



# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Edition 38-June 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

Another month has rolled by. I've just got back from my annual golf and beer-athon with my two brothers in rural Manitoba. I was amazed at how wet the Province is, both through flooding and excessive rainfall. There is water everywhere! Apparently the water table is so high there is nowhere for the accumulated rainwater to drain.

Additionally, although there has been the usual flooding of the Red River in and around Winnipeg, the real problem this year has been the Assiniboine River that has experienced extraordinarily high waters this year that have extended into and flooded the shores of Lake Manitoba. Highways are closed, golf courses are flooded, homes lost, and sections of Brandon and Portage closed due to the threat of dykes breaching.

This month we have an update on this year's Teaching Excellence Award; a report on the CMR Graduation Parade; further input to the great pillbox debate; and a report on the Class Endowment Fund.

The Ottawa Class lunch was held at the Naval Officers' Mess on 8 June and the following were in attendance: **Hilton, Nellestyn, Carruthers, Houghton, Forbes, Colfer, Diamond, Crutcher, Kennedy, Sanford, Clarkson, Jensen, Lukey, Bury, Adams, and Emond.** By all accounts a good time was had by all.

**Steve Arnold** received the following from **Nik Gardner**, our inaugural Leadership Award winner, "*Just a quick note to say thanks very much for your recommendation of Jan Patterson as a real estate agent. She is really*

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*very good. With her help we found a house during our whirlwind trip in April and we're set to take possession on 4 July, the same day I'm set to start officially at RMC. Things are pretty hectic at the moment as my wife seems to be selling all of our possessions, and I'm trying to get the kids signed up for soccer, swimming etc. so they have something to do once we arrive, but we're very excited about the move."*

## **Teaching Excellence Award**

Some members of the class were surprised to read the following announcement following this year's convocation ceremony:

*The Teaching Excellence Award - The Teaching Excellence Award was donated by the Class of 1965 in memory of the late Dr. Tom Barton. It is given in recognition of exemplary concern for students, dedication to teaching and enthusiasm in lecturing and an extraordinary ability to stimulate learning.*

*Dr. Huw Edwin Osborne*

Some follow-up queries elicited the following. There is a key error on the announcement. It is **not** given in memory of Tom Barton. This is apparently a long-standing, but incorrect myth.

In addition, the announcement did not describe the award correctly in the manner found at <http://www.rmc-cmr.ca/aca/awa-pri/index-eng.asp>.

Finally, the manner in which the announcement was made caused some consternation since the name of the winner came as a surprise to those in the Class generally in the know on these things. **Charlie Emond** provided the following very useful and informative explanation of the process.

## **Class of 65 Teaching Award - Selection Process**

**By 6496 Charlie Emond**

As one of 7 members of the Board, I received files on the seven nominated professors on 5 May and provided my feedback as requested indicating my

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top three choices. A meeting in Kingston was convened by Dr Alain Gosselin for Monday 16 May.



We each discussed our respective choices and then heard presentations for three of the final four top candidates. These delegations varied in size, from one officer cadet, the CWC, because all other student supporters were engaged in critical end-of year activities, a delegation of one faculty member and 2 students and a delegation which included 3 supporting faculty members and 3 students. I made a point of discussing prior to the final vote, the potential disadvantage it was to the candidate from Toronto for whom we did not have a delegation.

Following the presentations, the top two candidates were chosen by each member and after further discussion Dr. Osborne received the majority vote.

I did not think it was my place to communicate the result to you directly but rather the duty of Dr Gosselin who chaired the proceedings, after he had communicated the name of the winner to the Principal and informed the other nominees (prior to Convocation where the winner is announced). I also feel that he should be the first person to address any questions you might have, though obviously I do have some thoughts on how things went and am prepared to discuss them should anyone wish to do so.

The bottom line for me is that all 7 candidates were indeed very worthy, however different in terms of subject matter, venue and student composition. Notwithstanding the listed guidelines for the selection, it is still very difficult to find agreed objective measures upon which to compare their respective performances. I should note that among the candidates, there was a member of the RMC faculty, working out of Toronto assigned to support the CF Staff College. Dr Chapnick's nomination was very well documented and included strong endorsements from two members of the class of 65, Fred Sutherland and Fraser Holman. I should also note that another unsuccessful candidate had been nominated every year, but one, of the last 7 years.

