

# RRC Heritage Group Newsletter



## Experiences of a Radio Journalist

By Guy Dugas



What a pleasure it was to welcome Barry Burns as featured speaker at our September 18th meeting. A passionate former radio journalist, he regaled us with humorous stories of his checkered career and touching reminiscences of his time in Afghanistan. Clearly a sensitive man, Barry slipped from playful quips about his mixed Irish and Scottish ancestry, "I like to drink, but I hate to pay for it", to tearful pauses as he remembered those, some now dead, that he left behind in Kandahar.

Barry kicked off his presentation with kudos for RRC's Creative Communications' program, "without question the best around", whose graduates are sought out from across the country. Unable to benefit from such a program when he started out, Barry's journey into radio and television followed a decidedly serendipitous path. His career was launched in 1974 when Garry Robertson, his then employer in Winnipeg, encouraged him to send an audition tape off to CKJX in Yorkton. "I was scooped up off the street" with no training whatsoever, soon taking over the vacant sports-anchor position at CKJX and then hired to be the voice of the Yorkton Terriers. Not bad for a 28-year-old grade-11 grad whose experience by that point included time in the army, working in a bank, waiting on tables in Hy's restaurant and on the railways, and three years of odd jobs in

Australia. During his three years at CKJX Barry joined the Terriers' executive and, in addition to doing their radio play-by-play, even drove the team bus to and from games. His Terriers' experience paved the way to four years covering the Regina Pats and Saskatchewan Roughriders, followed by a stint with the SkyHawks (the Canadian Armed Forces parachute team) in 1981. As their PR Coordinator and show announcer, Barry travelled from coast to coast to coast. That same year at the Canada Summer Games in Thunder Bay he bumped into Don Wittman who asked if he would like to come back to Winnipeg. CTV needed a sportscaster and Barry was soon on his way back to Manitoba. He then worked with CBC and CKND, anchored the morning news on CJOB for 12 years and Global TV News from 1991-1996, finally retiring from CJOB/Power97 in 2013.

Most exciting for Barry was being embedded with the Canadian troops in Afghanistan in 2006. His 20 minute audio-visual presentation to the Heritage Group was actually a series of live reports originally broadcast from his tent at the Kandahar Airfield to radio stations across Canada. Through thoughtfully crafted vignettes and touching personal stories of locals caught in a hot, dusty war zone, he presented us stark pictures of ordinary people struggling to survive. All this against a backdrop of the ever-



## **Barry Burns, continued...**

present coalition forces constantly on alert against a deadly, faceless enemy that intermingles with the local population. Enthralled by the goings on, kept awake at night by the constant drone of aircraft, gunfire, and helicopters, Barry's goal was to "create interesting stories without being sensational", leaving the body-counts for others to record.

Now a pensioner like the rest of us, Barry continues to be very busy. Currently, he is President of the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba., is a Governor of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, was recently appointed Command Sergeant-at-Arms for ANAVETS (Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans) of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario (the oldest veterans organization in Canada, pre-dating even the Royal Canadian Legion). He sits on the Board of Southport and the Navy League of Canada, is parade marshal for the Remembrance Day parade in Winnipeg, and is the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 38 Signal Regiment with squadrons in Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon and Thunder Bay. As if that wasn't enough, Barry also manages to drive buses for Beaver Bus Lines in his "spare" time.

How encouraging it was to have Barry Burns share a bit of his colourful life and remind us how fortunate we are to live in this island of peace and prosperity that we call Canada.

## **Build Our Future: Buy a Brick**

### **College supporters build lasting legacy with engraved brick pathways**

Edited from the RED Blog (<http://news.rrc.ca/>)

Friends and supporters of Red River College gathered to see their memories set in stone over the September 27/28 weekend, at the unveiling of two new pathways comprised of commemorative engraved bricks.

In celebration of the first phase of RRC's Build Our Future — Buy a Brick campaign, College alumni, donors, dignitaries, retirees and friends turned out for twin unveiling ceremonies, one at the Notre Dame Campus on Sunday, September 28 and one at the Roblin Centre downtown on Monday, September 29, 2014. In total, over 200 bricks were purchased.

