

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 168



June/juin 2024

*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

This promises to be a busy edition so I will leap right in. First of all there are two sad notes with the passing of classmate **6181 Tony Halliday** and the wife of **6602 Jim Cale**.

#### Obituary - 6181 Tony Halliday



We are saddened to learn of the passing of Tony Halliday after a long illness and pass our sincere condolences to Sam and her family. The following is a link to his obituary <https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/oakview/obituaries/anthony-james-halliday/124663.html>

#### Obituary-Jane Cale

Classmate **6602 Jim Cale** sent out the following sad notice of the passing of his wife Jane and we offer our heartfelt condolences to Jim and his family.

*"Dear Classmates: Thank you all for your sincere condolences and kind thoughts on the loss of my dear Jane. They mean a lot to me and I appreciate them very much. As one of you said "We were all there for one another so many years ago and that camaraderie persists."*

*Although Jane had been in physical decline for a number of years her health was good. She died suddenly from a burst brain aneurysm. Fortunately she did not suffer. If any of you wish to read her obituary it was in yesterday's Citizen and can also be found at [www.whelanfuneralhome.ca](http://www.whelanfuneralhome.ca)*

*Her final wish is "to extend a simple act of kindness towards someone you meet during the course of your day." You have all done that for me. Thank you.*

TDV

Jim



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### ATTENTION PLEASE

Our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of graduation comes up next year. Due to Covid we unfortunately didn't have a reunion in 2020, so this one will be our first in ten years!

The basic schedule for the 2025 RMC Reunion Weekend is:

11-13 September

Legacy Dinner on Thursday night, 11 Sep 25

Obstacle Course on Friday afternoon, 12 Sep 25

Coin Presentation (to Recruits) by Old Brigade entry class, Friday p.m.

**Class "Meet & Greet" on Friday evening, 12 Sep 25**

Badging Parade and March to the Arch on Saturday morning, 13 Sep

BBQ and Sports events, Saturday pm, 13 Sep 25

Old Brigade Dinner on Saturday evening, 13 Sep 25

The main change to the weekend as we've previously experienced it is that no events are held on Sunday, it now being a "family day" for the cadets.

Though it will definitely **not be taken as a commitment** at this point, to assist with planning, would you please email the address below ASAP to advise whether you are *considering* attending (a) the Meet & Greet, and/or (b) the Old Brigade dinner, and how many will be in your party for each. (No need to reply in the negative.)

[hjm.spence@rogers.com](mailto:hjm.spence@rogers.com)

6439 Hugh Spence

*Secretarius in perpetuum*

*P.S.* If you should encounter a classmate who is unaware of this info request, please give him a copy.



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### ATTENTION S'IL VOUS PLAÎT !

La 60e anniversaire de l'obtention de notre diplôme du Collège militaire royal du Canada aura lieu l'année prochaine. Annuler en 2020 à cause du Covid, cette retrouvaille sera notre première depuis dix ans!

Les activités du week-end (11-13 septembre 2025) sont les suivantes:

Le jeudi, 11 septembre 25

Soirée - Dîner Héritage-Legacy

Le vendredi, 12 septembre 25

Après-midi - Course d'obstacles

Après-midi – Cérémonie de remise des pièces aux recrues par la classe d'entrée de la Vieille Brigade,

Soirée – une courte Rencontre de bienvenue de nos camarades de classe

Le samedi, 13 septembre 25

Matin – Parade de remise des insignes et Défilé sous l'Arc commémoratif

Après-midi - BBQ et événements sportifs

Soirée - Dîner de la Vieille Brigade

Le dimanche, 14 septembre 2025 – Libre

Ce changement notable par rapport à nos rencontres antérieures s'explique ainsi : Désormais le dimanche est une « journée familiale » pour les élèves-officiers/officières.

Pour faciliter notre planification, nous demandons à ceux qui envisagent de participer, **et seulement ceux-ci**, de nous informer dès que possible de vos intentions à l'égard de certains événements. Assurez-vous que nous comprenons qu'à ce stade de planification, nous voulons connaître vos intentions et non un engagement formel de votre part.

Plus précisément, si vous envisagez d'assister à l'un ou deux des activités suivantes, laissez le moi savoir par courriel, ainsi que combien vous serez, au

[hjm.spence@rogers.com](mailto:hjm.spence@rogers.com)

(a) la courte Rencontre d'Accueil parmi nous

(b) Dîner de la Vieille Brigade

N.B. - Si par hasard vous rencontrez un camarade de classe qui n'est pas au courant de cette demande d'information, je vous pris de lui remettre une copie.

