

# Scottish Head Gear, The Iroquois, and Queen Victoria's Children

By Capt. Lt Mickey McGuire  
Gadue

I have often wondered about the strange and wonderful regalia that the Scottish male wears when in full plumage: kilt, sporran, bonnet, and knee socks to name but a few. As Miladies and Officers of the 78<sup>th</sup> Frasers, we get to see a variety of Scottish clothing at our various events.

One item commonly seen, at least at outdoor events, is the Glengarry, the hat that is worn often by both men and women when in Highland dress. The Glengarry is at base a practical chapeau, that combines compactness and style because it folds together, with more than a dash of elan by embellishment, accomplished by various hanging ribbons, bright red pom-pom (the Toorie), and of course, space for Clan or Regimental badge.

Historically, the Glengarry was first used in military uniform by the British Glengarry Fencibles, go figure, about 1794, but did not become generally adopted by the military until approximately 1841 when Pipers of the 79<sup>th</sup> Foot adopted it, maybe upon order of their commanding officer, as a hat for "undress" appearance or outings. However, military fashion was merely keeping up with civilian couture as Highland dress was wildly popular, in part due to the fact that Queen Victoria had started to dress her children in the Scottish mode, employing the Glengarry, in well publicized photographs that covered the globe.

Thus, though it is likely commonly

assumed that the Glengarry was part of the kit of the military Beau Brummel, in fact this style had a fairly long and illustrious history of commercial application, and that is the rest of our story.

Fuelled by Queen Victoria's use and the popularity in the 1840's-1860's of Scottish culture, including the rise of Scottish Highland dress cigar store figures, entrepreneurs were quick to seize on the possibilities of sale of the Glengarry, and began marketing them to specific, targeted groups. Among the largest customers were Native Americans of the Iroquois and Wabanaki tribes in the areas from the Great Lakes to Maine. Taking the manufactured, but plain Glengarry, Native American women bead-workers made beautiful works of art that commanded high prices as souvenirs, mementos, and for fashionable wear, sold to the Victorian 'smoking jacket crowd'.

Additionally, and reminiscent of the well documented camaraderie that was established between the Scottish soldiers that came to North America during the French and Indian War, Native Americans regarded the Scottish soldier as "brothers", possibly having some common ancestry. It was not unusual that many Native Americans in both the US and Canada were attracted to this Scottish inspired headgear that made one look almost as regal as Queen Victoria's children, in a style of casual, but refined comfort.

So the next time you see a Glengarry cap, recognize it for what it is: the chapeau of choice of royalty; a symbolic connection between Frasers and our Native American brothers; and oh yes, a mark that suggests we have not yet lost all of the trappings of our childhood, and our precious sense of humour.

Slainte

## Despatches



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# Despatches

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

Major Claude Larocque, Officer Commanding

October 2014

## OC's Report



Hello everyone.

Now that summer is over, we can focus our attention on what is truly the most colourful time of year. Before considering fall activities however, I have to say that we had a very successful season at the Chateau Ramezay and in the Old Port.

Bruce and Alec worked wonders in securing a place to showcase our excellent, if reduced, squad. Without them we would have had a tough time

to find such a superb venue. The season had a difficult start with the removal of our squad from Ile Ste-Helene. This necessitated the retrieval of our stores which at the time were situated at the Fort and which obviously had to be moved to our new headquarters at the Maison Forget. No small job, that.

At this moment I would like to thank the Fraser Fling committee for a wonderful job well done. The weather and the moderately chaotic start were in keeping with the evening's theme of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. However, the evening showed the great good luck the Frasers enjoy; no lasting bad luck for us! Attendees dealt with the rocky start with good humour and I have to report that we made a nice profit from that most entertaining evening. Of course, with the usual wonderful food and good company, the Fling was enjoyed by all.

Your command group has worked very hard in the past few months to come up with creative ideas to help fill our coffers so as to make certain that this fine Regiment will remain active and financially sound in the future. To this end, your command group, always ready to meet the challenges which will face us in the future, is now planning events for the fall and winter. The annual Regimental Dining In will be held in November and we are filling up the 2015 calendar with other interesting events and activities. We sincerely hope to see everyone at each of these.

To the squad members and to all of you who have helped the command group with your constant support and encouragement, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Thank you!

