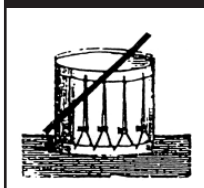


The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 10 No. 2 June 2006

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John Adams Joins Friends' Board

John Adams, now a management consultant but formerly a well known member of Toronto City Council from 1991 to 2000, has joined the board of directors of the Friends of Fort York. During his time on Council, he championed several heritage and environmental causes. He also served as a trustee of Canada's largest public hospital, the University Health Network, incorporating the Toronto General, Toronto Western and Princess Margaret Hospitals. With David Miller, he co-chaired the City's Oak Ridges Moraine Steering Committee, directing a strategy to help protect this sensitive area where the Humber, Don and Rouge Rivers rise.

John serves as treasurer of the Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders and has been a keen advocate for the expanded screening of newborns to detect brain and life-threatening disorders. He brings to the board experience as director of marketing services for the Urban Transportation Development Corp., as Executive Assistant to the Hon. Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services in the Davis government, and as a reporter for The Globe and Mail covering City Hall and education—his first job on graduating from York University. John has also been a long-time and much appreciated supporter of the Friends as a volunteer in our parking operations during the CNE.

Welcome a-board, John!



PLEASE JOIN US FRIENDS OF FORT YORK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BLUE BARRACKS - FORT YORK
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2006
RECEPTION 6:30 P.M.
MEETING 7:15 P.M.

Visit our website at www.fortyork.ca

See the Fort York Guard Perform

Again this year the Fort York Guard and Drums will perform daily at Fort York for most of the summer. Special events are planned for Canada Day and Simcoe Day. Please note that on the following days the Guard and Drums will be representing the fort off-site:

Monday, July 24, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.,
Nathan Phillips Square, City Hall

Saturday-Sunday, August 12-13, Fort Erie at Fort Erie

Saturday-Sunday, August 19-20,
Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake

Parking at Fort York **We Need Volunteers**

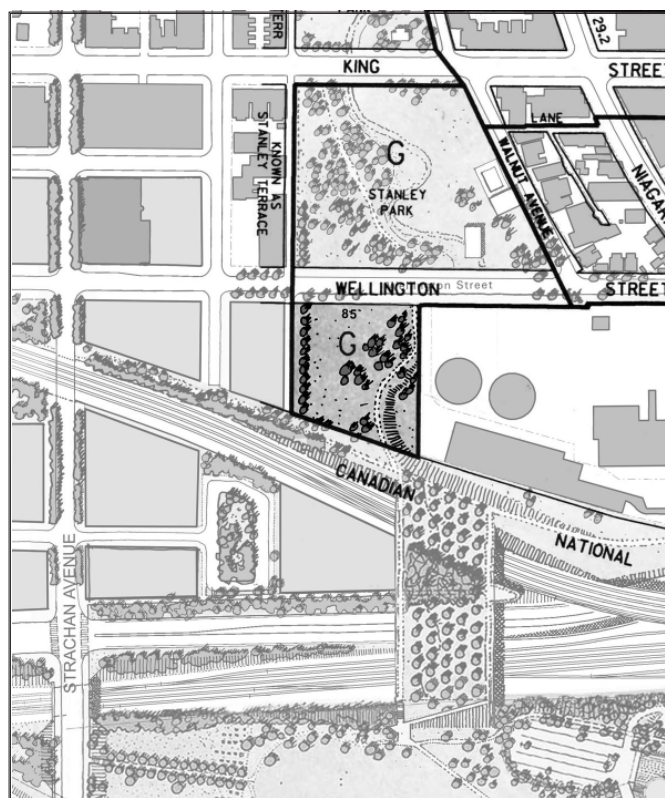
The Friends of Fort York will operate the parking facilities at Fort York during the CNE (*August 20-September 5*). This is a very important fundraising activity in support of the Fort York Guard. We need volunteers particularly on Labour Day Weekend, but they are also welcome during the week. We can also use high school students who wish to earn some extra money. Call Joe Gill at 416-860-6493 either to volunteer or give us a lead on students. Thanks.

