

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Issue/Numéro 86



July/juillet 2015

*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

A short edition this month aimed primarily in bringing you up to date on the forthcoming RMC reunion and on progress with the new Class of 65 Funding Initiative. Also included is a report on the 3rd Annual Ottawa/Montreal Class luncheon in Hawkesbury and a clarification on a proposal submitted by **Gord Forbes** in Edition 85.

### Our Reunion Cometh by 6439 Hugh Spence

Roughly three months remain until the Class's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of graduation reunion in Kingston, Sept. 24-27. As June comes to a close, registrations have slowed to a trickle, so the following rounded-off attendance figures for the principal events should be not far from the final ones:

Legacy Dinner	25
Golf Tournament	4 (men only; an <i>all-navy</i> foursome!)
Meet & Greet	100
Saturday Lunch	100
Old Brigade Dinner	70
Parade to the Arch	45 (men only)

Based on past reunion attendance there are still a number of fellows "expected" who have not registered yet, and I would urge them to do so, soonest. This special weekend does not lend itself to last-minute, pay at the door attendance like a night at the movies. We need firm advance numbers, for both bodies and dollars, in order to plan and take the actions necessary. Please help us out by getting your finger out; don't delay, sign up today!

I am delighted to advise that there will be a half-dozen or so "newbies" at this reunion, fellows belonging to the Class who've never attended one of our quinquennial affairs before. Their souvenir nametags and those of their partners will be marked with a distinctive (removable) sticker, and all reunion "veterans" are invited to give them a special welcome and a guiding hand where needed.



# Issue/Numéro 86

## July/juillet 2015

Page 2

### **Notre réunion s'en vient** par 6439 Hugh Spence, Secrétaire

Il reste environ trois mois avant la réunion du 50<sup>ième</sup> anniversaire de graduation de notre classe, à Kingston, du 24 au 27 septembre. Alors que la fin de juin approche, le taux d'inscriptions a beaucoup diminué de sorte que les nombres de présences suivants pour les principaux événements devraient être près des nombres finaux.

Dîner Héritage	25
Tournoi de golf	4 (hommes seulement; un quatuor <i>entièrement naval</i> !)
Rencontre informelle	100
Lunch du samedi	100
Dîner VB	70
Défilé vers l'Arche	45 (hommes seulement)

En se basant sur les présences des réunions passées, il y a encore un certain nombre de camarades habituellement présents qui ne se sont pas encore enregistrés; je leur conseille de le faire le plus tôt possible. Ce week-end spécial ne se prête pas aux présences de dernière minute où on paye à la porte comme au cinéma. Il nous faut des nombres fermes assez tôt, autant en terme de personnes que de dollars, afin de planifier et de prendre les mesures voulues. SVP aidez-nous en nous faisant signe; n'attendez pas, inscrivez-vous aujourd'hui!

Il me fait plaisir de vous annoncer qu'il y aura environ une demi-douzaine de « nouveaux » à cette réunion; il s'agit de camarades de notre classe qui ne se sont jamais présentés à nos réunions quinquennales du passé. Leur porte-nom souvenir (name tag en chinois) et celui de leur conjointe/conjoint afficheront un collant distinctif (décollable), et tous les « vétérans » des réunions précédentes sont invités à leur souhaiter une bienvenue spéciale et à les guider au besoin.

### Correction

In Edition 85 I printed a proposal request by **6533 Gord Forbes**, however, in the Editor's Corner I referred to a projected completion date of the project that was incorrect. The following is a clarification of the proposal as provided by Gord,

*"First, let me thank those who have answered my request. All the responses so far have been supportive, but some have shown some understandable skepticism and asked some questions. Thus, perhaps I should clarify my vision about a book about the Class of '65."*



# Issue/Numéro 86

## July/juillet 2015

Page 3

### Correction (Continued)

*Let me get a few things straight here. The reason for the proposal in the newsletter was to solicit interest. If there is not enough interest or classmates willing to contribute, obviously the project is dead. Unfortunately, there have not been enough responses at this point to get a sense to proceed.*

*The book will NOT be out by this year's reunion. That would be far too ambitious. I see it taking about a year to 18 months to complete, assuming the promised inputs arrive in a timely manner.*

*The book will not be a book of personal biographies. It will be a book tracing the history of the class from arrival at the respective military colleges to the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. It will be carried by personal narratives, but will include the world context of the time. It will, I hope, include successes, failures, tragedies and some humour. The theme of the book will be to put the experiences of our generation into the history of those 50 years.*

*I will be the author of the book, and as such will maintain editorial control and will take the blame for any problems. I will also be responsible for getting the book published including any costs. On the other hand, as a previously published author, I may be eligible for a Canada Council grant. I will include as much of the input material as fits within the context of the book. I will treat all of the input with respect and will not use things out of context. For those who agree to provide input, I will be sending out an outline of the topics I wish you to provide. This is not to stifle your creativity, but to add discipline to mine.*

