

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

Number/Numéro 158



May/mai 2023

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Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

Home again to the land of cool and rain, but nonetheless, pleased to be back into our more civil space! This edition will be somewhat shorter than that of last month, but there are a couple of items of note. Sadly, the passing of Ruth Mills, the wife of **6556 Larry Mills** will lead off. On a happier note, our sleuth **6345 Georges Wilson** has tracked down another “lost” classmate and he is now on distribution for this monthly blurb. As has become a welcome pattern, we are entertained by another opinion piece from our resident blogger, **6533 Gord Forbes**. Although Gord’s interesting blogs have not generated a lot of comment in the past, the article printed in the last edition did evoke a strong opinion that is reprinted in the Letters section. I will be interested to hear if anyone else shares the same opinion or has a strong reaction to the contrary. Next month I look forward to being able to announce the appointment of the new candidate for the Class of 1965 Professor in Leadership.

Obituary—Ruth Mills

It is our sad lot to report the passing of Ruth Mills, the wife of classmate **6556 Larry Mills**. Her obituary, published in the Ottawa Citizen reads as follows:



It is with broken hearts that we share the news of the passing of Ruth Margaret Mills, née Bannon, on April 12th while in Spain with Larry, her husband and soulmate of 57 years. Predeceased by her parents, Arthur and Doris Bannon, she is survived by her children Jamie, Kathryn, and Natalie (formerly David), her beloved grandchildren Emily (Zack) and Aidan, their mother Kathryn MacLean, and her sister Betty (Dan).

A retired RN, Ruth was a strong, independent outgoing person who was involved in her community as a volunteer, a civic councillor, and a condo board member whose greatest strength was her common sense. She was an excellent self-taught cook famous for her midnight buffets, and an accomplished amateur artist whose works are enjoyed by numerous family, friends and clients. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.



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Obituary Ruth Mills (Concluded)

Anyone wishing to make a donation on her behalf might consider the Royal Ottawa Hospital, Cornerstone Housing For Women, or the Ottawa Food Bank.

Ruth will be interred in the Beechwood National Cemetery in Ottawa on May 11th, following visitation from 12:00 pm and a service at 1:00 pm. A celebration of life will follow, also at Beechwood.

6398 Joseph Emond

Our super sleuth **6345 Georges Wilson** has managed to track down another classmate who has been lost to us but has requested to be included on the distribution of the newsletter. **6398 Joseph Emond** was a 1960 entry into CMR and can be seen on the far right of the third row in the following photo of 1960 CMR 14 Flight.



Welcome back Joseph. How about a few paragraphs on your life since leaving CMR? In French or English.



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PPP and More by 6533 Gord Forbes

PPP (Pierre Poilievre's Problem)

Maybe it's not Pierre's problem. Maybe it's my problem with Pierre. It's not only that he offers no solutions to the various issues he condemns. It's not just that he is constantly in attack mode and that he has shown this throughout his parliamentary career. It is because I believe that he seems to borrow his political philosophy from the two main Republicans in the United States, Donald Trump, and Ron di Santos. Both of these men have shown a propensity for revenge politics. They both have demonstrated that they can and will denigrate, belittle and, if possible, destroy their rivals. Donald Trump has shown this throughout his business and political career. Look at the way he has dealt with his ex-Vice President, Mike Pence only because Pence did the legal and proper thing in approving the election of Joe Biden. Look at the way Ron di Santos dealt with Disney Corporation, one of the largest employers in the state, when they questioned his draconian anti-gay laws. Revenge at every turn has been their modus operandi. Pierre has, to my mind, shown that he has just that in mind if he ever gains power. That is why I could never trust Pierre Poilievre. Why I could never vote for him. Let's hope that he never gets the chance to demonstrate this side of his political tendency.