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There was some discussion about splitting the money and naming two winners, but apparently when this was done once before, it had been frowned upon and the consensus, in any event was against doing this. There was also some discussion about giving an Honourable Mention, but again, the consensus went against this.

I have asked each of the Board members to provide me with a very short "impression" of carrying out this task, which I have asked Dr Gosselin to collate and forward to me and I thought that I could use this as part of a short communication I intend to draft for Michael's newsletter to help bring class members into the process and allow them to sense the value of the Award.

I also intend to get some feedback about the process from the two outgoing members, past winners, Dr Jane Boulden and Dr. Alain Gosselin. It is my sense that there should be a corporate memory of the various factors that can swing the vote and that all members need to be sensitized to in order to be as fair as possible to the nominees.

I should also mention that a few of the former winners of the Award thought that it would be very useful to have a class member brief the RMC students every year on the importance of their evaluations and nominations and how they contribute to validating the quality of the Teaching Award. I am not sure how this could be done effectively in a one day visit. I have difficulty imagining convening the whole Cadet Wing to be briefed on this, and such a briefing is best done with smaller groups in any event. There is also the issue of briefing graduate students and even faculty. I will discuss this further with the past recipients to get their ideas on doing this by class year and by faculty and what opportunities exist already where these groups are being assembled. If you have any thoughts on this, please let me know.

Charlie

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**Post Script:** Notwithstanding the controversy regarding the process, I'm sure all of the Class will join in congratulating Dr. Osborne on his selection.  
**BRAVO ZULU**

## **CMR GRADUATION 2011**

By 6332 Gaetan Dextras

Tout d'abord, je désire vous informer que cinq membres de la Classe entrée en 1960, moi-même, ainsi que **Marc Jetté, Roger Gaudreau, Laurent Lord et Charles Emond** avons assisté à cet événement; Marc et Roger étaient accompagnés de leurs épouses. Pour nous, comme pour probablement la plupart d'entre vous qui ont passé par le CMR



St-Jean, cette cérémonie de la présentation des drapeaux prenait une signification particulière parce que nous étions de la parade lors de laquelle le CMR a reçu ses premiers drapeaux le 14 octobre 1961. Comme nous avons la chance d'être disponibles, nous ne voulions pas manqué cette occasion. En vieillissant, il faut croire que l'on devient tous un peu nostalgique! En tenue de la Vielle Brigade (béret, cravate VB, épinglette de la Classe de '65, etc.), nous avons fièrement représenté notre classe et grâce aux contacts de Marc, nous avons pu avoir de très bonnes places. Sachant que plusieurs d'entre vous auraient aimé y assister, mais n'ont pas pu, j'ai cru bon de partager avec vous les points importants de cet événement.

Voici d'abord un sommaire de l'historique des drapeaux du CMR, à partir d'information présentée dans le programme de l'événement :

- 14 octobre 1961 : remise des premiers drapeaux de la Reine et du Collège
- 13 avril 1969 : remise d'un nouveau drapeau de la Reine, dû à l'avènement du nouveau drapeau canadien unifolié

- 9 octobre 1977 : nouveau drapeau de la Reine, dans le contexte du 25<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du Collège
- 5 mai 1979 : remise d'un nouveau drapeau du Collège
- 21 mai 2011 : remise de nouveaux drapeaux de la Reine et du Collège.

Voici maintenant un court compte-rendu de l'événement comme tel. Voir aussi les photos en accompagnement. Il s'agissait de la parade de graduation habituelle, à laquelle s'est ajoutée la cérémonie de consécration et de présentation de nouveaux drapeaux de la Reine et du Collège.



Premièrement, pour ceux qui ne le sauraient pas, la tribune des dignitaires n'est plus au même endroit que dans notre temps (où les spectateurs tournaient le dos à la rivière). Elle est maintenant située du côté des dortoirs et fait face à la rivière.

