

# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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## For King and Country: WW I and the Mayors of Toronto

by Victor Russell

The declaration of war in early August 1914 was not a surprise to Torontonians. The newspapers had warned of the possibility for months and throughout that summer residents paid close attention to events in Europe. Indeed, on the Civic Holiday of 3 August 1914 thousands gathered at newspaper offices for the latest news when they could have been at a city park or enjoying an excursion to the Toronto Islands. A few days later, the *Toronto Star* reported sales of 100,000 copies of its *Extra* edition containing the news that on 4 August 1914 Great Britain had declared war on Germany and that perforce, Canada was at war.

Within days, officials in Ottawa announced that an expeditionary force of volunteers would be assembled at Valcartier military camp north of Quebec City. Thousands from across Canada, having anticipated war, headed there immediately. From Toronto, men from numerous militia units readily joined the trek, including officers and men from the Queen's Own Rifles, the 10th Royal Grenadiers, the Governor General's Body Guard, and the 48th Highlanders. In just a month a Canadian Expeditionary Force of some 30,000 men left for England, arriving at Salisbury Plain in October 1914.

During the Great War, Toronto was the command centre for Military District No. 2 and grew to resemble a military camp. Throughout the conflict, no other local public figure became as closely related to home front activities as did Mayor Tommy Church. He reportedly appeared at every recruiting event and bond rally held in the city. It was also said he was at the station for the departure of every troop train, earning him the nickname "the Soldier's Friend."

Over the next four years, Mayor Church headed a City Council that readily supported all manner of home front efforts. Council approved grants to private charitable organizations such as the Canadian Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross. As expected, most public properties were occupied by the



Thomas Langton Church (1870-1950), mayor of Toronto 1915-1921, seen here on the right striking a jaunty pose, attended hundreds of recruiting rallies throughout the war. At this one in summer 1916, at City Hall, Hon. Capt. the Rev. John D'ole Morrow appeals for men to join the 180th Battalion (Sportsmen Battalion) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. (Credit: City of Toronto Archives, William James Collection, Fonds 1244, item 721)

military, including city parks, Stanley Barracks, the Exhibition grounds, and the University. Even the little used "Old" Fort York was outfitted to house the ever expanding Canadian Ordnance Corps. Then, as the need for more properties grew, Council waived taxes, fees, and water rates on the many privately owned buildings occupied by the military. Councillors approved a Soldiers Insurance program that provided \$1000 of life insurance for Torontonians serving overseas. City employees were then encouraged to enlist and a program was instituted whereby the city would make up the difference between their city salary and soldier's pay. Among the most visible activities were the recruiting events and parades that would result in the voluntary enlistment for overseas duty of more than 60,000 men in various services and some 3000 women, most in the Canadian Army Medical Corps.



Lieutenant George Reginald Geary (1873-1954), mayor of Toronto 1910-1912, a senior member of the Ontario Bar, was forty-one years old and lacked military experience when he joined the staff of the 35th Battalion, CEF, as the junior officer. Seen here on the right, he is watching field manoeuvres with his fellow officers (l. to r.) Lt. Col. Frank C. McCordick, Major Reginald Pellatt, and Captain Walter Gow before their unit went overseas in 1915. (Credit: City of Toronto Archives, William James Collection, Fonds 1244, item 2582)

Three of these recruits would serve as mayor of Toronto. Surprisingly, George Reginald Geary enlisted after his mayoral terms. A member of the social and political elite, the forty-one-year-old bachelor had been in civic politics since 1904 and was elected mayor in 1910, 1911, and 1912. Geary was a renowned barrister and the city's Corporation Counsel when he joined the 35th Battalion as assistant adjutant in April 1915. Lieutenant Geary went overseas in October 1915 and when the 35th was designated a reserve battalion, he was made captain and reassigned to the 58th Battalion. By February 1918 Geary had been promoted major and awarded the Military Cross and the Legion of Honour. Major Geary was with the 58th when the battalion marched through the streets of Toronto in a tumultuous welcome home parade in March 1919.

Also among the volunteers was a young journalist named Bert Sterling Wemp who would be elected mayor in 1930. He had started his career with the *Toronto Telegram* in 1905 as a copy boy and by the beginning of the war the twenty-five-year-old was a city hall reporter. He was also an amateur aviator and was the first Canadian to be accepted by the Royal Naval Air Service as a pilot. After training at the Curtiss School at Long Branch, he went overseas and flew numerous missions over the North Sea. In April 1918 Wemp participated in the raid on Zeebrugge, Belgium. Rising to the rank of major, he was involved in the training of pilots and served as commander of the RAF 218th Squadron. Awarded the Croix de Guerre and the rank of chevalier in the Order of Léopold (Belgium), Major Bert Wemp was given the Distinguished Flying Cross by the Prince of Wales on the Royal Visit to Toronto in 1919.



