

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 144



November/novembre 2021

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

Somehow October slipped by without my noticing. Sadly, I must open this November edition with the news that **6604 Jim Carruthers** passed away on 1 November after a long and courageous battle with prostate cancer. Jim was a close friend and I am going to break with editorial neutrality by devoting much of this issue to my personal tribute to him, with the expectation that many of you may wish to add your own thoughts in subsequent issues.

In addition, there will be updates on the work of our Class Professor in Leadership project; the Class Teaching Excellence Award; the Foundation/Club merger; and, the Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year (ALOY) Program. Also included is a letter from **6600 Doug Busche** who we have not heard from for some time.

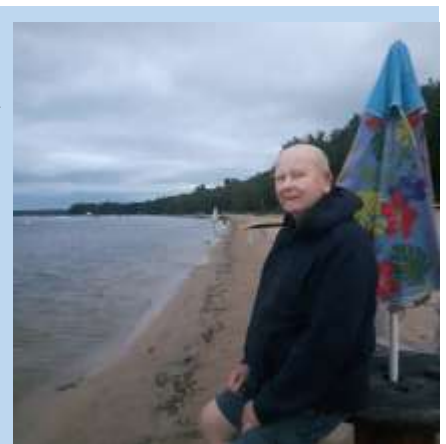
Memories of Jim Carruthers

I knew Jim Carruthers for 58 years—from the time we both arrived at RMC in 1963 until his death this month. Despite some gaps in that relationship due to different career paths, we managed to maintain a close friendship and I developed a healthy respect and kinship for one of the most dedicated and successful people that I have ever met and one, who despite a crusty exterior, possessed a huge heart.

Everything he undertook, he did so with fierce and relentless determination. As the prime mover for the Shipboard Integrated Processing and Display System (SHINPADS) he created an innovative means to effectively integrate all of the systems in a warship into a single synergised unit which has been adopted by the RCN and, in essence, by most of the navies of the world.

As the President of Norpak, he took a small moribund, bankrupt company and turned it into a financially viable centre of excellence and gave it worldwide recognition for an array of television technologies.

Retirement simply provided Jim with more time to refocus his energies on two particular areas of passion and interest—RMC and the Navy. With respect to his alma mater, Jim served a lengthy term as President of the





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Remembering Jim (Continued)

RMC Foundation. On a personal level, he was one of the major benefactors to the Foundation for the Class of 65 and a driving force behind the Class' very successful awards program. He purchased boats and associated equipment for the RMC Rowing Club and his memory is preserved on the boats that bear his daughters' names. Each year, the top naval cadets have been presented with a naval sword by Jim and he has sponsored-Naval cadets to attend a variety of navy-oriented activities such as the annual Battle of Atlantic gala in Ottawa.

In addition to those naval-related activities noted above, Jim spent a long time as President of the Naval Association of Canada (NAC) in which capacity he was a frequent and vocal advocate for all things naval. A lasting legacy was the establishment of the Battle of Atlantic gala held annually (except during Covid-19) at the Canadian War Museum.

All of the above are a brief review of the remarkable professional contributions of Jim Carruthers, but they are only a part of that man's extraordinary life. If you are a member of the Class of 65 and live in the Ottawa, Montreal, Kingston areas you will have been invited and probably attended one of the many parties hosted by he and Gail on their beautiful property in Constance Bay. This picture is of the last one held this past August.



As with so many other aspects of Class activity, Jim, along with classmates in the Montreal area organised the annual Ottawa-Montreal Chapter lunches at a half way point in Hawkesbury. Annually, he organised the Ottawa contingent's attendance at the Teaching Excellence Award presentation at the College.

He played a leading role in the participation of Classmates to the last two major reunions. In recognition of all of his efforts toward class cohesion, Jim was informally declared Honourary Class President and



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Remembering Jim (Concluded)

presented with an appropriate certificate.



Jim and Gail and my wife Janet, and I spent many enjoyable hours together at each other's houses and various restaurants and at other events. Jan and I were honoured to be asked to witness their marriage. Our children and grand kids all enjoyed visiting the Carruther's beautiful home and being taken out in Jim's boat with Captain Jim at the helm.

Jim was one of our first house guests after we were married in 1965 and he came to our first Christmas dinner. Later in life, whenever Janet was present he always liked to regale other guests with the story of how he had been Janet's first dinner victim. At about that time, Gail and I would seek shelter as the two pitbulls traded barbs.

I am deeply saddened by my dear friend's passing and extend my sincere condolences to Gail and to the rest of the family. I hope that you can be comforted in the knowledge that Jim made a genuine, positive impact on the Navy, RMC, and so many other people during his time on this earth.



