

78th Fraser Highlanders

Fort Calgary
Garrison

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Fellow Frasers enjoy the sun and sounds of Third Reel at the Summer Céilidh – a good lookin' group!



The Epistle

Fall 2011

Band Delights at Canada Day

Both the Junior Squad and the Color Party enjoyed an absolutely fabulous Canada Day at Heritage Park this summer. Park management welcomed our group with great excitement and “rolled out the red carpet” for us all day long. In return, we drilled, played and paraded to delighted Canada Day visitors.

The group performed four scheduled shows in the Canada Day program, all of which were standing room only appearances! The sounds of our pipes and drums, along with the beautiful colors of the flags and uniforms, attracted the biggest crowds on this sunny warm day. The band also led the procession during the Citizenship Ceremony for new Canadians.

Pictures of the event were posted in the Calgary Herald, the Calgary SUN, and most local online newspapers as well



78th Fraser Youth Squad Parades at Heritage Park's Canada Day Celebration

as some local television exposure with Global and CTV capturing a snapshot of the performance.

The group was such a big hit at the Canada Day celebrations at Heritage Park this year, that they have already confirmed our invitation for next year! We might ask them to provide a little more water, and a little less pop and cupcakes next year – as many of the kids enthusiastically enjoyed the abundance of free sugar that was offered to them!

This is an excellent addition to our annual schedule, and we look forward to the Junior and Senior Squad becoming a regular tradition at the Heritage Park Canada Day Celebrations! Special thanks go out to Jon Hurdman for facilitating this relationship with Heritage Park!

Ensign Pat Hampton
Band Officer

Wasn't that a Party?!!

Close to 100 Frasers and their guests gathered at “Arnage West” on Saturday August 20th to celebrate the last days of summer in true Celtic style. The 78th Frasers’ first ever Summer Céilidh was an unqualified success – the sun was bright, the food was tasty, and the music just kept coming. Between mouthfuls of beef on a bun and summer time libations, guests’ toes were tapping to music by Calgary Celtic band, Third Reel, along with off-the-cuff performances by members of the Garrison. OC Diggon kicked off the entertainment with a solid pipe performance, only to be outshone by former chief instructor Ross Barker moments later. A handful of band members – resplendent in their shorts and shades – joined in the fun with an impromptu parade and some pretty amusing pipe sharing tricks.

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Report of the Officer Commanding

This past few months have offered us a number of occasions to watch our fine Youth Squad in action: at Canada Day in Heritage Park, at the Wolfe Statue event and Wolfe BBQ, and during the OC's Dinner. The maintenance and growth of our Youth Squad is at the heart of all that we do and we can all take pride and pleasure from their performances. One of the most gratifying aspects of being a member of the Calgary Garrison is watching the members of our Youth Squad over the years as they grow, both as part of the Squad and as individuals.

Earlier this year two of our graduates headed off to Canada's Royal Military Colleges; Stanley Bennett is attending the College in St. Jean, Quebec while Arman Ponja is in Kingston. I understand Stanley is doing well, despite having broken his ankle shortly before his arrival (and trying to recover too aggressively)! I was most pleased to meet



Arman and his family on the parade square at RMC during Re-union weekend at the College. Arman had just completed the First Year Orientation Period (aka Recruit Camp) and the Recruit Obstacle Course and I had the honour of being a member of the reviewing party during his First Year Badging Parade at which time he officially became a member of the Cadet Wing. Arman is looking forward to returning to Calgary during the Christmas break and meeting up with all of his fellow Frasers.

Our former Pipe Major, Quinn Gardner, has now graduated from our Youth Squad and is studying welding at SAIT here in Calgary.

It was my great pleasure to attend to his promotion to Lieutenant during the OC's Dinner and to host Quinn and his lady Alecia at the head table. We look forward to his continued association with the Garrison and hope that he will continue to mentor the members of the Youth Squad.

Another former Pipe Major, Bryan Glezerson, is currently playing with the Rocky Mountain Pipe Band. I was recently honoured to provide Bryan with a letter of recommendation for entrance to medical school based on his time with the Frasers.

In training the members of our Youth Squad we strive to ensure that they are well-balanced, well-trained, informed individuals of high moral character and discipline. All of these young gentlemen exemplify the very best of our program.

