT and Gord for their thoughtful inputs. I hope you will all give some consideration to the concept of future Zoom Meetings and provide some comments/suggestions. I also hope that you and yours remain safe and healthy during these dangerous times and have already received your vaccinations or are patiently waiting in line so that by the time Edition 144 rolls around, COVID-19 will be just a grim memory.