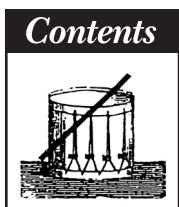


# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 11 No. 1 April 2007



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## Fort York Foundation Established

by Geordie Beal

*Almost a year and a half ago the Friends of Fort York made the strategic decision to convene a group of people to establish a Fort York Foundation to raise money for major projects and manage the funds until they were spent. The new organization was intended to complement the Friends' whose focus, broadly speaking, is on programming, publishing, education and advocacy. Geordie Beal agreed to chair the task force to create the Foundation. Recently he was able to report, as follows, that the job was done.*

In the final days of 2006 the last, essential steps were completed to permit the Fort York Foundation to become operational. Incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act last October, it received notice in late December it had been approved as a registered charity. It has now secured a business number and can receive donations and bequests, having been designated as a Public Foundation. The Foundation's Board is 10 directors-strong, six of whom have been appointed already. The Chair and Treasurer of The Friends of Fort York serve ex-officio in a non-voting capacity. All members of the board are unpaid volunteers. The Foundation will share an office with The Friends at the Center for Social Innovation at 215 Spadina Avenue.

The objects of the Foundation are "to receive and maintain a fund or funds and to apply all or part of the principle and income therefrom ... to qualified donees ... that preserve, maintain, enhance, promote and/or restore Canadian historic sites, including the Fort York National Historic Site." Two points in this charter are of particular interest. First, the Foundation may give funds only to "qualified donees," meaning those organizations that enjoy charitable registration in their own right. Thus, while both the City of Toronto and The Friends of Fort York are qualified, others may not be. The Foundation is thereby precluded from funding suppliers, programming or contractors directly. The advantage of this is that the Foundation can focus its resources on the raising, management and deployment of funds rather than being involved in administering and implementing projects. The second point to note is that the charter encompasses all "Canadian historic sites," enabling the Foundation to support any qualified organization now or in the future.

Currently the Directors are developing plans and bringing people and resources together to launch the first appeal. This includes forming a campaign committee and preparing brochures and donor contact materials. The Foundation also is establishing contacts with potential patrons and supporters. The inaugural campaign will be in support of capital enhancements to Fort York to mark the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. As proposed in *Adding New Buildings* and endorsed by City Council, the capital program has three major elements:

- *Building a Discovery/Visitor Reception Centre* to welcome visitors, introduce them to the site and its history, and provide linkages to the surrounding communities. The Centre will house the administrative functions currently located in some of the seven buildings on the site that date to 1814-16.
- *Reconstructing buildings* that were erected within the ramparts following the War of 1812, but have not survived. These reconstructed buildings, historically accurate on the outside but modern inside, will house staff who need to work closely with visitors.
- *Creating displays and interactive materials* within the seven original buildings to interpret the fort's history both to tourists and to residents of the City, especially schoolchildren who form our largest visitor group today.

# *Archaeological Investigations in the Garrison Creek Ravine*

by Andrew Stewart

Late last Fall archaeological test excavations were carried out under the direction of David Robertson of Archaeological Services, Inc. (ASI) and me, Andrew Stewart of Strata Consulting, for Toronto Community Housing Corporation, the owners of Blocks 32 and 36, opposite Fort York on the east side of Bathurst and south of the railway corridor along the former course of the Garrison Creek. The point of this preliminary work was to identify deposits for more detailed archaeology prior to the construction of housing and development of a park in 2008. This area is one of many in the City of Toronto with high archaeological potential that deserve careful investigation. They are identified in a Archaeological Master Plan prepared by ASI for the City and available at:

<<http://www.toronto.ca/heritage-preservation/pdf/centralwaterfrontarchaeology.pdf>>

Toronto Community Housing Corporation, under the direction of Peter Zimmerman, its manager of housing development, is leading the way among land developers in taking a serious interest in the city's history. By providing a consultative and cooperative process for this research, TCHC has ensured that at least some of the results can be incorporated into the new development and its landscaping.

