

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 163



November/novembre 2023

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### Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

Another fairly busy edition highlighted by tributes to our former classmate **6345 Georges Wilson**. In addition, **Gerry Mueller** has provided another entertaining movie review; **Gord Forbes** has shared more. Finally, yours truly will provide a brief overview of our recent, excellent river cruise on the Danube/Main/Rhine rivers.

### Tributes to Georges

In mid-October I forwarded a notice to all of you regarding the funeral arrangements for **6345 Georges Wilson**, fondly aka, the Class Detective. That notice elicited an outpouring of sorrow and remembrances from classmates, some of which are reproduced below:

**6503 Rod Howland** - I am truly saddened to hear this news. I have fond memories of Georges. He was my first roommate a CMR and a genuinely warm and friendly individual. He called me out of the blue about 15 years ago and told me that he had had a difficult time tracking me down. He did it somehow through my sister (married surname – Irvine) who was living in Victoria or Courtenay at the time. I was living in Oakville at that time and have lived in Ontario most of the time except for a short time in Edmonton. I'm sure my name was in the phone directory and I had an online presence. We had a good laugh about this and naturally Georges explained the reason for his call. He had set a task for himself to find everyone of the recruits from 1960 who had run the obstacle course at CMR and completed the first year. Having found me he wanted to add me to his list and that is how my name ended up on your mailing list. I read most of the posts and recall many of the names I see from time to time.

Some years later in July 2014, I made a trip through Ottawa and Montreal and called Georges to see if I could pay him a short visit. Well, he insisted that I stay with him and Yolande, which I did for a couple of nights. He also arranged to show me old Montreal and the harbour area plus climbing the tower at the end of the wharf. We had a lovely dinner at a good restaurant in old town and he introduced me to a friend who had played football for the Montreal Alouettes. It was an enjoyable evening and we shared a lot of stories from our respective pasts. I will never forget Georges and Yolande's hospitality and friendship.

One other anecdote comes to mind. In my first few days at CMR I wanted to learn a few phrases in French so, I asked Georges how do you say "brush your teeth in French?" He replied with a smile "brosser les dents". To this day when I brush my teeth I often think of him and that succinct answer. He was an intelligent and kind individual.



# Numéro 163

## November/novembre 2023

Page 2

### Georges (Concluded)

**6523 Terry Colfer** - I can only echo your warm sentiments and then some. Georges worked tirelessly behind the scenes in the interests of all RMC 65ers. Recall, during my motorcycle riding days, he somehow was able to identify all members of the class who were 'bikers' and forwarded pertinent pics. No idea how he made that happen.

We served together as army lieutenants in the Gaza Strip in '67 although, as I recall, in different locations. While back then Gaza was never on the Club Med circuit (like Cyprus) it was probably a tad more stable at that time than now.

RIP Georges. God bless ... you will be missed!

**6475 Mike Houghton** -this cannot be!!!! Georges, while relatively small in stature, was always bigger than life itself. We have been in constant touch over the years and, while I was frequently on the move, somehow Georges could always find me. I never knew how nor did I ask. This is very sad news indeed, and especially for the Class of '65.

**6480 Tom Drolet** - Oh No.....The picture man, the memory man, the loyal man, the man with a truck load of compassion for everyone. So many times over the years he would find and send pictures of Class of 65 life during and after. There must be a huge inventory of these memories to retain as a Class of 65 treasure. I remember his last and very recent request for a picture of my wife Joyce and I when he discovered Joyce's severely ailing health. God rest his soul.

**6559 Gerry Mueller**—Over the last 10+ years Georges and I became quite close, mostly by email and telephone, and met up for a beer or two. Mostly we were looking for missing classmates, but also for at least one person he applied his considerable skills to helping me find a University of Waterloo classmate, who is the only one not accounted for in my graduating class from there. We didn't actually find him, but not all that long ago Georges came up with a few more leads, as well as an email about 8 weeks ago, which, in retrospect, sounds like a good-bye and over to you. As well, whenever I was travelling, he came up with classmates to meet up with, even if some of them were more than a day's drive from our route, notably when we were in Chile, but also he made surprising connections.

