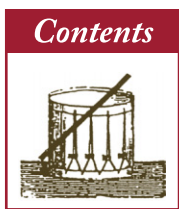


The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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Talking with John Patkau and Jonathan Kearns

by Kevin Plummer

While working on another proposal with Toronto's Kearns Mancini, John Patkau of Patkau Architects, Vancouver, suggested that the two firms submit a co-entry in last year's design competition for Fort York's long-awaited new Visitor Centre. The two firms were attracted to the project because it offered the opportunity to develop a site of national importance while rising to the design challenges of, in Kearns' words, "a peculiar site," nestled between rail lines, the Gardiner Expressway, and the unexplored archaeological resources of the Garrison Common.

The result of this collaboration--which was chosen as the winning design from an original field of thirty-one firms expressing interest--is a unique building that calls upon each firm's strengths: Jonathan Kearns' strength in working with and around heritage sites; and the Patkaus' strength in sensitively responding to landscape and the particularities of place.

Of Irish origin, Kearns immigrated to Canada after graduating from Ireland's National University School of Architecture in the mid-1970s. Since establishing Kearns Mancini Architects Inc. in 1981, Kearns has designed projects across the GTA, in Ireland, in Kuala Lumpur, and Sao Paulo. He's developed a solid reputation along the way for integrating contemporary design with heritage structures at the Senator O'Connor College School, incorporating a hundred-year-old structure into the expansion of George Brown College culinary school, and providing the founding vision for the Community

Care Consortium's redesign of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and its grounds. Kearns' reputation is such that even John Patkau acknowledges that Kearns has "greater sensitivity to history than most Canadians."

Weekend visits from Vancouver by John and Patricia Patkau allowed the collaboration to get underway. Design workshops were held in a conference room of the Kearns Mancini offices--located just across the tracks from the fort on Atlantic Avenue--where historical plans and maps were overlaid on the wall, showing all the ways history has affected the site, and allowing the architects to sketch ideas right onto the maps themselves. Then, the group would walk the actual site terrain.

Kearns says that from his experience with Ireland Park, a contemporary commemoration of Irish immigration to Toronto, on a salvaged site in the shadows of the Canada Malting Silos, he was well prepared for the Visitor Centre. There, as at Fort York, no heritage structures were in play but Ireland Park put Kearns in the right mindset to tackle Fort York as a contemporary site that connects visitors to a story

of the city's past. As with Ireland Park, Kearns sought to create a structure that brings out the story of the site in a sympathetic way.

And so they have created a contemporary building, meant to work within the existing landscape while easing the visitor's transition into the past. The building is one-hundred percent contemporary, incorporating state-of-the-art media technology to educate visitors and contextualize the



Visitor Centre drawing courtesy of Patkau/Kearns Mancini.

fort's significance. In "a nice inversion," Kearns notes, the building itself encompasses the transition from a lower, modern landscape to an upper archaeological landscape: from the modern streetscape to the interior exhibits, up through the Time Tunnel to boardwalks overlooking archaeological digs on the Common, and finally to the fort itself.



Visitor Centre drawing courtesy of Patkau/Kearns Mancini.

Over the course of their career, the Patkaus have been known for their keen understanding of the important relationship between architecture and landscape. The pair, both born and educated in Manitoba, formed Patkau Architects in 1978 (and moved the firm from Edmonton to Vancouver in 1984). In recent years they have undertaken major projects for universities in the U.S. and Canada as well as the Grande Bibliothèque in Montreal. The firm's international reputation was initially built on more modest-scaled libraries, cultural facilities--such as Waterloo's Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery--and private residences.

Although much of the Patkaus' previous work has been built in a suburban or rural context, Patkau notes that the constraints of the Visitor Centre site make it a natural fit for them as designers. Through award-winning projects like Barnes House (Nanaimo, BC) and the Seabird Island School (Agassiz, BC), Patkau Architects has long experience sensitively adapting architectural designs to the particularities of unconventional, irregular natural sites.

The Patkaus and Kearns realized early on, while experimenting with design possibilities, that building under the Gardiner would not work. Not wanting the Visitor Centre to clash with the fort, the design team also decided against a conventional building.

So they decided on a lower profile building, one that blended architecture and landscape into a cohesive whole. "We almost thought of the building," Kearns says, "as a piece of landscape architecture."