6439 Hugh Spence

*Secretarius in perpetuum*



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2024 Ottawa - Montréal Bridging Re(é)union *passerelle*

By 6496 Charlie Emond

Covid put a lot of social activities on ice, among them the popular 2020- 2021-2022 & 2023 Ottawa – Montréal Bridging Re(é)union *passerelle* luncheons that were held conveniently about half-way, near the provincial border in Hawkesbury, ON making it a fairly easy trip from each major city, local traffic issues aside! It seemed reasonable at this point in Covid's trajectory to restart this popular event, especially that we cannot ignore that with each passing year, we sadly lose colleagues and others face travel or medical restrictions.

The 2024 "Bridging" luncheon was held on Wednesday, 5 June. I am grateful to **Pierre Falardeau** and **Claude Bellehumeur**, whom Pierre asked him to help out when he had to deal with a medical issue, as well as **John Hilton** for their effort to communicate this event to their respective local colleagues. I would also like to thank **Terry Colfer**, who likely recalled the importance that our dear late colleague, Georges Wilson, gave to sharing photos with classmates of these special occasions and arranged for the photos to be taken.

A number of classmates also enjoyed a couple more happy hours by carpooling together for the trip. Thanks **Bruce Corbett** for being our chauffeur (me and **Peter Jackson** (CMRSJ Prep-year roommates) in your roomy and elegant Cadillac!

Bob Doak had hoped to meet up with another or more "Biker", but even as the sole "rider", he enjoyed the scenic trip on this sunny and pleasantly warm day.

I would like to note that others had indicated that they had planned to attend, but life got in the way: **Mark Jetté** (Medical Appointment), **Roger Gaudreau** (whose wife **Lina** is recovering from hip surgery after being their car was hit by a truck while on holiday in Charlesvoix QC), **Mike Braham** (Med Appointment), **John Adams** (Volunteer work commitment), **Jim Cale**, **Peter Houliston** and **John Critchley**. Those who attended the luncheon are featured below in a photo of both tables we shared after about an hour of stand-up animated conversations.

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*La Covid a mis de nombreuses activités sociales sur la glace, parmi lesquelles le populaire déjeuner "Passerelle – Montréal Bridging Re(é)union - Ottawa" des années 2020, 2021, 2022 et 2023, qui nous réunissait à mi -chemin près de la frontière provinciale à Hawkesbury, en Ontario, donc un voyage assez facile pour tous de chaque grande ville, problèmes de circulation locaux mis à part !*

*Il semblait raisonnable à ce stade de la trajectoire de Covid de relancer cet événement populaire, d'autant plus que nous ne pouvons ignorer qu'au fil des années qui passent, nous perdons malheureusement des collègues et que d'autres sont confrontés à des restrictions de voyage ou médicales.*

*Le déjeuner « Passerelle » 2024 s'est tenu le mercredi 5 juin. Je remercie **Pierre Falardeau** et **Claude Bellehumeur**, à qui Pierre a demandé de lui aider lorsqu'il a dû faire face à un problème médical, ainsi que **John Hilton**, pour leurs efforts pour communiquer cet événement à leurs collègues locaux respectifs. Je tiens également à remercier **Terry Colfer**, qui a probablement rappelé l'importance que notre cher regretté collègue, Georges Wilson, accordait au partage de photos avec nos camarades de classe de ces occasions spéciales et qui a organisé la prise de cette photo.*

*Un certain nombre de camarades de classe ont également profité de quelques « Bons moments »*



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## April-May/avril-mai 2024

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### Ottawa-Montreal (Concluded)

supplémentaires en faisant du covoiturage pour le voyage. Merci **Bruce Corbett** d'être notre chauffeur (moi et **Peter Jackson** (compagnons de chambre de l'année Préparatoire CMRSJ) dans votre Cadillac spacieuse et élégante !

**Bob Doak** avait espéré rencontrer un ou plusieurs autres « Bikers », mais même en tant qu'unique « Rider », il a apprécié le voyage panoramique lors de cette journée ensoleillée et agréablement chaude.