Brighter Days Ahead for Stanley Park

Toronto, like Vancouver, also has its Stanley Park although ours is still just a little-known green tongue reaching south from King Street West to Wellington between Niagara and Strachan. But its prospects improved recently, thanks to two motions made by Councillor Joe Pantalone and approved by Council at its meeting of April 25-27, 2006. The first resolution directed \$450,000 coming to the City under a Section 37 agreement covering a redevelopment of a property on King near Bathurst be spent on improvements to Stanley Park. The second motion had longer-term implications: it rezoned from "Industrial" to "Green" some city-owned land now used for car-parking south of Stanley Park between Wellington and the Hamilton-Georgetown rail corridor.

This latter decision creates a G-zoned corridor to the north end of a proposed Land Bridge for cyclists and pedestrians first suggested in 2001 in a study of parks and open spaces around Fort York by a consortium led by du Toit Allsopp Hillier. At the time the Land Bridge was seen as a component of the Front Street Extension, a project of the Waterfront Development Corporation. But with the Extension now delayed by a combination of factors, the Friends of Fort York will be urging the Corporation to undertake the Land Bridge on its own to reinforce north-south connections between the city and its waterfront. The south end of the Land Bridge, anchored in the Mustering Ground west of Fort York, is a missing link in the realization of an extensive system of bicycle paths up the Georgetown rail corridor, along the lakeshore and through the linear park in the Railway Lands between Bathurst and Simcoe streets.

The rail corridor is currently the subject of an Individual Environmental Assessment arising from proposals to expand service along Go Transit's Georgetown South Line, and provide fast service between Pearson Airport and Downtown



The recently rezoned parcel is in the centre of this plan and sits somewhat offset from the head of the proposed Land Bridge over the rail corridors. (Fort York and Garrison Common Parks and Open Space Plan, p.56)

Toronto. By virtue of the fort's interest in the Land Bridge and how the present rail crossing on Stachan Avenue will be treated in future, the Friends of Fort York will sit on the Public Liaison Committee formed as part of the EA process.

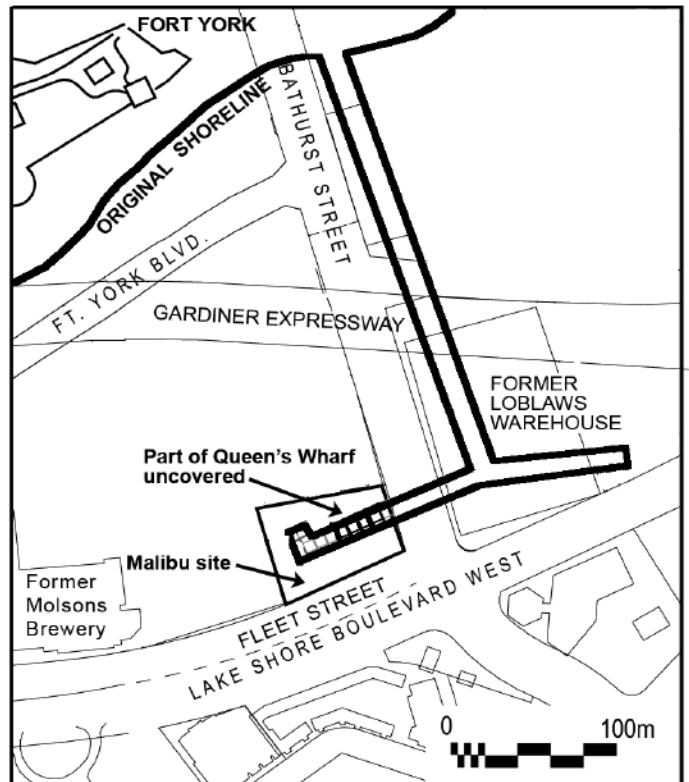
Part Of Queen's Wharf Uncovered

by David Robertson, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Services Inc

In March, 2006, construction excavations undertaken as part of the Malibu condominium development at the northwest corner of Bathurst and Fleet Streets in the Fort York Neighbourhood uncovered substantial portions of the pierhead of the Queen's Wharf. Archaeological Services Inc., a Toronto cultural resource management firm, was brought in to document these remains, which were part of 1853-56 and 1863 extensions to the original pier of 1833, most of which lies under the former Loblaw's warehouse east of Bathurst Street. This southerly section of the wharf remained in operation until the early twentieth century and was subject to frequent modifications and expansion.

