

The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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Lowing in the Wind: When Packing Houses Surrounded Fort York

by Stephen Otto



The newly completed Civic Abattoir with its twin Italianate towers is seen here on 14 May 1915 from the north ramparts of Fort York. In the foreground are refrigerator cars and slatted ones for transporting live animals by rail. One freight car is clearly labeled 'automobiles.'
(City of Toronto Archives, fonds 1231, item 513)

William Davies Co., Toronto's largest pork-packer. Initially Flavelle considered the beef business too risky because it might offend the independent suppliers of beef to Davies' large network of retail stores, but Harris's success soon changed his mind.

Early in 1899 it was rumoured that the Dominion Government might sell part of the Garrison Common west of Fort York so the Market could expand again. Flavelle began talks soon after about purchasing a site on the east side of Strachan, 'from the [rail] track to the Lake Shore.' A contentious point was 'a small cemetery for soldiers' in one corner, evidently the Strachan Avenue burying ground. He also commissioned designs from Chicago's William R. Perrin & Co. for a packing house that could handle both cattle and hogs.

When Harris heard what was afoot he counter-proposed that Davies acquire a half interest in his business, to be reorganized as the Harris Abattoir Co. Flavelle agreed and became its president while still remaining head of Davies. There was an understanding between the two companies that so long as their ownerships were interlocked Harris would not kill hogs, and Davies would stay out of beef.

For over a hundred and thirty years Fort York has been besieged by the sounds and smells of livestock from across the rail corridor to the north where, in 1875, the City opened the Western Cattle Market and Yards. Like the slaughterhouses and feedlots established in Toronto's east end in the 1860s, the western yards were located where land was available and good rail connections existed. Cattle, sheep, and pigs from northwest of the city were penned and fed there to await shipment onward or sale to Toronto's butchers. All slaughtering took place elsewhere.

This changed in 1897 when W. Harris & Co. built an abattoir between the rail corridors east of Strachan Avenue. Known as the Cattle Market annex, the area was joined to the main part by a ramped bridge so livestock could be driven over the railway. William Harris had been encouraged to go into killing beef by Joseph Flavelle, managing director of the

Meanwhile, in 1898, Charles Blackwell built the area's second abattoir, a pork-packing plant, at Fort York's east end. At the time Bathurst Street ended at Front Street, where a bridge led south over the railways to a fork. In one direction lay the fort, in the other the Queen's Wharf.

Blackwell's plant (plans for which came also from Perrin, the go-to firm for such things) sat at the fork. Originally called Park, Blackwell Co., it became Matthews-Laing in 1911, then Matthews-Blackwell (1915-19), and finally the Canadian Packing Co. (1919-29). The Blackwell's plant was expanded several times between 1898 and 1929, when it was demolished to allow the extension of Bathurst from Front to Lakeshore Boulevard. The most controversial expansion saw part of the fort's southeast bastion removed in 1903. Permission to encroach had been given by the Government of Canada in 1901, but the company delayed acting until the eve of the transfer of the fort and CNE Grounds from the federal government to the City. During construction the remains of five soldiers, identified as Americans by coins from their pockets, were exhumed. While some bones were taken into custody by a lugubriously named Lieut. Col. Gravely, others "were unearthed and . . . carted away with the debris," according to Jean Geeson, an eyewitness.

The years before the Great War were good ones for Canadian exporters of beef and pork. In 1913 the Harris company, wanting to expand, relocated in the Union Stockyards at Toronto Junction. Its old premises became a cold storage plant. Anticipating Harris's departure, Council decided to build a municipal abattoir at the Western Market to serve the city's two or three dozen smaller wholesale butchers. Locating it in Stanley Park was considered briefly, but dropped in the face of opposition from the South Parkdale Ratepayers' Association. Instead, a handsome structure designed once again by William Perrin was erected looking out on Fort York. It opened 4 August 1914, the day Great Britain declared war on Germany.

Unfortunately, the enterprise never succeeded in the City's hands. An upset in the meat trade caused by the war drove a dozen smaller butchers out of business. Then William Davies, which accounted for forty percent of the abattoir's capacity while its plant at the Don was being enlarged, withdrew. By 1917, the abattoir's annual operating budget was almost half what it cost to build. Harris offered to buy it for the City's investment, but was refused. Instead, Council chose to enter the meat trade and slaughter for its own account.