To prepare for the excavations, a sound understanding of the site's history was developed from 19<sup>th</sup> century maps and accounts, many of which are found in Dr. Carl Benn's authoritative and attractive book, *Historic Fort York, 1793-1993* (Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., 1993), for sale in the Fort York Canteen. Another source was, "An American Spy's Report on Fort York, 1840," found on the Friends' web site: <[www.fortnyork.ca/history](http://www.fortnyork.ca/history)>.

The lands being investigated have a complex history that includes the erection of the fort itself on the shore of Lake Ontario flanking Garrison Creek; the development of the Queen's Wharf on the east side of Garrison Creek in 1833; the construction of railways and related structures south and east of the fort beginning in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century; and the building of a slaughterhouse practically on top of the fort in 1898-1903 that resulted in demolition of its guardhouse, southeast bastion and part of the east rampart.

Originally the landform on the east of Bathurst Street was a steep, eroding bank falling from high ground roughly level with Fort York down to Garrison Creek. Under this high ground lay clayey till (left by the glacier during the last ice age). After the retreat of ice 13,000 years ago, Garrison Creek assumed its course, cutting down through the till and creating a ravine. In places during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the floodplain of this ravine was wide enough to accommodate a stockaded square of stables, stores and sheds for the Royal Artillery.

Closer to the mouth of the creek, the floodplain was the site of a barracks structure and battery built immediately after the American occupation of 1813.

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the high ground on east side of the ravine where the Russell blockhouse (1797) and original garrison (1790s-1800s) stood was cut down in the course of constructing the railways. Between the 1850s and 1920s fill from this operation and elsewhere was used to bury Garrison Creek and to create rail yards along the shore on either side of the creek.

What we archaeologists are attempting to identify is what of the original (early 19<sup>th</sup> century) land surface exists under about 2 metres of later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century fill. We are looking for artifacts and structural features that might yet survive in the till, floodplain and shoreline deposits of sand and gravel of the original landforms. As well, we are looking for remains of the Queen's Wharf and Grand Trunk Railway engine house.

Excavations last Fall were carried out by trenching through the overlying fill, using a backhoe, to determine the depth of original landforms underneath. The high water table, relative to original sediments, and collapsing walls of the trench made it quite difficult to identify and record what was there. In the end, however, artifacts associated with sands and gravels of the Lake Ontario shoreline (or possibly with coarser sediment of the Garrison Creek channel) and remains of some structures were found. This evidence is enough to tell us that something survives from before the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when major changes to the landform began. We now need to open up a larger area to explore this evidence and document, precisely, just what is there.

## *CSI Toronto: The Friends' New Office*

Having nothing to do with crime-scene investigations in Miami or New York, the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) at 215 Spadina Ave., another venture of Margie Zeidler and her family, is the new home of the Friends of Fort York. For the last dozen years we've been grateful to the accounting firm of Ernst & Young for providing a downtown office to our chair Joe Gill, who is a retired partner in the firm. But that arrangement is to end soon, so we are pleased to announce that we have leased a space large enough for two desks and some filing cabinets on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor at CSI. There, surrounded by some seventy-five other "social innovators" and a wide variety of support services such as photocopiers and meeting rooms, we anticipate joining in an engaging work environment and making new friends. Our mailing address, phone number and e-mail address remain the same.

## *June Callwood (1924-2007)*

The many tributes prompted by June Callwood's death on April 14 are witnesses to her having been a very remarkable person. A few years from now people in the Fort York Neighbourhood will be privileged to have in their midst a striking reminder of her constructive compassion when the city park named in her honour is completed south of Fort York. The site for the park was dedicated in July, 2005, by Mayor Miller and Councillor Pantalone in the presence of June and her family. At her urging the park will be designed to suit particularly the very young and the elderly. (See *Fife & Drum*, August 2005 at <www.fortyork.ca>) The former Molsons Brewery on the Fleet Street end of the park site is being demolished currently, and CBM cement plant that straddles the northern part will be gone no later than August, 2009. At that point the public roads that flank the park between Fleet and Fort York Blvd., will be opened and the Parks department can set to work to develop this special space.

