

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 150



June/juin 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

Summer looms in a couple of days and I hope it brings more summer-like weather. I have a number of things to report in this issue so rather than list them all and create a formatting problem for myself, I'm just going to dive in with no particular order or priority in mind. But first I must report on the sad passing on 31 May of **Mary "Denée" Forbes**, beloved wife of classmate **6533 Gord Forbes**. Her obituary may be found at <https://ottawacitizen.remembering.ca/obituary/mary-forbes-1085420834>. Our sincerest condolences are passed to Gord and his family.

The Arbour Report-A Response

By Lawrence Stevenson

Many of you will have read the so-called Arbour Report on sexual misconduct within the Canadian Forces, including the Canadian Military Colleges. In the case of the latter, the report suggests that the Military Colleges may no longer be relevant and that they do not appear to produce a higher quality of leadership than from other forms of entry.

The following is an articulate rebuttal to that section of the report by Lawrence Stevenson who is the managing partner at Clearspring Capital, the founder and former CEO of Chapters, and a member of the RMC Class of 1978. Perhaps some of you might wish to add your thoughts to this response or to the report in general?

"After numerous examples of serious inappropriate behaviour by many senior leaders in the Canadian Armed Forces, former Supreme Court justice Louise Arbour delivered her Independent External Comprehensive Review (IECR) last month, offering up a number of recommendations to address the issues of sexual misconduct. Many of those recommendations are worthy. But as a proud graduate of the Royal Military College (RMC), I strongly disagree with one of Ms. Arbour's suggestions: that we close our military colleges.

"*The military colleges appear as institutions from a different era, with an outdated and problematic leadership model,*" she wrote. "*There are legitimate reasons to question the wisdom of maintaining the existence of these military colleges.*"

But there is a legitimate reason that all serious armed forces in the world have military academies: They not only cover academics but also train young officer candidates in the military skills that will prepare them to serve as officers. Canada's military colleges have a long legacy in this country, having been founded in 1876; the RMC flag was the basis for the modern Canadian flag. And over the course of nearly 150 years, Canada's royal military colleges have graduated outstanding alumni, including Marc Garneau, Chris Hadfield, and Captain Nichola Goddard, a graduate of the RMC class of 2002, who valiantly gave her life in Afghanistan in 2006 so that we could be free from terrorism here at home. I



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The Arbour Report (Continued)

suspect that the families of other RMC soldiers, sailors and airmen who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all our wars, including most recently in Afghanistan, would also strongly object to Ms. Arbour's recommendation.

In the fall of 1977, I was interviewed by a journalist on The Fifth Estate on the subject of admitting women to the colleges. She started off her broadcast by standing on RMC Kingston's parade square, saying: "Here I stand at the last bastion of male chauvinism in Canada." During my on-screen interview as the senior officer cadet in fourth year, I repeated the party line: that the military colleges were in place to train combat officers, and since women could not be combat officers it followed logically that women should not be admitted to the military colleges.

My own personal view at the time, though, was that the right compromise was to turn one of the military colleges (of which there were three, at the time) into an all-female military college. Given that U.S. military college West Point had already made the decision to admit women, it was clear to all that Canada would follow suit (for political reasons primarily, since the military was opposed). This indeed happened with the first class of female cadets, who entered the colleges in 1980. Since then, women have excelled at RMC militarily, academically and athletically, and many have been selected to the position of cadet wing commander, the most senior appointment in fourth year, conclusively proving that the decision to admit them to RMC was the right one.

Despite women's decisive success in these spaces, Ms. Arbour now suggests they should be shuttered because of the "ongoing incidence of sexual misconduct." Indeed, sexual misconduct is a very real problem that needs to be addressed at all universities. But while a Statistics Canada survey of 500 military college cadets found that 68 per cent had witnessed or experienced unwanted sexual behaviour, a 2018 Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities survey of 7,000 Queen's University students (just across town from RMC Kingston) claimed that a full 71 per cent of these students experienced sexual harassment. Yet no one is suggesting today that we should shut down Queen's or my alma mater Harvard University, which was among the prominent U.S. universities with alarmingly high rates of sexual misconduct, according to the terrific 2015 documentary *The Hunting Ground*.

Too often, entire institutions are discarded when the actions of individuals are the point of concern. In 1993, for instance, three Canadian soldiers in the storied Canadian Airborne Regiment were convicted of torturing and killing a Somali teenager. Two years later, the federal government decided for political reasons to disband this proud regiment – in which I served as a captain, back in 1980. Disbandment was the wrong decision. Many soldiers wearing the Airborne's maroon beret had given their lives in the Second World War. The guilty certainly deserved to be punished, and they were; the leaders should have stepped down, and they did. But the institution itself should have lived on. The same holds true for Canada's military colleges: Cadets guilty of sexual misconduct should face punishment, but eradicating RMC itself makes no sense.