Je Suis Prest

Cameron H. Diggon



OC
Cameron
Diggon and
Arman
Ponja at
RMC in
September

A Fraser in Five

1. What drew you to the Frasers? When?

I think it's about five years ago. I was introduced to the Frasers through acquaintances, Britt Mockridge and others, and encouraged to join. I've always had some interest in the military and that's what got me involved.

2. What do your co-workers think of your Fraser involvement?

It actually generates some great conversation and interests. I have been successful in bringing a couple of folks into the group and am planning on bringing in more.

3. What is your most memorable Fraser Moment?

That would probably be the dedication of the Wolfe Statue. It was a great moment, significant in the history - and what a ton of fun firing muskets in South Mount Royal Park!!

4. What is your favorite Scottish tradition?

Haggis!

5. Who is your favorite Fraser (past or present)?

Good question. Boy. It would probably have to be Wolfe.

Meet Captain of Lieutenants David White



David serves as Membership Officer for the Garrison and is also an active member of the Senior Squad & Colour Party

Céilidh a Hit

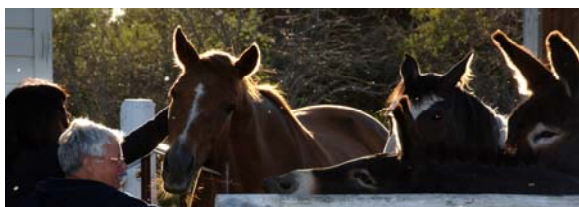
Host Bruce Gordon of the golden voice treated us to a number of beautiful songs, including a special piece for his parents Marty and Heath who were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on that day. And of course, our favorite Bard,

Jim Osborne did not disappoint. He did get a run for his money from Burns Club singer Ron Pratt, who sang a hilarious song that had us in fits. Fellow Burnsman Bob Ferrier then performed an amazing Danny Boy that had us in tears.

Our special thanks go out to Bruce and Jan Gordon for hosting this happy event at their lovely property in Millarville.



Future Fraser Finn Quennelle works the bodhran (top) Band members Anthony Hampton, Connor Macken and Callum Gardner get into the act (left)



Even the donkeys and horses had a party! (the llama is MIA)



A Fraser in Five

Meet Ensign Darrell Herrick



In addition to being a band parent, Darrell is a new addition to the Senior Squad & Colour Party

1. What drew you to the Frasers? When?

I got involved with the Frasers because my son joined the band about three years ago – 2008.

2. What's your most memorable Fraser moment?

Canada Day at Heritage Park! It was like being "more than famous" because everybody would stop and want our picture. It was unbelievable. Everyone thanked us for taking our pictures – and we're like "No, no, thank you!!". It was wonderful...

3. What's the best thing about wearing a kilt?

It's so easy. After getting one I realized that somebody should have told me this when I was a teenager because I can wear it casual or I can wear it semi dressed or formal. So all you really need is one kilt and nothing else in your wardrobe.

4. What is your favorite Scottish tradition?

Scotch!

5. Who is your favorite Fraser (past or present)?

I've never thought of that. I'd have to go with the past - the original Frasers at Culloden.

OC Receives SALH Regimental Medal

Captain (Ret'd) Cameron Diggon, current Officer Commanding of the 78th Fraser Highlanders, Calgary Garrison, has been awarded the South Alberta Light Horse (SALH) Medal in recognition of his exceptional support of that organization.

The medal was awarded by fellow Fraser and Honorary Colonel (Ret'd) George Milne in the name of the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess Edward, Countess of Wessex, at the Fraser's "Tribute to the Lassies" Dinner held in February of this year.

While asked to present the award to Captain Diggon, HCol Milne is also a recipient of this distinguished award. This exemplifies the high moral character and exceptional good works consistently presented by the Officers of this Garrison. Well done, Frasers!



George Milne (left) and Cameron Diggon with the SALH Medal

Awards & Promotions



Look for members of the Command Group at Fraser events wearing this special gold braid — a new way for members of the Garrison to get to know each other



Garrison Awards

The following awards and promotions were presented at the Officer Commanding Dinner on Friday, October 14th.

