



Class of 65 Newsletter

Edition 49-May 2012



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

After making a complete ass of myself with the very clever pillbox replacement April Fool's joke in the last issue, I contemplated retirement. I was not even mollified by the fact that quite a few other people were taken in. At least they had the good sense to keep their gullibility to themselves and not blare it out for all to see. Bill Oliver I'll get you for that!!!

I am sure that you are all now aware of the serious cuts being made to the academic and support staffs at RMC. **Jim Carruthers** sent out an update recently and the following is the portion of his report on the magnitude of those cuts, *"57 positions have been determined for deletion. 32 are University Teacher (UT) and 25 are Support Staff (SS). Of these, 7 UT and 5 SS positions are currently vacant and therefore will not be filled. 3 of the remaining 25 UT positions are in Saint-Jean and so the final tally here is 22 UT and 20 SS. This is aimed at saving 1 million this year, nothing next year and 3.5 million in 14/15 for a total savings of 4.5 million."*

These cuts will necessitate the following changes:

RMC will run the whole of the Officer Professional Military Education Program (OPME). Over the past few years these 6 training courses have been upgraded to undergraduate degree level courses at the cost of additional staff. These courses will revert to training credits only as that is all that RMC is mandated to deliver.

The UTPNCM program at RMC is finished. Bringing them to RMC from across Canada is costing 700K per year. They will be sent to universities near their place of residence to complete their degrees.

Class sizes will grow in some cases. Primarily they will be looking at combining smaller classes (6-8) for efficiency.

These changes are not expected to affect accreditation or credibility of the College. Also there is no anticipated effect on the research program.

Clearly a major impact, however, I am sure that the old alma mater will emerge from this speed bump as strong as ever.

On a cheerier note, the call for nominations for the 2011/2012 Class of 65 Teaching Award has met with an enthusiastic response and 11 candidates have been put forward for consideration.

Most of you should have seen the e-mail sent out by **Gaetan Dextras** detailing the list of activities at RMC St Jean this year to which ex-cadets are invited to help celebrate the College's 60 anniversary. If you did not receive the e-mail or if you wish additional information you should contact Gaetan or **Charlie Emond**.

Since the last Newsletter, **Jim Carruthers** joined a number of Halifax classmates for lunch. Pictured below, clockwise from the left, are **Denny Cronk, Jim Carruthers, Tony Goode, Ernie Cable, Larry Taylor, Lynn Mason** and **Jim Boyd** all no doubt hoisting a Moosehead or two.



In this edition I'm pleased to include some information from a trio of classmates we haven't heard from before in this forum: **Bob Walker**, **Ben Besner**, and, **Bob Jenkinson**.

What Goes Around Comes Around

By 6700 Bob Walker

This bio, as I choose to remember it, essentially starts and ends on military college turf. That's ironic, seeing I was one of those who joined ROTP for the education and not for the military career. My career ambition was to become a high school teacher with a B Ed



degree. The RCN Recruiting reps 'promised' Civvy U for me, to be followed by those 'few years of payback time' to be served as a "navy schoolie", an RCN Educ Officer, teaching in navy classrooms. But, instead, I ended up at RRMV Victoria, then of course RMC Kingston, followed by RCN Pre-Fleet training later in 1965.

Next, as I remember it, Pre-Fleet finished with approx 45 of us Subbies graduating but, our course officer told us, only about 20-30 sea billets were available. My loyalty already faltering, I raised my hand, jumped up and down, kissed his RMC ring, and volunteered to serve ashore, with a bribe offered to serve ashore on the West Coast. I assume that my docs were reviewed, and my BSc degree and my schoolie ambitions noted, after which I was posted to the Engineering Division, Fleet School Esquimalt, to administer trades training students and to teach very basic thermodynamics (heat & energy transfer) at the Trade Group 4 level. For me, this was the perfect circumstance for completing my obligatory service while applying some of my BSc knowledge in a teaching role, plus living in beautiful BC. Or, so I thought...

Close to the end of my RCN payback time, came another irony - my professional transformation from the application of the "hard sciences" to the "soft humanities". During my Eng Div years, I administered personnel outcomes for those who had failed trade courses, and whose futures became

the business of west coast Navy Personnel Selection Officers (PSOs). In those pre-unification days, these PSOs frequently were cross-trained ship-driving officers or failing-eyesight navy pilots (with degrees) who chose or were required to reclassify to PSOs, Educ Offs, etc. This PSOs-&-I friendly business relationship resulted in me reclassifying and becoming a PSO. (As Sally Field exclaimed when winning her Oscar, "You really like me. You really like me!"). But, another glitch - dealing with people as a PSO required a truckload of behavioural science/humanities university courses, whereas my BSc from RMC contained not-a-one, leaving me unable even to spell 'psychology'. The solution for me was to combine a Base PSO OJT start-up with part-time studies at UVic, with enough classes and suitable grades to qualify for graduate school, an option for PSOs interested in future careers in CF personnel applied research, university teaching, oversight of field psych/social services, etc. Yep, teaching once again looked to be on my horizon.

