

WHISKY, OYSTERS & CHOCOLATES.

WHO'D A THUNK IT?

by LCol Bruce D. Bolton

Thirty-five officers, miladies and guests assembled in the spectacular and classic Forget House on Thursday night, 21 April with the view of challenging their gourmet tastes with a combination of oysters, fine whiskies and chocolate truffles. Organized by the PMC, Captain Charles Bierbrier, the evening was a wonderful success.



The five whiskies sampled were Glenmorangie 10 YO Original, Aultmore 12 yr, Ledaig 10 (smoky, perfect with oysters), Glenfiddich Distillers Edition 15 YO Cask Strength and Benromach Organic (served with the chocolate truffles). With colourful and in-depth explanations by Brian McQueenie, ably assisted by Terry McGoldrick, of OuiDram, the guests learned about the whisky producing areas of Scotland – mostly along a few rivers – how to nose the whiskies, look at the colours and legs, taste just a bit for the flavours and enjoy the whisky as it entered the throat.

Terms like vanilla, fruity, floral, spicy, herbal were used to describe the flavours along with questions, witty interludes and of course the tastings.

While still sipping the whiskies, guests consumed a few hundred oysters from the prize winning Eel Lake Oyster Farm in Nova Scotia, served by shuckers from Choice Harbour, a Montreal firm specializing in oyster bars.



In addition to the five whiskies and the oysters, a plethora of smoked salmon, cheeses and a variety of munchies were served, all provided by members of the garrison. Bruce Bolton was the evening's piper having just won the Quebec Thistle Committee's Prize for Piper of the Year.



All in all, it was a very special and fun event for the Garrison. Everyone associated with putting it together must be congratulated and thanked for another successful fundraising event.

Despatches



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Despatches

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

Major Claude Larocque, Officer Commanding

May 2016

OC's Report



SPRING EDITION:

Hello everyone,
It's your long lost commander in self-imposed exile in Eastern Europe wanting to keep you up to date on this part of the world. As you are all aware, I am currently working for the OSCE, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, in Ukraine.

The situation here in Ukraine remained constant over the winter months. That is, the level of military operation on both sides of the line of contact has picked up in some areas, and dwindled in others.



As for the civilian population, the



situation remains the same, extremely difficult. The mild winter was a welcome reprieve as the last few had been very harsh. Most of the civilians were happy to be able to stay warm during the winter. That being said, the civilians that I meet with while I am on patrol, express that all they want is an end to this conflict and to be able to return to a normal life. That's what we are working toward but clearly it is not a goal that is easy to achieve.



The greater part of our duty as SMM monitors consists of the verification of the Minsk Accords in regard to weapons storage and the illegal use, by either side in this active area, of weapons prohibited by this agreement.

Our duties also include the monitoring of the civilian population and assisting with humanitarian aid in the conflict zone.

We work in conjunction with the other NGOs, such as the Red Cross and MSF (Doctors without Borders) as well as with the United Nations on internal displaced persons.

Though the environment can be challenging and is decidedly hazardous, I feel we are bringing



about stability which is the necessary ingredient in fostering a durable solution and an eventual resolution to this conflict. If you would like to follow the events here in Ukraine I invite you to visit the OSCE website at osce.org/ukraine-smm.

Yours
Major Claude Larocque M.O.M.

