

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

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January/janvier 2022

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Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

Happy New Year everyone. Please note that I got the year right in the header—it usually takes me until about June to recognise the change. Unfortunately 2022 is not getting off on the right foot with the omicron variant putting a significant damper on things. There is a glimmer of humour however with the Quebec government limiting access to the Liquor store to those who are fully vaccinated. I can only imagine the frantic rush by the unvaccinated to get their shots.

The end of last year and the beginning of this one have sadly seen the passing of a number of colleagues and friends—**6608 Pat Colbert**, **6333 Jean Paquette**, and **Linda Abbot**, wife of **6582 Brent Abbott**. More details on each in the following pages.

6189 Ken Kennedy has provided a brief update and some information on an interesting, upcoming tour. A nostalgic photo provided by **6705 Matt Wilson** is also included, and finally, old faithful, **6533 Gord Forbes** is back after a brief hiatus with another of his interesting blogs.

6608 Pat Colbert

The following sad news was passed along by Pat's wife Glenna: *We unfortunately have sad news as well. After being diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary fibrosis 2 years ago and yet managing to carry on living his full life. He had difficulty with breathing Dec 21. Admitted to hospital on Dec 23 and passed away peacefully on Dec 25 with family by his side.*

Our sincere condolences to Glenna and her family.

6333 Jean Paquette 17 Dec 1941-24 Dec 2021

Georges Wilson passed along the following message: *Hier, Margaret (Margot) Paquette m'a informé que Jean est décédé à 01h30. Jean est décédé des effets secondaires de son Parkinson. Elle m'a demandé d'informer ses confrères du CMR et du RMC.*

We pass along our sincere condolences to Margot and her family. In lieu of an obituary, the following is a reprint of a summary of Jean's life originally published in Edition 59 of this Newsletter in April 2013.



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6333 Jean Paquette



Ce chef-d'œuvre que vous êtes sur le point de dévorer représente le court résumé (espérons) de ce que j'ai vécu depuis les 45 années que nous avons quitté RMC.

Marié en novembre 1965 à Margaret Tremblay du Lac St-Jean que j'ai rencontrée à Kingston, ma première affectation est à Montréal à 202 Base Workshop. Un an plus tard, nous nous retrouvons à Frédéricton Nouveau-Brunswick où ma carrière militaire se termine telle que prévue : après 3 ans de service. J'ai grandement apprécié le défi du Collège Militaire partagé avec des confrères extrêmement intéressants. Malheureusement, la carrière dans l'Armée ne me paraissait pas la meilleure place pour un jeune Ingénieur.

Donc en 1968, je suis de retour à Montréal à l'emploi d'un grand manufacturier de produits pour les soins de santé : Johnson & Johnson Inc. J'y travaillerai pendant 22 ans, d'abord comme Chef de Service du département de production des produits d'hôpitaux (5 ans) puis je fais un séjour en informatique à titre de Chef de Service Opérations. C'était l'époque de l'ordinateur central alimenté de cartes perforées qui utilisait tous ses 64K octets (plus tard augmenté à 96K) pour produire le rapport de ventes détaillé de 3000 à 4500 pages mensuellement. Enfin, durant mes 15 dernières années de service chez J&J, j'ai pu exercer ma profession d'Ingénieur en dirigeant tour à tour tous les différents services d'ingénierie : mécanique, électrique, usine et industriel. De plus, le soir, Margaret et moi suivons des cours : elle se recycle de Puéricultrice à Infirmière et j'obtiens un MBA de l'Université McGill.

Par la suite, je me suis retrouvé dans une plus petite entreprise : GM Plastics. Ma fonction était Directeur d'une usine d'extrusion de feuilles de plastiques vendues sur commandes à des thermo formeurs pour transformation en divers produits de consommation : contenants de lait, yogourt, panneaux de douches, pédalos, etc.... Lorsque GM acheta une usine d'un compétiteur, je fus promu au poste de Directeur- Opérations manufacturières ayant la responsabilité de deux usines : à Granby et à Cornwall Ontario.

Pour terminer ma carrière, je deviens Directeur des Opérations chez le parfumeur Chanel Inc. En plus de la fabrication des produits Chanel, je gère la fonction de sous-traitance, supervise la planification de la production, les achats, le contrôle des inventaires, l'entreposage, la distribution et l'assurance de la qualité.

Je prends ma retraite à la fin 1999 et Margaret met fin à plus de 30 années de service à l'hôpital Louis-H. Lafontaine en 2005.