I attended a West Point graduation in 2009 for the daughter of a friend, and the commencement speaker was then U.S. defence secretary Robert Gates. His address was not the kind of message that would be delivered at civilian universities: He emphasized that many of the cadets graduating and listening to him on this sunny day north of New York would be killed in the next few years in Iraq and Afghanistan. It highlighted how West Point and other U.S. military academies shoulder more than their fair share in defending their countries. Indeed, 40 per cent of the West Point Class of 1943 were killed in the Second World War.

So yes, Ms. Arbour: A lot is being shoehorned into a four-year college program. That is because RMC is not just a four-year college program; like West Point, it is designed to form the leaders of our very capable military forces. As Thucydides said, "The society that separates its scholars from its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools." RMC has trained warrior-scholars for close to 150 years, and in the tumultuous circumstances we face today, this is not the time to destroy the institutions that help keep us safe and free.



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In Our Father's Footsteps by 6189 Ken Kennedy

Edition 146 included information about the "In Our Fathers' Footsteps" organization and its "Netherlands Liberation Pilgrimage". That tour to coincide with Netherlands Liberation Day (June 5) was Covid-Cancelled. There is a new itinerary this September. Unfortunately, it does not coincide with Liberation Day, but now has an increased focus on the nasty Battle of the Scheldt to open the Antwerp approaches. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Scheldt)

Anyone with a relative who took part in the Liberation of the Netherlands can sign up now. At the end of June, if space remains, others with an interest in military history can sign up.

Briefly: 07 Sep to 15 Sep or 19 Sep. Includes double occupancy for \$3,600 p.p. (9 days) or \$4,600 (13 days), flights from Pearson and Schiphol, Hotels ("Barracks"), Meals, Guided "Marches", Tea with Princess Margriet, Museum & Ferry Fees, etc., etc.

Does Not Include: Travel Insurance, Free Day lunch & optional tour, drinks, tips

Further Information: IOFF Pilgrimage WebSite: <https://www.inourfathersfootsteps.com/> Includes a registration link to Verstraete Travel who specialize in battlefield tours and will handle all details.

Google MyMaps of Itinerary: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1p22uM7nsl3ibYxeUecC5pGJa1jrFBtNb&usp=sharing>

Ottawa Branch Golf Tournament

The Ottawa Branch golf tournament will be held at the Greensmere Golf Club in Almonte on 8 July 2022. Trying a new format this year, whereby each golfer will buy a golf Passport for 18 holes of golf at \$140 including cart, water & lunch, 5 mulligans, 10 Door prize tickets and 10 50/50 draw tickets. Extra tickets (\$1 each) are also available at the registration desk.

Bienvenu au désamorçage de la pandémie COVID. À la suite des discussions avec le Club de golf Greensmere, il semble que nous pouvons planifier l'édition 2022 du Tournoi de golf annuel de l'Association des Ancien(ne)s des CMRC, Chapitre d'Ottawa le 8 juillet 2022. Cette année, nous essayons un nouveau format où chaque golfeur/golfeuse achètera un Passeport de golf à \$140 pour 18 trous de golf incluant la voiturette, l'eau et le lunch, 5 mulligans 10 50/50 billets loterie et 10 billets gratuits pour un tirage. Des billets de tirage supplémentaires (\$1 chacun) seront aussi disponibles au poste d'enregistrement.

Format- Scramble/Meilleure balle

Once again, we will be using a scramble format whereby each golfer hits off the tee and the team decides which ball position to use for the 2nd shot. Each player hits from that spot and play continues using the same process until a ball goes into the cup. This score is then recorded for the team.

Encore un fois, nous utiliserons le format meilleure balle où chaque joueur frappe une première balle au départ, l'équipe décide ensuite quelle balle est dans la meilleure position et tous/toutes frappent ensuite leur balle de cet endroit. On répète ce processus jusqu'à ce qu'une balle soit dans la coupe. On enregistre ce pointage pour l'équipe pour ce trou.



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Golf Tourney (concluded)

Schedule/Horaire

Registration volunteers will be on duty at 0700. Teams should send one person to the registration desk to pick up passports for their team.

Les bénévoles de l'enregistrement seront à leur poste à compter de 07h00. Les équipes devraient envoyer une seule personne à l'enregistrement pour ramasser les passeports de leur équipe.

Restaurant will be open for breakfast at 07h00. Players should be in their carts not later than 0745 for departure to their designated start hole. All teams will be led by one of the Greensmere Club marshals for a 0800 start.