J'aimerais souligner que d'autres avaient indiqué qu'ils avaient prévu d'y assister, mais que la vie s'y est opposée : **Mark Jetté** (rendez-vous médical), **Roger Gaudreau** (dont l'épouse Lina se remet d'une opération à la hanche après avoir été heurtée par un camion pendant leurs vacances à Charlesvoix QC), **Mike Braham** (rendez-vous médical), **John Adams** (Engagement bénévole), **Jim Cale**, **Peter Houlston** et **John Critchley**.

Ceux qui ont assisté au déjeuner sont présentés ci-dessous sur une photo de chaque table (2) que nous avons partagées après environ une heure de conversations animées sur nos pieds.



**Table 2 - Clockwise from top Left: (from Montréal (\*))**  
Edmond Kingsbury (Montebello), Jean-Louis Bolduc\*,  
Alain Pellerin, Phil Bury, Peter Cooke, Peter Jackson,  
Jean Bigaouette\*, André Maheu (Gatineau)



**Table 1 - Clockwise from top Left: (from Montreal(\*))**  
Terry Colfer, Charles Emond, Bruce Corbett, Ben Besner\*,  
Carl Anderson, Waine McQuinn, Barry Thompson\*, Roman  
Jakubow, Robert Doak

Photos par Claude Belhumeur



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### Web Site Splash by 6660 Waine McQuinn

For those of you who are not familiar with the Class of 65 Website, I suggest you give it a look at

Pour ceux d'entre vous qui ne connaissent pas le site Web de la Classe de 65, je vous suggère d'y jeter un œil à

[www.rmc65.ca](http://www.rmc65.ca)



You will find a complete Class List as well as an archive of all of Mike's Class Newsletters from the very beginning.

I encourage you to check your own names to see if we have the correct coordinates and advise me (tunbridge@ncf) of needed corrections. Although we do have your email addresses (hopefully current), you will see that your email address is not published on the website.

The next update will be 1 July 2024

Vous trouverez une liste complète des classes ainsi qu'une archive de toutes les newsletters de classe de Mike depuis le tout début.

Je vous encourage à vérifier vos propres noms pour voir si nous avons les bonnes coordonnées et à m'informer (tunbridge@ncf) des corrections nécessaires. Bien que nous ayons vos courriels, (espérons-les à jour), vous verrez que votre courriel n'est pas publiée sur le site Web.

La prochaine mise à jour aura lieu le 1er juillet 2024

### Letter

**6660 Waine McQuinn:** Enjoyed Gord's travelogue of his Portugal holiday. I can second everything he said. I will probably use some of it in this year's McQuinn Xmas Newsletter.

Pete Jackson's story was hilarious. I love these field stories we can all tell and relate to. Much better than talking about our current ailments.





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### RMC Alumni Association Board of Directors

**The Royal Military Colleges of Canada Alumni Association Inc. is seeking up to three board directors to begin a three-year term starting in October 2024.**

We are especially interested in receiving applications from people who have a background in non-profit governance, non-profit organizations and their legal responsibilities and public-private partnerships. The Association is committed to supporting the Canadian Military Colleges and the Canadian Armed Forces in achieving their objectives for professional conduct and culture change, including reflecting the diversity of Canada's population.

Members of the board serve in partnership with other board directors to provide strategic leadership and to act as fiduciaries in overseeing all activities of the Alumni Association as a federally incorporated not-for-profit corporation with charitable status. Directors participate on board committees, and they determine the organization's policies in areas of governance, human resources, planning, and finance. This position offers an exceptional opportunity to develop professionally and contribute meaningfully to a national charitable organization with a recognizable brand that serves to:

- 1) bring together our alumni and other members for their mutual benefit, support, mentorship and camaraderie,
- 2) advance education by establishing and maintaining scholarships, bursaries and prizes,
- 3) support and promote training and leadership programs by providing funding for programs and initiatives for the benefit of the Canadian Military Colleges to grow and develop Canada's future leaders,
- 4) establish, preserve, protect and commemorate monuments and significant heritage sites at the Canadian Military Colleges,
- 5) enhance, preserve and promote the experience, history, traditions and culture of the Canadian Military Colleges; and,
- 6) to promote and advocate for the foregoing.

