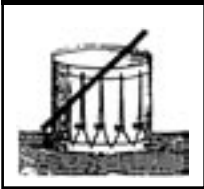


The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 9 No. 2 May 2005

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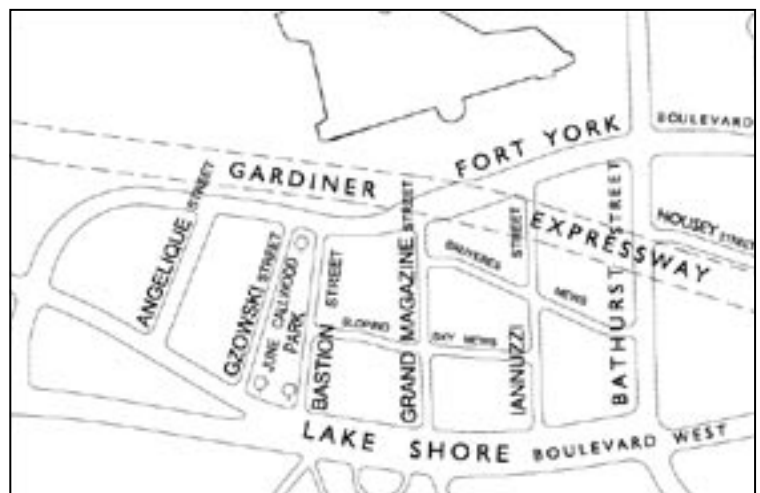
Names Chosen for Streets and Park in FY Neighbourhood

On February 16, 2005, City Council approved seven new names for streets in the Fort York neighbourhood. This brought to an end a process that began almost two years earlier when a committee of landowners in the area, city staff and Friends of Fort York met for the first time to bring forward streetnames having a special resonance there. Over the course of a dozen meetings more than seventy suggestions were considered, most of which were passed over because they lacked enough significance or duplicated the names of other Toronto streets. However, before any recommendations could go before Council, they had to be acceptable first to the Fire, Police and Emergency Medical Services people.

An effort was made to strike a balance between recognizing some the fort's defensive features and honouring people who played important parts in its history. The seven names Council approved are Angelique, Bastion, Bruyeres, Grand Magazine, Gzowski, Iannuzzi, and Sloping Sky. (see plan) The reason for suggesting **Bastion** Street is obvious; it is in a line with the fort's southwest bastion. Similarly, **Grand Magazine** Street recalls the powder magazine in the south ramparts that was blown up by the retreating British forces in 1813. The explosion resulted in the death of many American soldiers along with their leader, General Zebulon Pike. A leading native ally of the British at the Battle of York was the Mississauga warrior **Sloping Sky** whose native name was Nawahjeghezhegwabe. **Angelique** Givens is recalled as being fearless in confronting the American troops in 1813 as they plundered her house of its contents including the clothing of her seven children. When the fort was rebuilt in 1814 Lt.-Col. Ralph **Bruyeres**, a military engineer, oversaw its design. Gzowski Street honours both Peter Gzowski, the late broadcaster, and his ancestor, Sir Casimir **Gzowski**, a Polish emigre who constructed one of Ontario's first railways from a terminus south of Fort York to Georgetown, Guelph and beyond. For many years Gzowski's Wharf was a feature on the waterfront there. The seventh streetname honours Dan **Iannuzzi** who died in 2004. He founded of the *Corriere Canadese* and Ethnic Press Association of Ontario as well the pioneering multilingual TV station CFMT (now OMNI) Channel 47 located at Bathurst Street and Lakeshore Blvd.

In a separate motion Council also agreed that the extension of Fort York Boulevard to be built this year between Bathurst and Spadina would be called **Fort York Boulevard** rather than Bremner Boulevard, its name from Spadina through York Street.

But perhaps the happiest recommendation coming from the committee and approved by Council was to name the important axial park linking the fort with Lakeshore Boulevard after **June Callwood**, the journalist and social activist, who said she was delighted to know her name would be attached to a place where children will play. The Friends have established a fund in June's honour for the improvement of this park beyond the Parks Departments's usual standards.