In Memory of

Lieutenant Brian
LLEWELLYN-AP-DAFYDD,
1949 – 2015



It is with profound sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Brian Llewellyn-ap-Dafydd, at the age of 66, on December 31, 2015 at the Notre Dame Hospital, Montreal. Brian had a great love of literature and was passionate in the teaching of his cherished subject. He taught for more than 10 years in his homeland in the UK and abroad, and close to 30 years at Vanier College in Montreal. As President of the St. David's Society, he was very active within the Welsh Community and was a pillar of support in the activities of the Montreal Welsh Male Choir (Cor Meibion Cymraeg Montreal) where he sang tenor and worked feverishly to make sure it maintained its status as one of the most renowned and oldest choirs of the Province of Quebec. Brian was also an avid sportsman, and from the moment of arrival in Quebec in 1986, he associated himself with the Phys. Ed. Department of Vanier to help initiate young people into the pleasures of mountaineering, a pastime at which he excelled. Like all Welshmen, he had a lifetime love affair with the game of rugby. He joined the Old Boys at Montreal Irish RFC and also played with the Quebec Combined Rugby Team, bringing the English and French playing sides together in a memorable esprit de corps. Later in life, he played cricket with the Pirates of the St. Lawrence Cricket Club. Surviving Brian is his beloved wife, Joanne Devlin, his parents, Jack and Edna Llewellyn, his sister, Nicky (John Ball), many nephews and nieces, and will be remembered by many personal friends, students and former students, and of course, his colleagues at Vanier.

Brian was very active in the Frasers as he and Joanne attended most functions. Long time Fraser curling aficionados will remember with great amusement and fondness Brian's extremely entertaining recitations.

In Memory of

Lieutenant Victor G. Chartier
October 7, 1934 - April 6, 2016



It is with indescribable sadness that we announce the passing of Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Victor G. Chartier, OMM, CD, AdC on April 6. Born October 7, 1934 in Montreal, Victor served over 50 distinguished years with the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada. He will be deeply missed by family, friends, colleagues, and the many people whose lives he touched. Victor is survived by his wife Doreen (née Smart), to whom he was best bud and soulmate for more than 60 years of wonderfully happy marriage. He was a proud Dad to Rick (Lise) and Cindy, beloved Poppy to Kristin, Glenn, Christian and Alexa, and great-Poppy to Kate. Victor was an admired leader in the military and business alike, including many years of service as Director of Executives Available. Most importantly, he was a kind, gentle-hearted, truly great man who leaves behind an incredible legacy. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in L/Col. Chartier's name to the Black Watch of Canada Foundation (2067 Bleury St, Montreal QC, H3A 2K2 or www.canadahelps.org) or Mt. Sinai Hospital Palliative Care (5690 Cavendish



In Memory of

Milady Jeanine Beaubien
1919 - 2016

Jeanine Beaubien (nee Charbonneau on July 5, 1919) passed away peacefully at her home at Ambiance Residence on l'Île-des- Soeurs in Montreal surrounded by her family and children. Wife of the late Claude Panet Beaubien, she is survived by her sister Mireille, her brother Jean-Paul, her children Claude Panet, Jeannine (Joaquin Duque), Jean-Pierre Luc (Jennifer Kemeny), Andrew (deceased in 1975), her 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

She received the Order of Canada in 1974, Officer of the National Order of Quebec in 2004, and a Doctorat Honoris Causa from Bishops University in 1975. She founded the Montreal International Theater "La Poudrière" on Île Ste-Hélène in 1957. Her extensive artistic career spanned Canada for many years. Involved in many social and political projects, she was co-founder and an active member of **the Montreal Alzheimer Society.**

In Memory of

Ensign Hugh James McQUEEN
(1933 - 2015)



Died peacefully in his sleep on December 17, 2015 after a long and distinguished career in metallurgical engineering. Born in Scotland, he fled the World War II bombing threats with his mother (Patricia) and sister, only to be torpedoed in the mid-Atlantic, losing all possessions. Because of war constraints, his father (James) was only able to join the family 5 years later. The family settled in Montreal where he attended Loyola College and McGill University, eventually going on to Notre Dame University in Indiana for his doctorate. He taught engineering briefly at Ecole Polytechnique and then for 47 years at Concordia University, where he published hundreds of research papers and also initiated a program of courses in social and ethical aspects of engineering. He leaves to mourn his passing: his wife of 55 years, Josephine, his daughters Mary, Anne, Monica, and Carol, his sons Peter and Paul, seven grandchildren and his sister Mary (Marie) Reidy, his nephews Martin, James and Thomas

However, it is more likely that John was stationed at Point Levy during the battle, helping to set up a temporary hospital in the French church of St. Joseph's, eventually tending to both British and French casualties.

