

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

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### Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

We are back from the warm and balmy Caribbean. A nice break from winter although we have arrived back to a welcome of particularly cold temperatures and heavy snowfalls. We had been to a couple of Caribbean resorts in the past with all of their built in hedonistic luxuries, so it was a bit of a reorientation to the reality of those islands—crumbling infrastructure and widespread numbing poverty. Once out of the duty free zones in the cruise ports, I did not get a very warm feeling from the natives who put up with the hordes of inquisitive tourists from the cruise ships who gawk but don't buy!

Not too much this month, so I'll dive right into what I have.

### The Red Ensign by 6362 Peter Jackson

I made a flagpole and flew my flag yesterday, the only one on the street. I looked out to see how it was doing in the snowstorm, and it was completely wrapped around the pole. But a short time later, it was flying free again. It happened several times during the day, and I thought it showed, that no matter which way the storm blew us, Canada would come out okay.

It also reminded me of an incident 60 years ago. I was serving in the Strathconas in Calgary and received a message that the 2 i/c wanted to see me. I had been selected to lead a funeral party for a recently deceased WW 1 vet. Normally, this would be a straightforward tasking, but it turned out that the vet and his WW 1 buddy had long ago purchased a Red Ensign to be buried under. Canadian Forces policy at that time, was that no Canadian Forces personnel could participate in an activity where the Red Ensign was displayed.

This did not go down well with the family. The buddy had predeceased the subject of the current funeral, and he had been buried under the flag they had purchased, and now the family was being told that their member would not be.

I wasn't present for any of the discussion between Ottawa and Calgary, nor between the family and the Regimental 2 i/c, but a compromise had been reached. The funeral home would cover the casket with the Red Ensign at the door of the church and move it to the altar. After the service, the funeral home would move the casket to the hearse and remove the Red Ensign. Upon arrival at the grave, my party would then cover the casket with the Maple Leaf flag and escort it to the grave site.



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### Red Ensign (Concluded)

All went well, and no members of the Canadian Forces sullied their hands with the Red Ensign. I've often thought that we probably sowed some seeds in the garden of Western alienation that day.

### Marker Tid Bits by 6069 Peter Houliston

**Peter Houliston** provided the following clips that might evoke some memories.



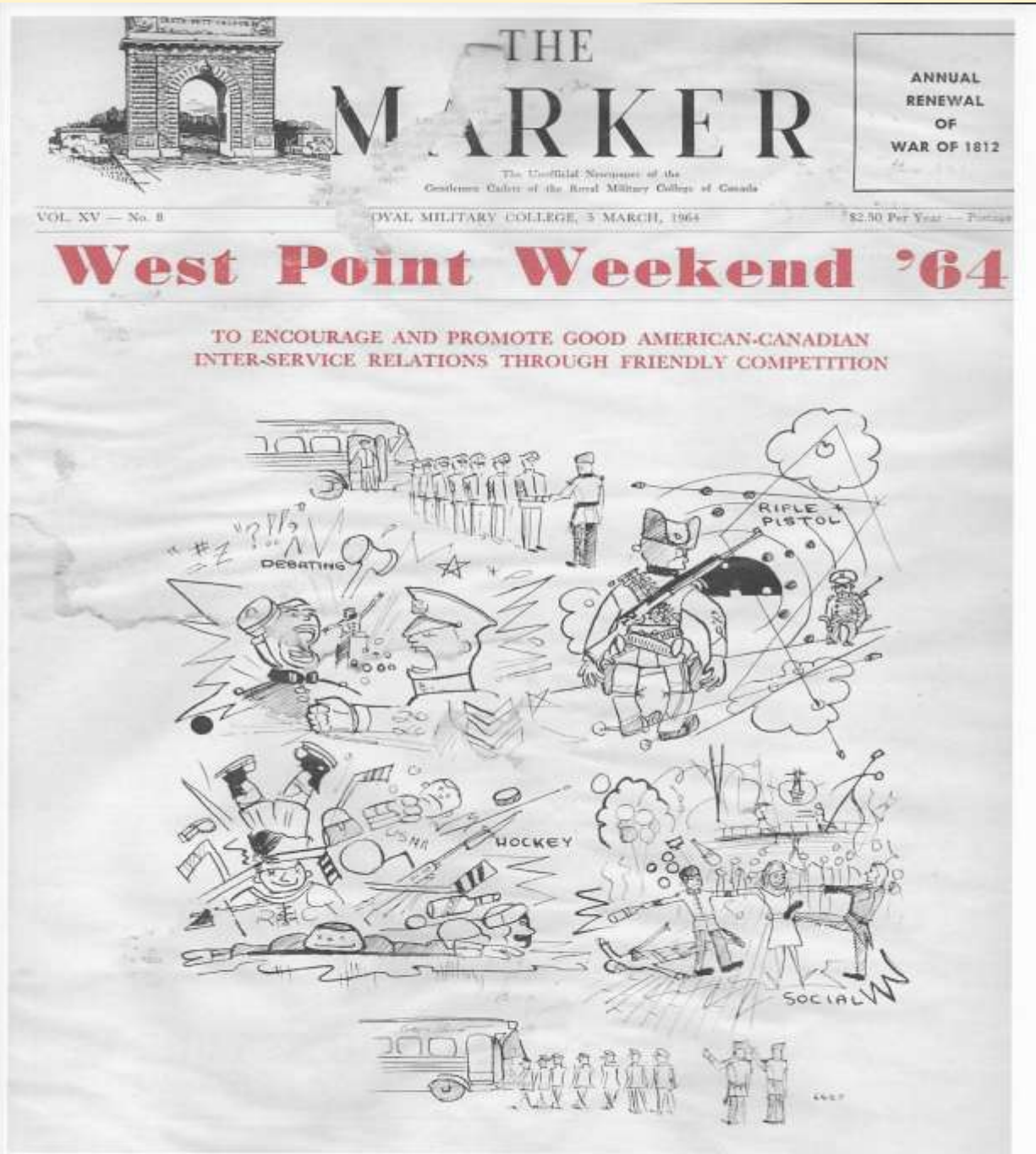


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Marker (Continued)





