

# Class of 65 Newsletter

## **Bulletin d'Information**—Classe de 65

Issue/Numéro 97



July/juillet 2016

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### **Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur**



**Gaetan Dextras (1942-2016)**

This is a short, special edition to note the passing of our classmate **6332 Gaetan Dextras**, who passed away unexpectedly on July 17. Gaetan was born on 10 August 1942 and entered CMR in 1960. I knew him as a quiet, gentle, gentleman who, in recent years, was one of a small group of Francophone classmates who took positive initiatives to bring the francophone and Anglophone classmates in the Montreal/Ottawa region closer together. He was also a frequent contributor to this newsletter and ironically, I had two items from him awaiting publication.

Gaetan will be laid to rest on Saturday, 23 July at the Demers Funeral Home, 651 Boulevard Laurier, Masterville, QC. On behalf of the Class of 65, I would like to extend our condolences to Micheline and to other members of Gaetan's family. He will be sorely missed.



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### Letters from Gaetan

Hi Michael. Thanks for this latest newsletter.

I found Ernie Cable's article particularly interesting. As I read his description of the friendly exchanges with the Russians, I could not help but to think that the current relations between the West and Russia are getting cooler and cooler since the invasion of the Ukraine and the Crimea by the Russians. Furthermore, this week, the day after Obama's visit in Ottawa, our PM (not exactly a warmonger) announced that Canada is going to send about 1,000 soldiers to Latvia as part of a NATO force to contribute to NATO's enhanced forward presence in Eastern and Central Europe. I agree that the West must stand up against bullying, but hopefully the tension will ease off instead of the opposite. Also, part of this NATO force will deploy in Poland; as we all know, the German invasion of Poland is how WW2 started. Let's hope that both Poutine eases back.

Regards,

Gaétan

Hi Mike

The following might be of interest for your newsletter. Yesterday, I heard on the news that NASA's Juno probe was about to enter into orbit around Jupiter, after a 5-year journey (it did it successfully). They mentioned we could get more info on the following website: Eyes on Juno

<http://eyes.nasa.gov/eyes-on-juno.html>

From this site, you can download and install an app (it is safe – just run it from NASA's site and follow the instructions). When you open this app, you choose the mission that interests you (e.g. Juno Mission) and it shows you all about this mission in animated graphics with a bit of explanatory text: the journey, the science, the spacecraft. It also tells you in real time the current distance from Juno to Jupiter and its velocity. The orbit is highly elliptical. Quite fascinating for anyone with an interest in science and/or engineering.

As I read through the various scientific instruments on Juno, I saw that some came from countries other than the US, but not from Canada. Since Canada often contributes to other Space Agencies' missions, I went on the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) web site, and effectively I did not find anything about Juno. However I did find that CSA had launched a new satellite of its own just 2 weeks ago (June 21) called Maritime Monitoring and Messaging Microsatellite (M3MSat). It is described in the following link. Sailors, Big Brother is watching you!

<http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/satellites/m3msat/default.asp>

For some reason, M3MSat did not make the major Canadian news networks, or at least I did not find anything about it.

Regards,

Gaetan Dextras



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### Closing Notes

Au revoir mon ami. You were a loyal classmate and a good friend. Those of us in the Montreal/Ottawa I particular will miss your presence at future events and will remember your contributions to making those events possible.