Public Service Strike

There is a strike underway by public service members of the federal government. A lot of people are not working these days because of it. Two main issues seem to be dominating the negotiations; pay and remote work (see below). I have a basic problem with public service strikes. As one commentator pointed out, it is pitting one monopoly against another. The federal government has a monopoly on the services it provides, from government pensions to defence. PSAC has a monopoly on the representation of almost all unionized federal service workers. When there is a strike, almost all government services are stopped. The union is not holding the government hostage, it is holding the entire population of Canada hostage. But the public has no place at the table. They are represented by their elected officials who they hope to have the public's interest as their utmost concern. Personally, I think the wage demands are excessive. One strike leader said that not just government workers need a large wage increase (well over the average rate of inflation over the years in question), but that **all** workers need such a large increase. That type of thinking is very dangerous because it will inevitably stoke inflation that we are currently trying to get under control. It could lead to the type of inflation that many of us experienced in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1980, mortgage rates reached almost 20% as one of my neighbours at the time could well attest. As a retired person with adequate but no excessive means, such a scenario would devastate me and others like me. There has to be a better way of carrying out labour relations with public sector workers. They are not like union workers in the private sector where a strike could devastate a company while there would be other companies to do business with. Where union demands are moderated by the risk of job losses if a company fails.

I must say, I got a surprise the other day. I had a need to contact Service Canada, one of the institutions affected by the strike. I called about 8:45 last Friday morning. I was expecting a long wait time or worse, a message saying they could not take my call. Instead, I got someone on the phone almost as soon as I had worked my way through their automated phone maze. A woman answered, understood my issue, and gave me the information that I needed in a polite and professional manner. I must admit that I came away both pleased and amazed.



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PPP & More (Concluded)

Remote Work

I have conducted what is now called remote work well before it became a rallying cry because of the COVID pandemic. As a self-employed and incorporated consultant, several of my jobs required such an arrangement. I experienced the relaxing atmosphere and comfort of doing the work in my home office. Mind you, I did not have any children at home, but I did have an understanding wife who respected my privacy until it was time for her to remind me when it was time to take a break. But it did require a reasonable amount of self discipline and time management to make it work efficiently. When the pandemic forced isolation, remote work became a safety issue to keep as many people both working and as isolated as possible. Now it has become an issue in labour negotiations as a matter of a right. The question being asked is who determines the rules for such a work environment.

But a bigger issue should be who is entitled to such a work environment? Certainly, it has become a major point in the current public sector strike where so many of the strikers work in offices on computers. But they must remember such a work environment applies to less than half of the workers in the country. It does not apply to the people who manufacture the computers and telecommunications equipment that make remote work possible. Nor does it apply to the people who ship, sell, and set up such tools. It does not apply to the people who build your houses, your cars, your home appliances, or service any of these things. You decried when your children weren't in school but that meant that teachers and school staff could not work at home. Your growing love of remote shopping on-line required someone to process the order, someone to get the item off the storage shelf, pack it and ship it, plus the person who had to transport and deliver it to your home. Grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants and hospitals all required someone to actually be there to get anything done. So, you lucky few who are able to get to work in the comfort of your home, accept the fact that your employer has every right to specify how and when you should work remotely.

Letters

6475 Mike Houghton: Mike, great news about Jim along with my congratulations to you for making this happen. I believe you are aware that Tony Goode and I tried getting Jim an Honourary Doctorate but, for some unknown reason we failed to do so. In retrospect, I believe his being on the Wall is far more significant. Congrats again.

6606 Roger Chiasson: Thanks for the latest edition of the class newsletter - and for all your efforts over the years! I was on a ZOOM meeting the other day with a group I belong to, the Canadian Naval Technical History Association, with Ken Bowering as one of the attendees. He mentioned that he had sent you a copy of a tribute to Jim Carruthers that he authored and a few of us MARES contributed to that was published in the latest edition of the MARE journal. He mentioned that he had sent you a copy. Could I suggest that you either include in the next edition or that you send it out as a special edition? The editor of the Marine Engineering Journal has given permission to use the article. *Ed Note: I will try to find it and send it out separately*



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Letters (Continued)

6660 Wayne McQuinn: We all have our issues. Mine over the past 25yrs has been skin cancer, with one exception, always non malignant. I don't know whether to blame the military summers always in the sun which doesn't make sense since I had hair then. Anyway, right now I just finished (two weeks) major scalp surgery of a non malignant area that got away from my run of the mill dermatologist. Slowly peeling off the layers of dressings on my thigh where a large graft was taken to cover the scalp.