**The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, June 28th, 2024. Interviews will be scheduled the week of July 8th, 2024 for selected candidates.**

Please submit a resume along with a cover letter to [nancy.marr@rmcalumni.ca](mailto:nancy.marr@rmcalumni.ca)



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### **Membre du conseil d'administration**

**L'Association des ancien(ne)s des Collèges militaires royaux (CMR) du Canada est en quête de trois personnes prêtes à devenir membres de son conseil d'administration à compter d'octobre 2024, pour un mandat de trois ans.**

Nous sommes particulièrement intéressés par les candidatures de personnes qui ont de l'expérience dans la gouvernance d'organismes à but non lucratif et les responsabilités juridiques connexes, ainsi que dans les partenariats public-privé. L'Association aide les collèges militaires canadiens et les Forces armées canadiennes à atteindre leurs objectifs en matière de conduite professionnelle et de changement de culture, et à tenir compte de la diversité de la population canadienne.

Les membres du conseil d'administration assurent ensemble un leadership stratégique et supervisent l'ensemble des activités de l'Association des ancien(ne)s des CMR en tant qu'organisme de bienfaisance à but non lucratif constitué en vertu de la législation fédérale. Les administrateurs participent aux comités du conseil d'administration et élaborent les politiques de gouvernance, de ressources humaines, de planification et de finances de l'Association. Les postes à pouvoir offrent une occasion exceptionnelle d'évoluer professionnellement et de contribuer à un organisme de bienfaisance national réputé dont le mandat consiste en ce qui suit :

- 1) offrir à nos ancien(ne)s et aux autres membres des avantages, du soutien, de l'encadrement et des occasions de se côtoyer;
- 2) promouvoir l'éducation au moyen de bourses d'études et de perfectionnement ainsi que de prix;
- 3) financer et promouvoir des formations et des programmes axés sur le leadership au profit des collèges militaires canadiens, en vue de la formation et de l'épanouissement des futurs dirigeants du Canada;
- 4) inaugurer, préserver, protéger et commémorer les monuments et les sites historiques des collèges militaires canadiens;
- 5) enrichir, préserver et promouvoir l'expérience, l'histoire, les traditions et la culture des collèges militaires canadiens;
- 6) agir dans l'intérêt des initiatives qui précèdent et en faire la promotion.

**La date limite de soumission des candidatures est fixée au vendredi 28 juin 2024. Les entretiens avec les personnes dont la candidature aura été retenue auront lieu durant la semaine du 8 juillet 2024.**

Veillez faire parvenir votre curriculum vitae accompagné d'une lettre de motivation à [nancy.marr@rmcalumni.ca](mailto:nancy.marr@rmcalumni.ca).





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### **In Our Fathers' Footsteps**

By 6189 Ken Kennedy

IOFF finally happened in September 2022, after its Covid cancellation in 2020. Despite it not being involved with Liberation Day, it was an amazing and emotional success. I still get goosebumps recalling the many special events and the enthusiastic villagers' welcomes as if we were the actual liberators.

I won't burden your readers with a blow-by-blow account of this "Trip of a Lifetime", but have provided some links for those who may be interested. The reason I finally stirred myself to report on my IOFF adventure is that the indefatigable organizer is planning a repeat to commemorate the 80th anniversary next year. This time it will coincide with Liberation Day and include "marching" in the Wageningen Parade. It was in Wageningen that Canadian General Charles Foulkes accepted the German surrender in the Netherlands. In 2015 I attended this parade and was blown away by the over-the-top cheering for the aged vets as they were driven by in restored WW2 vehicles. I have copied her email announcement email at the end.

Here are some links:

<https://www.inourfathersfootsteps.com/>

(scroll way down and you can sign up for emails)

<https://www.facebook.com/inourfathersfootstepsevent/>

<https://www.facebook.com/inourfathersfootstepsevent/photos/pb.100076270962048.-2207520000/2310287615804167/?type=3>

(Photo of Mary and me from the photos on the above FB link)

<https://legionmagazine.com/in-their-fathers-footsteps/>

(Legion Magazine article about the 2022 Pilgrimage)

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1p22uM7nsl3ibYxeUecC5pGJa1jrFBtNb&oid=106098966907521120545&usp=drive_link)

[mid=1p22uM7nsl3ibYxeUecC5pGJa1jrFBtNb&oid=106098966907521120545&usp=drive\\_link](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1p22uM7nsl3ibYxeUecC5pGJa1jrFBtNb&oid=106098966907521120545&usp=drive_link)

(My Google MyMaps of the 2022 pilgrimage - 2025 MyMaps to follow after 15 June)

from: In Our Fathers' Footsteps <[inourfathersfootstepsevent@gmail.com](mailto:inourfathersfootstepsevent@gmail.com)>

to: [2kenkennedy@gmail.com](mailto:2kenkennedy@gmail.com)

date: Apr 12, 2024, 8:55 AM

subject: You won't believe it!