Deuxièmement, comme vous le savez, la région de St-

Jean a été, et est encore soumise à de graves inondations. À un certain point, une partie du site du Collège a été inondée. Cependant il y a eu un répit durant la semaine juste avant l'événement. Le niveau d'eau a commencé à baisser lentement, permettant la réouverture complète du campus, et il a fait beau en cette journée de la parade du 21 mai. La parade a donc pu être tenue à l'extérieur, ce qui n'aurait peut-être pas été le cas si la pluie avait continué ou si les vents s'étaient levés.

L'invité d'honneur était Son Excellence le très honorable David Johnston, Gouverneur général. Étaient présents aussi le Général W.J. Natynczyk, Chef d'état-major de la Défense, le Lieutenant-Général J.G.M. Lessard, Commandant du Commandement de la Force expéditionnaire du Canada, et d'autres dignitaires, dont évidemment le Commandant actuel du Collège, le Colonel G.J. Maillet.

Vers 9h30, les cadets se sont rassemblés et ont formé la Garde sur le terrain de parade en formation de rectangle ouvert (en « U »). La fanfare du R22<sup>e</sup>R fournissait la musique (mais sans leur mascotte, le bouc Batisse!) Au total, il y avait 145 cadets sur la parade.

Les dignitaires sont arrivés entre 9h45 et 10h00, le dernier étant le GG. Son arrivée a été soulignée par un Salut royal musical accompagné de 21 coups de canons, offerts par le 2<sup>e</sup> Régiment d'artillerie de campagne, de Montréal.

Les dignitaires ont ensuite fait la Revue de la garde. Le Gouverneur général ainsi que le Général Natynczyk ont pris le temps de parler avec plusieurs des cadets.

Vers 10h15, la cérémonie de la consécration des drapeaux a commencé. Les membres de la Garde des drapeaux, portant le casque colonial, ont empilé les tambours, sur lesquels les drapeaux ont été déposés. Les aumôniers ont ensuite récité des prières et consacré les drapeaux. C'est seulement après qu'ils ont été consacrés qu'on salue les drapeaux.

Ensuite, le GG et le Lieutenant-général Lessard ont officiellement présenté les drapeaux au CMR St-Jean en les remettant aux deux cadets porte-drapeaux. Les commentateurs de l'événement ont mentionné que pour choisir les membres de la Garde des drapeaux (5 cadets), on a procédé à une compétition entre les escadrons, et c'est l'escadron Tracy qui a gagné.



La Garde a ensuite défilé au pas cadencé avec ses nouveaux drapeaux, pour ensuite se reformer en ligne d'escadron.

La prochaine étape fut la présentation de promotions à deux sous-officiers du Collège, puis la présentation de prix et récompenses aux cadets les

plus méritants.

À 11h00, on a eu droit à l'allocution du GG, puis de celle du Commandant. À 11h10, les porte-drapeaux ont quitté le terrain de parade, et à ce moment, à la grande surprise de plusieurs, les Snowbirds ont fait une passe à basse altitude et haute vitesse. Pris au dépourvu, on n'a pas eu le temps de prendre une photo!

Finalement, après l'hymne national et un dernier Salut royal, les dignitaires ont quitté, suivis des cadets. Le tout s'est terminé vers 11h30. Encore une fois grâce aux contacts de Marc, nous avons été invités à la réception informelle qui a suivi au Pavillon Dextraze, ce qui a permis de fraterniser avec les cadets, leurs parents et amis, des membres du personnel et des dignitaires.



De notre perspective en tant que récipiendaires des premiers drapeaux en 1961, je dois souligner qu'il n'y a pas eu de défilé au pas ralenti, ni de feu-de joie. D'après ce qu'on a pu apprendre, aujourd'hui la politique du Collège est de mettre plus

d'emphase sur le côté académique, et un peu moins sur l'exercice militaire (« drill »). En plus, cette année, les inondations ont sérieusement dérangé la routine du Collège en cette période d'examen, ce qui a réduit le temps qui pouvait être alloué aux pratiques nécessaires avant la parade. C'est probablement pour ces raisons qu'il a été décidé de ne pas inclure ces deux éléments traditionnels dans la parade. Ceci dit, les cadets ont très bien exécuté ce qu'on leur a demandé de faire. Nous leur levons notre béret!



