



Class of 65 Newsletter

Edition 37-May 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.

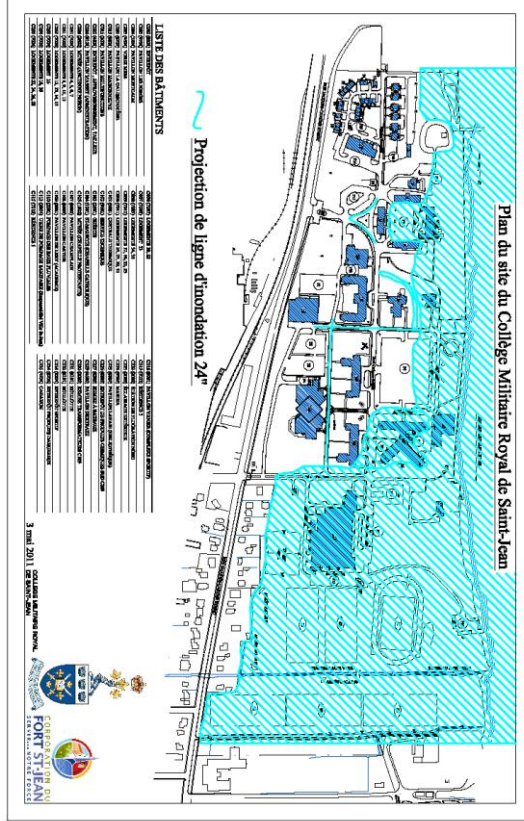
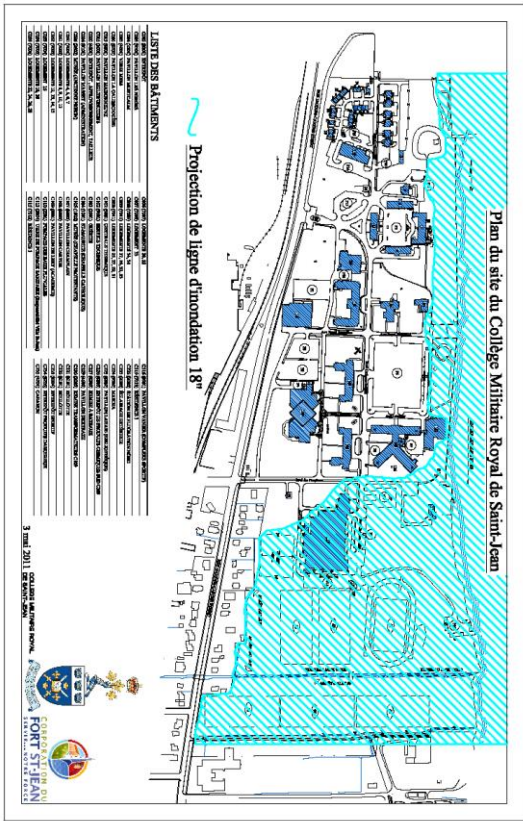
Editor's Corner

Hello out there wherever you are. Have I offended you in some way? If I don't hear from someone soon, I'm going to have to seek counselling! Needless to say, after that little tirade I don't have much to offer in this month's edition, but determined to press on, the following is what I have at hand.

First of all I have to apologise to **Alain Pellerin** for leaving him off the attendee list at the Ottawa Branch Class Lunch as described in the last edition. Since it was the first time he was able to attend, he was understandably miffed that I omitted his name.