**6515 Jim Boyd** -On Oct 22nd I will be hopefully visiting old haunts in the Cinque Terre since we backpacked there 30 years ago to the day. But when I am back on board the cruise ship in La Spezia as this ceremony takes place, I will sit on my balcony with a glass of wine and be with you in spirit. Georges and I had several conversations over the years about his wonderful hobby of tracking down classmates gone but not forgotten and updating pictures, e-mails etc.. I could never quite arouse the same due diligence in myself, but I greatly admired his passion and (if I were given to much reflection) I could imagine the many courteous interactions with family and friends he did not know, and who would perhaps be encountering his polite inquiries for the first time. He so wanted to pass on that legacy of interest - he took pains to let me know that Gerry Mueller would be visiting Halifax on a cruise ship, and as a result we had a lovely reunion at Tim Horton's. And this summer he invited me on July 23rd to wish Tom Drolet a Happy Birthday. Like the Wall of Remembrance ceremony, this would have been a not-to-miss gathering if I had stayed in, or moved back to, Ottawa as I was considering at one time.

**6540 John Hilton**—Very sad to hear about Georges. We all spoke to him over the years. May he rest in peace.

**6560 Andrew Nellestyn** -It is always a period of mourning when one hears of the passing of a classmate and recall those who pre-deceased us. They were all honourable individuals who shared our formative military years at RMC. God Bless. RIP. TDV.



# Numéro 163

## November/novembre 2023

Page 3

### Movie Review by 6559 Gerry Mueller

I am not a huge fan of horror movies, but by tradition (in my church anything you do three times or more is a tradition!) our movie club movie near the end of October each year is a “scary movie”. I tried very hard to come up with a lesson, or a moral, or a principle that this movie expresses, and the closest I came up with is that it, like the John Irving novel “A Prayer for Owen Meany” (which I recommend more than the movie if you haven’t read it), is about providence, that theological notion that behind a sequence of seemingly random and in themselves unrelated events there is a purpose that in the end brings about a great good, even if pain and suffering, even death, are involved.

#### **The Dead Zone (1983)**

Director: David Cronenberg (Scanners, Videodrome, The Fly, M. Butterfly, Crash)

Writer: Stephen King (author of multiple “horror” novels), Jeffrey Boam

Principal Actors: Christopher Walken (previously a supporting actor Oscar winner for “The Deer Hunter”), Brooke Adams, Tome Skerritt, Herbert Lom, Martin Sheen, Nicholas Campbell

Stephen King novels have a history of poor movie adaptations; King himself when asked about movies of his books admitted that some were ok. By all reports, this is one of the better ones, although in my opinion it has serious flaws (as a movie, I have not read the book). Similarly David Cronenberg’s movies have had mixed critical responses; this is his first movie that was well received (especially compared to the almost simultaneously released “Videodrome”) and is still considered one of his best.

One thing to be said for this movie is that it has a solid Canadian connection. David Cronenberg, a direction star of the horror genre is Canadian, and the locations are mostly filmed in and around Niagara-on-the-Lake. A gazebo that has become a major feature of that town was in fact constructed for this film. It was gifted to the town after filming ended and is maintained by the town, even though at first the town fathers only allowed the construction on the understanding that it would be demolished when filming was completed. Niagara-on-the-Lake in the 1980s was a destination for me for weekends in one of several local hotels and dining in good restaurants, so it was interesting to “revisit” the town as it was then, instead of the very glitzy (and expensive) destination it has become.

Johnny Smith (Christopher Walken), an English teacher is engaged to fellow teacher Sarah Bracknell (Brooke Adams). After an afternoon at an amusement park he refuses her offer to spend the night with her out of a sense of morality (his mother, whom we meet briefly later, bizarrely speaks in King James Bible English!). As a result he is involved in a serious accident which leaves him in a 5 year coma under the care of Dr. Sam Weizak (Herbert Lom), who despite his sinister appearance is actually a “good guy”. When Johnny awakens, he learns that Sarah has married another man and has a child. He also discovers, by a chance touch of the hand of a hospital attendant that he has acquired the ability to “see” traumatic or tragic events in another’s life, in this case a child being threatened by fire. Through his warning the child is saved, and he becomes notorious as a “seer”.