It must be something like the AAA where we sit around as a group and disclose our medical problems. Perhaps therapeutic?

6173 Jack Flannagan: You certainly produced an information filled newsletter this time out. I'm saddened to hear about Cec Lukenbill. I had no idea he'd been sick for so long. We both did summer training in HMCS Ste. Therese at Esquimalt, where because of Cec's habit of wearing his hair as long as he could get away with and holding it in place with Brylcreem or some such product, he ended up being referred to as 'greasy Cece from the Sainte Theresy'. We were on the same flying courses at Centralia and Portage la Prairie in 1965. The Air Force was not amused when he showed up at Portage in a Cadillac Eldorado with wife and child on board. For some reason, they expected us all to be flight cadets and we had to explain in some detail that we were duly commissioned officers in the Royal Canadian Navy. Anyway, sorry that he's gone, and it sounds like he had a successful and productive career after the Navy.

Nigel Hilliard's story rang another bell. I was visiting my son in Kingston last summer when suddenly my right eye went dark - yup, same thing as Nigel described. ER doctor diagnosed it as a detached retina, but the next day the Ophthalmologist took one look and said 'you've had a stroke!' Those are words you never want to hear. Anyway, it's gone for good, and I've adapted some. Found out this year that I have a cataract in the functioning eye, and I'm in the queue for lens replacement surgery. Ain't getting old fun?

Radical change of course - read Gord Forbes's climate change contribution. Don't know whether to laugh or cry. What does cleaning up Hamilton have to do with 'climate change', previously known as 'global warming'? Yes the Hamilton area and many other industrial cities were environmental disasters. Technology and political pressure have improved the situation in many areas of the world, but let's not confuse pollution with climate. No, Carbon Dioxide is not the major contributor to the greenhouse effect, water vapor is. Yes, carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere has increased, but since CO2 is plant food, it may be a good thing. The Earth has had much higher CO2 concentrations in the past, and life apparently flourished. The climate has been slowly warming for a long time - it even melted the half-mile of ice that covered where your house and mine now stand. This is why we can now see the scars on the rocks in Central park made by glacial debris. The polar ice sheets are not disappearing, and the global seas are rising, according to NASA satellite data, by the astonishing rate of 1 foot per 100 years. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius in the last 140 years. Many more people are harmed by cold than by heat (see Europe in winter 2022/23). I could go on, but I won't. I'll simply note that every climate computer model ever published by the Climate Change gang has been absolutely wrong, and always in the same direction - they always predict temperature rise that never happens.

Thus endeth the lesson.

I apologize for the rant, but I really am tired of supposedly educated people pushing climate drivel that is simply not supported by the science, or the facts.



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Letters (Concluded)

6349 Alain Pellerin: Good piece by Michel Maisonneuve, you may wish to circ to our class

<https://frontline.online/defence/featured/11990-Save-the-Canadian-Military-Colleges->

Ed Note: An interesting read

Closing Notes

Thanks to all our contributors and to **Georges Wilson** for his untiring efforts to research lost classmates and to **Waine McQuinn** for his hard work in keeping up with Georges by maintaining an up to date class list.

Our sincere sympathies to **Larry Mills** and his family for their loss.

I am always pleased to get letters in reaction to the various articles so it was a particular pleasure to get **Jack Flannagan's** thoughts on climate change—not a position that I share, but certainly thought provoking. I hope they might stimulate further debate on this issue and set an example for exchanging ideas on other topics of current interest.

I invited **Joseph Emond** to provide a few words on his life over the past 60 odd years. That invitation is extended to all of you in the silent majority that we have not heard from over the lifetime of this newsletter.

If the rain ever stops, I am looking forward to getting out to practice my failing skills at golf.

I'm also anticipating the next Ottawa area luncheon on 12 May and catching up on three months lost gossip. Kudos to **John Hilton** for continuing to organise these get-togethers. Are there any other regional gatherings of a similar nature that you would like to share with the class as a whole?