*You won't believe it! I can't believe it! IOFF is happening again. April 27 to May 8th, 2025 for the Dutch Liberation's 80th anniversary. We have some amazing plans! In addition to IOFF's signature walks, we'll be participating in Apeldoorn's Liberation Parade with dozens of United Pipes for Peace bands (with tens of thousands of spectators). We plan to walk in the Dutch Veterans' Parade in Wageningen with King Willem Alexander attending. We'll enjoy the "80 Years Liberation" Dutch taptoe, followed by a private meeting with HRH Princess Margriet and her husband, Pieter van Vollenhoven.*

*We're planning for 140 participants, with priority given to new attendees. However, we'll be keeping a list of interested 2022 participants in case there's room. In Our Fathers' Footsteps website went live today! Price, details, and registration will be available as of July 1st. We're asking everyone to delay inquiries until that date.*

*IOFF 2025 is the (unexpected) Second Edition of our life-changing experience. Mark your calendar, and spread the word!*

*Karen Hunter*

*IOFF Organizer / Event Coordinator*



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### **What It's Like by Gail Carruthers**

Loss of a spouse. It happens to most of us. Here's what I have experienced and perhaps I can share some insight and suggestions.

Here's what I miss. I actually miss the daily ( sometimes seemingly mundane) activities of a regular day. Getting up in the morning and making the bed. Sounds simple. Jim and I would make the bed every morning together as a team. Of course he had his theory as to how that should be done properly as like many other activities... He would say *"I'll never get you trained"* to which I would respond *"That's right! So you should just give up!"* So now when I make my bed each morning that memory comes to mind. Some days he would look at me and ask *"Did you even comb your hair today?"* So each day when I comb my hair now - guess who comes to mind? Funny things stay with you too and that's great.

Next thing I miss was making meals for us - instead of me. *" So what are we thinking of for breakfast?"* The menu would be discussed - toasted fried egg sandwich with ketchup often was requested with orange juice and a big coffee or anything involving bacon...Now I often avoid that particular meal. Simple things bring up memories-not all sad of course, but it reminds me that things are not the same. Then there is the news. Navy and RMC news ( comes first), often world news because they often intertwined, U.S. news, followed by Canadian news, local news. All were discussed each day in detail. You never had to ask Jim what he thought about something in the news because he'd already have told you! Family "happenings." Discussion re: what each family was doing in their lives, what we thought about the goings on, and what we should do to help them if we thought they could use our help. Now I just wonder how things are and hope that all is well with Jim's family. It's all very different -which is how I would describe the whole experience in general. I miss just jumping in the car and going for a drive to Wes' chips or a favourite pub. Just not the same when you go by yourself.

The Bytown Mess functions, gatherings...We all miss the mess I'm sure. Chauffeuring Jim to Kingston for the Navy mess dinners at RMC. He looked so forward to those events and so did I. Working in the yard .Simple chores made our place look better. We both liked to maintain our home and keep it looking presentable. Jim loved fixing things. I've learned I can't fix very much. Traveling which mainly consisted of eating lots of great food. Entertaining - 2 people to 102! Or even more. Our most favourite shared pleasure. Planning, hosting, enjoying our friends and family's company was the best! Following both sets of our big kids and Jim's grandkids to many sports activities where ever ,whenever they may be.

Walking on the beach-still hand in hand - chatting with the neighbours. Sorting out differences of opinion. That was not fun, but we managed. We learned a lot from each other. All has changed. It will for all of us going forward too.

What's next? Another home, another neighbourhood, a puppy, a new grandchild. Many good things ahead. I would say that for some who still have their partner, spouse ,significant other - that you are blessed even though things are not quite how they were earlier on in life. Enjoy even the simplest of time spent together and take care of each other.

Sincerely, Gail Carruthers



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### Responding to the Arbour Report

#### ***Alumni Survey on the Issues in the Arbour Report***

In the fall of 2023, the RMCAA surveyed alumni to find out what they thought about the issues in the Arbour Report. This survey was sent to almost 7,000 individual members of the RMCAA whose e-mail addresses are on file. Considering bounce-backs and spam filters, the 1,462 responses received from alumni represents an exemplary response rate and is an indication of the current level of alumni engagement. The highest engagement came from classes in the 1960's (193 respondents - 13% of total respondents), 1970's (352 responses - 24%) and 1980's (290 responses - 20%).

