

HOLEY HOSE SAVED

by LCol Bruce D.
Bolton, MMM, CD

One can only imagine how soldiers wear down their red & white long hose with parades and duties seven hours a day, five days a week for an entire summer. Holes are bound to develop at the heel and sometimes at the toe. At \$80 a pair, every effort must be made to extend their lifespan. The dilemma - hundreds of pairs of holey hose needing darning! The solution - Moira Barclay Fernie. Well known for her shortbread and scone lessons and product, Moira developed a reputation for leading the knitting group at the Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul. Holey hose and holy knitter – a match made in Heaven. Moira undertook the task and darned and darned. In recognition of the hundreds of hours she worked on the hose, the Fort St. Helen Garrison Command Group were proud to welcome Moira as a Regimental Lady at the Fall Dining-In. Thank you Moira. The following poem expresses Moira's love of darning Fraser Hose!

Ode to the 78th Fraser Highlanders' Socks

by Milady Moira Barclay-Fernie

One day my friend Bruce sent me a box -
A very large box filled up with sox,
Not one, or two, or three, or four,
But I counted and saw a hundred or more.

The socks of all sizes made quite a rare sight,
Except that each suffered a terrible blight.
For, used through each summer, day after day,
The socks were now in a terrible way.

That terrible blight was not seen on parade,
Though the holes, which were huge, had each one
been made
By wickedly difficult sheer wear and tear.
Now each of those socks needed special repair.

Today darners of socks are thin on the ground.
So how would Bruce Bolton tackle this mound?
Socks - lots of socks - with great gaping holes,
Not only on heels but also on soles.

Bruce puzzled and puzzled and asked all around,
"Who can darn and repair these socks by the
pound?
Ah, Moira," he thought. "She will say yes."
And how right he was, no need to guess.

The next step was Moira getting the box,
Then checking and darning and pairing the socks.
Not all socks could be darned and made ready for
use

'Cos some of the holes were as big as a moose.

So when you see hose of red and white checks,
Please remember the time I spent wearing my
specs,
Night after night, tackling this blight
And working away until failing daylight.

But now we have socks for the incoming season
And, for the future, have found a good reason,
To change our wearing of socks made of cotton.
The use of synthetics should not be forgotten.

Then back went the socks, some darned and all
clean
To your dear Chief of Staff whose face it did
beam,
And now that's the end of a tale of some hose
Of the 78th Frasers whom everyone knows.

So here I am now, Regimental lady no less
All because I could darn and work under stress.
I am happy I helped and I gave it my best,



Despatches

of The Fort St. Helen Garrison of the 78th Fraser Highlanders

Major Peter B. Ferst, CStJ CD, Officer Commanding

January 2012

OC's Report



Almost a year has
gone by since I
received the
command sporan
from LCol Bruce
Bolton and, like

life itself, it has been bittersweet. I will begin with the bitter. It is with great sadness that I mention the death this summer of the currently serving St Helen Garrison Adjutant, Capt. Denis Moore. Over the last many years, he was a hardworking, competent, and dedicated member of the Garrison Command Group, serving as publisher and editor of Despatches, working with the squad, supporter of the majority of our events. He is sorely missed. Sadly, HCol Dr. Ian Hutchison, formerly an important key member in the earlier years of the Frasers' development, and Capt-Lt. Roy Bowes, and Capt-Lt. Gordon Whatman, both long time members and solid supporters, also died in the last few weeks. To all of the loved ones of these departed Frasers I send on behalf of the garrison officers and squad our collective heartfelt condolences.

On the sweeter side, we have good news. With the renovations completed, the museum has reopened and we are back home in the fort. Since all the garrison could not be accommodated owing to space limitations, I was invited to and attended on behalf of the garrison officers the reception for the re-opening. We had the exclusive

opportunity to see the museum during the Dinner Under The Stars evening. The Dinner Under The Stars was an outstanding success with almost two hundred attending. I took the opportunity to speak to most of the participants and it was unanimous that having the dinner in the fort, in a tent, with unlimited lobster, is still the formula for success.

The squad, smaller in numbers, performed admirably on a number of occasions and I was very proud to be able to take one parade since it was already late in the season when we got back into "barracks". Unfortunately a series of date conflicts prevented us having a formal end-of-season parade this year. So as not to deprive them of well deserved awards, the squad members attended the Annual Regimental Dinner in November to be recognized for their work.

I should also like to report on personnel changes to the Command Group(CG). Our PMC and Second-in-Command Capt. Claude Larocque has been sent to La Côte d'Ivoire for one year on a United Nations Police Training Mission. Ens. Mike

Gadue who recently joined the Command Group has taken on the position of Acting PMC. Ens. Alec McGuckin, Squad Liaison, has taken a position in Toronto and has been replaced by squad member Ens. Mehdi Mountassir. Milady Margaret Moore has accepted to join the CG and becomes editor of Despatches. Milady Terry Stone is appointed garrison photographer and will be assisted when required by others. Capt. André Morin has resigned from the CG due to a very high workload. Ens. Gheorghe Bota-Radu, has joined the CG and will be working with other members on an as-needed basis for now. Ens. Warren Thwing has resigned as communications officer and photographer. A big thank you to all the departing CG members and thank you to new members for joining us.