Fort York Neighbourhood

Center Plot

© Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common
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Garrison Common History: The Wellington Place Neighbourhood

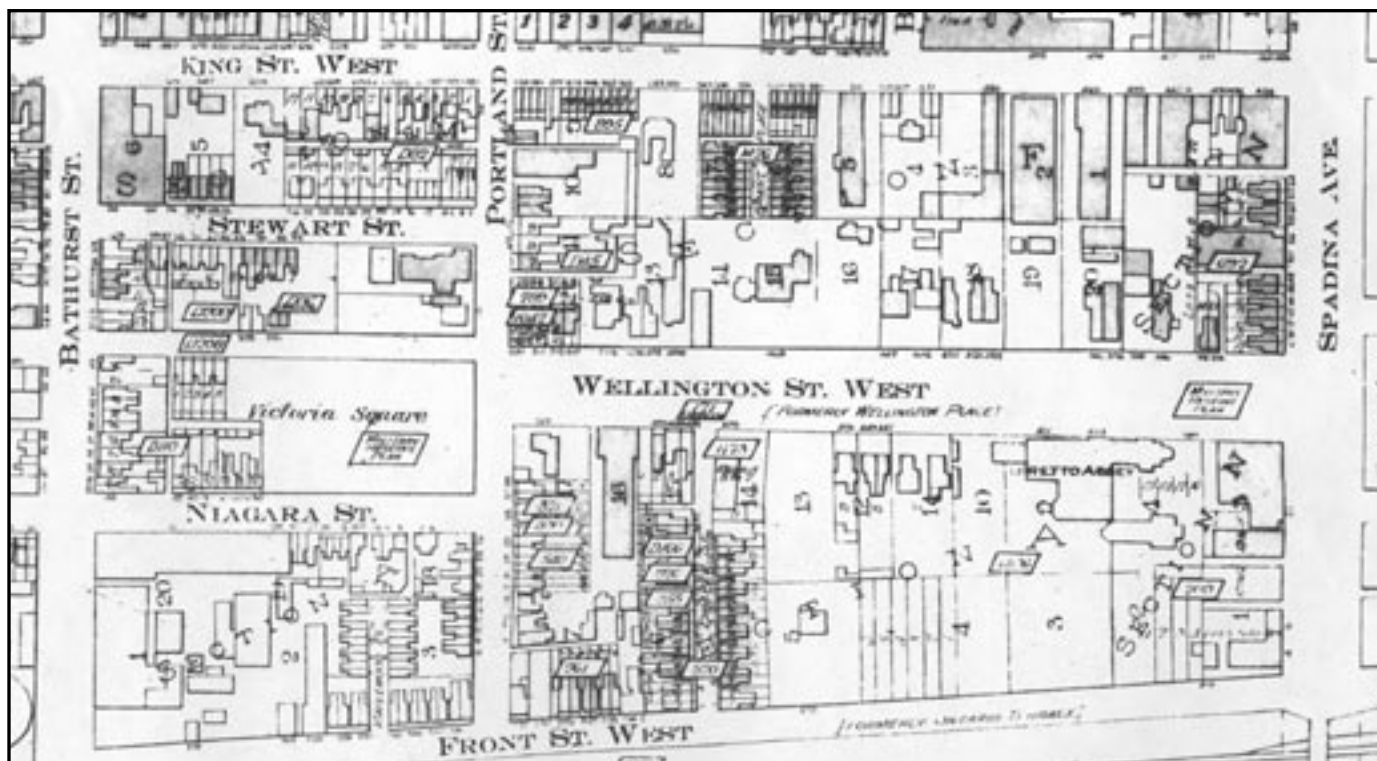
Originally Wellington Street between Spadina and Portland was called Wellington Place. Today the name describes the neighbourhood bounded by Bathurst, King, Spadina and Front streets that is part of the city's King-Spadina planning district. Notwithstanding its history overlaps that of other neighbourhoods on all sides, it can be told separately.

