



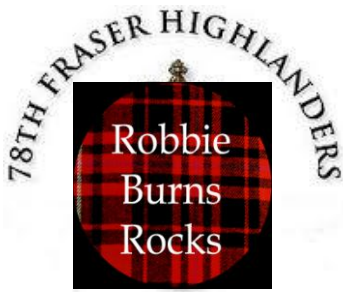
Fort Fraser Despatches, January 2017



Our Annual To-Do list:

- 1) Count your blessings first
- 2) Whatever you did last year, do it better
- 3) Go step by step, one day at a time
- 4) Create your own opportunities
- 5) Believe in your abilities at all times
- 6) Quitting is not an option, keep going!
- 7) Finish what you started

- Pablo



“The” Burns Supper: Saturday, 21 January, 2017

Fort Fraser has hosted a Burns Supper since the 1980's; and your editor has attended most, if not all, of these wondrous events over the past 20 years. Based upon that experience I feel qualified and safe to say *'tis a poor deil who's missed one – he/she hasnae lived well!*

The evening is all about good fellowship, friendly banter and fine fare.

Add to that the Kilt, the Tartan sash, the Pipes and The Haggis – not to mention a wee dram o' the *uisgue batha* – and you complete the formula for what my parents called a “swell affair” and what many have lately called “the best party of the season”.

Bigger & Better:

Lately the garrison Burns Supper has been straining the limits of the capacity of the mess and the “classroom” with over 85 seated for dinner. There is, however, plenty of room “below decks” (as the matelots say), on the 15FD parade deck.

There we find plenty of elbow room for diners, Pipers can maneuver more elegantly, and speakers can be more easily seen and heard by all.

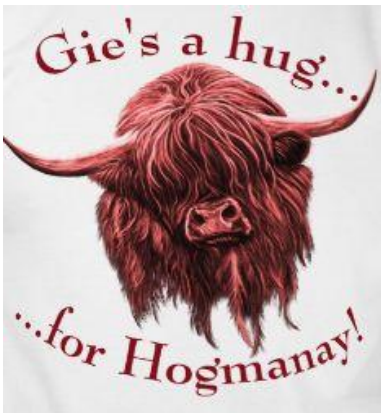
For the 2017 Burns Supper the Garrison would like to encourage all members to attend and **bring 2 or 3 guests or at least 1 guest couple.**

The intent is:

- a) to optimize the number to make use of the parade deck and
- b) to introduce the 78th to prospective members and participants, in other words to show-off!

Burns Night on the Parade, we are certain, will include a most entertaining lineup of musical and poetical talent, some interesting whisky choices, and opportunities to win worthwhile draw and auction prizes.

Please be sure to RSVP to jobarb@shaw.ca to advise your intent to attend and the number of guests accompanying you. RSVP/ASAP as the saying goes.



Hogmanay (HOG-mə-NAY)

A guid New Year to ane an' a', an' mony may ye see!

D'ye ken Hogmanay?

Into the 1950's, thanks to the Auld Kirk's resentment of "certain religious traditions", many Scots had to work over Christmas.

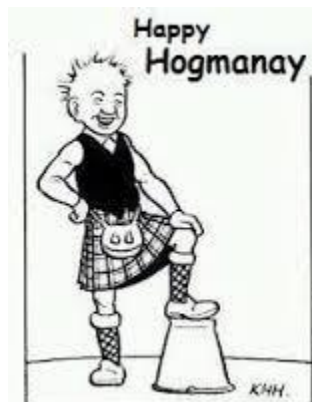
Their winter solstice holiday was therefore at New Year when family and friends gathered for a party and exchange presents, especially for the children, which came to be called Hogmanay.

An integral part of the Hogmanay partying, which continues very much today, is to welcome friends and strangers, with warm hospitality to wish everyone a Guid New Year.

The underlying belief is to clear out the vestiges of the Old Year, have a clean break and welcome in a New Year on a happy note.

'First Footing' – the 'first foot' in the house after midnight is still very common in Scotland. To ensure good luck, a first footer should be a dark-haired male. Fair-haired first footers were not particularly welcome after the Viking invasions of ancient times.

Traditional gifts include a lump of coal to lovingly place on the host's fire, along with shortbread, a black bun and, of course, whisky to toast a Happy New Year.



Repeat information from last year:

An auspicious January – 1757:

(excerpted from *The Fraser Highlanders*, by Col. R.J. Harper, OBE)

05 January, 1757, the 2nd Highland Battalion of Foot was raised by Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat.

Our regiment was originally numbered the 63rd of Foot, and the first issue of muskets, bayonets and broadswords was stamped with the numeral 63.

The regiment was renumbered the 78th on 21 April, 1758 while in New York.

According to Col. Ralph Harper, “this was a splendid body of men, whose spirit in attack and tenacity in defence helped to establish the high military reputation of Highland regiments which has been maintained ever since.” (*The Fraser Highlanders*, second edition, 1995)

Among the officers commissioned into the 78th Highland Regiment there were fifteen Frasers, five of whom had the Christian name Simon, three Johns and three Alexanders.

There were thirteen MacDonalds or MacDonells, six Camerons and six Campbells.

It is likely that the Frasers of Quebec are descended from these and many other ranks who bore the Christian name Simon and who accepted land grants to stay in Canada after disbandment at the end of the Seven Years War.

Those men started their new life in Canada in January, 1764.

“pride in the heritage”





Words on our favorite tippie:

*O thou, my muse! guid auld Scotch drink!
Inspire me, till I lisp an' wink,
To sing thy name!
Robert Burns*

The proper drinking of Scotch whisky is more than indulgence; it is a toast to a civilisation, a tribute to the continuity of culture, a manifesto of man's determination to use the resources of nature to refresh mind and body and enjoy to the full the senses with which he has been endowed.

David Daiches in his book *Scotch Whisky*, 1969.

And this from the January 2013 effort:

As we look around the world at the beginning of a new year we may feel discouraged and dismayed at man's inhumanity to man and wonder what the next year may hold;

As Burns said to the wee mousie:

*"..thou art blessed, compared wi' me!
the present **only** touches thee;
but och! I backward cast my e'e on prospects drear,
An' forward, tho' I canna see, I guess, an' fear!"*

We should take comfort; however, from more of Burns' prophesy when he foretells:

*".. For a' that an' a' that, its comin' yet for a' that,
That man to man the world o'er shall brithers be for a' that!"*

to paraphrase the Bard:

*Ye Pow'rs that mak' mankind yer care.....
Please make it soon!*



*Time is like a river.
You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will
never pass again.
Enjoy every moment of life.*