Planning and scheming continue for the coming season and there is lots to look forward to so stay tuned. Thank you all for your ongoing support to the regiment and thus to the squad.

Major Peter B. Ferst, CStJ CD
OC Fort St. Helen Garrison





In Memory of

Honorary Colonel Dr. Ian E. Hutchison 1929-2011

Towards the end of October, Honorary Colonel Dr. Ian Hutchison succumbed to the health battle he had been waging for a number of years. To the very end he was courageous, inquisitive, generous and a lover of life.

Colonel Hutchison was one of the founding fathers of the 78th Squad in Montreal along with Colonel Harper and Colonel David Stewart in the 1960s. Being a member of one of Montreal's great Scottish and military families, he was attracted to the project to encourage young Montreal teenagers playing bagpipes & drums to portray Fraser Highlanders for the public at the Fort on St. Helen's Island during the summer months. He would faithfully appear to present trophies at the "end of season" ceremony, and often

attended the *Dinner Under the Stars* event, especially when his wife Dawne was co-chairman. As a past President of the International Wine and Food Society, he was called on to recommend wines for Fraser events.

One of the other early Honorary Colonels was Mr. Justice Kenneth MacKay, who recalled Ian being his family doctor for many years at a time when the doctor's office was located at home. I had the privilege of visiting Ian in his home in TMR a few months ago and we sat in his old office, with separate entrance for patients, where we chatted about the importance of what we do for young people and then he wrote another of his generous cheques to the 78th. I was particularly honoured to pull out my bagpipes and play at Ian's memorial service. He was a very special man to me, and to the 78th. The Regiment extends its most sincere sympathies to Dawne and their family.

by LCol Bruce Bolton



Honorary Colonel Ian Hutchison presents the Best Recruit Trophy to Pte Joseph Boran at the end of the 2008 season.

Capt-Lt Roy Bowes 1921-2011

When HLCol Gordon Atkinson started up the Fort St. Helen Garrison of the 78th Fraser Highlanders in late 1980s, one of his first recruits was his old military friend Roy Bowes. Well known in Montreal military circles and always proud of wearing his 3rd Field Engineers Mess Kit uniform, Roy was a great supporter of the Garrison and of the young soldiers of the squad. Roy passed away recently in Ontario where he had moved to a few years ago. We have already received his uniform in order to pass it on to a younger member, who is to wear it proudly in the memory of Roy but also as a memory of all 78th soldiers who have passed before us. May he rest in peace.



Capt-Lt Gordon G. Whatman 1935-2011

The Regiment learned with regret of the passing of Capt-Lt Gordon G. Whatman on 2 December after years of suffering from Alzheimers. Gordon was a long time supporter of the Regiment. Being a graduate of the Royal Military College, Kingston, his military bearing was evident at all times, as were his humor, positive outlook and interest in military history. The Regiment extends its sincerest sympathies to Milady Beryl Watson, who took care of Gordon while hospitalized for his last few years, and to his three daughters, Hester, Lisa and Shannon and their families. The Regiment has lost a fine officer and gentleman.



Fraser's Highlanders: A Snapshot from the Registers at Chelsea Hospital, 1760

by
Captain Earl Chapman
Regimental Historian

As shown by author/historian Stephen Brumwell in *Redcoats: The British Soldier and War in the Americas, 1755-1763*, much information on the Highland regiments which served in North America during the Seven Years' War (1755-1763) can be gleaned from the records of those men who applied for pensions from the Royal Hospital at Chelsea. Two samples considered here, extracted from the WO 120/5 registers at The National Archives in Kew, involves 18 wounded men from the 78th Foot (Fraser's Highlanders) who applied for out-pensions on 28 October 1760, and a further 26 who applied two months later on 23 December 1760. These two waves of claims likely reflect the heavy casualties suffered at the battle of Sillery the previous April, where the 78th Foot suffered 213 casualties.

In the first group (28 October 1760, 18 men), the average age was 36.8 years—somewhat higher than Brumwell's "typical" redcoat soldier in America in 1757 at just under 32 years of age. At one extreme in our grouping was 24-year old Evan Cameron, "shot thro' the body." In the same group was a man old enough to be his grandfather, 63-year old Thomas Fraser, "wounded in the thigh at Quebec." The average length of service of these men was 9.8 years,

comparing favorably with Brumwell's "typical" redcoat with 9 years service. Of the 18 sampled, ten had spent four years in the army, suggesting that they had no prior military experience before joining Fraser's Highlanders early in 1757. The other eight claimed more than four years of service, suggesting that they had served in other regiments. The soldier with the longest service in this sample was 58-year old Peter Grant, with an impressive 30 years of service. Grant hailed from Glen Moriston and was recorded as suffering from "scurvy and age."

