

CONVENING ORDER OLD BRIGADE INDUCTION EVENTS RMC Kingston Group entry Class of 2021

Greetings, members of the RMC Club Old Brigade Class of 2021. The purpose of this Convening Order is to announce the Reunion Weekend (RWE) plans for the RMC Kingston Group, and to encourage your participation in this milestone event. The dates of **17-19 Sep 2021** (from the original RWE schedule) have been preserved and your organizing committee has been hard at work for over a year to get us ready.

Please refer to the accompanying Master List for the names of all 314 classmates that are associated with the RMC Group. There are also 155 fellow inductees in the CMR Group that will join the Old Brigade (OB) in early October.

OVERVIEW

The COVID pandemic precludes an in-person Reunion Weekend at RMC again this year. All in-person reunion activities at the College have been cancelled (see RMC Club announcement in e-Veritas Issue #5/21). Access to the RMC campus is restricted to the OCdt recruit Class of 2021 and essential Support and Directing Staffs. Our OB Class 2021 will be represented on campus by the Class Secretary and perhaps one or two other members (TBD), who will give out the coins to the recruits upon completing the obstacle course on Friday and will participate in the badging ceremony on Saturday.

Consequently, our Old Brigade 2021 induction and reunion events will be conducted virtually. In-person functions in your local communities are encouraged where local restrictions allow (see in-person options below). We can't join the Old Brigade in traditional fashion, because of the ongoing Covid situation, but we're not going to let that stop us!

We've been asked why we cannot simply delay entry into the Old Brigade until next year, when conditions will let us meet on campus. We can think of two main reasons for not postponing:

- a. this is our year to enter the Old Brigade - fifty years after entry into the CMC's. The welcoming ceremony during RWE formalizes the event but our Class will be entered the OB this year whether we celebrate it or not. The class of 2020 has already entered the OB, even though they could not meet last Fall. Instead of letting this milestone pass unmarked, we've decided that it would be better to celebrate with an activity in the year that it occurs; and
- b. who knows what next year will be like? Even if there is a return to "normal", it will not be clear sailing. The Club and RMC are very much engaged with the complexities of trying to host three simultaneous OB entry Classes next year, in addition to the standard 5-year reunion classes that are also missing out on

their normal RWEs. As you are aware, at the best of times, Kingston is very crowded (hotels, etc.) in the Fall with RMC and Queen's U. events, So, the RWE in 2022, assuming it can be in-person, is still very much a tough logistical nut to crack.

All this to say, we don't think it is a good idea to postpone our entry into the Old Brigade until next year. This is our year to shine, regardless of the circumstance and limitations that COVID throws at us.

PROGRAMME:

We have shortened the normal in-person Reunion Weekend (RWE) schedule that we have become accustomed to during past 5-year reunions to a two-day programme this year. The formal induction events will occur on Friday, 17 Sep 21. Saturday has been set aside for classmates to meet in a variety of groupings in virtual sessions. Local in-person events, where Covid restrictions permit, are encouraged. Here is a summary of the RWE events. (See Annex A for details)

Friday, 17 September 2021

- **OB Induction Ceremony - 1900 hrs** - the Old Brigade Adjutant will welcome the Class into the Old Brigade via Zoom software. This event replaces the welcoming ceremony at the usual Saturday evening OB dinner in Kingston.
- **Memorial Service - 1945 hrs** - 10986 Father Rick Paulin will lead the Class in a memorial service in memory of the 23 classmates that we've lost since 1972, and to extend a moment of contemplation for all who have lost spouses and family members, and for classmates who might have passed without our knowledge. This event replaces the usual Sunday March to the Arch parade and memorial service.
- **Rook Flight Reunion Session - 2045 hrs** - Immediately following the memorial service, the main Zoom group will be divided into fourteen smaller Rook Flight groupings, each with its own virtual room. This will give classmates an opportunity to reunite in their original groupings and to refresh memories of those long-ago days. The breakout room groups will consist of the seven RMC Rook Flights, the six RRMC Rook Flights, and the CMR-RMC group

Saturday, 18 September 2021

- **Special Interest Sessions (SIS)** - Once the above sessions are completed, the RMC Group will have passed into the exalted ranks of the Old Brigade. But to emulate the many gatherings and discussions that normally happen during a traditional RWE, we will use Discord software to enable a great variety of chat rooms for meeting our classmates and their spouses / partners.

- **In-Person Functions** - Where local conditions permit, we encourage classmates to host events and celebrate our entry into the OB, even if we cannot meet as a Class in Kingston. Such events are at the whim and fancy of willing hosts, and can be held any time, not just on the Saturday. Saturday timeslots will be coordinated to deconflict any events with the SIS activities.

TIMINGS

OB 2021 members are spread out across the globe, so the choice of timings for any session is going to be a problem for somebody, regardless. The weekend schedule will therefore be based upon Eastern Standard Daylight Time (Kingston time), with a view to minimizing weird hours for North American participants, where a large majority of participants reside.