Bert Sterling Wemp (1889-1976), mayor of Toronto 1930, photographed as a flight sub-lieutenant at Redcar, England, 1917. Redcar in northeast Yorkshire was the staging area for the Royal Naval Air Service, North Atlantic patrols. (Photo courtesy of his grandson Bruce Skeaff. A copy is also available in the Wemp Scrapbook, City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1079)

Corporal Ralph Carrette Day (1898-1976), mayor of Toronto 1938-1940, of the 169th Battalion. Eager like many other young men to be part of the fray, he enlisted nine months before his eighteenth birthday. (Photo courtesy of his daughter Marie Day)



Another mayor, Ralph Carrette Day, was attending Riverdale Collegiate Institute in February 1916 when he left school and, misrepresenting his age, enlisted in the 169th Battalion. Upon his arrival in England, Private Day was transferred to the 116th Battalion and was involved in numerous actions in France including Vimy. Promoted sergeant, he was wounded in July 1917 at Avion and spent nine months in hospital. Attached afterward to the 8th Reserve Battalion as an instructor, Day earned a commission as lieutenant.

The story of one other mayor deserves recounting. Horatio Hocken had been on City Council and Board of Control since 1907 and was elected mayor in 1912, 1913, and 1914. In October 1918 he learned in a letter from a former council colleague, Major George R. Geary, that his twenty-four-year-old son, Richard Henry Hocken, had been killed in action. Before the war, Richard had worked in his father's printing business and was a member of the 9th Toronto Light Horse (9th Mississauga Horse), a local mounted militia unit. In 1916 young Hocken enlisted in the Canadian Light Horse (CLH) and went overseas attached to the 170th Battalion. During the Canadian Corps's "100 Days" offensive, Hocken and the CLH participated in the 2nd Canadian Division's actions in and around the Canal du Nord and Cambrai. At one point the CLH were ordered to spearhead an assault on enemy positions near Iwuy, France. Official reports recorded that Lieutenant Hocken "was killed instantly by enemy machine gun fire when galloping for the ridge." Today, the assault on Iwuy is remembered as the last cavalry charge in Canadian military history.

Hundreds of other "city men" saw action in the First World War. Among elected officials were Alderman Alfred E. Burgess who went overseas with the 204th Battalion and won the Military Medal and Joseph E. Thompson, a member of the Board of Control who served as a captain in the 208th

(Irish Canadians.) Similarly, hundreds of civic employees stepped up to serve. The Works Department alone had more than two hundred employees in uniform. For example, Oliver Lorne Cameron, a captain in the 54th Battalion, was an engineer in the Waterworks Department who enlisted in April 1916, married school teacher Gertrude McCullough on 8 February 1917, and was killed in action on 10 August 1918 near Amiens. Then there is Lt. Col. George G. Nasmith from the Health Department who joined the Army Medical Corps as a sanitation expert and was present at Ypres when the first chlorine gas attack occurred. Quickly able to identify the type of gas, Nasmith proposed a first generation gas mask.

On a plaque in the foyer of Old City Hall is a list of more than one hundred civic employees killed in action in the Great War. Of the men who served as mayor, all three survived and had lengthy public careers. Geary resumed his position as

Corporation Counsel and from 1925 to 1935 was elected a Toronto MP, acting briefly as minister of justice and attorney general. Bert S. Wemp, a member of Council through the 1920s, was elected mayor in 1930. The following year he became city editor for the *Telegram*. During WW II, Wemp was on the front lines as a war correspondent and afterward was made OBE. Ralph Day, first elected to the Board of Education in 1928, served as alderman through the 1930s and mayor in 1938, 1939, and 1940. From 1953 to 1962 he was the chairman of the Toronto Parking Authority and in 1963 he was appointed to the Toronto Transit Commission, also serving as chairman.

*Victor Russell is the former manager of the City of Toronto Archives and the author of a number of books and articles on the history of Toronto.*

## *New Light on Toronto's Oldest Cold Case*

*by Eamonn O'Keeffe*



*All three buildings that enter into Radelmüller's tragic story can be seen in this detail from Robert Irvine's View of York, painted only a year or so after the lighthouse keeper's death. There's the stone tower itself, the keeper's cottage on the left edge, and the Gibraltar Point blockhouse in the distance. (Credit: Art Gallery of Ontario, ID 2946, Gift of the descendants of the late Mrs. Stephen Heward)*

Halifax in 1799. He later served as a steward for Sir John Wentworth, lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia. But wishing to “redire [sic] a little before I die” the aging Radelmüller quit after two years and sought a land grant in Upper Canada, arriving at York on New Year's Day 1804.

The murder of John Paul Radelmüller is one of Toronto's oldest mysteries and the city's most enduring ghost story. His restless apparition supposedly haunts the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse on Toronto Island seeking justice for a long-ago crime.

Most who grew up in Toronto can recall the tale of the first lighthouse keeper's demise. On the evening of 2 January 1815 soldiers from Fort York paid Radelmüller a visit for his bootlegged beer, sold by the keeper to supplement his modest income. A dispute broke out, quickly escalated, and Radelmüller was murdered. The drunken soldiers, anxious to hide their crime, dismembered the corpse and concealed his remains near the lighthouse.

A dramatic story, but is it true? Newspaper publisher and historian John Ross Robertson was the first to record the legend, nearly a century later in *Landmarks of Toronto*, as recounted to him by long-time lighthouse keeper George Durnan. But Robertson himself harboured doubts and suspected the whole yarn was a “fairy tale”. Though Durnan claimed to have discovered fragments of a coffin and part of a jawbone near the lighthouse in 1893, it was impossible to prove a link with his unfortunate predecessor.