Significant majorities of respondents in all cohorts felt that *“the CMCs prepared me to face and overcome challenges,”* and that *“the CMCs prepared me for career in the CAF and beyond.”* A smaller proportion of the 2010 to 2023 cohort agreed with the latter statement, although even for this group fully two thirds (67%) agreed.

The most striking conclusion to be drawn from the survey results was that alumni broadly believe there is room for improvement in the way CMCs operate.

To put it simply, the survey found that alumni feel their time at the military colleges got them ready for tough times and jobs in the future. But they also think some things could be better. Clearer processes to pick and supervise Cadet Wing leaders, more instructors watching after class hours, and better controls on how punishments are given out. They also want better help for mental health issues and stronger efforts to stop discrimination and harassment from happening. Even with these issues, most alumni still believe the Canadian Military Colleges train excellent leaders who can lead needed cultural change in the Canadian Armed Forces.

**Sent on behalf of CMC Renewal Team**

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#### ***Sondage auprès des anciens et anciennes à propos des questions soulevées par le rapport Arbour***

À l'automne 2023, l'Association des ancien(ne)s des CMR a réalisé un sondage auprès des anciens et anciennes afin de connaître leur avis sur les questions soulevées par le rapport Arbour. Ce sondage a été envoyé à près de 7 000 membres individuels de l'Association des ancien(ne)s des CMR dont les adresses électroniques figuraient dans nos dossiers. En tenant compte des retours en erreur et des filtres antipourriel, les 1 462 réponses reçues constituent un taux de réponse exemplaire et donnent une indication du niveau actuel d'engagement des anciens et anciennes. Le plus fort engagement a été démontré par les promotions des années 1960 (193 réponses, soit 13 % du nombre total de réponses), des années 1970 (352 réponses, soit 24 % du nombre total de réponses) et des années 1980 (290 réponses, soit 20 % du nombre total de réponses).

Dans chacune des cohortes, la majorité a répondu par la positive aux affirmations suivantes : *« les collèges militaires du Canada m'ont préparé(e) à affronter et à surmonter les défis »* et *« les collèges militaires du Canada m'ont préparé(e) à une carrière au sein des Forces armées canadiennes et ailleurs »*. Une plus faible proportion de la cohorte de 2010-2023 était d'accord avec cette dernière affirmation, bien que même pour ce groupe, les deux tiers (67 %) étaient d'accord.



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### Rapport Arbour (conclu)

La conclusion la plus frappante à tirer des résultats de ce sondage est que les anciens et anciennes estiment dans l'ensemble qu'il existe des possibilités d'amélioration dans le fonctionnement des collèges militaires du Canada.

En d'autres termes, le sondage a révélé que les anciens et anciennes estiment que leur passage dans les collèges militaires les a préparés à faire face aux moments difficiles et à occuper des postes complexes. Mais ils pensent également que certaines choses pourraient être améliorées. À savoir, des procédures plus claires pour sélectionner et superviser les leaders d'escadre des élèves-officiers, plus d'instructeurs et instructrices pour assurer une supervision en dehors des heures de cours et de meilleurs contrôles des sanctions imposées. Ils souhaitent également une meilleure prise en charge des problèmes de santé mentale et des efforts accrus pour mettre un terme à la discrimination et au harcèlement. Malgré ces enjeux, la plupart des anciens et anciennes croient toujours que les collèges militaires du Canada forment d'excellents leaders capables d'apporter les changements culturels nécessaires au sein des Forces armées canadiennes.

Envoyé au nom de l'équipe du renouvellement des CMC [rmcaa.account@rmcalumni.ca](mailto:rmcaa.account@rmcalumni.ca)

### Ottawa Area May Lunch

Once again, on 3 May, thanks to the organising efforts of **John Hilton**, a group of Ottawa area classmates gathered for lunch at the Barrhaven Broadway Restaurant to chat and to share a good meal.





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### More Bridgelayers by 6362 Peter Jackson

Thanks for the bridge-layer picture, Mike. Worth a thousand words, as they say.

I was involved with bridge-layers another time while exercising in Germany. I was a troop leader (4 Centurion tanks) at the time, and it was the major Fall exercise. Our squadron was deployed to guard a nuclear minefield. For those readers of naval or air backgrounds who may be wondering why you need tanks to guard a nuclear minefield, I'll just point out that an unguarded minefield is not long a minefield.

