

# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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## Not Taking Freedom for Granted

by Hugh Segal

Eight hundred years ago, in 1215, King John reluctantly placed his royal seal on the Magna Carta (the Great Charter), the document that was drafted to make peace between the King and the unhappy barons. It undertook to protect church rights, provide access to swift justice, disallow illegal imprisonment, and limit feudal payments to the Crown. Pope Innocent III annulled the agreement within ten weeks of the King’s seal being placed—calling it illegal. The document was reissued by John’s son Henry but, in order to shore up support for the regency, it had also been summarily gutted—many of its provisions removed in order to make it more palatable. Since that time, Magna Carta has slipped in and out of the shadows for centuries yet today, eight hundred years later, it is still referred to in court judgements and has formed the basis for other great documents of freedom and governance.

In Canada, our laws and freedoms did not suddenly appear with the passage of John Diefenbaker’s Bill of Rights in 1960 or the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. And in the United States the Declaration of Independence and its provisions and amendments were not pulled from thin air. The Magna Carta and its conditions were the springboard for these great documents. The terms of the Magna Carta that have, for eight hundred years, been woven into the fabric of democracy, rule of law, and freedom for Canada specifically and that have informed legal thought for centuries include:

Clause 39: *No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgement of his equals or by the law of the land;*

Clause 40: *To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice;* — and the modern legal concepts of trial by jury and habeas corpus (freedom from arbitrary arrest).

While no one would accuse King John and the barons



In 1864 James W.E. Doyle, an uncle of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, wrote and illustrated *A Chronicle of England: B.C. 55 – A.D. 1485*, which included this often-copied picture of King John signing the Great Charter. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

of promoting or supporting democracy in terms we might understand today, certain provisions in the Magna Carta insisted that the King must seek the advice of barons in all matters important to the state including the raising of taxes. In later centuries this was expanded to assert that no law could be enacted and no tax could be raised without the approval of those who represented the people.

For eight hundred years, some might argue, the “myth” of the Magna Carta (since the original document lasted barely ten weeks), has endured as a symbol of rights and freedoms. Indeed it has been quoted by courts and legal scholars; it has been used as a tool by those espousing freedom and equality causes (suffragettes, the defence of Nelson Mandela); and it has been the foundation for modern constitutions. But today, are we slowly sliding away from those exalted and cherished rights born of the Magna Carta? Have individual freedoms been trumped by counterterrorism measures as asserted by David Davis, MP, when he resigned the British House of

Commons over the passage of a bill allowing the state to imprison and hold an individual for up to six weeks without charge? Has “no taxation without representation” (equally true in Canada as in the US) been overlooked by the “deemed rule” wherein expenditures (ie: taxpayer dollars) are “deemed” to have been approved by a committee of Parliament, and forwarded back to the chamber for approval when in fact the expenditures have not actually been either thoroughly examined or finally approved? In Canada there is no regular review process for the more than \$100 billion dollars of tax expenditure programs. Has “habeas corpus” gone by the wayside when the Senate of Canada can act as judge, jury, and executioner and suspend three of its members, none of whom at that point had been charged with any crime let alone convicted of an offence? When national security practice in many countries includes detention without charge, are we still being true to Magna Carta? And what happened to “innocent until proven guilty” as a guiding principle of anglosphere justice when thousands are held in remand for months before trial and failure to have the cash for bail can produce a sentence wildly disproportionate to the alleged crime?

The 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta and the display at Fort York this fall of one of the original documents provides a wonderful opportunity for Massey College and others to look at the substance and legacy of this document. The Massey College Quadrangle Society will be hosting an evening of examination, analysis, and debate on the importance, substance, and influence of this 13th century document on October 21st; a similar event is scheduled October 20 for The Friends of Fort York. Magna Carta may have been a tool to

provide barons with greater freedom; it may have been sealed by the King under duress; and it may have been annulled by a Pope in hope that it would fade into obscurity. But Magna Carta was an idea that could not be “unthought.”