Forty-three years passed before the City admitted defeat, probably never having turned a profit. In 1960 it sold the abattoir to Quality Meat Packers, a local business established by the Schwartz family in 1931. Quality Meat processed both cattle and hogs until 1976 when a fire destroyed its beef



Quality Meats was photographed in 2008 from exactly the same place as the preceding picture of the Civic Abattoir, which is barely visible buried within the later buildings. (Photo courtesy of duToit Allsopp Hillier)

facility. Today it specializes in supplying top quality, value-added pork products under the Legacy Brand to the Far East and domestic retail markets. Nearing its fiftieth anniversary on Tecumseth Street, it is now one of the downtown's largest employers with over 700 people on its payroll and sustains Toronto's nickname of Hogtown.

A Better Way

In the last issue of *Fife & Drum* (see July 2008, 'The Best of Times') it was reported the TTC was eyeing a route that would cut across Fort York for an LRT line serving the suburbs along the western Waterfront. Now it appears a better way may have been found, if we are not reading too much into a letter sent jointly by Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone and TTC Chair Adam Giambrone on 2 September to Councillor Norm Kelly, chair of Council's Planning & Growth Management committee. The letter asks the committee to defer considering the item until its January 2009 meeting. It continues: 'Since the TTC considered the report, it has become clear that there may be alternative routes along the Fort York Neighbourhood that do not compromise the integrity of the Fort's heritage. Both TTC and City staff members continue to pursue other alignments and opportunities to ensure excellent transit service without running through the site and negatively affecting its heritage value. The City of Toronto is pursuing plans for UNESCO World Heritage Site Designation [for the fort], establishing a Visitor Centre and preparing for the Bicentennial Commemoration of the War of 1812. An alignment that does not run directly through the site would maintain the integrity of Fort York and . . . be preferred to the current proposal – particularly if its impact on transit service can be minimized or eliminated.' We applaud the good faith and efforts of all who've been involved in bringing this issue into better focus over the summer, particularly among our elected leaders, and hope that all ends well.

Public Trophies, Private Plunder

The American Harvest after the Battle at York

by Robert Malcomson

Eleven lions left York with the Americans when Commodore Isaac Chauncey's squadron finally sailed away, days after the 27 April 1813 capture of the province's capital. One stood alone while the others were rampant on colourful fields.

The lions were among the trophies of war taken by the victorious American expedition. Who picked them up and delivered them to their senior officers has yet to come to light. And any other treasures that disappeared during the plundering of the town have not been discovered. As it is, only some of the trophies remain in existence.

The lonely lion still stands alone. It is a wooden carving, painted in gold. Its place was probably on top of a lofty canopy above the speaker's dais in Upper Canada's Legislative Assembly at the eastern end of York. Along with other items, it was shipped to Washington for deposit in 'the archives.' At some point in the 1800s officials moved it to the institution that evolved into the United States Naval Academy Museum at Annapolis, Maryland. Currently, the lion is packed away along with the museum's other holdings since the building is undergoing a major renovation. It should be on view again in the spring of 2009 when the museum reopens.

A full description of the lion appears in John Ross Robertson's *Landmarks of Toronto* (ser. 5, 168-9), the renowned Toronto historian having made a visit to the museum around 1900. In his account Robertson repeated a story that a carpenter in town named Starkweather had carved it. The lion returned to Toronto in 1984, to the Royal Ontario Museum as part of the exhibition 'Georgian Canada.'

In appearance, the wooden lion resembles some of his fellows on the fields of colour. These are the ten lions on the Royal Standard, the flag that still soared on the staff outside Major General Sir Roger Sheaffe's provincial residence when the grand magazine, located close by, blew up on the day of the battle. It represented the monarchy and Sheaffe's position as acting lieutenant governor of the province. The Standard was removed and ended up in Annapolis where it is still held.

The Royal Standard features two sets of three lions 'rampant gardant' on red backgrounds, in quadrants diagonal to each other, representing England. In the upper right corner one lion rears up on a gold field for Scotland. Ireland's quadrant on the bottom left does not have a lion, but there are three more in the coat of arms of the Hanover family at the centre of the flag.