As we arrived in position, I was assigned an in-depth position which also guarded the rear. It was a high ridge overlooking a large valley, criss-crossed by German roads. To get there, we had to pass through four or five fence lines demarking the local farmers fields. Being mindful of the need to reduce damage to German property, we moved back in column formation and then spread out in line along the ridge, carefully avoiding the harrow that had been left there.

I was assigned infantry support but all I saw was the mortar fire control (MFC) sergeant, who joined me on my tank. When it gets dark, the mind decides to start playing games. As I watched the vehicle lights in the valley, I saw a pair of white lights that looked suspiciously like the side clearance lights on a tank, and they appeared to be coming closer. Fortunately, before I reported contact, one of the lights sped up and separated from the other. The lights were actually two cars probably seven or eight miles away across the valley.

As the minutes slowly ticked by, I noticed another set of lights moving down the road several miles away and down in the valley. Our Centurions were equipped with IR lights, so I used those passively to check out the vehicles and it was clear that they were Centurions.

The Centurion tank has its mufflers mounted on the rear fenders, one on each side, and the heat of the mufflers showed them up clear as day with the IR. I immediately radioed squadron headquarters to see if there were any friendly Centurions in our area.

At this time my loader/operator was sleeping on the back deck and the infantry sergeant MFC was in the loaders position inside the tank. I told him to grab a 105 round (blank of course) and explained how to load it without losing any fingers. We then waited.

After a couple of minutes, the word came back that there were no friendly Centurions in our area.

I then gave the gunner the fire order and he pulled the trigger. A 105 mm blank fired in the dark is quite a spectacle. Besides the noise you get a very large ball of fire lighting up the sky. The sergeant was stuttering something about how he didn't think that I would actually fire. I guess they don't have blanks for mortar fire.

Not too much later, I was advised that I had destroyed three bridge-layers that were being sent to 4CMBG. I don't know who the staff officer was who gave the all-clear, but I hope he learned a lesson.

The rest of the night was uneventful, and I sure MFC sergeant had a few stories to tell when he returned to his company.

At first-light, I received a panic call to rejoin the rest of the squadron as quickly as possible. The Centurion has two reverse gears, and this was obviously a time for high reverse. All four tanks pulled back in a sweeping curve and my tank promptly flattened the harrow. When pulling back to join friendly forces, you traverse your gun barrel over the back deck to reduce the chances of being shot by your own troops. We then returned through the four or five fences in line, so they now had four breaks each.





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### Bridgelayers (Concluded)

As we approached the squadron position, I saw the enemy force coming towards us. The 17/21<sup>st</sup> Lancers were the Strathcona's affiliated regiment, and on this exercise the enemy force. Trying to relive the glory of the Light Brigade, they had decided to just break through the nuclear minefield. They had their guns over their back deck at this point, so I started to traverse around at the same time as the closest Chieftain tank started to engage me. The traverse on the Chieftain is considerably faster than the Centurion so he won. But I had a blank and he didn't and even in daylight a 105mm blank is impressive.

### Whither the Middle by 6533 Gord Forbes

I long for the middle. But it has gone, at least for now. If someone starts a political party that dedicates itself to the middle ground, I'll be the first to support it. You see, no political party currently espouses the middle ground. They talk of the middle class but not of the middle ground. They now occupy one extreme or the other. The Liberal Party now has moved more left than the NDP used to propound. The Conservatives, oh the Conservatives, now want to emulate Donald Trump, Ron Desantis, and other luminaries of the US Republicans. The only thing they have not done is declare that they were the real winners of the last election, that it was stolen from them.

*"In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."*  
- George Orwell

I think I can speak for the many Canadians, probably a majority of us, who yearn for a more centrist place in politics and life. We support diversity, but do not want it stuffed down our throats. We are a little bit conservative (note the small 'c') with our family finances but want our governments to spend our taxes wisely. When it comes to social issues, we generally want harmony and acceptance. We think that our primary requests for governments are good health care and education, just laws, and a competent and fair judiciary. We don't want to lose our rights to a notwithstanding clause. We want legislatures where discourse and debate are respectful and enlightened. We want a society where you can discuss divergent view in a meaningful way and come away satisfied with the results. We want compromise not 'take it or leave it'. We want acceptance and support for immigrants and minorities. Probably what we most want is honest communication. There are two parts to verbal communication: speaking and listening. We don't think the listening part is going very well.

