

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 161



August/aout 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

Sorry, a little late this month, but I've been a bit under the weather with some respiratory thing that finally seems to be going away. Lots to report this month so I will do away with the usual preamble and plunge right in.

Obituary: Anthony Charles Goode

Alain Pellerin passed along the following very sad news: *It is with the greatest of sadness and with my deepest condolences that I share the following with you. Anthony Charles Goode, son of classmate 6440 Anthony Goode, died of a massive heart attack. He was coach of the rugby varsity team at Bishop University. His obituary follows-*

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/halifax-ns/charles-goode-11385399>

I am sure you will all join in sharing condolences with Tony and his family.

Mission Sandhurst from 6496 Charles Emond

Mission Sandhurst – Jusqu'à la fin | Sports | Radio-Canada.ca ici.radio-canada.ca

Voici un bijou de vidéo, de quoi être fiers des défis que le CMRSJ peut offrir à certains de ses jeunes hommes et femmes pour les motiver d'atteindre leur plein potentiel. Pour accéder ce vidéo, il est nécessaire de créer un compte sur le site Radio-Canada.

This video will resonate with our shared experience and the commitment of these young men and women is inspiring. While the dialogue is all in French (with some technical English terminology spliced in, as many Québécois are apt to do in everyday usage), the visuals are self-explanatory. A team, men and women from RMC Saint-Jean, compete against about 30 international military cadet teams, the year in question, hosted by West Point. You will have to create an account with Radio Canada to access it.



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Movie Review by 6559 Gerry Mueller

This is the first of what I hope will be a regular contribution to the Newsletter, a movie recommendation and review. The backstory: the Anglican parish in which I serve as an Honorary Assistant Priest has a “Movie Club” which during the pandemic became a Zoom event and now continues as such. Movies are chosen by a core group of three including me (we are of very different tastes), and four or five are chosen over roughly a half-year, based on a very general and loosely interpreted theme. These might have “religious” overtones such as moral dilemmas, reconciliation, redemption, but the movies are definitely not “religious”. Themes also are interpreted very broadly, for example “reconciliation” could be with someone else, with oneself, with one’s circumstances. We avoid choosing current and past “hits”, and sometimes go for obscure box-office failures. Participants watch the movies online using either a streaming platform or rentals from services like YouTube. We then meet on Zoom for around 90 minutes for discussion, with the person who chose the movie explaining why, what questions it raised for them, and how it fits in with the overall theme.

I am starting with a movie that might best be described as a *Bildungsroman*, a coming-of-age story, but one with a twist.

About Time (2013)

Writer/Director: Richard Curtis (Other Films – Notting Hill, Four Weddings and a Funeral, Bridget Jones franchise, various Mr. Bean, much Vicar of Dibley)

Principal Actors: Domhnall Gleeson, Rachel McAdams, Bill Nighy, Lydia Wilson, Margot Robbie, Tom Hollander

The moving finger writes; and, having writ, moves on: nor all thy piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all thy tears wash out a word of it.

I don’t think I am unusual in wishing that Omar Khayyam were wrong; mostly I’m happy with how my life went, but there are a handful of times where I would like a do-over! Tim Lake (Domhnall Gleeson) learns on his 21st birthday from his Dad (Bill Nighy) that the men of his family can travel in time, with serious limitations: no going to the future, and only going back to a point in one’s own life. Anyone of us can do this when we remember a past event, except unlike us, Tim has agency, he can make different past decisions. But there are gotchas, which he discovers experientially.

Tim’s first idea is to go for financial success, but Dad talks him out of that, using an uncle as the horrible example of what can go wrong. Instead, he decides to improve his love life (above the zero it has been so far). Charlotte (Margot Robbie) is his first choice, but despite time travel that does not turn out well, until much, much later, when it does, inconveniently. He meets Mary (Rachel McAdams) on a (literally) blind date and they fall totally in love, but then he rescues his landlord and friend Harry’s (Tom Hollander) stage play from abysmal failure and turns him into a playwright sensation, and in the process learns of unintended consequences to time travel; he loses all of Mary’s contact information as their meeting never happened. He finds her again and has to woo her all over again from which we learn far more about Kate Moss than I for one ever thought I’d know.

