

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 160



July/juillet 2023

*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

As most of us swelter in some unprecedented heat under a blanket of smoke, I hope all are well and taking it in stride. This Edition will focus on some reactions to opinions reported in the last version; an interesting observation on Tax Deductions; some more thoughts from our faithful Blogger; and, sad news on the passing of another Classmate.

Obituary: 6570 Doug Shaw 6 Aug 1941-16 Jun 2023



Peacefully at home with his family, after a brief illness, Douglas Ian Shaw born Aug 6, 1941 passed away on Friday June 16, 2023 in his eighty second year. Loved husband for 53 years of Maureen Kilroy Shaw. Proud dad of Kevin Shaw & Robert (Francine Eastwood) Shaw and even prouder papa of Kenzie Shaw & step grandad of Grant & Taylor Eastwood. Dear older brother of 8360 David (Carol) Shaw, Grimsby, Ontario & brother in law of Kathy Kilroy (late Ed Kilroy) & Craig (Claudette) Kilroy. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and cousins he was very fond of.

Doug is predeceased by his parents retired RCAF Wing Commander Duncan Shaw & Marjorie (Tripp) Shaw & his brother RCAF Captain 7310 John Shaw. Doug attended RMC, started his career in computer programming & then joined the federal government.

He worked at Canada Post, Department of Finance, a 3 year secondment to the International Monetary Fund, Washington DC, and Treasury Board Secretariat, where he retired in 2005. A well-earned retirement involved spending part of the winter in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, where he had great visits with friends & relatives and played golf at the local club, where the starter always said "it must be March, the Shaw's are here!". Doug was also a member of the Ottawa Hunt & Golf Club.

Doug & Maureen took many self-guided road trips through Europe, did a few ocean cruises which included a special family Caribbean cruise in January, 2023 and several wonderful river cruises. Amongst all their trips – Machu Picchu & the Galapagos was their most memorable adventure.

Doug rarely missed an episode of Jeopardy where he knew so many answers, given his love of history, geography, Shakespeare, trivia and anything military. A thoughtful quiet man who saw the good in everyone, Doug will be dearly missed by his family & friends.

A Celebration of Life was held at The Ottawa Hunt & Golf Club, on Friday, June 30, 2023



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### Tax Deductions by 6661 Neill McRae

Was looking for information on disability deductions from income tax, when I came across some income tax deductions that one hardly hears of or knows about.

The deductions typically require some work to determine eligibility and set up 'template' to calculate amounts: but once done, the template can readily be adjusted and repeated in future years.

Wishing you good hunting.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/about-your-tax-return/tax-return/completing-a-tax-return/deductions-credits-expenses/lines-33099-33199-eligible-medical-expenses-you-claim-on-your-tax-return/attendant-care-care-a-facility.html#whtcnyclm>

### Canada Day by 6533 Gord Forbes

Canada Day 2023, the 156th anniversary of the birth of this country. I remember when it was called Dominion Day because that was what Canada first became, a dominion. It's also the beginning of the summer season, "Summertime and the livin' is easy". Well, not for everyone. There are still too many dispossessed, homeless, discriminated against, and sufferers of physical or mental health challenges. And too many people have no access to primary care providers, mental health help and necessary support. As on every Canada Day, a number of new Canadians were presented with their Canadian citizenship.

There appears to be an increase in rage in this country, not helped by some political leaders. You only have to read some letters to the editor or the comment section of online news stories to get a sense of that rage. Renewed rage against the LGBTQ community. Rage against immigrants. As an immigrant myself, I take exception to that. I keep wondering if they expect me and other first-generation Canadians to go back to where we came from. Does my almost 28 years of military service to Canada count for anything? As for the LGBTQ community, I wonder why this seems to have arisen again after what seemed years of acceptance. Other discriminatory practices seem to be given new life lately. Discrimination against Asian people, against African Canadians, against Muslims and against Indigenous peoples seems to be on the rise. I always thought that Canada was a welcoming and accepting place. We once prided ourselves on not having the racial problems of our neighbour to the south. This no longer seems to be the case.

But I'm an optimist, perhaps naively so. Probably like most or, hopefully all, of my readers, I love Canada. It is such a beautiful place. You only have to travel almost anywhere in this country to admire its beauty. On the whole, the people are friendly and helpful. As immigrants, it welcomed my parents and I and gave us an opportunity to prosper. That's why I remain optimistic that Canada will grow from a good country to a great country. We have some great things to reflect on. Our military prowess in two world wars, Korea, and Afghanistan, plus our peacekeeping successes. Our acceptance of refugees from all parts of the world when there was a real need, plus the prosperity we



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### Canada Day (Concluded)

have allowed many of them achieve. There are so many Canadian successes, whether in medicine, architecture, the arts, engineering (or as those of us in that business like to say, injunring), Arctic development, and many other endeavours.