It has frequently been stated that the Royal Standard was the flag delivered to Commodore Chauncey on the U. S. Ship *Madison* in time for him to slip it beneath the head of Brigadier General Zebulon Pike just before he died on the afternoon of the battle. A few weeks later, however, Chauncey



Carved lion from Upper Canada's Legislative Assembly in York, seized by American forces before the Parliament Buildings were burned in April 1813. Gilded pine (96.5cm x 121.9cm). United States Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Maryland (USNA 1849.002)

sent the flag he used, the fifth trophy of war, to Pike's widow as a keepsake which she had until it and all of Pike's personal belongings were lost in a fire in the 1840s. This second flag was probably a Union Jack, the type that was routinely flown at a garrison and which appears in contemporary depictions of the military buildings at York.

Also removed from the Legislative Assembly and delivered to Washington was the ceremonial mace carried into sessions by the master-at-arms. Robertson saw it too and described it as a gilt, wooden pole, more than 4 feet in length, its head bearing a crown 4.5 inches in diameter. This symbol of authority now lies on display at the Ontario Legislature, Queen's Park, because Franklin Roosevelt's government sent it back to Toronto in 1934 as part of the city's centennial celebration.

Of the trophies of war taken at York, none quite matched the human scalp said to have been discovered in the Legislative Assembly. Some observers suggested that it was only the speaker's peruke but comments made by Chauncey and Major General Henry Dearborn confirmed its identity. The commodore sent the Royal Standard and lion to the navy department along with the mace, 'over which was hanging,' he explained, 'a human scalp. These articles were taken from the Parliament House by one of my officers and presented to me. The scalp I caused to be presented to General Dearborn.' To this, the general added confirmation: 'A scalp was found in the Executive and Legislative Council chamber, suspended near the Speaker's chair, in company with the mace and other emblems of royalty.'

What the scalp was doing in the Assembly has never been explained but its presence earned it more attention than any of the other trophies. Almost immediately it was linked to the murder of wounded Americans by Native warriors following the British victory at Frenchtown, Michigan, the previous

January. As the editor of *The Weekly Register* of Baltimore reported, the scalp was seen as 'truly symbolical of the British power in Canada.' 'It is fact, horrible fact,' 'the newspaper later alleged, 'that the legislature of "unoffending Canada" did sanction (by hanging up in their hall, in evidence of their authority; a human scalp) the murders of our people by the savages.' Even though such claims were refuted as 'false and ridiculous' by the likes of the Reverend John Strachan and others, they endured and were used to justify the destruction of the Parliament Buildings.

Dearborn sent the scalp to Secretary of War John Armstrong who rejected it and sent it right back. What became of it has yet to be discovered.

Some trophies of war were not public holdings and were not sent to Washington. General Sheaffe's wine ended up in Dearborn's possession as did his golden music box. It was probably one of the miniature Swiss devices first fashioned during the late 1700s. It had two compartments, the lower one housing a clockwork motor and the delicate musical combs and drum, the upper one made to hold snuff. Estimated by one source to be worth \$500 at the time, it was said to have been capable of playing more than one tune, activated by the wind up mechanism. Dearborn apparently paid a soldier \$100 for it.

In his brigade order prior to the attack, Pike had stated that private property 'must be held sacred' and anyone found guilty of plundering it would be tried and 'if convicted, punished with death.' There is little doubt, however, that invaders took away numerous belongings because the residents complained about losing their household goods, clothing, and furniture. No one appears to have been formally punished, however, and Captain John Scott of the Fifteenth U. S. Regiment of Infantry later claimed that few of the officers were involved in the looting. After the attack on Fort George, however, their attitude changed and Scott wrote, 'Some filled 3 or 4 trunks without enquiring whether it was public or private property. My hands are yet unstained with plunder.'

So, three of the original, official trophies are still in existence, while one is long destroyed and the other vanished. Where that scalp ended up, or sits today, and what happened to all the other items taken from the homes and offices at York, are incomplete aspects of the story of the American attack on York.

Robert Malcomson's latest book, Capital in Flames: The American Attack on York, 1813, was published in April 2008 by Robin Brass Studio and in August by Naval Institute Press in the USA.