DRESS

A strict dress code is not required for this programme because there will be no parades or other highly formal events. However, we ask that participants dress "smart casual" for all online events, particularly for the Friday induction and memorial sessions. There is no need for the Old Brigade beret and blazer, but that is a personal choice. A nice touch would be to wear the Old Brigade tie for the Friday sessions, but again that is a personal choice, not a requirement.

PARTICIPANTS

To the extent that we can provide the ability for our Class to meet virtually, we wish to facilitate as much as possible the interaction that normally occurs during the in-person Reunion Weekends. Therefore, we welcome all OB 2021 classmates, their spouses and family to participate if and as desired, and invite our fellow classmates from the CMR Group to join us. We are also inviting the families of our classmates that have passed to join us for the memorial service on the Friday,

SOFTWARE

We will be using two different videoconferencing software applications as follows:

Zoom - this application has become highly popular in the past year and its format and capabilities are ideal for our plenary sessions on the Friday. Further, the breakout rooms feature will permit us to transition from the plenary session to fourteen separate Rook Flight / Squadron groupings without having to sign off or log back in.

Discord - for Saturday's session, Discord will provide unlimited ability to establish separate video chat rooms to allow any combination of meetings that the Class members might wish to hold. Any participant, once logged in, will be able to enter or leave any chat room at will, without affecting the other participants. This

software was designed originally to assist the gaming community to interact while playing online games but has proven to be an excellent tool for the non-gaming community to use for conferencing and reunions.

Many of you are probably already very conversant with these applications, but for those who haven't had much experience, we can assure you that the process is very straightforward, and these apps are surprisingly easy to use. In any case, we will be sending out a short tutorial package so that you can become familiar with these applications.

You will need a free Zoom account and a free Discord account to participate in RWE events. This is a very simple and painless procedure, to permit us to let you participate in the Zoom breakout rooms on Friday, and to access the various Discord channels on Saturday. Please visit the following sites and set up your accounts as soon as possible:

- a. for Zoom: go to <https://zoom.us> and click the "sign up, it's free" button; and
- b. for Discord: go <https://discord.com/register> and create an account.

Once we have your feedback regarding your participation that weekend, we will prepare the necessary links and will forward them to you in the week prior to 17 Sep. In the meantime, set up your accounts and ensure that you use the same account when you log in for RWE.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Both software applications will permit us to record the virtual sessions and to convert them to videos for participants to replay and for those who were not able to join us during RWE to access the proceedings and keep in touch with the Class. The sessions will be posted on the Centennial Class of '76 website and will be password protected so that only the OB Class of 2021 will be able to gain access.

E-BOOK

Many thanks to Karmin McKay for this idea a few years back. We have decided to proceed with creating a memento to mark this milestone event. Please view the accompanying PDF document for the example e-Book format we are developing. It is styled somewhat like our 1976 Review, with welcome/congratulatory messages from the RMC Club, the College, our CWC, etc. We will include a nominal list of all OB 2021 members, as well as a memorial section for our departed classmates. One or two pages per classmate will be devoted to a short biography and photos, as submitted by willing contributors. This is an important part of the e-Book, allowing us to catch up with each other over the past decades. Please view the accompanying PDF document for guidance on how to draft and submit your biography.

INFORMATION PACKAGE

Please refer to the following documents that have been forwarded to you along with this Convening Order:

- a. Special Interest Session (SIS) schedule;
- b. draft e-Book format;
- c. e-Book submission instructions; and
- d. Master list of OB 2021 members.

REQUEST YOUR FEEDBACK

Now that you know what we have planned for RWE 2021, we would like your feedback to help us tailor the events and coordinate registration and participation. We have five quick questions for you.

1. **Do you intend to participate in the Friday, 17 September events?**
2. **Do you wish to participate in or help coordinate a Special Interest Session (SIS) on Saturday, 18 Sep?** If YES, please indicate which session(s) you would be interested in.
3. **Are you interested in organizing an "in-person" event in your location during the period 17-19 September?** If YES, please let us know your intentions so that we can assist in coordinating and contacting people.
4. **Is your spouse interested in participating or coordinating either a SIS or in-person function in your location during the period 17-19 Sep?** If YES, please let us know what you are planning so we can assist in coordinating it.
5. **Will you draft a short biography for the Centennial Class of '76 e-Book?** If YES, please submit your biography as per the instructions provided in the accompanying document by 5 Sep 21. Additional photos and accounts of deeds long ago are also welcome for consideration as input to the e-Book.

Please provide your response NLT 5 Sep 21 by email to your Rook Flight or Group representatives. Once we have your responses, we will correspond with you as required to ensure you are fully prepared to join the RWE events.

SUMMARY

The 2021 Reunion Weekend and our entry into the Old Brigade, unfortunately, will not occur the way we would have wished. Hopefully, COVID restrictions will be gone by this time next year and we will be able to arrange for an in-person activities on campus

in Kingston. Meanwhile, let's do the best we can in a virtual setting and let's not miss the opportunity to celebrate our entry into the Old Brigade on time, fifty years after we started this journey.