This attracts the attention of Sheriff Bannerman (Tom Skerritt) who tries to persuade him to use his “gift” to help solve a series of murders, which eventually he reluctantly does. He has no result from visiting places where the murders happened, or even touching objects they may have been the killer’s, until another murder happens, and by touching the hand of the dead victim he sees the murder happening and identifies the serial killer. ( I won’t spoil it, but I realized a lot earlier who that would be.)

Of course, further notoriety results, and Johnny withdraws and becomes a recluse in a new home but earns an income by tutoring children in English. Through this he teaches and befriends the son of a very wealthy man, who is also politically connected. He foresees this young boy dying in a tragic accident and tries to stop the boy’s father from continuing with a hockey practice on a



# Numéro 163

## November/novembre 2023

Page 4

### Movie Review (Concluded)

a local lake. He fails to stop that practice, and the drowning of two other boys, but through his intervention the boy does not participate and lives. Johnny now realizes that he can change the future. When he touches a local politician who is running for Senator he “sees” that person as a megalomaniac psychopath who will eventually become President and start a nuclear war. He determines to stop this man by assassinating him, knowing that he will probably not survive that act. He fails in killing the politician but exposes him as a coward, and is fatally shot. As he dies he is comforted by Sarah, and the last words he hears is that she loves him.

I am not a fan of horror movies; I much prefer science fiction if watching a movie in which “impossible” things are part of the plot. In most science fiction the underlying metaphysics (the “science” that is the basis for the impossible, in the real world, things) have to be consistent and make “sense”. Not so in most horror movies, including this one. The “gift” that Johnny has does not work consistently; in its first instance he sees something that is happening in the present, that the person he is touching can’t possibly know or has experienced. In the second instance, he sees events in his doctor’s far past but also gains very specific information about something in the present that the doctor believes to be not true. When he touches the body of the murdered girl, he sees events in her immediate past through his own eyes as a bystander. In the drowning accident vision he sees the near future, and it is not clear whether through the eyes of the boy or as a bystander; if the latter, he is himself under water. Finally, he sees the politician’s far future without actually being present, in fact he will be dead when those events take place.

Those considerations, at least for me, make this movie episodic, more so given the fact that there is no clear time line. It is totally unclear how much time is covered from the time Johnny “wakes up” to the end. There are confusing clues, such as a large political poster that is being completed and shows in several episodes, suggesting a few days, and yet other clues obviously suggest a much longer time line. The movie is effectively a series of vignettes, and in fact a later adaptation of the King novel was a television series. I have not seen that, but I suspect it worked better in that form.

Do I recommend it? Yes and no. At present it is not included on any streaming platform that I could find, and thus had to “buy” the streaming rights for 5 bucks. In my opinion it was barely worth that; however if you can find it in a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand DVD store for less, give it a try.

### Anti by 6533 Gord Forbes

*There is a lot of talk these days about anti-semitism and anti-Muslim feelings as a result of the current Israeli-Hamas “war” (as Israel refers to it). There are also strong feelings among those that are anti-Black, anti-indigenous, anti-Asian or anti-everything. I wonder if there isn’t an anti-white movement.*

*A couple of years ago I wrote a short story about discrimination that I would like to share with you here. It might be a bit of a lesson on where we might be.*

\* \* \*

### **I’m Not Prejudiced**

Sam Turnbull was not prejudiced. If you asked him, he would have said, “I am not prejudiced against any colour or religious group.” And Sam believed it. But nonetheless Sam was very proud of his own heritage.