Introducing Our New Directors

The Friends continue to be fortunate in attracting able people to our board who bring strength and important talents to the challenges of our work. At our annual meeting on June 19 Antoine Beliaeff and Margaret (Meg) Graham were elected as directors along with others who were standing for re-election. At a meeting of the board on September 18 Michael Moir was appointed to serve as a director until the annual meeting in 2009. Bret Snider, a director of many years standing, retired in June and was thanked warmly at the annual meeting, particularly for his service on the Nominations Committee and with the fledgling Fort York Foundation.

Antoine Beliaeff came from Switzerland in 1993 to attend McGill University where he obtained his Bachelor of Commerce. His education continued with a Master of Science in Planning at the U of T, and a Master of Strategic Leadership towards Sustainability at the Blekinge Institute of Technology in Sweden. Along the way his interests came to be focused on improving sustainability and in the interfaces between land use, transportation, energy, and social needs. As a planner, he has worked with Brook McIlroy Planning and Urban Design prior to joining Metrolinx, the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority, as a Senior Planning and Policy Advisor.

Meg Graham holds degrees from the University of Waterloo (B.E.S and B.Arch) and Harvard (M.Des.S.). She began her architectural internship at KPMB Architects in Toronto before joining superkul inc | architect as a principal in 2005. Among their projects are the headquarters of St. Joseph Media, Fielding Winery in Niagara, a number of single family homes, and the Junior Academy (a private school) on Bayview Avenue. Meg teaches design at the U of T's Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design and the School of Architecture at the University of Waterloo. She has also sat on the Mayor's Roundtable on a Beautiful City, where she was a member of two subcommittees--one focused on creating green development standards for the city, the other on city practices and standards, including the implementation of design review in Toronto; currently she sits on the Harbourfront Centre's Architecture Space advisory committee.

Michael Moir is University Archivist and head of the Archives and Special Collections at York University. Before that he served for six years as Archivist for the City of Toronto, three as manager of Archives and Outreach for Metro, and ten as archivist for the Toronto Harbour Commissioners. A Guelph MA graduate in History, Michael has written broadly about archives and the City's past. More recently he has taught in the Master's program at the Faculty of Information, U of T. From 2004-06 he was a member of the Casa Loma Advisory Committee established by City Council to advise on that site's restoration and operation. Currently, he is the Pipe Major of the Pipes and Drums of the 25 (Toronto) Service Battalion, bringing to that post almost thirty years experience as a piper in the band of the 48th Highlanders of Canada.

Adieu to Dr. Carl Benn!

by George Waters

The Friends of Fort York congratulate Carl Benn on his appointment as Chair of the Department of History at Ryerson University. And we look forward to his ongoing interest and support, and to opportunities through which his knowledge and advice may continue to be available to advance the development of the site

Carl's long and active involvement in Toronto history extends back to the summer of 1969 when he joined the interpretive staff at Fort York. He served there as a part of the full time staff of the Toronto Historical Board between 1971 and 1975. Later, following time out for work at Montgomery's Inn, a return to school, and service at Doon Heritage Crossroads, he returned to the THB and Fort York in 1985. We've known him as Curator Fort York, Curator Military and Marine History, and - within the staff of the Culture Office of the City of Toronto - as Chief Curator.

Fort York, and the City of Toronto, have benefited greatly from Carl's energy and enthusiasm. We note in particular his commitment to accurate research and restoration, and to Fort York's development as a National Historic Site. The groundwork which has been laid is all the more important as we now find ourselves in the midst of detailed planning for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Carl's research has supported the restoration of the buildings, the development of exhibitions and interpretive programs, and the important task of long term planning for the site - providing a critical 'readiness' for the opportunities of the Bicentennial in 2012.

We have appreciated his commitment to excellence and his willingness to share his knowledge; and we have all enjoyed his public speaking and recognized his scholarship as an author. Carl's carefully researched books such as *Historic Fort York, 1793 -1993* provide an important historical resource, and broaden awareness and understanding of this significant historic site and its role in Canadian history. He has been a good friend and supporter, and a committed colleague. His direct participation in Fort York affairs will genuinely be missed.

Honoured Friends

Two people prominent in the Friends of Fort York have been honoured by other organizations, and we hasten to offer them our congratulations too. On September 28 Rob Zeidler, a current member of our Board of Directors, will take over as Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in a change of command parade. Back in June, Cathy Nasmith who was a founding member of the Friends and served on the board until 2004, was made a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Her work on behalf of Fort York was mentioned in her citation.