Much ink has been spilled on the case since, serving more to embellish an urban myth than to ascertain its veracity. This article aims to establish the story of Radelmüller's death as history, not hearsay. His ghost may or may not haunt the thirteenth step of the lighthouse stairs but the fundamental details of the legend are fact, not fable.

Born in Anspach, in modern-day Bavaria, circa 1763, John Paul Radelmüller had brown hair, blue eyes, and stood 5'10". He immigrated to England as a young man, serving for sixteen years as chamber hussar to George III's brother, Prince William Henry, Duke of Gloucester. After a brief return to Anspach, Radelmüller rejoined the royal household as a porter of Prince Edward, the Duke of Kent and future father of Queen Victoria, accompanying him to

But events did not go according to plan and his requests for Crown Reserve land in Markham, amongst fellow German settlers, were denied. Radelmüller instead established a school to teach English to their children and served as an interpreter for the German community in Upper Canada. In June 1809 he was appointed the first keeper of the lighthouse on Gibraltar Point.

John Paul Radelmüller married a young German woman named Magdalene Burkholder in 1810 and had one daughter, Arabella. He served at the lighthouse throughout the War of 1812, keeping watch for approaching vessels and maintaining the sperm whale oil lamp. Far from the unscrupulous bootlegger of myth, this former servant of royalty was well-regarded for his “inoffensive and benevolent character”. But whatever his personality, Radelmüller’s life came to a tragic end on 2 January 1815.

On 14 January the weekly *York Gazette* brought news of the “horrid crime” noting that the circumstances afforded “every moral proof” of Radelmüller’s “most barbarous and inhuman” murder. The notice added: “The parties last with him are the supposed perpetrators and are imprisoned.”

But who were the alleged killers? According to court minute books John “Blowman” and John Henry were indicted for murder on 31 March with Chief Justice Thomas Scott presiding. Regimental pay lists prove that the accused were indeed soldiers: John Blueman

and John Henry, both of the Glengarry Light Infantry, a unit that saw heavy action during the War of 1812. These men were not, however, the redcoats of myth; the regiment wore green uniforms modeled on those of the celebrated 95th Rifles.

Irish-born Blueman joined the Glengarries first, enlisting for three years on 9 March 1812. He served in the war’s bitter Niagara campaign and probably fought at the Battle of Fort George in May 1813.

Henry, by contrast, was a comparatively new recruit who probably never saw action; he was attested on 6 July 1814 at Montreal for three years’ service. A sailor born in Antrim, Ireland, Henry was eighteen years old at enlistment. He had blue eyes, brown hair, a fair complexion, and stood 5’4” in height.

At the time of the alleged murder Blueman and Henry may have been posted at the lonely blockhouse on Gibraltar Point which guarded entry to York’s harbour. Robertson claimed that the small detachment garrisoned there often visited the keeper for a drink. The men stationed at this isolated post

enjoyed much less supervision than their counterparts across the harbour at Fort York, and were just over a mile’s walk along the sandbar from Radelmüller’s beer keg.

In the dock Blueman and Henry pleaded not guilty. The prosecution called seven witnesses, including David Thomson, a forefather of the Thomson media family and a mason who helped rebuild Fort York in 1815. Coroner Thomas Cooper also testified, filling in for his businessman father William, the official coroner for the Home District. At least three, and probably four of the other Crown witnesses were privates of the Glengarry Light Infantry, probably summoned to give evidence on the actions or whereabouts of Blueman and Henry on 2 January.

Unfortunately, history has not graced us with the proceedings of the trial, only the outcome: both men were acquitted of

murder. Perhaps innocence was proven, or mitigating circumstances established; there may simply have been insufficient evidence to secure a guilty verdict. On 15 April the *York Gazette* announced: “No conviction of the supposed murderers of the late J.P. Raddelmuller.”

Many of the details surrounding the keeper’s demise will forever be left to the imagination. Whether Magdalene and Arabella were present that evening, for example, is unknown, though his widow did not testify at the trial. The death of a foreign-born lighthouse keeper across



*A keeper's cottage, completed in 1809, stood next to the lighthouse tower. It may have been where Radelmüller met his death. Although a larger residence replaced it in the 1830s, the cottage stood until the mid-20th century when it was demolished. (Credit: Toronto Public Library, Baillie Room, No. B 13-79)*

the harbour apparently merited scant attention from the people of York. Little correspondence has been found discussing the case; even the usually comprehensive diarist Ely Playter fails to mention the murder. Though writing a century later, Robertson provides the only account of the night’s events. Whether, as he described, Radelmüller was actually beaten to death after refusing to give the inebriated soldiers another round will probably never be confirmed. However, the corroboration of many facets of Robertson’s story by surviving evidence certainly bodes well for the overall accuracy of the tale related to him by Durnan.

Neither contemporary documents nor Robertson’s account discuss the precise location of the murder. Spine-chilling stories of blood oozing from the thirteenth step notwithstanding, Radelmüller would surely have hosted the soldiers in his keeper’s cottage, not in the lighthouse’s cramped staircase. Constructed alongside the lighthouse in 1809, this cozy cabin—a more likely setting for the night’s events—stood until about 1950.