### Anti (Continued)

Samuel Josiah Turnbull, to give him his full name was proud of the fact that his ancestry in Canada went back to the pioneering days. The first Josiah Turnbull had immigrated to Canada as a young man in 1820 and had worked for Colonel John By as a surveyor during the building of the Rideau Canal. He married the daughter of one of the canal builders and had a family of seven children, one of whom formed the family line of Sam Turnbull. Sam took his ancestry quite seriously and had traced his lineage right back to Josiah Turnbull's parents. Sam's wife, Karen, said she sometimes felt like an unwelcome newcomer since her family had only immigrated to Canada in 1921 in the aftermath of World War One. Sam made sure that his two children knew of their heritage in every detail. He also frequently admonished them to avoid prejudice of any type.

A couple of years earlier, a new neighbour, a recent immigrant from Britain had move into the house across the street from Sam. Their names were Charles and Penelope Beckwith. Sam was ecstatic about the new neighbours both because the couple seemed to be real English gentlepeople and because they brought wonderful stories of Britain. Sam and the new neighbour became very good friends.

Sam worked for the federal government as a middle manager. He hoped one day get into the executive SX category. But the going was slow. One day a new person came into the same department as Sam. Bobby Hall seemed a very nice and hard-working man of about mid-thirties, but Sam found it hard to tell the age of Afro-Canadians, which Bobby and his wife were. Sam had barely spoken to Bobby, but one day he came up to Bobby and asked, "Are you one of those Somali's that have been flooding the city recently?" Bobby was taken aback and wasn't sure how to answer this. Finally, he collected his thoughts and answered, "My parents are Canadian as am I. In fact, my family came to Canada in the late 1700s as slaves in Nova Scotia. When they were freed, they stayed in Nova Scotia. In fact, my great-great-great grandfather was one of the first Canadian born winners of the Victoria Cross when he was a gunner in the Royal Navy<sup>[1]</sup>. I came to Ottawa to go to Ottawa University and stayed after I got my master's degree." Sam was somewhat taken aback himself, particularly the fact that Bobby Hall's family had been in Canada longer than his.

The house next door to Sam's went up for sale. Sam and Karen paid very close attention to people who came to view the house. A couple from the Indian sub-continent seemed to be very interested in the house. They had a number of children. Sam could envision a strong smell of curry and spices permeating the neighbourhood. Charles seemed excited at the thought of Indian cooking saying it was a favourite in England where you could always find good food in Indian restaurants. Sam wasn't too sure. As it transpired the couple did not buy the house and Sam was relieved. But he reminded himself, he was not prejudiced.

The couple who did buy the house next door turned out to be full-blooded Algonquin aboriginals, Vic, and Tina Proudfoot. Vic had lived off the reserve since he was a child. Tina had spent most of her life on a reserve in northern Ontario until she came south to go to Carleton University where she met Vic. They were married right after they both graduated. Sam was uncomfortable because all the stories he had heard about conditions on these reserves: run down houses; a large number of big dogs; guns and drugs; and dirty water. He wondered if this was the way aboriginal people lived in the city. He wasn't prejudiced, he told himself, just concerned about his property value. Vic and Tina turned out to be model neighbours. Vic did a lot to fix up his house and garden and Tina kept her house spotless. Sam had nothing to worry about. Vic and Tina turned out to be very sociable and soon a significant friendship grew up between the two couples.



# Numéro 163

## November/novembre 2023

Page 6

### Anti (concluded)

Sam wasn't prejudiced but he was starting to think that there were a lot of new immigrants showing up everywhere. He didn't know how the country was going to be able to handle them all. Were there enough jobs and were these people qualified for them? Where would they live? These immigrants were also different. They weren't from Europe anymore. There was a new political party being talked about and Sam became interested. He liked the things the party was saying about the dangers of too many immigrants. But Sam found out the leader of the party was a French-Canadian and Sam couldn't put up with that.

The culmination came for Sam when a family of Syrian refugees bought the house two doors down the street from Sam's house. These were strangers who didn't seem to know a word of English although they spoke a bit of French. Sam didn't know a thing about them, but he was upset at their arrival in his neighbourhood. On the Saturday that the new folks were moving in, Sam was standing outside watching them. Just then, Vic came up behind Sam and asked what was going on. Sam used the occasion to launch into a tirade about these new neighbours and all of these immigrants that were pouring into the country. Vic listened patiently until Sam had finished. Vic then turned to Sam and said, "Now you know how my ancestors felt."