Looking forward to a super fall season,

Claude Larocque M.O.M.

O.C. 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser's Highlanders



## In Memory of Captain Lt. Roméo Vézina

July 13, 1925 - July 24, 2014



We mourn the passing of Roméo Vézina, one of the Fraser Community's stalwart supporters.

Roméo was a descendant of the Frasers - a Ross - that remained in Quebec after the Seven Years War. Proud of his French and Scottish roots, he became an active member of cultural and historical organizations, including the many years he spent as a fixture among the Fraser Highlanders.

Throughout his life he kept close ties to the military. Passionate about military history, Roméo built an unparalleled collection of lead miniature soldiers depicting Napoleonic as well as British/Canadian units.

Outside these interests, Roméo — who was classically educated at the Trois-Rivières Seminary — worked as a successful entrepreneur and builder. He spent 23 years on the board of the Stewart Museum and the McCord Stewart Museum where he was appreciated as a creative and unconventional thinker

We extend our most heartfelt condolences to his wife Andrée, to whom he was married for 62 years, and to the rest of his family.

## In Memory of Captain Patrick McGillycuddy Stoker

Christmas Day, 1920 – July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### *Farewell to an Old Friend* by Colonel Okill Stuart



A close supporter and long time member of the 78th Fraser's, Paddy was a subtle man with a keen sense of humour.

Predeceased by his first wife, Shirley Harrison, with whom he had three children, he is survived by his wife Josephine Hadley, his sons Thornley (Susan), Dermot

(Tracy), his daughter Carlotta (Ralph Difiore) and eight grandchildren. He is also missed by his stepchildren Deb Mcmeniman (Bill), Tim Lantier, Tony Lantier (Stephanie) and their children.

A graduate of Selwyn House School, Bishop's College School, Upper Canada College, and McGill University, he also undertook further studies overseas. His field in life was Architecture, an area in which he practised here in Montreal for forty years.

He served overseas in the Second World War as a member of the Bomber Command and later in the Japanese theatre. Paddy was a great patron of the arts, as well as of numerous other cultural, educational, and philanthropic initiatives, including – well known to many – a club in Montreal.

A private family service has already been held. A celebration of Paddy's life will take place at St George's Church in Montreal, at 1100hrs on October 20th, 2014.

He will be fondly remembered.

## SUMMER REPORT 2014

by Ensign Alec McGuckin

The drum beats have stopped and the muskets are locked away. In the distance, the faint sound of a lone piper can be heard, echoing sonorously as the summer fades into its twilight. The piper stops; a cool breeze carries his last, errant note through the narrow streets of the old port. The pipes now quiet; so too, for a moment, the city streets.

The summer of 2014 has come to an end.

Against what at first seemed like long odds, 2014 was a successful season for the Student Squad. Every challenge we faced also presented an opportunity. While it was difficult leaving the Stewart Museum — home to the Frasers for the past 47 years — moving also resulted in a new location, and new public.



The squad paraded daily at the Chateau Ramezay, across from City Hall, in Montreal's Old Port. The season lasted eight weeks, much longer than the abbreviated seasons mandated by the museum the past few years. And while the squad may have been smaller this year, they were elite, and well suited to engage with the mass of tourists who pass through the Old Port on a daily basis. As one of this year's members told me in early July, "I've seen more tourists this morning alone than I did all last season at the fort."

[Author's note: There is no mention of "bear skin tufts," just the cockade. It is not known when the 78th Foot adopted bear skin tufts. According to Captain James Stewart's Orderly Book (BW Archives, Perth), the 42<sup>nd</sup> Foot (Black Watch) were still adorning their bonnets with "hair" cockades as late as April 1761. By this time the "hair" cockades had become rotten and discoloured and were scheduled to be replaced with new black satin ribbon cockades. However in late May 1761, Black Watch company commanders were ordered to provide their men with "bear skin tufts" while still retaining the ribbon cockades.]