Although investigation has supported much of the traditional legend, rumours of the gruesome fate of Radelmüller's corpse appear completely unfounded. While a missing body makes for a better ghost story, no sources describe the killers mutilating and concealing the keeper's remains, or even claim that Radelmüller disappeared at all. In fact, contemporary reports note his "unfortunate death" without displaying any of the uncertainty that would inevitably arise in the absence of a body. A close reading of Robertson's account provides the final nail in the coffin, so to speak, implying that Radelmüller's corpse was respectfully buried, not hacked to pieces and scattered. The discovery of coffin fragments alongside a jawbone in 1893, if indeed linked to Radelmüller, would support such a conclusion, but does not tally with a hasty burial by fugitive killers. Contrary to oft-repeated claims that the keeper was "never seen again" all evidence suggests that Radelmüller's body did not vanish in the first place, but was found, examined by the coroner, and laid to rest near the lighthouse.

Blueman and Henry had escaped the death penalty but neither remained in the army for long. Blueman, his term of enlistment complete, was discharged on 28 April 1815, while Henry deserted from the Glengarry Light Infantry on 30 June. Like many former soldiers Blueman received a location ticket in 1816 for 100 acres in Sophiasburgh, Prince Edward County, as a reward for his

service. He never settled there permanently but later had second thoughts; his 1830 petition for another land grant was approved, though no lot was ever assigned to Blueman.

In 1816 John Paul Radelmüller's widow and brother-in-law, Michael Burkholder, secured title for 200 acres in Reach Township in trust for Arabella, in posthumous fulfillment of her father's 1805 land petition. Just four or five years old at her father's murder, Arabella grew up, married, and had seven children before her own death in 1844, aged 34.

The story of John Paul Radelmüller's unfortunate demise has become one of Toronto's most cherished myths. The tale has no doubt been "garnished in the telling" as Robertson warned, but nonetheless remains firmly rooted in fact. We may never know precisely how Radelmüller gave up the ghost on 2 January 1815, nor whether that ghost still haunts the Gibraltar Point lighthouse. But perhaps it does—if not in search of its dismembered corpse, then at least in pursuit of its pilfered jawbone!

*Eamonn O'Keeffe currently serves as drum major of the Fort York Guard, having volunteered and worked in the site's fife and drum corps for a decade. When not leading daily summer demonstrations at the fort he studies at Merton College, Oxford, the alma mater of John Graves Simcoe.*

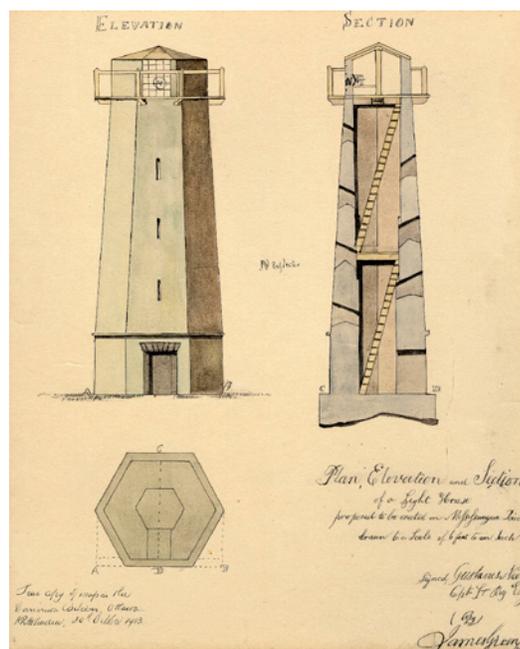
## The Gibraltar Point Lighthouse

by Stephen Otto

The lighthouse at Gibraltar Point on Toronto Island, the second oldest such structure in Canada after Halifax's Sambro Light, has guarded York's harbour since 1808. It is arguably Toronto's earliest building on its original site, outranking even the Scadding Cabin which was moved to the Exhibition grounds in 1879, and other less well documented contenders.

Authorized with two other lighthouses by an act of the legislature of Upper Canada in 1803, it was preceded by a tower on Mississauga Point at the mouth of the Niagara River built in 1804. The light on Gibraltar Point may have been designed by Capt. Henry Vigoreaux of the Royal Engineers, who was based in Niagara at Fort George. In early 1808 he was instructed by Lieutenant-Governor Francis Gore to gather the men and materials needed for building. William Allan of York was appointed commissioner to keep the accounts and act as paymaster. Limestone for the walls came from Queenston, brought over on vessels like the Royal Navy's *Earl of Moira*; lime came from Niagara too; and work went ahead using artificers from the 41st Regiment and local builders like William Smith and his son-in-law, John Thomson, one of York's numerous Thomson clan. Ship's Captain Joseph Kendrick of York also played a part by freighting lime from Niagara and supplying ropes, tackle, and services when they were needed to build the upper stages and gallery.

At its full height the Gibraltar Point tower stood originally 65 feet above the ground to the gallery level; another 15 feet was added to it in 1832. It was lit for the first time in August 1809 following the appointment of John Paul Radelmüller as its keeper on 24 June 1809.



