

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Issue/Numéro 88



September/Septembre 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

I was going to wait until after the reunion weekend before putting this out, but given a number of last minute notes, I thought it would be appropriate to produce a short edition to make sure every one is pretty much up to date. To give it a little more pizzazz I've also included another interesting travelogue from **Gary and Moninna Running**.

Please take a moment to read the special testimonial pertaining to the Class of 65's Endowment for a Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) found on page 6 of this newsletter.

Notes & Updates

The following updates were received since the last Newsletter.

6610 David Cooper: I much enjoy the monthly bulletin that Mike so faithfully puts out! Having spent 35 years in the RCN (I rejoined via UNTD) I know many of the characters who turn up on those pages! Incidentally, today I went to the NADEN Wardroom to join an ad hoc group of ex UNTDs for lunch - some dating back to 1940s! - and coincidentally the Victoria RMC Club was lunching upstairs all resplendent in blazers and ties! Very smart! On leaving I stopped to speak to one at the front door and discovered that he was one of my seniors in Fraser Flight - Larry Cunningham. Did not remember him, so suggested that he must have been one of the "good guys"!! Have a good weekend at RMC, remember me to Jim Cale, Doug Cope (my cabin mate), and Fats (saw him in Calgary at NAC AGM)) if they are there.

6525 John Critchley: I am a volunteer in the PEO's Engineers-in-Residence program to help bring 'practical application' into theoretical school subjects, by working with a teacher over the school term to augment their course with practical examples/projects. This is all in the name of encouraging more students to pursue an engineering degree program. In my preparation for this year's work, I was reading up on the newer trends in education – something that the Class is also pursuing now with the CITL program! Thought you may be interested in a series of articles I've come across discussing the subject. <http://www.ourkids.net/school/education-trends.php>



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Reunion last minute notes - 6439 Hugh Spence

1. **Berets & badges:** please wear them for all outdoor activities starting Friday afternoon, whether or not the event requires a tie. Modified "65" *Full Monty* beret badges are available from Secretary Huge from Friday on – if you want one, and can find him. Put an identifier in your beret if you expect to park it in a cloakroom at any time.
2. **Nametags I:** (men) wear it on your right chest, roughly at the “medals” or top-pocket level on your other side. You can choose when to wear it, but it will be particularly useful to others at the Meet & Greet, the Saturday parade and lunch, and the Sunday March to the Arch (part of the parade “uniform”.) It might not be exactly appropriate with black tie at the Old Brigade Dinner, but maybe we can take a vote on that.
3. **Nametags II:** at the Meet & Greet you will find your nametag has your *college of entry* on a (removable) label in the upper left corner. This is to aid in the meeting and greeting, particularly for folks who’ve been long apart, and those dozen or so who are Class reunion “recruits” this year. The latter will be distinguished by a bright ruby “jewel” next to the “50” on their nametag, and they should be made especially welcome.
4. **Shuttle bus:** a small bus will begin runs to the Senior Staff Mess from the Holiday Inn and Delta hotels beginning at 1845, with half-hour intervals until 2100. Return trips to the hotels will begin at 2200, again at each half-hour, continuing until midnight, or earlier if no more trips are required by the remaining revelers.
5. **Lunch tickets:** if you’ve signed up for Saturday’s post-parade lunch in the Senior Staff Mess, you will be issued an appropriate number of tickets to be surrendered to the mess staff. This is to avoid billing confusion since the Commandant is having a reception at the same time. In any case, please avoid the main lounge on Saturday; we are in the dining room. (The bar at the south end of the mess will be available.)

Looking forward to a terrific reunion weekend. See you there.

Supporting Words for the CITL

In a recent briefing to the Foundation Board, the Principal, Dr. H.J. (Harry) Kowal, had the following to say about the Class of 65’s Endowment for a Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL): *“I suggest this is another signature project from the Class of ’65 that sets the standard for enduring gifts to the college that will make a real difference not only for cadets but also for the colleges. I cannot think of any project that even comes close in terms of positive impact.”*



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Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump by 6567 Gary Running

Some of you may recall that my wife Moninna and I spend our winters in Australia (January through March) each year. Our daughter Rachel had met, and eventually married an Australian bloke from Sydney (Tony Naumovski). She now lives and works in Australia and has both Canadian and Australian citizenship. Rachel, and sometimes Tony if his workload permits, come back to Canada each year for 3 weeks or so in August to visit Vancouver. On this current trip back to Canada one of the things Rachel wanted to do was to visit Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump.

Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump is located about 15 km North West of Fort Macleod, Alberta and if you have never visited it, if you are ever in southern Alberta it is well worth a visit. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Fort Macleod is about 1100 km from North Vancouver so we planned a 5 day trip with 2 days to travel to Fort Macleod, a day for site seeing and two days back. The dates were 11 to 15 Aug 2015. The best route to Fort Macleod from Vancouver is via highway 3 which takes you through the Crow's Nest pass. Highway 3 runs through Osoyoos and it just happens that I have an old high school chum who is the proprietor of a vineyard and winery just a few km north of Osoyoos on the way to Oliver. So on the return trip to Vancouver we planned to stay in Oliver the night of the 14th and to visit with Bruce. Bruce and I were high school mates from 1958 to 1960 in Metz France. Both Bruce's dad and my dad were stationed at the #1 RCAF Air Division Headquarters. Bruce's winery is called Rustico, and although not yet a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it too is well worth a visit if you are passing through southern BC.

Our first day on the road went well and it was another warm sunny day as most had been in southern BC since May. When passing through Keremos, mile after mile of fruit stands were selling their wares. It has been a bumper year for fruit. It is easy to see where irrigation systems are in place as the green irrigated fields stand out in stark contrast to the brown dry hillsides above. This turned out to be the same all the way to Fort Macleod. All non-irrigated fields, and all the surrounding hills and forests were tinder dry. We passed through Osoyoos, drove up the switch backed hill to the east, and on to Rock Creek where I pointed out to Rachel the intersection of 3 and 33. Highway 33 runs north from Rock Creek to Kelowna, and it's a good motorcycle ride. The previous year it was one of many rides I had taken with my brother Richard when he had come out from Ottawa for a week of motorcycle riding. Continuing on we spent our first night in Grand Forks, not far from the US border.

Our second day went equally well, and if anything it was sunnier and hotter than the first day. After lunch the second day we passed over the Crow's Nest Pass and into Alberta. On the downslope after passing over the continental divide we passed through Frank the site of the famous (infamous?) land slide of over a hundred years ago. The road, the CPR rail line and the Crow's Nest River all pass through the still remaining debris field which is huge and extends a long way up the 2 mountains on either side of the road. Not too long after leaving Frank we could see in the distance the district of Pincher Creek which is remarkable for the huge number of wind turbines operating. We were checked into our motel in Fort Macleod well before supper. There was a steady west wind blowing but it was no relief from the heat. The temperature remained well above 30 until after the sun went down.



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Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (continued)

We left Fort Macleod fairly early to time our arrival shortly after the museum opened. The museum is located right at the site of the buffalo jump and is built right into the cliff face. The entrance is at the same level as, and only a few 10's of metres from the bottom of the cliff the buffalo were stampeded over. The top of the museum enters out onto the top of the cliff, again only a few 10's of metres from the jump off point. The site was in use starting about six thousand years ago right up to the mid-1800s. It is interesting to note that the cliff was about 20 metres high 6 thousand years ago and is now about 10 metres high. In other words the archeologists had to dig through about 10 metres of buffalo bones before they got to the earliest evidence of site usage. Looking west from the cliff top you can see the mountains, and also the



Oldman River winding its way eastward. It passes to the south of the site only a few kilometres away. Between the mountains and the site the huge Pincher Creek wind farm is clearly visible. I won't go into all the details of what went into a successful buffalo hunt and the teamwork required, but the knowledge of the environment, the weather, and buffalo behavior that is needed is truly impressive. Further the amount of physical work required to construct and maintain the drive lanes and then to process the results of a successful hunt is also impressive.



Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump

After leaving the museum instead of retracing our route back to Fort Macleod, we continued west along secondary roads on the north side of the Oldman River. We went by the site of the Oldman River dam. The dam is located just downstream of the confluence of the Oldman and Crow's Nest Rivers and the resulting reservoir backs up along the river valleys of both rivers. The dam was completed in 1991 and remains controversial to this day. Its primary purpose is to support agriculture and economic development in a very arid region. One of the benefits of the route we took was getting an up close and personal look at a small part of the Pincher Creek wind farm. The wind farm is located in one of the most consistently windy parts of Canada. Strong westerly winds blow virtually year round.

We soon came back out on highway 3 and then continued our way west. At Frank we stopped to have a look at the debris still left from the land slide. On the west side of the slides path, on the north side of the road there is an interpretation centre that was built just above where the debris ends. It's been more than 100 years since the slide and it remains Canada's deadliest. Over a hundred people lost their lives. It's not the biggest, the Hope slide was well over twice as big, but it remains the deadliest.



Hope Slide

We continued our way west, stopping for the night at Cranbrook. When we awoke the next morning the news was full of a new fire at Rock Creek. Highways 3 and 33 were closed in both directions so there was no way



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Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (concluded)

we were going to get to Osoyoos and thence to Oliver on Highway 3. I called Bruce and told him we would not get to Oliver that day, and took a rain check on our trip to Rustico. We couldn't detour south through the US because neither Rachel nor Moninna had their passports so heading north was the only option. There were two possible routes north. We could take 95 north from Cranbrook and join 1 (Trans Canada) at Golden and then head west to Vancouver, or we could continue west on 3 as far as Salmo and then go north



Sunset at Fauquier Ferry

on 6 to Nelson, then Nakusp then south to a little village called Fauquier where there was a small cable ferry across the Lower Arrow Lake. From there highway 6 continued west to Vernon. We chose this latter option and in hindsight, notwithstanding what was soon to happen to us; it proved not a bad choice because later on that day the Trans Canada was closed past Golden due to a land slide. We arrived at Nakusp around 1:30 and passed an electronic sign saying "2 sailing wait for the Fauquier ferry". We obviously weren't the only ones to decide on the Fauquier ferry. The Fauquier ferry is a neat little 30 car ferry that does 2 round trips per hour across the top end of the lower Arrow Lake. As we approached Fauquier (about 3 or so kilometres back) we got to what was then a long line up. To make a long story shorter, 60 cars per hour into 3 kilometres of cars equals about a 13 ferry wait. By 7:30 we were boarding the ferry. By that time the Rock Creek fire which was about 200 kilometres SSW of us had more than doubled in size, fanned by strong winds out of the south. The sun was close to setting as we boarded the ferry and with all the smoke in the air the whole sky was an

ephemeral orange colour. Quite awe inspiring really but of course sad when you consider all the destruction that was going on at Rock Creek. It was well after dark before we found a hotel in Vernon.

The next and final day was uneventful and we were back in North Vancouver before 5pm. Watching the news that night we learned that 2 fires had started earlier that day near Oliver. We were then amazed to see our friend Bruce being interviewed on CBC. One of the two fires had come very close to Rustico and Bruce for a while had thought he was going to lose the vineyard.

RMC Foundation Annual and Special General Meetings -

6604 Jim Carruthers

The RMC Foundation Annual and Special General Meetings will be held at 1300 Friday 25 September in the Commandant's Conference Room, 2nd Floor Yeo Hall. As you may know five of the Directors are from our class – something unique in the history of the Foundation which will most likely never be repeated. The meetings are admittedly a bit dry and we do not have an open bar so attendance has often been sparse - sometimes bordering on not providing the necessary quorum. It would be great if you could attend, but if not please complete and forward your proxy. Instructions and the proxy form can be found at:

<http://www.rmcfoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/Form-of-Proxy-2015-Updated-CHD1.pdf>



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A Testimonial in Support of the *Class of 65 Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning Project* by 6584 Keith Ambachtscheer

A few weeks ago, each of you should have received a personal email from Steve Arnold and me encouraging you to support *the Class of 65 CITL* project. The response has been terrific. As an example, **6559 Gerry Mueller** agreed to let us republish his response in the Class Newsletter (see below). For those of you who have included the *CITL* project on your 'to do' list but haven't acted yet, do it now! The Class will be presenting a cheque to the RMC Club Foundation at the Legacy Dinner this coming Thursday evening.

