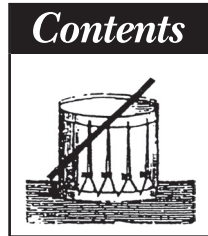


# *The Fife and Drum*

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 9 No. 3 June 2005

## *Special Edition*



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### *Fort York: Adding New Buildings*

With this special addition of the Fife and Drum we are pleased to be able to provide our members, friends and supporters with a copy of a new publication, *Fort York: Adding New Buildings*. This study is the result of a five year process involving the Friends of Fort York, The Fort York Management Board and the Culture Division of the City of Toronto.

The study makes recommendations as to what buildings and other capital improvements, both within and outside the walls of Fort York, are required to integrate visitors into the site and its history in a seamless manner. At the same time, the new facilities that are recommended will accommodate the increased level of program activities and visitorship contemplated for the future.

The report provides the necessary analytical background and rationale for a capital expenditure program at Fort York that will respect its status as Toronto's birthplace and most important historic site, while significantly enhancing the fort as a major attraction for both citizens and tourists, and as an economic resource for the City.

The report will also be an essential aid in the on-going process to convince the private sector to participate in the financing of that capital expenditure program.

The working group whose deliberations led to the report was formed in June 2000 following the publication of the widely-distributed study "Fort York: Setting It Right". The process leading to this report demonstrates how empowered citizen groups can work constructively and positively with city officials to the benefit of all.

We wish to thank all the members of the working group who gave generously of their time and energies to ensure that we considered all the ramifications of adding new buildings at Fort York. In particular, special thanks are due to Stephen Otto and Jo Ann Pynn for many hours spent drafting the report.

### *Our 7th Annual Georgian Mess Dinner*

The 7th Annual Georgian Mess Dinner was held in the Blue Barracks at Fort York on Wednesday, June 8th.

This year's dinner was timed for the spring of 1812 at a time before the commencement of the War of 1812. The officers at Fort York invited prominent citizens of York together with officers of the Army of the United States to a masquerade at the fort to enjoy the finest of Georgian dining. Unfortunately, while dinner was in progress, word was received that war had been declared. To say the least, our guests from Fort Niagara were concerned. However as they rose to leave in panic, the President of the Mess rose to quickly reassure them: "Tomorrow is time enough for war, tonight we dine".

There are many to thank for our fine evening.

Above all, we wish to thank our sponsors. Their support makes the dinner possible and provides very important financial backing to the Fort York Guard and the Fort York Drums.

## *Sponsors for the 2005 Georgian Dinner*

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The efforts of many people are required to produce an authentic Georgian Mess Dinner and create the atmosphere that takes all the diners back into history. Bridget Wranich is the coordinator of all the historic food activities at Fort York. Bridget and her volunteers worked for months to create the menu and develop the recipes that enable dishes from 1812 to be prepared with ingredients available in 2005. En Ville Catering is the new caterer at the fort. Led by Rauni Whitely, en Ville did a superb job and every dish was truly delicious. We thank both Bridget and her volunteers and en Ville Catering for a superb dinner experience.

We also thank the Fort York Drums for their fine performance before the dinner and for providing the musical element of the toasts. Ken Purvis and the Regency Parlour Ensemble provided wonderful music throughout the evening.

Once again, Scott Finlay provided his unique flair and humour as our military guest speaker recounting his experiences "in the field".

Lastly, our Special Events Committee deserves our thanks. Chaired by Richard Dodds, they include Bridget Wranich, Ken Purvis, Jeannie Butler, Derek Osler, Vlad Pilar and Joe Gill.

But, after all, this was a fund raising dinner. Thanks to all of our guests, sponsors and donors, the dinner raised in excess of \$15,000 in support of the Fort York Guard and the Fort York Drums. The Friends thank you.

### *The Friends Always Welcome New Members*



For those of you who are not presently members of the Friends of Fort York, we would be pleased to welcome you to the Friends. Fort York is our most important historic site and Toronto's Birthplace. Membership provides free admission to Fort York and all newsletters of the Friends. We enclose our membership folder and a return envelope for the convenience of those wishing to become members or to make a donation to support our activities in support of Fort York.

*For more information, see our website, [www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca).*