The campaign encouraged supporters to leave a lasting mark at the College, by purchasing engraved bricks in support of friends and loved ones, or to celebrate special occasions or cherished memories of their time at RRC.



Interim RRC President David Rew and wife Joan, at the unveiling of the brick pathway outside the Roblin Centre downtown

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Among those in attendance at the ceremonies: current and retired RRC employees, corporate partners and College alumni. RRC's Alumni Relations board honoured all past recipients of the College's Distinguished Alumni award with individualized bricks.

The campaign's first phase raised nearly \$22,000; installation of the pathways was made possible by students and staff from RRC's Greenspace Management program.

As part of Phase Two, RRC employees will have the opportunity to purchase bricks through the College's annual All Charities Campaign. Proceeds raised go to RRC's 75th Anniversary Endowment Fund, which provides funding for future institutional needs and priorities, including state-of-the-art equipment for learning applications and research, innovative learning techniques, and supports to ensure equal access to education.

## **HG Blog Update**

The Heritage Group is soon to join the RRC Blog Family with its own site under the Human Resources umbrella. We are still waiting for an official launch date, but those of you who are interested can go to this address for a sneak peek:

[blogs.rrc.ca/hr/category/heritage-group/](http://blogs.rrc.ca/hr/category/heritage-group/).

With any luck we will be live by our next newsletter!

# Bike Zone

By Guy Dugas

I have biked to and from work for years and, in addition to other light recreational riding, have also participated in a number of cycling events. I thought a couple of short articles focused on cycling might ease our bumpy ride into fall. I hope you enjoy them.

## Head Honcho 100



Two Heritage Group members, your intrepid newsletter editor and Wayne Ferguson (*hoisting his bike in the photo*), drove 478 km from Winnipeg to Park Rapids Minnesota the weekend of September 26. We were part of an eight-person RRC contingent who participated in the Headwaters 100, an annual one-day 100-mile (161 km) bike ride through beautiful Itasca State Park, source of the mighty Mississippi.

Why is this significant? Did we actually cycle 100 miles?

Well, some would say the ride itself is significant, and beautiful. And this year's unbelievably sunny 27 degree weather certainly added to the enjoyment. But no, some of us did not complete the full 100 miles. In fact, this is the first of Wayne's eight "centuries" (this was my fifth) to fall short.

What did make this year particularly significant was the fact that Wayne underwent hip replacement surgery this past spring. So he hadn't started riding again until late July! Oh, and did I mention that Wayne is 75? Sure, he had pronounced before his operation that he had every intention of cycling the Headwaters again this year. "Yeah, right." I thought. But, true to his word, here we were again.

In the end, the spirit was strong but the flesh weak(er).

Our Head Honcho did complete his century, but he quit after only one hundred **kilometers**, not one hundred **miles**.

Still, not too shabby I think.

Maybe next year...

## rrrr...



### Seven brave riders eleven great rides, one worthy cause

I was lucky enough to ride in my eleventh MS Riding Mountain Challenge with our Red River Rebel Riders this past September 6th and 7th. Head Honcho was not quite ready to tackle the hills after his hip replacement, and the only change in the team from 2013 was Deron Warkentin from the Roblin Campus, filling in for Wayne Ferguson.

The 2014 team: Marnie Boulet (Accounting & Computer Education - ACE), Guy Dugas (ACE retired), Dayna Graham (Academic Success Centre), Miguel Guzman (ACE), Mar-Zeus Macasieb (ACE), Michael Poitras (ACE), and Deron Warkentin (ACE).

The 2014 MS Riding Mountain Challenge is now history. 269 riders cycled the 150 km route, and RRC helped its team finish fourth (out of 32) on the list of top fundraising teams! \$3,847 were raised this year (over \$40,000 since we started 11 years ago), all for ground-breaking research and essential programs and services for those affected by MS in Manitoba.

The team hopes to see Wayne back next year, and I certainly plan to ride again. How about you? Let me know you if you are interested (you can email me at [guy@spright.ca](mailto:guy@spright.ca)). No previous experience necessary.