Mary and Tim marry (in a movie wedding, wedding reception and best man’s speech that sets records in disaster and disaster management) and have their first child, daughter Posy. But then to rescue his loveable and flaky sister Kit Kat (Lydia Wilson) from her bad choices in men he changes his own past enough that Posy turns into a strange boy. He corrects that using time travel, but then he and Mary have to do the hard work of helping Kit Kat change her own life for the better. It seems that time travel has limits; you cannot change anything prior to the birth of a child without affecting that child!

Tim then learns that time travel can do many things, but it cannot change that we all die. Dad dies, not without imparting a final



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Movie Review (Concluded)

lesson on how to live, but in the end Tim learns that life is what happens from moment to moment, and it's wonderful if you pay attention! Let's give Tim the word on that: *We're all traveling through time together, every day of our lives. All we can do is do our best to relish this remarkable ride. ... I just try to live every day as if I've deliberately come back to this one day, to enjoy it, as if it was the full final day of my extraordinary, ordinary life.*

This is one of those movies I have seen several times, and will probably see again, as each time I find new details, a new twist. It is primarily a love story, about romantic love, but also about love between parent and child, and a love of life itself.

It is also extremely funny while poignant, and stocked with almost every type of character we expect from English comedy, supplied by the Agatha Christie division of Central Casting!

Leuprecht Update

The following is an extract from a report provided by Dr Christian Leuprecht on his work as Professor in Leadership. It is followed by some comments from Classmates involved in overseeing the Professorship.

1. After a lengthy struggle, I finally got to release the two issues of CMJ on the MilCols. You'll find digital versions at <https://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/cmj-23.1-toc-en.html> and <https://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/cmj-23.2-toc-en.html>, and featured on CMJ's landing page: <https://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/cmj-landingpage-en.html> Print copies have gone out. Should members of the Class not be on the mailing list but wish to obtain a printed copy, they should feel free to reach out and I shall endeavour to get it out to them. I'm especially excited that a quasi-member of the Class contributed to one of the two SI's: Ian Wilson. Happy for reactions, positive or negative, by you and/or other members of the Class. I also welcome any Letters to the Editor that I might consider publishing. Senior uniformed members, bureaucracy, and the Minister's office have the two SI's in hand, as has the director and staff (both of whom I know) of the newly established directorate that will support the review panel the Minister will be announcing in response to Madame Arbour's Recommendation 29; so, the SI's are actively informing key decision-making.
2. We're really pleased with the survey. Not just did we have over 1,000 responses (which is quite high given the relatively small audience and limited access to emails, and only one solicitation from the Alumni Association, but we're even more pleased with the distribution of responses across recent decades. This wasn't obvious because the AA's email list skews towards older grads. The results are even more interesting, and we're working on two papers to present the analysis. I'll be sure to run drafts by you and the Class as we prepare them.
3. I'm awaiting a final set of revisions on the contribution on Germany's military college system. Finding common ground with the contributor has proven a bit challenging, but we're finally there and I should have that by the end of August. Upside of the delay is that it generated an additional chapter, on Switzerland, which now gives us 10 military colleges, a historical chapter, and a very thorough introduction and conclusion. It's been a long haul, and I think you for your patience and support, but you'll be very pleased with the result. Key decision makers already have access to the chapters to help inform the upcoming review of the MilCol's.



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Update (Continued)

4. It's taken me months to negotiate, but the Centre for International and Defence Policy has now agreed to host my intended webinar series on the MilCol's, based on the contributions to the book. This makes the webinar series arm's length, which was a key goal of mine. We'll run the webinar in conjunction with the Class of '65 Professor and the Alumni Association, online, once a month, for the next year, and we'll record each webinar for posterity. Schedule to follow, but I'm aiming for the same day and time every month.

If there's interest, maybe in the coming months we could try to have an informal lunch with members of the Class in Ottawa, as I had done before the pandemic? I could also bring Holly with me. Although I had no hand in the selection process, I couldn't think of a better choice; like me, she has also won the Cowan Price for Excellence in Research.

The following are comments from classmates:

6584 Keith Ambachtsheer: Hello all, this email was prompted by the multi-email exchange on the 'new look' Winter 2023 edition of the Canadian Military Journal, which focused military education/training in general, and RMC's role in that process in particular. Further down below, you will find a recent report from Christian Leuprecht to me on the work it took to get this 'new look' CMJ out the door, as well as the status of two other major projects he undertook during his tenure of Class of 1965 Professor in Leadership. Note that both of these projects (a book on the structure of military education facilities around the world and an opinion survey of RMC graduates on their RMC experience and related matters) are very close to completion.