But to become really great, Canadians must work and live more closely in the best interests of the country. We must get over our prejudices and divisions. We must become more patriotic (perhaps not so overboard as our American cousins), more tolerant, and take more pride and interest in our institutions. We must stop listening to those who, for their own purposes, say that Canada is a bad place, a failed country, a loser. We're not and never have been. We just don't pay enough attention to our own strengths and place in history. We let other countries define our culture and our history. We now have over 40 million willing souls to help Canada become a better place. Let's get going and do it.

### Ottawa Luncheon 19 June

Thanks again to **6540 John Hilton** for organizing another luncheon for the Ottawa-based crowd. It is always a welcome opportunity to get together to remain up to date with what is



going on in the area. A special event at this lunch was the presentation of chef's chapeaux to yours truly and to **Charlie Emond** to reward our cooking skills and smoke inhalation at the many class events celebrated at our late classmate, **Jim Carruthers'** home. The hats came courtesy of the fertile imagination and generosity of **6347 Roger Gaudreau**. Presentation is shown in the photo on the left. The other photo is a panorama of the attendees. Starting in the foreground and going clockwise are **Phil Bury, Gord Forbes, Bruce Corbett,**



**Doug Cope, John Hilton, Jim Humphrey, Charley Emond, Peter Jackson, Jim Astley, Ken Clarksen, Peter Houliston, Jim Cale, Don Amundrud, and John Adams.** Yours truly took a break from culinary skills to man the camera. (With roughly the same questionable skill as at the BBQ). Special note on Gord Forbes who travelled from Peterborough to attend and who foolishly stayed on for a day to play golf with Charley Emond, John Adams and I.



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### Letters

6584 Keith Ambachtsheer: I just made my way through what may be your best Newsletter ever. You are providing the Class of 1965 with a great service through your missives....a glue that is holding us together....bravo! On our part, we are not as forthcoming with Newsletter contributions as you would like us to be. With that in mind, I offer a few thoughts/ reactions on the content in 'what may be your best Newsletter ever':

- Loved Roger Chiasson's travelogue on my country of origin (NL) with its windmills, canals, and bicycle infrastructure. It took me back to my 1961 Royal Roads arrival days, discovering that many other arrivals had non-Canadian 'countries of origin' too (e.g., NL mate Gerrit van Boeschoten, roommate Rick Archer, mid-fielder Roman Jakubow)....which made for the best soccer team on Vancouver Island....even-though we got our clocks cleaned at the one-mile-high US Air Force Academy in Colorado..... (tied them when they came to up to RR though.....not bad being for being outnumbered 5,000 vs. 200 in cadet populations!). )
- Loved proud Grandpa Jim Cale's tale of attending grandson Zach's RMC graduation too. I had no idea how much COVID interfered with regular College life over 2 of Zach's 4yrs at RMC.
- Useful update on the implementation of the Arbour Report recommendations, with a report on the selection process for the CMC Review Board. Will that Board, once selected, make its recommendations on the future of Canada's military colleges in our lifetime? I hope so.
- The selection of Prof. Holly Ann Garnett as the next Class of 1965 Professor in Leadership. Prof. Garnett's research focus is the role of civic leaders in building resilient democratic societies. She will be sharing her research plan with the Class of 1965 Gifting Committee (Adams, Emond, Houghton, Braham, Ambachtsheer) over the coming months. Hard to believe Prof. Christian Leuprecht's 5yr term is ending this year. Christian's insightful views and research on military leadership issues were regularly featured in Canadian voice and print media over the course of the last 5yrs., always with the 'Class of 1965 Professor in Leadership' designation. His final project for us is a Survey on Ex-Cadet opinions/attitudes on/towards a number of current macro and micro socio/geopolitical issues. Stay tuned for his findings, especially in light of the Arbour Report and the formation of the CMC Review Board.
- As to the Flanagan/Forbes/Wright/Hansen interchange on climate change and how we could/should respond to it, I don't have any trouble with the CLASS OF 1965 NEWSLETTER covering the topic..... up to a point. I believe climate change is one of the defining issues of our time, and I am interested in how Classmates see it. Personally, I start with the overwhelming scientific evidence that the creation and use of fossil fuel-generated energy emits GHGs into the atmosphere, which in turn contributes to global warming, which in turn negatively impacts all of us (but especially the poor) in a number of important ways (think increasing famines, floods, forest fires). Putting on my economist hat, the historical problem has been that the negative impacts of these GHG emissions have not been borne by the emitters. How to solve the problem? By making emitters pay for the damage their emissions are causing..... carbon taxes ....which are finally appearing. There is much more to be said on all this.....but THE CLASS OF 1965 NEWSLETTER is not the place to write long dissertations on such a complex topic.
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There you go, Mike. Some filler for the next CLASS OF 1965 NEWSLETTER (Edition #160!) if you are short on content. Please keep your great work coming for many years to come.