If we think about the battle between authoritarian and fascist regimes and Canadians and allies who stood firm against the Nazi onslaught, the UN battle against the totalitarian Communists who invaded Korea, in which Canada was so prominent, the present engagements around civil liberties, women's equality, and environmental sanity, so much of the philosophical roots of all of these can be found in the Magna Carta. It was put succinctly by the signal leader of the 20th century:

*Here is a law which is above the King and which even he must not break. This reaffirmation of a supreme law and its expression in a general charter is the great work of Magna Carta; and this alone justifies the respect in which men have held it. (Sir Winston Churchill)*

*Hugh Segal is the 5th Master of Massey College at the University of Toronto. He was appointed to the Senate of Canada by the Right Honourable Paul Martin and chaired both Foreign Affairs and the Special Committee on Anti-terrorism. He is a former president of the Institute for Research on Public Policy in Montreal and a current senior fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs. He is the Honourary Chair of the Navy League of Canada, President of the NATO Council of Canada, Co-Chair of the Prime Minister's Advisory Board on the Public Service, and a Senior Fellow of the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute. He was made a member of the Order of Canada in 2003.*

## We Get Letters

Not many, but a month or so ago the editors of *Fife & Drum* received from Dennis Lee, the much-loved author of *Alligator Pie*, the following quib entitled "Famous Fauna of Fort York," which he calls a 'versicle.' In any event, when his efforts became known to the coyotes, skunks, foxes, raccoons, rabbits, and field mice of Fort York they clamoured to be immortalized in verse too. If he does write about them, we think these versicles should be known collectively as *The Best[iary] of Dennis Lee*.

*There was a young groundhog named Otto,  
Whose brain was perpetually blotto.  
He rose up and roared  
As he tunnelled the sward,  
"I ruminatate more than I oughto."* 



© Matthew Otto

# “Canada’s Drummer Boy” Recalls Waterloo

by Ethan Scott

Imagine being on a historic battlefield with thousands of other soldiers, cavalry with hundreds of horses, and unbelievable numbers of muskets and cannons. I know what it’s like because I went to Waterloo, Belgium, this past June with The Drums, Crown Forces 1812. We do quite a few events in Canada every year and we wanted a change, so the bicentenary of the 1815 Battle of Waterloo was the perfect opportunity.



While at Waterloo Ethan Scott did interviews by iPhone with the Toronto Star and the CBC. Much to his surprise they nicknamed him “Canada’s Drummer Boy.” Credit: Greg Scott.



Ethan Scott is seen with his comrades-in-arms from The Drums, Crown Forces 1812, as they make their way through the crowds on hand for the re-enactment of the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium last June. Credit: Greg Scott.

I had visited Fort York for the War of 1812 bicentenary celebrations when I was nine, in April 2012. I was fascinated by how much smoke the muskets produced and thought the uniforms were very cool. I first got interested in historical drumming in June 2014 when my modern drum teacher, Dave Clark, told me about the Fort York Fife and Drum Corps and he said I should go and volunteer. So I did! The drum major Baknel Macz welcomed me into the group and he, Eamonn O’Keeffe, and Brennan Doherty taught me all the music I needed to know. At the end of the summer I wanted to do some historical drumming during the rest of the year, so Brennan told me about Crown Forces and it turned out to be a great decision for me to join in September 2014.

The drummers at Waterloo were my age historically. They started when they were eleven or twelve and had been in their Fife and Drum Corps for many years by the time they were senior members. I feel kind of moved that I’m the same age as them and they fought and died in the Battle of Waterloo.

The schedule was gruelling. We had to board the bus early in the morning to go to the allied encampment where we marched and did demonstrations throughout the day. The battles took place in the evenings, beginning with a several-kilometer march to the battlefield with all of our gear. The first evening we had to trudge through a field of rye which was up to my waist. That added to the authenticity and the overall experience of the battle.

Three amazing things I will never forget about the Battle of Waterloo are the chaotic smoky battlefield, spending a

week with my good friends, and going to Europe. There are some things that I wish I could forget but I can’t ... I thought this food was schnitzel but it was actually a very, very strange thing; also I ate so many waffles I felt sick.

The Waterloo trip definitely changed me as a drummer because of the massive preparations we had to make months before. We practiced once a week starting at Christmas. Our drum major, Ross Flowers, hosted us every Tuesday and I took the subway down to his house. We practiced for two to two and a half hours and were very good by the time of Waterloo.

The trip also changed me as a person for sure; I have never felt the sheer chaos of battle without actually being in danger of my life. That was a cool thing, just feeling the realism, especially when the French Cavalry came in. We formed square and I got to pull out my sword for the first time ever and go and be part of the square so that was cool. Actually it was absolutely fantastic!

My volunteer role at Fort York this summer was as a light company drummer, so I played the bugle as well as drummed. I have been lead stick a couple of times this year. This summer was terrific and I am very excited to go back to Fort York next summer. Hopefully I will be a better drummer and a better person!

*Ethan Scott, aged twelve, is a grade eight student in Toronto. When he’s not drumming, playing the bugle, or learning the fife, he spends more than a little time playing video games.*



# The Toronto Athletic Games, the Garrison, and McNab of MacNab

by Sandra Alston

The first Toronto Athletic Games were held, beginning on 11 September 1839, under the sponsorship of prominent Toronto citizens and the commanding officers of the regiments stationed at the Fort York Garrison, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Spark, 93rd Highlanders, and Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Wingfield, 32nd Foot.