*Any non commissioned officer or soldier who shall be seen drunk whether on duty or not shall be punished with the utmost rigor. No woman or sick man to lay a night in the barracks, how soon a soldier is taken sick he is immediately to be reported by the serjeant of his squad to the surgeon who is directly to send him to the hospital where he is to pay two shillings currency per week. Each company to be divided into three squads, one serjeant, one corporal to be appointed to each squad who shall be answerable to the commanding officer of the company that the men's quarters are always kept clean, that they mess regularly & keep their arms, accoutrements, ammunition, linen, & other necessary's in good order. Each company to be exercised twice a day, Sunday's excepted, in two squads – one composed of those who can exercise best, the other of the most awkward & that by serjeants and corporals who have a clear distinct voice, can handle their arms well, that have a great command of his temper & are not out of humor with clowns because they are awkward. They must first teach an easy & graceful manner of marching & pulling off their bonnets to officers, then proceed by degrees to the manual & platoon exercise. They must be made perfect in their manual, facings, & coming about upon the march. A good deal of time to be given to*

*perform the manual, but the platoon exercise to be very quick.*

*The adjutant must be at great pains to instruct the non commission'd officers in their duty & they again must avoid gratifying any personal resentment on their command. They are to use the men kindly, but not with familiarity, never failing to report every breach of discipline of which comes to their knowledge in order that offenders may be brought to justice. As the discipline of the company's is much left to the captains & commanding officers of company's it will be much for their honour & credit that their men are perfect & steady in every point of their duty. They are not only to attend themselves, but also all the subalterns must attend the drill instruction & encourage the men to learn the exercise & to prevent the drill serjeants & corporals from proceeding too hastily with the men by recommending tempor & attention. To the other [On the other hand] it is absolutely necessary that*

*the non commission'd officers should never screen under a false notion of tenderness for any neglect of duty or breach of military order, for on their fidelity & diligence in a great measure the service depends, & is carried on. The captains are to exact from their subalterns in all affairs of duty the same ceremony & attention as the colonel of the Regiment could do, & they are answerable that their company's are properly attended to by their subalterns & inferior officers that the men are kept clean & well lodg'd, that the sick are taken care of, & that the arms & accoutrements are always in the best repair. Duties of officers in quarters are to attend all parades, to visit the sick, to be attentive that the men are duly clear'd with, properly supply'd with necessary's & not impos'd upon in their accounts, that they mess regularly & to examine strictly the cloathing every time the company parades & bring about a proper neatness of dress which is very much wanted in this Regiment.*

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## An Interesting Regimental Order: Quebec, 1762

by Major Earl Chapman,  
Regimental Historian

Two 1762 orderly books of the 78th Regiment of Foot, Fraser's Highlanders, have survived the ravages of time: one is held at Library and Archives Canada (*Fonds John Nairne*), the other in a private collection. These two books give a very good insight into the internal administration of Fraser's Highlanders during its time as a wartime garrison at Quebec.

The purpose of an orderly book was to record all orders affecting a given command. General Orders for each day would originate at army headquarters and, in the case of the infantry, would filter down through the chain of command to individual battalions and from there to each company. Finally, the full slate of orders for the day would be read aloud before the assembled men of each company. The books also contained "Regimental Orders," usually abbreviated to "R.O.," and these refer to those orders originating at regimental headquarters with their content specific to each regiment.

For the 78th Foot, the years 1760–63 passed uneventfully. While the other two Highland, the 42<sup>nd</sup> and the 77th, regiments serving in North America were fighting Native Americans or storming Spanish fortresses in Havana, Fraser's Highlanders – well liked by Governor James Murray for their industrious and cheerful approach in dealing with the local inhabitants – spent the time as an army of occupation in what was then known as the "Government of Quebec." Five companies, including the grenadier company, were in the town proper, this "detachment" under

the command of Major John Campbell. The remaining six, the so-called "outside" companies, were parceled out piecemeal to act as garrisons along the south shore from Lévis to Kamourasca, with an outpost reaching out as far east as Rivière-du-Loup. These "outside" companies were commanded by the Regiment's senior major, James Abercrombie, who also served as acting commandant in Colonel Simon Fraser's absence (who had returned to England in October 1760).

