



# Class of 65 Newsletter

## Edition 59 - Apr 2013



*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 Editorial staff still lacks the linguistic skills to produce a bilingual version.*

### Editor's Corner

Apparently my whining paid off. This month there is a veritable blizzard of interesting stuff from several classmates including a couple of "newbies" to the newsletter.

**Gaetan Dextras** kicks off with a book review. As more of us are forced into a more sedentary lifestyle reviews like this should be of increasing interest as we look for ways to keep the mind alive.

I've included a clip from a recent e-veritas on a cycling marathon undertaken by **George Vanderkuur** - certainly nothing sedentary about George.

**Al Kennedy** has provided an interesting historical clip from Royal Roads in 1962.

**Jean Paquette**, an old CMR comrade has brought us up to date with his life over the past fifty or so years and his struggles with Parkinsons.

Some more good/bad news from **Doug Ross** who reports on his recovery from a recent heart attack.

Finally, an oversight. I missed an article previously submitted by **Mike Houghton** reporting on high jinx in the sunny south. In retrospect, it was probably a deliberate oversight.

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## Book Review

by 6332 Gaetan Dextras

I have recently finished reading a book titled "*Tragedy at Dieppe : Operation Jubilee, August 19, 1942*", written by Mark Zuehlke, who has authored many other books on WW2. As stated on the book cover flap:

"Drawing on rare archival records and personal interviews, Mark Zuehlke recounts the story of Operation Jubilee's conception, planning, and tragic execution and assesses the many myths and controversies that arose after the raid to either explain away or assign blame for its failure."

I found this book easy and enjoyable to read and recommend it. Photos and good maps are included.

Here is a link to the Chapters/Indigo web site for this book:

[http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/books/books/tragedy-at-dieppe-operation-jubilee/9781553658351-item.html?ikwid=tragedy+at+dieppe&ikwsec=Books&gcs\\_requestid=OCJCc\\_9vitrYCFZK75wodJGoAAA](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/books/books/tragedy-at-dieppe-operation-jubilee/9781553658351-item.html?ikwid=tragedy+at+dieppe&ikwsec=Books&gcs_requestid=OCJCc_9vitrYCFZK75wodJGoAAA)

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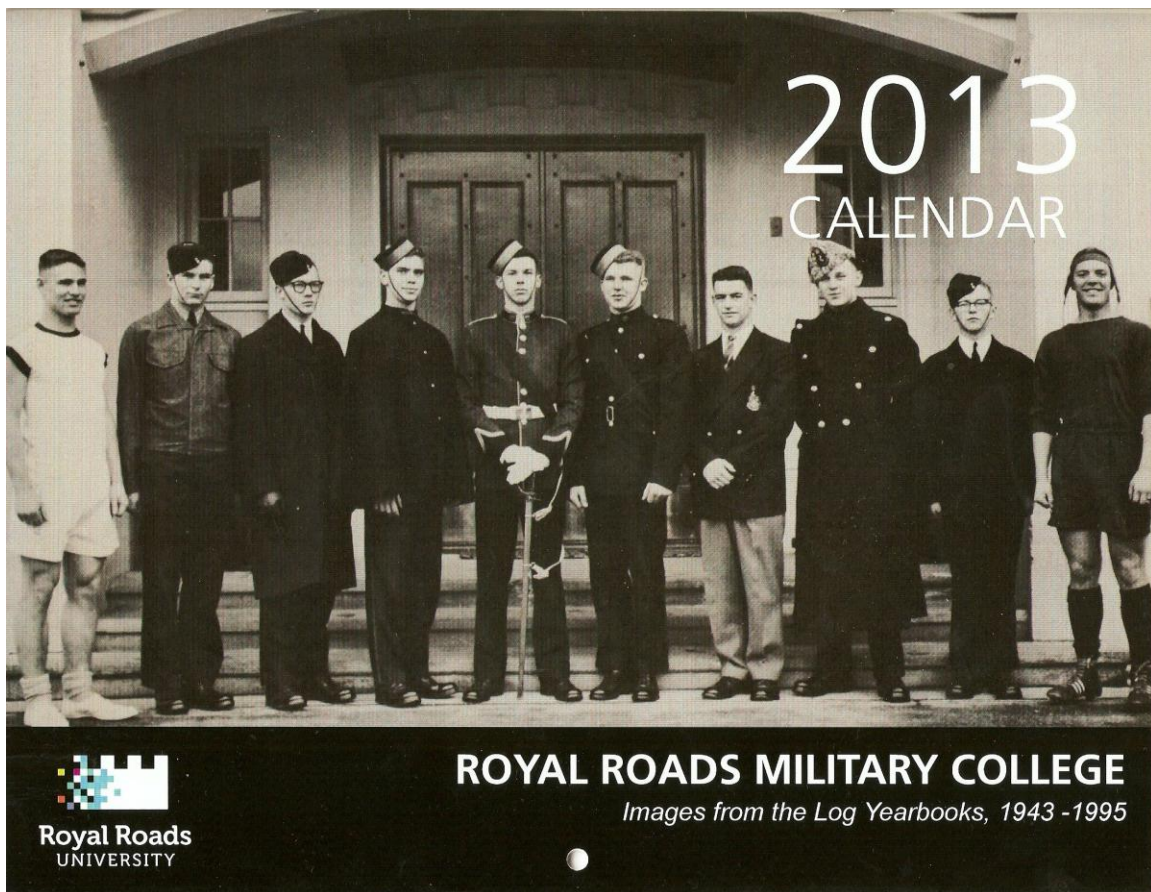
The following appeared in the 7 April 2013 edition of e-veritas:



**6577 George Vanderkuur, Class of '65** - This summer for 54 days in July and August, he will be cycling from Los Angeles to New York City. The route has some challenging elements like the Mojave Desert and mountain passes in Colorado and also passes through Toronto, Kingston and Montreal before heading south. This will be his third crossing of the continent with "Sea to Sea" ([seatosea.org](http://seatosea.org)) which has raised over 2 million dollars for projects that help the poor help themselves. In 2005 they rode from Vancouver to Halifax and in 2008 from Seattle to New Jersey. So far over 200 riders have registered to ride all or part of the tour.

## Memories from the Past

by 6644 Al Kennedy



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The attached photo was originally displayed in the 1962 Royal Roads *Log* when our class was in our junior year. The subjects were a mix of four members of our year and seven of the RR graduating class of 62.

The picture was recently pulled from the RRU archives and now graces the front cover of the Royal Roads 2013 promotional calendar.

The participants are Rob Boadway (62), Dennis Cronk (63), George Walker (63)\*, Ray Cej (62), John Carson (62), Gary Mulder (62), Mike Saker (62), Steve Crutcher (63), Jim Kempling (63) and John Leech (62).

While Dennis, George and Jim look appropriately serious (as juniors rightly should in the company of their seniors), a rather debonair Steve Crutcher seems slightly bemused by the affair. I am sure that he would enjoy and be particularly proud of seeing this image being used for promotional purposes.

I have copies of the calendar should any of our RR class like one.

\* While we are not 100% convinced of our identification here, Reg Bird, Jack Harris and myself are pretty sure it is indeed George Walker.



Al also attached the following picture of himself accompanied with appropriate Wet Coast smugness. "Not trying to be too smug, but the attached picture was taken here last week when most of the country east of the Rockies was having an unpleasant bit of un-spring like weather.

Not to worry though, the days are getting longer and I know spring always happens virtually overnight in Ottawa."

*Editors Note: I cropped the picture to reduce the pangs of envy.*



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## 6333 Jean Paquette

Good Day Mike



I read quite a few of your newsletters with interest. I felt I learned much about navy adventures of the last 50 years. It is impressive that people are still maintaining contacts and friendships throughout careers that developed in all walks of life over such period of time. I finally decided to make my small contribution: a couple of pages in French covering my activities after graduating from RMC in Mechanical Engineering in 1965.