*"Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people."*  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

*"I wish people who have trouble communicating would just shut up."*

- Tom Lehrer

But we're not getting any of things, are we? Take a reasonable position and you are yelled down and even threatened. Speak out and you're labeled. Make a request and you're ignored. This is not how a harmonious and civil society works. And for many people, it is not working. We are met with constant cynicism about just about everything.





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### Whither the Middle (Concluded)

*"A cynic is not merely one who reads bitter lessons from the past, he is one who is prematurely disappointed in the future."*

- Sidney J. Harris

So can we please move politics and life back closer to the middle.

*"Man is a credulous animal and must believe something; in the absence of good grounds for belief, he will be satisfied with bad ones."*

- Bertrand Russell

*"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."*

- Aristotle

I will now expect to hear things like, "It's not like that anymore. Or "Who do you think you're talking about, not me."

I think I'm talking about real people. I think that it **can** be like that if we demand it and live it ourselves.

### Closing Notes

Thanks as always to those who took the time to write. Hopefully your inputs will generate some responses or encouragements from others to contribute in the future. Hope you all have a pleasant summer.



Centurion Mk. 12



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### Another Letter

**6559 Gerry Mueller:** 2023 was the year of the medical jackpot – it is very rare that I am able to claim a medical/dental deduction on my income tax. A very rapid cataract growth made me marginal for driving, and given the very long wait times for cataract surgery in Ontario I opted to go for the private system (same ophthalmologist, but 2 months wait instead of 12-14 – and my optometrist, whom I have known since she was a teenager, tells me there are good reasons why some others have shorter waiting lists). Post surgery I needed my glasses redone, so all together the price of a decent cruise for two. Bonus however; I passed the vision test for my drivers licence renewal which otherwise I probably would have failed, and now no longer have a “Corrective lenses required” restriction on my licence. Add to those costs a higher than usual number of tooth filling failures and a root canal, and the government owed me a substantial sum.

I also had a recurrence of the bladder cancer that was first diagnosed in 1989, and which last recurred in 2000. Given that north of 2/3 of these recur I had a good more than 20 years run with only regular checkups. In 2023 my checkups started producing irregular results; no visual tumours but malignant cells found in cytology. Long story short, I was what a doctor once told me to avoid, medically interesting. It took some explorative/diagnostic surgery on October 31 (avoid that date for surgery if possible, unless you enjoy putting your health and possibly life into the hands of some very sketchily costumed people) for my urologist to tell me that I actually made sense (good to know at my age), yes my cancer had recurred, not in the bladder but prostate instead, not prostate cancer (which a lot of you are probably familiar with as it goes with being male and living to our age) but bladder cancer in the prostate. A very thorough TURP (if you don't know experientially what that is, congratulations!) in early January, some cytology tests, and a consult with an oncologist leave me with being back to pre-2023, probably ok with regular cystoscopies every 6 months or so.

And just to add to the fun, after 3 ½ years of avoiding COVID, June and I got it. I suspect I was the one that picked it up, probably during the 5 hours I was at RMC Kingston in September for Jim Caruthers's “installation” on the Wall of Honour and the preceding March to the Arch. From comments during the TEA event I gathered that the 2023 Reunion Weekend was a bit of a spreader event. In any case the Friday after June and I flew to Regina for a 10-day family visit (which was to take place in parts (Regina, Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat, Biggar and Saskatoon). By Sunday nigh in Moose Jaw I was feeling unwell enough that we decided to get back to a familiar medical system rather than see how SK's worked, and so were back home by Monday. Tested positive on Tuesday (June on Wednesday) and we quickly started the Paxlovid regime and made a good recovery. We also waited the minimum time to get shot #7 in December, and are not far from #8 (except the ON system seems to be short of vaccine at the moment). We are planning on trying for that Saskatchewan trip again, just as soon as the weather here and there is reliably past winter.

And hoping that 2024 turns out to be medically less interesting. Frankly, the tax refund was not worth it. Also hoping to meet up with many of you in September 2025, in Kingston!



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### Closing Notes

Thanks to all for your contributions. To lend a bit of colour to Peter Jackson's tale of cleaning up after Army maneuvers and, specifically, the difficulty of moving large vehicles through tight corners in small villages, the picture below is a Centurion Bridge Layer with its bridge partially deployed.