As the unofficial, unelected intermediary between Christian, the Class Gifting Committee, and the whole Class over the course of the last 5yrs, I would like to acknowledge Christian's multiple contributions to military-related discourse in general and to the past, present, and future of military education in particular. Despite a number of not insignificant roadblocks along the way, his contributions are path-breaking, unique, and will offer important guidance to decisions yet-to-be made in the years ahead. As Class of 1965 Professor in Leadership over the course of the last 5yrs, he has done the Class proud.

6349 Alain Pellerin: Thanks Keith, an impressive body of work by Christian. Our class made the right choice. Let's hope he is invited by the MND's Review Board once created.

6496 Charles Emond: I agree that Christian's work will no doubt be an important contribution to a better understanding of the unique merits of the Canadian military colleges, and no less so for the other participating nations that help provide a framework for comparison. The Class of 1965 can justifiably be proud of having enabled such a broad international study.

A heartfelt thank you to Keith for his keen oversight of the Class of 1965 Professor in Leadership initiative and, of course, to Christian for the countless hours of meticulous attention he contributed to seeing this projet through to (near) completion



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Sunnybrook Veterans Centre by 6541 Fraser Holman

For some time I have been meaning to write a note about the Sunnybrook Veterans' Centre, where I volunteer a couple of days each week.

Sunnybrook Veterans' Centre began its existence as the Sunnybrook Military Hospital 75 years ago with the relocation from a downtown site out to a much more spacious spot midtown in Toronto. It has grown immensely over the years and the current organization, the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, now comprises well over 10,000 staff and some 1000 volunteers. It houses many renown clinics and active research centres as well as the province's prime trauma centre, and the Veterans' Centre - the latter in partnership with Veterans Affairs Canada. It is a comfort for us to live within a short walk of this major hospital.

The veterans centre accommodated around 500 combat veterans when I began volunteering 10 years ago, but that number has dwindled to around 240 now and it does include a good number of allied and modern day veterans. Impressively, of that number fully 50 were centenarians last year!! The hospital helped assemble a tribute to those centenarians and recently made it shareable to the public. 40 of these men and women consented to contribute their images and stories to a document which I can link for those who read your newsletter - <https://sunnybrook.ca/>. It's named The Last Salute, if you have to navigate to it. But I believe it will open at the header for the tribute.

It's a very satisfying and rewarding experience to meet with these distinguished veterans regularly and to see how their lives are unfolding. It is Long Term Care and sadly the end result is their passing on. But the facility has wonderful staff and a wide range of opportunities to stimulate and enhance their lives. Trips including overnight camps, creative arts, recreation outings, gardening, woodshed, music of all types and regular entertainment events represent just some of the options. My work revolves around getting residents to and from physiotherapy appointments on one afternoon each week. Then on Friday afternoons I am bartender at a modest pub, recently named after Johnny Bower, a veteran of some note.

As these distinguished veterans age out and pass on, the hospital is reconfiguring to create a centre of excellence for out-patient geriatric care - a good way of retaining their vast experience with these aging residents. I might also note with satisfaction they had a very good record of protecting their residents from Covid. We are now down to only needing to mask when we are in contact with the patients at the hospital. And the veteran residents need not mask unless they wish to.

I find their example a great inspiration of positive thinking. They are a contented lot who appreciate the efforts being taken to exercise and stimulate their lives.

Ed Note: Thank you Fraser. An inspiring story. BZ to you for your volunteer efforts.



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The Night Terrors by 6533 Gord Forbes

It's three o'clock in the morning. You seem to have been having a good sleep. And then they arrive. You are in terror, not with ghosts and monster of your youth. You fear for yourself. Something terrible is going to happen to you . . . soon. You're going to be in a car wreck today. Your boss is going to find out about your daily struggles and fire you. Your wife is going to die suddenly. No, you're going to die a slow painful death. Your paranoia knows no bounds. And this has happened before. In fact, it happens almost every night. You never get back to sleep.

Welcome to one of the worst things that manifest themselves as you battle clinical depression. The paranoia of the night is what your therapist calls the night terrors. Is there no cure for it?