For investiture as a Volunteer Sergeant:

- Travis Lanoway
- David Simpson
- Paul Tobolski
- Patrick Ulrich
- Laurel Barney
- Susan MacKenzie
- Brian Jackson

For commissioning from Volunteer Sergeant to Ensign:

- Patrizia Hampton
- Jonathan Hurdman
- Susan MacKenzie
- Ian Christie

For promotion from Pipe Major to Lieutenant:

- Quinn Gardner

For promotion from Ensign to Lieutenant:

- Jan Gordon

For promotion from Lieutenant to Captain-of-Lieutenants:

- Gordon Nairn

For promotion from Captain of Lieutenants to Captain:

- Gary Tuchscherer

Benefactor Medal presented to:

- Jack Steen

OC's Favours presented to:

- Chef Kenneth Titcomb
- Ensign Patrizia Hampton

OC's Award presented to:

- Captain Gary Tuchscherer

Band Awards

The following band awards and promotions were presented at the Wolfe BBQ on Sunday, September 18th.

Leadership Award presented to:

- Jamie Rowan

Jr. Bandsman Award presented to:

- Thomas Farquharson

Sr. Bandsman Award presented to:

- Julian Hampton

Special Award for Excellence in Outstanding Service presented to:

- Quinn Gardner

Promotion to Pipe Major:

- Connor Mackin

Promotion to Sergeant Major:

- Ernest Wong

Promotion to Drum Major:

- Paul Herrick

Promotion to Private:

- Thomas Farquharson
- Jamie Rowan
- Grace Wijaya
- Daniel Wijaya



Band Officer Pat Hampton and Chief Instructor Stuar Brazier share a smile at the Wolfe BBQ

Your Current Command Group

Officer Commanding
 Second-in-Command
 Past Officer Commanding
 PMC
 Membership Officer
 Band Officer
 Senior Squad Officer

Cameron Diggon
 Gary Tuchscherer
 Britton Mockridge
 Jan Gordon
 David White
 Pat Hampton
 Ian Macaulay

Fundraising Officer
 Communications Officer
 Amourer
 Quatermaster
 Bard
 Paymaster

Jack Steen
 Sue MacKenzie
 Gordon Nairn
 Jim Osborne
 Jim Osborne
 Cameron Diggon

Calling for Volunteers!

Is it your time to get involved?

We have a great group of people who lead many of the efforts we put forward every year. We can do even more if we have more resources.

Please give some thought to how you might help the regiment to grow, help our youth band to grow and achieve, and help us all to enjoy.

We need volunteers for all of these areas:

Recruiting

- assist with handing out recruiting brochures at events and telling prospects all about our regiment.

Contact: David White - dgwhite@suncor.com

Mess Committee

- assist with organizing and putting on some of the many events held by both the regiment and the youth band.

Contact: Jan Gordon - arnage@lexicom.ab.ca

Fundraising

- work with the committee to carry out fundraising efforts.

Contact: Jack Steen - jack.steen@explornet.com

Senior Squad & Colour Party

- join the senior squad to perform period drill and musket demonstrations.

Contact: Ian Macaulay - ianmacaulay@telus.net

We have tremendous strength in our membership, and we know many members have talents that could help the garrison significantly. Our Officer Commanding, Cameron Diggon, is eager to recognize members for extra efforts. Recognition comes in many forms; regimental favours, dining at the head table during mess dinners, advancement in rank, for example.



We are updating our website and would like your thoughts. Visit

www.78calgary.ca

Fraser Firsts and Favours

Officer Commanding Cameron Diggon took advantage of the fall promotions ceremonies to introduce a number of firsts for the Youth Squad and to bestow his favours upon members of the Garrison.

At the Wolfe BBQ in September, Major Diggon announced the creation of "Drum Major" for the band, and awarded the title and newly crafted mace to Paul Herrick. While the position of Drum Major would not have been part of an historical regiment, according to Major Diggon it is appropriate for a modern band such as our own. A drum major typically leads the band, and is responsible for providing direction to the band - where to march and what time to keep - through gestures with a regimental mace. "Given that we had one particular individual who expressed a strong interest in the role, we decided to invest in both him and the band by acquiring a mace for him to train with", said Diggon.



Cameron and Sharon Diggon with Quinn Gardner and his guest Alecia Alexander at the OC's Dinner

Also introduced at the Wolfe BBQ was a Fraser Pipe Banner, to be attached to the bagpipes of Pipe Major, Connor Macken, during performances. Banners were used traditionally to carry the insignia of the Regiment, something that Chief Instructor Stuart Brazier felt was appropriate for the band. The banner features the Fraser cipher printed on silk, but will ultimately be replaced with a fully embroidered one.

