



The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

Volume 3 No.3
October 21, 1999

CONTENTS

PAGE

- Members' Reception 2
- 1999-2000 Historic Fort York Lecture Series 2
- Fort York Management Board 3
- Georgian Dinner at Fort York - June 1, 2000 3
- Fort York Drums 4
- Celtfest At Fort York 4
- Remembrance Day - I.O.D.E. Ceremony 5
- "Revealing Fort York" Study Group 5
- Annual General Meeting - Our New Directors 6
- Year 2000 Fort York Festival - Our Millennium Project 7
- Membership 7
- Friends of Fort York Representation on Heritage Toronto 8

If you have any questions about the Friends of Fort York or any of our events or projects, please do not hesitate to call any of:

Joe Gill	864-1300
Don Brydges	247-1377
Murray Philp	483-5336
John Barclay	486-0763

Annual Members' Reception

- Wednesday, November 3rd 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

For the third year we will hold a Members' Reception at the Royal Canadian Military Institute. This is an opportunity for our members and guests to renew acquaintances and hear about the activities of the Friends for the past and future years. Your invitation is enclosed. We hope to see you all there.

1999-2000 Historic Fort York Lecture Series

"Early Regiments and Archaeological Treasures of Fort York"

Once again Carl Benn has arranged a series of five lectures relating to the early history of Fort York that is varied in its content and includes original material that you will not want to miss.

The first talk, on November 10, will be presented by Richard Feltoe on the subject of the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada. Richard is the Curator of the Redpath Sugar Museum and is well known for his participation in historical re-enactments.

David Spittal, Archaeological Director at Fort York, will present two lectures, one on the archaeological collection at Fort York (January 19) and the other on the key role that archaeology has played (and will play) in the redevelopment of the Fort York site (April 19). David has an extensive collection of slides which provide a unique perspective on the Fort's history.

William Gray will speak to us on the history of the Sedentary Militia during the War of 1812 (February 16). Bill is an historian and author and his paper will be drawn, at least in part, from recent research not yet published.

Lastly, the topic of Carl Benn's talk will be "John Graves Simcoe and the Queen's Rangers" (March 22).

We enclose the schedule for our 1999-2000 lecture series in a handy bookmark format. All of the lectures will be presented at the Royal Canadian Military Institute and all on Wednesday nights.

The New Fort York Management Board

Present plans call for the new Fort York Management Board to be approved by City Council at its December meeting. The Fort York Management Board will take over the responsibility for the management and direction of Fort York from Heritage Toronto at an undetermined date early in the new year.

The Friends of Fort York will remain as an independent volunteer charitable organization in support of Fort York. The Friends will continue most of its present activities and programs and will work closely with the Fort York Management Board. Fundraising will be an important future activity for the Friends.

The Fort York Management Board will be composed of seven citizen appointments, two nominees of the Friends of Fort York, two nominees of the Boards of Education and one or two City Councillors. The Friends have nominated Brett Snider and Peter Twist to sit on the Management Board. We understand that the applicants for the seven citizen appointments included many strong candidates, some of whom have been active with the Friends of Fort York. As a result we would expect a strong Board of Management bringing a wide range of skills for the benefit of Fort York.

The City Council cannot approve the new Museum Boards of Management until they have considered the by-laws for each of the Boards. These by-laws are still being drafted by City Legal following comments on the initial drafts by Heritage Toronto and various interested citizen groups such as the Friends of Fort York. Our comments were focused on ensuring that the by-laws fully reflected City Council's intention that the Museums were to be managed and directed by citizen boards of management and clearly empowered the boards to fulfill that mandate. This process is the culmination of the extensive effort by citizens in the heritage community to ensure a meaningful role for citizen volunteers in determining the future of Toronto's heritage institutions.

Georgian Dinner at Fort York - June 1, 2000

The second annual Georgian Dinner at Fort York will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2000. This is a change in the previously announced date of June 8th. Several conflicts on the June 8th date made the shift in dates necessary.

The Georgian Dinner at Fort York is a fundraising function made possible by the very generous support of Paul Fortier and Jessup Foods and by the active participation of the Jessup staff, the staff and volunteers of Heritage Toronto and the Friends of Fort York. The first Georgian Dinner raised \$11,500. We have allocated \$8,500 of these funds as the initial financial support for the formation of the Fort York Drums, our planned volunteer Fife and Drum Band. The major part of the funds raised from the year 2000 dinner will also be devoted to the Fort York Drums.

The Georgian Dinner at Fort York will continue to be themed as a Mess Dinner at Fort York serving authentic period food in the Georgian style. This year's dinner is conceptually planned to be a celebration of a victorious Battle in the War of 1812 with descriptions of the battle strategy and events by returning officers. More on this when details have been worked out.