## *Celebrating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812*

On April 5, 2007, the Ontario Legislature gave unanimous passage to a resolution to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 put forward by Julia Munro, MPP for York North. Munro who is Opposition critic for Culture said, "The War of 1812 is one of the defining moments in Ontario's history. Establishing an independent commission to co-ordinate Ontario's commemorations will let historical groups and local communities play an important part in planning our celebrations."

The resolution directs the government to establish a commission whose members include representatives of Ontario communities that are the sites of battles or other significant events of the war as well as groups dedicated to the preservation of Canada's military history and heritage. The commission would work with Ontarians, the federal government and US governments to co-ordinate the commemorations. The Friends of Fort York expect that Fort York, as the site in April, 1813, of one of the war's major battles would feature prominently in any program.

## *Environmental Cleanup Bee*



Saturday, April 21, was a gloriously sunny, warm day—the perfect occasion for a scheduled bee to pick the Fort York site clean of debris, some windblown, but a lot left behind by thoughtless litterbugs. This year we were helped by about twenty cadets from the Fort York Armoury who turned out to make a big difference in how much got done. Also, for the first time a couple of neighbours from the condominium towers south of the fort came to help. When the bee was finished the whole of the south side of the site from the Armoury to the Bathurst Street bridge had been covered. In thanking everyone for helping, David O'Hara, administrator of Fort York, said that once there's a clean sweep like this, it's a lot easier to keep abreast of the problem as the season unfolds.



## *Friends of FORT YORK Annual GEORGIAN Dinner*

*Thursday, June 14, 6:00 pm*

*Blue Barracks, Fort York National Historic Site*

*Cost is \$175 a plate - this is a fundraising event*

*For tickets call Joe Gill (416-860-6493) or Richard Dodds (416-231-1693)*

# NOTICE

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF FORT YORK

THURSDAY, JUNE 21 AT 6:00 FOR 7:00 PM

BLUE BARRACKS,  
FORT YORK NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

(for directions see <[www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca)>)

A reception to which all are welcome will precede the meeting

### *Two New Members Join Friends' Board*

At its regular meeting on April 19 The Friends' board approved the nominations of Patricia Fleming and Heather Inglis Baron to serve as directors until the annual meeting when, like all directors, they will be eligible for re-election by the membership at large.

Now a Professor Emeritus, Patricia Fleming taught for more than 30 years in the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto. Beginning with her first job as a librarian at the Toronto Public Library in the 1960s, she has had a particular interest in this city and its people. Her doctoral thesis on the history of printing in Toronto provided a foundation for studies of the press in Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic provinces. Most recently, she directed the national project for *A History of the Book in Canada/ Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada* published in three volumes in English and in French in 2004, 2005, and 2007. Earlier publications include *Upper Canadian Imprints: 1801-1841* (Toronto: U of T Press, 1988) and *Toronto in Print: A Celebration of 200 Year of the Printing Press in Toronto, 1798-1998*, a catalogue for an exhibition in 1998 at the Thomas Fisher Library, University of Toronto (with Sandra Alston). As an active member of the board Pat looks forward to working on the plans for the celebration of the bicentennial of the war of 1812.

Heather Inglis Baron is a Senior Planner with the firm of Bousfields, Inc. Previously she was a planner with the City responsible for the Fort York Neighbourhood, King-Liberty area and early phases of redevelopment at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 1001 Queen St. W. Her time with the City also included a stint on the Development Review Task Force and with the Parks Department. Heather began her career in 1990 as a planner with the Ontario Municipal Board. After moving to Vancouver in 1994, she worked on non-profit housing for BC Housing followed by six years with the City of Burnaby. Currently she is completing a Master's Degree in Urban Design at the University of Toronto.

No doubt we will benefit from Heather's expertise, given our long-established root interest in planning matters. Currently we keep an eye on several issues, including the Georgetown rail corridor environmental assessment (EA), Front Street extension, rebuilding of Strachan Ave., Waterfront West streetcar (Strachan to Roncesvalles) and Bathurst Bridge rebuilding--to name only those we know about!



