

# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common v. 11 No. 4 December 2007

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## All This And More: Our Accomplishments For 2007

In previous years the Friends have been active across a broad front. Among many other things, we have established and supported the Fort York Guard and Drums; published authoritative reports and newsletters; raised awareness of the fort; and stood up for its best interests when they've been threatened. During 2007 there was no let-up in activity as we accomplished the following:

- secured the 1813 colours of the York militia for Fort York when St. James's Cathedral decided to de-accession them. Our undertaking to raise funds for their conservation has attracted pledges of \$10,000 to date.
  - put 17 young men and women in uniform as the Fort York Guard and Drums to march and drill for the summer, thereby animating the site. They also served as honour guards off-site and represented the fort at battle re-enactments at Forts Niagara and Erie.
  - established an office in the Centre for Social Innovation, 215 Spadina, to replace one at Ernst & Young to which Joe Gill, our past chair, had access.
  - published four regular issues of our quarterly newsletter, *The Fife & Drum*; also an extra edition specially for residents in the 950 condo units at 219 and 231 Fort York Blvd.
  - converted most of our newsletter mailing lists to an electronic format. At the start of the year more than 1100 copies of each issue were being mailed to street addresses; by year-end 90% of the 1450 copies we sent were delivered to e-mail addresses.
  - inaugurated *Drumroll*, an electronic bulletin sent on an occasional basis to promote upcoming events at the fort.
  - engaged in extensive discussion that led to the selection of a new logo for the organization (see article on page 2)
  - welcomed six new directors to our board
  - held the ninth annual Georgian Dinner which was a sellout success.
  - raised substantial funds for the benefit of Fort York through donations, dinners, memberships and our parking ventures. In addition, we succeeded in securing grants for summer youth employment of \$15,000 from Toronto Culture, \$35,000+ from the Government of Canada and a Walmart Evergreen grant of \$10,000 for community gardens.
  - spent funds on a variety of purposes, including the following: operation of the Fort York Guard and Drums (\$110,000), start-up funding for the Fort York Foundation (\$30,000), office rental and operations (\$15,000), support for the fort's exhibits program (\$75,000), staff overtime during performances of "The Fort at York" play (\$5000), purchase of pre-1801 Union Jacks for the flagpole outside the fort's west gate (\$1500), acquisitions and supplies for the on-site Research Centre (\$1000)
  - asked that the new Bathurst Street bridge planned for construction in 2009 be named in honour of Sir Isaac Brock to mark the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, hard on the heels of our success in having Council adopt pedestrian and cyclist-friendly design criteria for the new structure (see article on page 4)
  - contacted 17 present-day successors of British Regiments stationed at Fort York before 1870 in a search for new information, of whom seven were able to respond by sending materials.
  - provided two or three days of volunteer time weekly to organizing and cataloguing the fort's collections of books, research files, photographs, etc. in the Research Centre
  - purchased a number of small items for the Research Centre, including vintage postcards of Fort York, original newspapers reporting on the Battle of York, and books to support WWI student programs.
  - staffed and operated the parking concessions on the lots and lawns west of FY for a total of 49 days between April and October.
  - asked the Minister of Culture, so far without success, to confirm what is known informally: that Fort York is a registered archaeological site under the Ontario Heritage Act and, as a result, enjoys ministerial protection from unregulated land disturbance.
- In all of these initiatives, The Friends worked closely to achieve our common goals with the Fort York Management Board, the staff at the fort, officials in Toronto Culture, and with others.

## *New Logo for the Friends*

The Friends of Fort York are pleased to announce our new logo. The design by Ted Smolak, one of our directors, will be used on the Friends' website, newsletter, stationery, email correspondence and promotional materials.

It is not without some regret that we move from our existing logo, the soldier who has served us so well for the past 14 years. However, that design required significant reworking to improve its clarity in reproduction and, upon reflection, we decided that a new graphic representation should be considered. Discussions among us led to an understanding that the new logo should more accurately represent the mandate of the Friends of Fort York, which is to enhance and protect Fort York and the Garrison Common heritage sites.