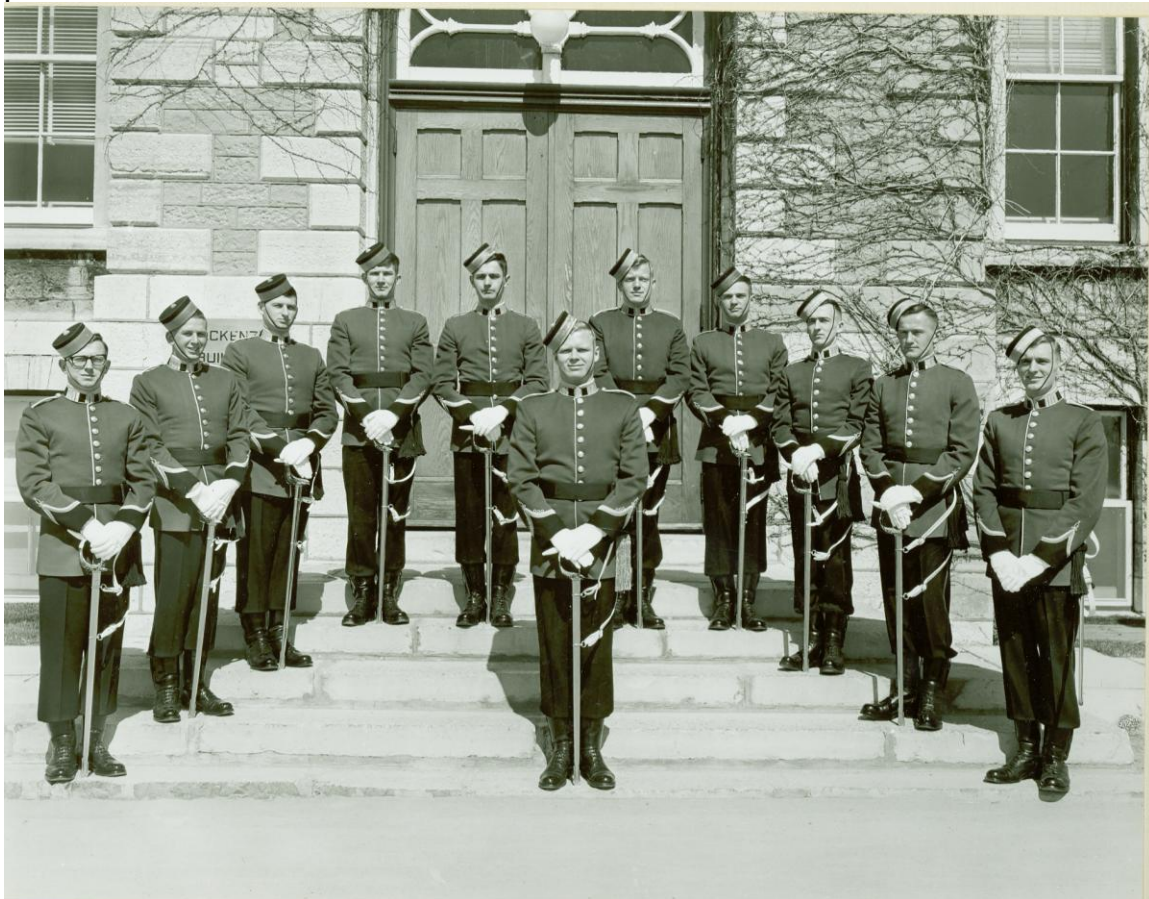
Charlie Emond forwarded the following maps of CMR and the effects of the current bout of flooding that the institution is suffering. I cannot recall another time when the Richelieu River flooded to the extent that is depicted in these graphics. The accompanying photograph taken from e-veritas provides further dramatic evidence of the extent of the disaster.

Of course St Jean is not the only part of Canada suffering significant flooding at present. I am in regular contact with my Mother and youngest brother who live in Carberry, Manitoba, a small community between Brandon and Portage la Prairie that apparently has become an island in the Great Lake that used to be the Province of Manitoba.



I received a couple of opinions on the "pillbox" issue raised by **Hugh Spence** several editions ago. The first was from **Terry Pyne** who wrote, *"I am in favour of cadets keeping the pillbox. I recall that after the Remembrance Day parade in Montreal (Nov 1960 - freezing out - and we should have worn our winter astrakhans) in prep year, I placed my poppy inside my pillbox for safekeeping. I used that same poppy for five years, moving it from inside to outside my pillbox each November. The only way people could tell that I was too cheap to buy a new poppy was the fact that they changed the colour of the centre of the poppy from black to green. In Nov 1964 I think I was the only cadet on parade with a black centered poppy on my pillbox. Fond memories."*

The second was from a group who wished to remain anonymous but suggested that the perpetrator of such heretical thinking should be hung from the nearest yardarm. Despite their wish for anonymity, they did include a group picture.



I picked up the following picture of **Jim Cale** and **Tim Sparling** from e-veritas on their relentless pursuit of fitness and "bicycle bum" bedecked in their RMC cycling outfits. Good on you guys!!



Finally, the "Gatineau Five" (mentioned in previous editions), **Braham, Cale, Carruthers, Houliston** and **Spence** got together with our spouses for a slightly premature 45th anniversary dinner. Premature since we did not actually join HMCS *Gatineau* until November 1965, however, the time and weather seemed right so we gathered for a pleasant evening of laughs and reminiscing.

The only dampener on the evening, for yours truly at least, was when **Jim Cale** produced the picture below of the 1966 *Gatineau* wardroom officers. My dear wife of 46 years was unable to correctly identify me!! And she says I don't pay any attention to her!! Salt was rubbed into the wound when our attractive young waitress picked me out first time. It should be noted that she demurred when I asked her to run away with me.



HMCS Gatineau Wardroom Officers, 1966

Closing Notes

Not much to add to the above ramblings and complaints. I hope you all have a good summer and regain your writing skills in the near future.