The Mississauga Light at Niagara, designed by Capt. Gustavus Nicolls, R.E., in 1804, stood for only a decade before coming down to make way for Fort Mississauga. No similar plan survives for the Gibraltar Point tower. (Credit: Toronto Public Library, Baillie Room, JRR 202 Cab II)

## *What The Friends of Fort York Do: Our Accomplishments for 2015*

- held ten monthly meetings of our board. Also, one or more directors attended each public event and function at the fort.
  - met regularly with our eleven member Precinct Advisory Committee (PAC), a majority of whom are private sector planning and design professionals rather than members of our board.
  - hired a summer student with grants from the George C. Metcalf Foundation to work under the close supervision of three PAC members compiling and combining electronic data banks covering the fort and its nearby precinct. Ryerson University's Dept. of Architectural Sciences provided the student with a workstation.
  - on behalf of The Friends and our PAC met with Chief Planner Jennifer Keesmaat and her Community Planning staff to discuss issues of common interest such as the Bathurst bridge, future plans for highly-polluted lands at 28 Bathurst, development and renaming of Mouth of the Creek Park.
  - other board committees looked after Special Events and the Guard. Under consideration were Neighbourhoods and Fundraising committees. Directors sit also on the FY Citizenship Committee.
  - for the seventh year in a row sponsored two ceremonies in partnership with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, fort staff, and Fort York Citizenship Committee where ninety people became citizens as their families and friends looked on. Following the ceremonies West Neighbourhood House and the fort's volunteer bakers offered everyone a delicious buffet lunch.
  - funded the largest component of the cost of the Fort York Guard and Drum Corps of nineteen students. CIBC and the City of Toronto also provided support. In addition to its outstanding presence at Fort York, the Guard performed at Fort George, winning recognition as best drill unit and firing a perfect volley.
  - drew down \$50,000 from the segregated investment account we established in 2014 to provide funding for the operation of the Guard. At the year end the investment account remained above the initial capital contribution. Strong investment returns in the first half of 2015 prompted a withdrawal from equities into money-market vehicles.
  - published five issues of *Fife & Drum*, four regular quarterly numbers and one special to mark the announcement of *Project: Under Gardiner*, and construction of a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the railways to link the Garrison Common and South Stanley Park extension.
  - worked diligently in the Reserach Centre to incorporate five boxes of retired archaeologist David Spittal's reports, photographs, and papers into our collection. The materials represent an amazingly rich resource for fort-related research. We continue to add new books and other pertinent sources.
  - invited our members to a reception to view and learn about Magna Carta. Tickets were priced advantageously after a generous donor picked up the lecturer's fee, and the Muskoka Brewery donated refreshments.
  - convened a dinner for all present and past directors of The Friends on a cost-recovery basis, preceded by a viewing of *The Art of Command*, a special exhibit in the Visitor Centre of portraits by Gertrude Kearns.
  - acted to avert an OMB hearing by finding sponsors for a Heritage Toronto plaque to recognize the Immigrant Sheds that stood on Strachan Ave. at the CP rail corridor in the late 19th century.
  - served as the formal client for a visioning project on the Wellington Street Destructor by graduate students in planning at Ryerson University under Prof. Pamela Robinson.
  - updated our website to a more current platform which will support its continued growth, enhance the site's ease of use, and broaden capabilities.
  - welcomed Jennifer Chan as a new director of The Friends; saw Ceta Ramkhalawansingh return from a leave-of-absence sitting as an appointed councillor for Ward 20 in place of Adam Vaughan; and thanked Peter Zimmerman and Marc Nufrio for their service on the board as it came to an end.
- For comparison, our accomplishments for 1994-2014 can be found on our website <http://www.fortyork.ca/about-us/our-accomplishments.html>

News From

# The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

## Manager's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Manager

While it was an honour having the Magna Carta and Charter of the Forest on site at Fort York, it was certainly a relief to all when we reached the end of a very busy exhibition stretch and we knew the documents were safely en route to Winnipeg.

More than 13,000 visitors came to see *Magna Carta: Law, Liberty & Legacy* and its companion exhibition, *Rights, Justice & Democracy: Toronto Perspectives*. Successfully mounting this exhibit at Fort York and developing such a wide range of complementary programming provided a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the skill and expertise of so many of the staff in the City's Museums and Heritage Services unit. Congratulations to all involved in the Small World On Common Ground Music Festival, the Magna Carta speaker series, the student film contest, the Muskoka Brewery pub nights, and so much more and thank you to all our sponsors and to our partners at Magna Carta Canada who worked so tirelessly to make the exhibit possible.

While the Magna Carta was making its way to Winnipeg, we moved directly on to our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony, a citizenship ceremony on November 13, and the third annual Frost Fair on December 5-6th. Our very busy season concludes with holiday programming from December 14th to 31st.

As 2015 comes to a close, we're quickly gearing up for 2016. In addition to the many events planned for the year, the new exhibits within the Visitor Centre will be fabricated and installed early in the year for an opening likely in April. This work will include exhibits within the gallery, vault and lobby of the Visitor Centre, the immersive *Time Tunnel* experience, and the production of a new Fort York orientation film to be played in the theatre.

