



The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

September 25, 1997

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We welcome everyone back from their summer vacations. Although the activity of the Friends of Fort York slows down over July and August, the executive committee continued to meet and we held a meeting of the new Board of Directors in August. We enclose a calendar for the year ahead and comment on the items in this Fife and Drum. Please mark your calendar for the various events.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held at Fort York on June 19, 1997. We congratulate our new Board of Directors and Officers as elected at the Annual Meeting for the 1997-98 year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Barclay	Gerry Murray
Geordie Beal	Rollo Myers
Chris Bovaird	Cathy Nasmith
Don Brydges	Stephen Otto
David Carter	Murray Philp
Richard Dodds	Martin Silva
Joe Gill	Peter Twist
Ian Keith	George Waters
Bronwyn Krog	

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Donald Gibson
George Rust-D'Eye
Dr. Mima Kapches

HISTORICAL ADVISOR

Dr. Carl Benn

OFFICERS

Joe Gill	President
Don Brydges	Vice-President
Murray Philp	Secretary
Gerry Murray	Treasurer

The Executive Committee is made up of the officers, plus Ian Keith and John Barclay.

MEMBERS' RECEPTION - OCTOBER 30, 1997

On Thursday, October 30, The Friends of Fort York will hold a Members' Reception at the Royal Canadian Military Institute (RCMI) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The RCMI is located at 426 University Avenue (west side, just south of Dundas) and can be identified by the cannons out front.

The first purpose of the reception is to give our members a chance to meet each other. Equally important, this is the time for members to invite guests who wish to hear more about the goals and activities of the Friends and hopefully become members themselves. It is a chance to talk to the people involved in promoting public awareness and knowledge of Fort York and consider participating. We all expect to have fun as well. Ken Purvis and his trio will provide us with music from 1812, which is always enjoyable. We strongly encourage you to attend and bring a friend. Admission is free and the only charge will be at the bar. Men are required to wear a tie and jacket at the RCMI. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP Joe Gill or Sophie Alvi at (416) 864-1300.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF FORT YORK AND THE ROLE THE FORT PLAYED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TORONTO?

Those interested in the history of Fort York and related events are certainly blessed this fall. There will be two series of lectures. One will be presented by the Friends of Fort York for one evening a month and will take place at Fort York. The other will be presented by Heritage Toronto (together with the University of Toronto) and will take in place the afternoon on Tuesdays at 205 Yonge.

FRIENDS OF FORT YORK LECTURE SERIES

At the Annual Meeting of the Friends in June, it was unanimously agreed that we all could benefit from regular opportunities to learn more about Fort York and its history. Over the summer, the Board has discussed the form such get-togethers might take. We have decided to proceed with a series of six informal lectures, one each month, commencing in October 1997.

The lecture series will be coordinated by Carl Benn, who will also present the first two lectures and participate in others. As you will see below, the topics for the first two evenings are set and we will be determining the topics for 1998 over the next few weeks (the dates have been set and are included on the calendar).

The first lecture will take place on Monday, October 20, from 7-9 p.m. in the Centre Blockhouse at Fort York. Carl Benn will discuss **"Fighting the War of 1812. The Relationships between Weapons, Uniforms, and Tactics on the Upper Canadian Frontier."**

The second lecture will take place on Wednesday, November 19 also in the Centre Blockhouse. The topic for the evening will be **“Aboriginal Warfare, 1812-14.”** Again, Carl Benn will lead us.

Lectures are free to members of the Friends of Fort York. Members may bring one or more guests to one lecture without charge - but we would expect that guests will become members before attending a second lecture in the series. Essentially, the lectures are available to the public at the cost of a membership in the Friends.

HERITAGE TORONTO / UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LECTURE SERIES ON FORT YORK

Heritage Toronto has arranged a series of six afternoon lectures (Tuesday 1-3 p.m.) organized under the auspices of the University of Toronto Adult Education program. Carl Benn will present all of the lectures in this series as well but the topics will differ from those in the Friends program. For those who have their afternoons free, this is a great opportunity . We enclose the U of T folder and application form for those interested. The first lecture is on October 21 and they continue on each Tuesday (except Nov. 11) until December 2.

