

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

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February/fevrier 2022

*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

Hello from Florida. After carefully checking the weather forecast from Ottawa through Pennsylvania (assuming that the rest of the way would not be a problem) we set off on Friday, 21 January and, with smooth sailing made it to Hagerstown, MD where we stayed the night. It was there that I found my careful planning had been incomplete as a substantial winter storm had crossed Virginia and the Carolinas dumping large amounts of snow and ice. We therefore spent an extra day in Hagerstown before setting off again. By then the roads had been cleared and after another stopover in Florence, SC, we arrived at our destination near Daytona Beach around noon on Monday the 24th of Jan. Since our arrival the weather has not been typically Floridian, but still good enough to get out and play some golf and tennis. I know that won't conjure up much sympathy for those of you braving winter at home.

Aside from the weather, the biggest difference here from home and the source of greatest angst for Janet and I, is COVID 19 that apparently does not exist in this part of Florida. There is not a mask to be seen and every restaurant, sports venue and whatever is packed! This despite the following comparative numbers that I dug up for Canada (as a whole) and the State of Florida:

Population:	Canada 38M	Florida 22M
Total Covid cases:	Canada 3.14M	Florida 5.68M
Total Covid Deaths:	Canada 34,845	Florida 66,463

The people here seem to be living in total denial!

I guess that's enough on that rant although I invite you to air your own views on the subject.

Another issue that is getting a lot of attention down here is the ongoing trucker protests at home, particularly the one in Ottawa. **Gord Forbes** has provided his views in another of his interesting blogs and I would be very interested in any other perspectives. I must say that personally, I think it has gone on for far too long. Surely the permit for a legal protest has now expired and it is time for these folks to disperse. The City of Ottawa and its citizenry and shopkeepers have become innocent victims of a beef aimed at the Federal government. Having made these obvious observations however, it remains to figure out how to break this up in a reasonably peaceful manner. Any thoughts?



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### Protests by 6533 Gord Forbes

I'm certainly happy I don't live in Ottawa today. There is a protest going on downtown there as you all probably know. As with most protests, there does not seem to be any consensus about what the actual message from the protest really is. In support of the truckers in Ottawa there are also protests across the country, also seemingly with mixed messages. In my new city of Peterborough, Ontario, I saw a group of protesters downtown on Saturday. Actually, it looked like two protests, one across the street from the other. On one side of the street, I saw about 20 protesters holding signs which read "Save our Children" (from what was never stated) and on the other side was another 20 seeming to be in support of the truckers in Ottawa.

Of course, protests are nothing new. They are probably as old as the beginning of the organization of humans. Children protesting against their elders cannot be a new phenomenon. There were protests in ancient Greece and Rome. Some of them got down-right bloody and some even resulted in civil wars. But most of them were very local. Why? No rapid communication. It was hard to organize a spontaneous demonstration when it took a week to travel from one side of a country to the other.

Every civil war starts as a protest. Very few protests achieve their stated purpose. Even protests that seem to achieve their purpose such as deposing a leader usually ends up with a leadership that the protesters did not want. How many protests begin with a cry for democracy and end up with a brutal dictatorship? Just ask many of the countries in Africa and Middle East. Even the infamous 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 protest in Washington failed, spectacularly.

Now we have instant communications. No sooner had the truckers in British Columbia announced their intentions to form a convoy to Ottawa than truckers from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick decided to join them. And every step of the way was covered by the media. I bet Wat Tyler (a leader of the Peasants Revolt in England in 1381) wished he had had such coverage. But that seems to be the aim of many protests, to attract media attention; to create false heroes; to make outrageous demands. What started out as an anti-vaccine mandate protest has now turned out to be a demand for a change of government, even for a government run by the protesters themselves. The word most heard is "freedom".

But freedom is not, and never has been, absolute. Freedom is restricted by customs, religious rules, and laws. Even our Charter of Rights and Freedoms is not absolute. They seem to want freedom for themselves, but not freedom for others to remain healthy. If there was absolute freedom, I could take one of their trucks or attack a protester without recourse.