However, monotonous guard duty month after month, posed serious problems for commanders as discipline invariably slackened. By early May 1762, with an official muster of the entire Regiment slated for the end of August at Quebec, Major Campbell had had enough of this slackness – his officers and men must be firmly told what would be expected of them in future. On 11 May, he issued the following R.O., in affect a "Standing Order," which was to be read to the men "at least once a week in the presence of the Orderly Officer." No doubt, regimental discipline quickly improved – the alternative was punishment by the lash. A slightly edited version of this R.O. is printed below:

### R.O. Quebec, 11th May 1762

*Major Campbell observes that the non commissioned officers & private men of the Regiment do too often neglect to comply with orders given them from time to time, therefore he desires the following orders to be strictly comply'd with by the detachment of the Regiment under his command, & to be always regarded as standing orders for which purpose they are to be read & explain'd to the men by a serjeant of each company in presence of the orderly officer at least once a week.*

*Every soldier to be provided with a brush, weir [sic: wire; a.k.a. iron vent pick], worm, stopper, turn key screw & a rag for his arms, a hammer stall & flint cape of proper leather never to be taken off except when under arms or on duty; 4 good shirts & stocks, one night cape, an ivory & horn comb for the hair, black ball & shoe brushes. The men for guard always to be well shav'd, have clean shirts, their hair ty'd behind & clubb'd if the hair will admit of it.*

*Their arms very clean, shoulder belts & cartridge boxes well blacked, & shoulder belt buckles brisks [sic: bright]. Every soldier whether he is on duty or not to have his face, hands & knees well wash'd – his hair well comb'd, cut short on the top of his head & his locks short. His bonnet proper so as to reach his brows before, & as high as possible behind with the cockade fix'd so as the half of it may stand upright above the bonnet [see Author's note below]. His plaid never to be worn but kilted [In other words, the belted plaid or great kilt (philamhor) was to be worn as a kilt, with a belt, and not as a cloak – here, the word "but" is really "bot" meaning "unless"]; the philebeg or little kilt to be always worn in the summer or harvest except upon duty or when the detachment are under arms. The soldiers to pay the same respect to all other officers as they do to their own. No man or woman to sell or retail any sort of liquor whatsoever without having his Excellency the Governor's leave & Major Campbell's in writing, & if any man is found guilty of selling any sort of liquor, even spruce beer, [he] shall most certainly undergo the utmost rigor of the military law, & shall forfeit all the liquor he has in his possession – if a woman is guilty she shall be flogg'd & drumm'd out of the Regiment.*

As in years past, our presence was also felt outside of Montreal. In early August, the Squad carried on a decades-old tradition of performing a musket show at the Maxville Highland Games. The contract with Maxville requires around fifteen Squad members. This year, as in recent years, a handful of Fraser alumni returned for the day to bolster the ranks.



Also among the squad at Maxville were two Compagnie Franche de la Marine. Asked to help with this event, they spent the weeks preceding the games mastering Highland Musket Drill. Dressed in Fraser kit, they met our demanding standards. Their help proves that, when needed, even old rivals can



rise to the occasion for the greater good.



A new addition to the summer's roster of events came on August 6th, when members of the squad piped at an event held by noted Montreal philanthropist Ginger Petty. Ms. Petty annually holds a picnic for individuals suffering from Cerebral Palsy. The event, held at her home in Ile Bizard, features and array of activities — an "Olympics" — for all to enjoy. This year's festivities were opened by the Fraser band playing in the head delegation. As part of the opening ceremony, the Frasers played Amazing Grace in memory of those former event volunteers who had died in the past year. The mood was then lifted with a lively Highland Fling and a day filled with entertaining games. At the end of the afternoon, when it was time for the guests to begin to leave, thoroughly tired from the fun, the Squad piped everyone out. It was a fitting end to a lovely afternoon.

Coming to the end of a successful summer naturally makes us excited for the future. We hope to repeat this year's success, but bigger. Plans are underway for a larger squad in 2015. To accommodate the increase, we are currently in talks with several museums and points of interest in the Old Port. The hard work by this year's squad has laid a solid foundation for the future.

## John Johnson Tomb Dedication



On 23 August 2014 several members of the Fort St. Helen Garrison — including past Officer Commanding Okill Stuart, Captain Robert Wilkins, Milady Maura Wilkins, and Pipe Major Josh Lord — attended the rededication of the Sir John Johnson tomb at Mount St. Gregoire, Quebec.

One of the great loyalist leaders of the eighteenth century, Sir John's tomb on Mount St. Gregoire, then known as Mount Johnson, had been displaced in the years after his death.



Through the efforts of the United Empire Loyalists, the tomb was restored and rededicated. Accompanied by period reenactors who fired several volleys as a salute, Pipe Major Josh Lord piped the procession to the tomb. Later in the ceremony he played Amazing Grace, helping to underline solemn the importance of this truly unique and historic event.