*If the book does not sell enough to break even, it is my responsibility. My last book was aimed at an audience of about 200 survivors of the Kootenay explosion. It ended up selling several hundred copies and made both myself and the publisher a bit of a profit. This was accomplished even although I gave away many free copies, including to all those who contributed their story. I expect the same for this book.*

*I anticipate that I will need at a minimum over forty inputs from classmates, with the aim being over fifty. These inputs should, hopefully, encompass a cross section of our class, both the successful and the merely fulfilled.*

*If you have any questions or comments about this vision, please let me know.*

*So this is a challenge for both you and me. Can you provide the necessary input and can I put it all together into a meaningful story? If you are game for this challenge, let me know at [hmcskootenay@gmail.com](mailto:hmcskootenay@gmail.com) or by phone at 613 830-1960.*



# Issue/Numéro 86

## July/juillet 2015

Page 4

### **The New 'Class of 65' Initiative to Support Academic Excellence at RMCC and CMRSJ—An Update by 6584 Keith Ambachtsheer**

The just-published VERITAS article on the Class of 65 lists our commitment to support academic excellence at RMCC and CMRSJ as one of the Class' many outstanding accomplishments. The endowed *Class of 65 Teaching Excellence Award* and *Professorship in Leadership* are prime examples. The article also notes the exciting new initiative to create the *Class of 65 Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL)*. The *CITL* initiative was announced in the April edition of this Newsletter, and was followed with an email blast to classmates with more information in May.

What is the *CITL* initiative? Very briefly, the vision for the *CITL* is to be an innovation catalyst in the development of new courses, creative teaching and learning skills, improved student mentoring and counselling, student academic success services, and the development of advanced teaching/learning technologies. Phase 1 of the project, which will include participation from both RMCC and RMCSJ academic staffs, will establish a *CITL Committee* whose first task will be to conduct a pan-Canadian 'best practices' study. For example, UBC, McMaster, Queen's, Ottawa, Ryerson, and McGill already have a Centre similar to the *CITL* model. While the ultimate *CITL* structure and budget have yet to be determined, the Class of 65 has committed to assist with Phase 1 funding and to provide ongoing support to the *Centre* once it is off the ground through its Endowment Fund.

**What is the current *CITL* funding status? Twelve Classmates have already donated \$27K towards the new initiative. Our target is to raise at least \$50K by the September 24-27 Reunion, and to present a cheque to the Foundation at that time.**

Do you want to join the intrepid 12 Classmate donors? There are four ways:

1. You can make a secure online donation, one-time or multi-year, through the RMC Foundation website at: <https://www.rmcfoundation.ca/index.php/ways-to-give/donate-now/>
2. Make a call-in donation to Jennifer Jordon's direct line: 613-541-6000 ext 6807
3. You can send a cheque to: RMC Foundation, 15 Point Frederick Drive, Panet House, Second Floor, Kingston ON K7K 7B4
4. There are also options to make a Planned Giving Bequest or to donate stocks or bonds. Any interested classmate can contact Jennifer Jordan for more information: Jennifer Jordan, RMC Foundation, 613-541-6000 ext 6807, [Jennifer.Jordan@rmc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Jordan@rmc.ca)

From your Class of 65 Gifting Committee: *John Adams, Keith Ambachtsheer, Steve Arnold, Jim Carruthers, John Cowan, and Charlie Emond*



# Issue/Numéro 86

## July/juillet 2015

Page 5

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Montreal/Ottawa Area Class of 65 Luncheon

On 11 June, 31 Class members from the Montreal and Ottawa areas gathered for lunch at Stephanie's Grill and Bar in Hawkesbury, marking the third time that this popular event had been held. The event provided an excellent opportunity to renew old acquaintances, (in some cases individuals had not seen each other since CMR days in 1960-63), and to bring each other up to date with our lives and various aches and pains during the intervening years.



All of the attendees, save one, owed their presence to having attended CMR. The lone exception was *Roadent* Fats Carruthers who, like a bad penny, seems to turn up everywhere!

Three wives graced us with their presence - Alice Gagnon, Lina Gaudreau, and Jeanne Matte - but they

discreetly shared a separate table to separate themselves from the clamour of the mob.