In the second group (23 December 1760, 26 men), the average age was 44.1 years—again, higher than Brumwell's "typical" redcoat. As with the earlier sample, the age range was quite extensive. At one extreme was 23-year old Thomas Carter, born in Dublin, one of the regiment's few non-Highlanders, who, the register recorded, "lost the use of his leg on duty." At the other extreme was 65-year old Duncan McIntosh, a tailor from Badenoch, who was aptly recorded as "old & infirm." The average length of service of these men was 16.1 years, much higher than our "typical" redcoat. Of this group, ten had spent four years in the army, again suggesting that they had no prior military experience before joining Fraser's Highlanders in 1757. The remainder claimed more than four years service, suggesting that they had served in other regiments. Of the two groups in question, a sample of 44 men, a total of 14 were over 55 years of age, or a hefty 32 percent.

Few of these Highlanders applying at Chelsea could boast a trade—eleven of the eighteen men in the first group, and sixteen of the twenty-six in the second group, all gave their occupations as 'labourers.' The fact that men were enrolled for overseas service at such an advanced age suggests that the supply of "prime" Highlanders were drying out. Since September 1757, recruiting parties from the three regiments then serving in America had been hard at work in the Highlands, each raising three additional companies. This was exacerbated that same year by initiatives to form new Highland units for service in Germany and elsewhere. Officers who reviewed these new units before embarkation to Flanders noted the presence of a few "old men and boys," adding that they were "not to be Objected at this time when Men are so very difficult to get." The 78th's pastor, Robert Macpherson, also wrote about this difficulty in December 1761. Writing about the men of the last Additional company that arrived as reinforcements, he observed that "a great many of them were hardly able to carry their arms much less do Execution with them against the Enemy," insinuating that these new recruits were either feeble or just young boys.





I had no idea the 78th Fraser Highlanders even existed until I met Diana Wall who told me all about the regiment when she found out I am a Fraser. The Fraser part of our family name can be traced back to the 11th century and is descended from the Lovat Frasers. Many of my more recent antecedents were born in the Highlands near Inverness at Aldourie Castle on the shores of Loch Ness.

With this history, it seemed only natural to join the ranks of the 78th Highlanders and I look forward to celebrating future events with other members of the 78th.

Milady Gael Fraser-Tytler

As an amateur historian I have long been aware of the 78th Fraser Highlanders. But my appreciation for the regiment and its history turned to outright admiration in 2009, when in spite of separatist threats, the regiment observed its 250th anniversary by parading without fear and without incident through the Plains of Abraham, where it first saw battle, and down the streets of Quebec City. The mainstream media didn't notice its devotion to its past and its respect for history, but I did.

Ensign Alan Hustak

New members in the Garrison

*By Milady Diana Wall
Recruiting officer*

At our recent Regimental Dining-In, it was a pleasure to welcome several new recruits, as well as officially to confirm Kathleen Dixon as a Milady. Kathleen's ongoing willingness to provide a helping hand has long been appreciated.

When I first approached the British Consul General, Patrick Holdich, about joining our Fraser family in an honorary capacity, little did I know that he already had his own Lord Lovat connection. That pleasant surprise came during his speech as Guest of Honour that evening. A warm welcome to Patrick and his wife, Milady Stéphane Dubois.

I was already aware of the Lovat family link when I asked Gael Fraser-Tytler to consider joining our ranks. We very much appreciate that she has shared with us the wonderful photograph of herself and her cousin, Lady Erskine, in front of her ancestral home, Aldourne Castle. We are most pleased to welcome Gael as a Milady.



Alan Hustak is a renowned writer and historian. I was delighted when he responded favourably to my suggestion that he become part of the Fraser family. I know that he will prove to be a most erudite and knowledgeable addition to our ranks.

Both Gael and Alan have kindly agreed to share a few thoughts about why they decided to join the 78th Fraser Highlanders. I hope their comments will inspire others to approach friends, colleagues and family members who might also consider taking such a step. I look forward to hearing from you.

Diana Wall, Recruiting Officer

Despatches



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1939-2011

Denis Moore A Reflection on Behalf of the Squad

By Ens. Alec McGuckin

Hour after hour, day after day, Denis Moore was a funny man to be around. A common exchange between Denis and a member of the squad could read something like this (and this one is from memory, as it was often repeated):

Alec: "Denis, are you a fan of Kipling?"
Denis: "I don't know, Leko. I've never kiplped."

Of course, this is a very old joke. But it relays the kind of banter that marked days spent with Denis. Working with Denis was a whirlwind of humour, something like being caught in a tornado with a joke book and a thesaurus. He had what seemed to be an endless array of witticisms and anecdotes. Jokes would masquerade as stories, while his stories were funnier than almost any of his jokes. As anyone who spent time with him could tell you: after an afternoon with Denis, your grammar and vocabulary improved, and your cheeks hurt from laughter.

More than just a cut-up, though, Denis was a true pillar of the Frasers. He was heavily involved in organizing the Fraser Gala, the fall dinners, and other FH events. I think it goes without saying though, that his greatest contribution

was the work he did with the squad. This was the role in which I knew Denis best. If leadership, power and respect are among the most coveted elements of our society, the ease with which Denis acquired them all when he was with the Squad would make even the most highly paid CEO a little jealous. Denis had the rare ability to command total respect from those of us who worked for him. And he would have done this as effortlessly as a private as he did wearing officer's cords. To the Squad he was one of the group – someone we deferred to, and someone we trusted.