Also known as “The Gathering” the games were held to demonstrate the prowess of both members of the Garrison and ordinary citizens. Competition commenced after four pipers from the 93rd Regiment paraded through the city, and crowds, estimated at several thousand, gathered at Caer Howell, the city’s pleasure garden, where a stand had been erected to hold five hundred spectators behind a large gathering space. Over the next four days, from 10 am until 6 pm, some six hundred boys and men competed at such sports as quoiting, running hop step and leap, hammer throwing, ball putting, sack racing, foot and hurdle racing, wrestling, bowling, and rifle shooting

An article in the *Toronto Patriot*, unfortunately no longer extant, but reprinted in New York’s *The Spirit of the Times* on 2 November 1839, gives us most of the information about the event, but this is now supplemented by an eyewitness account from a young Scottish doctor who had been assigned to the 93rd for six months in 1839 and whose journal will be published this fall by the Champlain Society as *Another World: William Ord Mackenzie’s Sojourn in the Canadas, 1839-1843*.

William Ord Mackenzie describes not only The Gathering, for which he had helped train some of the men, but recounts, delightfully, one of the events around the competition, dinner at the Garrison with the extraordinary Archibald McNab, 17th chief of clan MacNab, one of the Stewards of the games.



Being much straitened in Circumstances, & his estate at home having been sold, Macnab came out to this Country several years ago with several followers of his own name. His residence is in the upper Province on the River Ottawa, & has been described to me as being a pretty place.

Occasionally he visits Toronto, Kingston, & other Towns – & it was during one or two of his visits to the former that I made his acquaintance, which was at his request, having heard my name mentioned in the Messroom of the 93rd Highlanders, & being anxious to know from which of the families of the name of Mackenzie I was descended.

In Personal appearance he is a tall, stout, goodlooking man, & must have been very handsome in his younger days; even now it is more than likely that most passers-by would ask

who was that fine looking old fellow, with such a pompous, & at the same time graciously–patronizing air. Nor would his curiosity to find out, be less Excited on seeing the chief’s Dress, or his dignified manner of returning the salute of an acquaintance. The Hat is gracefully raised, showing a nearly bald head surrounded by a few venerable grey hairs, while the body is formally inclined to make a most gracious bow.

While in Town the chief’s Dress is black excepting the Vest, which is a huge specimen of Macnab Tartan; (red) – on more formal occasions, as I shall soon describe, his Dress is much more remarkable.

Pride, indomitable family pride, is the great failing of the present, as it was that of the late chief. It is however mixed with much kindness & warmth of heart to those whom he deems worthy of regard. – Strangers very often say that Macnab is mad. On the points of pride & chieftainship, he certainly carries his notions too far for the present day.

It is the Custom in every Hotel in Canada & the Un: States for all newly arrived persons to enter their names in the album at the bar. The form in all these cases – in addition to the date, & no of the bedroom – states your “name, residence, where from, & where going”. – On going to leave a Card for the Chief at the Hotel at Toronto, I looked for his name, and as I expected, I found to my great amusement, & to the astonishment of an English officer with me, Macnab’s name entered most pompously – in a round bold hand in the following manner, at the top of a page.

NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL, TORONTO					
Date	Room	Name	Residence	Where from	Where to
1839 Sept 10	14	Macnab of	Macnab	Macnab	Macnab

Nothing offends him more than to address him as Mr Macnab – It must be always even from Strangers & servants – Macnab –

He dined with us twice at the 93rd Mess – on one occasion I asked him, but he was engaged to Major Arthur. The scene (for such it certainly was) was the same in both cases. I shall sketch the latter. –

About 7 o’Clock most of the Guests had arrived, & immediately after, in walked the Chief, making a profound bow to the group of officers. All eyes were at once rivetted on his Dress. – Out of respect to the 93rd Highlanders, he had on his chief’s dress (for this country). – His lower man was encased in brogues, & a pair of cotton shepherd–plaid Trousers, of such an uncouth cut & of such ample dimensions,

that (possibly the date of their creation may have been later) they seemed to have been made for one of his ancestors, who perhaps, like the Laird of Rasay, “kept a boat at the flood!”—The Vest was white of corresponding amplitude, with round silver buttons. The coat was “the thing”: a genuine Highland-cut, short-tailed coat of Macnab Tartan, with double rows of immense round silver buttons, formerly worn as he said, by one of his ancestors, who was killed at Culloden.

