

The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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Twenty Years of Fife and Drum

by Christopher Moore

The first issue of *Fife and Drum* appeared on 24 May 1996 following a merger between The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common and the Historic Fort York Volunteer Committee. Both groups were formed in 1994, the former to focus primarily on planning and public policy issues, and the latter to support and supplement the activities of the city-run National Historic Site.

The first *Fife and Drum* was a photocopied information sheet, with reports of meetings, lists of officers and phone numbers, but no illustrations. Still, there were signs of the new organization's ambitions. It reported on a business plan that would give Fort York a new Visitor Centre, improved access, fresh programs, more marketing. City Council had recently approved a plan for "aggressive" development around Fort York, the newsletter noted, that might see 7000 people living there in thirty-five years.

Except for underestimating population growth by a factor of ten, the first *Fife and Drum* foresaw quite accurately the key events and concerns that would animate The Friends and their newsletter for the next twenty years. Extraordinary new development projects in the "Fort York Neighbourhood" would be one continuing story in *Fife and Drum*. The boost those developments gave to the fort's presence and programming

would be a second ongoing topic in the newsletter.

The third principal contribution of *Fife and Drum* was not at all anticipated in the first issue: its stealthy transformation from a newsletter into a magazine. Slowly, unannounced and seemingly unplanned, *Fife and Drum* began to offer its readers a flood of historical and cultural articles, always inspired by Fort York but with an endless range of informative, surprising, and sometimes simply amusing topics. Book reviews, historical essays, biographies, research reports, recipes, and architectural studies soon competed for space with reports on meetings and on urban planning initiatives that The Friends wanted to resist or push forward.

Fife and Drum on Programming at Fort York

The back issues of *Fife and Drum*, available at www.fortyork.ca/resources/newsletter-archive, are a window on how much goes on at Fort York. Most activities are handled by fort staff, of course, and in 2003 they initiated *The Birthplace of Toronto*, a separate newsletter written and produced by staff to circulate news of activities and developments. After a few issues, however, *Birthplace* was folded into *Fife and Drum* and continues to appear today, still staff-written and with its own masthead, in *Fife and Drum's* latter pages.



From the start, *Fife and Drum* reported on all fort activities in which The Friends were active:

- In the first issues, The Friends' support for the first Fort York Festival, scheduled for the May long weekend of 1997, was a key preoccupation—including how the many Muskoka cottagers on The Friends board would be persuaded to stay in the city.
- In May 1998, *Fife and Drum* saluted the inauguration of the Fort York flagpole and its oversized Union Jack, a project initiated and funded by The Friends.
- As Celtic Fest 1999 was looming, The Friends held the first annual Georgian dinner, a \$150-a-plate fundraiser.
- In June 2003, *Fife and Drum* called for volunteers to run parking at Fort York for the Molson Indy to raise funds for the *Fife and Drum* Corps, another enduring concern of The Friends. Also in 2003 The Friends helped with a staff reunion, attended by at least one whose connection dated back to 1959.
- In May 2004 volunteers were sought for an Earth Day cleanup around the fort and commons.
- Constantly, *Fife and Drum* provided plans for and reports on drum corps performances, military reenactments, and lecture series to promote the fort and military and civic history.

Fife and Drum in the City: Planning and Policy Issues

Fife and Drum's first issue announced a day-long “charrette” for planners, politicians, and preservationists to discuss the fort's place in its rapidly changing neighbourhood. A deep engagement with planning and politics, and with the struggle to make and keep Fort York a prominent, defining actor in its community, has never been absent from its pages.

In January 2000, the great news was the announcement of Fort York Boulevard, “the most significant development since 1934” for Fort York. In July 2002, *Fife and Drum* hailed the street's completion as giving the fort a whole new front entrance. By then, The Friends had also been through an expensive hearing at the Ontario Municipal Board, seeking to confirm height restrictions on the towers planned along the south side of the new street. That effort was declared “to no avail” in the April 2002 issue.

The OMB loss was one of the last big public planning defeats to be reported in *Fife and Drum*. The era when heritage activism mostly meant trying to ward off catastrophe was ending. In November 2003, the newsletter headlined a significant “defensive” triumph when the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, at the urging of The Friends, set firm boundaries for the national historic site around the fort and its environs—finally putting an end to city and provincial projects that blithely contemplated encroachments.

In 2005 *Fife and Drum* trumpeted the publication of *Fort York: Adding New Buildings*, the master plan for reviving Fort York's interior space—and for adding a Visitor Centre

just outside it. The Centre would require a huge fundraising campaign. Thus, in April 2007 the newsletter announced formation of the Fort York Foundation to raise millions for the Visitor Centre, Garrison Common improvements, and other capital projects.

Having made peace with the towers arising to the south, The Friends collaborated in the design of June Callwood Park, suggested heritage names for new streets in the area, and worked with transit planners on access and the design for a replacement of the Bathurst Street/Sir Isaac Brock Bridge. In May 2007, a special “Welcome” issue of *Fife and Drum* went to 930 new condo households in the now officially named Fort York Neighbourhood.