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### Short Snapper Again 6533 Gord Forbes

#### **Carbon Tax**

It would seem that the carbon tax is about to end, no matter who the next Prime Minister turns out to be. Even the people vying for the leadership of the Liberal Party are prepared to get rid of it. That is a shame. Many analysts will tell you that it is the most efficient means of trying to lower our dependence on fossil fuel. Any other attempt to reduce carbon use (if there is even one) will be more costly and will no doubt hit us in our taxes. The Liberal government's introduction of this tax with its rebates was perhaps the most brilliant move that government made. What's next? Or do we just give in to climate change?

#### **Trump's 51<sup>st</sup> State**

Mr. Trump is threatening to make Canada the 51<sup>st</sup> state. But that is unlikely to happen. The 51<sup>st</sup> to 60<sup>th</sup> state, as one commentator has suggested is even less likely. Oh, he might take over Canada, but he would never allocate the privileges of statehood. He, or his advisors, must know that the majority of Canadians, about 25 million voters, would be more likely to vote Democrat than Republican. This would introduce 2 more Democratic senators and a significant number of mostly Democratic congressmen. It would also introduce a large number of Democratic delegates to the Electoral College. We might become a territory of the US with very limited influence in the US government, but never one (or 10) state.

By the way, if economic pressures don't bring Canada into the US, military force may be his answer. Feasible? There is a US Army combat division in northern New York state that could be in Ottawa in 48 hours.

#### **The Federal Conservative Party**

Has anyone heard any meaningful plan from Pierre Poilievre and company to address any of their promises? Three-word slogans do not policy make. Oh, they will obviously eliminate the carbon tax, but then what. They have said they have a plan, but what is it? Will it be accepted by western members of his caucus? How will it be paid for? To balance the budget, what major programs will be sacrificed. There are really only two such programs that could yield significant saving; defence and health. Which one would you sacrifice? There are several other slogans that need clarity such as housing, or lowering taxes for example. Will any of them be fleshed out in an election campaign, or will be an election of slogans?

#### **Ontario Government Propaganda**

The Ontario Conservative party (read the ruling party and your tax dollars at work) has introduced a number of adds attacking Bonnie Crombie, the new leader of the provincial Liberal party. Her biggest sin, according to these adds, is that she (alone) raised municipal taxes every year she was mayor. First, mayors do not unilaterally raise taxes, city councils do. Second, have you every heard of a municipal government that has not had to raise taxes each and every year. The fact the cities are not allowed to undertake deficit financing coupled with the spectre of inflation in payrolls and goods and services pretty well guarantees annual municipal tax hikes are inevitable.



### Short Snappers (concluded)

#### Inauguration Speech

Did you watch President Trump's inauguration speech? If so, you would have watched him declare war against a sovereign country, Panama. Panama includes the Panama Canal. Mr. Trump has said America will take it back. That can probably only be done by force. That, dear reader, constitutes a declaration of war.

#### Letter

**Peter Houlston** provided the following link from the 18 Feb 25 issue of the Ottawa Citizen.

<http://epaper.ottawacitizen.com/article/281522231812838>

#### Closing Notes

I promised to stay away from political partisanship in this periodical so you are just going to have to consider this to be some personal concerns on the direction the world has turned since the inauguration of Adolf Trump.

From out of nowhere, Canada, the closest friend and ally of the United States is threatened with crippling tariffs; envious eyes being cast at our water supply; and, the suggestion that everyone (particularly Mr Trump) would be a lot better off if Canada became the 51st State! Canadians have reacted with shock and anger by booing at the playing of the US National Anthem at hockey games and other events. Frankly, booing seems a bit un-Canadian. Simply replacing our hats and remaining seated during those renditions would do the trick.

But we are not alone in this megalomaniac's periscope. He threatens to take over Greenland and Panama, two sovereign states, with force if necessary. He is going to rebuild Gaza into a resort area. Not for the Palestinians, however. They are going to be shipped off to wherever will take them. No takers so far.

But no sweat, he is going to end the war in Ukraine, even though it seems that he will not need Ukraine to be much involved in the process. After all, he and Putin are old friends! What about Zelensky? Trump, a wannabe dictator, has come out publicly and called the beleaguered Ukrainian President a dictator who has done a terrible job!

According to the Deputy Lackey Vance, Europeans are standing in the way of the rebirth of the Nazi Party and other right wing wackos so they should spend more on defence and stand aside and let Donald, Vladimir and Benjamin take care of things.

As if Trump is not enough, I am afraid to go to my volunteer job at the War Museum only to find pseudo President Elon Musk there cutting all volunteer positions as a cost saving measure.

If I had known it was going to be this bad, I would have sought nomination for a US Cabinet position. I am sure I am more qualified than most of those bozos appointed and saner than a couple!

Phew! Glad I got that off my chest although I'm afraid its not going to calm the waves.