The organizing committee for RWE 2021 has worked hard to ensure that we can still have an enjoyable and memorable reunion despite Covid. Please join us in September and show the College, the Cadets, and the rest of the Old Brigade that we are not easily flustered with inconveniences and out-of-normal circumstances.

Please remember...

- respond to the five questions no later than 5 September.
- set up your free Zoom and Discord accounts as soon as possible.
- complete your biography and submit it before 5 September.

Yours truly,

Organizing Committee
RMC Centennial Class of '76
OB Entry and Reunion 2021

Friday, 17 September 2021 using Zoom software

all times EDT (Kingston)

TIMINGS	EVENT	SCHEDULE		REMARKS
1800-1900	On-Boarding	1800	- Host stands watch - participants join any time after 1800 but before 1900	- debug connection issues - general conversations until 1900
1900-1945	Induction Ceremony	1900	- Call to Order and opening remarks	- Class Secretary
		1905	- Roll Call	15 seconds per participant College Number, First Name, Last Name CMC path (eg: CMR 71-74, RMC 74-76) current address (town only)
		1930	- Report	- Class Secretary reports OB Class of 2021 to the Adjutant of the Old Brigade
		1930	- Opening Remarks	- OB Adjutant
		1930	- Official Welcome	- OB Adjutant
		1935	- Three Cheers	- Class Secretary
		1940		then, introduce Father Rick Paulin
1945-2015	Memorial Service	1945	- Opening Remarks	- 10986 Father Rick Paulin, presiding
		1950	- Tribute to S.O.S.	- Roll Call and bell toll for 23 classmates - Moment of Silence for all departed souls - Last Post, Reveille, Piper's Lament
2015-2020	Conclusion	2015	- Closing Remarks	- Class Secretary - end of formal events for OB induction - reminder about Saturday optional events
2020-2130...	Rook Flight Sessions	2020	- Introduction	- Class Secretary
		2025	- break into Flights	- Rook Flight Reps - coordinate sessions - terminate sessions as desired - resume sessions Saturday if desired
		2130	- extension	- breakout rooms available for as long as desired

Saturday, 18 September 2021

all times EDT (Kingston)

TIMINGS	EVENT	SCHEDULE	REMARKS
1000-1900	Special Interest Sessions using Discord software	- see separate Session matrix document for possible topics and time slots	- Discord application will be available all day - Discord managers will be available for assistance
various	Local In-Person Functions	- timings to be determined based upon individual host intentions - see below for example functions	- local hosts to organize as deemed appropriate - adhere to local Covid restrictions Note: these functions are not restricted to a Friday time slot. See below for explanation.

SPECIAL INTEREST SESSIONS (SIS)

Depending upon the responses and interest received from the Convening Order questions #2 and #4, the organizing committee will contact session coordinators to establish topic, timings, and expected participants for a session. If a Discord chat room (channel) is not already established, a new one will be created. Joining instructions for the Discord site (server) and channels will be promulgated in the next couple of weeks.

There is no limit to the possible topics and channels for the SIS. Please view the accompanying spreadsheet for example topics and time slots. Additional topics and slots will be added as required to satisfy participants' wishes. The overall intent is to provide as much flexibility as possible for classmates to interact by minimizing overlapping sessions.

Note that once a classmate logs in to the Discord server for OB 2021 activities, he is free to visit any channel that has been created. The channels will remain active throughout so visitors can come and go as they please.

IN-PERSON FUNCTIONS

Depending upon responses and interest received from Convening Order questions #3 and #4, the organizing committee will contact function organizers to establish venue, timings, and guests. If the function organizer so desires, we will promulgate necessary details to the Class to assist in deconflicting various functions and SIS.

We have no intention of restricting the type of function you might wish to host. Example local functions: include:

- a. lunch or dinner at a host's residence, local restaurant, pub, cafe, bar, Mess, etc.
- b. BBQ or picnic at a residence or park, etc.
- c. cocktail party or meet and greet at an establishment of your choosing;
- d. etc. the sky is the limit within the host's imagination and wishes, and of course local Covid restrictions.

Classmates and spouses are absolutely at liberty to decide for themselves the nature of the function they wish to host, as well as venues, timings, dates, invitees, etc. Saturday has been identified for these functions to permit coordination with possible sessions on Discord. However, Sunday and Friday are equally acceptable days for these functions, including a local group joining the Friday evening events via Zoom. The intent is to exploit the opportunity to create as good a reunion atmosphere as possible, in the absence of our ability to hold a proper in-person reunion in Kingston this year. As a traditional reunion weekend starts on Thursday evening and wraps up on Sunday afternoon, a similar timeframe is deemed to be appropriate for this year's RWE, even if much of it must be done virtually.

RMC CLASS OF '76 WEBSITE

As we receive your responses and develop the schedule of activities for Saturday, we will update and post the schedule on the Centennial Class of 1976 website at: <https://rmc76.com>. Please visit the site regularly to keep abreast of the latest RWE plans.