Le restaurant sera ouvert pour le déjeuner à compter de 07h00. Les golfeurs et golfeuses devraient être dans leur voiturette pas plus tard que 07h45 pour le départ vers le trou désigné. Toutes les équipes seront guidées vers leur trou par un des membres du personnel du Club de Golf Greensmere pour un départ à 08h00.

Registration will take place from 30 May to 24 June 2022. Les inscriptions auront lieu du 30 mai au 24 juin 2022.

Send by email and Internet transfer to / Envoyez par Courriel et transfert internet à rnc.owgolf@gmail.com

Deposit will be direct to golf account – no security question required.

OR/OU Please make Cheque payable to:/Veuillez faire vos chèques au nom de Royal Military Colleges of Canada Alumni Association Inc. Ottawa Branch Mail no later than 15 Jun 2022 to:/Postez au plus tard le 15 juin 2022 à:

Marvin Sywyk, 6496 Marina Drive, Manotick, ON, K4M 1B3

[Registration Form 2022 Bilingual](#) (Click on open Hyperlink)

Old Brigade Dinner from 6439 Hugh Spence

Hello to all Old Brigade Class Secretaries who are not in the 2022 Cohort,

I am delighted to report that ticket sales for this year's Old Brigade Dinner in Kingston on Saturday 17 September are going very well. Advanced ticket sales to 2022 Cohort Classes (52, 57, 62, 67, 72 and 77) have finished. Members of ALL Old Brigade classes are now welcome to sign up.

This year, instead of a dance, we're adding tables and spacing them out to encourage more conversation among friends. Snacks will be served into the evening and a cash bar will be available nearby to keep the conversations going.

Details on ticket sales were announced in eVeritas, but some Old Brigade members may not have heard the news. Could you please forward this email to all your classmates so they will be fully informed. There are still tickets left for the dinner, and although hotels are filling up fast, there are still rooms to be found if people act soon.

Tickets are available for purchase through EventBrite at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/295448162407>



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Old Brigade Dinner (Concluded)

If for COVID or other reasons someone is unable to attend, the ticket price will be fully refunded.
If members have any questions, please contact Sonja Taylor at the RMC Alumni Association, 1-844-216-6765 extension 5.

Many thanks!
Don Bell, 7964

Adjutant, Old Brigade

Bonjour à tous les secrétaires de promotion qui ne font pas partie des cohortes Retrouvailles 2022,

Je suis ravi de vous annoncer que les ventes de billets vont bon train pour le souper de la Vieille brigade qui aura lieu le samedi 17 septembre à Kingston. La vente anticipée de billets auprès des promotions cohortes 2022 (52, 57, 62, 67, 72 et 77) est maintenant terminée. Les inscriptions sont maintenant ouvertes à TOUS les membres de la Vieille brigade.

Cette année, au lieu d'une danse, nous avons ajouté des tables en les espaçant afin d'encourager les discussions entre amis. Des collations seront servies durant la soirée et les convives auront également accès à un bar payant.

Les détails concernant la vente des billets ont été publiés sur eVeritas, mais certains membres de la Vieille brigade pourraient ne pas être au courant. Nous vous prions donc de transmettre ce courriel à vos camarades de classe afin de les informer de l'événement. Il reste encore des billets pour le souper de la Vieille brigade, mais les chambres d'hôtel s'envolent rapidement, alors ne tardez pas!

Les billets peuvent être achetés sur le site d'Eventbrite à l'adresse <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/295448162407>.

Les billets sont entièrement remboursables pour quelque raison que ce soit, y compris pour des motifs liés à la COVID.

Si vous avez des questions, veuillez communiquer avec Sonja Taylor de l'Association des anciens étudiants et anciennes étudiantes des CMR au 1 844 216-6765, poste 5.

Merci!

Don Bell, 7964

Adjudant, Vieille Brigade



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Bike Tours in Ottawa

For those of you keen on biking and who live in Ottawa or are planning on visiting Ottawa in the near future might be interested in the following article about a web site developed by two of my volunteer colleagues at the Canadian War Museum.

Ottawa Military Memorial Tours

Springtime in Ottawa means getting out and about whether on foot or by bike. Both Rob Collins and I have volunteered at the Museum as Voluntary Interpreters and both like to cycle around Ottawa in our spare time. A casual discussion led us to the observation that there are quite a few military memorials scattered around the city. Some are obvious while others are rather obscure. We also felt that the military memorials, while numerous, were often overlooked or bypassed by locals and visitors.

It took little encouragement for us to set out to see how many we could locate. The result was a surprising collection which we felt would make for an interesting tour for both locals and visitors to the city. The memorials were divided into three tours which could easily be accessed by young and old alike. As well, it was decided that information should be provided wherever possible. In order to make the experience even more memorable, we decided that there might be a question associated with some of the memorials which could lead to more investigation or opinion. A favourite example concerned the National War Memorial which was the focus for all three tours. Why do so many memorials here and abroad incorporate arches or gates into their memorials?

