

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 154



November/novembre 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

Here it is, approaching mid-November and, in Ottawa at least, we are still basking in sunshine and unseasonably warm temperatures. I think there are still a couple of golf courses open. The upside to global warming I guess. I must confess to being disappointed to the lack of response to a couple of articles in the last edition. I thought Doug Cope's observations on his recent visit to RMS Kingston might have evoked some thoughts. The same with Keith Ambachtscheer's submission on redesigning Remembrance Day. Perhaps our collective grey matter is getting less imaginative with age? Once again, however, there are a number of entries on other subjects this time to make for interesting reading.

Time to Reset the Military Colleges as Military Academies

Submitted by 6349 Alain Pellerin

Alain Pellerin forwarded a copy of the subject paper jointly authored by LGen (Ret'd) J.O. Michel Maisonneuve and Dr Danic Parenteau. Written in response to the Arbour Report, it proposes a significant restructuring of the Royal Military College. The following extract from the introduction provides a preview of the direction being proposed.

"To survive and to thrive in the future, the CMCs must return to their primary and essential mission: to train and educate officers who are ready to serve in the CAF and undertake their responsibilities, and most important of all, to lead in operations. This reset requires a clear vision of the mission and identity of the institution. RMC and RMC Saint-Jean must not be seen as "Universities with a Difference" – as was advertised in some recruiting efforts in the 90s; a vision still extant today – but they should be seen as true "military academies". Although the CMCs do dispense a university degree like civilian universities, this should not define the essence of these unique establishments. These are not universities first while also providing some military training to CAF officers. They are and should be military academies, i.e., institutions for the training and education of future officers of the armed forces in which one of the aspects of the multidisciplinary program is a university degree. Whereas universities are by definition general educational institutions that serve to provide higher learning to citizens who will undertake diverse roles, responsibilities and positions in society, military academies serve only one profession, that of officer.⁶ In addition, they also have the mission to provide a complete programme of training and education, which goes beyond that of a university. So, a return to the essential nature of the academy also requires the development of a clear vision of this singular profession, that of the officer – something that until re-



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Time to Reset the Military Colleges (concluded)

recently inspired pride but today seems confused which in return confuses the fundamental mission of the CMCs. To be clear, although our study uses the Arbour Report as a start point, our intention is not to propose solutions to the issue of sexual misconduct discussed in the report as urgent as it may be. Fundamentally, we wish to propose a vision for the CMCs which will allow the correction of numerous criticisms voiced over the last thirty years. In fact, we are certain that reconnecting the CMCs to their raison d'être will help RMC and RMC Saint-Jean to deal with the issue of sexual misconduct. By returning to their essential mission, both institutions will better fulfil their mandate, to train and educate future officers able to undertake the vast range of responsibilities that are theirs, including to foster an inclusive and respectful culture for all who serve in the CAF. In other words, it is precisely by reconnecting the CMCs with their raison d'être that they will be able to prepare, train and educate Naval/Officer Cadets, making them agents of cultural change within their units. Finally, let us add that this article is an opinion piece providing a vision for the CMCs with some possible solutions. "

The complete paper can be found at <https://cdainstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Vimy-52.pdf> . In my personal opinion, this excellent paper presents a strong and cogent proposal for the restructuring of the RMC and I would be very interested to hear your views on it with an indication of whether or not you would like to share them with the authors.

Ottawa Area Class Lunch

The second in the new series of Class lunches for Ottawa area members was held on 1 November at the Broadway Restaurant on Strandherd Drive in Barrhaven. The date was chosen specifically to welcome **6598 George Brown** who was in town, visiting from Belgium. In addition to George, other attendees were John Adams, Don Amundrud, Richard Archer, Mike Braham, Ernie Cable, Ken Clarkson, Terry Colfer, Doug Cope, Bob Doak, Charles Emond, John Hilton, Jerry Jensen, and Hugh Spence. To the best of my recollection, this was a first time attendance by Bob Doak and it was a pleasure to have him join up. These events provide a great opportunity to get up to date with each others' activities and to discuss current affairs. Don Amundrud used this occasion to provide a brief overview of his life since leaving the College. A summary is provided in the next article.

Special thanks to the Broadway Restaurant for providing us with a private space, excellent friendly service and good food.



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6509 Don Amundrud

The following is a brief summary of Don's varied and interesting life.

"I graduated from Regina Central Collegiate in 1961 and spent 61-62 at RMC (very, very bad academic year for me). Then in '66 graduated in math/physics from U. of Sask. (Regina) and in '69 in nuclear engineering from Purdue University (West Lafayette, Indiana) where I met my wife-to-be.

I then worked for Ontario Hydro, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (Pinawa, Manitoba), New Brunswick Power and finally the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) based in Vienna, Austria. Spent the first five years with the IAEA in Vienna, the next five years in the Tokyo field office and the final eight years back in Vienna.