For some time after the Town of York was founded in 1793 the Wellington Place Neighbourhood (WPN) was part of the Military Reserve. As such, it was simply an open piece of land swept by the guns of Fort York, the only significant landmark being a picket-fenced military cemetery where garrison soldiers and some townfolk were buried. No private buildings were allowed to be erected there before November, 1833, when Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Colborne, authorized the auctioning of 18 lots to raise money for a new fortification west of Fort York. Eight large lots along Front Street went for £500 and £600 each to prominent buyers including Attorney General Robert Jameson, William H. Draper, an up-and-coming lawyer, and Judge Levius P. Sherwood. Other auctions followed in 1834 and 1836 when most of the WPN except for six acres around the military cemetery passed into private ownership. Colborne's successor, Sir Francis Bond Head, approved a benchmark plan for the area in 1837 in which two squares, Victoria Square named for Princess Victoria the

heir apparent and Clarence Square that recalled King William IV's days as the Duke of Clarence, were joined by Wellington Place, an axial street of exceptional width.

Still, James Cane's map of Toronto shows little building had occurred in the WPN by 1842 apart from Robert Jameson's handsome little villa on the present-day site of *The Globe and Mail* and a few small dwellings here and there. Jameson erected his house in 1836-37 in a vain attempt to persuade his difficult wife, Anna, a noted author, to settle at his side in Canada. Probably the villa was designed by Robert Wetherell of Hamilton, the architect for Sir Allan MacNab's "Dundurn." It survived for another 125 years—from 1868 to 1930 within Loretto Abbey, a girl's school, and then as part of a Jesuit seminary—until 1961 when it was replaced by Peter Dickinson's modern printing house commissioned originally for *The Telegram*.

A few of Jameson's contemporaries followed his lead and put up large brick houses on good-sized lots in the WPN, including Judge John G. Spragge whose home was on the northwest corner of Front and Portland (1844; John G. Howard, archt.); Alfred Coulson whose Tudoresque house of 1850 preceded the buildings at 450-52 Front St. today; and Lewis Moffatt's 'Clarence Lodge' at the northwest corner of



Wellington Place Neighbourhood, from Goad's *Atlas of City of Toronto*, [1910], plate 18

Spadina and Wellington Place. More high-end development might have taken place had the Northern Railway not erected its Toronto passenger depot and shops on landfill south of Front Street in the mid-1850s, thereby altering the character of the area.

Alfred Brunel, the railway's superintendent, lived on a big property fronting on Wellington Place, Spadina and Front. Foreseeing the need for workmen's housing in the area, he subdivided most of his land in 1857 to create nineteen smaller lots, following the example set by George Draper the preceding year when he laid out Draper Street on land his father had bought in 1833. Sad to say, these initiatives were poorly timed. In the Fall, 1857, Canada and the U.S. were plunged into a commercial depression whose effects were felt for a decade. Housing starts in Toronto dropped abruptly and few buildings of a public character were erected. Two exceptions were the 1858 Church of St. John the Evangelist at Portland and Stewart streets, a Gothic board-and-batten structure from William Hay's drawing board, and the Northern Railway offices at the corner of Front and Spadina on land bought from Brunel (W.G. Storm, architect, 1862).

Confederation year, 1867, marked the end of hard times. When domestic building resumed in the WPN in earnest, however, it was mostly in the form of modest houses north and west of Victoria Square. Development in the south part of the neighbourhood took longer. Draper Street was not built out before 1881-82. The Spragge estate at Front and Portland, now the site of Portland Park Village, had to wait until 1887-88, when Reuben J. Parker, a builder, put up thirty-three small homes there. Contemporary with them were twenty-nine

houses erected by J. C. Musson on King Street and Brant Place, a cul-de-sac entered between 529 and 535 King Street West. In time the area's increasing residential density was reflected in the need for a larger church. Accordingly, in 1892 St. John's was replaced by a suave essay in brick designed by Eden Smith. While this church came down in 1963, the parish hall and Sunday School (W. R. Strickland, archt., 1872) survived on Stewart Street until 2002 when it was demolished for the apartment tower at 50 Portland.

For most of the latter 19th century the biggest industry within the WPN was Patrick Burns' coal and wood yard at Front and Bathurst. About 1890 the site was redeveloped for the John Doty Engine Company; today Doty's buildings are occupied by Sherwin-Williams. After 1900 other manufacturing businesses began to move into the area, and its character changed from residential to predominantly industrial. Some of the newcomers had been forced from the downtown by the Great Fire of 1904, while others wanted only to erect their factories in pleasant surroundings near a good supply of labour. Of all the streets in the WPN, Wellington Place was the best-suited for redevelopment since it was lined by big, old houses on good-sized lots. Renamed Wellington Street West in 1908, it came to resemble its present appearance largely between 1905 and 1920. In a later wave, several small houses along Bathurst Street were replaced by structures like the International Harvester building (Norman Armstrong, archt., 1939). Today the neighbourhood is experiencing change again as factories and parking lots give way to apartment buildings.