Characteristics deemed important for the new design were simplicity, appealing form, colour and a close identification with the fort. In general, it was felt that the viewer should be able to tell at a glance who we are and what the organization represents.

The new logo consists of a stylized drawing of the historic 1813 blockhouse superimposed over the Union Jack. The blockhouse represents the fort through time. It also depicts the physical form that the Friends are dedicated to protecting and enhancing. The flag echoes the historical period that is interpreted at Fort York and serves also to remind us of those who founded and defended York (Toronto). These design elements are surrounded by the name of the organization enclosed within two roundels.



Look for the new logo on all our promotional and marketing material as we embark on a series of exciting initiatives to celebrate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the 200th anniversary of the Battle of York.

## *Two New Directors Join The Board*

Recently Greg Kitscha and Matt Blackett were appointed to The Friends' board, bringing welcome experience and strengths to bear on our efforts on behalf of the fort. Both have worked with us on particular projects previously, so are no strangers.

Greg was born in Toronto and is an alumnus of St. Mike's. From 1994 to 2000 he attended Queen's University, graduating as a Bachelor of Science (Life Science) and Bachelor of Applied Science (Mechanical Engineering). Currently he holds a senior post with Wittington Properties Limited as Manager of Infrastructure and Finance. From

January 2008 he will also be studying towards his MBA specializing in real property at the Schulich Business School, York University. Before joining Wittington Greg worked mostly in systems engineering. On a part-time basis he has also provided client services related to computer software programming. He and his wife are kept busy by a small daughter and two golden retrievers.

Matt trained in journalism at Carleton and Humber College. Currently he teaches publication design in Humber's journalism program and does freelance graphic design for environment organizations and the non-profit sector. His work experience includes stints as art director for *The Hockey News*, as a self-published comic artist and a regular cartoonist at *Eye Weekly*. He was the founding creative director of *Spacing* in 2003 and is now its publisher. In 2006 the magazine was given a Canadian National Magazine award for Best Editorial Package. This year the Canadian Society of Magazine Editors recognized *Spacing* as best magazine in the small circulation category, and honoured Matt as one of two Editors of the Year. As well, the Canadian Urban Institute gave him its Leadership Award for "City Soul." A founding member of the Toronto Public Space Committee, Matt has been a member of Mayor's Roundtable on a Clean and Beautiful City; currently he is a director of Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and member of the City of Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

The directors would also like to thank Henry D'Auchapt, Michael Manning and Allan Wilson who have resigned from the board for their past dedication and service.

## *New Kids on the Block: The Emerging Fort York Neighbourhood*

*by Heather Inglis Baron*

The new high-density residential community emerging between Fort York and Fleet Street will eventually contain approximately 5,000 residential units. Called the Fort York Neighbourhood and considered a gateway to the downtown from the west, it is a key piece in the redevelopment of Toronto's West Central Waterfront. One of many former industrial areas in the city being revitalized by housing, it is unusual in having the Fort York National Historic Site as a focus for the design of its public realm, which will bring the fort to the forefront in the public mind.

Planning of the new Neighbourhood has been underway for a number of years, but not until 2003 were steps taken by means of a three-day urban design charette towards creating a public realm plan for the area. This process was a collaboration between the City of Toronto, the public and three of the developers (Wittington, Plazacorp and Malibu) who owned lands there.

The plan emphasizes public space throughout the

Neighbourhood by providing a design scheme for streetscapes, landscaping and sidewalks. Because parks and open spaces are vital to making the area more livable, the plan also includes the conceptual design of the principal local parks including the extensive grounds around Fort York, June Callwood Park, Gore Park, and the park east of the fort's ramparts at the former mouth of Garrison Creek. As well, there are architectural design guidelines so that buildings will be designed to reflect the unique character of Fort York and built with pedestrian needs to the fore.