A plaid of shepherd’s tartan was thrown across his ample chest, while from his head he had just removed the Glengarry Bonnet.

His manner as I have already said is highly courteous, even dignified, but he speaks in a strong broad Scotch accent.

The Bagpipes striking up “MacPherson’s Lament” as the signal for Dinner, the Chief was soon seated next to his host – the major. I sat either next to, or within one of him on the other side. – On his being asked to drink wine, the first thing I heard was “Noo, Major Arthur, we’ll tak the guid Auld Hieland Custom of touching our Glasses”. The insignificant-looking little officer did so with a very bad grace, for he evidently fancied that every body was looking at him. Nor was he far wrong. The Chief did the same with all near him, & moreover when he drunk with the adjutant McDonald, Lt Gordon, Ens. McPherson & myself, he addressed each of us in some short Gaelic sentence ending with “Clanchattan”, “Caberfeigh” &c &c

Most persons at Table for the form of the thing, & calling him “Macnab” asked him to Drink wine, some of the younger members maliciously wishing to see “how much wine he could carry”. – As he drunk with all, & of course never left a drop in his Glass, the result was rather probable. As soon as the viands were off the Table, “Noo major, you promised me a Glass of Glenlivet”. The Head mess waiter McDonald, knowing his man, was immediately at his Elbow, pouring out a bumper of Whisky, & demanding in Gaelic if he would be pleased to take a Glass.

On the removal of the Cloth, before the desert could be arranged, the Laird became impatient for music, & turned to his neighbour – “Gie’s a tune, whare’s yer pipes?” – Immediately the pipe-major (Gunn) with his prize pipes, in full Highland (Rob Roy) costume entered, when Macnab after appointing the tunes, called out to the Mess waiter – “Bring me ma Bonnet!” – On the pipes commencing, he instantly put on the Bonnet, set his arms akimbo, drew himself up, pursing his lips & looking very fierce, at the same time following

the piper with his eye round the room, & nodding his head occasionally in sign of approbation.

All this time, tho’ he did not see it, Half the Company were ready to go into fits of laughter. – On the air being concluded, he doffed the Bonnet, called the piper, & they drunk one another’s health (all in Gaelic) in good bumpers of Whiskey. In the Course of the evening two or three more tunes were played, the same ceremonies were gone through, & 5 Glasses of Whiskey were drunk – The pipe-major not finding himself so steady as on his arrival, wisely set off for his Barracks rather than get Drunk before his officers. On Macnab’s hearing this, he was in high dudgeon.



Archibald McNab, 17th Chief of Clan MacNab, by an unknown artist about 1830. An extended biography is found in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography. [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mcnab\\_archibald\\_8E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mcnab_archibald_8E.html) Credit. National Galleries of Scotland, Acc. No. PG 1514.

In the Interludes of the Pipes, the Band struck up some fine Scotch airs (a very rare thing in the Regt, so many officers of it are English) – the Laird was pleased on the whole, but at last remarked that he “wad na gie that (snapping his fingers) for a’ yer fine music, aside the pipes”.

Time waned, & midnight was at hand, when it was quite evident that the extraordinary mixture of Port, sherry, Hock, champagne, Claret & whiskey was beginning to affect the Laird. As most of the other guests rose to take their leave, he did so also. By this time Major Arthur either was ashamed, or believed he should be ashamed of his Guest, so he merely shook hands at the Table, & said good night. On reaching the door, he turned round & told the

Major, that “at least he expected he would have seen him out to the door”. I was delighted to see old Arthur look very foolish, while all others also enjoyed it amazingly. –

Lt Gordon & I, with Ens. D. Seton (from Aberdeen) went out with him. The air was keen & frosty, & soon had such an effect on Macnab, so that it was quite evident he never could walk home alone 1¼ mile, so we accompanied him without appearing to do so for the real reason. – It was with great difficulty, that Gordon & I could manage on each side to steady such an immense, & for the time unsteady body. – When we had got about half way, he stopped short, & insisted that we should turn back. “Ye’re fine braw chieles, & I’m a puir auld man (I should think his age is about 60), & ye think I canna gae hame without ye”. So saying, we wished him good night, & pretended to leave him: fortunately I recommended that we should follow at a distance, for I knew that close to his path, was a tolerably deep ditch at that time being made. We watched him from a corner, when after staggering a few paces, he disappeared, & sure enough, we soon found him with his face downwards in the ditch, from which he

never could have raised himself; with great difficulty we got him up, & unheeding his further remonstrances, took him to the Hotel, where he allowed no one but myself & “boots” to put him to bed. This work, one of considerable difficulty being satisfactorily accomplished, I offered my hand & said goodnight – With a good humoured but Drunken smile he raised his huge hand, & gave me a smart slap on the cheek, “Guid nicht, ye rascal!” –

On Going home, we all agreed, to say nothing of his Drunkenness to our Brother-officers, for the Credit of the Highlands, nor was the Circumstance ever mentioned up to the period of my leaving the 93rd.