My professional career ended a few years ago after I learned in 1995 that I would have to deal with Parkinson's Disease for the rest of my life. I considered myself lucky that sports are about the best natural remedy to fight PD. A second favorable point was that my wife who takes care of me every day is a nurse and a really good athlete. She plays golf with me (>100 games/year) and we are still both skiing on a small mountain 15 minutes travel from our home. I am still autonomous, although restricted in travelling because of the constant threat of losing balance, falling and hurting myself. Although I have fallen quite a few times so far, I have not hurt myself besides bruises.

I would appreciate that you edit my English writing. A French speaking Engineer is no match for an English speaking Arts man. (*Ed. Et l'inverse est doublement vrai!*)

Attached, is my 2 page biography

*Jean: An inspiring story of courage in the face of adversity, Thank you.*

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## 6333 - Jean Paquette



Ce chef-d'œuvre que vous êtes sur le point de dévorer représente le court résumé (espérons) de ce que j'ai vécu depuis les 45 années que nous avons quitté RMC.

Marié en novembre 1965 à Margaret Tremblay du Lac St-Jean que j'ai rencontrée à Kingston, ma première affectation est à Montréal à 202 Base Workshop. Un an plus tard, nous nous retrouvons à Frédéricton Nouveau-Brunswick où ma carrière militaire se termine telle que prévue : après 3 ans de service. J'ai grandement apprécié le défi du Collège Militaire partagé avec des confrères extrêmement intéressants. Malheureusement, la carrière dans l'Armée ne me paraissait pas la meilleure place pour un jeune Ingénieur.

Donc en 1968, je suis de retour à Montréal à l'emploi d'un grand manufacturier de produits pour les soins de santé : Johnson & Johnson Inc. J'y travaillerai pendant 22 ans, d'abord comme Chef de Service du département de production des produits d'hôpitaux (5 ans) puis je fais un séjour en informatique à titre de Chef de Service Opérations. C'était l'époque de l'ordinateur central alimenté de cartes perforées qui utilisait tous ses 64K octets (plus tard augmenté à 96K) pour produire le rapport de ventes détaillé de 3000 à 4500 pages mensuellement. Enfin, durant mes 15 dernières années de service chez J&J, j'ai pu exercer ma profession d'Ingénieur en dirigeant tour à tour tous les différents services d'ingénierie : mécanique, électrique, usine et industriel. De plus, le soir, Margaret et moi suivons des cours : elle se recycle de Puéricultrice à Infirmière et j'obtiens un MBA de l'Université McGill.

Par la suite, je me suis retrouvé dans une plus petite entreprise : GM Plastics. Ma fonction était Directeur d'une usine d'extrusion de feuilles de plastiques vendues sur commandes à des thermo formeurs pour transformation en divers produits de consommation : contenants de lait,

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yogourt, panneaux de douches, pédalos, etc.... Lorsque GM acheta une usine d'un compétiteur, je fus promu au poste de Directeur- Opérations manufacturières ayant la responsabilité de deux usines : à Granby et à Cornwall Ontario.

Pour terminer ma carrière, je deviens Directeur des Opérations chez le parfumeur Chanel Inc. En plus de la fabrication des produits Chanel, je gère la fonction de sous-traitance, supervise la planification de la production, les achats, le contrôle des inventaires, l'entreposage, la distribution et l'assurance de la qualité.

Je prends ma retraite à la fin 1999 et Margaret met fin à plus de 30 années de service à l'hôpital Louis-H. Lafontaine en 2005.

Parallèlement à notre travail, mon épouse et moi avons développé un intérêt marqué pour les sports. Le tout commence à Fredericton lorsque je suis assigné officier responsable du centre de ski de l'Armée au Mont Douglas. Le Caporal Dick Wilson s'avère un excellent moniteur. Durant les années 70, nous skions presque toutes les grandes stations d'Europe. Les années 80 nous font découvrir une forme de ski extrême dans l'Ouest canadien : le ski dans la nature vierge en se déplaçant par hélicoptère. En 8 voyages, 400 déposes nous totalisons plus de un million de pieds de dénivelée chacun. Les années 90 nous permettent de visiter presque toutes les stations de l'Ouest canadien et quelques unes de l'Ouest américain. Je m'arrête car je pourrais vous raconter chaque virage!