Thanks again to all those of you who have supported the team with donations this year and in the past.

Together we can end MS.

Help us make 2015 another perfect ride!

## RRC Org Changes



Joanne Shay, *Acting Dean, School of Distance and Continuing Education*

- Jul 2 *Diversity and Immigrant Student Support* departmental name changed to *Diversity and Intercultural Services*
- Sep David Rew named *Interim President* and *CEO* following the departure of Stephanie Forsyth
- Sep 8 Cindee Laverge announced as *Acting Vice-President, Student Services and Planning*
- Sep 8 RaeAnn Thibeault announced as *Acting Vice-President, Community Development*
- Sep 9 Carol Girling announced as *Acting Dean of Student Services*
- Sep 10 Susan Andree announced as *Acting Dean, School of Business and Applied Arts* while Graham Thomson serves as *Interim Dean of the School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts*
- Sep 10 Barb Cobb announced as *Acting Registrar*
- Oct 1 Bev Beitz appointed *Acting Vice-President, Finance and Administration*
- Oct 1 Chau Le appointed *Acting Controller*

## Construction Management students tie for first in simulated bid contest

Reprinted from the RED Blog (<http://news.rrc.ca/>)

A team of Construction Management students from RRC tied for first place in a bid simulation contest pitting them against colleges throughout Canada. 1st place came with a \$1,000 prize.

Our 3rd-year students tied for first in the “Most Professional” category of The Construction Institute of Canada’s 2014 Student Bid Competition.

The annual contest requires students to successfully complete each step of the bidding and estimation process for a simulated construction project, just as they would if they were working in industry. Team members study drawings, estimate the quantity of materials needed, and apply realistic pricing — all while working to a strict deadline.

“We are very proud of the effort and dedication on the part of the students, who undertook this competition outside of their regular coursework,” says Jerry Johnstone, Chair of RRC’s Civil Engineering Technology department. “The work ethic they exhibited will serve them well in their future careers.”

While preparing their bid, RRC students worked closely with coach (and instructor) Adam Ding, Barb Boroskae of the Winnipeg Construction Association, and mentor James Melendez from PCL Construction, named “Esteemed Mentor” by contest judges.



(From left): Third-year Construction Management students Yared Melketsadik, Linh Trinh, Prohor Kernos and Jarrod Serens

## Jane's Chef Lands Top Honours



Chef Luc Jean (*centre in photo*) of Jane's Restaurant at RRC's Paterson Global Institute earned a gold medal at the Gold Medal Plates competition on Thursday, October 2 at the RBC Convention Centre.

Chef Jean went head-to-head with 8 of Winnipeg's finest culinary masters at the prestigious competition. The win has earned him a spot at the Gold Medal Plates final in Kelowna next February 6/7. Chef Norm Pastorin of The Cornerstone won silver and Chef Edward Lam of Yujiro won bronze.

Jean's dish of Manitoba pork tenderloin with maple and anise butternut squash puree, potato confit, candied kumquats, crackling and spicy fermented cabbage was determined to be the top entry by a panel of judges.

(see <http://mytoba.ca/life/janes-chef-wins-gold-medal-plates-winnipeg/>)

## RRC/U of W launch Indigenous Studies degree

Reprinted from the RED Blog (<http://news.rrc.ca/>)



A group of Red River College employees are taking back-to-school season quite literally this year — having returned to the classroom to take part in a new degree program for staff.

The College recently entered into a memorandum of understanding with the University of Winnipeg, to offer RRC employees a Bachelor of Arts degree in Indigenous Studies.

The program is being delivered through a part-time cohort model over six years, making it perfect for employees seeking a meaningful degree with a flexible delivery schedule. Content was developed and is currently being delivered by Dr. Julie Pelletier, Chair of Indigenous Studies at UWinnipeg.

“If it weren’t for flexible scheduling during my own studies, I wouldn’t have been able to pursue higher education,” says Pelletier. “UWinnipeg and the Department of Indigenous Studies so value our relationship with RRC, and this approach gives us another opportunity to work together.”