Queen's Univ liked my post-BSc, UVic academic results and accepted me for grad school in psych in 1971. I finished an MA and, subsequently, a PhD, with the bonus that, during that PhD completion, and still as a CF officer, for three years I taught military leadership and psychology at RMC. I now, happily, was on the university teaching treadmill! This was followed by military tours at the Can Forces Personnel Applied Research Unit in Toronto and Air Command, then in Winnipeg, as the Command Personnel Selection Officer overseeing, as technical advisor, Air Force Base/Station PSOs. In all, I completed 21 years in uniform.

Next, I joined the RCMP, one of over 2400 RCMP Civilian Member specialists (working alongside approx 16-17,000 Mounties), in my case as a Behavioural Sciences Senior Research Officer in (then Head of) the R&D Dept of the Canadian Police College, Ottawa, for 11 years. This was followed by six more years in RCMP HQ, for a total of 17. Add on three subsequent working years in Child Protection Services in Ontario, after which I closed the career loop by returning to the military environment and the RMC campus for my final eight years of working life.

What we all remember in the 1960s as the Ridout Row PMQs for RMC

Officers had been expanded, reconstructed and modernized into the Canadian Defence Academy/CDA HQ, destined in 2002, to become the 'mother hen' for much of the generic military training in the CF, from the independent Can Forces College in Toronto, to RMC, and even for CF recruit training and language training. The CDA also oversaw the Can Forces Leadership Institute / CFLI, and was responsible for R&D & publishing with respect to leadership and the profession of arms. (Substantial credit for the founding of CFLI must go to General/Senator Romeo Dallaire who, on his return from his horrific 1990s tour in Rwanda, advocated for a Canadian military centre of professional leadership research, development, publishing & advocacy). My final eight-year stint at CFLI on RMC campus was truly an exquisite experience!

I retired in Jan 2011. Colleen and I live north of Kingston, but soon will be resettling into lakeshore Kingston, perhaps with an across-the-water view of RMC!

Welcome from Ben Besner

By 6490 Ben Besner



I was sad to read of JP Beaulne's passing. I knew JP before CMR- we attended the same high school in North Bay, ON prior to heading off to CMR. He had not been a resident of North Bay very long, having moved in from Northern Ontario, I think. I also briefly knew one of his brothers who did pilot training at Centralia. I last met JP about 10 years ago when I visited an old friend in Stittsville.

I took note of your request for Newsletter material, but I don't have much exciting stuff to talk about. I did serve 4.5 years after graduation, did tours of radar bases in Sydney, NS and Armstrong, ON, followed by a 1 year assignment as Director of Lights and Sound for the CAF Tattoo for Centennial Year- that was a hoot, I did meet a couple of college buds while doing that.

I then served two years in Materiel Command in Rockliffe (Maintenance, engineering for airborne radars and such), before joining Air Canada at the end of '69.

I spent almost 35 years at Air Canada, starting as an Avionics Engineer, then Purchasing Manager (Technical stuff), then Aircraft Programs (I was essentially Air Canada's used airplane salesman, back in the day when the Airline actually owned assets), then became Director of Supply Services for a couple of years before finishing off as Director of Component Maintenance for seven years.

I retired in 2003 but got bored with retirement and started doing odd jobs (always aviation related) in 2005. I then worked part-time for almost 3 years in a business jet service company, where I mainly did sales and engineering for Electronic Flight Bags. I gave that up in '09 and got a wonderful job representing Hartzell Aerospace as the on-site rep on the CSeries design team at Bombardier in St-Laurent. I've gone full circle from being a user to a designer! I'm not sure when that gig will end.

Personally, I've married twice, raised 5 wonderful children (one graduated from RMC in '93, is now working for Irving Oil), 8 grandchildren spread out all over - 3 in Pincoot (close to home), 2 in Stamford, CT, one in St John, NB and two in Charlottetown, PE. Needless to say, we travel a lot.

After the kids were raised, I was able to indulge my love of the outdoors, travel and adventure. I have paddled and camped on a lot of great northern Canadian Heritage rivers (the Nahanni, Coppermine, Thelon, Missinabi, Dumoine, and many lesser rivers), spent many weeks paddling, camping, and fishing in Algonquin Park, skied every great mountain in our Canadian West, as well as in NY, NH, VT, Colorado and Austria.

In 2003, we bought a seaside home (cottage) in NS, on the Atlantic, way down south close to Lockeport. With my current job we don't get there as often as I would like, but it's great fun there paddling on the Sable River (tidal) and into the ocean. I hope to spend more time in NS in the future. I

also have a trailer permanently parked in NY State, on the Salmon River, and fly fish there very summer.