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En conclusion, ce fut un très bel événement, nostalgique, exécuté par les cadets d'une façon dont vous auriez tous été fiers, et que nous avons grandement apprécié.

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First of all, I wish to report that five members of the CMR Entry Class of 1960, myself, together with **Marc Jetté**, **Roger Gaudreau**, **Laurent Lord** and **Charles Emond**, attended this event; Marc and Roger were accompanied by their wives. This Presentation of the Colours Ceremony took on a very special meaning for us, as would be the case for others who attended CMR, in that we were on parade when CMR first received its Colours on 14 October 1961. Since the five of us were available, we did not want to miss this opportunity. As we grow older, I guess we all get a bit nostalgic! In our Old Brigade dress (beret, OB tie, Class of '65 pin, etc.), we proudly represented our class, and thanks to Marc's contacts, we got great seats. Knowing that many of you would have liked to have attended but could not, I thought that I would share with you the highlights of this special event.

Here is a summary of the history of CMR's Colours, gleaned from information provided in the event program:

- 14 October 1961: Presentation of the first Queen's and College Colours
- 13 April 1969: Presentation of new Queen's Colours, due to the adoption of the new Canadian Maple Leaf flag
- 9 October 1977: New Queen's Colours, in the context of the College's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- 5 May 1979: Presentation of new College Colours.
- 21 May 2011: Presentation of new Queen's and College Colours.

Now, here are a few words about the actual event. Also, see the accompanying pictures. The Ceremony of the Consecration and Presentation of new Queen's and College Colours was added to the Graduation Parade that usually takes place in May.

First, for those who are not aware, the reviewing stand is no longer in the

same place as in our days (where the spectators had their backs to the river). It is now located on the dormitory side of the square, facing the river.



Secondly, as many of you know, the St-Jean area has been and still is heavily flooded in parts. At one point, parts of the College grounds were flooded. However, in the week leading up to the Ceremony, there was a respite. The water level had started slowly to fall, allowing the

campus to fully re-open, and on parade day, 21 May, the sun was shining. It was thus possible to hold the parade outside, which might not have been the case, had the rains continued or the winds picked up.

The Guest of Honour was His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General. Also attending were General W.J. Natynczyk, Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant General J.G.M. Lessard, Commander, Canadian Expeditionary Force Command, and other dignitaries, including, obviously, the current College Commandant, Colonel G.J. Maillet.

Around 9:30 a.m., the cadets Guard marched on the Parade Square and formed up in a Hollow Square. The music was provided by the R22R Band (minus its mascot, "Batisse", the goat!) There were 145 cadets on parade.

The dignitaries arrived between 9:45 and 10:00, the last being the GG. His arrival was marked by a musical Royal Salute, along with a 21-gun Salute provided by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Regiment, from Montreal.

The dignitaries then reviewed the Guard. Both GG Johnston and General

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Natynczyk took the time to speak with many of the cadets.

Around 10:15, the Consecration of the Colours Ceremony began. The members of the Colours party, wearing pith helmets, stacked the drums, on which the Colours were then laid. The chaplains then said prayers and consecrated the Colours. Colours are saluted only after they have been consecrated.

Next, the *GG* and Lieutenant General Lessard formally presented the Colours to CMR St-Jean by handing them over to the two Colour bearers. The event commentator mentioned that a competition had been held amongst the squadrons to



determine which would provide the flag party (5 cadets). Tracy Squadron had won.

The Guard then marched past (in quick-time) with the new Colours, and reformed in line by squadrons.

This was followed by the presentation of promotions to two of the College NCOs, then the presentation of Prizes and Awards to the most deserving cadets.

At 11:00, the *GG* delivered his address, followed by a few words by the Commandant. At 11:10, the Colour party left the parade square, and as they did, to most people's surprise, we were treated to a low and fast flypast by the Snowbirds. Caught off guard, there was not enough time for pictures!

