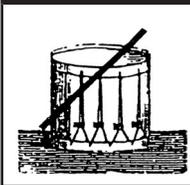


# *The Fife and Drum*

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v.8 No. 1 May 2004

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## *The Fife & Drum Expands*

Starting with this issue of *The Fife & Drum* we include a section entitled *News from the Birthplace of Toronto*. Previously it was a separate newsletter, prepared and published by the Fort York staff and sent to a wide group of visitors to the site, city officials, former members of the Fort York Guard and the like. The contents of the section will continue to be prepared by people at the fort, but will now reach a wider audience through *The Fife & Drum*, which will also benefit by adding several hundred new readers to its circulation.

*Please Join Us*  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Blue Barracks - Fort York*

*Thursday June 17, 2004*

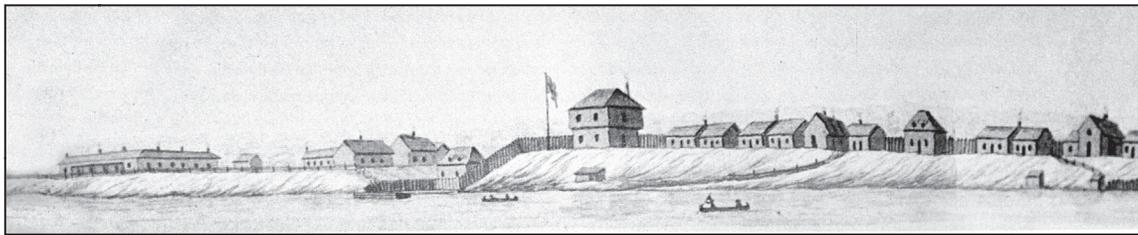
*Reception 6:30*

*Meeting 7:30*

## *Georgian Mess Dinner - Thanks to Our Sponsors*

We wish to thank this year's sponsors for our sixth annual Georgian Mess Dinner on Thursday, May 27. They were key to the dinner's success. Loblaws Properties Limited was the lead sponsor. Wittington Properties Limited and Laura Secord also generously agreed to purchase sponsors' tables. *Many thanks!*

# Friends of Fort York Turn Ten!



This Spring the Friends of Fort York marked the tenth anniversary since our founding. It was in April 1994 that the Friends came together to intervene for the first time to protest the physical and visual encroachment on Toronto's birthplace as the Bathurst-Strachan Part II draft plan was under consideration by City Council's Land Use Committee. Our ad hoc group, numbering fewer than two dozen people, had Steve Otto as its spokesman. Meetings were held irregularly but there was frequent contact by phone to work out strategy and responses. Later, as changes to the plan were made to modify if not eliminate the impact of new roads and buildings on the site, we continued to be involved in the approval process. We even managed in August, 1994, to produce a seminal study, *Revealing Fort York*, thanks largely to the unstinting efforts of Bob Allsopp and Cathy Nasmith. The following May our organization was incorporated as The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common, a non-profit body.

The prominence given to what was happening to the fort

## Change of Command

The corner office at Fort York will be empty for a little while starting June 1, 2004, when Jo Ann Pynn, Museum Administrator since August 2000, decamps for Metro Hall. Jo Ann began working at the fort following the reorganization that resulted from amalgamation. At that time Carl Benn became Chief Curator for the City of Toronto and the position of Museum Administrator, Fort York was created to ensure the effective management of the City's most significant museum site.

Not initially thought of as a *fort guy*, Jo Ann has earned the respect of others in the professional fort community. Working with seasoned staff, informed community members and consultants, and professionals at Parks Canada she has learned more than just a new vocabulary. In four years she has been a key participant in many important projects in and around the fort: Adding New Buildings, the Open Space Design and Implementation Plan, expanding the boundaries of the Designated Place, the Commemorative Integrity Statement, and annual events like the Tecumseh Festival and the TCDSB History Fair. In addition she has represented Fort York and

stirred interest in other quarters, and in November 1994, a second organization, the Fort York Associates (soon known as the Historic Fort York Volunteer Committee) came together under Don Gibson to focus the energies of another group of people on improving the fort's attractions and programmes. During an eighteen-month existence the Volunteers held fifteen meetings and attracted the support of such stalwarts as Stewart Bull, Joe Gill, Cheryl Hart, Ian Keith, Murray Philp and Peter Twist. Both groups counted Rollo Myers as a member.