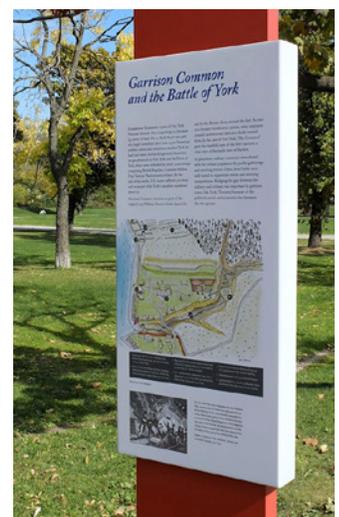
Although we will remain surrounded by the Gardiner Expressway deck reconstruction for most, if not all, of 2016, we will continue to work away on our own site improvements. Landscape work on Garrison Common, including new lighting and the reconstruction of Garrison Road itself, will be finished in the spring of 2016. By mid

2017 we should see completion of many of the major landscape projects, including the Liquid Landscape in front of the Visitor Centre. Although contingent upon an additional \$400k to be raised by the Fort York Foundation, a \$200k grant from the Canada 150 Fund was recently received for the completion of this work. The Fort York Foundation has already raised a portion of this funding but continues to move towards the target (please visit [www.fortyorkfoundation.ca](http://www.fortyorkfoundation.ca)).

The recently announced *Project: Under Gardiner* (see *Greenberg page 8*) will also provide an opportunity to complete landscape improvements across a significant portion of the National Historic Site. The first phase of this work, which is expected to be complete in 2017, will be carefully coordinated with our overall landscape master plan. The Dufferin/Pedelta/DTAH scheme for the Fort York Pedestrian/Bicycle bridge was recently announced as the winning design. The bridge, which will begin in 2016 for a 2017 opening, is a major step in connecting new and existing communities north of the rail corridor with Fort York, the waterfront, and surrounding neighbourhoods.

We will continue to make some of the smaller improvements on site throughout this same period. As an example, several of our interpretive signs were installed this fall, with more to come with the completion of larger construction projects noted above. The interpretive signs, which were designed by Leonard Wyma (Donderdag) and fabricated by WSI Sign Systems Ltd, were funded by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation as part of their grant for overall landscape rehabilitation.

On November 25 we made one relatively small but very significant move on site when we moved two British shell guns and one British mortar (all dating



Interpretive sign on Garrison Common. (Courtesy of Andrew Stewart)

from 1843-1854) back to Fort York from the Fort Rouillé monument at Exhibition Place. The shell guns originally formed part of the Fort York's Trent Affair battery from 1862 until the south rampart was restored in 1932-1934. Although always a part of the City of Toronto's collection, at some point prior to the conclusion of the Second World War, the shell guns and mortar were moved to Exhibition Place.

The mortar has been temporarily located on Garrison Common, just outside the Visitor Centre where the Ordnance Stores building once stood. Along with the return of these artifacts, one of our existing shell guns was moved to the corner of Fort York Boulevard and Bathurst Street to mark the corner of the National Historic Site. The plinth that



Credit: David O'Hara.

received this cannon had been built as part of the Fort York Boulevard construction over a decade ago.

## Project: Under Gardiner Update

by Ken Greenberg



Credit: PUBLIC WORK

*Project: Under Gardiner* will reclaim over ten acres of forgotten space beneath the Gardiner Expressway, from just west of Strachan Avenue to Spadina Avenue. Plans include a continuous multi-use trail, a bridge over Fort York Boulevard for pedestrians and cyclists, a grand staircase at Strachan that will double as seating for urban theatre, and a series of flexible year round performance and programming spaces for use by the community.

Waterfront Toronto will lead public engagement and consultation for the project, inviting Torontonians to participate in the design process and help develop the programming vision. Through social media, a project website, drop-in space, and public meetings, they will be able to provide their feedback, suggestions, and ideas.

Public engagement will begin in January with *Reclaim the Name*, a campaign that will invite the public to help give the space a name unique to Toronto. Once the project is underway, the Fort York Visitor Centre will serve as a project drop-in centre where materials will be displayed and meetings held. Shortly there'll also be an e-mail newsletter reporting what's going on as the project is planned and put together. If you'd like to receive the newsletter free-for-the-asking please subscribe here: <http://www.undergardiner.com/connect.html>

- If you are interested in donating to the project, contact the City's Office of Partnerships: [How to Partner with the City](#)
- Watch the project trailer: [here](#)
- If getting involved interests you, e-mail us: [hello@undergardiner.com](mailto:hello@undergardiner.com)
- For more information see the [November 2015 Fife & Drum Special edition](#) coverage of the project announcement:

## Celebrating the Magna Carta

by Nancy Baines

On the evening of October 20th, seventy-five members of The Friends of Fort York enjoyed a private viewing of the Magna Carta of 1300 and the Charter of the Forest. The Fort York Visitor Centre proved again what a wonderful space it is for such an exhibit. We watched the introductory video, a glass of wine in hand, and sampled

delicious goodies. Accompanying the Magna Carta itself was a wealth of information about the origins of our legal and human rights heritage in Britain. The evening was capped by a knowledgeable and humorous talk by Magna Carta historian Dr. Carolyn Harris. All agreed that it was a delightful event. Many thanks go to the Fort York staff and the Volunteer Cooks.