Next day I met the Chief “as sober as a Judge” & “quite himself again”; he gave me a kind invitation to accept of the Hospitalities of his house, of which I shall certainly avail myself, should occasion offer by my being in that part of the Country.

*Sandra Alston is librarian emerita at the University of Toronto, the former Canadiana specialist of the Robarts and Thomas Fisher Rare Book Libraries. Her primary research interest is in printing and publishing history prior to Confederation. Her forthcoming book, with C.M. Blackstock, ‘Another World’: William Ord Mackenzie’s Sojourn in the Canadas, 1839 – 1843 will be published by the Champlain Society this fall.*

## 144th Toronto Guides Overnight at Fort York

by Bella Black

Any field trip can be amazing whether you sleep over or just visit for the day.

Last winter, for the first time, I had the opportunity to stay for a night at Fort York. I went with my Girl Guide unit (the 144th Toronto Guides). Fourteen of us, along with a Pathfinder unit, a couple of Brownies and six leaders made for a total of thirty-four people in our group.

It was a fantastic experience filled with workshops and lots of interactive events. We lived the life as soldiers did in the 19th century garrison to understand the lifestyle of that time period. The Fort York staff dressed in period costumes and taught us about the tools, skills, and communication signals that were used during the early days of our city. They also provided us with breakfast and dinner in the dining hall. The menu was based on what the soldiers ate during the War of 1812, such as beef stew, curried rice, and carrots. In the 1813 Blockhouse dorms, there were bunk beds and hanging lanterns lit by candles. We felt like actual soldiers. For example, we made delicious cookies in the officers’ kitchen and then learned how to load cannons later that day. We were divided into groups and everyone was given a role. When we made cookies, I was responsible for mashing the ingredients in a bowl. They didn’t have mixers then! Loading the cannons was fun and took a team effort. We went through the steps and my role was to load the cannon using a large rod.

There were many highlights, but my

favourite part of the stay was after dinner. One of the soldiers shared a spooky story about the lighthouse at Centre Island and haunted events that happened during the war. Some of the girls were scared but I really enjoyed the stories and could listen to them all night long. And, with everything we learned and with some additional work, the Girl Guides earned their Heritage badge to add to our uniform sashes.

On our final day, we packed up, had breakfast, said our goodbyes then enjoyed the gift shop on site. It was a great opportunity to learn for all children who want to know about our history. I love the subject and spending time at Fort York felt like the pages of Canadian history jumped out of a schoolbook. I would not hesitate to go back. For those of you who are thinking about visiting Fort York, you have to go!

*For each of the past six years Bella Black, now aged ten, has organized a bake sale to build a school in places like Haiti and Kenya. An outstanding example of what Free the Children is about, Bella won the Guides’ Girl Greatness Award in the Making a Difference category in 2015.*



Kyrra (l.) and Tijana (r.) find that standard issue uniforms don’t fit everyone perfectly. Credit: Connie Miller.



Bella, Taylor, and Kailyn (r. to l.) make sure the touch hole is clear, while Kyrra looks on. Credit: Connie Miller.



## *From the Gallery: Upper Canada's Mace Comes Home*

With Fort York hosting the Magna Carta and its sylvan sister, the Charter of the Forest, this fall we are reminded of the occasion 4 July 1934, when the mace of Upper Canada was returned here as a gesture of goodwill on the initiative of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It had been taken from the House of Assembly by US soldiers in 1813 following the Battle of York. An image in the Gallery on The Friends' website <[www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca)> shows the handing-over ceremony at Fort York, where Rear Admiral William D. Leahy of the US Navy presented the mace to His Honour Lt. Col. H.A. Bruce, lieutenant-governor of Ontario.

Just as the Great Charter began the process of defining the limits of royal powers, the mace has long had a place in our Parliaments to remind legislators that they enact laws under the authority of the Speaker for assent by the sovereign or sovereign's representative before taking effect. Upper Canada's first mace was made on Lt.-Gov. Simcoe's orders, probably in 1792 in Niagara, certainly by an unknown craftsman. It is usually on display at Queen's Park but saw

service for a short time again in 2009 when the current mace was being refurbished.