*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

## Site-work Update

*by David O'Hara, Site Administrator*

### Site Improvements

In 2006, the first phase of improvements to the landscape along the fort's south ramparts was completed, including walkways, seeding under the Gardiner Expressway and our new entry drive. This coming year additional landscaping will take place in the parking lot area. The next phase will be to add interpretive elements along the south edge of the fort to mark the original shoreline and other key features. Now that conservation work has been completed on six of the fort's cannons, our focus will shift to looking at options for replacing the two wooden traversing platforms and gun carriages.

**[murmur] at Fort York** will be launched in this June.

[murmur] is a unique approach to capturing and recording stories about special places and making them available on the spot using cell phone technology. Narratives about Fort York and the surrounding area are being collected at present. This initiative will reach out in particular to people walking past the site, thereby broadening its overall audience. For more information check [www.murmurtoronto.ca](http://www.murmurtoronto.ca)

### Wellhead Reconstruction

The reconstruction of the fort's wellhead is scheduled for completion this Spring when the existing stone parapet will be removed and replaced with a timber deck and canopy. Abandoned and filled-in during in the early 20th century, the well was rediscovered in 1956. The reconstruction is based on photographs, historic military plans and artistic depictions of a contemporary well. The wellhead will be fabricated by Chris Laverton in the off-site workshops of the City's Culture Division. It will incorporate wood salvaged from the 1850s part of the Queen's Wharf excavated last Spring during the construction of a condominium at Fleet and Bathurst Streets

### Heritage Conservation District Plan

Among the many projects to be undertaken at Fort York in 2007 is an update to our Heritage Conservation District Plan. The original plan was developed in 1985 when Fort York was designated a Heritage Conservation District (HCD) under

the Ontario Heritage Act. Since then the City of Toronto has acquired six additional parcels of land around the fort, which has allowed an expansion of the district to include archaeological and heritage features not covered by the original designation. New boundaries for the district were established by bylaw in 2004 to coincide with the limits of the Fort York National Historic Site adopted by the federal government. With the 1985 study as a starting point, consultants will be retained to work with the fort's staff to update the HCD Plan.

## Fort York's Wooden Muskets: A History

*by Carl Benn, PhD., Chief Curator,  
City of Toronto Museums and Heritage Services*

One of the most common sights at Fort York today is that of school groups marching around with wooden muskets as part of a workshop on how weapons were related to tactics in the War of 1812. The students do surprisingly well performing linear evolutions, even when things get exciting after 'enemy forces' are spotted and the students open fire – complete with loud shouts of 'bang' – before they reload frantically in anticipation of delivering another devastating volley that will win the battle for the good guys. Yet, what is the story behind those wooden muskets that are seen so often at the fort?

Around 1973-74, Fort York began to offer in-depth school programmes beyond the two-hour tours that had been a part of the site's services for decades. This move was one element in a larger trend in historic site museums at the time to provide more 'hands-on' activities within day-long or multi-day programmes. At the time I was one of the interpreters charged with developing expanded services. From experience in adding a participatory tactical component to the standard tour, we knew that children liked to do drill. In those earlier events, the interpreters had their muskets, but the students had to perform on pretend 'air muskets.' However, when we went to our first in-depth programme – which was five days long (!) – we decided we had to do a better job in arming them.

The first classes were grades four and five groups from Etobicoke, so we had to find something small enough for children of that age to use. An immediate solution was to issue them with Martini-Henry rifles (think of the movie *Zulu*). While years out of date for 1812, being firearms of the 1870s and '80s, they did the trick and were a lot easier for nine- and ten-year-olds to handle. We also had lots of them because in the 1950s the late Brigadier John McInnis had bought a great pile of Martini-Henrys for two dollars each. Of course, the kids loved using them and shouted 'bang' with even more gusto than earlier classes had with their 'air muskets.'