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Professor in Leadership Activity Update

In addition to the update provided in the last newsletter, Dr. Leuprecht has provided the following:

1. I have now circled back to all authors for a final set of revisions on the pre-commissioning military education project. I've asked them to turn those around to me in a month. Once I receive those I shall write the introduction, which means I can hopefully wrap up the entire project by the end of the calendar year or early in the new year, well in time to gauge interest from publishers and to have it out in time to launch it at Reunion Weekend 2022. I'll ensure that you and the key members of the committee have an opportunity to review the final manuscript before it goes to print. I am very pleased with the way the contributions are coming together. Some of the contributions have grown quite long (13,000 words upwards) while several others are by non-native speakers; so, it will entail a fair bit of editorial work on my part to finalize the manuscript, but I think you will be very pleased with the result. Several people have remarked that there is nothing like it anywhere.
2. CMJ: On 21 Sep I met with MGen Aitchison (to whom the CMJ editor reports directly): a meeting scheduled for 45 minutes turned into almost 2 hours, in part because I worked through the mechanics with him of how to reconcile CMJ duties with my obligations to the Class. The previous editor effectively ran this as his full-time gig. As you know, me taking this on took a long-time to negotiate precisely because I insisted on the leadership understanding that I would be managing and running CMJ very differently, precisely because I was going to protect my research time and my Class of '65 time. You had prodded me about a Deputy Editor. I don't want to give too much away but I had already laid the foundations for a plan. As a result, I now have two separate efforts underway that have the leadership's blessing. First, an admin restructure that will see staff support for CMJ increase from one full-time publication manager to a second publication manager and an admin assistant. These positions already exist as they used to support CDA Press. The restructure is intended to support the renaissance of CDA Press in the medium-term, but in the short-term the intent is to ensure I have the time I need to meet my other obligations. The other is to put in place a postdoc UT-01 to support editorial operations along with three Deputy Editors (from the two other MilCols). There's a fair bit of administrivia involved in both moves: I insisted on keeping my substantive position at RMC, so we could turn the UT position that's formally associated with CMJ into the UT-01 postdoc and use the savings effectively to provide teaching support for the Deputy Editors. However, using the CMJ budget for that purpose now meant I had to secure SWE funding from the CDA budget for my position. It took me until now to align all those stars and ensure I didn't just have the leadership's agreement in principle but work through the plan, approvals and paperwork with the CDA CO and Comptroller's shop. It's a lot of moving parts at the same time, but I hope you can see that not only did I take your prodding to heart, I knew how the org chart looked and had a vision for the concrete commitment I'd need from the leadership. I'll circle back to you on the timeline for all this, but the Comptroller's shop and CO are fully supportive and everyone understands that time is of the essence. They also understand that since taking on CMJ in July I've lost time on my commitment to the Class by virtue of keeping CMJ going (on a timeline that I didn't control) and now operationalizing the administrivia behind getting appropriate support. You can see that once I have these pieces in place, I'll have significant support to make up for time lost to my Class commitments over recent months.
3. With the time I've had, I couldn't keep both the comparative project and the survey project going simultaneously. So, I've been focusing on ensuring that I complete the comparative project in good time while laying the groundwork to roll out the survey in the new year once I free up bandwidth with the above supports in place.



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Upcoming TEA Lectures

The following information is provided by **6496 Charles Emond** in consultation with Vice-Principal Phil Bates.

I have been exchanging with Dr Phil Bates wrt the Class of 1965 TEA lecture. As you know, exceptionally, there were two lauréats this year. After discussions with Phil we agreed that both the participants and the Class would likely prefer to have each recipient be given their special time, rather than combining both in one longer session, hence, this proposal to have a Zoom session (because of current and potential Covid restriction as we did the last time) in the Fall and another in the Winter session.

Class of 1965 TEA Public Lecture #1 – Dr. Irwin Streight

Monday 22 November, 19:00-21:00

"Walking on Water: Reflections on the Truths of Teaching after 30 Years."

Zoom coordinates to be determined

Class of 1965 TEA Public Lecture #2 – Annie Riel

Monday 7 February, 19:00-21:00

Title to be determined

Zoom coordinates to be determined

The Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Program by 6496 Charles Emond

The **Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year (ALOY)** is an interesting and so far successful initiative for RMC dating back to 2008.. Recently, one of the academic mentors for the aboriginal students was nominated for the Class of 1965 teaching Excellence award. Please see the URL below or go to the RMC web site for more information.

*Le **Programme d'initiation au leadership à l'intention des Autochtones (PILA)** est une initiative intéressante qui remonte à 2008 et jusqu'à présent est une réussite pour le CMR du Canada. Récemment, l'un des mentors pour ses participants autochtones, qui est aussi membre de la faculté du CMR, s'est mérité une nomination pour le prix d'excellence en enseignement offert par la promotion de 1965. Veuillez consulter le liens internet plus bas ou consulter la page Web du CMR du Canada.*

<https://www.thewhig.com/news/local-news/aboriginal-students-attend-one-year-program-at-royal-military-college>

RMC Foundation/Club Merger

This proposed merger was reported in the last newsletter and, despite some expressions of disapproval, was unanimously approved.