Each of the three cribs uncovered was 42 ft. deep from north to south and 21 ft. running east and west. It consisted of a central cell 21 feet square flanked on the north and south by smaller cells measuring 10 ft. 6 in. by 21 feet. Standing a maximum of ten feet high, the cribs were formed of eleven courses of 11 inch-square white pine timbers. These were set directly on leveled clay and ballasted with granite cobbles and blocks. Distances of three inches to almost two feet separated one crib from the next. The gaps between them were filled with densely packed lengths of roundwood poles, scrap lumber and other debris.

In terms of their overall construction the cribs are comparable with small variations in design and technique to similar structures of the period on the waterfront, such as the Esplanade (which has been documented at several places) and at Gooderham & Worts distillery.



Editor's Note: Urban Tree Salvage, a Scarborough-based company, has acquired some pine beams from the Queen's Wharf and is taking orders for lumber cut from them. Call UTS's Marketing Manager, Melissa Neist (647-438-7516) or visit its website www.urbantreesalvage.com

Late News! Public Art Chosen for West Harbour City

On May 12 the jury of curators met to select the winning entry in a competition to provide public art for Phase One of West Harbour City (see *Fife & Drum*, v. 10, no. 1, February 2006). Their choice was Nestor Kruger's design for a decorative frieze of mosaic-glass tiles to be applied to the third level on all frontages except those along Sloping Sky Mews. The frieze is in a lovely pattern of water lilies echoing the lake. Stepping back from it, the white lilies take on the form of the fifty-five constellations of the northern hemisphere. In the view of the artist, in the same way we navigate by the

stars, people entering or leaving of the city will use West Harbour City, which has a prominent location, as a reference or navigational point.

Born in Montreal in 1965, Nestor Kruger studied at the Ontario College of Art and Design and now makes his home in Toronto. A founding member of the city's Founding Disorders collective, he has exhibited at Toronto's Mercer Union, the Eye Level Gallery in Halifax, Southern Exposure in San Francisco, and in a group exhibition in Lyon, France.

Overheard

Mayor David Miller visited the fort on May 17 during a private function and was invited to fire a cannon at the Gardiner Expressway, which he did. When the smoke had cleared, he was heard to say "But it's still there."

"Yes," said a wit, "but look at the Molson's building!"

[Editor's note: the former Molson Brewery lies south of the fort beyond the Gardiner, and is being demolished at present.]

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

An Interesting Watercolour Of Fort York's East Entrance

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

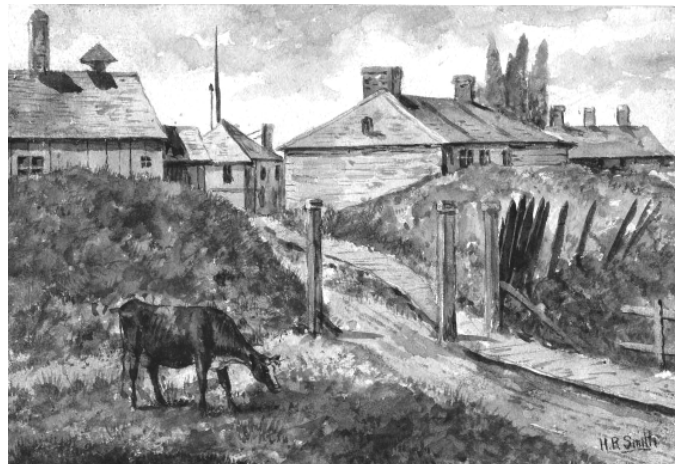
Much of our understanding of Fort York comes from artworks produced in the past. For instance, they often capture architectural and landscaping details, which provide information that cannot be gleaned from written documents, archaeological research, and material culture studies. Thus they form part of the matrix of sources we use to enhance our appreciation of the fort's story. One such image is a watercolour of the east end of the fort, donated to the old Toronto Historical Board in the 1960s by someone whose ancestors had connections to the British army. However, the link between the donor's family and the artist – H.R. Smith – is not clear, so we need to do more research on who Smith was and whether he or she had a military connection.