Naturally, this solution was only a temporary one. Fortunately an industrial arts teacher at an Etobicoke high school, Peter Clarke, on becoming aware of our plight, had his students make up a set of the first generation of wooden muskets (which were the same design as those currently in use). They were a huge hit with the kids of course – in part because they were a lot lighter than the Martini-Henrys. These black-painted plywood muskets quickly became institutionalized at the fort. Over the years, we've added to our stock of them so that we can deploy ever larger 'forces,' as well as replace the inevitable breakage that occurs from the 'hard campaigning' these props undergo in teaching children how soldiers deployed tactically during the musket era of the fort's early decades. They remain popular, as anyone can see when a school group that used them before comes back to Fort York. On those occasions, as soon as the kids get a free moment – and without any prompting – they charge over to the big grey wooden box where the wooden muskets are kept, ready to defend the fort once again.

## Fort Acquires Napoleonic Drum

by Ken Purvis, Senior Program Officer

Last year a collector of militaria approached us, seeking our expertise in evaluating a Napoleonic rope-tensioned military side-drum alleged to have been carried by a British drummer at the Battle of Waterloo. In the world of military collecting, this provenance is claimed so often as to account for enough *materiel* to equip Napoleon's and Wellington's respective armies several times over. However, a peek inside this drum hinted that if it never made an appearance at Waterloo, its real history might prove much stranger than its fictitious one.



Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery

After loosening the rope and carefully removing the calf-skin head of the drum, we were intrigued to find written clearly inside: "James Guidney, Sergt. & Drum Major, Birmingham". A Google search revealed much

about the life and times of Guidney, an infamous and rather colourful resident of Birmingham, known as Jemmy the Rockman.

James Guidney was born at Norwich in 1782. In 1797, aged fifteen, he enlisted with a recruiting party of the 48<sup>th</sup> Northamptonshire Regiment and saw service in Gibraltar, Minorca and Malta. While serving in Malta he lost an eye from ophthalmia and had a vision – or at least half of a vision – in which a lamb, taking a man's form, commanded him in future to wear a beard! In 1807 James was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Veterans Battalion and promoted to Sergeant and Drum Major.

In 1816 the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Veterans Battalion was disbanded after which James collected a pension of a shilling a day. Making his way to Birmingham in 1824, he began hawking pharmaceuticals, including a throat lozenge that he had developed and referred to as his "rock." Clad in scarlet tunic and gaiters, he walked the city's streets crying, "Composition, good for cough or cold!"

When trade fell off, he turned to selling his autobiography, *Some Particulars of the Life and Adventures of James Guidney, A Well Known Character in Birmingham*, a copy of which is preserved in the Birmingham Local Studies Library. There he wrote: "Having had very considerable experience as a drummer, James Guidney will be happy to attend any Public Parties of Pleasure." Clearly the practice referred to around Fort York as "Rent-a-Guard" is much older than we had previously believed!

After his death in 1860, some personal items remained with Guidney's family, including his drum, a pair of drumsticks, two portraits and the canister from which he sold his "rock." In 1930 a descendant named Thomas Drew sold the drum, portraits and canister – the sticks had been mislaid – to Philip Baker, a Birmingham solicitor. Some time later the drum became separated from the other items (which are now in the possession of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery) and made its way to Toronto where it was purchased from an antiques dealer in the late 1970s.

Currently the drum on display in the music section of *The Soldiers' Trade* exhibit in Blockhouse No. 2 is on loan from Parks Canada. After the condition of Guidney's drum has been stabilized by a professional conservator we hope to replace Parks Canada's drum with our own exciting new acquisition.



David Spittal, Toronto Culture

# 2007 Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Melanie Garrison

## APRIL

### Mayor Miller's Community Clean-up Day Saturday April 21, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Meet at the west gate outside the canteen/museum store for coffee. Garbage bags will be provided. Dress appropriately and bring gloves..

### Battle School

#### Sat. Apr. 28 and Sun. Apr. 29, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m

Fort York will play host to a number of re-enactors who will be honing their weapons skills in preparation for the summer military re-enactment season. These weekend warriors entertain and edify crowds all over Canada and the U.S. by voluntarily participating in historically significant events that recall Canada's exciting history. Fort York's annual Battle School is an opportunity for the re-enactment and Museum community to share information and safety tips for the benefit of all.