Highlight of my IAEA career was spending February 2003 as a weapons inspector in Iraq. Second Iraqi war started mid-March 2003.

Retired in May 2003 and moved to Ottawa.

Main activities since retiring: hockey, volunteering at an elementary school, poker group, traveling (lots) and spending time with our two grand kids.

Our daughter graduated from RMC in '96 in electrical engineering and is currently working on a CPA. She and her family (husband and two kids) live in Ottawa. Our son graduated from U. of Maine in mechanical engineering and lives in Carlsbad, California."

Thanks for this Don. I would be very grateful for something similar from others out there with whom we have lost touch.

A Meeting in Belgium by 6585 Richard Archer

This past August 18th was the 80th anniversary of the Canadian Army's 1942 raid on the coastal town of Dieppe, France. Appropriate ceremonies and commemorations were held, especially on the Dieppe waterfront.

I was reminded of the occasion when I met one of the raid's officers, who as a captain had led his battalion ashore on that day. He and his troops had made the deepest incursion into the town, and, of the 100 officers who had landed, he was the only one to make it back to the extraction boats unwounded. His name was Captain Denis Whitaker of the First Battalion, Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI).

He retired from the army as a brigadier-general, and aided by his author daughter Shelagh Whitaker, subsequently wrote about his raid experiences, and the encompassing circumstances, in a book called, "Dieppe: Tragedy and Triumph".



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A Meeting in Belgium (continued)

But how did I get to meet him?

Starting in 1994 as a commander, I was on the International Military Staff at NATO HQ in Brussels. From time to time, I was called upon by the Canadian delegation, either the military or the embassy, to represent the Canadian Armed Forces in post-war commemorative events in Belgium and the Netherlands. Marilyn always accompanied me.

These events were marvellous experiences. The joyous gratitude of the people to Canada, and especially to the Canadian Army that had liberated them and, in many cases had saved them from starvation, was truly moving. We always felt that the people back in Canada should be **there to see what the country's greatest generation had accomplished, how much Canadians were appreciated, and even how much potential Canada still held.**

One such event was to be held in the village of Kalmthout, on the northern outskirts of Antwerp. **We learned that the event was to unveil a new statue raised in the village's main square in front of the local train station, and that there was a Canadian connection. That's all.**



We arrived in the village, and sure enough we found the site, surrounded by throngs of people, where tarpaulins were readied to be lifted for an unveiling. My exact memories of what happened are a touch hazy, but a raised, roofed seating area held the seated VIPs, who were soon introduced. One of the first to be introduced was none other than retired Brig. Gen. Whitaker. Shelagh was by his side.

The story is that the RHLI had been intimately involved in 1944's Battle of the Scheldt, and that Whitaker had had a leading role. He was helped by a unique alliance between the Canadian infantry and the local Belgian resistance fighters. They joined forces and together liberated the port of Antwerp. This gaining of a major port and access to north-west Europe is seen to have been one of the keys to eventual allied victory.

The other main introduction was for the leader of the Belgian resistance fighters, a gentleman by the name of Eugène Colson, someone whom more Canadians should know about. **If you are interested to learn more, Shelagh Whitaker has written a book on the subject, "Eugène Colson and the Liberation of the Port of Antwerp."**



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Meeting in Belgium (Concluded)

In 1994, Canada's Governor-General awarded Colson with the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division), a rare honour for a non-Canadian. And I seem to remember him being introduced in the House of Commons. This was in recognition for all of his daring, effective wartime support of the Canadian advance in the Antwerp area 50 years earlier. At the time of the investiture, he was said to have the rank of retired Lieutenant-Colonel.

Back in Kalmthout the time came for the unveiling, and the result is shown in the image: the Canadian officer is greeted by the resistance fighter as they first meet on the battlefield.

We had a chance to chat with Whitaker and Colson, and they both joked that the statues didn't look like them... but the commemorative plaque associated with the statue mentions them by name.

The plaque also provides a title: the Flemish name translates to "The Monument of the Gratitude." Thus, this monument is not directly commemorating the liberation of Antwerp – it was raised by the local people of Kalmthout solely to recognize, appreciate and remember the roles of the Canadians and the resistance fighters in the liberation of their own village.

The Trip by 6533 Gord Forbes

Well, have you missed me? I haven't posted anything for several weeks because I have been on the trip. The trip was an idea that my wife Denee, now deceased, and I mulled over for several years. We both loved train travel and this trip promised one of the best such travel. But her growing dementia meant that we never made the trip together. So, I decided to do it by myself this fall.

The trip involved flying to Calgary and visiting my daughter, Robyn, and her family for almost a week. Then I was to take the Rocky Mountaineers train trip from Banff to Vancouver on my way to Victoria to visit my son, Peter, and his family, again for almost a week. I was then to fly home, initially direct from Vancouver. That was the plan. The trip was supposed to be from the 14th of September to the 29th. Notice I said, "supposed to be". More of that later.