In doing so, they turned some of the challenges of the site into strengths of their design. This section of the Gardiner-- slated for refurbishment--is at the freeway's highest elevation, and provides, by Kearns' definition, "a cathedral quality of space" for a covered (and surprisingly quiet) urban space. The winning design, Patkau states, views the Garrison Common as a "powerful open space," reconfigured and reshaped from its present condition. The tree nursery is being relocated, Garrison Road will be moved, and the Common's current downward slope towards Fort York Boulevard will be reshaped. The Common will be enlarged to the edge of the expressway, where a new retaining wall gives a near vertical drop to the flattened space below the Gardiner.

The wall also provides an iconic public presence along the boulevard for the Visitor Centre. Using steel that oxidizes to deep soil-colouring, the wall echoes the fort's defensive character; but some steel slabs will be flipped up to provide openings into the Visitor Centre's exhibits, cafe, and public spaces.

In addition, the steel wall traces the former contours of the lakeshore along with

potential wetland features and pavement of recycled glass. Amid piers and terraces, grasses grown to three or four feet will sway in the wind, evoking memory of lapping waves--a sensation made stronger at night by the grass's illumination by the blue lights of the *Watertable* art installation under the expressway.

Beyond Fort York's important role as a heritage site or tourist venue, thinking about the building as landscape strengthens the site's new role as a community centre, neighbourhood park, and a crossroads of the city's growing network of bicycle trails. Looking beyond the present needs of a Visitor Centre, the Patkau/Kearns Mancini entry in the design competition is expandable. A courtyard will connect Fort York with the Armoury, expanding the stories the site can tell. By happy coincidence the Visitor Centre is well-sited to support whatever role the Armoury will have if the Department of National Defence leaves before its lease on the property runs out in 2031.

Kevin Plummer, who recently joined the Friends' Communications Committee, is a regular contributor to the Torontoist blog, and to Heritage Toronto's blog. He also has a day job.

Jeannie Butler

Besides serving on the board of the Friends of Fort York, Jeannie Butler was a standout volunteer with many other organizations who left a wide circle of people to mourn her death on 16 December 2009.

Among others the St. George's Society, Toronto Humane Society, Royal Conservatory of Music, Pollution Probe and National Ballet School benefited from her involvement. She joined the Friends board in 2000 and served until 2004, working mostly on the committee that organized the Georgian Mess Dinner.

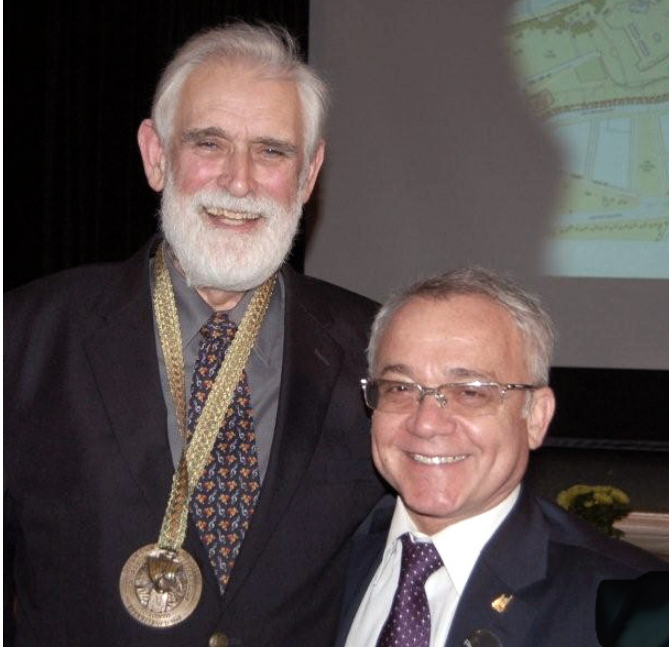
So infectious was her enthusiasm that for several years running she was able to persuade her mother to address invitations to the dinner by hand.

Our condolences go to Jeannie's family.



Arts and Letters Award for Joe Gill

by Scott James



Joe Gill wearing his Arts and Letters medal and Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone

A full house gathered in the Great Hall at 14 Elm Street on February 24 to witness the presentation of the Arts and Letters Award for 2010 to Joe Gill, Chair of the Friends of Fort York.

Granted each year by the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto to a non-member who has made a significant contribution to the arts, but who has not been fully recognized, the award consists of a fine bronze medal designed by club member Andrew Benyei, an honorarium, and free club membership for a year. Previous winners include Mary Lou Fallis (music), Rollo Myers (heritage preservation), and Albert Schultz (theatre).

This nomination was directly connected to Joe Gill's work over fifteen years in the promotion and preservation of the Fort York National Historic Site. His many achievements during these years were recounted in an introduction by landscape architect Bob Allsopp. Joe then spoke about the work of the Friends and the major project for which they are currently fundraising, a \$17m Visitor Centre scheduled to open in 2012 in time for the celebration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Also present in the audience were the architect, Jonathan Kearns, and the Chair of the Visitor Centre Steering Committee, Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone.