The watercolour probably was an amateur effort, but was executed skilfully, and retains its freshness and deep colours because it has not been exposed to much light. Although the exact age of the picture is uncertain, a photograph of the east gate from 1885 helps us place the watercolour chronologically. The photo clearly is earlier because it includes more of the upright palisades from the refortification of the site during the Anglo-American tensions of the 1860s than does H.R. Smith's interpretation. Yet, the rest of the details are similar enough to imply that the watercolour could not be much later because, if many years had passed since 1885, the wooden fencing and other features would have deteriorated more than is visible in the watercolour. It also does not show changes introduced to the area in 1898, so it likely post-dates 1885 by a few years but pre-dates 1898.

While the 1885 photograph has more documentary value than the watercolour, the latter gives us a better idea of what colours the buildings were painted. Smith's artwork also provides insights on some of the more obscure details of the photograph. Therefore, these two images in their differing media combine nicely to enhance our understanding of the fort in the late 1800s. The pairing also reminds us of some of the limitations in documentary art –

especially for the pre-camera era where we have nothing to compare to artists' impressions – because we can see how an artist romanticizes, shortens distances, and makes other adjustments in creating an image. Thus this watercolour and the photograph serve as warnings on how documentary art, like written and other sources, has its limitations, as well as its possibilities, in telling us about Fort York's past.

This appealing watercolour (complete with a contented-looking cow), never has been illustrated before. Therefore, we plan to put it in the new guidebook for Fort York, which will come out later in 2006. In that publication H.R. Smith's watercolour will represent a pleasing contrast to the presentation of the 1885 photograph in our 'big' history of the site, *Historic Fort York, 1793-1993*, published at the time of the fort's bicentennial thirteen years ago.



*Watercolour of the east gate of Fort York by H.R. Smith, c.1888-1897,
City of Toronto Museums and Heritage Services, 1967.3.19B.*



*Photograph of the east end of Fort York, 1885,
Toronto Public Library, T-11637.*

Site-work Update

by David O'Hara, Site Administrator

Driveway & Archaeological Landscape

Both the physical presence of Fort York and access to the site will be significantly increased by the end of 2006. The construction of a new entrance drive from Fort York Blvd. to Garrison Road, as proposed in the Open Space Plan and the Fort York Neighbourhood Public Realm Plan, will begin this summer. This new entry point will be very visible and provide more direct access to those arriving by car or bus. The present entrance from Fleet Street west of the Armories will remain open as well.