Parallèlement à notre travail, mon épouse et moi avons développé un intérêt marqué pour les sports. Le tout commence à Fredericton lorsque je suis assigné officier responsable du centre de ski de l'Armée au Mont Douglas. Le Caporal Dick Wilson s'avère un excellent moniteur. Durant les années 70, nous skiiions presque toutes les grandes stations d'Europe. Les années 80 nous font découvrir une forme de ski extrême dans l'Ouest canadien : le ski dans la nature vierge en se déplaçant par hélicoptère. En 8 voyages, 400 déposes nous totalisons plus de un million de pieds de dénivelée chacun. Les années 90 nous permettent de visiter presque toutes les stations de l'Ouest canadien et quelques unes de l'Ouest américain. Je m'arrête car je pourrais vous raconter chaque virage!

En été, loin de nous l'oisiveté, nous pratiquons le golf depuis plusieurs années à raison, depuis la retraite, d'une centaine de parties par année. Récemment nous avons ajouté le Curling à nos passions.

Avec toutes ces activités, vous devinez que la nature ne nous a pas donné de rejets.



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Linda Abbott

6582 Brent Abbott has asked that we publish the following obituary of his beloved wife, Linda. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Brent and his family.

Linda Jean Abbott (nee Glavin) passed away 13 December 2021 at the Misericordia Hospital. Linda was born in Westport NS 14 September 1942 to Lorna and Weldon Glavin. Oldest sister to Debra, Bradford, Christopher, Terry, Jamie and Gary. Mother to Kimberley (Greg Wilson) Edmonton, Peter (Sophia) UAE, Craig (predeceased) (Michelle)Carp, David (Elke) Port Elgin, and Michael (Emma) Manotick. Adored and very attentive Grandmother to Courtney, Shelby, Paige, Sullivan, Benjamin, Caleb, Keira, Anna, Louis-Phillippe, Luna, Olivia, Cameron, Tristan and Ryan; Great grandmother to Raya and Brayden.

Linda was the anchor and guiding light to her family. Married to Brent for 57 years, she was dedicated to her family and thoroughly committed to the concept of motherhood. She welcomed and encouraged time spent just chatting and made each one feel special. She shepherded the family thru 14 moves while Brent was in the



RCAF, with the last being to Edmonton where we hosted dinners and visits for 24 of the years. Linda was not daunted by challenge or adversity and projected independence, confidence, kindness, and compassion to all. Linda especially enjoyed the three-years spent in Germany with regular visits to the Netherlands and other destinations. She derived great happiness and satisfaction from hosting family dinners, providing care packages and just talking with family and friends.

Linda was a passionate and accomplished stitcher and completed numerous complex craft projects while ensuring that the cat was well provided for. Many of the projects featured poppies, tulips or windmills. She found joy in the company of other stitchers on her evenings out.

Linda loved taking cruises and we covered the stops from Dubai to Sydney Australia with many stops in the Med and Caribbean. She met many great people, had marvelous memories and experiences. Linda always seemed to be selected for extra attention by airport security and chaffed at the attention. But that soon passed.

Linda had a brief and demanding fight with cancer which remained undiagnosed until just before her passing. Kim was a tower of strength and comfort to her. A celebration of life will be conducted in Edmonton and Ontario when Covid permits. Linda loved cats and would be honored if your donations were directed to the local Humane Society. Those wishing to leave a comment or picture may go to www.westlawnmemorial.com.



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Update and Tour Information

by 6189 Ken Kennedy

First off, thank you for all the fine work you have done in putting out the newsletters all these years. It's appreciated!

Secondly, a brief update on my activities over the years.

- 1990 – Retired after 4 flying tours (3 enjoyable, 1 not) and 3 mercifully short ground tours
- 1990 – With my daughter, toured Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, and North Africa for 5 months in a small RV
- 1990 – During the above, visited Jack and Jane Harris in the soon-to-be-defunct USSR
- 1990s – Operated an ultralight flying school at former RCAF Station Centralia
- 2000 onwards – Totally retired, keeping busy travelling (mostly by RV), operating the Kennedy Family Island Paradise, unpaid computer consulting, and volunteering at Jet Aircraft Museum in London ON <jetaircraftmuseum.ca>.

Thirdly, to apprise your readers about an interesting military-themed tour that will happen this spring, should the Covid Gods allow. The original tour in 2020 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Netherlands Liberation was cancelled, as was the second attempt last year. Third Time Lucky?