Part and parcel of the garrison of Quebec during the winter of 1759-60, John would have experienced the extreme cold and difficult living conditions when a large number of men died or were placed on the sick list. He was also with his Regiment at the battle of Sillery in April 1760, when the French army under the Chevalier de Levis attempted to recapture Quebec – the battle was fought on almost the same ground as the year before, though slightly more to the west. Here, Brigadier James Murray's little army was beaten and broken in three hours of bloody, obstinate, and often hand-to-hand fighting. In July 1760, when Murray cobbled together a strike force to take Montreal, John was posted as surgeon to the 1st Battalion, Grenadiers, an elite composite battalion formed from the grenadiers of the various regiments under Murray's command; a significant feather in John's bonnet.

For Fraser's Highlanders, the years 1760-63 passed uneventfully. While other North American regiments were fighting Indians or storming Spanish fortresses in the Caribbean, five Fraser companies served in the colony's city garrison, Quebec, while the remaining companies were parceled out piecemeal in various towns and villages to act as small garrisons along the St. Lawrence River from Lévis and the Île d'Orléans across from Quebec as far east as Rivière-du-Loup, where the river turns into the Gulf. Here the Frasers would remain until the end of the war. John was likely part of the city garrison, but he and his mates would have regularly visited the other detachments.

In the Fall of 1761, John was allowed to return home, the Absent Officers List showing: "John MacLean, Surgeon, gone to England 20th

October 1761 by leave of General Amherst." Major General Jeffrey Amherst was reluctant to let any of his officers leave North America at this time, but John's "pressing business" at home forced his hand. However, Amherst would caution Major James Abercrombie, then commanding Fraser's Highlanders, that he must "take care the Regiment shall not Suffer by the Absence of the Surgeon." As it turned out, John did not return to North America and the medical business of Fraser's Highlanders was handled by one of his mates.

Interestingly, medical treatment for both officers and men during the Seven Years' War was not free. The men had to pay two shillings a day for admittance to the regimental hospital – this substantial fee was intended to purchase medical supplies, as well as acting as a deterrent for malingerers. Officers had a sort of rudimentary "medicare" where they could pay a regular fee for future services, rather than a large sum when wounded or falling sick. This fee is explained in Captain John Nairne's Order Book, entry dated 16 August 1762:

As Doctor McLean has empowered Capt. Alex. Campbell to receive the allowance that the officers formerly pay'd him, the Captain's Receipt will be a sufficient Voucher to those officers that chuse to pay it.

This entry confirms that while John was in Scotland, he was still the regimental surgeon and fully expected to receive his due payments, designating Captain Alexander "Sandy" Campbell as the officer to whom the payments were to be made. It is likely that John and Sandy were good friends; like John, Sandy was born on the Isle of Mull.

Along with his fellow officers, John was placed on the Half Pay list when Fraser's Highlanders were disbanded in Glasgow on 24 December

1763. After his discharge, John practiced surgery in the city of Glasgow. Over the period 1763 to 1771, John and Agnes had at least six children, but it is believed that all died at a relatively young age except their last child, John, who was born in Glasgow on 1 March 1771.

John died in Glasgow on 2 May 1779; he was only 44 years of age, the cause of death unknown. It is not known when Agnes passed away, but their son, John Jr., had become an orphan "in early life" but "had the happiness to have for his guardian George Macintosh, Esquire, a gentleman of rare worth, who took great interest in his welfare... by sending him to the Glasgow Grammar School, where he made rapid and real advancement, and then to the University..." John Jr. followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a prominent physician and surgeon in Glasgow, eventually immigrating to the United States where he became the first professor of chemistry and natural philosophy at Princeton University.