## The Historical Setting

This master planning of the Fort York Neighbourhood has been informed by and responds to its historically rich setting. Fort York is Toronto's birthplace, established in 1793 on a site where Garrison Creek entered Lake Ontario. Eventually the Garrison Common surrounding Fort York was developed for railways, industrial uses, bridges and the Gardiner Expressway, in the course of which the fort was hidden. Plans for the redevelopment of the Neighbourhood establish the fort's prominence again by making its history and identity a part of street design, open space design, landscape interventions and by including interpretive features. Streetnames reflect the area's history, for example, 'Gzowski' and 'Grand Magazine.' Interpretive signage will be installed to encourage a greater understanding of the community's location and rich traditions among residents and visitors.

## The Parks

A landscaping plan for the 16.6 ha. (41 acres) immediately surrounding Fort York, a designated National Historic Site, has emerged through studies such as *Fort York: Setting it Right*. Elements in the plan include the creation of a new drive from Fort York Boulevard (opened in 2006), relocation of the tree nursery, and interpretation of the site's archaeological resources.

June Callwood Park is a central focus for the residential neighbourhood. Running north-south between Fort York Blvd. and Fleet Street, it will provide a view corridor between Fort York, Coronation Park and the waterfront beyond. Its detailed design is yet to be determined, likely through a design competition.

Gore Park on Lakeshore Blvd. is the forecourt to the Princes' Gate at Exhibition Place. A conceptual design for it interprets Lake Ontario, which originally covered the area, by means of meadow that represents the 'lake' and a line of trees that mark the shoreline. East of Gore Park stands the Queen's Wharf Lighthouse.

The park at the east end of Fort York and underneath the Bathurst Street [now Sir Isaac Brock] Bridge is part of the municipally-designated Fort York Heritage Conservation District. One of the goals in this area is to interpret its



*View South from Fort York, without Gardiner Expressway (Courtesy: Wittington Properties; Quadrangle Architects)*

archaeological resources, including the old path that linked the fort to the Town of York, the Queen's Wharf, and remnants of the Grand Trunk Railway. The park will be closely related to the development of housing, a library and daycare on Blocks 36 and 32 east of Bathurst Street.

## The Buildings

The concept of the Fort York Neighbourhood is now being realized as people begin to move into the community. The edge along Fleet Street has been the first part to go ahead. Today some buildings at the west end are occupied and much construction is taking place east of that.

On the western tip of the Neighbourhood, H&R/Lanterra/Lifetime are completing construction of their fifth and final building. When finished, this consortium's contribution will include three point-towers of 38, 28 and 38 storeys, and two lower-rise podium buildings of 12 and 16 storeys, for a total of approximately 1500 units. Several of the buildings are already occupied. An elaborate sculpture will wrap around the development as part of a public art contribution. Designed by New York artist Dan Acconci, the sculpture features metal ribbons that undulate around the perimeter of the site with metal sculpted trees and landscaping integrated with the sculpture.

After demolishing the vast, former Molson's Brewery, Plazacorp Group has begun construction on Blocks 3A and 3B located just east of June Callwood Park. Its plan calls for a two-phase development of two towers of 36 and 26 storeys containing approximately 850 units. Currently the construction for Phase I and excavation for Phase II is underway. A sculptural frieze on the face of the 36-storey building will be the public art component for Phase I.

Construction is also well underway on the Malibu site located on the west side of Bathurst, north of Fleet Street. The Malibu building consists of a 32-storey point-tower with a five-storey podium and a total of 513 suites.

Wittington Properties own three development blocks in the northeast part of the Neighbourhood, including Block 3, currently occupied by St. Mary's Cement which will be relocating by mid-2009. When the development of Block 3 moves ahead, the construction of June Callwood Park can take place. Not all of the planning for Wittington's properties has been completed, although preliminary schemes have passed through the rezoning process.

### From Concept to Reality

On blocks 32 and 36 east of Bathurst, planning is underway for a 655-unit housing complex of affordable and market-priced units developed by Toronto Community Housing Corporation on lands separated from the Fort York National Historic Site by a park at the mouth of the former Garrison Creek. Plans call for a 20-storey tower on Block 36 and a 30-storey tower on Block 32. A public library is being planned as part of the Block 36 development, along with a daycare facility.