In April 1996 the two organizations amalgamated to frame a longer-term vision for Fort York, taking advantage of the charter of the Friends of Fort York and adopting that name. Throughout the eight years since, seven of them under the selfless leadership of Joe Gill, our chairman, we have worked diligently to protect, support and improve Fort York at every turn. Now, looking back over a decade of accomplishments, we are proud to say we think that we have made a difference.

the Culture Division working with other City staff in Parks, Planning, Urban Design, and Works and Emergency Services on projects like the Fort York Neighbourhood Public Realm, Front Street Extension Environmental Assessment, and the design and construction of Fort York Boulevard.

Jo Ann is not leaving responsibility for the fort completely, though. She has accepted the position of Supervisor of Cultural Assets, taking on a broader role in the Cultural Affairs section of the Culture Division. This includes responsibility for the capital works program for all of the City's culture properties, including public art. Foremost among these, of course, are the arts centres and museums, hence her ongoing involvement at Fort York.

It will likely be several months before the position of Museum Administrator is filled at Fort York. In the meantime Jo Ann promises to provide as much continuity and support as the staff and the new board feel they require.

# *Council Approves New Management Board*

On May 19, 2004 City Council approved a new slate for the Fort York Management Board. The appointments are for a term of three years, 2004 through 2006, paralleling the term of Council. The new members have broad skills and experience that will be extremely valuable to the strategic and operational direction of the Fort, including aboriginal and multicultural programming, event marketing, architectural design, archaeology, built heritage management, publishing and editing, fundraising, leadership in the corporate and educational sectors, strategic and urban planning.

Appointed by Council were Bruce Chown, Sean Fraser, Patrick Gallagher, Nathaniel Lloyd, John O'Leary, Richard Shoichet and Carl Thorpe. Under the bylaw establishing the Board, the Friends of Fort York are permitted to appoint two members, and they did so by naming George Waters, the manager of Heritage Toronto before amalgamation and Paul Kelly a recently retired teacher who has been bringing students to Fort York for many years.

As the outgoing chair of the Management Board, Geordie Beal said he was privileged to be part of the panel that interviewed and recommended candidates. The quality of

those who presented themselves for selection was outstanding, which made the job both rewarding and difficult. Given the level of talent the new members bring to the Board, there is no question the Fort will receive strong and creative direction. Looking back over the last four and a half years, Geordie expressed satisfaction and delight at the progress the Fort has made and thanked the Board's members for their dedication, support, creativity and wise counsel.

He noted that the Board's relationship with the Friends of Fort York has provided resources and partnerships that are the envy of every museum board in Toronto. Also, the quality of support from Karen Black and Rita Davies of the Culture Division as well as staff throughout the City departments has contributed in a major way to the Fort's evolution. On Council, Joe Pantalone has championed the value of the fort for all Torontonians, as did Chris Korwin-Kuczynski during his term. Finally, on behalf of the Board, Geordie expressed deepest thanks to Jo Ann Pynn and the fort's outstanding staff for embracing our the Board's contributions and for adding value to them in both concept and execution.

# *Earth Day Cleanup at the Fort*

Earth Day, Saturday April 24, saw a group of City staff, Friends of Fort York, and friends of Friends turn out to pick up trash on along the north side of the site, on land owned formerly by the CNR where homeless people sometimes lived. Three hours later several steel drums, dozens of railway ties, parts of seven bicycles, a number of metal office chairs, scores of bottles and quantities of steel strapping, water-sodden bedding and clothing was piled along the foot of the ramparts waiting for removal by the City's trucks. The volume and variety of the trash surprised everyone involved in the blitz.

It was suggested that similar bees might be held more often than once a year. This idea will be considered by FOFY's directors. But the cleanup of some areas will have to be left to the City Works department, for example, under the Strachan Avenue bridge where personal possessions and garbage lie intermingled, and on the south ramparts where a squatter's hut stands close by the centre bastion. This latter encroachment existed when the land was transferred by Wittington Properties Ltd. to the City of Toronto in 1996, and probably began several years before then when the CPR was the owner.

Indeed, squatting on the public lands at Fort York is an old tradition. It can be traced back as early as the 1870s when at least three cottages were erected without formal consent



*Just a few of the many piles of refuse collected in the vicinity of the north ramparts.*

along Strachan Avenue south of the railway corridor. They were occupied by labourers, widows and the like for more than thirty-five years until about 1915 when they were demolished in conjunction with the rebuilding and straightening of Strachan.