It's kind of funny to see a large protest in Canada in the middle of winter. Spring and summer are usually the favoured seasons. You get more people out then, protesters and spectators alike. I used to work on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of an office building in Ottawa on Laurier Avenue at the corner of Elgin Street. From my office, I could see all the way down to the Parliament buildings. It was quite common to see groups of protesters marching on Elgin to or away from Parliament Hill carrying their flags and signs. They, like so many protests, never seemed to achieve anything.

Protest for protest's sake.



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### Class Giving

Our Class Secretary, **6439 Hugh Spence**, has passed along the following message pertaining to donations to the RMC Foundation. You will note that the Class of 65 as a whole and individual members of the Class figure prominently in the report.

*“Good Afternoon Class Secretaries,*

*I wanted to update you that I have completed the Cumulative Class Giving report for 2021. The report can be found on our website here: <https://www.rmcfoundation.ca/en/our-donors/class-giving/>*

*Congratulations once again to the Class of 1962 who holds the #1 spot again this year with total cumulative giving of \$4,935,502.05!*

*Our annual giving report can be found here: <https://www.rmcfoundation.ca/en/our-donors/annual-giving/>*

*And our lifetime cumulative giving report can be found here: <https://www.rmcfoundation.ca/en/our-donors/lifetime-giving/>*

*Thank you all for your continued support,*

*Jennifer Jordan*

*RMC Alumni Association Inc*

*Fundraising & Marketing Manager”*

### Letters

*From **6661 Neill McRae**: Hello Michael – what a wonder to see Ken’s (Kennedy) name in the Newsletter. He and I attended UTS in Toronto in the same class, grades 7 through 13. Seeing his name reminded me of our connection and I have been in touch with Ken via email.*

*Many thanks for this happy surprise.*

*From **6705 Matt Wilson**: Thanks for including the tea cosy picture in the latest newsletter. I hope it added some positivity to balance the sad news of the departure of comrades and a comrade’s wife. I look forward to seeing the newsletter and truly appreciate receiving this contact with friends.*

*Unfortunately, COVID has forced us to abort a planned air journey from Thunder Bay to Ottawa in mid February. Sue and I are of course concerned about our own health but we have three grandgirls in Nepean aged twelve, eight and six about whom we are deeply concerned . We don’t wish to carry any Omicron into their home environment at this juncture so we pushed the Cancel button on the Air Canada site.*

*I will miss seeing several of my Royal Roads mates for our usual luncheon ( which probably would not have come off due to COVID) but we will get to Ottawa eventually, if necessary by car as happened in August 2021.*



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### 2022 TEA—Part 2

Part 2 of this year's unique Teaching Excellence Award presentations to place via Zoom on February 7, featuring the presentation by the second winner of the year - Annie Riel from the Language Centre. Her presentation was entitled, "Cultiver l'amitié, viser l'excellence/Cultivate friendship, aim for excellence".



Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this year, however, almost 80 persons signed in, including the following Class of 65 members - **Charles Emond, Georges Brown, Roger Chiasson, Jim Cale, Jim Boyd, Gerry Mueller, LT Taylor, Philip Bury, Jim Humphrey, John Cowan\***,

**Mike Houghton, Andrew Nellestyn, Tony Goode, Terry Colfer, Fraser Holman.** Due to my own absence, I am inserting the following comments (lightly edited) from some of those that did, all of which underline the value of the award and the deserving nature of Annie Riel.

