

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 176



June/juin 2025

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

It has been several months since I put pen to paper. I'm afraid a busy personal schedule and a distinct lack of pertinent (non-political) input material have conspired to let time pass without inspiration for a Newsletter. As of the last issue, Janet and I had just returned from a less than inspiring Caribbean Cruise. Since then we took a much more interesting river cruise in France (actually two cruises in one). We sailed initially from Avignon to Lyons along the Rhone and enjoyed some very interesting places along the way. I was amazed at the extent of ancient Roman buildings along the way. Arles still has a functioning Roman Coliseum which closely resembles, but is a little smaller, than its more famous counterpart in Rome.

After seven days on the Rhone we transferred to Paris via the TGV railway system to join a second ship for a tour of the Seine as far as Rouen, with an additional bus trip to the Normandy Beaches. All in all this was an exciting couple of weeks courtesy of Viking.

Since our return, I have returned to Marshalling at our local golf course with a few games of golf thrown in, as well as continuing my weekly stint in the Friends of the Canadian War Museum's Book Room. These activities plus keeping up with the grandkids are helping time in my dotage pass with some sense of satisfaction.

Obituary 6609 John Conway

It was brought to my attention that John Conway had passed away. Many of you (including myself) did not know John. He left Royal Roads in his first year, however, judging from his obituary, that did not prevent him from enjoying a full and fruitful life. I am sure you will all join in passing along our sincere condolences to his family. His obituary from the Globe and Mail may be found at <https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/theglobeandmail/name/john-conway-obituary?id=57885337>



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CMR Passerelle/Bridging RMC 10 Juin

On Tuesday, 10 June, seventeen member of the Class of 65 converged on Hawkesbury, ON from points east and west in the Montreal and Ottawa areas to get together for lunch and reminiscences.

This was the latest in a series of meetings that began a few years ago and which have served to rekindle old friendships and memories. As always, the gathering took place at Stephanie's Bar and Grill, a convenient half-way meeting venue and one well suited with a separate dining area for our group, an excellent menu and friendly and efficient service.

The numbers were down a bit this year, a sad reminder of the passage of time, nonetheless the conversations were lively and a veritable Tower of Babel of French, English and Franglais.

The photos below depict the group minus a couple of late arrivals who are shown in the second image.

All were agreed that this was a welcome get-together and hoped that it would be repeated next year.

Le mardi 10 juin, dix-sept membres de la promotion 65 se sont réunis à Hawkesbury, en Ontario, en provenance de des régions de Montréal à l'est et d'Ottawa à l'ouest, pour déjeuner et se remémorer des souvenirs.

C'était la plus récente d'une série de rencontres commencées il y a quelques années et qui ont permis de raviver de vieilles amitiés et de stimuler de vieux souvenirs. Comme toujours, la réunion a eu lieu au Stephanie's Bar and Grill, un lieu de rencontre pratique et bien adapté, avec une salle à manger séparée pour notre groupe, un excellent menu et un service amical et efficace.

L'affluence était un peu moins importante cette année, un triste rappel du temps qui passe. Néanmoins, les conversations étaient animées et constituaient une véritable tour de Babel où se côtoyaient le français, l'anglais et le franglais.

Les photos ci-dessous montrent le groupe, à l'exception de quelques retardataires, que l'on voit sur la deuxième image.

Tous étaient d'accord pour dire que cette rencontre était bienvenue et espéraient qu'elle se reproduirait l'année prochaine.



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CMR Passerelle/Bridging RMC (Concluded)



Arrière Rangée / Back Row : Bob Doak, Barry Thompson, Mike Braham, Carl Anderson, Peter Jackson, Bruce Corbett, Edmond Kingsbury, John Adams, Jean Bigaouette, Charlie Emond, Terry Colfer

(GàD) / (LtoR)

Première rangée / Front Row : Georges-André Lebeau (Champlain Sqn - CMRSJ 1960), Phil Bury, Claude Belhumeur, André Maheu



Ont arrivé après que la photo #1 a été prise/ Arrived after Photo #1 was taken: Jacques Marcotte et Jean-Louis Bolduc



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Changes to RMC Academic Program

Andy Nellestyn brought the following Kingston Whig Standard to my attention regarding the pausing of a number of academic programs due to a lack of subscription.

<https://www.thewhig.com/news/local-news/royal-military-college-in-kingston-pausing-various-programs>

Frankly, it leaves me wondering what is being taught?

Recent Thoughts by 6533 Gord Forbes

Mental Health and Crime

The recent tragedy at the Filipino festival in Vancouver, when it was revealed that the perpetrator had mental health issues, has put a spotlight on those who suffer from that affliction. Calls have gone out, once again, for involuntary interment of such patients. Such a notion horrifies those of us who have a mental health issue. Where would such incarceration begin and where would it end. If I have a bad few days with my clinical depression, will I be turned in by someone and taken away? The truth is that it is estimated that about 10% of the population suffers from some sort of mental health issue, that is about 4 million people. Are we all at risk of involuntary incarceration? Would those who are incarcerated be guaranteed treatment, or would the volume of them overwhelm the resources that are available, inadequate as they are even in the present circumstances? Almost all people who suffer from mental health issues live crime free lives. Many have treatment options that allow them to live healthily and productively (no matter what you think of my blogs, at least I'm doing something). Others have learned to cope with their malady. Only very few carry out outrageous actions. Let's do away with this notion that mental health should mean involuntary internment.

Alberta Separation

So, a large segment of the Alberta population wants to separate from Canada and become what? A separate country? The Republic of Alberta? Do they understand all of the things that will have to be done, even if they do break away against the many legal hurdles in their way? They will need to set up a legislature and a head of state. Will it be a President or a Prime Minister. What will give this new country its legitimacy? How about a constitution. How will that be made? Will there be a bill of rights? How about the many national institutions that will need to be established. A judicial system. The existing one will not be enough. A national police force, no more RCMP. Border security and an immigration system. Border posts and employees. National security, armed forces and the resulting equipment. A postal system. All of the things that the federal government currently provides. It will not be cheap. It will not be cheap. Canada is not going to give those away. An intelligence agency is a necessary evil in this day and age. A health care system. Will it be state run or reverted to a private system. Good luck making people happy with that.

There is an alternative, of course, and a few people want this. Become the 51st state of the United States



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Recent Thoughts (concluded)

of the United States and all that that would entail. Good luck getting any break from Mr. Trump. Oh, he will love acquiring your oil and gas. How will you set up a state election process to satisfy US requirements. How will you vote? Will you find the Republican Party okay, or a bit too far right even for you? Will a Republican majority legislature welcome a new state that may add a few more Democrats to their number and shift the balance of power?

I hope that Albertans have the answer to these questions before they get too carried away with this separation idea.

Oh Yeah, the Election

In my opinion, the right party and man won. It is, however, a shame that some of the smaller parties did not get more representation. What I do find interesting is the hubris of Mr. Poilievre who seems to believe that he has a right to continue to lead the opposition and be the leader of the Conservative party. Doesn't he get it, he has lost his seat

Closing Notes

I must confess that it is becoming increasingly difficult to produce this rag due to the lack of input. Surely, as individuals, some of you must have something you could share with classmates. Most of us, I am sure, have reached an age where we are looking or doing things that interest us and/or grab our attention. How about sharing them? Are there any other regional class groups or activities like the one described herein or like the Ottawa lunch groups organised by John Hilton? Let's hear about them.



Name of Ship? Claim to Fame?