Of course, so much of his ability to relate to the Squad came from his years of teaching. He instinctively knew how to talk to adolescents, with a cross between charismatic respect, kindness and dry humour in his voice. We always had better parades when Denis was watching. He simply was not someone we could allow ourselves to disappoint.

That said, it was more than just his natural instinct for teaching and his love for a good joke that made Denis so admired within the Squad. It was clear to everyone who worked with him that he loved the Frasers with the same visceral sense of enjoyment that the Squad members have. Once, over a beer after work, Denis remarked to me that he would wake up in the morning

feeling like a twenty-five year old, only to be reminded of his age when he looked in the mirror. (I joked that I usually have the opposite problem). It was almost as if spending the summers of his retirement with a group of driven young people – each possessing a sense of Celtic mischief – was a way for Denis to re-live some of his youth, while equally being able to offer us each the benefit of his life's experience. It was a good combination, and one that I know helped to keep some squad members out of trouble.

The more we all came to know Denis, the more we all learned that he was unique. He was a study in contradictions, combining talents that people don't normally place together: a first-rate athlete, a talented net-minder in football and a redoubtable cyclist. But he was also hyper-literate, often walking into work clutching a book which he would read with the kind of excitement usually reserved for undergraduates learning to love the classics. He was an artist, a cartoonist, a miniaturist, a painter, an expert in Napoleonic uniforms, and a writer whose prose read like a cross between Benjamin Disraeli and the writing staff from Monty Python. He was, simply put, a fascinating man.



For most of us, his writing was our first introduction to Captain Moore. His squad profiles were legendary rites of passage for new members. We were made to get into full dress, grab a musket or our bagpipes or drums, and meet Denis and Bill Campbell on a park bench in the Museum. There you would be asked about your background, your family, and anything else that the two officers thought made you interesting – or that would make good copy. The result in Despatches was always a comic write-up, but it was also one that revealed the essence of what made you a unique member of the Squad.

He was like the gatekeeper to the Regiment, one of the first to accept the new members, and the person who helped to define our roles. Often, these pieces could be quite touching to the subjects themselves. One very close friend of mine smiles mournfully whenever Denis' name comes up in conversation as he often reminds me about how proud he felt when Denis commented in print that he had the makings of a good soldier. This meant a lot to the young man – maybe fifteen at the time – whose family had served in the Black Watch for three generations, and whose father had been in the Marine Corps.

Denis died on the 2nd of July, 2011. The last time I had seen him was just over a week earlier when we met for a beer and I told him that I was resigning my job at the Museum and Foundation for a new position in Toronto. I was flattered by his disappointment at my decision, but also strengthened by his encouragement – and by his many jokes about the glorified hamlet that would become my adopted city. But I was struck by a sense of sadness when I left the pub that afternoon: I couldn't help feeling that Denis wasn't himself. He looked ashen and tired. For the first time in the eight years since I had met him, I got the impression that Denis didn't wake up feeling like he was twenty-five.

Later, after hearing that Denis had died, I called Claude Larocque. Claude's usually chipper voice was deflated when he answered the phone that day – he knew why I was calling. As sad as that call was, I couldn't help smiling when Claude told me the story of how the duo had gotten together for dinner with their wives the night before. The Denis that Claude described from that evening was closer to the Denis I now remember: in good spirits, enjoying a Single Malt Whiskey, and doubtless keeping the entire room alive with laughter.

In my mind, this stands out as the Denis we knew: lithe, gregarious, and possessing a *joie de vivre* that would put men half his corporal age to shame. I know that he imparted a sense of his character onto the Squad. He certainly made every one of us smarter, more erudite and one hell of a lot funnier. Any pun made by a Fraser will always belong, in some small way, to Denis Moore. Not bad for a man who had never kippedled.



Any Volunteers for Garrison Jury Duty?

by
Lt. R. Paul Goodman

Your garrison Education Officer herein provides a brief update on his major projects for the 2012 season.

Planning is proceeding apace for a supper, murder mystery, trial evening. Based on a real incident in the life of the 78th Regiment in 1757 we will restage this murder case using the deep pool of legal talent in the garrison to assume the key roles of judge and attorneys for the prosecution and the defence. Along with your fork, get your pen or pencil ready as the audience will compose the jury and render the final, just verdict. This event is tentatively set for next spring.

The Command Group has approved the formation of a VOLUNTEER officers' boot camp to be held before the next summer squad season. LCol. Bolton has drawn up an outline of topics to be included, such as the 18th century background, orders and protocols, understanding our uniform and its origins, behaviour of officers in public, drill, music, messing, etc. Our garrison Officer Commanding and Education Officer have been tasked with arranging the staffing for presentations and fleshing out the details.

This is a task your EO relishes and sincerely hopes volunteers will abound. Into the breach, fellow Frasers.