The Garrison was also happy to receive the gift of a Regimental

Broadsword from Ensign Ian Christie on that day.

In promoting former Pipe Major Quinn Gardner to Lieutenant of the Garrison - a commission awarded to all Pipe Majors as they graduate - the OC also invited Lt. Gardner and his lady to be his personal guests at the head table at the Officer Commanding Dinner at the Ranchmen's Club on October 14th, an invitation that the Lieutenant was happy to accept.

At the Officer Commanding Dinner, and in keeping with the practice introduced by former OC Jim Osborne, Major Diggon awarded "OC's Favours" to newly promoted Ensign Patrizia Hampton and to Executive Chef Kenneth Tiltcomb of the Ranchmen's Club for their continued outstanding service to the Garrison. The favours are gold kilt pins in the form of a snuff spoon and are personal gifts from the OC to be kept by the recipients.

Senior Squad Shares its Colours

By Ensign Jon Hurdman

Greetings to all members and friends of the 78th Fraser Highlanders Senior Squad and Colour Party!

The Senior squad attends Highland games, parades and special occasions throughout the year. We attend these events dressed in the red coats, kilts and swords that would have been so familiar to the Regiment 250 years ago!

At some of these events, such as our recent Canada Day celebrations at Heritage Park, we parade with the band. While they play, the Senior Squad performs 18th century foot and musket drill. On other occasions we perform alone, and along with the above-mentioned drill, we parade with the Kings and Regimental Colours. Of course, we also get to fire the muskets - which are not only wonderful fun, but serve as a great crowd pleaser!

The Senior Squad currently has seven members—Gary Hunt, Ian Macaulay, Wayne Barney, Darrell Herrick, Gary Henderson, Ian Christie and Jon Hurdman, but are always looking for willing volunteers to participate in our



Senior Squad Members strike a pose at Heritage Park on Canada Day from left: Ian Christie, Darrell Herrick, Jon Hurdman, and Senior Squad Officer Ian Macaulay

many varied events!

No military experience is required, just a willingness to help out and most importantly of all HAVE FUN and ENJOY YOURSELF!

The time commitment is minimal, even if you attend just one or two events a year, it will give the Garrison and the Regiment great exposure.

So next time you are at a Fraser's event, come on over and have a chat to those handsome men in red, and see what it is all about!

Don't forget. JE SUIS PREST!

A Fraser in Five

Meet Ensign
Jon Hurdman

1. What drew you to the Frasers and what do your colleagues think of your involvement with the group?

I joined over two years ago, after going to various Highland Games in Calgary and High River. My friends? They think I'm insane because I'm an Englishman wearing a kilt!!



Jon is a happy member of the Senior Squad & Colour Party and has recently joined the Mess Committee

2. What's the best thing about wearing a kilt?

Not having to wear anything underneath it.

3. What is your favorite Scottish tradition?

It's the New Years Eve - being English, New Year's Eve is not a huge thing, so my wife and I have really taken to the Scottish tradition. We go over to our neighbors and share a drink with them - it's just a lovely tradition - a lovely evening.

4. If you had to make a choice between the two, would you pick haggis or scotch?

Whiskey every time!

(but wait 'til you see him eat haggis...)

5. Who is your favorite Fraser (past or present)?

The old fox, Wolfe. Without him, we wouldn't have the 78th Fraser Highlanders.

FRASER

COLOUR PARTY

INDEX

Typical number in a Colour Party before an action :

6

Typical number in a Colour Party after an action :

0

Largest number of officers and men killed defending their colours in a single battle :

213

Number of islands around Scotland:

787

787 add 213 :

1,000 the approximate number of soldiers in the original Regiment

"Going Regimental" the name for wearing nothing under the kilt!

The number of Senior Squad members who went

"Regimental"

at Heritage Park :

1 (confirmed!)

Band Members' Mess Dinner

Friday, December 2, 2011
The Military Museums

This annual event will follow the tradition of Regimental Officers serving their men dinner at Christmas time. Band members will experience the conduct and traditions of a formal mess dinner by assuming the roles of the officers at such an event. Garrison officers will perform more humble duties as well as mentor members of the band.