

Class of 65 Newsletter **Bulletin d'Information**—Classe de 65

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Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

Welcome to our first edition of 2023 coming to you from sunny Florida. Janet left Ottawa on the leading edge of a snowstorm on 13 January for our destination in Ponce Inlet, FL where we hope to remain warm until mid-April. This is our fourth year staying at the same very nice condominium complex just south of Daytona on the Atlantic coast. It is a gated community with its own par three golf course, several swimming pools, its own beach house, tennis and a variety of other activities. It fronts both the ocean and the inter-coastal waterway.

Some of you may recall the two hurricanes that struck Florida late last year and, in particular, the coverage on US TV news channels of the damage inflicted on the small community of Wilbur by the Sea. Wilbur is the next community to ours, just a mile up the road. I have included a couple of pictures I took of the devastation. Bear in mind, that these houses had breakwaters and at least 30 yards of protective dunes stretching out on to the beach. Note both are now gone.



I have had my own little bit of excitement in the short time we have been here. Dining out at a local restaurant, I got dizzy and passed out. A neighbouring diner turned out to be a doctor and determining that I had no pulse administered CPR. Bottom line—I spent a couple of days in hospital and had a pace maker installed. That done, everything now seems to be working as it should. Fore!!



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Getting nervous about your Ontario 80+ drivers' licence renewal test? **Don't be.** By 6439 Hugh Spence

Stop fondling your rabbit's foot and nibbling at your fingernails, since as long as you're basically *compositis*, the Ontario "Olde Fartes" driver re-assessment program is in fact a cake walk, a doddle.

Except for differentiating left from right, and being able to find the exam site, you don't actually have to know or remember anything at all other than your name to get through the testing process.

It may seem quite surprising, but the "seniors" licence renewal evaluation is *not* a knowledge test nor a physical/on-road one. So you can't study or practise for it, like you probably did meticulously when you were an aspiring 16 year-old driver yearning to take *Petty Patty* to the drive-in movies.

Sure, you can review the MTO Driver's Manual online, which is not a bad thing to do at any time, but the best preparation for the 80+ assessment is to be alert and sober, and arrive at the testing site on time with your existing plastic licence in hand, and maybe a few jokes for your fellow geriatric examinees, with whom you'll spend a fairly boring hour or so.

I recently went through the process and passed easily. It was conducted at a local Legion Hall and there were about 20 people of all genders and races there, everyone undoubtedly celebrating at least their four score'th year. We were assembled at long "buffet" tables with pens provided at each chair, like a bingo hall set-up.

Neither a cop nor badged MTO official, the examiner was a friendly, retired guy in what he called a repetitive part-time job, which he joked about.

The examination process consisted of the following three parts:

- 1) **eye test** – without glasses (unless you need to drive with them,) look into a binocular device and read orally to the examiner the back-lit six-digit number seen; this followed by about a half dozen light blinks that you must vocally indicate on which side you see them occur (left or right), a check of your peripheral vision
- 2) **acuity test** – draw a round clock face with all numbers in their proper place and separation, and not over or touching the line of the circle (that's a real no-no but you aren't warned about it,) and then indicate a specified time (like 10 to 3, or 11:15) by correctly drawing the two clock hands (one short one long) in place
- 3) **video** – watch a video promoting safe driving (while examiner compiles #1 & 2 test results for everyone.) Really boring if you've already reviewed it online, or even if not.

On completion of the evaluation, you are notified immediately by the examiner if you "passed" (met the criteria), and after a two day wait for test data transmission/recording can then contact **Service Ontario** to arrange your driver's licence renewal. I did it online in a matter of minutes (including \$36.00 fee payment,) and a temporary licence extension pdf page was immediately available for printing. The actual licence card follows in the mail.



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Getting Nervous ... (Concluded)

If you're interested in the science of this testing method, there's an online video "*Evaluation of Ontario's Enhanced Senior Driver Renewal Program*" of which only the first few minutes are worth watching, including the explanation of the clock drawing test. But if you've an analytical mind it may make you more comfortable about what you'll be experiencing.