The degree will provide students with a holistic background

in the field of Indigenous Studies, with a particular focus on Canadian contexts, as examined through multi-disciplinary coursework.

“We can all benefit from exploring indigenous ways of knowing,” says April Krahn, Director of Aboriginal Student Support & Community Relations at RRC. “As members of the RRC community, our enhanced knowledge and cultural competence informs how we view ourselves and others. In our work, it impacts how we develop and deliver services, programs and educational instruction, and how we form and maintain our working relationships with colleagues and with students.”

The program’s first cohort comprises 25 students — 22 from RRC and three from the community. Of those, 13 are self-declared Aboriginal students.

“This is an important number to celebrate, as we collectively search for new initiatives by which to increase Aboriginal advancement through education and inclusion,” says Krahn.

## 4.3% increase in full-time RRC attendance

Edited from the RED Blog (<http://news.rrc.ca/>)

Preliminary numbers for RRC’s Fall 2014 full-time attendance show an increase of 4.3% over the previous fall, “a testament to increasing student and employer demand for the programs we offer, and to the solid reputation the College has in delivering those programs to a high level of satisfaction for both,” says David Rew, Interim President and CEO.

Of particular note, this year’s increases include Culinary Arts (up 23%), Hospitality and Tourism Management (up 52%), Automotive Technician (up 78%), Intro to Trades (up 76%), Precision Metal Manufacturing (up 216%), and Cabinetry and Woodworking Technology (up 21%). RRC’s degree programs in Construction Management and Nursing, and its Access Nursing program, saw a 4.7% increase in overall attendance.

## Congratulations!

We have just learned that Jack Kaplan and his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past summer.

All the best Jack, and here's to the next 60!



## In Memoriam

Waris Shere passed away at age 78 on September 25, 2014. He taught Applied Mathematics in the engineering technology programs area at RRCC and authored several books on international affairs.

## HG Endowment Fund

To sustain the Heritage Group Award Endowment Fund for RRC students in need of financial assistance, the Heritage Group has replaced its annual membership fee with an **annual** voluntary contribution to the Endowment Fund. All donations are matched dollar for dollar by the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursaries Initiative (MSBI).



Donations of **\$20.00 or more will automatically be tax received**. Upon request, receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00.

An **Annual Donation Form** is included at the end of this newsletter.

Or, if you prefer to make a secure online donation, go to <https://me.rrc.mb.ca/OnlineDonation/>, check the box for **Scholarships and Bursaries**, specify **Heritage Group Award Endowment Fund** in the box for **Additional gift information**, and also check the box **to be contacted about setting up monthly donations**.

## October Speaker

### Chief Devon Clunis: "Creating a Culture of Safety"

Chief Clunis was born in Harmony Vale, Jamaica, immigrated to Winnipeg in 1975 at age 11 and joined the Winnipeg Police Service in 1987.

He has served in major areas of the Police Service including: Uniform Patrol, Traffic, Plainclothes Investigation, Community Relations, Organizational Development and Support, and Police Chaplain as well as a number of administrative leadership roles.



He was a recipient of the Police Service's Award of Excellence in 2002 recognizing his outstanding police and community work.

Chief Clunis was promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2002, Sergeant in 2004, Inspector in 2007, Superintendent in 2010, and appointed Winnipeg's 17th Chief of Police on November 2nd, 2012.

He is president of the Manitoba Association of Chiefs of Police, a member of the Board of Directors of The Canadian Police Knowledge Network and a member of the Poverty Reduction Council of Winnipeg.

## RRC Heritage Group

### Chair

Dale Watts, [dalewatts@shaw.ca](mailto:dalewatts@shaw.ca)

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### Past Chair

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### Founders

Bob Barr & Don Kennedy

### Red River College Group Liaison

Elena Grinshteyn, [egrinshteyn@rrc.ca](mailto:egrinshteyn@rrc.ca)  
204-631-3324

### Editor

Guy Dugas, [guy@spright.ca](mailto:guy@spright.ca)

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Red River College  
2055 Notre Dame Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0J9

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