Thank You to the Sponsors of the Georgian Mess Dinner



The Friends of Fort York would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the following corporate sponsors who generously contributed to the very successful 10th annual Georgian Mess Dinner, held at Fort York on 12 June 2008:

Concord Adex Developments Inc.,
Plazacorp Group,
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The Bank of Montreal,
Loblaws, and
Wittington Properties Limited.

Douglas Dodds, whose review of Robert Malcomson's *Capital in Flames* appeared in the last issue of *Fife & Drum*, succumbed on September 14 to the leukemia he had fought for five years. Douglas's interest in Fort York can be traced to 1973-4 when he worked for the summer in The Guard. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in military history at Queen's and RMC, and subsequently made his living in private industry as a senior executive. Always interested in the the Friends' History & Archaeology Committee, he was generous to it with his advice, particularly on a study of British Regiments stationed at Fort York, 1793-1870, that is our roadmap for contacting their successors. Our sympathy goes out to his widow, Lesley Stodart, and their two children, Ian and Evelyn, and to his parents, Richard and Lois Dodds. Richard is a long-serving director of the Friends of Fort York.

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Administrator's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Administrator

The last six weeks have been very good ones for Fort York. At its meeting on September 24 and 25, Toronto City Council approved a two-stage limited design competition for the design and development of a Visitor Centre at Fort York National Historic Site. The design competition and the subsequent Phase One work will include all components required to make the project 'construction-ready.'

This first phase will be funded by the City of Toronto, the Fort York Foundation, and a grant from the Federal Government. It was early August when a letter was received from The Honourable Josée Verner, PC, MP, Minister of Canadian Heritage, informing us that we had been approved for a contribution of up to \$617,000, under the Cultural Spaces Canada Program, towards pre-construction costs.

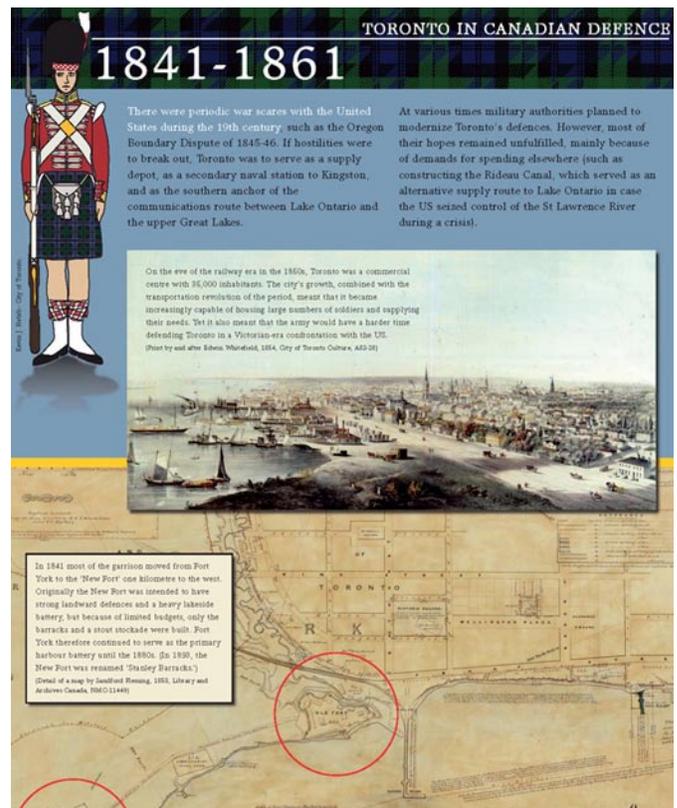
The Phase Two construction cost of the visitor orientation centre is estimated at \$15 million and is contingent upon receipt of funds from other levels of government and private sector fundraising through the Fort York Foundation. If a firm commitment of funding from various sources can be secured, the project will be tendered for construction as early as possible in 2010, with a building completion date of December 2011. This would allow for exhibit installation and commissioning for a June 2012 opening that will coincide with the launch of Toronto's Commemoration of the War of 1812 Bicentennial program.