Credit: Toronto Culture, X\_1734\_2\_137.



Courtesy of Ted Smolak.

## *"Driver, To The Front"*

Fort York guardsman Pierce Cosgrove (l.) and Kevin Hebib, Fort York program development officer (r.), are seen here ready to ride into action. Pierce temporarily traded his 1812-14 era uniform for a WW One Canadian Army private's uniform to help interpret *The First World War Comes to Life* exhibit at the fort on Aug 8-9. The motorcycle with sidecar is a 1917 Douglas, beautifully restored in the royal blue of The Royal Flying Corps.

## *Loblaws Warehouse Redevelopment*

On August 5 a lineup of dignitaries including Mayor John Tory, Councillor Joe Cressy, W. Galen Weston, and his son, Galen Weston Jr., turned out for a ceremony to mark the start of redevelopment on this iconic 3.5 acre property at Lakeshore and Bathurst, a short distance from Fort York. The building's stones and brick walls will be dismantled, labelled, and stored off-site to allow for the construction of approximately 22,760 square metres of retail and office space in a seven-storey building housed in the reconstructed warehouse, 876 residential units in two towers (37 and 41 storeys) on the northern side of the site, a planned public art installation and café under the Gardiner Expressway, and approximately 600 underground parking spaces. The new project is called WEST BLOCK 1928, in a nod to when the former warehouse was built. It has stood empty since the Daily Bread Food Bank moved out in 2000.



Credit: ADhoc Studio, Markham.

*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

## Manager's Report

*by David O'Hara, Site Manager*

2015 will be remembered as the season that never ended. We moved from a busy June with Field Trip, the Indigenous Arts Festival, and the Na-Me-Res Traditional Pow Wow to Taste of Toronto and the Pan Am Games in July.

Pan Am programming included the Aboriginal Pavilion on Garrison Common and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation Cultural Village in the dry moat. Both of these components were very well organized and we record a huge thank you to the organizers, artists, musicians, vendors, and others involved.

Our annual Simcoe Day/Emancipation Day programming was well attended in early August, as was the TD Irie Music Festival held on Garrison Common on August 1 and 2. We were pleased to again work with the Ontario Black History Society on much of this programming and to bring an exhibit on Blacks in the Military to Fort York for the month of August.

Other events included the Vegan Food Festival, Toronto Independent Music Experience, Lolë White Yoga, and Mad Decent Block Party. We were very pleased to be able to host *The First World War Comes to Life*, Canada's largest private operational collection of First World War vehicles, on August 8 and 9, and we hope to work with them again in the near future.

While things were busy on site at Fort York, the Fort York Guard were off in Niagara for the Fort George Fife and Drum Muster and Soldiers' Field Day. Our squad, who looked very impressive all season long, narrowly won the annual drill competition at Fort George. Congratulations all around.

September continued to be active with Toronto Urban Roots Festival, TIFF in the Park on September 25, and our own Small World On Common Ground Festival of Music Arts and Community held on September 26 and 27 in partnership with Small World Music Festival ([smallworldmusic.com](http://smallworldmusic.com)).

The month winds down with a buildup for *Magna Carta: Law, Liberty & Legacy*. This exhibit opens in the Fort York Visitor Centre on October 4 and runs until November 7. Tickets can be purchased online at [toronto.ca/magnacarta](http://toronto.ca/magnacarta).

We really hope everyone comes out to see this exhibit and to support Fort York. Please spread the word.

Fort York continues to be surrounded by major construction. Between now and through most of 2016 work will continue on the Gardiner Expressway. As the entire deck of the expressway is being demolished and replaced, the area underneath and in front of the Visitor Centre is fenced off and parking severely limited.

We apologize for the inconvenience and hope that you're patient with us as we get through this work. We do hope to continue our own site improvements as well. By the end of 2016, and certainly in early 2017, much of the major work around the Visitor Centre will be complete and circulation routes for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists will be significantly improved. Construction on the Fort York Pedestrian Bridge is also expected to be underway in 2016; an announcement of the winning design is expected in the coming weeks.