You get up that morning tired and confused. Is last night's terror going to come true? Is something else bad going to happen? You go off to work for another day of struggles. You manage to make it through the day but dread coming home for another evening of dark thoughts and another night of the terrors. Your wife, who first noticed your deterioration and got you to your doctor, once again asks if there is anything that can be done. Is there is anyone else you can see? Each week you survive the five days of work, but on Saturday, you just cannot hold yourself together anymore. You are fed up, dissatisfied with everything, and start arguments about any little thing, real or perceived. Your wife and family try to calm you down and avoid annoying you. But it is becoming a struggle for them too. Your wife is showing signs of anxiety. Your kids avoid you as much as possible. But that's their problem, not yours.

Your family doctor listened to you and your wife and told you that he thought you were depressed. He referred you to a psychiatrist. You have consulted with the psychiatrist and a clinical psychologist. They are still trying to help. Your psychologist listens to you and assures you that he fully understands your feelings and tries to instill ideas on how to improve your sleep and your behavior. Your psychiatrist has prescribed drugs to address you condition, several drugs over the past few years. Some don't help at all. Some help for a while and then something will change, and they are no longer effective. So, you keep going through the worst six weeks again. For three weeks you have to stop taking you last medication and quickly sink back into the depths. Your new prescription then starts and take another two to three weeks to become fully effective. Your hope rises that this is the one. It seems to be the one for a matter of weeks or even months, then it too fails. You threaten to quit all medication and then you really sink back to the depths. This goes on for about ten years. At least a couple of tries each year. You're discouraged which adds to the toll of depression.

Reason and the pleading from your wife finally convince you to give it one more try. You have no reason to believe that this will be any different from previous tries. Your psychiatrist now wants you to try a combination. The two drugs look familiar. You have taken both of them each previously. Neither seemed to work by itself. Will the combination be any better? But you get them and start on them. You start to fell better. Will it last? As the weeks and months go by, they continue to work. You feel better. More optimistic. This turns out to be the answer to all of your prayers for the past many years of disappointment and anguish. There is now no way you are ever going to let these wonder drugs go. You feel normal again. No more night terrors.



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Letters

6349 Alain Pellerin: re Canadian Military Journal special edition on CMCs. A timely subject being covered in the re-vamped CMJ with a new editor Christian Leuprecht. I look forward to reading articles by Leuprecht, Gregg Maddison, author of 2017 report on RMC Dany Parenteau, an original thinker and professor at CMR, and co-author with Michel Maisonneuve of an excellent paper on the CMCs, finally Howard Coombs. A lot of credible brain power addressing a subject of great importance to those who care about the defence of our nation. <http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/cmj-23.1-toc-en.html>

6567 Gary Running: I refer to the Class of 65 Newsletter 160 and the Obituary it contains for Doug Shaw (6570). Doug's wife Maureen arranged a Celebration of Life event for Doug at the Hunt Club golf course on 30 June 2023. Maureen asked me to give a Eulogy for Doug at the event, which I was more than happy to do.

I would like to expand a little bit on Doug's early life, long before he and Maureen meet and happily married. Doug and I first met in Metz France in 1958. Our fathers were both in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). They were both posted to RCAF # 1 Air Division headquarters in Metz. Doug and I were "Airforce Brats". In those days the RCAF had four Fighter Wings in Europe; 2 in West Germany, and 2 in France. Metz was the location of Headquarters for the four RCAF fighter bases in Europe.

Doug and I attended General Navereau High School. The high school teachers all came from Canada, and we were taught according to the Ontario provincial system. Doug and I were classmates in grades 12 and 13 and became good friends, a friendship that lasted a lifetime.

As teenagers in Europe a whole new world opened up to us to travel and explore! We did, me on my motorcycle, and Doug on his motor-scooter. As an aside, all teenagers were encouraged to get their drivers licences. In the unlikely event that hostilities broke out in Europe, the wives and dependants were to head west to the coast of France and via ship, get back to Canada as soon as possible.

After returning to Canada both Doug and I applied for, and were accepted to attend RMC in the Class of 65.

Closing Notes

Thanks as always to our contributors. I'm looking forward to another Ottawa area Class Lunch next week and than **6540 John Hilton** for organising these fun get-togethers. I am also looking forward to the ceremony adding former classmate **6604 Jim Caruthers** to the Wall of Honour on 16 September. I understand that a contingent of classmates is being formed to attend in honour of Jim's attendance. As the author of the nomination for this recognition, I believe I might be asked to do the unveiling—an honour I would be pleased to accept.

That's it for another month. Keep those articles coming.