**6541 Fraser Holman:** *The wisdom of the TEA Selection committee in choosing the two recipients this year was on full display in both of the lectures this year. I thoroughly enjoyed them both. But I have to say how impressed I was with Mme Riel last night. Her energy, enthusiasm and imaginative approaches to engaging her students were in full evidence. It was neat to see how many people participated in the zoom call - likely a lot more than might have attended in person. 78 when I joined a bit late. Overall I found it a very energizing experience.*

**6515 Jim Boyd:** *Thanks for creating a welcoming and inclusive reunion for those of us who happen by occasionally. Annie was the best!*

**6440 Tony Goode:** *This was the first TEA event that I have attended. Even though it was via a Zoom call, it was a most interesting event and indeed enjoyable.*

*Annie Riel has a very vibrant and engaging personality that must make her classes a pleasure; I can understand why she was chosen for this year's award. As one who lives in NS, where French is seldom heard, the bilingual nature of the evening was most welcome as it gave me a rare opportunity to engage the other half of my brain. I am inspired to re-engage with l'Alliance Française or to find a colleague with whom I can use my rusting language skills.*

*This was also a great opportunity to re-connect with some classmates, especially those like me from CMR, particularly important since we missed our 2020 re-union. But I was disappointed that there weren't more of us on the call. I especially enjoyed the chat room at the end of the event. Perhaps we could organize a similar online event for some of us in the nether regions of the country to get together at least virtually.*

*All in all, this event reinforced the good judgement of the class of '65 team that put this award together all those years ago. My sense of the award is that it is very much welcomed by the academic teaching staff at the College and keeps our class name out in front of those classes offering practical support to the College.*



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### TEA (continued)

**6475 Mike Houghton:** *The presentation made me reflect on the language training we had at CMR, both formal and otherwise, plus the hundreds of post graduate hours that I experienced in various courses to enhance my ability to communicate in French. Mme Riel did an outstanding job (along with her students), and certainly reminded me of the excellent language instructors I experienced, throughout my 35(+) year military career. Her enthusiasm was clearly infectious. I believe her most deserving of winning this year's TEA and would thoroughly enjoy having her as my next French language instructor.*

*During the post presentation chat, I enjoyed former Commandant Sebastien and Karine who were absolutely positive contributions to the discussion and I understood every word they spoke.*

**6339 Phil Bury:** *Annie Riel gave us an excellent demonstration of why she was judged to be an excellent teacher. She was vibrant, animated, dynamic, energetic, enthusiastic – I run out of adjectives. Passionate, too: she loves her work. Despite the fact that she couldn't really see us, she maintained the illusion of eye contact throughout – we were her students. She stood throughout the whole event, as she would in a classroom; not only during her presentation, but before and after. As a good Franco-Canadienne, she used her hands and her very mobile face as teaching instruments; you could see she was itching for a blackboard (whiteboard nowadays, I guess).*

*The presentation was imbedded, before and after, in an interesting discussion, neatly MC'ed by Charlie, of the challenges, rewards and pitfalls of learning French as a second language, both at the colleges and after. Phil Bates the Vice Principal (Recteur, in French?? Someone used a word like that) and Andy Kowal the Principal steered the conversation to the challenge for the institution, and no doubt for the cadets, of learning French effectively in an English milieu at RMC (i.e. Kingston. We have to find a better way of naming the two colleges than "RMC Canada" and "RMC St-Jean": it's a nonsense, for goodness's sake. Canada has a military college and St-Jean has a military college. [We might just as well, in English, call it RMC St. John, which would be historically correct]. The old way, when "CMR" and "RMC" were never translated, worked fine, but the GoC or DND outsmarted itself in an excess of linguistic correctness. Rant ends). Apparently, I learned, a functional standard of the second language is now a requirement for graduation, and about damned time.*

*We scarcely talked, if at all, about the challenge to francophone cadets of learning English, especially, I suppose at RMC (i.e. Kingston!). I know it was really tough for some at CMR, and I think caused a few to fall by the wayside.*

*In the discussion post-presentation, one of Annie's cheering section of a couple of other French teachers (Alice quelque chose) applauded the supposed policy direction that led to the first award to a prof from the*



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### TEA (Concluded)

*the language centre. Charlie swiftly rebutted; that the award is based solely on (mostly cadet) judgement of which candidate is the best teacher. I rejoined that while Charlie was of course correct, in fact Alice's praise was not entirely misplaced, because Annie's award demonstrated that the cadets valued second language teaching highly.*