On a positive note, we're pleased to report that the Fort York Visitor Centre won an Award of Excellence for 'Public Buildings in Context' at the 2015 Toronto Urban Design Awards. The Jury commented on the building as:

*A skillful insertion on a sensitive site, the centre adds necessary new space while allowing the fort itself, and the adjacent parade ground, to be undisturbed. The building itself does a lot with very little: Its front façade successfully evokes both a rampart and the original shoreline of Lake Ontario, gesturing toward two aspects of the city's history. The Visitors' Centre, however, is best seen as the beginning of a successful master plan; the jury strongly urges support to complete the architectural vision and also establish the planned landscape under the Gardiner Expressway. In the long term, this site will form an important link in a network of parks through the western downtown which could, and should, become crucial community assets.*



# Magna Carta: Law, Liberty and Legacy

by Larry Ostola

As part of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity Fort York National Historic Site will have the privilege of playing host to two precious historical documents: the Magna Carta or "Great Charter" and a companion document, the Charter of the Forest, from 4 October to 7 November 2015. The documents, which are normally housed in Durham Cathedral in the United Kingdom, were issued under the seal of King Edward I in 1300 and are coming to Fort York as part of a four-city Canadian tour intended to mark the 800th anniversary of the original issuance of Magna Carta by King John at Runnymede in 1215.

Organized under the auspices of Magna Carta Canada, a not-for-profit organization based in Toronto, the cross-country tour will take the documents to the Canadian Museum of History in the Nation's Capital, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Fort York National Historic Site in Toronto, and the Legislative Assembly of Alberta Visitor Centre in Edmonton. It is believed that these documents have not only never left the United Kingdom, but have likely never before left the grounds of Durham Cathedral since they were deposited there centuries ago.

Magna Carta is recognized as an iconic historical document. Despite the centuries that have passed since it was first issued, a number of the principles outlined in Magna Carta remain relevant today and have been credited with shaping legal and constitutional history and influencing the development of a number of other significant documents ranging from Canada's 1982 Constitution Act, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to the American Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

The Charter of the Forest, also reissued by King Edward I in 1300 and considered a complement to Magna Carta, established rights of access and use to royal forests for commoners at a time when they served as a critical resource providing food, fuel, and pasture. Interestingly, the Charter was apparently the statute that remained the longest in force in England finally being superseded by The Wild Creatures and Forest Laws Act 1971.

Housed in specially-designed protective cases, the two



*In the west aisle of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, a magnificent window commemorates the officers and men of the 10th Royal Grenadiers who fell in the First World War. Created by Clayton & Bell of London, England, it was dedicated in 1921. In one panel Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, holds the Great Charter which confirms, "the English Church shall be free, and shall have its rights undiminished, and its liberties unimpaired." In the other, Langton and another bishop look on as a baron presents the Magna Carta to a not-too-pleased King John for his assent. Credit: Cathedral Church of St. James, Toronto; Michael Hudson, photographer*

documents, written in medieval Latin on vellum (calfskin) parchment, are accompanied by an exhibit to help explain their significance around the themes of 'History,' 'Legacy,' and 'Justice Today.' The first provides historical context and explains how the Charter came about, the second shows how the influence of Magna Carta spread beyond the United Kingdom and particularly to Canada, and the final theme examines the enduring significance and relevance of Magna Carta today.

In addition, for the Toronto segment of the tour at Fort York, a special complementary exhibit entitled *Rights, Justice and Democracy: Toronto Perspectives* has been developed that highlights various Toronto personalities both past and present ranging from John Graves Simcoe and George Brown to Dr. Emily Stowe and the Reverend Brent Hawkes, who each in his or her respective way reflected the ideals of Magna Carta.

The Fort York exhibit will also feature a speakers series with guests such as historian Dr. Carolyn Harris of the University of Toronto, Sukyana Pillay, executive director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, "Jane Doe" who won a landmark legal decision related to equality rights and security of the person, and others who through their work or experiences reflect different facets of the still-evolving meaning and relevance of Magna Carta.


To reserve your tickets to see the exhibit Magna Carta: Law, Liberty and Legacy at Fort York National Historic Site please visit: [toronto.ca/magnacarta](http://toronto.ca/magnacarta)

Larry Ostola is Director, Museums and Heritage Services, City of Toronto.

**Magna Carta**  
**Law, Liberty and Legacy**  
**OCTOBER 4 - NOV 7, 2015**  
**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**


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AND GARRISON COMMON

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So please take a minute to click on this link and join us. Now!  
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Here's the latest issue so you can see what you'd get: <http://ow.ly/RF5ZO> Sometimes in our busy lives things come and go before we know about them. The museums' newsletter lets you stay on top of the lineup of constantly changing attractions at Toronto's City Museums.





# 2015 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Alice Flabive

## OCTOBER

### **Magna Carta: Law, Liberty and Legacy**

**Sun. October 4 to Sat. November 7**

**Sat. to Tues. 10 am to 4 pm, Wed. to Fri. 10 am to 8 pm**

**Visitor Centre**

This year marks the 800th anniversary of King John of England putting his royal seal on the Magna Carta (the Great Charter) in 1215. The Magna Carta and its companion document, the Charter of the Forest, set the groundwork for many concepts defining democratic life today in Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and many other countries. As symbols of justice, they act as reminders that those who govern do so only by the consent of the people.