\* \* \*

*As you can see, prejudice comes in many forms and at one point or another, we may all be guilty of it. It isn't always about terrorism and hatred.*

[1] William Hall, VC. A Canadian gunner with the Royal Navy who fought in the Crimean War and the Indian Uprisings.

### Update - Professor in Leadership

By Holly Garnett

I can provide a few updates, especially on the partnered research programme made possible by the Class of 1965 Chair. We have a cohort of ten students taking part in research projects in collaboration with civil society organizations, from RMC and other Canadian universities. This is the real centre of my programme of developing Leaders. Having students outside of RMC interact with the College, and having the RMC students exposed to outside organizations is mutually beneficial. I will attach their projects below to give you a sense of what we are working on this academic year. (*see next page*)

Additionally, I continue working with Christian Leuprecht to finish writing and analysis for the Ex-Cadets survey project started as part of his tenure as chair. Christian and I are also planning a webinar series for the new year on Security and Society that will be of interest, but no dates concretely yet. These provide some nice continuity with the previous Chair's work.



# Numéro 163

## November/novembre 2023

### Professorship (Concluded)

Name	University	Partner Organization	Research Question
Ellie Hwang	RMC	Civix	Do Canadian youth exhibit the characteristics of 'democratic disengagement/disenchantment'?
Richard Sun	RMC	PCO - Democratic Institutions	How do foreign-language and English-language media compare in their coverage of political issues?
Sonya Pallapothu	McGill	Elections British Columbia	What predicts voting (or non-voting) in British Columbia? (Socio-demographic variables? Attitudes? Habit?)
Luis Sanchez Diaz	Calgary	Elections Ontario	How does media coverage (close to election day) impact voter turnout?
Rachel Moss	Ottawa	Apathy is Boring	How can campaign finance regulations be amended to foster a more egalitarian and inclusive model to encourage greater participation, among youth?
Matthew Howell	RMC	Canadian Parliamentary Center	How is the increasing insecurity (especially threats posed by Djihad, Wagner etc.) directly hindering the democratic process in West Africa (either one countries or a cross-national comparison)?
Katherine Li	Calgary	Elections Alberta	How can electoral management bodies better engage youth in the voting process?
George Legler	Nipissing	Samara Centre	What does it cost (broadly defined) to run as a candidate in multiple, provincial and federal elections in Canada?
Marguerite Lefebvre	Ottawa	Elections NS	What impacts have internet voting had on the democratic process in jurisdictions that have adopted it?
Angelique Busanga	Ottawa	Elections Nunavut	What have First Nations or indigenous groups globally done to address reconciliation / decolonization in the administration of elections? How could these changes be applied to elections in Nunavut?



# Numéro 163

## November/novembre 2023

Page 8

### Our River Cruise by Mike Braham

The following is a brief description of an exceptional river cruise that Janet and I just completed. We signed up for Viking's Grand Europe Tour from Budapest to Amsterdam plus a three day extension at the beginning in Prague. October/November might not seem like the best time to travel in Europe, however, it is a time when water levels of the rivers are at their optimum and one is not faced with the possibility of cancellation or modification due to the water level being too low or too high to permit navigation under the many low bridges or over shallow area. As it turned out the weather was quite reasonable with only a couple of rainy days.

I had visited Prague and Budapest on business just after the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and at that time they seemed to be painted grey and relatively lifeless despite their long historical heritages and architectural treasures. The intervening years have made for a remarkable change. Both cities are now thriving, colourful and full of tourists drinking in the sights.

We spent our time in Prague walking in the Old Town on both sides of the Moldau River, enjoying the vibrant air of the city and the crowds of tourists taking in the many wonderful sights including the Prague Castle and the Old Town Square shown in the following photos:



We took a bus to Budapest for the start of the cruise and spent an extra day in the Hungarian capital to soak in the sights including the remarkable Parliament Building and the 13th Century St Matthias Cathedral.