KEEPING THE FORT YORK SITE CLEAN

A few of the Friends joined our neighbors in the Niagara community (no, not Niagara Falls, but that great neighborhood west of Bathurst and south of King) in a clean up of the south ramparts of the Fort on Saturday, September 27.

THE UNION JACK WILL REMIND TORONTONIANS THAT FORT YORK IS ALIVE AND DESERVING A VISIT.

At the Fort York Ideas Workshop, one of the important recommendations was that steps be taken to make Fort York more visible in the community. Among a number of specific ideas to achieve this objective was a proposal that a large flagpole be erected to fly the Union Jack as a reminder of the Fort's historical significance to Toronto.

John Barclay, Chair of the Friends Fundraising and Membership Committee, was drawn to this idea and has led his committee and the Board over the many hurdles to bring the proposal to fruition. The Board of Heritage Toronto has now approved the erection of a 70 foot aluminum flagpole at a location outside the western gate to the Fort. This location will permit the Union Jack to fly at the same level as the Gardiner Expressway reminding all the drivers on the Gardiner of the existence of Fort York.

Recently, John Barclay was pleased to announce that the W. Garfield Weston Foundation had donated the funds to erect the flagpole. We are in the final stages of determining the flag to be flown. The Union Jack was the flag of Fort York throughout its history as a military fort and residence for many of Toronto's early citizens. The Union Jack came into existence in 1801, when a proclamation of George III provided for the addition of the Cross of St. Patrick to the flag upon the union of Great Britain and Ireland. Prior to 1801, the Grand Union Flag flew over York and Fort York. Whatever the flag, the flagpole will most certainly serve to remind us of the location of Fort York and its importance in understanding our heritage.

It is our plan to lay the base for the flagpole over the next few weeks before the frost sets in. The flagpole itself may not be erected until the spring, with a dedication ceremony in April or May prior to the Fort York Festival.

We thank the W. Garfield Weston Foundation for their generous support and John Barclay and the members of his committee and the staff and Board of Heritage Toronto who have worked hard together on this project.

FORT YORK FESTIVAL '98

With the success of Fort York Festival '97, the Friends of Fort York are already hard at work planning Festival '98. It is never too early to plan for a festival of this magnitude. The strategy is to take advantage of the experience of the many volunteers who worked so hard this year. A tentative program has been put together with the idea of having the event so full of activities and fun that the public will crave to return in 1999 and onward.

We have established a Festival Committee which will meet five times and over see the activities of a member of sub-committees. Members of the Festival Committee are listed below. If they have responsibility for a particular subcommittee, it is shown. We ask the forbearance of those potential members whom we have not as yet contacted:

Don Brydges	Co-Chair
Murray Philp	Co-Chair
Joe Gill	Co-ordination
Rollo Myers	Beer tent
Gord Brace	Beer tent
Peter Twist	Re-enactments and Suttler Relations
Gerry Murray	Finances
Ken Purvis	Fort York Rep and programming
Steve Utting	On-site Services
Mike Filey	
Mihail Murgoci	
John Tevlin	
Joe Pantalone	
Martin Silva	
Paul Cameron	

Cathy Nasmith	
Anne Beach	Out of the Cold Rep, Food Services
Jane Kennedy	Food Services
Joanne Doucette	
Silvia Pelman	Bathurst Quay Rep
Carl Skelton	Niagara Neighborhood Rep.
Carl Philp	Admissions
Marg Fisher	

Needless to say, each of these committees are in need of volunteers. Our volunteer force this year totaled 110 individuals, all of whom worked very well but also really enjoyed it. Our first organizing meeting of the overall committee will take place at Fort York in the Centre Blockhouse on October 23, 1997 at 7 p.m. If you wish to volunteer at this time, please call Don Brydges at 247-1377.

REMEMBERANCE DAY CEREMONIES AT FORT YORK

Please note on your calendar the Remembrance Day Ceremonies presented by Heritage Toronto and the IODE each year at the Strachan Avenue Military Cemetery to the west of Historic Fort York. The proceedings start about 10:40 a.m. on November 11.