*Account York in lieu of forage*

Regiments rank, or sta- tion	Names	No of hours	Periods		No of ration	Rate per ration	Amount served			Signed I should like to have the sums set off our names
			from	to			£	S	D	
	Lt. Col. Hamilton	3	25 Oct 1814	24 Dec 1814	183	3/3	29	14	9	Hamilton
	Lt. Col. Maule	3	"	"	183	"	29	14	9	J. Maule
Field off- D. A. 2nd Lt. Genl	Capt. Payne	1	"	15 <sup>th</sup>	52	"	8	9	0	W. Payne
Royal. Eng- Act- Eng- Capt	Lieut. Jones	1	"	10 <sup>th</sup>	47	"	7	12	9	M. Jones
	Capt. Littenauer	1	"	24 <sup>th</sup>	51	"	19	18	3	Miller Clifford
	Quond	2	"	"	122	"	19	16	6	John L. Board
		3	"	"	183	"	29	14	9	Thos. H. Board
			"	"	61	"	9	18	3	

## Digitizing Manuscripts from the City's Museums Collection

by Richard Gerrard

As part of the City's Museums and Heritage Services' ongoing commitment to make our important historical collection accessible to the public we have begun to place PDF files of unique manuscript documents online as free downloads from the City of Toronto's website. Given the fragile nature and fascinating content of the originals we are pleased to make these high resolution digital surrogates available for the first time.

The first two documents posted were scanned by the Toronto Public Library as part of the 2013 exhibit, *War Stories: Toronto and the War of 1812-14*, which featured records and artifacts from the fort's archaeological collections.

### **York Garrison Account Book (FYNHS collection, X.3019.1)**

#### [York Garrison Account Book](#)

This is one of a set of three York garrison account books in the city's collection. The scanned volume is titled *Accounts Current, Subaccounts, 1815*, and records both highly detailed and summary expenses from the Commissariat, Transport, Engineers, Indian, Barracks, and Quarter Master General's departments (among others) for the period from December 1814 to November 1815 (although some entries pre- and postdate this period). It shows payments for food, fuel, and fodder allowances to the men attached to these departments serving at York. It provides detailed records for supplies and labour for the post-attack construction of the garrison's splinter proof barracks, powder magazine, mess house, commandant's quarters, and on other buildings and structures, as well as repairs to St. James' church at York as it was converted back to non-military use. Interestingly it also documents sundry 'one-off' expenses such as pension payments (including one to Sarah Elliott, widow of Capt. Matthew Elliott), for the making of brown linen "trowsers" for the Incorporated Militia, and for apprehending deserters.

Unscanned for the present are two additional account books containing less detailed information for the period following the war. Also there are a number of loose receipts, a letter, and a set of audit working notes that were found interleaved in the books.

### **Lieutenant-Colonel William Chewett's 3rd Regiment of York Militia Orderly Book (FYNHS collection, 2011.15.1)**

#### [3rd Regiment of York Militia Orderly Book](#)

The second scanned volume is an 'orderly book,' more accurately a Regimental Order Book. It is book number two of the fifteen required under the British Army's 1811 *Regulations* for managing the internal affairs of a regiment. Entries in this book are divided into two periods: 27 April to 19 October 1812 and 7 July 1814 to 10 June 1815. It contains copies of various Regimental, Garrison, and District General orders. The level of detail provides significant insight into the day-to-day operation of the militia at York garrison during the War of 1812. The donation of this important artifact was described in an earlier issue of this newsletter.

#### [December 2011, Fife & Drum](#)

Toronto Culture holds many other fascinating and unique manuscripts and we will be adding to the online collection in the future. These postings will include the release of an edited collection of War of 1812 letters and militia orders relating to the 1st Regiment of York Militia [1971.91.1-.18]; a Regimental Diary of the Queen's Own Rifles covering the 1866 Fenian Raid [1996.18.1.12]; and two muster rolls for the 127th Infantry Battalion, *CEF, Register of Recruits (Military Book No. 14)* [X.4121.1] and *Record of Officers' Services (Military Book No. 42)* [X.4020.1].

Richard Gerrard is Historian for Museums & Heritage Services in Toronto's Economic Development & Culture Division.

# From the Ashes: Breathing New Life into the Wellington Destructor

by the Ryerson Graduate Studio Planning Team\*

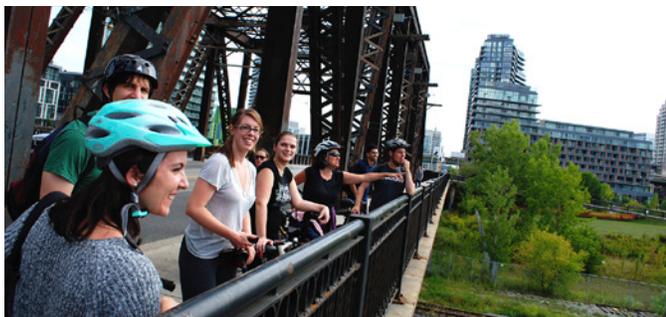
If you look north from the Garrison Common you can probably see it: a hulking mass looming over the rail corridor. Built in the 1920's, the Wellington Destructor (677 Wellington Street West) was once a high temperature garbage incinerator, but has sat abandoned since the mid-1980s.