Joe Gill's speech was well received and after questions from the audience he was thanked by the Club's Chair of Architecture, George Hume. Club President Peter Large then presented the Award.

Scott James, now Archivist, Arts and Letters Club, was formerly City Archivist and Managing Director, Toronto Historical Board.

Sandford Fleming's Model Harbour

by Michael Moir

Sir Sandford Fleming (1827-1915) is remembered for accomplishments of sweeping scope and magnitude. His work as a surveyor laid much of the groundwork for a network of railways that stretched from Halifax to the Pacific Ocean, and his invention and promotion of universal time played a major role in standardizing timekeeping around the world. Fleming's remarkable career is also significant for contributions of a much smaller and more local scale. The Blue Barracks of Fort York holds an important artifact that commemorates Fleming's connection with Toronto's waterfront: a model of the western entrance to Toronto harbour built by the surveyor and engineer in 1850 to demonstrate that nature was quickly taking away the unrivalled advantage of a sheltered bay that had drawn John Graves Simcoe to establish a permanent settlement on its shore less than sixty years earlier.

Sandford Fleming left his native Scotland in April 1845 to pursue his livelihood as a surveyor in Canada West. He initially stayed with family in Peterborough before settling in Toronto in 1847. Part-time surveying work helped Fleming develop connections with the city's prominent engineers and architects, including John Howard, Kivas Tully, and Frederic Cumberland. The bulk of his income came from employment with Scobie and Balfour, printers and lithographers, and after 1848, much of Fleming's time was spent drawing and engraving the large topographical plan of Toronto published by Hugh Scobie in 1851. It was left to Fleming to fill in many of the details not included in initial surveys for the plan. His early diaries, which were edited by Jean Murray Cole and published by Natural Heritage Books in 2009, reveal a growing involvement with Toronto's waterfront. He surveyed the Garrison Reserve in July 1848, as well as sections of the lakeshore in early 1849. Work went on regardless of the season; in January 1850 Fleming was on skates, taking soundings through the ice covering the bay. By April he was attempting to track down a pamphlet on the harbour's development, the result of a curiosity that extended well beyond the requirements of mapmaking.

This time in Fleming's life was also marked by growing prominence within his professional community despite his relative youth (Fleming was in his early twenties during his years in Toronto). He was among a group of ten individuals who met in the office of Kivas Tully on 20 June 1849 to start an association of surveyors, engineers, and architects who would exchange ideas through scientific papers and discussion. This initiative became the Canadian Institute, and by March 1850 it had settled into a schedule of weekly meetings (now the Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Science). Sandford Fleming was a frequent speaker at its meetings, and on the evening of June 1, he spoke for nearly an hour on "Toronto Harbour – Its Formation and Preservation."

The text of his presentation was published in 1853-1854 in *The Canadian Journal: A Repertory of Industry, Science, and Art; and a Record of the Proceedings of the Canadian Institute*. Fleming attributed Toronto's prosperity "to the unequalled excellence of this harbour" at a time when waterborne transportation was essential for exporting staples and importing manufactured goods. An examination of old charts, however, revealed a serious problem: nature was quickly closing the harbour's only entrance. Wind and waves eroded the Scarborough Bluffs and lake currents carried the sediment westwards. The currents were slowed by the delta of the Don River, leading to the deposit of more than twelve hectares of sediment along the peninsula that bordered the harbour's southern edge since Joseph Bouchette's survey of 1792. About 8,410 cubic metres of sand were added to the shoal at the northern tip of the peninsula each year, reducing the navigable channel through the harbour's western entrance from 439 metres in 1792 to 110 metres in 1850.

Fleming discussed several potential solutions for nature's attack upon the commercial viability of Toronto harbour and its port, including a breakwater along the south edge of the entrance channel and revival of a proposition, first put forward in 1835, to construct an eastern entrance to the harbour (storms finally delivered this remedy in 1858 when the peninsula was permanently breached). His remarks were well received, and sparked much discussion. Buoyed by this interest, Fleming petitioned the City and the Toronto Board of Trade so that he could lay his concerns before those who could effect solutions to the harbour's problems. Council deferred the matter to its Committee on Wharves and Harbours, and when the Board of Trade called a special meeting to hear Fleming's views, only its secretary turned out. Fleming was ahead of his time. The harbour would be studied for several more decades before his breakwater was finally constructed, and a new Western Channel constructed in deeper water to provide a final solution to the steady northerly march of the sandy shoal.