Fort York Drums

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Fort York has approved the formation of an historic Fife and Drum Band to be known as the Fort York Drums. The Fort York Drums will be sponsored and funded by the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common. A Governing Committee, appointed by the Board of the Friends of Fort York, will assume responsibility for the recruitment of the band members, the acquisition of instruments and uniforms, training and ongoing administration and subsequent scheduling of the band.

The band members would be volunteers in the sense that no funds would be budgetted for salaries or wages. Uniforms, instruments and training would be provided. Nevertheless, band musicians may well receive financial benefits through allocations of some or all of performance fees, the availability of related work performing as individuals or groups at private functions at Fort York and, in some case, through summer employment as part of the Summer Guard at Fort York. Initially, the Fort York Drums would perform at various festival events at Fort York. As well they would perform at civic events and parades to promote Fort York and Toronto's historical roots. An organizing committee for the Fort York Drums will be meeting in November and more details will follow.

Celtfest at Fort York

On Saturday, September 11, the Friends of Fort York joined with Paul Fortier and Jessup Foods in the presentation of CELTFEST, a celebration of Celtic traditions, food and music. The musical events included the Pipes & Drums of the Toronto Scottish Regiment and Celtic rock and folk sounds of such bands as Enter the Haggis, Celtic Offsprings, Hadrian's Wall and The Kitchen Party. Jessup Foods provided Scotch Eggs, Irish Stew, Scotch Pies and Bangers and Mash. The event was sponsored by more than 30 Celtic pubs in the greater Toronto area, Guinness Canada Limited and Fionn MacCools Irish Pub.

The event was a great success, especially as it was essentially conceived approximately six weeks in advance of its presentation. Jessup Foods has participated in the CELTFEST at Fort Henry and drew upon this experience. It is planned to make this event an annual affair adding to the schedule of weekend festivals at Fort York.

Many thanks to John Barclay, Bob Beam, Gord Brace, Margaret Fisher, Sara Gill, Joe Gill, John Lowden, Stephen Otto and Karen Takenaka who volunteered on short notice to enable the Friends to help make CELTFEST a success. We will continue our partnership with Jessup Foods in future CELTFESTS.

Remembrance Day Ceremony at Fort York

We remind all of you that the I.O.D.E. has sponsored an annual Remembrance Day Service at the brick cemetery wall marking the Strachan Avenue burying ground at the west end of Garrison Common since 1952. All members of the Friends are encouraged to attend this ceremony at 10:45 a.m. on Thursday, November 11. The I.O.D.E. hosts a reception in the Centre Blockhouse following the ceremony.

"Revealing Fort York" Study Group

Earlier this year Eberhard Zeidler, a Toronto architect well-known internationally and a member of the Friends of Fort York, agreed to assist the Friends by doing a preliminary design of a visitor centre for Fort York which would provide artistic presentations of what a Visitor Centre at the Fort might look like. It was felt that these artistic presentations would be invaluable in early fundraising appeals. Eb proceeded to complete this work and we are very appreciative for this very significant support.

As a result of this project, a number of the Friends encouraged the Executive Committee to form a study group to research a set of basic principles for the development of the Fort York site. It was felt that much a study was essential background to any consideration of how the visitor centre project should eventually proceed. Of course, on its own merits such a study is an extension of the Ideas Workshop held several years ago and encompasses a much broader area of study than the question of a visitor centre and its design and location.

After an initial meeting on June 8th 1999 which was attended by approximately twenty interested members of the Friends, a study group was formed. Jo Ann Pynn and Cathy Nasmith have been leading the study group and with their effort the group has had six very constructive meetings. The meetings have been timely, given plans by the city to proceed with the construction of Fort York Blvd. during the 2000-2002 period. Clearly understanding the basic principles as to how the South side of the Fort York site should be developed is essential before the construction of Fort York Blvd. proceeds.

Those attending the study group meetings have included Bob Allsopp, Cathy Nasmith, Jo Ann Pynn, Eb Zeidler, Phil Goldsmith, Rollo Myers, Stephen Otto, Joe Gill, Carl Benn, Jurgen Henze, Nick Holman, James Brown, Kim Storey and Geordie Beal. Ian Cooper, Lynda Macdonald and Eric Pederson have attended representing City Planning together with representatives of Parks and Recreation and Economic Development. Councillor Joe Pantalone joined the group at its meeting focussed on the south side development and Fort York Blvd. At this meeting David Spittal made an excellent presentation on the Archaeology of the Lake Ontario shore line at Fort York.