Fort York's Visitor Centre is intended to function as a 'Hub', connecting the visitor to the entire 18-ha national historic site, connecting the site to the neighbouring communities, and contributing to a more coherent identity and improved visitor experience – from the moment visitors arrive. The facility, which will be located in the area just outside the west gates to the south of the existing parking lot, will satisfy a number of needs, including: a visible point-of-entry to the site; reception, retail sales, food service, and other facilities to enhance visitors' experience; site orientation; interpretive programs; exhibition space; increased travel trade to the site; a sustained community presence at the site; permanent space for curatorial offices and administrative functions; and opportunities for increased revenues for the site. It will also allow staff to

remove modern uses from heritage buildings so they can be returned to a heritage format that is accessible to the public.

The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 presents an unprecedented opportunity to fully restore and upgrade Fort York as a legacy project. Although the Visitor Centre, which has been identified as a missing component for more than 25 years, is the centrepiece of this revitalization, work needs to be done in many areas in order to accomplish the overall objectives for Fort York. Projects which will be undertaken concurrent with the Visitor Centre include several building and landscape restoration projects, significant exhibit work within the historic buildings and Visitor Centre, program development, and ongoing site conservation work.

Carl Benn and Kevin Hebib aided by Chris Baker, Chris Laverton and Jacob Lucs have moved our Orientation Exhibit from the central blockhouse to the North Soldiers' Barracks, reworking it in the process. One of eleven new display panels is seen here.



On Guard: A Short History of the Fort York Guard, 1980-Present

by Kevin Hebib, Program Development Officer

By 1979 - with the Guard dressed in its new finery - the question of what to do with the old, cast-off uniforms loomed. Guards Mike Wylie and Garth Armstrong proposed the creation of a site-based volunteer unit made up of students of military history and members of the Ontario Model Soldier Society. When the plan was approved an auxiliary unit of the Fort York Guard was born as the 1st Battalion Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada commanded by Wylie and Armstrong. This unit allowed ranks to swell for special event days at Fort York and acted as a point of entry for those interested in being hired as full or part-time members of the Guard. The unit eventually spun itself off as the Military Re-enactment Society of Canada and it is still in existence today.

The years 1980 to 1985 saw massive seasonal expansions of the Guard funded by Ontario Experience student work grants and the famous 'Rent-A-Guard' programme that made staff available for special events and international conventions at the Fort and around the city. Revenue generated this way augmented part-time salaries which in turn allowed the staff to grow each succeeding year. When Guard numbers exceeded the site's ability to accommodate them trailers were brought in as staff rooms. Music programming expanded so that the Guard was able to parade with up to a dozen drums and fifes. A separate Royal Artillery section was formed. Seamstresses were hired and an on-site tailoring shop established to keep up with military staff needs for period clothing. Not since 1815 had Fort York been so populated with redcoats!

In 1982, the Guard was approached by the Queen's (York) Rangers to form a commemorative section to support their special events and changes of command. New uniforms and muskets were ordered and the Guard paraded once again as Queen's Rangers. A renewed relationship with the Department of National Defence was recognized when members of the QR commemorative section were granted 'mess status' for their superlative work.

Programming grew exponentially for the Guard, broadening to include visiting soldier programmes in schools; illustrated talks; successive promotional trips to New Orleans; daily summer appearances at Nathan Phillips Square and the Canadian National Exhibition; and special 'Authenticity Weekends' at the fort. Major events increased in status to include royal

visits by H.M. the Queen and Queen Mother, for which the Guard served as a Royal Honour Guard. Daily routines back at Fort York included a wide range of 'duties as assigned' activities which even included cleaning, maintenance, and painting of the Fort's artillery pieces – all done as an interpretive exercise!

When Toronto celebrated its sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) in 1984, the Fort York Guard figured prominently. Staff ranks swelled again to about forty as they strained to meet the demands of on- and off-site demonstrations. Since Rochester, New York, also celebrated its 150th that year, the Guard made frequent trips to promote Toronto and cross-border tourism. Also that year, the Fort York Guard was reviewed at the site by Colonel Sir Geoffrey Errington, Commanding Officer of the King's Regiment, who being so impressed by the troops at Fort York, granted the Guard honorary regimental status proclaiming them "King's Men" for life.