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Letter

The following letter was received from **6600 Doug Busche**.

Reading the last two newsletters and admiring the pictures got me to thinking that, since moving out west, I have not been in very good contact with the Class of 65. Consider this my mea culpa. I remember well the gatherings at Fats Carruther's place; what a treat you all enjoy in being hosted in such a fine manner! We moved to Peachland in 2005, remarried in 2008 and found our way to West Kelowna in 2010. As I write, we are surrounded by wildfires (some of them dangerously close to us) causing a blanket of smoke so thick it harms all that have respiratory problems. Drought and wildfires in the Okanagan Valley are now, unfortunately, a way of life as climate change ravages the planet. We moved here for the fine weather, low humidity and clean air! Indoor sports are in vogue in our house.



Mary (Trueman) and I have enjoyed travelling in the last while but we do not venture too far afield – rather we focus on what Beautiful BC has to offer. We have enjoyed a few cruises as well as several winter stays in Arizona and California and trips to the west Coast and Ottawa to visit with our four grandkids et al. We have welcomed a few classmates (Mills, Whitfields, Olivers) in our home recently but would like to see a ton more. I keep out of trouble playing tennis three times a week and watching my golf handicap go up asymptotically (for the Artsmen: up fast!). Pickleball occupied me for about 10 years in the US and Canada; alas, hips and knees are getting too cranky.

Sorry, but I cannot compete for the title of Class Sage. May I suggest we have a parallel “competition” for the youngest in our Class – we must have had a few seventeen year- olds who joined on that memorable day in September 1961 (or 1960 at CMR). Looking forward to our next reunion which I presume will be in 2025 when we will all be past the four score year mark.

Ed Note: Thanks Doug. Good to hear from you.



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What Country? By 6533 JG Forbes

No, this is not a Jeopardy quiz question. It is a discussion about a place we call Canada.

Now that another federal election has passed, premiers across the country were very quickly demanding more autonomy but also more money from the national coffers. One of my favourite phrases, which should apply here is, “You can’t have it both ways.”

“Too bad the only people who know how to run the country are busy driving cabs and cutting hair.”
- George Burns

Do we really have a country? Or do we have ten fiefdoms and three territories? Certainly, most provincial premiers think they run their own country. They are disdainful of the central government, seeing it only as a source of money for their own use. Except for Quebec, most of them don’t have any interest in foreign affairs. And Quebec looks at such things from their own, unique point of view. For many of them, their only interest in the military is to make sure that military bases are maintained in their province.

Canada, we have to admit, is a very fractured country. It is fractured geographically, linguistically, racially, politically, culturally, and economically. What one part of the country wants is anathema to other parts. Some provinces don’t want to support other provinces. Most provinces don’t understand other provinces. They tell us that Canada is an experiment in cultural diversity. Has the experiment failed?

The Canadian government is the custodian and guardian of the Canadian Constitution and its accompanying Charter of Rights and Freedoms. But that guardianship has been shattered by the more frequent threat and use of the notwithstanding clause. That means that any province can thumb their nose at any provision of the charter and render it unreachable by the Supreme Court of Canada.

The United States, in the 1860s, fought a civil war over state’s rights. Some states wanted the right for their citizens to keep slaves, other states did not. To reserve their states’ rights, several southern states attempted to secede from the union. The Civil War ensued. The result, of course, was the defeat of the Confederate States but also the strengthening of the federal government. That domination of the central government lasted for over one hundred years, in many ways encouraged with several wars. But recently we have seen states try to defy the will of the federal government on such things as voting rights and abortions.

If our provinces really want more autonomy, then they should try to govern themselves without any input from Ottawa. But that means looking after their own security both within and from the outside. A weak province on its own could be a very tempting target to outside forces. Let those provinces set up their own foreign affairs and try to negotiate trade deals with other provinces (?) and countries. Let them each, separately, fend off other powers such as the United States, China, or Russia. Let them each set up their own criminal code, national courts, constitutions (the probably won’t need a notwithstanding clause). Let them all do this with no input from a federal government. Let them really taste autonomy. Oh, and of course, there will not longer be any transfer payments, medical grants or any other



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payments coming from anybody.

If we really want to maintain a country called Canada, there are several things we must consider. We have to insist on a strong central government. Without that, we will be unable to fend off foreign pressure or to maintain balance between provinces. We must eliminate the notwithstanding clause so that everyone in Canada can live under the same protections. To my knowledge, no other democratic country has such a provision. We must insist on the elimination of inter-provincial trade barriers (we need a strong central law like the United States' interstate commerce controls). And most importantly, we must think of ourselves as Canadians first.

"Because we don't think about future generations, they will never forget us."
- Henrik Tikkanen

Closing Notes



Cheers Jim!