Here is Gerry Mueller's letter:

Hi Keith:

Just thought I'd let you know that this morning I made an additional donation (additional to my regular monthly donation that will continue without intervention until ...) of \$500, a nice round sum after 50 years, I thought.

As a university educator for most of my working life, I have some understanding of the need for the CITL, and have benefitted during my time from this kind of centre, both helping me be a better teacher, and also as a resource to which I could refer struggling students. Sadly, government and tuition funds are not adequate for such initiatives, thus the need for outside donations towards them, even as students and professors need them more. I am still involved peripherally with the departments in which I have taught, and am well aware that students now arrive younger than ever, and as universities, for virtually all programmes, skim the cream of the high school classes (cream as measured by inflating grades), often the very "top" students are the least prepared for university, as they have never had to develop good study habits and learned how to survive the pressures of university level education, and instead have gotten by on their native abilities. That just doesn't cut it in university. At the same time, young professors are being recruited for their outstanding research skills and record, having acquired the same by a narrow focus which does not include the learning of teaching skills. The assumption that having a Ph.D. and a few years of post-doctoral work in a laboratory qualifies you to teach, particularly at the undergraduate level, also doesn't cut it. I suspect the military colleges are no different from the civilian institutions.

And, why support RMC, and the Class of '65 initiative? In my life there have been 2 institutions at which I spent fairly short times in preparation for what became my life work. RMC was one of them, Trinity College at the University of Toronto the other. I support both of them because of the impact they had on my life. RMC specifically, even in my short time there, taught me the value of comradeship and team work. Over the several weeks, on several occasions, that I spent in hospital, classmates and others did their best to make sure that I was able to keep up with the academic work, and when the powers-that-be decided that I needed to be discharged for medical reasons, that was handled in a way that assured me of my dignity and value as a human person, despite a body that wasn't quite up to requirements. When I went to University of Waterloo quickly after (and even getting there was facilitated by the College) I quickly discovered that the coping skills I had had to learn at RMC, with its triple demands for academics, sports, and the military, made me a very "efficient" student, and that has stayed with me for life.

And then there are intrinsic values; I came to RMC with about 3 years as a militia soldier, and continued



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CITL Testimonial (Concluded)

with the militia as a junior officer for part of my university undergraduate years. The values I learned and integrated into my person have stood the test of time, chief among them the notion (so uncommon today) that we are a part of a community and society, that in part the community provides opportunities and support for us, and that our part of that is that we also give back in service to the community and our society. And, giving back can be in military service, or involvement in and support of worthwhile enterprises, and, among others, be engaged in the process by which our communities, society, and nation grow and becomes better. It may be trite to think of mottos of educational institutions as shaping the values of students, but “Truth, Duty, Valour” have been guiding words throughout my adult life, and oddly similar, so have “In Harmony with Truth” (University of Waterloo), “Striving Towards the Sun” (Victoria University of Manchester – now The University of Manchester with “Knowledge, Wisdom, Humanity” as motto), “Truth Conquers All” (Wilfrid Laurier University), and “After the Contest the Crown” (Trinity College).

Hope to see you in person next weekend!

6559 Gerry Mueller

Closing Notes

It's nice to close with some inspirational words. Thanks Gerry—a good lead-in to next week's excitement. I for one am looking forward to reconnecting with some old faces from a long time ago. Janet and I plan on taking in most of the events and are looking forward to being joined on Sunday for the March to the Arch by our son Stephen and his family.

I hope that some of you will share your weekend experience with us in the next newsletter.

Special thanks to all of those classmates who have dedicated much time and effort to ensuring that the Class of 65 reunion experience will be memorable—Hugh Spence, Jim Carruthers, Steve Arnold, Keith Ambachtscheer and others who I am sure I have overlooked and to whom I apologise.

See you next weekend.