*Regular admission rates apply.*

### Battle of York Commemoration

#### Sun. April 29, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fort York is brought to life with redcoats, musket and artillery for the 194th anniversary of the Battle of York. Enjoy a Battlefield Walking tour, or catch a performance of the Fort York Regency Dancers as they demonstrate English Country dance. Special tours, kids' drill, military music.

*Regular admission rates apply.*

## MAY

### Victoria Day

#### Mon. May 21, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tours, kids' drill, military music.

*Regular admission rates apply.*

*Tours, kids' drill, military music.*

### Doors Open

#### Sat. May 26 and Sun. May 27, 2007, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Architectural tours, archaeology exhibit.

*Free admission all weekend.*

## JUNE

### Tours de Forts Bike Tour: Toronto's French Forts

#### Sun. June 3, 2007, 2 p.m.

Enjoy the scenic Humber Bike Trail, and learn about Toronto's old French Forts. Meet outside the Old Mill subway station. The tour ends at Fort York.

*Free admission to the fort following the tour.*

### Summer Launch Weekend as part of *Luminato Toronto Festival of Arts & Creativity*

#### Fri. June 8 to Sun. June 10, 2007.

Fort York National Historic Site kicks-off its summer programming season with FREE admission to three special events that celebrate the birthplace of modern Toronto in unique and creative ways. Please call ahead to confirm individual event running times. 416-392-6907

### Fri. June 8, 2007 – Afternoon to evening

The fort is proud to host *Booked!* as part of Harbourfront Centre's Carnivalissima celebration. Select authors will be on-site to share their work through select readings and discussion. Don't miss this chance to have unparalleled access to some of the newest and best writers on the scene. *Booked!* is presented in partnership with Harbourfront Centre Literary Department. FREE.

### Sat. June 9 to Sun. June 10, 2007

**[murmur] Fort York** - Join us for the launch of this unique audio documentary archive project that captures and records the essence of some of Toronto's special places and makes them available to visitors at their leisure using cell phone technology. FREE.

### Fri. June 8 and Sat. June 9 - Evenings FORT YORK : The Play – A Crate Production

Get an exclusive behind-the-scenes look and see selected scene performances of Dora-nominated Crate Production's newest endeavour *FORT YORK: The Play*, a site-based creative presentation that animates Fort York on the eve of the Battle of York fought on April 27, 1813. FREE.

### Friends of Fort York, Annual Georgian Mess Dinner Thurs. June 14, 2007

To purchase tickets, go to [www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca) or contact the Friends at Toronto's First Post Office, 260 Adelaide St. E., P.O. Box 183, Toronto, ON, M5A 1N1

### Ontario Model Soldier Society

#### Sat. June 16, 2007, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

45th Annual Show and Competition. This is the largest model soldier show in Canada. See [www.omss.ca](http://www.omss.ca) for further details.

*Free with regular admission.*

## JULY

### Canada Day

#### Sun. July 1st 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tours, kids' drill, military music.

*Regular admission rates apply*

### Fort York Ongoing Summer Programming Daily throughout July, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thrill to the booming of the cannon, the firing of muskets, the vibrant colours of the uniformed guard and the lively music of fife and drum. These are the sights and sounds of Fort York this summer. Visitors will enjoy hourly demonstrations of military music, drill, musketry and artillery performed by students representing the Canadian Fencible Regiment that was garrisoned at the fort at the end of the War of 1812. Highlights include the cannon firing at 12:30 p.m. and the music of the Fort York Drums (a fife & drum corps) in the afternoons.

*Regular admission rates apply*

## AUGUST

### Simcoe Day – Annual Event

#### Mon. Aug. 6, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Celebrate the birth of the City at the Birthplace! Hourly tours and demonstrations: marching, musket and cannon firing, Fife & Drum Corps and Kid's Drill.

*Regular admission rates apply*

 **TORONTO Culture**  
[www.toronto.ca/culture](http://www.toronto.ca/culture)

 **HISTORIC FORT YORK**  
THE BIRTHPLACE OF TORONTO

Graphic Design: Tempest Design Group Inc.