All in all, I'm keeping very busy. My only concern is my new friend Art Rhitis who seems to want to inhibit my pursuit of my outdoor activities... we'll see how that battle goes.

Warm hello to all Class of '65 grads!

Editors Note: Ben said he didn't have much exciting stuff to talk about. Maybe not to him, but it certainly seemed exciting compared to my relatively tame existence.

Bob Jenkinson Since '65

By 6640 Bob Jenkinson

It is sort of flattering to have been targeted to write something so I'd best do something about it and a Bio shouldn't be too taxing especially since I'm in a "cooling off" period.



Bob & Friends

I read the Newsletter with interest especially the more recent submissions about where folks have been traveling. I have thought about making a contribution but I was always a better reader than writer which is one of many reasons why I never got above the rank of Major in my 33 years in the Air Force. That suited me fine as I got to fly airplanes for most of my career. I was what was referred to by the Pointy Ended pilots as a Trash Hauler which didn't offend as I didn't have to spend too much time in the Great Canadian Frozen Wasteland. I had tours on the DC-3, Buffalo, Twin Otter, Hercules, Boeing707, & L1011(UK) .

I owned a house in Trenton for 25 yrs having had postings to all 4 Squadrons there, to the Base, to Transport Command HQ and a couple of foreign tours

(Kashmir in India, Germany, UK and Quebec, which really was foreign as it was in Montreal during the FLQ era).

Rather boring for some but saw a great deal of the globe at Her Majesty's expense and except for a few years in Germany our kids were in the same school district. Speaking of which I have been married to the same lovely and patient woman, Marsha, for a very long time and we are exceedingly proud of our 2 children's achievements - our son has a Phd in Engineering, and daughter has a Masters Degree in some IT discipline and is in the final throws of getting her MBA from Royal Roads (guess we will belong to the same alumni.....wonder if she would like to buy a rather expensive brick??!!) Their one failing is they haven't taken any time to produce any grandchildren, but we keep hinting.

When DND offered the Force Reduction Package to most of the Air Force's experienced pilots I wasn't going anywhere fast so pulled the pin at age 51. I then did a couple of part time years in the Reserve to see our kids through their initial degree but never did acquire a business card.

In '97 we sold our home in Trenton and headed West to Kamloops and inadvertently took on a rather vagabond existence. The only consistent thing in our lives for the next several years was that for at least July & August we were at our summer cottage on an isolated lake north of Kenora, where we usually would link up with our children.

Perhaps of some interest to troopers from RR who recollect **Mike Grandin** (he left the Navy after 1st year), he is our summertime next door neighbour, but that's another story.

In Kamloops we worked like beavers renovating a rental property I had owned for several years however, the neighbours took issue and reported us to the City so.....we filled the house with college students, told them to have a good time, and left town to.....Halifax where my sister needed a bit of help at her restaurant. I was the oldest bus-boy and Marsha a senior dishwasher. Some Navy Wankers might have heard of it, "Chicken Tandoori" on Quinpool Rd, but perhaps not, as it was known for fine dining. After 7 yrs she gave it

up before it killed her but believe she might still be selling recipes and Indian spices at the Saturday Market.

The next winter we ended up in UK helping out friends who were starting a business, renting vacation cottages to Brits at exorbitant prices-they still had regular jobs but we were the authentic Canadian accents on the end of the phone in their basement. It was a success and they have since emigrated to Canada, own several properties here and have written a How To Book on purchasing holiday homes in Canada.

The next couple of winters we house-sat at various locations in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island and I bought a boat large enough for the two of us to live aboard although it needed a bit of dry dock attention. Don't be fooled, Vancouver Island is not a winter destination unless you are from Saskatchewan or have web feet. Although I still enjoy skiing, I preferred winter on my terms and we were starting to develop a routine -summer at the lake-spring and fall on Vancouver Island -Nov to Apr somewhere drier and warmer. So we had extensive stays in Mexico, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia and Costa Rica in search of the perfect retirement location but there was always something missing.

Around 2004 we were feeling pretty fortunate at being alive and thought we would like to give a bit back by volunteering. We spent the next 4 winters in Southern India (Bombay, Hyderabad, Madras) at homes for destitute women and children. If you have some spare cash and are looking for a worthwhile Charity check out the Child Haven website-a Ma & Pa organization with no religious affiliation where 95% of your donation gets to where it is intended.

We would be 3-4 months at a home and then a couple of months touring India or someplace en route back to Vancouver Island. **Ken Kennedy & Mary** toured around with us for 3 weeks but I think they might prefer to forget India as I haven't seen them making any tracks back!! After 4 sessions, Marsha got burnt out as she had too many talents, - nursing, music, crafties, mother, and was in demand 24/7. It was a gratifying experience and every year we came home thankful for our blessings.

