



## Fort Fraser Despatches - Q1 2019

This edition marks a new “schedule” for the editorial group at Despatches, due to advancing ages and failing imaginations, we will publish a “quarterly” edition – planned to be issued towards the end of March, June, September and December.

Yes, you can cancel your subscription, but we are not able (nor desirous) to provide a refund.

To kick off the new schedule, we offer a reminder of what can happen to autocratic and otherwise unpleasant “Heads of State”:

### **Charles I of England**



The second English Civil War of 1648 ended with Cromwell's victory over the King's forces at Preston.

The Army, concluding that permanent peace was impossible whilst Charles lived, decided that the King must be put on trial and executed. On 20 January, Charles was charged with high treason “against the realm of England”. Charles refused to plead, saying that he did not recognize the legality of the High Court (it had been established by a Commons purged of dissent, and without the House of Lords - nor had the Commons ever acted as a judicature).

The King was sentenced to death on 27 January.

Three days later, Stuart monarch King Charles I was beheaded on a scaffold outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall, London.

### **Louis XVI of France**



In August 1792, the royal couple was arrested by the *sans-cullottes* and imprisoned, and in September the monarchy was abolished by the National Convention (which had replaced the National Assembly).

In November, evidence of Louis XVI's counterrevolutionary intrigues with Austria and other foreign nations was discovered, and he was put on trial for treason by the National Convention.

The next January, Louis was convicted and condemned to death by a narrow majority.

On January 21, he walked steadfastly to the guillotine and was executed.

This issue will touch on reminders of Fort Fraser's raison d'être and basic tenets for members old and new.

## The Regiment:

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

The regiment was originally numbered the 63<sup>rd</sup> of Foot, and the first issue of muskets, bayonets and broadswords was stamped with the numeral 63.

The regiment was renumbered the 78<sup>th</sup> 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 78<sup>th</sup> 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.



The mission statement of the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders Association of Vancouver Inc. reads:

*The association/garrison will honour its constitution and the aims of the Regiment while providing an enjoyable and educational environment for its members as they strive to raise funds in support of the education and well-being of youth in British Columbia.*

Members will strive to:

- support the Garrison Historical Display Unit to improve and enhance its appearance and performance.
- establish an Educational Grant to further the study of Scottish Canadian History at Simon Fraser University
- establish an annual donation to support a children's medical facility.
- establish an annual donation to support a youth development group such as Vancouver KidSafe Project.

## 2019/2020 Directors: 78th Fraser Highlanders Assoc. of Vancouver

By Acclamation:

President: **Jim Barrett CD**

Vice President: **Chris Hoskin**

Treasurer: **Svend Raun CD**

Secretary: **John Hooker**

Directors At Large:

**Alistair Beaton; Diane Beaton; Mark Dwor;**

**Mike Redmond; Murray Wood.**

### Historical Display Unit (H.D.U.)

Fort Fraser HDU does not consider itself to be a “re-enactor” outfit - but a “representative group” presenting the regiment as it appeared in 1757 – 63. The HDU uniformed unit, aka “The Guard”, is most often the image of the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders in the mind of the public - our trademark, if you will. As are all “Fraser”, members of the HDU are Officers of the Regiment, that is to say “gentlepersons of good breeding“, well trained as leaders and respected as such by the enlisted ranks. All members are encouraged to wear “the Scarlets” and Kilt of the 78<sup>th</sup>, and to learn the foot, musket and sword drill of our 18<sup>th</sup> century predecessors. This requires a certain commitment of time and money - a little or a lot of each - but the rewards are plentiful as we “parade, exhibit and disseminate” according to our constitution. A garrison “lease to own” program is available, and the basic uniform may be acquired on a “loan” basis. Uniformed officers must own their personal items of kit such as hose, shoes and bonnet.

As a member of the Fort Fraser HDU you will be part of an important historical display which exists to inform and educate as well as to be the public face of the Fort Fraser Garrison and the international organization known as The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders.

Your membership in the HDU will require that you:

- *commit to the aims and requirements of the Garrison*
- *know the history of the Regiment and inform others well*
- *know the drill and regulations of the Regiment and perform them well*
- *know the uniform and weapons of the Regiment and wear them well*
- *regularly and enthusiastically attend training sessions and performances.*



## Not to be missed:

- Ste Foy Dinner: 13 April, 2019
- Victoria Highland Games: 18 & 19 May, 2019
- Siege of Louisbourg Barbecue: 2 June, 2019 at OC's residence
- BC Highland Games, Coquitlam: 15 June, 2019
- Brigade Days, Fort Langley: 5 August, 2019
- Derby Charity Golf Tournament : 17 August, 2019 at Pitt Meadows Golf Club

*Be kind to one another as we roll into a new season.....  
..... and a federal election campaign....*



Sláinte mhath!