SURGEON JOHN MACLEAN (c.1735-1779)

By Earl John Chapman
Regimental Historian

*“more die there by the lancet, than
the lance.”*

First published in Dr. R. Hamilton’s, *The Duties of a Regimental Surgeon...* (London, 1794), this unknown author postulates that more soldiers die from the want of proper medical care, than by enemy action. Such was the state of military medicine in the 17th century: it was not much better in the 18th!

John Maclean was born about 1735 in Kilfinichen, Mull, the second son of Archibald Maclean, the parish minister, and his wife, Susanna Campbell. A published genealogical account of the Clan Maclean suggests that John’s lineage can be traced back to Gillean, the founder of the clan in the 13th century: tying John back to Gillean of the Battle Axe would make a great story! Little is known about John’s early life, but he must have received a good basic education in the Kilfinichen school system as in 1753 he began his apprenticeship as a surgeon in the University of Glasgow, serving under his uncle, Hector Maclean of Gorbals, “a long pensioner of the facility.”

John’s military career commenced on 12 January 1757 when he was appointed surgeon in the new-raising Fraser’s Highlanders, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Simon Fraser, the son of the executed Lord Lovat. John must have been fluent in Gaelic as this was an important consideration for Colonel Fraser – the majority of his Highlanders spoke little or no English. During the Seven Years’ War, each regiment was assigned a surgeon and a mate; some of the larger regiments, including Fraser’s,

were assigned two mates. At this time, regimental surgeons were commissioned officers, ranking as staff officers, but were not admitted to military rank until December 1796 (equivalent to that of a captain “for the purpose of allowances and allotment of quarters”). Uniforms were prescribed for British Army regimental surgeons on 30 September 1797. Prior to this date, regimental surgeons, like John Maclean, likely wore some sort of frock uniform (similar to that worn by the surgeon attending to the dying General James Wolfe in both Edward Penny’s and Benjamin West’s well-known paintings).

On 29 April 1757, John married Agnes Lang, the marriage taking place in Glasgow where Colonel Fraser had mustered his Highlanders prior to being shipped overseas. While the marriage was legal, the register book noted that it was “irregular” perhaps because the couple could not wait for the marriage banns to be read in the church – Fraser’s Highlanders were expected to be deployed overseas at a moment’s notice. Agnes was pregnant and John, like many soldiers pending immediate deployment, was doing the right thing for his unborn child.

On 6 May, Fraser’s Highlanders, over 1,400 strong, proudly marched out of Glasgow en route to Port Patrick via Ayr, where transports were waiting to move them across the Irish Channel to Donaghadee in Northern Ireland. From there, they would march 400 miles overland down the east coast of Ireland to Cork, the embarkation point for troops being shipped to North America, with Fraser’s Highlanders “to be landed at Halifax, in Nova Scotia.” Having cautiously sanctioned the recruitment of two Highland battalions (Montgomery’s and Fraser’s) in 1757, the government wanted them safely out of Scotland as quickly as possible. As it turned out, both Highland battalions were posted abroad so quickly that there was no

time for proper training, and, although they had received some rudimentary training before embarkation and while on board the transports, they landed in North America to all intents and purposes completely untrained. On 8 August 1757, while John was still at sea, Agnes gave birth to a son, naming the boy after his absent father. Sadly, the child died at a very young age without John ever seeing his first born.

The first notice we have of John was when he was posted to the four-company detachment commanded by the Regiment’s senior major, James Clephane, which garrisoned Fort Stanwix during the winter of 1758-59. Here, John and his fellow soldiers would face mortal danger every day at the western end of the Mohawk Valley. Life for the rest of the Regiment, then in winter quarters in and around the Dutch farming town of Schenectady, New York, was more relaxed, and definitely safer. As regimental surgeon, John could have stayed in relative safety in Schenectady, letting one of his mates accompany Clephane on this dangerous assignment. Breaking military tradition, or perhaps under direct orders, John did his duty at Fort Stanwix where many of the officers and men contracted scurvy, including Major Clephane.