# Legends of Ticonderoga and your next Regimental Dinner

By Capt. Lt Mickey McGuire Gadue

Well, the word is out - your PMC was caught having a séance with Madame X, our Tarot Card reader at the last Fraser Fling. I can not tell a lie; I was having my tarot cards read to discern my future in the Regiment, and hoped for helpful hints as to what I should do, or what culinary choices to make as president of your mess.

After having given me the evil eye size-up, Madame X was quite logical in her approach, dispensing advice that went from the practical to the sublime, with the following:

- 1) "Have you thought of resigning?"
- 2) A new broom sweeps clean;
- 3) Serve 'em all oatcakes and sour milk!"

I am taking her sage advice under delayed consideration.

However, I have learned that seeking the advice of mediums and consulting your paranormal psyche is in fact something that is common to the Scots and even to military Scotsmen.

There is of course the oft repeated tale of the Legend of Duncan Campbell, Major in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Highland Regiment, who while at his home in Inverawe, Scotland, before deployment to North America, was visited by spectres in the night in the form of prophetic dreams. As well he should have been.

As the Robert Louis Stevenson version goes, he was visited in life by a man who sought Campbell's protection after admitting he had killed a man, but sought asylum based on the charity due a person hunted, and who stood before Campbell bloodied and repentant. Major Campbell consented to provide him succour, and, when the man asked that Campbell swear

on his dirk to shelter him, Campbell did. As a lawyer, now reduced to balancing menus, I am aware that swearing guarantees, especially on a dirk, never augurs well for the future.

And 'deed it did not.

After Duncan Campbell sheltered the man, he learned that the man had killed Campbell's cousin. Now visited nightly by the ghost of his cousin demanding he turn the blackguard out, Campbell, caught between oath and family, attempted to 'thread the needle' by urging the man to depart, but refusing to break his oath by informing authorities. Revisited by the ghost on a following night, he heard the spectre say, "Farewell fair laird of Inverawe, we shall meet again at Ticonderoga", a place unfamiliar to Major Campbell.

Months later, after being deployed to North America, Major Campbell learned that the Black Watch would be assigned to support General Abercrombie's push north to unseat Montcalm in the wilds, near Fort Carillon.

Campbell's tale of premonition was widely known throughout the Regiment, and his mates attempted to shield him from knowledge of where he was, suggesting he was in 'proximity to Fort George'. But on the morning of August 8, 1758, Campbell awoke from another dream knowing that he was at Ticonderoga and that he would not survive wounds to be received in that day's battle.

He did not. The Battle of Ticonderoga in which the Black Watch was immortalized July 8, 1758, resulted in 316 Regimental KIA, 333 wounded, including 25 officers, out of 1300 present, a nearly 50% casualty ratio. Major Campbell, shot in the arm, died after amputation, and was buried at Fort Edwards, NY, his grave still to be seen. A sobering indictment that no matter what Madame X might predict for me, my lot was to be envied.

But I am still haunted by her words of culinary advice, "Let them eat oatcakes and sour milk". It seems such a recipe could be either lethal, or if properly finished by oven temperature sufficient to

kill microbes, possibly both unique and tasty. However, after consultation with a gastroenterologist that I keep on staff call for review of my 'recipes', I was advised that while the appeal of such a meal might be low, it would definitely be guaranteed to prevent frightening dreams, and ghostly premonitions, "...because you would be up all night."

I think I'll give it a try at the next Regimental Dinner. I have heard that too many of us in the Regiment are troubled by the occasional night time visions, and this seems like a perfect antidote!

Culinarily speaking, your PMC Slainte,



## Note from your OC and PMC

We look forward to your usual enthusiastic participation in the Annual Dining-In which, like all Fraser events, helps to support our student squad.

We invite members of the garrison to sponsor a squad member for the dinner.

## "More Than Lovely"

by Milady Diana Wall

As the sun rose on an early August morn, it was clear that this would be one of those truly halcyon days of summer. In fact, it was a day that had been eagerly anticipated by many. For some years, Ginger Petty has opened her heart and the magnificent grounds of her Ile Bizard estate for a very special picnic.