See these remarkable documents and a fascinating exhibition that explains their history and importance as well as an exhibit highlighting persons and events in Toronto who reflected the ideals of Magna Carta.

Tickets can be purchased on-line at [www.toronto.ca/magnacarta](http://www.toronto.ca/magnacarta)

### **Early Music Fair**

**Sat. October 17, 11 am to 4:30 pm**

**Centre Blockhouse (presentations and demonstrations),  
Officers' Blue Barracks (concert presentations every 30  
minutes, exhibits)**

Welcome to the historical music performance scene in Toronto. The Fair offers opportunities to see and hear recorders and viols, early keyboard instruments, historical woodwinds, and other period instruments played by some of the finest musicians in the city. CD recordings, early music books and publications from Early Music Imports are available for sale.

Regular admission (free for members of Toronto Early Music Centre)

<http://www.torontoearlymusic.org/>

### **Historic Cooking Class:**

**Ah, What an excellent thing is an English Pudding**

**Sun. October 18, 10 am to 3 pm**

Whether sweet or savoury, discover the history and cooking techniques of puddings from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Pre-registration is required. \$75 + HST. To register call 416-392-7455.

### **Fort York after Dark: Lantern Tours**

**Thurs. and Fri. October 29 and 30, 7:30 to 9:30 pm**

Tour the grounds of Fort York at night to hear stories about this national treasure and the history that surrounds it, from the haunted lighthouse to the bloody Battle of York. The tour will also visit two military cemeteries near the fort. This event is not recommended for children under 8 yrs. Complimentary refreshments.

Pre-registration is required. \$12.50 + HST.

Please call 416-392-7500 for more information or to pre-register.

## NOVEMBER

### **Remembrance Day**

**Weds. November 11, 10:45 am**

Fort York National Historic Site and the Toronto Municipal Chapter IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) are proud to present one of this City's most evocative Remembrance Day Services on Garrison Common. Commencing at 10:45 am from the west gate of Fort York, a procession led by period uniformed military staff and standard bearers of the IODE will make its way to the Strachan Avenue Military Cemetery, where the public will be gathered. There, at the eleventh hour, all soldiers of the Toronto Garrison who fell in the War of 1812, the Rebellion Crises, the Crimean War, Northwest Rebellion, South African (Boer) War, the two World Wars, and recent conflicts around the globe will be remembered and honoured. A reception will follow in the Fort York Visitor Centre.

Please join us.

## DECEMBER

### **Frost Fair**

**Sat. and Sun. December 5 and 6, 10 am to 4 pm**

Fort York celebrates the winter season with a Frost Fair. Imagine yourself back in the early 19th century where the local Christmas Market was one of the social and shopping highlights of the year. Stroll through the historic buildings of Fort York where merchants will be selling heritage inspired wares and reproductions. Try your hand at one of the many activities scheduled throughout the day, including children's recruiting and drill workshops, period toys and games, military demonstrations, and printing your own Frost Fair souvenir on the Mackenzie House proof press.

Regular admission.

### **The Holiday Season at Fort York**

**December 14 to December 31**

**Mon. to Fri. 10 am to 4 pm; Sat. and Sun 10 am to 5 pm**

Enjoy a visit to Fort York National Historic Site this festive season. Sample baking from the 1826 Officers' Mess kitchen and soak up the warmth of a crackling wood fire. Be sure to browse the Museum Store to find special gifts for all ages and interests.

Regular admission.

### **Gingerbread Make and Bake, Extra Fun for Kids at Fort York (ages 4 and up)**

**Sun. to Thurs. December 27 to 31,  
11 am and 2 pm**

While you enjoy a tour of Fort York your kids can join the cooks in the Officers' Mess kitchen to create traditional gingerbread cookies. In this little-hands-on workshop they will use period cooking utensils and tools to sift flour, crush cinnamon, cloves, or allspice, pound sugar, and grate nutmeg and ginger as they prepare an 1800's gingerbread recipe. Samples may be taken home—if they last that long!

Workshop is limited to 15 participants; sign up in the Museum Store when you arrive.

Included with regular admission.

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Toronto  
Photo I.D. or credit card required. You will be asked to fill out a questionnaire after the tour. For visitors 12 years and older.

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Free Previews Sept. 21-Oct. 30. For reservations contact: Ewan 416-392-7742 or [ewardle@toronto.ca](mailto:ewardle@toronto.ca)

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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

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