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### Letters (Continued)

6541 Fraser Holman: As always I appreciated your newsletter. I agree completely with your final sentiments The field of study embraced by our new Professor looks very interesting and valuable to society.

I haven't been offended by any of the contributions to the monthly newsletter. I support your general choice of materials to include. Thanks for all you do for us.

New Commandant is a young man who impressed me as a staff officer at the staff college some time back. Stable, sensible man I would say.

6533 Gord Forbes: Let me put my two cents worth (now four cents with inflation but rounded to five cents since there are no pennies anymore) into the discussion about the newsletter.

As the probable culprit that caused the discussion, I would first like to apologize to any of you who I may have offended by the blogs that were included in the class newsletter. I could blame Mike for including them in the newsletter, but I won't because what I write is purely my doing.

I very much like the newsletter and we should all give Mike a lot of thanks for taking the time to produce it. Although it is nice to read about what classmates are doing in travel stories and the pride that people take in the achievements of their children and grandchildren, I think that the newsletter should include more. We all come from a background that started at the Canadian military colleges. We have grown and evolved from that background. We are all intelligent, thinking people who I'm sure welcome some healthy discussion and even a bit of debate. I would never consider dismissing anyone's opinion, whether it was in response to any of my writings or anyone else's opinion that they submitted.

*"Historically, the claim of consensus has been the first refuge of scoundrels; it is a way to avoid debate by claiming that the matter is already settled."*

- [Michael Crichton](#)

In my opinion debate is good. As a whole, we don't debate enough. Now that we are more mature and out of the work force, there are very few avenues for debate. I see no reason why our class newsletter cannot be a venue for respectful debate. I think it would be good for all of us to pen articles that may spur debate and invite that respectful debate that would arise. We may want to put bounds on the scope of articles, for example religion, but let's not put the bounds too tight. Let's share our opinions and not get upset when someone challenges them.

*"Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, every day, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to be always part of unanimity."*

- [Christopher Morley](#)

*"Any clod can have the facts, but having opinions is an art."*

- [Charles McCabe](#)



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### Letters (Concluded)

6602 Jim Cale: Thanks again for all of your efforts - the newsletter is one of the things that keeps our class together and helps make it unique.

I have no objection to discussions in the newsletter on topics of interest. I agree that we should not get into partisan politics nor attack or praise particular political parties or their leaders, but other than that each of us has our own point of view. Gord Forbes' blogs are interesting and often thought provoking. So are the responses. As long as we respect each other's point of view, I see no harm in these exchanges. On the contrary, they are interesting and often cause me to question some of my own views. I also enjoy seeing the news of individual classmates. It's great to keep in touch and up to date with one another.

6661 Neill McRae: Hello Michael – re content, I would agree that political matters not be published: excepting the case where “politics” endangered the wellbeing of the College. As editor, you do all the work and so should have editorial discretion.

Enjoyed Jim Cale’s entry on his grandson, especially the insights into College life during the pandemic.

6339 Phil Bury: Thank you as ever. The updates and news, Jim’s proud-grandfather report (itself an update on RMC), the experience essays such as Roger’s trip report etc are all good reads.

I think, as a group of socially and politically aware citizens, it’s OK for us to discuss matters of public concern, such as the future of the CMCs or of the planet. The limitation on politics would be that statements of the form “Party X are all a bunch of yahoos and the leader should be shot” would not make the cut (nor, most often, in a civilised wardroom or mess). But rational discussion of important matters – and, based on current content, well written and well reasoned) should be welcome.

### Closing Notes

Thanks as always for your inputs and encouragement. I am, however, forced to note that none of you seem to read these things too closely, or perhaps advancing age has struck all of us in the same way, but for most of the editions published this year, the date in the header has not reflected the right year!! Perhaps ignoring the passage of time it’s a subtle way to stay young?

Stay well.