The hydrological forces that challenged Fleming and other civil engineers are captured in his "Model of the Entrance to

Toronto Harbour, showing the Form and Position of the Shoal in 1850." This clay relief model, measuring approximately 44 by 52 centimetres, shows Garrison Creek, Fort York, and various structures in this vicinity, the Queen's Wharf (built in 1833 in an attempt to constrict and accelerate the water passing through the western entrance so that sediment would be scoured from the channel), and the tip of the peninsula edge to the south. Fleming added lines to indicate the northerly edge of the shoal in 1792, 1828, and 1835, as well as his

estimate of its location in 1865. Navigation through the channel would be impossible, cutting off Toronto from its connection to regional and international trading unless the groyne or breakwater was constructed as shown on the model.

Fleming's model won a diploma at the Provincial Exhibition in Montreal in October 1850, and he likely used it to good advantage during subsequent presentations on the preservation and improvement of Toronto harbour to the Canadian Institute in 1851. The following year, however, Fleming was appointed assistant engineer for the Ontario, Simcoe and Lake Huron Railway, and his attention turned from Toronto's waterfront to construction of a network of steel across the country. It is likely that his model and plans of the harbour were acquired around this time by the Harbour Trust, a permanent commission established in 1850 to ensure a safe and navigable harbour. The model then passed to the Toronto Harbour Commissioners until 1951, when it was borrowed by Dr. Walter Tovell, curator of geology at the Royal Ontario Museum, as work got underway to develop an exhibit explaining the development of Toronto's islands over the last 5,000 years.

Tovell credited Fleming as the first person to describe correctly the formation of the islands, and a replica of the model was a mainstay of the exhibit until its removal in 1980. The original model was returned to the Toronto Harbour Commissioners in 1954, where it remained until it was transferred to the Toronto Historical Board in the 1960s. It serves as an important reminder that while Fort York offered protection to Simcoe's "natural arsenal of Lake Ontario" from military invasion from the south, Toronto's prosperity needed defence from a much more relentless force: wind, waves, currents, and sediment from Scarborough's shoreline.



Sandford Fleming. Model of the Entrance to Toronto Harbour, 1850. (Courtesy of Christopher Baker, Exhibit Coordinator, Cultural Services)

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Administrator's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Administrator

Working with the Patkau/Kearns Mancini team, the design of the Visitor Centre is proceeding, with schematic design well underway. Another key step in the process was taken in late March when Reich + Petch Architects were selected as the consultants to undertake exhibit planning and design for the Visitor Centre. The exhibit planning and design, along with other component projects such as taking a closer look at retail and food service, will be advanced quickly in order to inform the design of the facility while still at the schematic phase.

Although funding for the Visitor Centre has been committed by both the City and the Federal government, all funds for the project have not been secured and staff continue to work closely with the Fort York Foundation in order to ensure that we are in a position to start construction by the end of 2010. Even though the bulk of the building will be constructed between 2011 and June of 2012, site servicing, archaeology, and additional site preparation components will likely be undertaken in late summer and fall of 2010.

Another capital project of note is the restoration of the south room of the South Soldiers' Barracks. Under the supervision of Senior Project Coordinator David Spittal, this room, which was used at one point as the Garrison School, has been fully restored and will be accessible to the public by mid-April. This work represents the first step towards removing modern uses from the original War of 1812 structures and making the space available for interpretation through new exhibits and programs.

The development of programs and events geared towards engaging visitors, leading up to the Bicentennial and beyond, also continues to be the focus of attention. We are extremely fortunate in being able to hire three new contract staff related to the Bicentennial. These positions, which include a fundraiser, an 1812 historian, and a Supervisor of Special Events, are expected to be filled within the next several weeks.

The Garrison Well at Fort York National Historic Site

by Chris Laverton

Reconstruction of the garrison well house, in the summer of 2007, required the dismantling of the 1957 stone well head, which had for so long been a lamentably anachronistic feature of Historic Fort York. Minor excavation of the soil around the well was required for the installation of the floor structure in order to allow the finished floor to be set at ground level. No more than ten inches of soil needed to be removed below existing grade, all of which was presumed to have already been disturbed during the excavation of the well when it was discovered and excavated in 1956 - and also during construction of the stone well head the following year. However, in the course of the 2007 excavation, the tops of flat stones were unexpectedly encountered, just at the limit of its lowest depth. These appeared to have been deliberately laid there.