This year's invitation to "Camp Run-Amok" stated that "... You are cordially invited to a picnic celebrating the uniqueness and individuality of our Montreal citizens who are physically and developmentally challenged...". Ginger's 265 guests this year included those associated with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Action Centre Montreal and the Centre Communautaire Radisson, as well as their caregivers and family members. Additional support was also provided by 75 volunteers – some of whom travel from outside the province and country each year, specifically to be part of this very unique event. This year for the first time, members of our squad were also participants.



After some time spent in happy conversation and laughter and enjoying hamburgers and hot dogs, all were enthralled as the sound of the pipes

reverberated across the lawns and water, as the squad marched forth with military pomp and circumstance. Many of the guests had never before witnessed such pageantry first-hand and were truly entranced and delighted by the swirl of the kilts, the piping and dancing. The fun "Olympic" games that followed were opened most eloquently by our Officer Commanding, Major Claude Larocque. Both he and the squad happily complied with innumerable requests for photo opportunities.

A day of such joy and laughter, in which the spirits of all – both guests and volunteers – were truly uplifted. One could not fail to be both humbled and impressed by the dignity of these special guests as they face unique challenges each day with great courage and determination. It seemed most fitting that members of our squad who had given a royal performance at Balmoral for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and HRH Prince Philip were now sharing their gifts with others who equally merit our utmost respect and homage.



As the guests were piped from the property down a long and winding drive, I had the opportunity of bidding farewell to many. I asked one guest if he'd had a lovely time. "Oh, more than lovely" was his immediate and emphatic response as he beamed at me from his wheelchair. A sentiment shared by all.

Sincere thanks and appreciation to Ginger for her imagination, energy, kindness and generosity in bringing to

fruition such marvellous moments of happiness and empowerment and creating special memories for so many. The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders were truly honoured to have the opportunity to participate.



# The New-Model 78<sup>th</sup> Squad Summer 2014: A Successful Transition Start

by Captain R. Paul Goodman

Big changes have arrived in the 78<sup>th</sup> due to the new priorities of the newly merged Stewart-McCord Museum and the ending of the sponsorship of both our squad and the Franche, formerly at the Fort on St. Helens Island. This summer was the first test for the beginning of a new direction. This new vision, of a paired down squad with a new location in Old Montreal and a reliance on ‘the old boys’ to bolster it for special events, appears to be off to an interesting and successful start.

By all accounts our three 78<sup>th</sup> stalwarts posted on the grounds of the Chateau de Ramsey in the heart of Old Montreal, in conjunction with the three Franche members, have proved a good beginning. Brennan, Karianne and Olivier all reported that they saw many more “civilians” and visitors, and spoke to and performed in front of much larger numbers than in the past summers to spread the fame and story of our Regiment. After just one personal visit I can attest to the initial success of the location. A musket firing by the Franche was rather crashing given the great natural sound acoustics of Old Montreal. All within a few blocks jumped in startled surprise if not in direct view of the firing line. On the morning of my visit one employee in the city hall across the street was so worried by the crash of the volley that he summoned the fire department in panic.

When the fire services arrived to investigate, the Franche and our 78<sup>th</sup> had a good laugh and a great new summer anecdote.

For the most significant special event of the season, our squad’s musket-drill display at the Maxville Highland games on the first of August, Lieutenant-Colonel’s Bolton’s dependence on the ‘old boys’ to put a significant squad on the field proved prescient. With a total muster of seventeen, a fine two-performance display was presented to an admiring crowd. What is somewhat remarkable was that this squad had never performed together before. Supplemented by old boys, some, such as Glen Newton, going back to the 70’s, our own present three, returning performers from last year such as Josh Lord, Joe Boran, Marie Eve Valiquette (now a Franche), Peter Limeburner, and our valiant Lieutenant-Colonel Bolton who played the pipes so we could put more muskets into the field. Brennan Koch did a fine job preparing our Franche in the drill of the 78<sup>th</sup>. However, the real hero of the moment was our own young veteran Ensign Alec McGuckin.

Taking charge and showing true leadership skills, a keen knowledge of the 1757 drill, assurance, clear concise orders, and a good sense of humour and encouragement in a crisp twenty-five minute practice warm-up he whipped these disparate 78<sup>th</sup> veterans into fine field shape. The performance on the field, was a testament to Ensign McGuckin’s leadership. The 78<sup>th</sup> is well served and our transition is off and running as our regimental motto promises.