With the construction sites moving full steam ahead and people starting to move in, we are seeing the formation of the new Fort York Neighbourhood. Fort York welcomes the new neighbours, and continues its role as, not only the birthplace of Toronto, but also the inspiration for a whole new waterfront community.

## *Bathurst Bridge Named For Sir Isaac Brock*

The Friends' request to have the Bathurst Street bridge that crosses the east end of the Fort York National Historic Site renamed "Sir Isaac Brock Bridge" was approved on November 27 by Toronto and East York Community Council. Since authority for this action had been delegated by City Council, the decision is final. The proposal went forward with the whole-hearted support of Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone and Councillor Adam Vaughan who share Bathurst Street as common ward-boundary. Our thanks go to both councillors.

Brock, known as the Hero of Upper Canada for his spirited defence of the province during the opening stages of the War of 1812, died from enemy fire at Queenston on October 13, 1812. At one time he was commemorated in Toronto by Brock Street running from Front to Queen, but in 1884 Council renamed it Spadina Avenue to conform with what it was called north of Queen.

Although it is sometimes asserted that both Brock Avenue and Brockton honour Sir Isaac, in fact they recall James Brock, his secretary and first cousin, who was granted almost 350 acres of land at the west end of the Military Reserve just before the War of 1812. After 1850, when James's widow sold his land between Queen and Dundas streets, Brock Avenue was laid up its axis and Brockton village established where the road crossed Dundas Street.

The Sir Isaac Brock Bridge is scheduled to be completely rebuilt in 2009 to accommodate a full range of turns by streetcars at the intersection of Bathurst and Fort York Boulevard. In 2006 The Friends were instrumental in having Council adopt pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly design criteria for the new structure.

## *Sheaffe Fudged the Figures at York*

*by Robert Malcomson*

To hear Sir Roger Sheaffe, military and civil commander of Upper Canada, tell the story, his force was vastly outnumbered when the Americans attacked York on Tuesday, 27 April 1813. "We had about six hundred, including militia and dockyard men," he wrote in one version of his official report. Elsewhere he claimed "the enemy's troops that landed are stated to have amounted to 2,500." Other witnesses to the battle supported Sheaffe's account. Justice William Dummer Powell wrote of "365 [regulars,] to them may be added in numbers 250 militia and 40 art[ificers]... in all 600 men." Thomas Ridout said there were "300 regulars and 208 militia" and John Strachan estimated the strength of the force at "about 650 or 700... regulars - 360, militia - 350."

Historians have traditionally accepted these numbers as typified by C. P. Stacey's treatment of the battle. Using details from Sheaffe and Powell's reports, Stacey listed a bombardier and 12 gunners of the Royal Artillery, a company of Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles, "about a company" of Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, two companies from the 8th Regiment, between 45 and 100 native warriors and 300 militia and dockyard men.

Satisfied with these differing estimates of the strength of Sheaffe's force, no one, it seems, has looked at the muster and pay lists of the regular and militia regiments involved. As well, even Stacey failed to take into consideration the data found in other anecdotal accounts and documents. These sources yield "new" information about the number of men who were under arms on 27 April and show that Sheaffe inaccurately assessed his resources.

The original muster and pay lists for the regular units are held by the National Archives of the United Kingdom, the former Public Record Office, at Kew, a suburb of London. There is no friendly column in any of these administrative forms with the heading "This man fought at York." But by closely examining the forms and comparing them to official casualty lists, claims for losses and other documents (mainly in Record Group 8 at Library and Archives Canada [LAC] in Ottawa, some copies of which are held by the Archives of Ontario in Toronto), a fuller picture of the British regulars at York is attainable. For example, the detachment of Newfoundlanders included men from six different companies, the second group of the 8th comprised men from four companies and there were soldiers from two other regiments on hand who have

never been represented. A conservative estimate of the actual regular force present is:

Staff 15  
Royal Artillery 16  
41st Foot 4  
49th Foot 24  
Newfoundland 104  
Glengarry 62  
8th Foot 203  
TOTAL 428

A truer picture of the size of the militia force may be developed in the same way. Muster and pay lists and other relevant documents for the regiments are kept at LAC (Record Group 9), yet none of the modern treatments of the battle have made reference to them. A more common practice has been to denigrate the militia's involvement as part of the overall effort to let the air out of the "militia myth" created by Loyalist-historians in the late 1800s.

The militia rolls from the war reveal that between 190 and 240 militia were stationed at the garrison at York during the fall of 1812 and into the winter. The number mustered increased in April and, according to eyewitnesses, on the day of the battle others who had not been stationed at the garrison came in from the surrounding area to join the fight. The best estimate of the militia force is:

Staff 10  
1st York 159  
3rd York 236  
1st Durham 20  
Incorporated 52  
TOTAL 477

There is no simple muster and pay list for the dockyard workers but there are references to their numbers scattered in the archival records in Ottawa and the accounts book held by the City of Toronto Culture, Museum and Heritage Services. Members of the Provincial Marine were also present, although they have never been specifically counted in previous versions of the battle. Lumped together, their numbers were:

Provincial Marine 10  
Dockyard 76  
TOTAL 86

No definitive tally of the informal volunteers from the town (such as Donald McLean who was killed in the action) has ever been made, although the best guess list includes 10 individuals. Similarly, no one in authority listed a single native warrior by name, but it seems reasonable that about 50 of them were present.

This new depiction of Sheaffe's force, based upon military records and a careful combing of the informal evidence from such men as Lieutenant Ely Playter and Sheriff John Beikie, shows the strength of the defensive force at about 1053. As mentioned above this is a conservative estimate, but it underlines the weight of evidence showing that Sheaffe

commanded a force that was, potentially, twice as strong as he reported.

Why did Sheaffe and others not use this number? The general failed to congregate his whole force in one place that day, so no one ever saw how large it actually was. As well, no one recorded who was present and the one list that was made, the oft-quoted prisoner of war tally attached to the terms of capitulation, was erroneous. It did not refer to any of the militia men who walked away from the battle scene after the first fire fights when Sheaffe's command and control weaknesses prevailed. The POW list also fails to mention more than 40 wounded regulars left behind by Sheaffe.

Sheaffe's estimate of the enemy's landing force was also inaccurate. His first estimate put it between 1900 and 3000 before he settled on 2500. Research in American archives reveals that about 1800 Americans soldiers splashed ashore on 27 April, backed up by a naval force of 13 warships (and one transport) manned by about 800 seaman (including a few marines). In the same vein, Sheaffe stated that his casualties totaled 130 (unwounded POWs excluded), but he omitted any reference to militia, artificers or Provincial Marine losses. Taking their losses into consideration and examining regimental records, a tally of 200 killed, wounded and missing is reached.

In his military classic, *On War*, Carl von Clausewitz wrote, "Casualty reports on either side are never accurate, seldom truthful, and in most cases deliberately falsified." It is clear that Sir Roger Sheaffe falsified nearly all the numbers regarding the men in arms under his command. He exaggerated his weakness, overstated his enemy's size, and understated his losses. His data was not unique, however, as the various American accounts show similar misinformation, favouring themselves, of course.

Sheaffe did not stop at miscounting men. As the next article will show, he misrepresented his artillery strength. The Americans did the same, but in the opposite direction, and effectively hoodwinked historians into overstating the effects of the capture of Little York.

Robert Malcomson's latest book, which details the American attack on York in April 1813, will be published early in 2008.

## Book Notice

A different perspective on this period is offered by *In the Midst of Alarms: The Untold Story of Women and the War of 1812*, just published by Robin Brass Studio. Author Dianne Graves has drawn on archival materials, contemporary periodicals and a wide range of printed sources to uncover the experience of women - American, Canadian, British and Aboriginal - during the war and its aftermath.