As you can see, we do not provide the answer!

The Citizen article itself provides a commentary about the project. As well, anyone can access the tours at the following site: ottawamilitarymemorialstour.wordpress.com. Note that the tours are self-guided and only require a phone and the internet. My favourite is still the memorial recognizing those people who volunteered at the laboratory on John St. and Sussex between the Wars. The research into chemical weapons was ground-breaking and little known at the time. The memorial is located behind the National Research Council near the Rideau Falls.

An interesting aspect of our project became apparent as the Memorial Tours took shape. We were looking to see if there was any interest in sponsoring the Tours. The Federal Government, the City of Ottawa, the Museum or the Friends of the Museum. Everyone thought it a good idea but there was no interest in sponsorship, hence the fact that Rob created the site and brought it online on his own initiative.

Rob has had the opportunity to participate in the Jane's Walks which take place in the spring. Rob may be taking group this year if the Walks go ahead as planned. Having to rely on our own initiative has made it all that more worthwhile and certainly reflects the spirit of the Volunteer Interpreters who give of their time and expertise at the Museum. Please let us know what you think of the project. Rob continues to get feedback and information about memorials that we have missed or neglected. Good walking, running or biking!

Larry Capstick



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It's a Small World

By 6533 Gord Forbes

A few personal accounts that prove the above adage.

On the 7th of September 1961, I joined RMC as a recruit. One that same day, another recruit named Gordon James Forbes also joined. His college number is one less than mine. I became JG (James Gordon) and he was GJ. This was fine as long as a Francophone was not trying to announce our initials. We both went by the name Gordon which made the use of initials mandatory. GJ and I not only went through RMC together, but we both studied Mechanical Engineering, so we were never far apart. Fortunately, he was in the Air Force, and I was in the Navy. In 1970, the ship I was in was part of a NATO exercise and we were alongside in Gibraltar. One night there was a get-together aboard the replenishment ship and who showed up but GJ. He was part of a VP detachment also taking part in the exercise. We got together and brought each other up to date. After the reception, I invited him back to my ship for a nightcap. As my fellow officers returned onboard, they wanted to know who my guest was. They would not believe me when I told them. It took half an hour and the production of his ID card to finally get the message across.

But this was not the end of it. From 1973 to 1975, I was on exchange duty with the US Navy. Our pay was issued through the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff in Washington by cheque in US dollars. One day I got my cheque, but the amount did not look right. I queried CDLS who confirmed what I suspected. GJ was also on exchange at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Since then, we have only met at class reunions, but we still get a chuckle over these incidents.

As a third year Navy cadet, I was assigned to HMCS MacKenzie for the summer cruise. Also aboard MacKenzie was a USN Midshipman named Tom Forbes. We exchanged family history and came to the conclusions that our grandfathers were probably brothers, his having emigrated to America as a young man. One of the things that intrigued us was the fact that Tom had two ribbons on his uniform indicating two awards of some kind, but we were reluctant to ask. One afternoon at sea, our Executive Officer came up to the bridge with a pistol. His objective was to take target practice against flying fish that were cavorting in our bow wave. The XO hit nothing. Having watched this, Tom Forbes asked the XO if he could try. He then managed to hit 5 of 6 flying fish that he aimed at. It turned out that the two ribbons were for marksmanship in rifle and pistol.

A few years ago, I got an e-mail that Dave Borrowman had been on a cruise with his wife. There they met Tom Forbes who asked Dave if he knew me. Dave, no doubt reluctantly, admitted that yes, he did know me from RMC. A short time later, Dave sent me an e-mail address for Tom. I did not try it right away, but when I did, it was no longer in effect. An opportunity lost I'm afraid.



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It's a Small World

(Concluded)

While on exchange in Newport, Rhode Island, we were in need of a dining room set. The furniture stores had nothing that we thought was worthwhile. Which is how, one Sunday afternoon, we found ourselves at Tex's Flea Market, a large sprawling barn with dozens of vendors selling just about everything. We found one booth where we saw a beautiful old dining set. When we went to ask the man about the set, he quickly realized that we were not from that part of the country. We admitted that we were from Canada. He said that his mother was born in Canada at a small town in Nova Scotia called Lyons Brook. Lyons Brook is about 3 kilometers from Pictou, Nova Scotia where my wife Denee was born and raised. We still have that dining room set which is now about 80 years old.

And finally, do you realize that I'm related to Jim (Wiener) Boyd? It's through marriage. My son is married to Jim and Angie's niece Christie. Neither family had anything to do with them getting together.

Remember the Disney song, "It's a small world after all"?



1964 Volleyball Team