



The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

Vol. 1 No.3 October 10, 1996

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Next meeting, Thursday, October 17 at 7:00 p.m., Committee Room 4 - Toronto City Hall

Future meetings (locations to be announced)

Thursday, November 21, 1996	-	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 16, 1996	-	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 20	-	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 20	-	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 17	-	7:00 p.m.

All members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENTS

1. 1997 Membership Application
2. Volunteer Interest Form for Fort York Festival

IDEAS WORKSHOP ON FORT YORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Well, wasn't that a success. This was the general reaction of participants as the Ideas Workshop on Fort York in the Community closed on Saturday, September 28. Over a hundred supporters of Fort York gave up a Friday evening and a Saturday to focus creative thoughts on the development of the area surrounding the Fort. The participants included members of the heritage community, area residents and landowners, engineers, tourism and marketing professionals, representatives of public agencies and interested citizens (including many members of the Friends of Fort York). The quality of the ideas that the process produced certainly lived up to expectations.

The Workshop commenced with a light supper in Fort York Armoury while participants registered and were led on tours through Fort York. A general session followed, chaired by Mayor Barbara Hall who welcomed all present. Carl Benn drew on his extensive slide collection as background for an excellent review of the history of Fort York. This was followed by Geordie Beal (a Director of the Friends) who reviewed the Business Plan process as it applies to Fort York and demonstrated his mastery of both strategic planning and leading-edge visual technology. Geordie certainly demonstrated why the Friends are major players in the development of the Business Plan for Fort York.

On Saturday morning breakfast was served at 8:00 a.m. in the Centre Blockhouse to provide us with the energy to hike the areas surrounding the Fort in rather heavy rain. The tours ended at Fort York Armoury where we assembled in groups of 10-12 for the day's work. The discussion

groups continued until mid-afternoon when the Chair of each made a presentation on the group's deliberations.

It was interesting to note some dominant themes across all of the presentations. These would include the following:

- The Fort is a jewel seldom found in North American cities and must be both protected and made more available to the citizens of Toronto and Ontario.
- Preserving the historical authenticity of the Fort is essential.
- Development of a water feature to recall the historic position of the Fort along the Lake Ontario shore line and Garrison Creek should be a central element of the development of the area.
- Improved access to the Fort and better linkages to the surrounding neighbourhoods including walking trails, bicycle paths, bridges and roads all focussing on Fort York are a must.
- Most importantly, the local communities, both those neighbouring the Fort and those throughout Toronto, must be closely involved in future developments at the Fort.

The panel of experts then summed up the Workshop by providing their reactions to the deliberations. Dorothy Duncan pointed out that if Fort York is to become a major attraction; it will be essential for those running the Fort to become highly professional at moving large numbers of people in a way that makes them feel perfectly welcome and at home within the Fort walls. John Van Nostrand commented that this workshop had been the most creative of any he had attended. Carolyn Woodland urged participants to strive to keep their dreams for the Fort alive. Marion Joppe cautioned against growing the Fort incrementally, saying that the tourist industry could only be attracted by massive publicity when all of the developments at the Fort were complete.

Mayor Hall concluded by enthusiastically supporting the plans for developing both the Fort and its surrounding community and thanked all present for their efforts.

Don Gibson thanked participants on behalf of the Friends and announced that each of them were made Honorary Members for the balance of 1996.

Thanks go to many for the success of the Workshop. We thank Mayor Hall, City Councillor Martin Silva and Metro Councillor Joe Pantolone for their participation and support. Lynda Macdonald of City Planning conceived the Workshop and led the effort to bring it to fruition. Staff at the THB worked hard with Lynda in organizing the effort. The Friends of Fort York

participated actively in the planning of the Workshop and during the event itself. In particular, the Friends took responsibility for raising the funds that made the event possible. Special thanks in this regard go to John Barclay and Bronwyn Krog.

A very special thanks must go to the corporate neighbours of the Fort who generously sponsored the Workshop. Among our good neighbours who helped out were:

George Weston Limited
The Molson Companies Limited
CN Tower
Canada Building Materials
Canada Lands Company Limited
Medigas
Pacific Century Ltd. Partnership
Wittington Properties Limited, and
The Waterfront Regeneration Trust.

It may be appropriate to quote Christopher Hume in his column in the October 5 Toronto Star reviewing the Workshop.

"By the end of the workshop, participants already were calling the session "historic" and perhaps that wasn't just giddiness.

No one was naive enough to expect anything would happen Monday morning, yet the fact is that the get-together represented the first public show of support for Fort York in living memory. That alone made it significant.

The debate has only started. If we're lucky, by the time it's over, Toronto's most important historic site may once again be part of the city."

The printed report on the Workshop should be available soon.

FORT YORK FESTIVAL '97

Fort York Festival '97 will take place on Saturday, May 17th and Sunday, May 18th, 1997. Yes, this is the long weekend. After much research, consultation and discussion these dates were clearly the best. Our apologies to the cottagers (please note that everyone on the Executive Committee is very much a cottager).