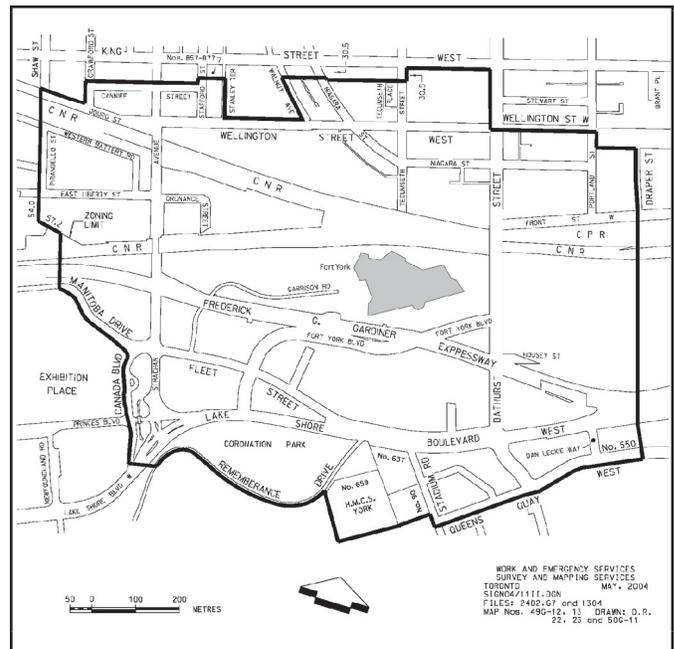
## Fort York at City Council

The Friends of Fort York attended the Toronto South Community Council meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> to monitor three issues important to Fort York.

A report on the Fort York Precinct Signage Study prepared by the City's Urban Development Services department was presented to the Community Council and was approved with a minor change to the proposed signage-controlled area. The change made the south edge of properties along King Street West the north boundary of the area, but the area's other limits remained as before. (See map) The restrictions on signs surrounding Fort York are intended primarily to reduce the visual impact of large illuminated billboards on the views out from the fort. Existing signs are grand-fathered. This welcome nod to the fort's integrity results from an initiative taken by the Friends of Fort York.

The Public Realm Master Plan for the Fort York Neighbourhood was also before the Community Council. This Plan was prepared by du Toit Allsopp Hillier working as consultants for the private land owners in the area in conjunction with Urban Development Services and interested parties, including the Friends of Fort York. The plan was approved.

Finally, a report was presented to the Community Council recommending a proposed expansion to the Fort York



Heritage Conservation Area. The expansion reflects the new boundaries of the Fort York National Historic Site, with the exception of Victoria Square which falls more naturally within a potential Wellington Place Heritage Conservation area east of Bathurst. Community Council approved the report.

At the May meeting of Toronto City Council these three reports as recommended by the Toronto South Community Council were approved to be reflected in the necessary bylaws.

## Fort York Guard

The Fort York Guard and the Fort York Drums continue to grow. This year we expect to have 24 students in uniform. With our younger volunteers in the Fort York Drums we will be able to field a full contingent of 30 for major occasions.

The Friends wish to thank Human Resources Development Canada for their support through the Youth Summer Employment Program. We also receive important support from the Young Canada Works program and from the Museum Grants program of the Culture Division at the City of Toronto. Members of the Friends provide base support through their participation in the Georgian Mess Dinner and

other donations, for which we thank them. Lastly, we generate funds through the operation of the parking lot at Fort York during the Molson Indy and the CNE (see following article - we need help!)

As well as performing at Fort York, the Guard and Drums will perform at Black Creek Pioneer Village on August 7-8 and will visit Fort George (August 14-15) and Chrysler's Farm (July 10-11). They will also perform at Toronto City Hall at a date to be determined. Everyone is encouraged to make an effort to see the Fort York Guard and the Fort York Drums perform this summer.

## Parking at Fort York - We Need Volunteers

The Friends of Fort York will operate the parking facilities at Fort York during the Molson Indy (July 9-11) and the CNE (August 20 - September 5). This is a very important fundraising activity in support of the Fort York Guard. We need volunteers throughout but particularly at the Molson Indy and on Labour Day Weekend. During the CNE weekends are busiest, but volunteers are also welcome during the week for the CNE period.

We also require high school students who wish to earn a moderate wage during both periods. Please let us know if you know of a student wishing part time employment who could commit time at either or both the Molson Indy or the CNE. Call either Joe Gill at 416-860-6493 or Rollo Myers at 416-964-0297 to volunteer or give us a lead on students or volunteers. Thanks.

*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

## **Doors Open Toronto 2004 - Archaeology at Fort York**

*by David Spittal, Fort York Archaeologist*

This year, visitors to the fort saw not only the familiar Soldiers' and Officers' Barracks, the Magazines and the Blockhouses (the oldest surviving buildings in the city) but several more structures that once existed in the fort but that now are represented only by archaeological remains. At various times, Fort York contained many buildings other than those that can still be seen. For Doors Open Toronto weekend, May 29-30, the buried stone foundations of four of these buildings were marked on the ground by white chalk lines. All of the buildings marked once existed together with the fort's present structures. This was the first opportunity for visitors and staff to see the actual locations and orientations of some of the fort's missing buildings and perhaps to gain a new perspective on the nature of the city's most important historic site.