2011 Regimental Fall Dining-In A Family Affair

by
*Lieutenant Mike Gadue,
acting PMC,*

It was with some trepidation that I as Ensign agreed to take the place of Captain Claude Larocque, MOM, as acting PMC for the annual 2011 Fraser Highlander Dinner, and to fill in for Claude while he is deployed overseas to Côte d'Ivoire. Sure, Claude was available by email and provided me with all necessary background and contacts, and was encouraging that the Regimental Dinner would nearly "take care of itself", but nevertheless, I had a few butterflies of anxiety, having had some experience in the US military with mess dinners which somehow went awry.

As the weeks ticked by, I was happy to be the beneficiary of the supportive and watchful gaze of Madame Francoise Lambert and LCol Bruce Bolton who were always available and responsive to my concerns or requests, and who provided script and direction that indicated that at least the Regimental Dinner part of my duties, would be as Captain Larocque had predicted.



When the night arrived, I was worried about many of the details of timing. Then I met the Guests of Honor, The Honorable Peter Holdich and his lovely wife Stéphane Dubois. I was struck by the charm and polish of the British Consul, and his lady, and their sense of

humor began to put me at ease. It dawned on me that this was in fact a Regimental Dinner and what that means to the assembled Miladies, Officers, and Guests is an opportunity to come together as family for a celebration of the Regiment and its history, and for the opportunity to present awards to the our hard working squad.

After the main course, I received many compliments on the quality of both the salmon and lamb, which should come as no surprise as it was prepared by *Simply Wonderful*.

As the night progressed, I was again reminded of the hard work and sacrifice of our squad, and the honor it is to be associated with a Regiment that includes among its ranks such impressive individuals as Hon. LCol Okill Stuart, Hon. LCol B.J. Finestone, and the Hon. Mr. Justice Perry Meyer, who gave the Address to the Haggis so elegantly.



All in all, it was quite a night. I think The Honorable Peter Holdich said it best when he addressed the Regiment in his



newly minted capacity as Ensign, indicating that he has had a long and warm association with Montreal and now the Regiment because his wife, Stéphane, was originally from Montreal, and he has relatives who are Frasers. "Almost like being part of the family," he stated. I think we all felt that truly it was an enjoyable evening to be a part of the Regimental family.

With regards and thanks to Ensign Rick Cartmel, to the Haggis Party, to newly commissioned Ensign Mehdi Mountassir, and to each of you for attending and making this a memorable Regimental event. I look forward to next year. See you then. Until then, kind regards,

PMC's Corner

by acting PMC Mike Gadue

As the acting PMC while Captain Claude Larocque is deployed out of country to Côte d'Ivoire, I thought it might be helpful to the membership to have some advance notice of future Fraser Highlander social events, for which you can make a mental note for planned attendance.

Besides the fall Regimental Dinner, and the Dinner Under the Stars, two other annual events are fast approaching.

The first is the Regiment's Curling Day. Tradition has it that the Regiment, while stationed in Quebec City between the fighting of the Battle of Quebec in 1759 and the springtime Battle of Sillery in 1760, engaged in curling matches on the windswept and frozen St. Lawrence River. Re-created at our own Garrison on St. Helen's Island on the St. Lawrence, this annual event had to be moved during reconstruction of the Museum to the St. Lambert Curling Club, via the sponsorship and assistance of HLCol Okill Stuart.

On February 11th, 2012, we will be back at the Stewart Museum on St. Helen's Island to organize an outdoor match on natural ice, weather permitting, before moving indoor to the modern ice of the St. Lambert Club, which will be followed by dinner. The match is always a chance to renew friendships and make new acquaintances, but exciting for the spirit of camaraderie and pointed competition and sportsmanship that develop. Plan to join us for this Saturday event either as participants, from beginners to expert fun lovers, or be vocal supporters. Details will follow shortly.

The second night event which usually occurs in late spring, The Bill Campbell Memorial Curry Night, is reminiscent of Regimental get-togethers that emphasize some aspect of history, background, or presentation. This offers another opportunity for socialization among Frasers. Though the two past examples have offered a speaker on a military topic which has been connected to the theme of

a popular movie viewed at our meeting, the proposal for 2012 will likely not have a movie backdrop.

Rather, an incident has been selected from one of the vignettes that appear in our own Captain Earl Chapman's book, *A Bard of Wolfe's Army*, telling the amazing story of Gentleman Volunteer James Thompson who joined the Regiment in Scotland and served continuously through the French and Indian War. Thompson remained in Quebec City until his death in 1830. Our cast of characters will present a trial, re-enacting portions of the murder trial of Sgt. Alexander Fraser of the 78th accused of killing his fellow soldier, acting Sergeant James Macky, on the night of 23 February, 1758. The murder occurred in Connecticut while the Regiment was quartered in Stratford, New England. Macky was killed with the stroke of Fraser's dirk, by a wound "one inch and a quarter broad, and six inches deep through the neck and throat."

Your presence is required to hear the various arguments of counsel for the defense and prosecution, and then to sit as jury to render a verdict of guilt or innocence. The presentation will be followed by a meal to calm the passions of those attending. The roles of counsel and judge will all be filled by active attorneys from the Regiment. Should be quite a show, so please plan to attend. More details to follow.