After careful investigation, these stones proved to be to the distinct upper surface of a partial foundation wall. An expanded search soon revealed the presence of four mortared rubble-stone corner footings surrounding the well, which had once supported at least one historic well house. The top surface of the stone footings occurs at the top level of a stratigraphic layer clearly identified as dating to the 1830s period. The fact that the footings had been laid of coarse rubble-stone suggests an earlier, rather than later date of construction. In the earliest days of York, such stones were frequently collected for building construction from the beach along Lake Ontario. The footings were documented and left undisturbed for future investigation.

The finding presents some intriguing possibilities as to the construction of this well, the date of which has yet to be conclusively determined. The fact that the well house footings are not oriented in parallel with the south face of the 1815 Stone Magazine - and bear no apparent relationship to any of the surviving buildings - raises interesting interpretive questions. Is it possible that the footings had been laid relative to far earlier structures?

Unfortunately, minor outbuildings and structures such as Privies, Root Houses, and wells, etc., rarely appeared on Royal Engineer garrison plans, most surveyors being chiefly interested in illustrating the primary buildings,

and features directly related to defence. Even today such structures remain overlooked by architectural historians, which is unfortunate because - as it's sometimes said - "Small doors often lead into large rooms." This metaphor seems particularly apt in respect to the well at Fort York, and especially so in consideration of several surviving military documents. These offer strong circumstantial evidence to suggest that the well had been sunk far earlier than anyone has yet considered. In fact, the documents imply that this humble stone-lined hole in the ground today not only represents one of the earliest features at Fort York, but arguably one of the oldest surviving structures in Toronto, and can be counted amongst the earliest surviving British military structures in Ontario. (Second only, perhaps, to the 1796 Magazine at Fort George.)

Approximately 60 feet to the east of the well once stood the rear walls of the two wings of Government House, built between 1800 and 1802 as the vice-regal residence of the second lieutenant governor of Upper Canada, Lieutenant-General Peter Hunter. The building also served as the residence of Hunter's civil successor, Sir Francis Gore, and provincial administrators Sir Isaac Brock and Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe. Government House was substantially damaged as a result of the explosion of the Grand Magazine on 27 April 1813, and was subsequently looted by the occupying American troops. It was one of the public buildings ordered burned by General Henry Dearborn upon the departure of the U.S. Army on May 1. Remains of the building were discovered by archaeologists Donald Brown, Catherine Webb, and David Spittal during monitoring for various service line installations across the central Parade Ground in the late 1980s/early 1990s. Remains of the charred wooden floor and stone foundations were discovered and, amongst the many early small finds, were several pewter Queen's Rangers soldiers' buttons. Unfortunately, excavations on this important structure were limited due to the usual fiscal constraints, and no further investigation has since been carried out.

The woodframe vice-regal residence was erected upon the Military Reserve, just west of the garrison, amid the crumbling remnants of Simcoe's 1793 garrison, and on the site of the modern Fort York Parade Ground. It was built to present an imposing presence near the edge of the embankment of the Lake and must have commanded impressive views of it. From the outset, however, the project was plagued with difficulty. Heavy and prolonged spring

rains had delayed the excavation of the cellars and the laying of the stone foundation. This had forced Captain Robert Pilkington, of the Royal Engineer Department, to procure extra tradesmen. Pilkington kept Lt. General Hunter apprised of his progress - and the mounting cost overruns - through regular correspondence with Major James Green, Hunter's military secretary. Through Major Green, Hunter had evidently made his desire for "every convenience" clear to Pilkington. One of these conveniences had been a large fenced garden - located on the site of the 1815 Brick Officers' Barrack - and, evidently, a rather substantial stone well behind his residence.

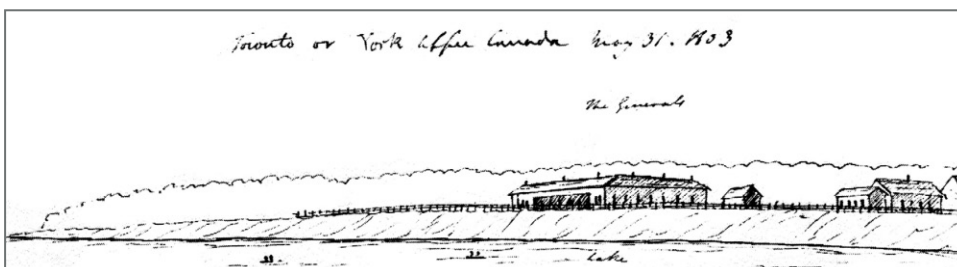
Several years ago, David Spittal located the first documentary evidence of a well having been sunk at Government House by July 1802. In the Archives of Ontario he found the pay lists for the civil and military artificers and labourers employed on the various Public Works at the garrison. One of the works on which some had been engaged was "Sinking and Walling up a Well and Erecting a Shade over it." This well was later mentioned in two surviving letters by Captain Æneas Shaw of the Queen's Rangers, and CO of the Garrison at York. With Hunter away at Quebec, Shaw had been posting letters to the Lt. General via Green. In the first letter, dated at York on 2 August 1802, Shaw mentions difficulties with the newly-completed well:

There are still doubts respecting the Quality of the Water in the Well at the General's Quarters. Lime and Salt have been put in it and after remaining a due time to dissolve [sic] the Water has been emptied out, but enough has not yet made in it, to say what has been the effect. If the Water is still found unpalatable I shall direct it to be emptied once or twice more, before the General returns.

Sunk to the underlying bedrock - at a depth of 24 feet - the water it produced was quite brackish. The following month, Shaw's letter to Green, dated 1 September, included an update on the well: "I am happy to be able to say that the Quality of the Water in the General's Well is greatly improved since last emptied."

The Fort York well is certainly exceptional amongst those found at any other British military site in Ontario, due to its sheer size - indeed it is described in later correspondence as "the Great Well at the Garrison." Having an external diameter of ten feet, with limestone "steining" two feet thick, it represents a significant engineering effort when one

considers that it was excavated and walled up entirely by hand. The sinking of wells was simply not a priority at British military posts, most of which were built on the shores of some body of fresh water or other. At the expense of fire safety, the army seemed quite content to keep its men occupied in hauling water from nearby lakes



Toronto or York Upper Canada, May 31, 1803 by Sempronious Stretton. (Courtesy of Library and Archives Canada C14822). The well had been sunk the summer before, but is obscured here by "The General's" house.

and rivers. Fort George, for example, did not have its first well sunk until 1807, eleven years after the establishment of that garrison.

Having been below ground, and of such substantial construction, the “General’s Well” could easily have survived the concussion from the explosion of the nearby Grand Magazine. Built into the embankment of the lakeshore, the principal force of the blast from the Magazine would have been directed upward and outward into the lake. When the garrison was reconstructed on the site of Government House, beginning in the summer of 1813, it would simply have made sense to incorporate this useful, extant feature into the new works, especially given the dire shortage of both civil and military artificers and the fact that, by necessity, the new defences were built in great haste, in anticipation of further attacks.

Though definitive proof remains elusive, in all probability the Fort York well is indeed “the General’s.” If so, one of the earliest surviving structures in Toronto, one of the few surviving features dating to the Battle of York, and the only visible reminder of one of the most important public buildings of early Upper Canada, has remained hidden in plain sight for over 50 years.

Chris Laverton, now with Cultural Affairs, worked as an interpreter at Fort York from 1983 to 1986.

A Portrait of John Graves Simcoe (1752–1806)

by Richard Gerrard

The gift to the Friends of Fort York of Charles Pachter’s giclée portrait of John Graves Simcoe in 2008 made me begin to think about the thirty Simcoe likenesses I’ve seen, as prints, in watercolour and oil, and as medals and statues. Three of these are generally accepted to be rendered accurately, at three significant moments during his life.

The earliest portrait was commissioned when Simcoe was in his early 20s from the English painter William Pars (1742-1782). It depicts him as an ensign in the 35th Regiment of Foot and may have been painted to document his appointment, or just prior to the Regiment’s dispatch to America in 1775. The next, and with the strongest ties to Toronto, is the Queen’s Rangers portrait by the French painter Jean Laurent Mosnier (1743-1808). Commissioned in 1791, it celebrates Simcoe’s appointment as the first lieutenant governor of Upper Canada. Both of these are well documented in the Christie’s auction of paintings from Wolford Lodge, the Simcoe home in Devon, in 1922. Both were purchased by the same dealer (Frank Sabin), sold to the same client (Robert Harmsworth), and ultimately donated by him to two separate Toronto collections (University of Toronto and the Toronto Public Library).



Portrait of John Graves Simcoe, 1791, by Jean Laurent Mosnier. (Courtesy of Toronto Public Library)

The final work, and the subject of this essay, is intriguing because all of us know it, yet few, if any, of us have laid eyes on it. It is a miniature now in the collection of the McCord Museum in Montreal, with Simcoe shown in the scarlet uniform of a lieutenant-general. In 1796, he was given this as a local rank when he was governor of St. Domingo (Haiti); the rank was confirmed in the British Army in 1798. Given this sequence the anonymous miniature must have been commissioned sometime close to the latter date.