Organizing the material under topics such as employment, officers' ladies, soldiers' wives and women, high society and women as combatants, Graves tells engaging stories of daily life. General readers will enjoy the lively style and the illustrations while students of the period will appreciate her careful documentation.

*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

## Site-work Update

*by David O'Hara, Site Administrator*

### 2008: Our Programs and Events

As we begin to focus on 2008 programs and events, there are a few opportunities worth noting. As part of ongoing efforts to work more closely with the communities which surround the fort, we will be building on our partnership with Harbourfront Centre. This might include participating in a component of the 2008 LuminaTO, hosting additional day camps in the summer, and partnering on their curriculum-based school programs such as the Urban Studies program that addresses issues such as the revitalisation of Toronto's waterfront.

Discussions are underway also with the Queen's Quay Harbourfront Business Improvement Area and other partners as plans unfold for potential tall ship visits in 2008, 2010 and 2013. The fort staff and volunteers also continue to discuss ways of expanding existing programs, such as the historic cooking and music programs, to introduce new audiences to the fort and the city's history. Community gardening opportunities that would be closely associated with the historic cooking program are being explored with the Evergreen Foundation. Discussions are ongoing with Parks Canada to increase the profile of urban national historic sites.

As we look towards the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and later, we know that the development of the full 17 hectare (43 acre) site and construction of a new Visitor/Discovery Centre won't be complete unless accompanied by an expanded roster of programs and events geared towards improving visitor experience, strengthening the fort's role within the community and city, and conveying the messages regarding the fort's significance in new and appropriate ways.

### 2008: Site Improvements

Although the next series of major landscape improvements are tied to the development of adjacent lands east of Bathurst, the relocation of the tree nursery, and the design of the Visitor/Discovery Centre, several smaller initiatives will continue in 2008. Among other things they include additional work in the Strachan Avenue Burial Ground, at Victoria Memorial Square, improvements to the

parking lot and signage, the installation of artwork in the area of the original shoreline of Lake Ontario, and the reproduction of traversing platforms and carriages for cannons in the north-west and south-west bastions.

These improvements will be accompanied by the audio tour launch and the completion of exhibits noted in the last issue of *Fife & Drum*.

## To Make Solid Syllabubs

*by Bridget Wranich*

The origin of the word syllabub is obscure, according to the OED. Its earliest citation, from 1537, is a literary mention rather than a drink or food: "something insubstantial and frothy: esp. floridly vapid discourse or writing." Initially, syllabub was a festive drink based on wine, cider or beer mixed with sweetened milk and flavoured with spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg. Often these early recipes directed the cook to milk the cow directly into a bowl of cider, ale or wine, resulting in a frothy, honey-combed top with alcoholic liquid whey underneath.



*Reproduced from Peter Bears, Food and Cooking in 17th Century Britain (English Heritage, 1985; Reprint 2001)*

Some used a wooden cow (a tall standing base from which the milk could be poured into the bowl below) to create the same effect. Other recipes suggest a chocolate mill or moliquet to froth the milk and by the Georgian period a handheld whisk would be used. Later, when cream replaced milk and spirits replaced cider or ale, it was referred to as a whipped syllabub. This mixture was more solid and could be spooned and then drunk at the end of the cream. A further development was the everlasting syllabub. With reduced portions of alcohol and sugar to cream, this syllabub could stand for a long time without separating and was a dessert rather than a drink.

The following recipe is one which could also be used for trifle or served with fruit such as Pears Portuguese Fashion (*Fife & Drum*, May 2005). It has been adapted in the kitchens

at Fort York from Hannah Glasse's *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy* (London, 1796; facsimile edition 1971)

1 L ( 4 cups) cold 35% cream (*whipping cream*)

500 ml (2 cups) white wine

2 lemons (*juice of 2, grate of 1*)

250 ml (1 cup) white sugar

Whip cream until it forms soft peaks. Gradually add sugar, wine, and then the juice and grate of the lemon. Continue to beat until the cream will hold peaks. Serve in small glasses or a large decorative bowl.