Saturday, May 17th will be the primary day. We hope to have two battle re-enactments - the battle at Fort York in 1813 and a night battle re-enactment of the battle of Queenston Heights. We are planning a tattoo involving several bands. And throughout the day there will be many other events and exhibits with the hope that everyone who attends will leave wanting to return next year. And there will be lots of food including a pancake breakfast and we hope, a whole steer roasting on a spit. And, of course, a food and beer tent. In our dreams, we anticipate 4,000-5,000 people attending.

Sunday, we expect a Memorial Parade to Victoria Memorial Square by the re-enactors and later another re-enactment and perhaps a closing band concert.

To date, the Executive Committee of the Friends has served as the planning group for the Fort York Festival - with a heavy load being taken by Don Brydges and Murray Philp. Peter Twist has joined us as the organizer of the re-enactment program. Now is the time to involve many others in the Festival. Please see the next article on volunteers.

ONLY EXTENSIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS OF FORT YORK AND OTHERS CAN MAKE THE FORT YORK FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

The Fort York Festival '97 is a Friends of Fort York function. In discussions with the Toronto Historical Board it was decided that the Friends would contract with the THB for the use of the Fort on May 17 and 18 and take full responsibility for the Festival. (At the same time, because of the very close relationship between the Friends and the THB, the THB will work with us in a number of aspects).

Because of this arrangement, the credibility of the Friends as an organization in relation to the future of Fort York will be measured by our success in presenting the Festival and drawing Torontonians to attend. The energies required will be extensive and we will only succeed if we start now.

We have attached a form which we would ask each of you to complete indicating the way in which you can contribute to the success of the Fort York Festival. The form should be returned in the enclosed envelope to:

The Friends of Fort York
c/o Joe Gill
487 Brunswick Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2Z6

If you have questions or wish to discuss the form or the various ways in which you can help, please call any of:

Don Brydges	Fort York Festival Co-ordinator	247-1377
Murray Philp		483-5336
Don Gibson		923-1667
Joe Gill		969-8644
John Barclay		486-0763
Ian Keith		222-3870

You will be contacted shortly after returning the form. And we thank you in advance.

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Membership and Fundraising Committee met on October 8 at the home of John Barclay, Chair of the Committee.

With respect to membership, a number of conclusions were reached including the following:

- Membership dues would remain at \$30 for 1997 and the membership year would be the calendar year.
- Benefits of membership would include subscription to the Fife and Drum (8 to 10 issues a year), free admission to the Fort (subject to approval by THB Executive), invitation to attend all Friends of Fort York Board meetings and invitations to members' events.
- For new members, dues paid in the balance of 1996 would cover both 1996 and 1997 membership.
- Membership cards will be printed and issued to members.
- 1997 membership should be promoted commencing with the October Fife and Drum.
- The Membership Committee should institute programs designed to increase membership to 500 in 1997.

With respect to Fundraising the discussion focussed on seeking corporate sponsors for the Fort York Festival. Also discussed were the design of programs to raise fund to support the Fort York Summer Guard. A members dinner for next June is being considered. The Committee will meet again on October 28.

WHO ARE THE DIRECTORS OF THE FRIENDS?

Each issue we will provide a biographical note on two of the Directors:

Don Brydges, Chair, Programming And Publicity Committee

Although he was born in Guelph, Ontario, Don grew up in Toronto's west end where he developed a strong love affair with the city and its history. Following graduation from the Western Business School, he spent better than ten years as accounting systems specialist with NCR moving from Hamilton to Windsor to Montreal. He moved back to Toronto with Maclean Hunter Limited and spent the next 30 years with them. During that time he was active in industry associations, planning and managing events. Five years ago Don retired as publisher of a group of magazines serving the building and real estate development field. Like most retirees, he wonders how he ever had time for the job.

Don and his wife Barbara spend a great deal of time during the Spring, Summer and Fall at their cottage near Orillia where the usual activities of golf, sailing, swimming, fishing and endless projects keep them very busy. His association with the Friends of Fort York has managed to keep him challenged and "out of trouble".

Murray Philp, Secretary

Murray graduated in Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario and obtained a Masters Degree from the University of Illinois. Most of his working life was spent in the marketing research field, where he is a founding member and fellow of the Professional Marketing Research Society. He is now retired.

Murray and Carol spend their summers at their cottage on Georgian Bay close to Parry Sound. This has led both to be active in the Georgian Bay Association and also FOCA, Carol being a Director of the latter. Their daughter Amanda is 16 and attends Northern Secondary.

Murray is invaluable as Secretary of the Friends and is learning minute taking skills that he had not even known existed prior to this year. He also is active in assisting with the Summer Guard, is working closely with Don Brydges on the Fort York Festival and is a member of the Membership and Fundraising Committee.