Oh, did I mention that the trip started by going to a Jays game with my son, Andrew who then drove me to a hotel near Toronto's Pearson Airport?

One of the luxuries I allowed myself was to use almost all of my airline points to fly in business class in each direction. I must admit I enjoyed that. My knees just don't fit in economy class anymore.

The first stop was Calgary to visit my daughter Robyn. The day after I got there, I started sneezing and dripping which I thought at the time may have been allergies. There was some smoke in the air from forest fires. But the symptoms got a bit worse, and I got a sore throat. Robyn suggested I test for Covid which I did and guess what – I was positive. I had had four shots and had avoided the disease for two and half years. Of all the inconvenient time to get it. So, isolation was in order. What to do now?

Well, here was where a tablet and cell phone came in handy. The first thing was the train trip. I had to get a PCR test to prove Covid. With that the people at the Rocky Mountaineer were very helpful in getting me



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The Trip (Concluded)

booked on the trip a week later than originally planned. So, that determined the rest of the timing. So, hotel, flights and rental cars all had to be dealt from my isolation. A few tweaks were made to the original plans which, as it turned out were for the better.

I finally came out of isolation and had a few more days with my daughter and got a chance to see all of my family there including a charming young lady who seems to have got stuck with my grandson.

If you ever want a wonderful travel experience, I greatly recommend the train trip on the Rocky Mountaineer. It is truly a first-class experience. You start with the excellent staff on each car. On the Goldleaf car I was in, we had two hosts upstairs where you spend most of your time in the dome part. Our two were not only knowledgeable and friendly but had only recently been married to each other. Downstairs there is a dining room where you take breakfast and lunch (you are on your own at the hotel for dinner). There are two wait staff who look after you there plus two cooks in the galley. The meals served were excellent. The hosts keep you informed about sites and history as you go. And the scenery, if you have not seen it, is spectacular. From the high mountains of the four ranges through them to the many river valleys you traverse really is spectacular. This is a truly beautiful country we live in. The only downside to the whole trip was a late arrival in Vancouver due to train traffic and a minor crew issue.

So, then it was on to Victoria where I visited my son, Peter, and his lovely partner. I just got to his house and before I could even unpack anything, I whisked off to a Toronto Raptors pre-season practice game. That was very unexpected. In Victoria I had the chance to have lunches with a couple of old friends where we talked about old times, new times and told a few lies . . . er exaggerations. I also had dinner with very old friends that I hadn't seen in years. Getting caught up with family was the most important part of the visit. I visited my grandson along with his new family where I got the friendliest reception. His wife is expecting in November, and she insisted that I had to come back then to see the new baby. She has nine-year old twin girls who I found to be very charming, particularly when they started calling me great-grand-dad. I also got to visit with my granddaughter who is my oldest grandchild. She is a very free spirit and gives the best hugs. Unfortunately, it was then time to come home despite my son telling me I should stay longer. The trip home by plane was uneventful. Then I was home and was actually glad to be there. It had been a wonderful experience, but you have to come down to earth sometime.

I should probably mention that this trip came at the end of a summer of travel. In June I was in Ottawa for a few days, July in Burlington, Ontario, August in Nova Scotia (for the internment of Denée's remains), and again in August a few days in Markham, Ontario. All were great trips to see friends and family apart from the sadness of burying Denée.

I wonder what next year will bring.



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RMC Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) Lecture/ Prix d'excellence en enseignement (PEE) de la promotion 1965 du CMRC

The long-standing tradition at RMC is to ask the TEA recipient to deliver a short presentation on a subject of their choice followed by the formal award of the TEA prize. The TEA presentations have been unfailingly unique and interesting. This event is held on campus in Currie Hall in the MacKenzie Building, but is accessible on-line over Zoom. As demonstrated the past two years, Zoom has the benefit of allowing many more participants to attend who might not otherwise be able to do so in person. It also provides an opportunity for classmates to meet at their discretion for an hour before (1800) and after the formal activities in a separate "Chat Room".