## Connecting Communities: The Fort York Pedestrian And Cycle Bridge

by Jo Ann Pynn, Supervisor, Cultural Assets, Toronto Culture

There is strong public support for expanding and improving the network of pedestrian and bicycle paths throughout the City. Activists are finding encouragement in the Official Plan, the Pedestrian Charter adopted in 2002 and the Mayor's Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan. Intensive residential development on all four sides of Fort York makes planning the open spaces of the district a priority and key component of the Central Waterfront Secondary Plan. One by one the barriers to access at Fort York have been overcome, but the last remaining one is the rail corridor to the north. The Fort York pedestrian and cycle bridge will overcome that barrier and connect communities north of Front Street to the waterfront. The Executive Committee who championed the projects also recommended that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor find funding partners for the actual design and construction of the bridge.

Connecting Fort York to the residential and commercial community to the north is not a new idea. Long before there was a rail corridor, a wooden bridge crossed Garrison Creek to link the fort with Front Street and the Town of York.



Proposed pedestrian and cycle network. (Courtesy: dTAH)



Birdseye view looking south-east. (Courtesy: dTAH)

For more than ten years Councillor Joe Pantalone who represents the area has been looking for a way to bridge the rail corridor to join the Niagara Neighbourhood to Fort York and the lake. A relocated Bailey bridge at the foot of Tecumseh, and an outrigger hung off the truss bridge on Bathurst Street were two early proposals. Neither met the requirements of all stakeholders.

The community has grown remarkably in the last 10 years, and the interest in walking and cycling has grown along with it. Today 7000 people live in the area north of the rail corridor bounded by Queen Street, Dufferin and Bathurst. As approved residential developments are completed that number will increase. Both Strachan Avenue and Bathurst Street have become busy thoroughfares.

In 2001 City officials responsible for culture, parks and recreation commissioned the Fort York and Garrison Common Parks and Open Space Design and Implementation Plan. Approved by Council in the fall of 2001, the report included a proposal for a so-called land bridge - a structure having a deck broad and strong enough to carry trees and planters-just east of Strachan Avenue, linking Stanley Park to the Garrison Common. But crossing rail corridors is not a simple thing, and while the idea was endorsed, it was not developed.

The 16.6 ha. (41-acre) Heritage Conservation District at Fort York occupies a strategic position in the north-south and east-west waterfront network of paths for pedestrians and cyclists. The Martin Goodman Trail and Queen's Quay are well-established links across the Lake Ontario shoreline. With the development of the Railway Lands, the Linear Park along the south side of the rail corridor will provide a second east-west pathway. The parks and open spaces of the north-south Garrison Creek chain of pedestrian routes would connect through Fort York to Coronation Park intersecting both the Linear Park and Martin Goodman trails. The missing link, of course, is across the rail corridor.

Toronto Culture, determined not to overlook a good idea when its time finally came, identified an opportunity when City-owned land on Wellington Street south of Stanley Park was re-zoned as parkland in 2006. Culture commissioned Du Toit Allsopp Hillier (dTAH) to revisit their concept for the land bridge, within the context of plans for CN Rail, Go Transit and the proposed Front Street Extension.

Bob Allsopp and Peter Smith from dTAH worked on the

project with David Dennis Design and Arup Canada. The bridge has been designed to fit both the existing condition of the rail lines and roads in the corridor and their future alignment. The bridge became a lighter, more affordable structure that could be elevated sufficiently above the active rail lines and pre-fabricated in four equal spans of 48 metres.

It has been designed in such a way that it could be built in advance of the Front Street Extension, lifted aside during road construction, and replaced on the structural supports when road and rail construction is complete. In plan, the bridge is curved to permit the necessary structural supports to be built outside of the existing and proposed transportation allowances. Extending the arc of the curve at the ground will connect with the new driveway to Fort York, completed in 2006.