As you know proceeds go to the support of the Fraser Highlander Squad.

Available from the Kit Shop



Cufflinks available in 10k gold and Sterling Gold Plated

A Boston Brahmin

By Ensign Alan Hustak

Frank Cabot, the patrician U.S. investment manager and self-taught horticulturalist, died at La Malbaie on November 19, 2011. His enduring legacy is an enchanting fifteen hectare private garden in Cap l'Aigle, Qc., known as Les Quatre Vents, which he personally maintained for more than fifty years. Few, however, are aware that his historic estate and gardens on the north shore of the lower St. Lawrence were originally given by General Murray to Malcolm Fraser, of the 78th Fraser Highlanders, after the conquest. Fraser called it Mount Murray and became Seigneur of 2,000 acres of land east of the Malbaie River. Fraser recruited a handful of demobilized British soldiers to help him run the spread. They married French-Canadian women, giving a unique character to the region around La Malbaie.

The Cabots acquired the estate in 1902 when Maud Bonner's father bought it for \$50,000 as a wedding present for his daughter who married Francis Higginson Cabot, a prominent Boston Brahmin. It has been in the Cabot family ever since.



Launch of the PB 78th Frasers

As with the launch of any great ship, the champagne had been chilled, the dockyards prepped, and the crowds had arrived. The gala was planned for August 28th when the model boat given to Major Bruce Bolton on his retirement as OC from the Fort St. Helen's Garrison last November was to be launched at the Canadian Forces Sailing Association Club at Pointe Picard in Dorval.

The crowd, i.e. the crazy brave ones, arrived amidst the downpour and torrential rain of the remnants of Hurricane Irene. The dry docks had to be improvised - an inflatable dingy was filled with water and put under an awning for the dignitaries, the champagne was symbolically broken (never will a Scot let a bottle of champagne not be consumed) and the guests joined in a toast to the PB 78th Frasers.

The builder - Major Bruce Bolton - commented on the construction schedule. "What a boat kit! Obviously designed to keep people like me off the street." Five hundred twelve pieces, gallons of epoxy, and hours and days and months later, the motorized boat was taken for a test run in Lake St. Louis. Sadly, the hard-working builder hadn't noticed that the propellers were reversed, so they ended up at the bottom of the lake. The boat had to be rescued!

The original patrol boat kit, hence the PB in the name, was based on a German harbor boat so, in true Canadian fashion, Bruce converted it into a Canadian boat. This, after all, is exactly what the Canadian Navy did with the British submarines: they bought used ships and converted them.

The crowd of Officers and Regimental Ladies enjoyed this exceptional and unusual afternoon. Certainly, it was a most memorable launch. Bets are being taken already that it will sink on April 15th next year, the 100th anniversary of the Titanic disaster.



The PB 78th Frasers just after launch. Not taking on too much water!



The crowd builds in anticipation of the launch.



Major Bruce Bolton launches the PB 78th Frasers while Major Peter Ferst and HLCol B.J. Finestone salute! Bruce is also the Commodore of the Sailing Association.

Photos by Ensign Warren Thwing

Movie Night

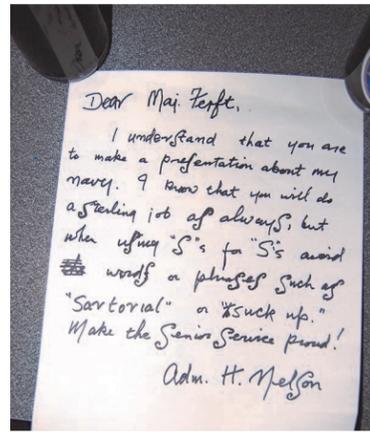
by Lt P. Goodman, EO.



On Friday May 13th approximately thirty members and friends of the regiment gathered at the informal but most suitable setting of the Dorval Canadian Forces Sailing Club for a repast and flick, the naval theme featuring scenes from the movie "Master and Commander". But the true star of the evening was our own OC who, in grand style, exposed and corrected the myriad Hollywood myths perpetrated regarding Nelson's Navy. Even his natty tar-like attire, down to his multicoloured socks, spoke to the traditions and practice of the Royal Navy in the age of sail.



We were truly enlightened. Moreover, regimental mates, our erstwhile adjutant, although uncharacteristically, if momentarily tongue tied in confusing F's for S's, produced another of his minor historical shockers: an original message in a bottle from the great Nelson



himself. One will attempt furtively to forewarn The Stewart Museum regarding any document that came from his hands.

To top off an informal, social, and most entertaining evening, our efficient PMC arranged a fine buffet featuring beef bourguignon and a dessert comprising three interesting cheeses to be washed down with port. He informed us the food selection was representative of Nelson's French opponents. Who knew the French navy ate so well? All in all, the garrison Education Officer, at the least, was well educated.



Former Sergeant-Major Awarded Rhodes Scholarship

Ensign Mike Noonan, former squad Sergeant-Major in the early 2000s has been awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to attend Oxford University next year. He is currently attending Concordia University in zoology, with a very special field of study – the destructive effect of dams on fish populations. Mike is "hoping to find a solution to make dams more ecologically friendly."