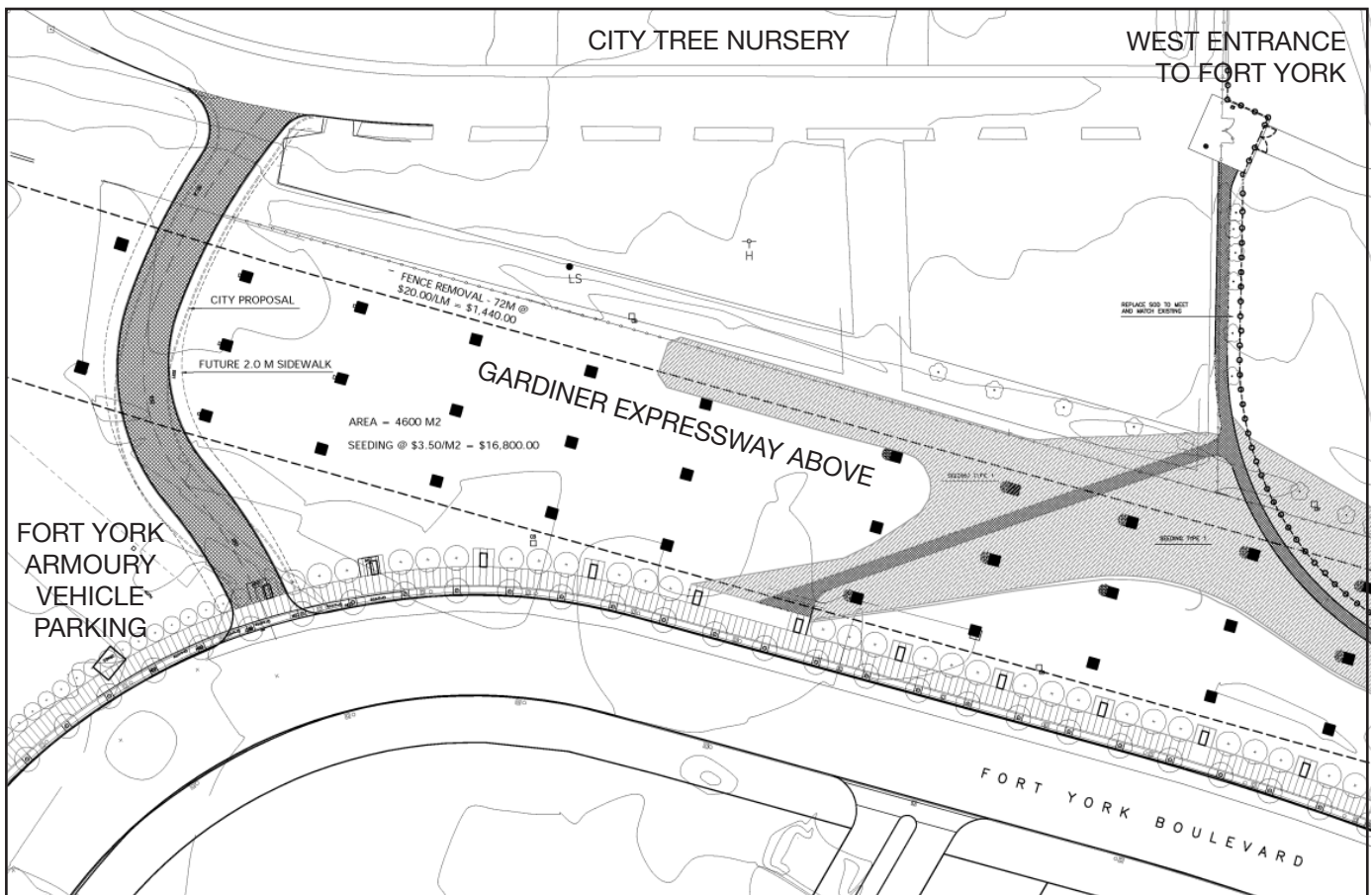
By the end of May work will begin also on the 'Archaeological Landscape', as the area between the south ramparts and Fort York Blvd. from Bathurst west to the new entry drive has been called. It was a feature recommended in both the Open Space and Public Realm plans too. The project includes grading, fencing, seeding, and new pedestrian walkways from Fort York Blvd. to the fort's west gate. When more money is available in the future, additional components will be added to the Archaeological Landscape such as a delineation of the original shoreline

and an interpretation of significant sites along the shore, particularly the crater created in 1813 when the retreating British forces blew up the Grand Magazine.

Victoria Memorial Square

By June 1 Zuron Construction will commence Phase I work on Victoria Square. This work includes grading to protect the cemetery area, removing four trees, building new walkways, resodding many surfaces, shifting the playground slightly, and a restoration of the fence and area immediately surrounding the War of 1812 monument.

The project Steering Committee made up of City staff and members of the Friends of Fort York met with the project consultants on May 16 to discuss Phase II of the work. The budget for this final phase will be between \$ 500k and \$700k, depending on when funds expected as a result of various development agreements are paid to the City. Phase II work will include the delineation of the cemetery boundaries, park furniture, lighting, plantings, and the relocation of the surviving grave markers in a memorial wall. Plaques will interpret several other aspects of the Square's history. Victoria Square and Fort York comprise the Fort York National Historic Site.



The new entrance drive is on the left, while new pedestrian paths on the right lead to the fort's west gate.