At this point the miniature (and the likeness) begins to take on an interesting life of its own. In a letter dated 18 April 1812, the English sculptor John Flaxman (1755-1826) acknowledges receipt of a miniature allowing him to complete Simcoe’s monument in Exeter Cathedral. Flaxman uses this image for the central portrait in the memorial. The miniature appears again in the possession of the Toronto historian and Simcoe family friend, the Reverend Henry Scadding (1813-1901). We know this because George Theodore Berthon (1806-1892) used it as the basis for his *Portrait of John Graves Simcoe in General Officer’s Uniform*, painted in 1881 for the Government of Ontario Art Collection. John Wycliffe Lowes Forster (1850-1938) and Edmund Wyly Grier (1862-1957) both used it for their oil portrait interpretations of the heroic Simcoe. This image inspired a lithograph attributed to the American engraver Henry Howe (1816-1893) in 1880 and an engraving by the American Bank Note Company in 1890. The *1892 Upper Canada Centennial Commemorative Medal*, created by the Toronto medallists Ellis Company, utilizes it as the quintessential Simcoe likeness, as does

Walter Seymour Allward's (1876-1955) bronze sculpture in Queen's Park, unveiled in 1903. The miniature eventually enters the collection of the famous Canadiana collector and dealer John L. Russell (died in 2003) who sold it to the McCord Museum in 1966. Another "red Simcoe" by William Cruickshank (1849-1922) in the collection of the York Club in Toronto is a more imaginative than historical vision of the general and is ultimately unrelated to the progression of likenesses based on the miniature.



Portrait of Lieutenant-General John Graves Simcoe (1752-1806), circa 1796-8, Anonymous. (Courtesy of McCord Museum).

This sea of red Simcoes does beg the question: why does the post-Upper Canada likeness come to dominate our visual landscape and not the green Queen's Rangers likeness by Mosnier? I think the answer is simple. It was available. Scadding had the miniature in Toronto, and the scarlet uniform resonated with the popular belief of what he should have been wearing. The Mosnier portrait does not emerge from Simcoe's descendants until Christie's 1922 sale and only arrives in Toronto in 1927.

Throughout this essay I've referred to the Scadding-Russell-McCord miniature as the primary source image for all these later derivative works. But was there a life-sized oil painting contemporary with the miniature? I believe it existed and may still exist, unidentified in a public or private collection. I have three reasons. First, the Mosnier portrait is known in both the life-sized oil and as a contemporary miniature. If Simcoe had his appointment as lieutenant governor of Upper Canada commemorated with both an oil and a miniature, why wouldn't he do this for his more prestigious appointment as lieutenant-general as well? Second, the collection at Woford Lodge was broken up at least twice as Simcoe's estate is divided over time. Objects have continued to come to the market from descendants as late as the 1990s, and others may have been sold privately. Finally, in a clipping from the *Toronto Telegram* regarding the auction of the contents of Woford Lodge in 1922, there is a note regarding the sale of two family portraits of Simcoe, one at age 21 (certainly the Pars portrait) and another in a scarlet uniform circa 1800. The Pars portrait is listed in the Christie's catalogue; the other is not. The search continues.

Currently the Registrar, Museum Services, City of Toronto, Richard Gerrard began his association with Fort York more than twenty years ago as the material culture specialist in the Fort York Archaeology lab. His (unhealthy) obsession with all things Simcoe is only a few years old.



FRIENDS OF FORT YORK ANNUAL GEORGIAN MESS DINNER

The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common cordially invite you to attend our TWELFTH Annual Georgian Mess Dinner at Historic Fort York in the Blue Barracks on Thursday, 10 June 2010.

An authentic Georgian Dinner has been created, based on research by our team of Bridget Wranich, the Volunteer Historic Cooks of Fort York, and our caterer, Berkley Hospitality, to ensure that you will enjoy a formal Officers' Mess dinner as it would have been in 1813. The Dinner is a fundraising event of the Friends in support of the Fort York Drums, a volunteer student group wearing the uniform of the Company of Canadian Fencibles that served at the fort during the War of 1812. A formal notice of the Dinner will be mailed in April. The cost remains the same as previous years, \$175 per person. A tax receipt for the maximum allowable amount will be issued. To be sure that your name is on our mailing list for this popular event please e-mail us at <fofy@sympatico.ca> and include your postal address.

Dress for the occasion is:

Period costumes, Military uniforms, Masquerade costume (as worn in 1813!), Black Tie, Business attire.

2010 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Richard Haynes, Site Co-ordinator at Fort York

APRIL

Historic Tea and Cake Tasting

Sun. April 11, 1 to 3 pm

Come and taste historic cakes from Fort York's kitchen.