# Numéro 163

## November/novembre 2023

Page 9

### River Cruise (continued)

Leaving Budapest, we proceeded down the Danube into Austria where our first port of call was Vienna. This beautiful city is a feast for the eyes – almost too much to absorb in two short days. We took advantage of a guided tour and tried to follow our guide's efforts to educate us on the long and tortuous history of Austria,. This photo is of the Pestale Monument erected in 1683 to commemorate the Great Plague of 1679.



The small town of Melk was next on the itinerary and is the home of a beautiful Benedictine Abbey that was established in 1089.

We then passed into Germany, with our first stop being Passau. The Town Square of Passau lies beside the river and apparently, if you were a baker and stuffed your loaves with sawdust or the like to bulk them up, you were hauled into the Square, loaded aboard a catapult and lobbed into the river, praying that the water level was not low!

Regensburg was next, reputedly the home of the best sausages in Germany. This next photo shows us coming alongside in Regensburg. We were treated to some superior seamanship on this cruise. Notwithstanding the benefits of modern technology these long not very maneuverable ships, strong currents, and constant busy barge traffic required heads up attention..



Nurnburg was next. A visit dominated the enormous Nurnburg Imperial Castle whose construction started around the year 1000. Like much of Nurnburg, the castle was heavily damaged by Allied bombing in WWI. Nevertheless, it has been painstakingly restored to its former glory. This applied to many other historic sites that we encountered during our visits to German cities.



Bamberg, another medieval city dominated by not one, but two Royal palaces was next. The Bamberg town hall shown here straddles a small river and served double duty as one of the gates into the old town.

Wurzburg was next and the home of a palace for the Prince Bishop that rivals Versailles in its over the top décor. The following photo is a portion of the main entry. Apparently when the Prince Bishop entertained royalty and the like it might take the procession over an hour to ascent the stairs! Another passenger, a Chilean made what I thought to be a very insightful comment after he had inhaled all of this baroque excess— “But where is the religion?” Where indeed!





# Numéro 163

## November/novembre 2023

Page 10

### River Cruise (Continued)

Wertheim was our last stop before entering the Rhine. A lovely town with beautiful old architecture, a castle and a leaning tower (shown here). We then entered the Rhine and spent an amazing day travelling along the Rhine Gorge for about 66 kms feasting on castles at every bend in the river originally built by robber barons in the 11th-13th centuries to gather usurious duties from travelers. One of the travellers was Richard I (the Lionhearted) who was briefly held captive in a couple of them on his way home from the Crusades. We also passed the Lorelei—a cliff on a bend of the river where a naked siren used to sit to lure unwary mariners on to the rocks. She is no longer there—I checked!



The following are three of the castles. Marksburg, Reichenstein and Stolzenfels.



Our final stops in Germany were two large cities—Koblenz and Koln. Though they lacked the charm of our smaller stops there was plenty catch the eye and to hold the interest. Breathtaking in its size and the beauty of its stained glass windows is the majestic Koln Cathedral. Like Nurnburg, Koln was heavily damaged during WWII, but somehow, the cathedral escaped the worst of it and emerged relatively unscathed.



# Numéro 163

## November/novembre 2023

Page 11

### River Cruise (concluded)

Our last stop before disembarking in Amsterdam was alongside a dike at Kinderdijk in the Netherlands to observe the workings of windmills.

The food on board our ship was excellent; the service outstanding; and the whole experience one that has us looking forward to another Viking River Cruise in the near future. We took advantage of the recently inaugurated Air France direct flights to and from Ottawa to Paris which precluded the usual extra leg to Montreal or Toronto. That said, Paris Charles de Gaulle is not particularly traveller friendly particularly if your layover is relatively short. Our bags arrived home two days later than we did!

A trio of scenic shots to close.



### Closing Notes

Thanks for all of the very nice and deserving tributes for Georges Wilson. His dedicated efforts to “find” lost classmates ensured that the Class of 65 is not just a Class in name only. He will be sorely missed. Thanks also to Gerry and to Gord for interesting and thought provoking entries. I am sure they would be delighted for some feedback.

I know it’s early, but in case I get tardy again, I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas.

