



# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Edition 36 - April 2011



*Disclaimer: This Newsletter is produced for members of the RMC Class of 1965 and is based solely 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 of 65. Articles will be entered in the official language in which they are received. Regrettably the Editorial staff still lacks the linguistic skills to produce a bilingual version.*

### Editor's Corner

In case you were wondering where this edition had got to, it's a little late this month as Jan and I took a little trip down memory lane. In 1971-73 I served in an exchange posting at the US Navy Supply Centre in Oakland, California and recently we decided to spend a couple of weeks in the San Francisco area visiting an old friend and rekindling fond memories of those years.

We had a great couple of weeks with highlights including a trip to the Russian River wine region with our friend who is a non-snob oenophile and therefore added to the overall experience. Another was a performance of *Beach Blanket Babylon*, a hilarious musical satire that has been running in San Francisco for over 30 years (updated to keep it current).

Adding to the overall nostalgia was a visit to USS *Pampanito*, a Balao-class submarine (see below) open to tourists on the Embarcadero along the San Francisco waterfront. *Pampanito* is the same class as HMCS *Grilse* (ex - USS *Burrfish*) in which I served in 1968.



## Edition 36 - April 2011 2/6

---

A fascinating visit was to Alcatraz that had not been open to tourists when we were there last. It is a grim example of an old penal system. We also spent a day and a half in the Monterey Peninsula, a particularly spectacular part of the California coastline. This is the two of us taking a break along Cannery Row in Monterey.



Apparently we were not the only ones on the road. **Terry Colfer** sent the following picture of him and **Waine McQuinn** attending a Blue Jays' spring training game against Baltimore in Sarasota, Florida.



**Georges Wilson** forwarded the following picture of the hotel he stayed in in Drumheller, AB (Fats Carruthers home town). He related that it was the most modern hotel in town!



I have a couple of notes to make on Edition 35. The first is an apology to **Hugh Spence** who provided me with an edited version of his article on the pillbox which I promptly forgot and went ahead and published his unedited version. Sorry Hugh, but I think your point was made anyway.

Secondly, I indicated that the article on **Rick Johnson's** snowbird experiences was the first of two parts. In fact, unless Rick has more stuff up his sleeve, I got the entire article into the single Edition.

Returning to Hugh's pillbox article, it elicited a couple of responses. **Ken Eyre**, writing from Florida indicated that **Jim Kempling** had taken up this issue back in the 70s when he was on staff at RMC. Jim - wherever you are - any further thoughts?

**Gaetan Dextraze** took an opposing position to Hugh in the following text from his e-mail, *"I wish to respond to Hugh's pitch about getting rid of the pillbox. I don't agree, particularly if nowadays, cadets don't have to wear them on leave or on a daily basis. To me, the pillbox distinguishes RMC and CMR (notice I am naturally sticking to the old acronyms!) from other military units. Replacing the pillbox by the regular forage cap would be similar to asking the Guards Regiments and the Van Doos to trade in their Bearskin headgear for a forage cap! While at it, why not do away with the scarlets themselves?"*

*Remember, these are formal ceremonial uniforms that represent a heritage that can be traced back to hundreds of years. Look at the West Point*

*uniform or at France's St-Cyr (link below), and you will see that the RMC/CMR pillbox fits right in, in terms of fashion and tradition, with these other grand schools. In fact, the RMC pillbox is somewhat subdued compared to the headgear of those institutions.*

<http://www.st-cyr.terre.defense.gouv.fr/index.php?ID=1040426>

*It was bad enough getting rid of the traditional regular uniforms back in 1968, let's not repeat the same mistake! Let's give our troops the most adequate clothing and equipment commensurate with the tasks we assign to them, but let's also keep some pride!"*

I'm going to stick my neck out and declare myself on Gaetan's side in this debate. I am not one to support tradition for tradition's sake. However, it is clear that the quality of officers produced by our old alma mater and the levels of education and training received by them are second to none. The historical and traditional facets of life at RMC, including those contained within the various orders of dress have done nothing to dilute that high standard. In fact, I think an argument could be made that they form an important and unique basis for college pride and the high morale evident in today's cadets. I vote to leave the pillbox alone!!

**Georges Wilson** reported that **Roger Gaudreau** is doing well after hip replacement surgery. Roger, all the best from all of us for a full and speedy recovery.

Still on the health front, I hit a bucket of golf balls on the local practice range the other day without any apparent ill effects. That was the first time I've hit a ball since rupturing a disc in my back last June.

## **Class Endowment Fund**

**By 6584 Keith Ambachtsheer**

Keith provided the following update on the Class Fund, *"I just received the CLASS OF 65 ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT from the Foundation. The year 2010 was another a good one for us. Our Fund balance at the start of the*

*year was \$633,871.36. Over the course of the year, we paid out \$5000 for the Class of '65 Teaching Excellence Award, and a Foundation Administration Fee of \$6,338.71. Twenty-two classmates contributed \$25,445.03 over the course of 2010. Our investment return attribution for 2010 was 14.9% = \$94,446.83. As a result of all this, our Fund balance on Dec 31 2010 stood at \$742,424.51."*

With respect to the Class Leadership Professor, Nikolas Gardner, **Jim Carruthers**, was able to get the following update on from the Principal's office, "*As for Nik's plans, I just received an email back from him. He is close to finalizing the deal on his house sale and will be coming to Kingston next week on a house hunting trip. Until he has finalized his sale and purchase of a new home, he cannot say for sure when he will arrive in Kingston but he is hoping to be here by early July.*"

## **Class Lunch - Ottawa Branch**

The April lunch gathering, organised as usual by **Jim Carruthers**, met at the HMCS *Bytown* Naval Officers' Mess on 11 April. Regular attendees, **Rick Archer, Vil Auns, Phil Bury, Jim Cale, Jim Carruthers, Ken Clarkson, Terry Colfer, Bruce Corbett, Gord Diamond, Charlie Emond, Gord Forbes, Quiller Graham, John Hilton, Jim Humphrey, Larry Mills, Andy Nellestyn, Terry Pyne, Ed Sanford, and Hugh Spence** were joined by first timers **Jim Boyd** and **Gerry Jensen**. Jim was visiting from Dartmouth, NS.



## Closing Notes

Thanks to the diligent efforts of **Jim Carruthers**, **Waine McQuinn**, and **Hugh Spence** the Class List is continually updated. Based on their latest update I have several names to my mailing list for this Newsletter. The first is **Fred Sutherland**. Sorry Fred, I know I had you on the list, but you must have become misplaced when I had my computer crash last year.

I don't believe I ever had the following on my list and would therefore like to welcome them to the newsletter with the reminder that the annual subscription fee is an article in either official language: **A.R. Curleigh**, **Pierre Falardeau**, **Claude Girard**, **Don Hansen** and **Bob Jamieson**.

That's it for another month - officially our third year edition - a bit shorter than some, but perhaps more of a "newsletter" than some of our longer efforts.

Thanks as always to those who took the time to contribute thoughts and experiences. I'll look forward to hearing from all of you at some time in the coming months.