John was present at the siege and capture of Louisbourg in 1758; he was also at the battle on the Plains of Abraham in September 1759, but likely not as a direct participant. According to a published family memoir, John was the “third man who succeeded in scaling the famous heights...then regarded as a formidable and natural defence of that city.” While it is unlikely that John scaled the cliff with General Wolfe’s elite light infantry, it is possible that he was the third member of his Regiment to reach the heights after they had landed on the beachhead as part of the second wave.

“The Baldric” You Say

by

Captain Mickey McGuire Gadue

Well no, I don’t often talk about Baldrics, and for those unacquainted with Scottish attire and military uniforms, it might sound like an old Scottish swear phrase like, “The Devil take ye,” but it is not. A Baldric is a wide ornamental belt worn over the right shoulder to support a sword, bugle, or drum at the left hip.

For those of you that are left handed, this creates an interesting picture of a soldier fumbling to get at a sword which of course, is carried on the left side. However, I am told that after centuries of trying, some genius came up with the idea of a ‘left handed baldric.’ Now there’s a turn of phrase! Anyway, though practical to the fully kitted-up Scottish soldier there is a little known aspect of machismo that runs through the history of baldric use. Evidently there was a rarely spoken of condition known as ‘baldric-envy’, in that there was competition among Highlanders about who had the *widest* belt, and most ostentatious silver decoration. In fact, lairds are often pictured with wide belts, and highly chiseled silver appointments that indicate their wealth and status.

However, I have also learned that in modern day vernacular, the term ‘baldric’ is in fact well known to followers of the British comedy series, *Blackadder*. This historical comedy series followed the declining fortunes of the Blackadder family through historical, often hysterical, events and much of the comedy emanates from their servants, the Baldric family.

In each episode, the serving Baldric appears less intelligent, if possible, than his forbears, and also with each generation, standards of personal hygiene seem to have slipped. Nevertheless, dialogue between Baldric and master runs something like: “Baldric have you any idea what irony is?” “ Yes sir. It's like ‘goldy’ and ‘bronzzy’ only ‘tis made out of iron!”

This may be the time to announce that I have received a grant from a group of concerned Frasers that I should write a Blackadder episode involving the Frasers. However, the grant was subject to the condition that I do my writing and research in Timbuktoo; my attorneys are presently evaluating it. But, you know, there is something to this history of the baldric. The wide sword belt that we Frasers wear is in fact a protection, intertwined with our heritage and our very being as gentlemen, soldiers, and stalwarts for good against evil. It connects us to our broadsword, the settler of last resort, and it reminds us of the need for vigilance, readiness, and, occasionally, action.

It is a tie that binds us together, both as Regiment and Family.



OC’s Report Update

Hello all,



I hope all of you had a wonderful winter and fun in the snow. The fact that spring is upon us signals the beginning of another season for the Frasers. I have been keeping abreast of the command group’s activities even though that I am in another part of the world. Clearly Paul Goodman and your command group have done a wonderful job of keeping things going. I was sad to miss events like the regimental dinner which I understand was a great success. I wish that I could have participated but unfortunately the commute is rather too involved.

I will return home for a break in May and hope that I will be able to see some of you. Again I would like to say a big thank you to Paul and your command group for their involvement in and commitment to the organization in keeping this garrison alive and well.

Claude Larocque M.O.M.

Editor's note: Claude's family and friends were very happy to see him safely home a few weeks early from the extremely dangerous war zone that he is currently working in. Stay safe, Claude.

The Student Squad 2016

by Lieutenant Ewen Booth

The Garrison is yet again sponsoring the summer student squad to work alongside La Compagnie Franche de la Marine. The squad will be based out of the Chateau Ramezay, located in Vieux Montréal, across from the City Hall. We hope to hire four Frasers and four Franche soldiers and a number of casual staff are being brought on strength to supplement numbers for special events, as well as to cover shortages. This will be necessary as some Frasers will attend the "World's Pipe Band" competition in Scotland late in the summer with the Black Watch Association Pipe Band.