Bottom line: Results show about **94% pass** the current "test", which I found really encouraging (before I went through it.) But it's also been proven that despite its apparent simplicity, this program is *2.5 times better* than previous efforts to weed out elderly drivers needing follow-up, like professional eye exams, road tests, etc., or even on-the-spot licence suspension.

P.S. You have to book an appointment for the 80+ assessment and should do so before your licence expires. If a spot isn't available in time, (before the expiry) the booking office will send a temporary licence extension.

Save the Military Colleges — Comments

I recently circulated an article, "Save the Canadian Military Colleges" by LGen Maisonneuve and Professor Parenteau. It generated the following comments—I hope that there may be more for future editions.

6560 Andrew Nellestyn: Thanks for sharing the article. It makes many relevant points, all assembled in a logical order. Particularly important as they are interrelated. I am relieved that it doesn't entertain nor suggest disbandment.

I would tag this nobly intended and timely report as V1.0 and suggest that the Class of 65 assemble a group of individuals to review and comment with the objective of submitting our own "report". I suggest the Class of 65 as I believe it to be unique in "breaking the mold" which defined the CMCs prior to the 60s and thus begat an entirely new era, social paradigm.

It also marked a sea-change in the nature, role and structure of Canada's military. Paul Hellyer comes to mind.

Our class led in the introduction of significant changes in culture, education, formation and training. We were the crucible in which profound changes were explored and experiments conducted.

As per the time tested and ever enduring and noble motto—Truth Duty Valour

6158 Jim Astley: There appear to be some interesting and useful ideas in this short article.

However, the main thrust goes counter to their assertion that the academic curriculum would not be degraded. If "all programs" are assessed as to their military utility then it necessarily follows that they would not lead to a normal degree in the arts, science and engineering streams.

An unintended consequence would be a reduction in the quality of the recruit intake, as many of us were attracted not by the "military" but by the free high quality degrees. I can recall in second year at a Mil Studs lecture by the then HQ director of personnel that he was queried by a student re concern that most of us were there mainly for the degree and would be gone after compulsory service. His response was that he recognized that, but after 5 years in, somewhat indoctrinated and probably with wife and kids "I've got you."



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Letters

6560 Andrew Nellestyn sent the following update on his current life and activities:

For the last two weeks the temperature has been a constant 40C here in Porto Alegre. A far cry from the winter temperatures you are experiencing. I am much involved in heritage restoration and have incorporated my own company ANVER Brasil Arquitetura LTDA as well as an initiative to restore the Brazil National War Memorial.

I am involved in volunteer instruction and assistance on innovation and entrepreneurship. Work with the needy and children's soccer also keeps me occupied.

6475 Mike Houghton sent the following: *Nancy and I off on a 79 day cruise Miami to Miami (via Antarctica) 06 January, so will miss you should you be anywhere near our home in Port Charlotte.*

6539 Nigel Hilliard checked in as follows: *Michael I do want to tell you that both Donna and I enjoy your newsletters and I cannot believe you have been doing it for 13 years. I must admit I am one of the delinquents who have never offered up an article. I will try to correct this in 2023 but not sure anyone is really interested in what I have done LOL*

We just arrived in St Petes, FL for 4 months. We just got out of Collingwood before the winter bomb. Will see the Holman's and Colfer's and perhaps Mike and Nancy although they are going on a 76 day cruise. Not sure Donna and I could survive that.

Seasons Greetings to you and Jan

6069 Peter Houlston: *Thanks for your continuing good work in putting out the newsletter. I am sure that it is well appreciated by all.*

I would have liked to have gone to the lunch on the 9th but it seems that I have a medical or other appointment every time on the day of these lunches. Apart from that, I find it quite difficult getting around in the winter nowadays. Perhaps in the spring, the 4 members of our rump group can get together for lunch or dinner or something.

Enjoy your time in Florida. We are off to Palm Springs at the end of January but only for 3 weeks. However, it will be nice to have a break and be able to walk around.

6342 Alex Bovey: *Your efforts to keep us all so well informed are very much appreciated.*

6715 Yvan Gagnon: *Thank you so much Michael. Always interesting. Best wishes to you and your family for the new year.*

I am watching the 2 meters high waves on the lake in front of my house; beautiful but I hope the children can drive here tomorrow and that Alice and I can drive to Toronto for our 75-day cruise around South America on Jan 2nd!