Friends Lose a Friend with Bill Archer's Death



Resplendent in his service medals, Bill Archer is seen at a Georgian Dinner.

With the death of William Archer, Q.C., on 6 March the Friends of Fort York along with many other public-minded organizations in Toronto lost a stalwart friend. Born in Hamilton in 1919, Bill attended Ridley College, then heeded his country's call to serve during World War II by joining the Navy, where he rose to the rank of Lieut. Commander. After attending McGill and Osgoode Hall, he was called to the bar in 1953 and had a distinguished career as a lawyer. But it was as an elected official that he attracted broader notice; from 1958 to 1972 he sat on Toronto City Council and Metro Council. This was followed by a series of appointments, often related to urban development, that allowed him to show his love for Toronto. Among the bodies that came to appreciate how tireless a member he could be were the City's Planning Board, Library Board and Historical Board. He joined the Friends of Fort York soon after our founding and made his interest known in several ways, for instance, by following closely and advising occasionally on our appeal of a matter to the OMB in 2001, and by attending some of our annual Georgian dinners in support of the Fort York Guard and Drums.

Garrison Common Properties Proposed for Inventory

The City's Preservation Board will discuss at its meeting on May 12 recommendations to include on the municipal Inventory of Heritage Properties thirty-seven buildings in the King-Spadina planning area and thirty-eight in the Garrison Common North planning area. All are within the limits of the original Garrison Common or Military Reserve. Placing a property on the Inventory does not protect it in the same way as designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, but is a first step towards designation. Among the total of seventy-five buildings to be considered are the Robinson Cottages on Richmond St. featured in the January, 2005 issue of *Fife and Drum*, several factories in Liberty Village and along Adelaide, King, Spadina and Wellington streets, as well as the public schools on Brant and Niagara streets.

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 8-10) 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 to volunteer or give us a lead on students or volunteers. Thanks.

Seventh Annual Georgian Mess Dinner at Fort York, 8 June 2005

Authentic food and music of the 1812 period!

Good company!

*Proceeds to a good cause –
the Fort York Guard and Drums!*

*Cost only \$175.00 per person,
the same as last year.*

*To reserve your place call
Joe Gill (416-860-6493) or
Richard Dodds (416-231-1693)*

Please Join Us

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Blue Barracks – Fort York

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Reception and Tour of Soldiers Trade Exhibit 6:00 p.m.

Meeting 7:15

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Pears Portuguese Fashion, with Currants

This recipe from the kitchens at Fort York originated with William Verrall, master of the White Hart Inn at Lewes, Sussex, who was the author of *The Complete System of Cookery* (1759), one of the most lively and immediate of the 18th-century cookery books. Before taking over the hotel from his father, William trained under M. de St. Clouet, renowned chef to the Duke of Newcastle, from whom he learned 'the French method of cooking' that he so admired. A facsimile of his book was published in 1988 by the Southover Press of Lewes. His recipe for cooked pears is simplicity itself.



6	pears	6
4 cups	water	1 L
2 cups	red wine/ port	500 ml
1/2 cup	sugar	125 ml
1	cinnamon stick	1
1	peel of lemon	1
3/4 cup	currants	200 ml

Boil the pears gently in water for about a half hour, then strain. Place them in a stewpan, add the port, sugar, cinnamon, lemon peel, a little more water (a spoonful or two) and the currants. Simmer until tender. Allow them to sit in the wine for at least 24 hours for excellent colour and flavour. Remove the cinnamon and lemon peel before serving.

Artefact Collecting at Fort York

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

The Friends of Fort York recently acquired an interesting mid-Victorian military manual with a good Toronto provenance. This fine item joins the fort's collection of historical artefacts that the City of Toronto has assembled and curated since the 1930s primarily through archaeological excavation, purchase, trade with other museums, and donation.