Please join your classmates, RMC staff, officer-cadets and many others for
The RMC Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) presentation
over Zoom (Instructions below)

on Monday, 14 November 2021 from *1900 - 2100 (EST)
(*1800 if you want to join a Class Chat room)

to listen to **Capt Arman Poonja** (Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering) 's presentation entitled :
" First Time's the Charm: Lessons from the New Kid on the Block "

Joining Instructions

Zoom Meeting: Zoom Meeting ID: 976 3951 5851

Passcode: TEA2022

<https://zoom.us/j/97639515851?pwd=ZUFDMGZEWXFORWdyOEtiOXZmR2JlZz09>

Prix d'excellence en enseignement (PEE) de la promotion 1965 du CMRC

La tradition de longue date au RMCC est de demander au récipiendaire du PEE de faire une courte présentation sur un sujet de son choix, suivi de la remise officielle du prix PEE. Les présentations de PEE ont toujours été uniques et intéressantes. Cet événement aura lieu sur le campus du CMRC dans la salle « Currie » de l'édifice MacKenzie, mais sera aussi accessible en ligne sur Zoom. Comme démontré les deux dernières années, Zoom a l'avantage de permettre à beaucoup plus de participants qui ne pourraient autrement ne pas y être en personne de assister. De plus, comme ce fut le cas ces deux dernières années, une salle virtuelle privée sera disponible pour les membres du notre promotion et certains invités de marque de participer à leur gré à partir de 1800 et après la présentation officielle.

Veillez donc vous joindre à vos camarades de classe, au personnel du CMRC, aux élèves-officiers et à bien d'autres pour la

Présentation du Prix d'excellence en enseignement (PEE) de la promotion 1965 du CMRC
via Zoom (instructions plus bas)

le lundi 14 novembre 2021 de *1900 à 2100 (EST)

(* 1800 si vous voulez joindre vos camarades de classe en salle privée)

pour la présentation du **capitaine Arman Poonja** (Département de Chimie et d'Ingénierie chimique) intitulée :
« La première fois est la bonne : Leçons du nouveau venu dans le quartier »

Instructions pour accéder Zoom

Zoom Rencontre: Zoom Meeting ID: 976 3951 5851

Passcode: TEA2022

<https://zoom.us/j/97639515851?pwd=ZUFDMGZEWXFORWdyOEtiOXZmR2JlZz09>



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RMC Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) Lecture/ Prix d'excellence en enseignement (PEE) de la promotion 1965 du CMRC

Programme Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence Award

–Public Presentation–

Live at Currie Hall and via Zoom® simulcast

Monday 14 Nov 2022

1900-2100

Capt Arman Poonja

1. Dr. Phil Bates, Vice-Principal Academic: Welcome
2. Academic Awards (program for this has been sent out separately)
3. Dr. Cécile Malardier-Jugroot, Interim Principal: Opening comments
4. Mr. Charles Emond, Class of 1965: Description of the Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence Award
5. Dr. Gregg Wade, Dean of the Science: Introduction of Capt Poonja
6. Capt Poonja: Presentation First Time's the Charm: Lessons from the New Kid on the Block
7. Dr. Phil Bates: Closing remarks

Join Zoom Meeting:

Zoom Meeting ID: 976 3951 5851

Passcode: TEA2022

<https://zoom.us/j/97639515851?pwd=ZUFDMGZEWXFORWdyOEtjOXZmR2JlZz09>

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA
COLLEGE MILITAIRE ROYAL DU CANADA

Conférence publique du prix d'excellence
en enseignement de la Promotion de 1965
Class of 1965 Teaching Excellence Award Public Lecture

Capt Arman Poonja
Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
Département de chimie et de génie chimique

First Time's the Charm:
Lessons from the New Kid on the Block

La première fois est la bonne :
Leçons du nouveau venu dans
le quartier

Monday 14 November 2022 19:00
lundi 14 novembre 2022 19:00

Currie Hall starting at 19:00
Currie Hall à partir de 19h00

Zoom Meeting ID: 976 3951 5851
Passcode: TEA2022
<https://zoom.us/j/97639515851?pwd=ZUFDMGZEWXFORWdyOEtjOXZmR2JlZz09>

Personne-ressource / Contact:
Dr. P. Bates - 613-541-6000 x 3571
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Sponsored by the Class of 1965 and the RMC Alumni Foundation
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Letter

This e-mail from **6705 Matt Wilson** to **6345 Georges Wilson** was forwarded for information from Georges.

“Thanks for the update on Neill (McRae). Cheers to Neill from me. Indeed we sang at mess dinners as The Frousters as Neill played his guitar. The group included Steve Burrige and Steve Crutcher.

I was privileged to reload with both Steves and Neill after I left Roads.

Steve Burrige often called or visited with Sue and myself on his flights as a navigator to Thunder Bay. We visited Steve and Katherine in Vancouver and our son Iain was shown the sights by Steve when he attended.

I communicated with Steve Crutcher by email and phone and met at the pub in Manotick and his home in Ottawa for lunch.

Neill and I met up again at the last reunion in Victoria.

Closing Notes

Thanks to our contributors this month with the hope that others will send in something in the future. In addition to hearing about your day to day lives, I would be particularly interested to hear your thoughts on the proposal to reformat the RMC. Janet and I will be off to warmer climes in a couple of months but as long as there is input I'll continue to push out the Newsletter while we are away. Hope you all have an enjoyable and safe winter.



1964 Harrier Team