Mike, a resident of Chateauguay, joined the Fraser squad as a piper and rose through the ranks to be Sergeant-Major. He was always well respected by his fellow members of the squad as a level headed, sensitive and focused individual who could beat anyone up if they challenged him. Aside from playing bagpipes, Mike is a Quebec champion wrestler and a rugby player.

All members of the Fort St. Helen Garrison wish Ensign Noonan complete success in obtaining his PhD at Oxford.



Mike Noonan playing his bagpipes at Louisbourg in 2008.

Summer Report

by
Ensign Mehdi Mountassir

The beginning of this season was rough. Ensign Alexander McGuckin left for Toronto in June and in July Captain Denis Moore died. As a result, the squad was left without the usual people in charge of everyday events. I applied for the job of Ensign of the squad and was more than glad to be called by Alain Fréchette, head of educational and cultural services, and Lise de Foy, head of human resources of the museum, to tell me that I had been appointed to take the team leader's position. I realized that I had large shoes to fill and had to prove myself but looked forward to the challenge.

Once the season started, we had to adapt ourselves to the new structure of the Museum but finally everything went pretty smoothly and any problems were solved quickly. A regular day at the fort was filled with exciting events and sometimes a lot of surprises, raising of the flags in the morning, and two parades in the afternoon.



As you all know, during a summer season the 78th Fraser Highlanders are invited to attend plenty of events. The first event we were invited to was the annual Glengarry Highland Games. This required a lot of organization and coordination and we were very fortunate to have a couple of old boys with us. We performed three musket shows with a sixteen man squad piped by LCol Bruce D. Bolton under the command of Sergeant-Major Karol Usakowsky.



As usual, the public enjoyed our presence and seemed very impressed by the tremendous performance of the squad.

Other events, like the Montreal Highland Games and the traditional trip to Camp Massawippi were extremely successful as well.

The season was very short but ended up being a really interesting journey. The members of the squad showed a lot of enthusiasm and worked hard. I am very proud of what we realized.



Squad 2011

Photos by
Milady Terry Stone
and Ensign Warren Thwing



The culinary fare was, as always, the ever-popular combination of lobster and roast beef. Complementing the excellent food was the dulcet music of Johnny Maloney, whose ensemble has been a continuous staple of the event for many years.



In a slight departure from recent tradition, the decision was made by the Organizing Committee to hold the event on a Wednesday. While this decision was somewhat controversial, the evening was a near sell-out. Certainly we missed those who abstained from attending, but perhaps they missed more. The weather was gorgeous, and the peaceful sounds of the early summer months on the island were broken only by the beating of drums, skirl of the bagpipes, the crack of musket fire – a privilege extended to the guests this year – and, best of all, by the chatter of friends enjoying each other's company.



The Dinner was an outstanding success, raising money to help support the student squad in its mission to provide summer employment for deserving young men. Special thanks must go to the dedicated members of the Organizing Committee, led by Janet Rankin-Hambleton and Susan Stevenson. Congratulations are also due to Ellen Bounsall, who heroically organized the evening's silent auction, which was an outstanding success and greatly helped with Dinner's fundraising efforts. All told, the Dinner proved to be a wonderful evening that will surely be remembered as a triumphant return to our home turf.



Please welcome the new members of the St. Helen's Garrison inducted at the "Under the Stars 2011"

Milady Moira Barclay-Fernie
 Milady Beverley Anne Hutchison
 Milady Guylaine Perreault
 Ensign André Lepage