By far the largest element in the fort's collection is the archaeological assemblage. The bulk of this material was recovered in the 1980s and '90s when the fort undertook a major archaeological programme associated with the re-restoration of its 1813-15 buildings. Some excavated specimens stand out as particularly evocative, such as a soldier's combat-ravaged cross-belt plate from the Battle of York in the War of 1812. However, most of the archaeological material is more pedestrian, consisting of the military buttons, broken dishes, and other debris lost or jettisoned by the garrison community between the 1790s and the 1930s. Yet these humbler items possess enormous significance for refining our understanding of the details of the fort's history in ways that we never would be able to accomplish through other artefacts and documentary records.

Gifts from individuals and organizations form another important element in the City's artefact collection related to Fort York, and include such things as the uniforms, medals, and firearms that have been donated over the last eight decades. In recent years, the City acquired the large Larry Becker and Morris Norman collections of Toronto memorabilia, both of which include military items that will benefit our understanding of the City's martial past. Often people with family connections to the objects are the donors, and so the artefacts come with a provenance that enhances their meaning for research, exhibition, and interpretation. Within the last while, descendants of the original owners gave us a captured Fenian rifle from the 1866 raid, two 1796-pattern cavalry swords from early Toronto families, and a pair of binoculars presented by the City to returning Boer War officers in 1902. Sometimes organizations buy historical materials and then donate them to us. For instance, the United Empire Loyalists acquired two 1812 Military General Service medals and an 1820s portrait of King George IV for the fort. Museums also donate or trade surplus materials to us (as we do to them), as occurred not long ago when the Royal Ontario Museum gave us twenty-six historical firearms, or as happened when we traded a kayak to the ROM for an important bronze six-pounder artillery piece from 1797.

Finally, purchasing objects on the antique market has been a fundamental source of artefacts over the years. Historically, most of our money for purchasing has come from the City, although other organizations or people give us funds for acquisitions. For example, one family donated money to purchase a rare sword in memory of their son for a new exhibit, while the St George's Society paid for

furnishing two of the fourteen rooms in the Officers' Barracks. Unfortunately, we no longer have the funding we once did within our municipal budget to purchase items due to the financial cuts that have occurred in museums since about 1993, so it now is difficult for us to acquire objects commercially. This is a concern because the kinds of artefacts that come onto the antique market tend to be different from the items that are offered to us in donation, so we ought to acquire materials through both donation and purchase to develop the collection in a balanced manner.

We do not accept everything that comes our way. In fact, we only pursue a minority of acquisition opportunities because we want artefacts to be genuinely relevant in telling the story of Canadian military history as it relates to Fort York and to the City of Toronto. Thus, we do not collect things that do not improve our ability to share this history with the public effectively or that duplicate our holdings beyond our need for multiple examples. Furthermore, we avoid acquiring items in poor condition, such as objects that have lost much of their cultural value through the ravages of time or because they have been altered in undesirable ways, as sometimes occurs when they enter the antique market. By enhancing our already-strong artefact collection, we can research and appreciate the material heritage of Canadian military history better and create compelling public exhibits, and thus fulfil our fundamental museological function to use material culture to educate and excite our visitors about



Two different Toronto families recently gave us two 1796 Pattern Light Dragoon sabres, as seen in this print from *Rules and regulations for the sword exercise of the cavalry* (London: War Office, 1796).

the past. Therefore, Fort York will continue collecting in the years ahead through archaeological excavation, donations from a generous public, trade with other institutions, and participating in the antique market, both directly and with the help of its friends and supporters.

Upcoming Events **2005** Historic Fort York

Walking Tour: Fort York Neighbourhood

Sun. May 22nd 2:00 p.m.

Discover the history of the neighbourhood of Historic Fort York.
Free admission to the fort following the tour.

Victoria Day

Mon. May 23rd 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tours, kids' drill, military music.
Regular admission rates apply.

Doors Open

Sat. May 28th and Sun. May 29th 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Architectural tours, archaeology exhibit.
Free admission all weekend.

Bike Tour: Toronto's French Forts

Sun. June 5th 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.

Friends of Fort York Fundraising Georgian Dinner - June 8

Buffalo Jump Peace Walk

Tues. June 21st (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 1st 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tours, kids' drill, military music.
Regular admission rates apply

Simcoe Day

Mon. Aug. 1st 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

Festival of Beer - Aug 5,6,7

Ticketed event – fort closed to casual visitors.