Charlie Emond provided the formal moment of the occasion by reminding the assembly of the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Kingston in (24-27) September, as well as the annual Ex-cadet weekend at CMRSJ in (11-12) September and of the various awards supported by the Class of 65. On behalf of the group he extended a vote of appreciation to the organisers of the event - Georges Wilson, Ben Besner and Gaetan Dextras – BRAVO ZULU to them. Roger Gaudreau noted that Laurent Lord, who has been up to now the principal *John Adams, Keith Ambachtsheer, Steve Arnold, Jim Carruthers, John Cowan, and Charlie Emond* convenor for the Montreal area luncheons had been kept away by a follow-up cancer-related medical treatment that was progressing well. He also took the opportunity to toast his wife Lina, with some emotion, on their upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



Those attending this year's luncheon were as follows: Jean-Pierre Beauchesne, Claude Belhumeur, Ben Besner, Jean Bigaouette, Jean-Louis Bolduc, Mike Braham, Phil Bury, Marc Cantin, Jim Carruthers, Terry Colfer, Larry

Curran, Gaetan Dextras, Bob Doak, Charles Emond, Pierre Falardeau, Yvan Gagnon, Roger Gaudreau, Claude Girard, Peter Jackson, Ed Kingsbury, Marius Lavoie, Cordell Lukey, Andre Maheu, Jacques Marcotte, Michel Matte, Bob Mulvihill, Terry Pyne, Ronald Rioux, Barry Thomson, Peter Walker, Georges Wilson. Thanks to all who made the trek – Yvan Gagnon probably had the longest trip, coming from Kingston. Hope to see you all at the Reunion in September and back at Stephanie's next year.





# Issue/Numéro 86

## July/juillet 2015

Page 6

### 3<sup>ième</sup> Dîner rencontre annuel de la classe 65 - régions Montréal/Ottawa

Le 11 juin, 31 confrères des régions de Montréal et Ottawa se sont rencontrés pour le lunch au restaurant Stephanie's Grill and Bar à Hawkesbury, la troisième fois que se tient cet événement populaire. Cette rencontre nous a fourni une excellente occasion de renouer avec de vieilles connaissances (certains ne s'étaient pas revus depuis les années 60-63 au CMR), et de nous mettre au courant les uns et les autres du déroulement de nos vies respectives ainsi que des douleurs et souffrances toujours possibles à notre âge.



Tous les participants, sauf un, étaient des anciens du CMR, l'exception étant le « Roadent » Fats Carruthers, qui semble toujours rebondir à toutes les occasions!

Trois épouses nous ont honorés de leur présence : Alice Gagnon, Lina Gaudreau et Jeanne Matte; elles se sont cependant

assises à une table à part, s'éloignant ainsi de la clameur de la troupe.

Charles Emond, se chargeant de la partie formelle de l'événement, nous a rappelé la Réunion en (24-27) septembre prochain célébrant le 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de graduation de notre classe à RMC, la réunion annuelle des anciens au CMRSJ en (11-12) septembre ainsi que les divers prix soutenus par la classe de 65. Au nom du groupe, il a remercié les organisateurs de l'événement – Georges Wilson, Ben Besner et Gaétan Dextras – BRAVO ZULU à eux. Roger Gaudreau nous a informés que



Laurent Lord, qui est le principal organisateur des lunchs dans la région de Montréal, n'a pu se joindre à nous à cause de traitements reliés à son cancer, mais qui semblent donner des résultats encourageants. Roger a aussi saisi l'occasion, avec un peu d'émotion, pour porter un toast à son épouse Lina en l'honneur de leur 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de mariage qui est pour bientôt.



Voici la liste de ceux qui ont participé à la rencontre de cette année : Jean-Pierre Beauchesne, Claude Belhumeur, Ben Besner, Jean Bigaouette, Jean-Louis Bolduc, Mike Braham, Phil Bury, Marc Cantin, Jim Carruthers, Terry Colfer, Larry Curran, Gaetan Dextras, Bob Doak, Charles Emond, Pierre Falardeau, Yvan Gagnon, Roger Gaudreau,

Claude Girard, Peter Jackson, Ed Kingsbury, Marius Lavoie, Cordell Lukey, André Maheu, Jacques Marcotte, Michel Matte, Bob Mulvihill, Terry Pyne, Ronald Rioux, Barry Thomson, Peter Walker, Georges Wilson. Merci à tous d'avoir fait le voyage – Yvan Gagnon venant de Kingston a probablement fait le plus long trajet. J'espère vous revoir tous à la réunion en septembre et chez Stephanie's l'an prochain.



# Issue/Numéro 86

## July/juillet 2015

Page 7

### Closing Notes

A couple of important things to think about—the upcoming reunions at both RMC and CMR, as well as the new class funding initiative. I will try to get permission to publish the Veritas article that Keith mentioned in his update on the *Class of 65 Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL)*. It certainly highlights the significant contribution that our Class has made to the old alma mater.

My apologies to Gord for confusing his generous offer, but hope that the situation is now clarified and that some of you will consider contributing to the project.

I hope that everyone is enjoying a good, restful summer and recharging their batteries for the September reunions.

As always, I am looking for material for future editions of this newsletter.