En été, loin de nous l'oisiveté, nous pratiquons le golf depuis plusieurs années à raison, depuis la retraite, d'une centaine de parties par année. Récemment nous avons ajouté le Curling à nos passions.

Avec toutes ces activités, vous devinez que la nature ne nous a pas donné de rejets.

## **6566 Doug Ross**

The following was received from Doug's wife, Mary: "Here's some recent

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news from 2395 Mesa Vista Court, West Kelowna.....

On Monday morning March 25th Doug had a heart attack while playing tennis with the boys in West Kelowna. After a trip to the West Kelowna Clinic with Mary - treated there by a quick thinking GP - off he went in his first-ever ambulance ride to the Kelowna General Hospital and a wait of 25 hrs. in the ER after it was determined that he was going to be OK.

On Tuesday he received a large stent in the centre of his heart and the cauterization of a few other partial blockages. He was back at home on Thursday March 28th, with orders to get lots of rest, eat no salt, no snack foods like butter tarts :-( and do everything his wife tells him to do LOL !!! :O). Doug cannot drive (either the Ford or his Taylor Made) for a month - Mary will happily chauffeur and then... look out world !!! The "Stentmasters" of the West Kelowna Tennis Club are awaiting his return to the Courts. Doug has only one stent while a few others have 2 or 3 ... but rest assured folks, Doug's stent is the biggest one !

Not long until Doug's 70th Birthday so Mary is checking out all the Heart Smart Birthday Cake recipes."

*Doug: From all of us - get well soon and do what Mary tells you!*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gathering - Sarasota Branch Class of 65 by 6475 Mike Houghton**

26 February saw the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual gathering of the Class of '65 (Sarasota Branch) at the Berman/Houghton residence on Siesta Key. Five classmates attended as evidenced by the attached photo, along with their better halves. Two "guests" were included along with their spouses, they being Dr. Don Johnson and Nigel Van Loan (Class of '63). Don and Mike were army brats in Fort Churchill in 1954 and, while Don was completing his medical training at Queens, his dad Howard Johnson was our protestant chaplain at RMC. Don and his wife Carole are best known for establishing the Carleton University Sports Medicine Clinic. Don graciously volunteered to operate on Nige Hilliard's knees, but only after they had both consumed several glasses of



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proseco. With five very experienced, albeit somewhat rusty, nurses in attendance, what could possibly go wrong!!!

Nigel Van Loan will be remembered from RMC by Fras, Terry and Nige, and believes as one of our seniors was responsible for any success we may have enjoyed!! Mike served with Nigel as senior staff officers in the NDOC "bunker" (10<sup>th</sup> floor 101 Col By Drive) during the first Gulf War. They later met up, purely by chance, in Prague at the Canadian Ambassador's residence, the Ambassador being married to MGen (ret'd) Tom Defaye, Mike's classmate from CMR days. Nigel and partner Maggie Taylor then sailed the Danube with Mike and Nancy on a highly recommended cruise.

As for the reprobates reflected in the photo, where the dress-of-the-day was "Aussie Informal" (no socks with your flip flops), please note that Fras is wearing the latest in Airforce blue casual wear, Terry in ambassadorial PT kit, Waine wearing white to represent purity in international affairs, while Hilliard and Houghton are trialing the new camouflage uniforms being considered by the Canadian Army.



With regret we did not have Gord Diamond, Amby Ambachtsheer and our Secretary Emeritus, Hugh Spence with us, all of whom are in Florida, but

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trust that will be corrected next year. Mike and Nancy have already booked their present residence for same time January to March inclusive.

Best regards to all from the land of oranges, martinis and beautiful beaches.

## **Closing Notes**

Thanks to all for a refreshingly full edition. The remarkable range and extent of activities being pursued by the Class of 65 some 50 years later continues to amaze and inspire. Apparently, even illness cannot slow us down.