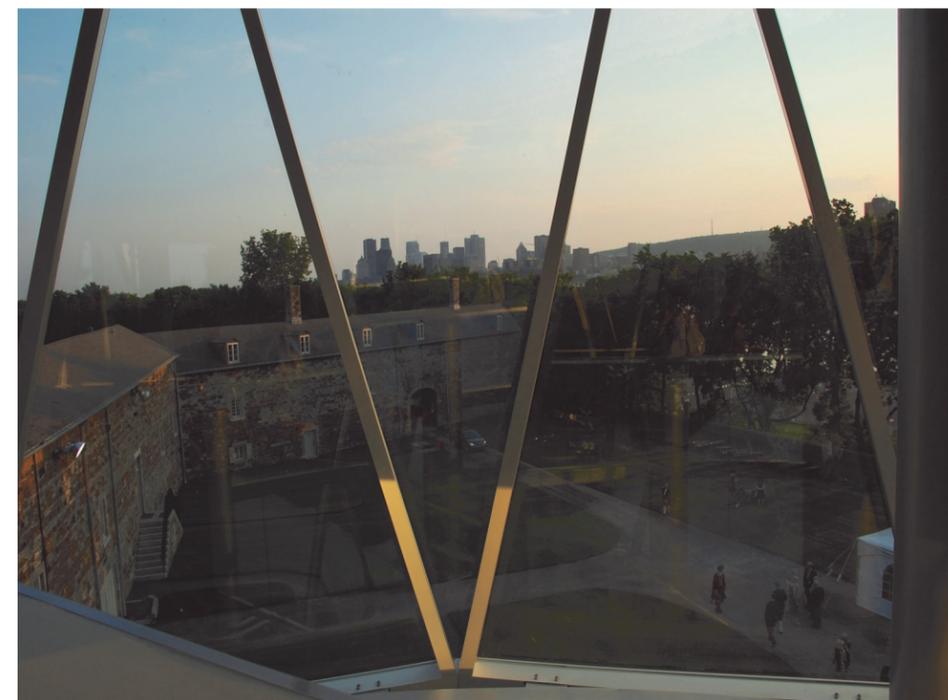
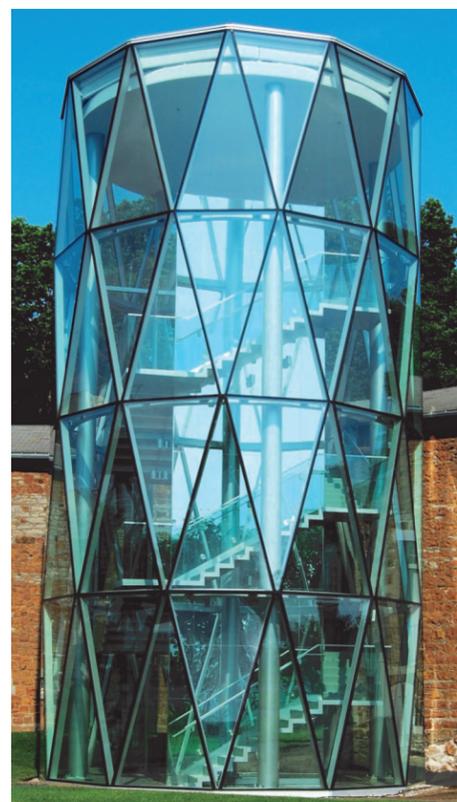
**Back to the Fort
 "Under the Stars
 2011"**

By Ensign Alec McGuckin



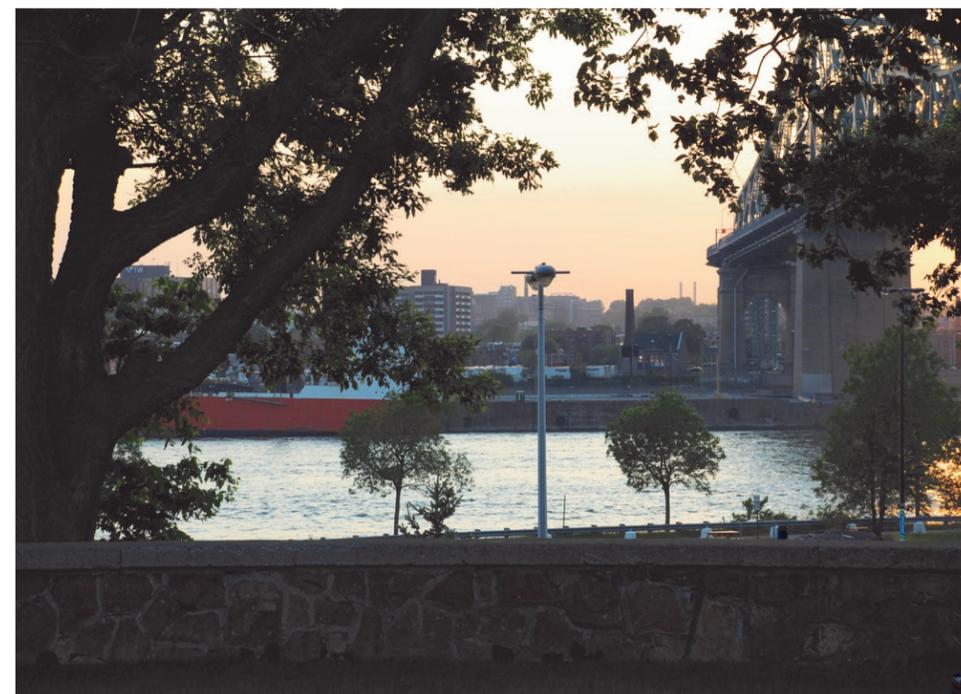
June 14, 2011.

Following in its annual tradition, the 78th Fraser Highlanders held their annual summer fundraising dinner. After being moved to the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada in 2009 and Marché Bonsecours in 2010, the Fraser Gala returned to its natural location at the newly renovated Stewart Museum on St Helen's Island.



The evening began with guests being ushered into the museum itself, making them among the first to experience the view from atop the new glass tower which was recently conjoined to the inner wall of the Fort. After looking out at sundown upon the magnificent vista of the St Lawrence, the Montreal skyline, and – of course – the few errant trees

obstructing the view from beyond the Fort's walls, guests were invited into the Museum itself. Complimentary cocktails were served in the temporary exhibition room of the Museum, and then the festivities moved down to the tent on the main parade ground where dinner was later served.





Pictures taken
by
*Ensign Warren Thwing and
Milady Terry Stone*