The squad will carry on the tradition started by the St Helen's Island Garrison at the Old Fort. They will be piping, drumming, firing the Brown Bess, and giving presentations to the public on drill, and the history of the Scots in Montreal, Quebec, and the rest of Canada.



Members of the Frasers and the Franche are cross-trained so that on specific occasions the ranks of one unit or the other can be increased for a larger show.



This year, in addition to their normal duties around Montreal, the Frasers will be visible at the Maxville Highland Game and the Montreal Highland Games. There are three returning Frasers and a number of younger candidates to be interviewed for the vacant and supplemental positions. Returning Frasers are Loup Pagliuzza, Patrick Leduc and Olivier Rommelaere. Philippe Portelance, is to be the on-site commander of "Les Troupes Anciennes de Montreal".



Alec McGuckin who coordinated the summer students for the last few years has now moved over to McGill University. We thank him for work done, and congratulate him on his new duties.

When are proud to introduce Lt. Ewen Booth who has joined our team as a volunteer. Ewen, a squad member in the 1970's, served 30 plus years in the RCMP and has returned to Montreal to retire. Ewen is a most welcome addition to the troops program.

Please welcome the new Members of the Fort St. Helen's Garrison inducted at the Fraser Fling 2015 and at the Annual Regimental Dining-In 2015

Ensigns

Honorary Ensign Nick Baker
Ensign Ewen Booth
Ensign Eliot Perrin
Ensign Bruno Plourde

Miladigs

Milady Katherine Baker
Milady Kathleen McKinnon
Milady Chantale Ménard
Milady Patricia Seifert
Milady Quingling Zou-Ferst.

Promotions

Captain Charles Bierbrier
Capt-Lt Gheorghe Bota
Capt-Li Rick Cartmel
Lieutenant Gerald Fallon
Lieutenant Robert Frank
Brevet-Major Paul Goodman
Lieutenant Alec McGuckin
Lieutenant Cecil McPhee

Annual Regimental Dining-In

by Brevet-Major Paul Goodman

A fine turnout of the 78th Fraser Highlanders, Fort St. Helen Garrison, attended our annual Regimental Dining-In on 14 November 2015. The evening was organized in the usual fine style and with particular attention to mess detail by our Paymaster and Organizer Extraordinaire, Milady Francoise Lambert. The surroundings of the Officers' Mess of the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada, our regimental cousins, added panache to the occasion. The menu consisted delicious appetizers, soup, salad, a main course of duck or salmon, the traditional Haggis with Drambuie, a selection of red and white wines. The dinner was topped off with port and dessert. All in all, a well presented regimental meal provided us with a memorable evening.

Special thanks to Captain Lieutenant Rick Cartmel for the fine job he did standing in for our PMC. His sailing experience provided him with the requisite fine booming voice necessary for the task. Diners were also impressed by Lt Alec McGuckin's delivery of Burns' Ode to the Haggis. Apparently, Lt McGuckin was volunteered for this task rather late in the day and LCol Bolton awarded the brave Lieutenant a passing grade for his rookie attempt. Our thanks to the squad members who provided the piping. Awards for the 2015 season were presented to our squad and La Compagnie Franche who were most pleased to have been represented as well.

Among the specially invited visitors were our guests of honour, Montreal's British High Commissioner, Nick Baker and Mrs. Baker. He was introduced at head table and gave a charming short address on his impressions of Montreal and our regimental family.

Also in conspicuous attendance were Jean Pierre Raymond and Madame Raymond. A Montreal engineer, he has studied the French Engineers in Canada during the Seven Years War and was dressed in the 1759 regimental uniform of such an officer. The 78th's historic enemies are now friends and compatriots sharing a table and past history.