## Please welcome the new members of the St. Helen’s Garrison inducted at the " Fraser Fling 2014 "

### INDUCTIONS



**Ensign Brian McGuckin & Milady Margaret McGuckin**



**Ensign Matei Andrei Bota**



## Noises Off At the 2014 Fraser Fling

By Capt. Lt Mickey McGuire  
*Gadue*

I am reminded of the 1980’s British Play *Noises Off* when recalling the events of our most recent Fraser Fling held at Bonsecours Market in Old Montreal on Friday, June 13, 2014. In that well acclaimed spoof, with long runs in London and on Broadway, “the farce from behind” was a play in which the main theme was the interaction of the characters behind the scenes attempting to get on stage, and the often humorous contrast between what the audience saw out front, and what was occurring off stage; thus the title, *Noises Off*.

Our 2014 Fraser Fling was no different from those before, and included meticulous planning, superb volunteer leadership, and a commitment to provide an excellent dinner in the camaraderie of Regiment. However, it may have been the theme chosen that set the stage for a comedy of errors and an unexpected evening that nevertheless can be touted as one of success and camaraderie, one that will go down in the books as truly memorable.

Whether the theme of ‘Lucky Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>’ was with us or, dare I say it, “the luck of the Irish” ruled, it was a night to remember. The reader will discern that on a bad day there is not much difference between ‘Irish Luck’ and ‘Murphy’s Law’, as I have often noted in my tortured legal career.

Arriving at 5:30 PM at the Market, I was slightly disconcerted to learn that though ordered, the tables, chairs, and tablecloths for our gala had gone AWOL.

Immediate visions sprang into my head of the somewhat undignified necessity of turning our gala into a cross-legged picnic repast, with resulting unfavorable reviews from damsels and kilted gents of a certain age sitting on the cement floor. The result portended to require the eventual lynching of your humble PMC.

But no, our gallant OC, Major Larocque took center stage and with booming voice quieted the multitudes, to indicate that it was all a cleverly planned escapade. Eloquently he explained that the challenge of a successful Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> celebration was to make it *seem* like chaos was reigning supreme when in fact we had the matter well in hand.

To prove his point he then turned the show over to me as MC, and I promptly broke the PA system. We were extricated from this dilemma by the help of our excellent pianist, Anthony Cooperwood, who turned over his own mike to us until we were able to get an emergency technician who ably straightened out the acoustical mayhem.

Time passed slowly, like the sword of Damocles suspended over my neck, but soon it became obvious that there was a flurry of activity and arriving tables, linens, and cutlery. Observers saw our squad members under the direction of Colonel Bolton, and with the able assistance of stalwarts like Monsieur Gilles Lambert, spring into action and effect the placement of tables and settling of the crowd.

Once we regained our momentum, it was on to one of the greatest pleasures we have in the Regiment, the induction of new members to our family.

We are pleased to welcome: Milady Margaret McGuckin, Ensign Brian McGuckin, and Ensign Matei Andrei Bota. Of special note, and especially apropos was the presentation of a Meritorious Service Medal to Gilles Lambert for his years of dedicated service. “Behind every good man...”, and a thank you to Francoise Lambert for all she continues to do to support our events both in front of and behind the curtain.

Additional highlights of the evening were the excellent piping and dancing demonstration put on by our Squad, and the pleasure of dancing to Johnny Maloney and his band. Our silent auction was a success and, thanks to our Co-chair Miladies, Janet Rankin-Hambleton and Susan Stevenson, the evening can be considered well-spent, even if a little different from the norm. Our appreciation to special guests in attendance, the Honorable Scot Diamond, President of the Montreal Saint Andrew’s Society, and Andre Delisle, Executive Director and Curator of the Chateau Ramezay. Thank you all for coming.

By the end of the evening your PMC was tired, but I can honestly say that it was fun, with much laughter and mirth, and take away from the event that sometimes a little road-block makes for a more spontaneous, and unscripted outing.

In fact, it was just like ‘Noises Off’ as, once the curtain went up, Frasers and Miladies did what they do best: they got on with the show! Reminds me of that sometimes quoted playwright, Willy Shakespeare, speaking about plays and galas, “All’s well that ends well”.

Slainte