“In Our Fathers’ Footsteps” (IOFF) “A WWII Dutch Liberation Pilgrimage”

<https://www.inourfathersfootsteps.com/>

IOFF was founded by the daughter of a Canadian Army vet who took part in the Liberation of the Netherlands. Given that the Canadian Army Liberators are no longer able to attend the quinquennial reunions, she has brought together the descendants of these heroes to take their place, and to literally march “In Our Fathers’ Footsteps”. Participation is limited to those with a connection to a Canadian Army Liberator (I snivelled my way on, courtesy of Mary’s father being a Dutch war vet who subsequently endured the Occupation before immigrating to Canada). Perhaps some of our classmates qualify. For those who do not, and should the tour not be fully subscribed, positions will come open, with preference given to those who would be most appreciative of the tour’s opportunities – that means folks like us.

Mary and I attended Liberation Day in 2015. We found it to be extremely emotional, especially when the parade crowd broke ranks to shower the vets with flowers and cheers as they paraded by in restored WWII vehicles. I imagine that this tour will be even more emotional. I recall a Newsletter article recounting the retracing of the Canadians’ route during Operation Husky and the warm welcomes received in Sicilian villages. Given the reaction of people who had been “liberated” (conquered?), imagine the reaction of Dutch villagers to IOFF marchers. With the IOFF or not, I highly recommend visiting Holland during liberation (05 May) celebrations. It’ll make you even more “Proud To Be Canadian”.



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Book Review by 6533 Gord Forbes

As many of you know, I'm an avid reader. What a few may know is that I love to browse bookstores, particularly used bookstores. There is nothing so invigorating to a reader than to find a gem in such a place. A gem may be a famous book you have been seeking for a long time or one about one of your favourite subjects. Or a gem could be a book you have never heard of but looks interesting, so you buy it more for curiosity than expectation. I have a library of used books and they fall into all three of those categories. It is interesting where you can find used books. One of my more successful locations of late is Value Village. You go there to contribute stuff you no longer need and then wander in to see what you can find.

It was at such an occasion that I found what turned out to be a very interesting book called, "It was all a lie." What makes it more intriguing is the position of the author. Stuart Stevens, an American, has been a Republican for most of his life. Not only that but he has been a communications specialist and campaign manager for dozens of Republicans running for office. And yet, this book is a scathing indictment of the Republican party over the past forty or fifty years. His premise is that Donald Trump was not an aberration, a one-off renegade who somehow slipped into the presidency, but a logical conclusion of what the Republican Party had become over those years. The author recounts the many things that the party has done and positions that it has taken over the years that have led to it becoming the radical right party it is today. It has become the party of the wealthy and of the white and of the fundamentalist Christians. The book then goes on to Mr. Trump, his background and road to the presidency.

Even although this book was written before the 2020 election, Mr. Stevens lays the groundwork for the election fraud campaign by pointing out that Mr. Trump, after his election in 2016, declared that there must have been voter fraud because he had not won the popular vote (Mrs. Clinton had won that by several million votes). The author also points out that the political polarization of the left and right had been building up for years before Mr. Trump came along and exacerbated it. The conclusion that Mr. Trump was the ideal candidate for that party became obvious. Mr. Stevens also points out that, from a demographic perspective, the Republican Party is losing ground. As more immigrants and people of colour become a larger part of the population and enter the political arena, the Republican party, in its current guise, is being overtaken and will become a losing party in the years ahead. This fact is used by Republicans at all levels of government to push through legislation aimed at disenfranchising as many of these groups as possible. Apparently, the 14th Amendment to their Constitution, the one guaranteeing the vote for all citizens, means nothing to them. This used to be the party of Abraham Lincoln.

The problem now is the legacy that Mr. Trump, fully supported by the Republican Party, has left behind. From the violence of last January 6th to the legislation on voter suppression mentioned above plus a conservative dominated Supreme Court apparently willing to overturn many of the more liberal laws of the country, the Republicans are trying to control the country. There are many commentators who now predict that violence and even civil war could occur in the United States either after the 2022 or 2024 election if the Republicans don't win. A very bad state of affairs.

This is why this book, "It was all lies", is so relevant in these times. It shows one of the ways that the US got that way. You never know what you can find with a bit of browsing.

"It Was All a Lie" by Stuart Stevens, Alfred A. Knopf, 2020



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Tea Cozies

6705 Matt Wilson provided this little bit of nostalgia.



L to R: 6637 Jim Humphrey, 6702 Bonard Whatley, 6705 Matt Wilson

Closing Notes

I hope all of you are fully vaccinated and boosted and thereby dodging the worst of the omicron virus to live some level of normalcy. Janet and I are hoping to head off to Florida in the next few weeks—dependent on the state of the virus and the weather. The thought of some warmer temperatures is enticing. In the meantime, keep those articles coming.