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Finally, after the national anthem and a last Royal Salute, the dignitaries left, followed by the Cadets. By 11:30, it was all over. Again thanks to Marc's contacts, we were invited to the informal reception at the Dextraze Pavilion, which provided an opportunity for mingling with the cadets, their parents and friends, members of the staff and dignitaries.



From our perspective as recipients of the first Colours in 1961, I feel compelled to comment that there was no slow march past, nor a Feu-de joie. From what we have gathered, the College policy, these days, is to put more emphasis on academics and a little less on drill. Furthermore, this year, with the floods

severely disrupting the College routine during the exam period, the amount of time available for pre-parade practices was reduced. It is probably because of these factors that it was decided to forego these two traditional parade elements. That being said, the cadets performed very well what they were tasked to do. We tip our berets to them!

In conclusion, this was a very wonderful and nostalgic event, carried out by the cadets in a way that would have made you all proud, and which we greatly enjoyed.

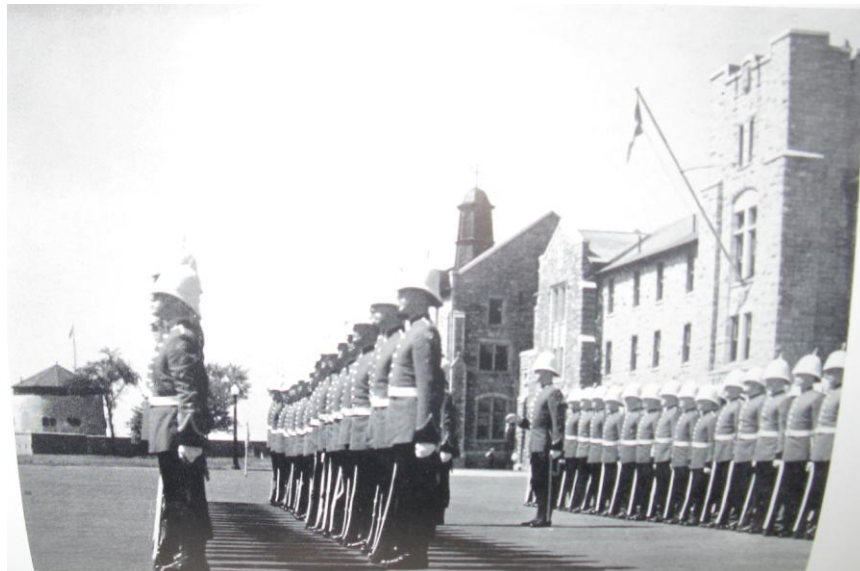
*Editor's Note: It is with some pride to note that I carried the Queen's Colours at their initial presentation in 1961.*

## **The Pillbox Debate Continued** **By 6475 Mike Houghton**

Notwithstanding Terry Pyne's plea to maintain the pill box for poppy

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safekeeping, and the veiled threats of the anonymous eleven who may be guilty of "group think", I join several others with whom I have spoken on getting rid of the pill box. Not really sure why it was ever adopted; possibly because like Officer Pyne there was a shortage of poppies and this was as good an idea as any to store them in perpetuity (or graduation, whichever came first). There is indeed a precedent for a more practical formal headgear worn by everyone, rather than the colourful array of different pieces we see today. That is of course the pith helmet which, amongst other attributes, allows the head to remain upright rather than on a 90 degree angle in a futile attempt to keep the box sort of in place. The helmet also shades the eyes from the sun and allows a limited protection from sleet, snow, hail stones and rain. The pill box does not. To support my point, I have attached a rather grainy photo that I scanned from the 1938 Review that depicts the cadet wing on parade - not a single pill box to be seen!!!! I rest my case.



## **Class Endowment Fund - Update**

**By 6584 Keith Ambachtscheer**

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

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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 December 31, 2010 stood at \$742,424.51.

## **Closing Notes**

Thanks again to this month's contributors - particularly for the excellent photographs that help to enliven these pages. Until next month.