The buildings marked include the 1815 Splinterproof Barrack No. 1. The forthcoming report, *Fort York: Adding New Buildings*, due out in the Fall, recommends that office and other support functions be removed from their present locations in authentic historic buildings and relocated to reconstructed or other buildings. Splinterproof Barracks No. 1 would be the first building to be reconstructed as part of this plan.

Other buildings marked on the ground include the 1838 Artillery Barracks, located inside the East Gate. The foundations of this building, which now extend beneath the newly restored Blue Barracks, the earthen walls of the North Rampart and the asphalt of the Central Road, help show how the form of the fort has changed over time. Also marked were the 1815 Commandant's House, a two storey Georgian brick house, which boasted a raised front entrance flanked by columns, an areaway (or moat) and a full basement, and the 1838 Rebellion or 'D' Barracks, the largest structure ever built in the fort.

A short walking tour of the fort, conducted by David Spittal, the fort's resident archaeologist took place several times on both days of the Doors Open Toronto weekend. The tour identified these and other structures that now lie deeply hidden beneath the surface of Fort York.

Chalk lines also indicated the location of the Garrison Cemetery, in Victoria Memorial Square, a short distance from Fort York. The oldest graveyard in the city, it dates from 1794 and contains several hundred graves. It was used until 1863 when a new site west of Fort York was opened.

**DOORS OPEN  
TORONTO**



## **Comings and Goings**

*by Richard Haynes, Fort York Site Co-ordinator*

Jo Ann Pynn, Museum Site Administrator at Fort York since August 2000, leaves to become the Supervisor of Cultural Assets, in the Culture Division.

Clare Whittingham, Program Delivery staff, is returning to work at Fort George over the summer. Genevieve Dix, Program Delivery staff, has taken a full time, 4 month position with Casa Loma. Edward Bell, Program Delivery staff, will be returning to the Fort York Summer Guard for

July and August. We look forward to seeing everyone back in September.

Three new staff have arrived to help us during the summer. Lauren Bird and Emily Lind are both former Fort George employees. Paul Sharkey also works as an interpreter at Spadina Museum, as well as volunteering in the gardens.

*Welcome to everyone.*

# Upcoming Events **2004** Historic Fort York

## Walking Tour

**Garrison Reserve and Niagara Neighbourhood**

**Sun. May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2:00 p.m.**

Discover the history of this neighbourhood to the north of Historic Fort York.

*Free admission to the fort following the tour.*

## Victoria Day

**Mon. May 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Tours, kids' drill, military music.

*Regular admission rates apply.*

## Doors Open

**Sat. May 29<sup>th</sup> and Sun. May 30<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Architectural tours, archaeology exhibit.

*Free admission all weekend.*

## Tactical Weekend

**Sat. June 5<sup>th</sup> and Sun. June 6<sup>th</sup>**

**The King's Royal Regiment of New York (KRRNY)**

Revolutionary War-era re-enactors on site for a weekend encampment with demonstrations and a flag dedication ceremony.

*Regular admission both days.*

## Bike Tour: Toronto's French Forts.

**Sun. June 6<sup>th</sup> 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 site following the tour.*

## Buffalo Jump Peace Walk.

**Mon. June 21<sup>st</sup> (Aboriginal Day) 12:00 p.m.**

Join the Peace Walk as it makes its way from Nathan Philips' Square to Fort York.

Music and stories until 4:00 p.m.

*Free Admission from 12:00 p.m.*

## Canada Day

**Thurs. July 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Tours, kids' drill, military music.

*Regular admission rates apply*

## Simcoe Day

**Mon. Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

## Tecumseh Weekend

**Fri. Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> thru Sun. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>**

Cultural Arts Festival. 17<sup>th</sup>: Press Opening, Artists Talks; 18<sup>th</sup>: Pow Wow, Storytelling, Artist Tours; 19<sup>th</sup>: Storytelling, Hands-On Workshops, Music Performances (Drumming and Singing).

*Regular admission rates apply.*

## Dance and Dance-ability

**Sat. Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.**

Early 19th century English Country Dance workshop. Beginners welcome. No partners required.

*Pre-registration Required. \$10*

## Ghosts of the Garrison

**Fri. Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thurs. Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, Fri. Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Family event with lantern tours and ghost stories from the past.

*Pre-registration Required. \$10, Children \$5.*

## Remembrance Day

**November 11<sup>th</sup> 10:45 a.m.**

Strachan Avenue Cemetery

*Closed December 18th, 2004*

*Re-opening Sunday, January 2nd, 2005*