6706 Richard Wright: *Thanks for the newsletter which is always of interest. I wonder how many classmates, like me, have had some kind of a stroke? It can make one lose confidence, but we plug on.*



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Who is to blame? By 6533 JG Forbes

Why, Justin Trudeau of course. At least according to a lot of commentators. Everyone knows that he is responsible for all of the ills that are besetting the good people of Canada. Health care – that’s his fault. Inflation – him again. Recession – if it comes, it will his fault, but he will get none of the credit if it does not. The housing crisis – why isn’t he out building houses with his own hands? The sad state of the armed forces – oh, definitely his again. The war in Ukraine – probably. Climate change – again guilty. There is certainly nothing wrong in the world that is not his fault. The poor man must carry so much blame it’s a wonder he can even stand up.

“It’s so much easier to suggest solutions when you don’t know too much about the problem.”

- Malcolm Forbes

However, we really should look at these things a bit more closely to see where the blame really resides.

Health care – this, as we are reminded every day, is a provincial responsibility. If the provinces really want (not necessary need) more money, they are perfectly able to increase their taxes or find other ways to increase health budgets. Their demands for more federal money which goes into their general revenue with no strings attached are wrong headed. As a taxpayer to both the federal and provincial coffers, I think that we definitely need some form of accountability for the money that I send. As it stands, there is no way for us to know how and how much our money is being devoted to health despite what is in provincial budgets. What is urgently needed in every province and territory is a complete overhaul of their health care systems. Mr. Trudeau is not responsible for this.

Inflation and recession – Inflation and the possibility of a recession have a lot of people worried. Mortgage rates have skyrocketed to about 7% (note, I bought three houses between 1978 and 1984, all for military moves. The lowest interest rate I paid was 10.5%. In 1980 mortgage rates rose to about 19%). Food prices are going up, etc., etc. But this is not just a Canadian problem, it is happening in all countries. Canada did not start this issue, in fact no country can really say it is solely at fault. The disruption and extra costs associated with the pandemic laid the groundwork and we are now seeing the fallout. If Joe Biden with the largest economy in the world could not stop this issue, how do you expect Justin Trudeau to do it?

Housing – Housing is usually considered a municipal issue, although provinces are becoming more involved, often to the detriment of municipal governments, as we have seen in Ontario recently where the provincial minister rewrote the official plan for one large city (Hamilton). The federal government has provided money for housing under a rapid housing initiative. A story in the CBC online news today told of a 22-unit small unit development in Winnipeg the construction of which was funded by the federal program. The federal government is not in the business of writing city official plans, approving zoning changes, authorizing building permits nor any other aspect of building homes, and this is the way it should be.

The armed forces – sorry folks but the group that is most at fault for the state of our armed forces is the taxpayers. If you took a toll of 1000 – 2000 Canadians (the usual sample size by polling organizations), you would be hard pressed to find very many people who would put funding of the armed forces any where in the top 10 or even 20 on their priority list. Because the truth is that most people don’t want to spend the money for such a thing. To increase the budget for the armed forces would mean either cutting other programs or increasing taxes. As I’ve said in a previous blog, we don’t pay enough taxes to even support the programs



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Who is to blame? (Concluded)

we already have, never mind an increase in the defence budget that is no where near the top of Canadians' priority list.

And no, he nor his government is responsible for the war in Ukraine or climate change. As for the climate change portfolio, I would say that this government is doing all it can to deal with it in the face of the constant denial and protests from the main opposition parties and conservative provincial governments (Alberta – are you listening?).

Remember: *Politics is the art of the possible.*

“Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.”

- A. H. Weiler

Ed Note: Methinks our Blogger is stirring the pot. Any takers?

Closing Notes

Thanks as always to this edition's contributors. It is always interesting to hear what classmates are up to and/or their opinions on current issues. Keep those inputs coming!

Special kudos to **John Hilton** for taking the time and trouble to regenerate the Ottawa area class lunches. They provide an excellent opportunity to stay in touch with local classmates in a friendly informal environment. BZ John.