This fall, a group of graduate students from Ryerson's School of Urban and Regional Planning investigated this local landmark, which currently provides shelter for feral cats and winter housing for contractors of the adjacent City Works Yard. Under the direction of Dr. Pamela Robinson and Jeff Evenson from The Friends of Fort York, the students undertook a creative and thoughtful investigation into how future city-builders can breathe new life into the Destructor.

To this end, they produced a comprehensive History and Policy Review, summarizing the most important considerations for the Wellington Destructor, and developed a Future Life Framework designed to inform redevelopment proposals for the site. The group also proposed three possible futures for the site- the "Delicious Destructor", the "Weird & Wonderful Destructor", and the "Living Destructor"- each informed by the neighbourhood context, the site's relationship to Fort York National Historic Site, and the provincial community hubs framework released in August 2015.

It is an exciting time for the Fort York neighbourhood. With new infrastructure and cultural amenities on the way, Toronto has truly cast its spotlight on the past, present, and future of this dynamic area. This student-led visioning project has shown that it is possible to hold space for the future and dream big about the community's incredible heritage assets.

(\*Meaghan Davis, Sam Carter-Shamai, Casey Craig, Anna Golovkin, Anthony Sotomayor, Dominic Tremblay, and Chris Willett)



Credit: Sam Carter-Shamai

# 2016 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Richard Haynes

## JANUARY

### Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball Sat. January 23, 2 to 10:30 pm

Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball recalls a significant moment in Toronto's history, a ball offered by officers of the Garrison at York (Fort York) on 23 January 1817.

Our event is a costumed ball recreating an early 19th century social gathering. It includes instruction in period dance, an authentic Georgian dinner, and an evening of English country dancing.

Costumes welcome. Tickets are \$100 plus tax.

Pre-registration required 416-392-7484.

## FEBRUARY

### Art of Peace

Thurs. February 11 to Sat. February 21

Feb 11, (preview) 7:30 pm, Feb. 12, 13, 17, 18 & 20, 7:30 pm

Feb. 13 & 21, (matinee) 3 pm

Post-show special event, Wed. Feb. 17

Ancestral questions given life in an ancient place, haunted by peace. Art of Peace, a dance-based performance installation by Toronto-based inter-arts company *pounds per square inch*, explores our relationship to peace set inside walls built for war. Stories, images, and somatic textures weave a legacy of how we fight within and throughout to claim what is ours, to find peace, and to nourish ourselves. Join us in one of Toronto's most engaging winter spaces as we gather intimately in the warmth of the Blue Barracks at Fort York to honour and measure the cost of peace from our indigenous and immigrant-settler roots. Don your parka and be prepared to feast with mouth, eyes, and ears.

<http://www.poundspersquareinch.net/project/art-of-peace/>

<https://www.facebook.com/lbspersqin/>

### Family Day @ Fort York

Mon. February 15, 11 am to 4 pm

Explore the history of Toronto and Fort York. Tour the historic kitchen and sample baking from the hearth. Hot chocolate and a roaring fire will make this visit memorable. Kids can try an 1812 drill class, officers' sword drill, and some old-fashioned games, as well as a fun-filled activity book.

Regular admission.

### Mad for Marmalade, Crazy for Citrus!

Sat. February 20, 10 am to 4 pm

Join Fort York National Historic Site in partnership with the Culinary Historians of Canada for our eighth annual celebration of marmalade and all things citrus! This year's event has an Italian flavour. Enjoy a workshop, lunch, guest speakers, tastings, and the marketplace, or enter the Marmalade Competition.

Pre-registration is required. For more information visit [www.culinaryhistorians.ca](http://www.culinaryhistorians.ca). To register please call 416-392-7503. Early bird tickets \$45 (\$50.85) are available until February 8, \$50 (\$56.55) afterwards.

## MARCH

### March Break Family Drop-in @ Fort York

Mon. to Fri. March 14 to 18, 10 am to 4 pm

Looking for a day of adventure during March Break? Just bring your family down to Fort York National Historic Site. At this authentic War of 1812 fort children will have fun trying soldiers' drill classes, officers' sword drill, and dressing up in costumes. Visitors can sample treats from the 1826 kitchen as they tour the fully restored Officers' Mess. Learn about the Fort's exciting history through colourful exhibits. Pick up a Kids' Guide to Fort York and have fun finding the clues to complete its games and puzzles throughout the visit. Audio tours are available in our Museum Store where you can browse a wide selection of items for all ages.

No registration required.

Regular admission.

Visit our website at: [www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca). Learn more about Fort York, subscribe to the [free newsletter](#), become a [member](#), [donate](#) or browse our [historical image gallery](#).



Editor Emeritus Stephen Otto  
Editor Patricia Fleming  
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Regular Admission to Fort York (all prices include taxes)  
Adult: \$9.00, Senior (65+) & Youth (13-18): \$5.50,  
Children (6-12): \$4.25, Children (5 and under): FREE

The Fife and Drum is a quarterly publication of the The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common