Upcoming Events **2006-07** Historic Fort York

Compiled by Melanie Garrison

JUNE

Back by popular demand: Elizabeth Simcoe's Farewell Tea Sunday, June 4, 2006, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Elizabeth Simcoe, the wife of John Graves Simcoe, Upper Canada's first lieutenant governor (1791-1796), kept extensive diaries of her travels and her life in York (now Toronto). Storyteller Maja Bannerman takes on the role of Elizabeth Simcoe as she hosts a farewell tea at Fort York in 1796 and shares incredible stories of her life in Upper Canada. Your ticket includes refreshments as would have served in 1796.

Audience: General. Tickets: Adults: \$12; Seniors & Youths: \$10; Children: \$8. Pre-registration required.

Tours de Forts Bike Tour: Toronto's French Forts Sun. June 4, 2006, 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 Thurs. June 8, 2006

Ontario Model Soldier Society – Annual Show & Competition

Sat. June 10 and Sun. June 11, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Vendor area; Toy Soldiers; Dioramas; Bands; Connoisseur Figures; Flats; Mounted bands and artillery.

Regular admission rates apply.

Ongoing

Tai Chi in Victoria Memorial Square

Portland and Niagara streets

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. (weather permitting)

Comfortable clothing and soft shoes are recommended.

Free.

JULY

Canada Day – Annual Event

Sat. July 1, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tours, kids' drill, military music.

Regular admission rates apply.

Fort York Ongoing Summer Programming

Daily throughout July, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thrill to the booming of the cannon, the firing of muskets, the vibrant colours of the uniformed guard and the lively music of fife and drum. These are the sights and sounds of Fort York this summer. Visitors will enjoy hourly demonstrations of military music, drill, musketry and artillery performed by students representing the Canadian Fencible Regiment that was garrisoned at the fort at the end of the War of 1812. Highlights include the cannon firing at 12:30 p.m. and the music of the Fort York Drums (a fife & drum corps) in the afternoons.

Ongoing

Tai Chi in Victoria Memorial Square

See June listing for details.

AUGUST

Ongoing

Tai Chi in Victoria Memorial Square

See June listing for details.

Simcoe Day – Annual Event

Mon. Aug. 7, 2006, 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

Fri. Aug 11, Sat. Aug. 12 & Sun. Aug. 13, 2006

Annual Ticketed Event – fort closed to casual visitors.

The Pirate Festival

Weekends – August 19 thru September 4, 2006

If it's the Pirate's life fer ye, then set yer course for the 1st Annual Pirate Festival, when our merry band of playful scallywags and sea-farin' scoundrels take over the Fort for seven days of merriment and hilarity for the whole family, the likes of which have never been seen! There'll be music and comedy and entertainment galore, scrumptious food and drink to slake yer cravings, and plenty o' fun stuff for pirates and lubbers of all ages to see, buy, learn and do! Come share all the romance and excitement of a high-seas adventure right in the heart of the City! Arrrrgh!

Admission: Adults: \$16, Students & Seniors: \$12, Children 12 & under: \$10

Fort York Ongoing Summer Programming

Daily throughout August - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thrill to the booming of the cannon, the firing of muskets, the vibrant colours of the uniformed guard and the lively music of fife and drum. These are the sights and sounds of Fort York this summer. Visitors will enjoy hourly demonstrations of military music, drill, musketry and artillery performed by students representing the Canadian Fencible Regiment that was garrisoned at the fort at the end of the War of 1812. Highlights include the cannon firing at 12:30 p.m. and the music of the Fort York Drums (a fife & drum corps) in the afternoons. The fort's guard won prizes at the annual competitions held at Fort George three years in a row.

Please note: The Fort York Guard will be out of town at national/regional competitions on the following weekends: August 12/13 and 19/20.

SEPTEMBER

Ongoing

Tai Chi in Victoria Memorial Square

See June listing for details.

Dance and Dance-ability – Annual Event

Fri. Sept. 22, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Early 19th century English Country Dance workshop.

Beginners welcome. No partners required.

Pre-registration Required. \$10

 **TORONTO Culture**
www.toronto.ca/culture


HISTORIC FORT YORK
THE BIRTHPLACE OF TORONTO