By 1985, the Guard contracted again to a complement of six full-time and about ten part-time staff. Administratively, the site refocused its efforts on capital improvement and museum education programmes. Summer animation by the Guard continued through the late 1980s into the '90s, but on a smaller scale. In 1999 a revived animation/demonstration squad, funded by the Friends of Fort York, heralded a different incarnation of the Fort York Guard with the new unit clothed and accoutred as the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry c.1814-16. Today, the Fencibles continue to field at the Fort annually from July 1 through to Labour Day.



The Grenadier Company of the 8th (King's) Regiment of Foot (Fort York Guard) advances toward the Circular Battery. This promotional photograph was one of a series taken by and for the Royal Insurance Company early in 1985 documenting the colourful result of their generous support. (Photo courtesy of Kevin Hebib.)

It should be noted that over its long history, the Guard has had the support of many 'guest animators' in period costume, particularly from special heritage sections provided by units of the Toronto Garrison Reserve. Noteworthy were the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada with their Confederation-era unit; the Queen's (York) Rangers; the Royal Regiment of Canada with their 10th Grenadiers Pioneer section; HMCS York with their naval field gun section; the Governor General's Horse Guards mounted unit; Royal Canadian Artillery; the 48th Highlanders of Canada; and the Toronto Scottish Regiment. Also bringing the past to life on special event days was the recreated King's Royal Regiment of New York c.1776-84; the recreated 1st Battalion Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada; the 78th Fraser's Highlanders; the Dufferin Rifles; Upper Canada Rifles and animation staff from Fort George National Historic Site representing the 49th Foot; and staff from Fort Wellington National Historic site clothed as the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment.

Kevin Hebib, the Program Development Officer for Fort York, served as member of the Fort York Guard and senior historical interpreter/supervisor from 1980-85. He has made a personal study of the evolution of the Fort York Guard and



The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, paid Fort York a great compliment by visiting the site on his first Simcoe Day in office. Here he is seen on August 4 in a media interview with City-TV while his predecessor Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe [Ken Purvis] and Simcoe's aide-de-camp [Ewan Wardle] listen in. (Courtesy of Kathy Mills)

2008 Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Melanie Garrison

OCTOBER

Ghosts of the Garrison

Fri. and Sat. October 17 and 18, 24 and 25, 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Tour the grounds of Fort York at night, and hear stories from some ghostly visitors. Great fun for the family...but not too spooky for the younger crowd. Suggested for 5 years of age and up. Hot chocolate and snacks included.

Cost is \$10 adult, senior, or youth (\$9.43 + gst); \$5 child (\$4.71 + gst). Pre-registration is required (416-392-6907 ext.100).

Hearth Cooking Class

Sun. October 19, 11 am to 3 pm

Come to the Officers' Brick Barracks at Fort York National Historic Site and enjoy a day learning to cook in the historic Officers' Mess Kitchen. Cook over the open hearth fire using authentic tools and equipment. Learn about British cookbooks and food of the early 19th century. Hands on! Recipe package and samples are included.

Cost is \$42 (\$40 + gst). Space is limited to a maximum of 8 participants, so sign up today. Please call 416-392-6907 ext. 225 for more information or to pre-register.

NOVEMBER

Unveiling of 'Monument to the War of 1812'

Mon. November 3, 12:30 to 2 pm

Northwest corner of Bathurst and Fleet Streets

Douglas Coupland's newest sculpture, commissioned as part of the Public Art Program and donated to the City by Malibu Investments Ltd., will be unveiled by Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone

Reception to follow.

Book Launch for *HTO: Toronto's Water from Lake Iroquois to Lost Rivers to Low-flow Toilets*

Sun. November 9, 2 to 6 pm

Join us at the Blue Barracks to celebrate this new book edited by Wayne Reeves and Christina Palassio and published by Coach House Books. The collection includes essays by more than thirty authors, many of whom will participate in the launch.

Admission \$5 or free if you purchase a copy of the book.

Remembrance Day

Tues. November 11, 10:45 am

Remembrance Day ceremony at the Strachan Avenue Military Burying Ground west of Fort York.

Free admission to the Fort until noon.

Regular admission to Fort York (effective 1 June 2008) is Adult: \$8 (\$7.62 + GST); Senior (65+): \$4 (\$3.81 + GST); Youth (13 - 18 yrs.): \$4 (\$3.81 + GST); Children: \$3 (\$2.85 + GST)

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 **HISTORIC FORT YORK**
THE BIRTHPLACE OF TORONTO