Somewhere along the way Marsha got tired of our waterfront location despite it only taking a few minutes to do the housework and wanted something that wasn't rocking all the time. So we bought two small houses in Courtenay which fully occupied our springs and falls with boating, renters and renos.

We still have the travel bug and have continued our annual escapes from the wets to Cyprus, Vietnam, China, and now that our daughter lives in the UK we seek out bargain flights from there to places on our bucket list.

I had a bit of a setback last year as it took longer than I'd planned to recover from them yanking out my prostate, so ended up in the Southern USA which I never intended on doing until I get older-guess I'm there!! I quite enjoyed the warm weather and cheap booze. If the Yanks want to get out of debt just tax Booze and Gasoline at the Canadian rate, but I imagine it would be tough to get re-elected.

We have been in Southern France (about 1 Hr from Spain and 45 min to the Med) since the end of January checking out the feasibility of buying a Vacation property with our kids. Not a brilliant idea for someone my age but it might be a fun retirement project for them. This area is just one gigantic vineyard dotted with countless medieval villages and historic sites, with 300+ days of sunshine and so laid-back (at least in the off season!!).

We are now in one of the "Cooling Off" periods in the house purchase process where nothing happens for a week or so while each party contemplates whether they might wish to opt out. Most regulations are to the purchaser benefit -we were advised by the Notary that a metal door in the house had a lead based paint on it and although it wasn't peeling we should ensure children did not lick it!!

We won't have to think too hard as to where we will be spending a good portion of our future winters. My old Montreal street French is coming in handy.

I suppose I should have thought about seeking out some sort of JOB or second career or at least getting a business card but I just didn't have the time. In my defense, although I doubt if I would have changed much, both my natural parents passed away in their 40's and I wasn't about to take any chances with heredity. I check the Obits every morning just to make sure I'm still here.

I have lots of gray hair and my skin is rather stretched from too much wine, cheese, pate, fresh baguettes and chocolate croissants. Marsha is as beautiful as ever but her skin is getting a little stretched too.

Editor's Note: Another dull life!!

Finally, **Hugh Spence** provided me with a copy of a letter he received as Class Secretary from the RMC Foundation noting the significant contribution that the Class continues to make toward the Foundation and its activities. He also forwarded two very nice profiles of classmates who have made significant contributions over the years.

In the interests of space and spreading out the good news, I have copied the letter he received below, and will include the two profiles in the next edition.



15 April 2012

6439 Hugh Spence
1965 Class Secretary
35 Ridgefield Cres
Ottawa, ON K2H 6S3

Dear Hugh,

Please find enclosed with our compliments, a copy of the Spring 2012 Foundation Report. This edition profiles certain donors to the RMC Foundation, who like all of our philanthropic alumni and friends, have given generously to the betterment of the Colleges.

In addition to the donor profiles we have included a financial update for 2011. Acknowledging that it was not a great economic year, the RMC Foundation still saw significant selfless contributions in support of the Military Colleges. We firmly believe that every dollar donated is significant, regardless of the amount the donor was able to provide. In fact, 2011 saw a significant increase in contributions under \$1,000.00 by donors.

As the secretary to the *Class of 1965* we acknowledge the unselfish donations that your class has made. Your class contributions are instrumental towards *Enhancing Excellence* at the Colleges. As we near your significant reunion date, please encourage your class to continue giving and in particular, to take up a specific item or activity of which the Colleges are in need.

In addition to this Report, we are branching out with other forms of communication outreach to you, the donor. An updated website, e-blasts, webcasts and other forms of social media are all being trialled to try to reach the maximum number of College supporters in the manner most convenient and timely to them. It is our intent to communicate to you the needs of both Colleges so that you may continue to contribute in the generous manner that you have.

On behalf of the Foundation, and the cadets and Colleges it serves, we thank you and the members of the *Class of 1965* I hope that these profiles will inspire your class to continue to support the Colleges in the same wonderful manner.

Respectfully,

Rod McDonald
Executive Vice-President
RMC Foundation



Closing Notes

Many thanks to this month's contributors. It is absolutely amazing to me to learn of the varied and interesting lives that our classmates have lived since we parted ways in 1965. There are a few good books lurking out there.

It is also gratifying to learn of the generosity of the Class and particularly that of a select few who have dedicated some much money and time in support of the College. BZ to all of you.

I'll be shaming a few more of you into articles over the next few weeks so if you want to spare yourself the embarrassment of being personally picked on, you could simply head me off by sending something in. Clearly, there are few boundaries to what you can report.

This month's "droll-et" is:

"Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once."

- Naval Ops Manual -