Certainly the visual award of the evening goes to the lovely Madame Raymond who was attired in an authentic eighteenth century dress called a "Watteau" after those pictured in the famous French artist's canvasses. For the many of us who were interested she was kind enough to describe the fascinating style and design. The Raymonds added a nice eighteenth century touch to enhance our memory of the original 78th Highland Regiment.

One of the most important features of our Regimental Dinner is the induction of new members and promotions. The following were welcomed as newcomers:

Honorary Ensign Nick Baker, Ensign Ewen Booth one of the early squad members,



Milady Katherine Baker, Milady Kathleen McKinnon (an actual direct descendent of one of the original 78th), Milady Patricia Seifert, Milady Quingling (Jade) Zou-Ferst.



The following officers received regimental promotions: Captain-Lieutenant Rick Cartmel, Lieutenant Gerald Fallon, Lieutenant Robert Frank and Lieutenant Cecil McPhee.



Congratulations to all those promoted and a hearty welcome to those who have formally joined our regimental family. Hope to see you all at our next event.

Special thanks to Captain Frederik Komen & Milady Johanna C. M. de Bakker from the Netherlands for providing us with the white wine in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Holland by the Canadian troops.





The Curling Event: 2016

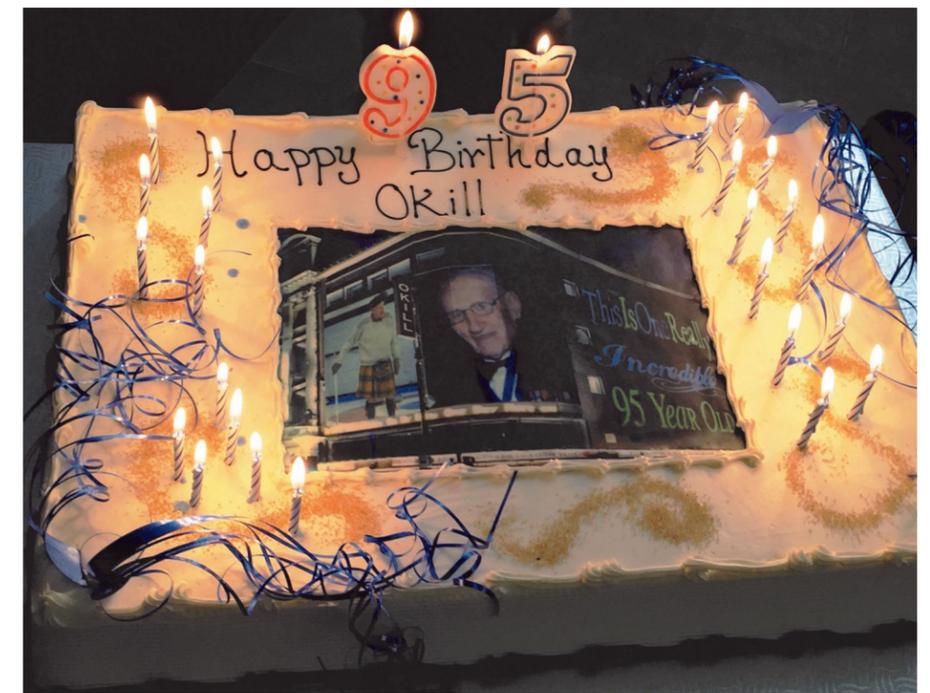
Curling 78th Style & a Surprise Birthday Party for OKill.

On 27 February last about 35 Frasers, family & friends, gathered at the St. Lambert Curling Club to participate in our annual winter event. Although the number of competitive curlers and teams was diminished from past afternoons, a fun-filled, friendly competition ensued among the four teams. Congratulations to all, especially to the winning team. This year, first place, by the closest of margins, went to Rick & Laura Cartmel, Gerald & Jennifer Fallon and Peter Limeburner.