*I'm glad I attended. Without the pub dinner beforehand (ringleader Jim Carruthers – I thought of him) but with the addition of old friends who would have been too far away. And a fascinating view of pedagogy and one teacher. The hope is that the next event, if (DV) in Currie Hall, can also be carried on a platform such as this was.*

**6496 Charlie Emond:** *J'appui de tout cœur les nombreuses éloges épinglés sur la page Zoom durant sa présentation, ou exprimées verbalement après en salle-virtuelle, ainsi que celles rédigées ici par mes copains de classes.*

*Annie Riel a saisi l'attention de la salle virtuelle du début jusqu'à la fin, avec charme, humour et enthousiasme. Elle nous a présenté certaines des innovations qu'elle intègre dans son enseignement quotidien, soit des journées thématiques mémorables (par exemple, célébrer la Saint-Patrick, avec chapeau de lutin quoi autre?), des jeux de réactions verbales rapides entre étudiants, comme s'il s'agissait d'un match de volley-ball mental, soumettre ses étudiants périodiquement à un défi d'apprentissage linguistique qui les sortent hors de leur zone de confort afin qu'ils puissent mieux reconnaître les défis à venir, ainsi que leur potentiel de les surmonter. Tout ceci, encadrer d'une attention presque maternelle envers ses étudiants qui ne manque pas de glisser un mot d'encouragement pour chacun succès, même minime, que ses étudiants lui démontrent. Sa présentation était environ 60% en français. C'était comme si nous étions tous ses étudiants de français-langue seconde. Sa cadence était mesurée. Elle formulait des phrases simples pour faciliter la compréhension au soulagement des plusieurs dont le française ne faisait pas partie de leur quotidien. Après la présentation, **Gerry Mueller**, dont l'Allemand est sa langue seconde, a déclaré qu'il avait néanmoins presque tout compris.*

*Annie s'est aussi servi de cette occasion comme plateforme d'enseignement en demandant à un certain nombre de ses étudiants de troisième année d'exprimer des mots de remerciements à différentes personnes qu'elle avait invité au cours de l'année à participer en salle de cours avec eux, tel un ancien Commandant du CMRC et son épouse présentes dans la salle Zoom, tel notre copain de classe, **Georges Wilson**, qui avait découvert avant de les rejoindre en classe sur Zoom qu'un des étudiants était tout comme le petit-fils de **Jim Cale**, la troisième génération de cette famille à vivre l'expérience d'un Collège militaire. Nous avons donc pu constater que par l'entremise de divers invités en salle de classe et plusieurs visites à l'extérieur pour retrouver des francophones dans leur milieu de travail avec qui ses étudiants pourraient parler, Annie a fait beaucoup pour rendre l'apprentissage du français intéressant et visiblement avantageux.*



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### Closing Notes

Many thanks as ever to contributors to this edition. Special mention to those classmates that took the time to attend the TEA presentation—an important manifestation of the Class of 65 legacy.

I hope that a number of topics have been broached in this edition that might generate some discussion-Covid restrictions and mandates; protests; bilingualism at Canada's military colleges, etc.

As we appear to be emerging from two plus years of pandemic, I hope you all stay safe.

Adieu from sunny Florida.



### *Glee Club*

Top, L. to R., D. Dempster, J. Gagnon, M. Hoegl, S. Morris, J. Chandler, D. Welstead, G. Lukey, E. MacMurphy. Centre, P. McComber, R. Parker, M. Wall, W. Dening, G. Cvitkovich, D. Cops, D. Armstrong. Centre. P. Learmonth, W. Cartew, T. McCarthy, P. Muddell, T. Higuchi, C. Stark, D. Mott, P. Hanks-Drielsma. Bottom. R. Schmitke, G. Tudin, W. Davis, R. Armstrong, G. Piskor, J. Earle, G. Jensen, Dr. Diaper.

**Glee Club 1965 (including bunny ears)**