



A Guide to Your Evening at the Highland Ball of the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada

Why the Scottish traditions?

One of the cornerstone communities that make up Cambridge was the City of Galt. Founded in 1816 by William Dickson and first known as Shade's Mills, the city was renamed Galt in 1827 after John Galt the Scottish colonizer who founded the Canada Company. Galt's efforts made the City of Galt a centre for Scottish settlement in Upper Canada.

Who is who?

Officers of the Regiment

Wearing their scarlet mess dress* and kilts, the Officers are your co-hosts this evening. The opening reception was held in the mess of the Officers.

** In military context, "mess dress" refers to a formal or semi-formal evening-wear uniform, often considered the equivalent of a civilian black-tie outfit, worn for official events and social functions.*

Commanding Officer of the Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Robinson CD

Honoraries

It is a tradition of the Canadian Army to appoint prominent Canadians as Honorary Officers.

Honorary Colonel Jane Klugman

Regimental Council

The White Hackle Council, also your hosts this evening, are a group of volunteers from the community as well as past Commanding Officers of the Regiment. Their role is to support the soldiers of the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada through fund raising efforts, community outreach and the administration of their charity the Regimental Trust.

Toasts & Responses

The King

Traditionally known as the “Loyal Toast”. All will be invited to rise. The host will give the toast, and the response is to repeat “The King”, to drink to the toast and then sit down. Glasses are not to be clinked.

The Regiment

A host will invite you to stand and then propose a toast to the Regiment. The response is to say, “The Regiment”, drink to the toast and then sit down.

Key Terms/Moments What Are They?

Atholl Brose

A traditional Scottish drink for your pleasure this evening. It is made by mixing oatmeal brose, honey, whisky and cream.

Robbie Burns

A 18th Century Scottish poet, widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide. He wrote the Selkirk Grace and the Address to a Haggis which you will hear tonight.

Selkirk Grace

A traditional Scottish prayer often recited on Scottish themed evenings.

Haggis

A savoury “pudding” combines meat from a sheep with oatmeal, onion and spices. The serving of Haggis is often accompanied by a theatrical recitation of Robbie Burns’ “Address to a Haggis.”

Ensembles of the Royal Hospital School

The Royal Hospital School in the Suffolk (England) countryside is the region’s leading independent co-educational boarding and day school, providing an outstanding education enriched by a unique naval heritage.

It was established in 1712 in Greenwich, London, by Royal Charter to 'improve navigation' through education.

The Pipes and Drums of the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada

Our outstanding band is comprised of serving soldiers and civilian volunteers.

Who are the Soldiers Wearing Blue?

Soldiers of the Regiment assisting with the evening are wearing their blue dress uniforms.

The Colours

Colours are a Regiment’s most prized possession. They are presented personally by the Sovereign or the Governor General, nominated to act on the Sovereign's behalf. They are emblazoned with the Battle Honours (distinctions) awarded to a Regiment. They are housed in a special cabinet in the Officers’ Mess and if to be flown in public, they are to be carried by a special guard.

Battle Honours

Battle honours are awarded to provide public recognition of and to record a Regiment’s active participation in battle against a formed and armed enemy.

Abbreviated History of the Regiment

Local residents participated in the War of 1812 as members of the 2nd York Militia Regiment.

Pre-confederation, there had been several iterations of the Galt Rifle Company

1866 the 29th “Waterloo” Battalion was formed. Local volunteers participated in the Red River Expedition as part of the 1st Battalion Ontario Rifles.

During the First World War 3,763 area residents served of which 486 were killed in action and 112 received awards for valour.

Post WW1 local soldiers were split into the Highland Light Infantry of Canada (Galt) and the North Waterloo Regiment which later became the Scots Fusiliers of Canada.

In the Second World War, the Highland Light Infantry of Canada were part of D-Day and soon after fought its bloodiest battle at the village of Buron, France.

During the two world wars, the Highland Light Infantry of Canada was awarded 28 battle honours of which 18 are emblazoned on the unit's Regimental Colours.

After the Second World War both the Highland Light Infantry of Canada and the Scots Fusiliers of Canada reverted to Reserve status. They merged in 1965 to form the Highland Fusiliers of Canada.

In 1998, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II granted the Regiment the right to her “Royal” designation to honour the Regiment's long and distinguished service.

In 2014 received the Battle Honour Afghanistan.