Special mention must go to Milady Diana Wall who in only her second season of competition has become a fine competitor. She thoroughly enjoyed the exercise and proves that even a "Sassenach" can master the old Scottish sport. Next year she vows to wear warmer clothing, another learning experience.

Just before we sat down to a hearty soldier's supper, the curling award was presented. Then all enjoyed a few short speeches and some fine piping, drumming, and a new highland dance called "The Cutlery Knife Dance", well performed by young old squad members Peter and Josh. They proudly and expertly represented the hundreds of our



former squad members in this the fiftieth anniversary year of the 78th squad.



After supper we were joined by more friends and members of the 78th for the surprise dessert birthday finale. At my table were seated the son and the nephew of our estimable the Hon. LCol Okill Stuart. Okill, likewise at the table, found their presence unusual but still didn't fully catch on to what was afoot because, for what is likely the first time ever, the plans were kept completely secret. Then our paymaster and master

organizer, Milady Lambert, wheeled out a magnificent, icing-engraved 95th birthday cake for Okill. It could have been presented at Edinburgh Castle. Although it was a few days in advance of the actual date Okill was most pleased. All enjoyed the best wishes to Okill including a specially written poem in his honour by the eloquent 78th poet and solicitor Capt. Robert C. Wilkins. The delicious cake, worth every calorie, was thoroughly enjoyed with the remaining wine and coffee.



As always, the curling was a fine traditional 78th sporting event, with lots of good cheer, regimental comradeship and a most suitable and well deserved recognition for one of our greatest officers and regimental builders.

Happy Birthday Okill and many more.

Brevet-Major R. Paul Goodman.

2015 Fraser Fling

By Milady Susan Stevenson

June 19, 2015 was a lovely summer evening in Montreal. The cohort that loves the 78th Fraser Highlander functions gathered once more at the Bonsecours Market to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Under the Stars event. Everyone regrets that we no longer are able to have that delicious space on the island, and the Fort, but we still know how to have a good time together! And June 19, 2015 was no exception!

With everyone in party mood, there was a glass of champagne as we arrived and mingled among the close to 200 guests. Charles Bierbrier was the MC and did a grand job of keeping the pace of events moving along. We held inductions as is customary. We welcomed Ensigns Eliot Perrin and Bruno Plourde, and Milady Chantal Menard. Promotions were awarded to Captain Paul Goodman, Captain Charles Bierbrier, Captain George Bota and Lieutenant Alex McGuckin.

Tables were all made up and our delicious buffet with lobster, of course, was enjoyed by everyone. Dancing was to Johnny Maloney and his troupe, interspersed with music arranged by the DJ, Charles Bierbrier. He had a busy evening!

The Silent Auction was a major feature of the evening with much competition for the top gifts! Thanks go to Ellen Bounsell for her work on arranging this feature so successfully. The plan for the evening is to have an enjoyable party with friends. And that was accomplished without a doubt. Fundraising is another important feature of the event and the Silent Auction raised over \$7000!

Wonderful! The money goes toward the uniforms and other gear required by the squad. Thanks go to those members of

that group for the running of the bar, another fund generator! Heading home, it seemed that everyone had a good time, that we celebrated the 25th Anniversary in fine style. Hearty thanks go to those who organised such an enjoyable evening...

Here's to the next time



On November 21st a new book updating and expanding much of the history of the 78th was launched by the Garrison. Entitled "Driv'n by Fortune: The Scots' March to Modernity in America, 1745-1812" and written by our own Ensign Sam Allison, it tackles the myths embedded in the nationalistic history and in fictional accounts of the Highland soldier-settlers who brought the Scottish Enlightenment to North America. Our launch was a great success and since then Sam has gone across the country promoting it. For example, "Driv'n" rose to be the top-seller (non-fiction) in Winnipeg. It is considered a must read for all members of the 78th.

Regular Price: 30.00\$
 Garrison's member price 27.00\$
 Plus shipping fees from Headquarters at
fraserheadquarter@gmail.com