Assuming the Environmental Assessment is initiated in 2008 and capital funding for the project is secured, the Fort York pedestrian bridge could be completed by 2012 in time for the Bicentennial Celebrations commemorating the War of 1812.



Looking south across the Fort York bridge. (Courtesy: dTAH)

## 2008 Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Melanie Garrison

### JANUARY 2008

#### Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball: Portugal and the Bicentennial of the Peninsular War Sat. Jan. 19th, 12:30 pm to 10:00 pm

This year the Ball honours Portugal, Great Britain's ally in the Peninsular War. This day of activities includes Prof. Manuela Marujo speaking on *Wellington's Victory Invigorates the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance* (1:00-2:00 pm), an English Country Dance Workshop (2:15-3:30 pm), Port Tasting (3:30-4:30 pm), Dinner Buffet of historic Portuguese-inspired Georgian recipes (5:30-7:00 pm), and an elegant evening Ball with live musicians playing historic instruments (7:00-10:00 pm).

Pre-registration required. (416-392-6907)

Come for the full day for \$100 or choose to attend only the Afternoon for \$25, the Dinner and Ball for \$65, or just the Port Tasting for \$20.

### FEBRUARY

#### Family Day (new statutory holiday)

Mon. Feb. 18.

Activities for the whole family throughout the fort.

Regular admission rates apply.

### MARCH

#### Hannah Glasse: Tribute to a Remarkable Cookbook Author In partnership with the Culinary Historians of Ontario Sat. Mar. 8, 10:30 am to 3 pm

English cookbook author Hannah Glasse was christened in March 1708. To mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of this formidable woman, the Volunteer Historic Cooks of old Fort York demonstrate some of her excellent recipes on the open hearth and in the brick oven of the 1826 Officers' Mess Kitchen. Then, Fiona Lucas and Bridget Wranich, two founders of the Culinary Historians of Ontario, present short illustrated talks on Hannah Glasse, her culinary career, her three domestic books, and her recipes

\$12 per person in addition to regular admission rates.

#### March Break

Mon. to Fri., Mar. 10 to 14, 10 am to 3 pm

Family drop-in event with activities including Soldiers' Drill, Officers' Sword Drill, Cooking in the Officers' Kitchen, Discovery Gallery, Dress Up, and Guided Tours.

Family Rate \$20 (2Ad/3Ch), Adults \$6, Seniors/Youth \$4.25, Children 4 to 12 yrs. \$4, 3 years & under free of charge.

#### Toronto Festival of Storytelling, Fabled City at Fort York Sun. Mar. 30, 1 to 3 pm

*Streetcar Wars: The Battle for Fort York.* In 1813 Fort York was sacked by the American army, and nearly 100 years later it was threatened with being overrun again, this time by a streetcar line to the CNE. Come hear storyteller Chris Cavanagh recount the battle and intrigue that went from the streets of Toronto to City Hall, Queen's Park and all the way to Parliament Hill.

Pre-registration required. (416-392-6907). Adults \$12, Seniors/Youth \$10, Children \$8

### APRIL

#### Mayor Miller's Community Cleanup Day Sat. Apr. 19, 10 am to 1 pm

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

#### Commemoration of the Battle of York, 1813 Sat. Apr. 26 and Sun. Apr. 27, 10 am to 5 pm

Special activities include the launch of Robert Malcomson's new book on the American attack on York in April, 1813, a Battle School for re-enactors, artillery firing demonstrations, walking tours of the Battle Field, and the laying of a wreath in Victoria Memorial Square by the 48th Highlanders in memory of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at York, 1813.

Regular admission rates apply to activities within the fort.

#### History Fair, Toronto District School Board, West District Wed. Apr. 30, 10 am to 3 pm

View the best and the brightest history projects selected from local schools in this annual history competition. Participants create projects using a wide-range of media - panel displays, computer presentations, dioramas, and more - or write and perform theatrical or musical pieces.

Regular admission rates apply to activities within the fort.

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