The Friends thanks all of these individuals for their continuing devotion of time and effort to this very important project. It is a very visible sign of the importance of citizen involvement in the heritage of our city.

It is hoped that one of the results of this study group will be a Capital Management Plan for the Fort York site.

Annual General Meeting - Our New Directors

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, June 17, 1999 at Fort York. Twenty-four members enjoyed the reception, hosted by Jessup Foods, and participated in the following meeting.

Three new directors were elected. Hank Young joins the Board after three years as an active member of the Friends and as the Chef (with Patrick McCrory) of the Fort York Festival. John Lowden is a tax partner of Ernst & Young and joins the Board after his recent move to Toronto from Calgary. John's financial expertise will be appreciated. Anne Beach has played a leadership role in the Fort York Festival organizing the many volunteers in the Queen Street *Out of the Cold* program to join in helping with the food preparation and service at the Festival. Anne is a medical doctor with a keen interest in serving the public - including a term on the Toronto Board of Health.

With our three new members we now have a full Board of 21 members as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| John Barclay | Gerald Murray |
| Anne Beach | Rollo Myers |
| Geordie Beal | Cathy Nasmith |
| Don Brydges | Stephen Otto |
| Chris Bovaird | Murray Philp |
| Richard Dodds | Martin Silva |
| Joe Gill | Bret Snider |
| David Keating | Peter Twist |
| Ian Keith | George Waters |
| Bronwyn Krog | Hank Young |
| John Lowden | |

Dr. Carl Benn will remain as our historical advisor and Don Gibson, Mimi Kapches and George Rust-D'Eye were elected to continue as Honourary Directors.

At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors a slate of officers was approved as follows:

- | | | |
|------------|---|---|
| Chair | - | Joe Gill |
| Vice-Chair | - | Don Brydges |
| Treasurer | - | Gerald Murray (until December 31, 1999) |
| Secretary | - | Murray Philp. |

Year 2000 Fort York Festival - Our Millennium Project

The Fort York Festival 2000 will move (for the year 2000 only) from the Victoria Day Weekend to July 1 and 2 so that we may join the Harbour Parade of Lights to produce a unique Festival to celebrate the Millennium. Fort York Festival 2000 is an official City of Toronto Millennium event and we have been awarded a grant of \$7,500 from the City.

The Friends of Fort York will once again host re-enactors and the public to step into the past for many historic activities at historic Fort York. The re-enactors will arrive on the evening of Friday, June 30th and Saturday's events will be similar to previous Fort York Festivals, familiar to all of our volunteers. The site will come alive again with musicians, country dancers, and exciting military demonstrations. This will be the only day of Festival events at Fort York.

On Sunday July 2nd, the Festival will move to Toronto Harbour, on the lakeshore west of the C.N.E. or possibly on Toronto Island, for a dramatization of the landing of the invading American troops prior to the Battle of York in 1813. This will be a major event involving tall ships and landing craft. This event will be followed with a parade and a barbecue. On Monday, July 3rd the re-enactors will sail to Niagara on the Lake where events will take place on the 3rd and 4th of July at Fort George.

The Harbour Parade of Lights will involve large numbers of recreational boats from Canada and the U.S. The re-enactors and the tall ships will play a major part in the unique success of the Parade of Lights in Toronto on July 1st and again at Niagara on the Lake.

We will require extensive help from all of our volunteers on both July 1st and July 2nd - so please mark your calendars.

Membership

Membership grew to 181(?) for the 1999 calendar year. The Friends have experienced very substantial growth over the last four years as is illustrated by the chart below:

Membership by Year

1996	-	40
1997	-	78
1998	-	130
1999	-	181(?)

We thank and welcome all new and renewing members.

Friends of Fort York Representation on Heritage Toronto

Toronto City Council recently approved two new appointments to the Board of Heritage Toronto (Toronto Historical Board). Both of the appointees are also members of the Friends of Fort York Board. George (Geordie) Beal and Cathy Nasmith will provide new energies for Heritage Toronto.

Cathy will be playing a lead role in Heritage Toronto's Millennium Project. The first annual "Doors Open Days" is a two day event scheduled for May 27 and 28 and will involve the opening of 30 Toronto buildings that would otherwise not be open to the public. 10,000 visitors are expected in the first year. Cathy recently joined a group visiting Glasgow and Edinburgh to view their Days Open event in operation.

Geordie Beal will serve as the Heritage Toronto representative in overseeing the transfer of the responsibility for Fort York to the new Fort York Management Board. This is a very important role and Geordie's extensive experience on strategic and organizational planning and his negotiation skills will serve Fort York well.