Pre-registration required (416) 392-6907 ext. 100

Annual Spring Cleanup

Sat. April 24, 10 am to noon

Join local volunteers for a general cleanup of the Fort's heritage neighbourhood.

Battle of York Commemoration

Sun. April 25, 10 am to 5 pm

Join us for the 197th anniversary of Toronto's most traumatic day. Special tours, kids' drill, Battlefield walking tour.

Regular admission

Newfoundland Commemoration of the Battle of York Victoria Memorial Square

Sun. April 25, 1 pm

The Old Comrades Association of the 48th Highlanders, wearing uniforms of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, will place a wreath at the monument in Victoria Memorial Square in honour of those Newfoundlanders who fought in the Battle of York, April 1813

All are welcome

MAY

Fort York Historic District Walking Tour (in association with Jane's Walks) "200 Years of Lakefront Development"

Sun. May 2, 1 to 2:30 pm

Explore the history and evolution of Fort York, the Garrison Common, and the nearby Lake Ontario shoreline from the early British colonial era to the present day. Learn about the origins of the Fort, the fortification of the harbour, and the subsequent transportation, industrial, and recreational development of this vital area. Participants are welcome to visit Fort York following the tour.

Free admission

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride

Mon. May 17, 1:30 pm

As part of their 2010 tour schedule the RCMP will perform their exciting precision ride on the historic grounds of Fort York National Historic Site.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have an important historic link to Fort York and Toronto's military heritage. In 1873, some of the very first recruits of the RCMP's antecedent unit, the North West Mounted Police (NWMP), assembled and trained at the nearby New Fort or Stanley Barracks (Fort York's replacement) before heading to Canada's west.

Because of the popularity of this event, it is recommended that guests arrive at the site early.

Free admission

Victoria Day

Mon. May 24, 10 am to 4 pm

What better way to celebrate Victoria Day than to visit the birthplace of modern Toronto. Fort York National Historic Site, opened as a museum on Victoria Day 1934, tells the story of Toronto's turbulent military

past. Visitors can take a guided tour as well as visit a wide range of colourful and interesting exhibits. Costumed staff and volunteers will be demonstrating cooking in the 1826 historic kitchen and kids can take a drill class with a real soldier from the War of 1812. Bring a picnic and enjoy the beautiful grounds of this historic treasure. Audio tours are also available.

Regular admission

Doors Open Toronto

Sat. and Sun. May 29 and 30, 10 am to 5 pm both days

Fort York opens its doors all weekend as part of Toronto's annual celebration. Take advantage of the special tours of Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings and some of Toronto's oldest architecture. View the many exhibits within the historic buildings, or walk the ramparts of this national treasure. A special feature this year will be the results of a bateau building project in conjunction with Scouts Canada.

Free admission all weekend

Sunday Only, 1 to 2:30 pm:

A Special Doors Open Fort York Historic District Walking Tour

"Fort York and the Garrison Common: Battlefields, Graves and Urban Development"

Starting at the canteen at Fort York this special walking tour explores the evolution of Fort York's Garrison Common area. This almost forgotten corner of the city has witnessed some of the most dramatic events as well as substantial change in the evolution of modern urban Toronto. Rain or shine.

Free admission all weekend

JUNE

Friends of Fort York

Thurs. June 10

Annual Fundraising Georgian Mess Dinner held by the Friends in support of the Fort York Guard and Drums.

Ontario Model Soldier Society Show

Sat. June 12, 10 am to 5 pm

All ages will enjoy Fort York National Historic Site as it hosts the Ontario Model Soldier Society's 48th annual show and competition. During the day there will be demonstrations of casting and painting, as well as displays of connoisseur figures, dioramas, and tableaux of more than a thousand pieces. Come down to the Fort just to browse or possibly to pick up a souvenir. Many vendors will be offering toy soldiers for sale.

Regular admission

Fort York Bike Tour: "Tour de Forts"

Sun. June 19, 1 to 2:30 pm

Enjoy a bike tour of Toronto's forgotten French Forts, from Etienne Brûlé Park, down the scenic Humber Bike trail, to Fort Rouillé, and ending at Fort York. Meet outside the Old Mill subway station at 1 pm. This tour has a moderate difficulty.

Admission for the tour and to Fort York is free

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

 **HISTORIC FORT YORK**
THE BIRTHPLACE OF TORONTO

Regular admission to Fort York: Adult: \$8.76, Senior (65+) & Youth (13 - 18 yrs.): \$4,
Children: \$3, (all prices include GST and PST, where applicable)

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