That year city planner Heather Inglis Baron contributed a long article describing the area.

This master planning of the Fort York Neighbourhood has been informed by and responds to its historically rich setting... Plans for the redevelopment of the Neighbourhood establish the fort's prominence again by making its history and identity a part of street design, open space design, landscape interventions, and by including interpretive features... Interpretive signage will... encourage a greater understanding of the community's location and rich traditions among residents and visitors.

Fife and Drum was declaring victory. There would be continuing struggles, of course. For example, the pedestrian bridge over the railway corridor was won, lost, and won again. By 2010, however, with the 1812 Bicentennial looming, the Patkau/Kearns plan for the Visitor Centre adopted, and Fort York Neighbourhood an established reality, the planning and preservationist aspirations that had inspired The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common in 1996 were plainly being achieved.

From Newsletter to Magazine

In November 2003, without fanfare, *Fife and Drum* ceased being a mostly anonymous typescript handout and adopted the two-column, printed, illustrated format with signed articles still familiar to its readers today. About the same time, Ted Smolak, a Friends' director, took over the layout of *Fife and Drum*. Later, his design expertise guided the appearance and content of the website www.fortyork.ca. In 2008-09 The Friends experimented with *Drumroll*, an all-digital mailing to flag special events between issues of the newsletter, but it was discontinued after seven numbers. Meanwhile, *Fife and Drum* abandoned snail mail to go all-electronic.

In June 1999, *Fife and Drum* had published its first purely historical essay, a carefully researched account of the Strachan Avenue Burying Ground. It was a few years before such essays became standard features, but in 2004-05 a series on “Garrison Common History” marked a permanent transformation from newsletter format to magazine style.

Soon there would be archaeological articles, many of which in the early years were written by city archaeologist David Spittal, including a notable look into “privies, latrines, and wells” at the fort. Biographies, like that on the 1905 protector of Fort York, Jean Earle Geeson, began to appear. In 2007 the War of 1812 historian Robert Malcomson began a series of articles on the battles for York.

Fife and Drum continued to cover Fort York activities and public planning topics, but after its tenth anniversary in 2006, few issues appeared without a readable, original essay on history, archaeology, or architecture. Soon most issues were handsomely illustrated with colour photography and graphics, and vivid reproductions of historic art. Over the years, more than 125 scholars and experts have contributed essays. If Friends' director Stephen Otto put his name to all the unsigned pieces that look to be his handiwork, he

would probably be *Fife and Drum's* most prolific contributor and most faithful editor too. Credit must also be given to many Fort York staff members and consultants, who have contributed constantly to the Birthplace section. The *Fife and Drum* issues for 2016 are officially numbered as Volume 20. After twenty years of two to five issues a year, *Fife and Drum* has accumulated a total of seventy-five issues, plus three *Birthplace of Toronto* newsletters and seven *Drumrolls*, all of which are archived online.

Christopher Moore is a writer, historian, and friend of Fort York. He has twice won the Governor-General's Award: once for Louisbourg Portraits: Life in an Eighteenth-Century Garrison Town and again in children's literature for From Then to Now: A Short History of the World.

Friends Propose New School Be Named for Jean Earle Geeson, Early Champion of Fort York

in collaboration



Jean Earle ('Jennie') Geeson, about 1898 when she was a teacher of art at Alma Ladies' College, St. Thomas, Ontario. Credit: Alma College fonds, Elgin County Archives.

The Friends of Fort York have always seen names as a way to give a sense of special place to the area around Fort York. We have been consistent, starting with Fort York Boulevard, our main link with the city. Were it not for our efforts and advice from Councillor Joe Pantalone, that part of the street west of Spadina Ave. might have been known as something else. During 2003 we sat on a committee for the better part of a year to cut down a list of several dozen names for other local streets to ten that were taken forward by Councillor Pantalone for council's approval. Bring on Bastion and Bruyeres through Gzowski and Sloping Sky! Rather than honour June Callwood with a mere street, it was our idea to call the small park south of the fort for her. We then took things further by inviting her to the fort for lunch one day to tell us how she saw 'her' park being used, which guided the subsequent competition for its design.

In 2007 council responded positively to our proposal to rename the Bathurst Street Bridge in honour of Sir Isaac Brock. And while this new name has been slow to come into use, the rebuilding of part of the structure scheduled for 2018 may be the perfect moment to use its decade-old, new name. We await the designation of the park north of the Fort York library, now carrying the working name “Mouth of the Creek Park” as “Lower Garrison Creek Park” when it is developed and opened.

Which brings us to a suggestion we put forward first in 2004: that the fort's early champion, Jean Earle Geeson, be honoured locally, perhaps by the naming

of the neighbourhood school when built. A formal proposal to this effect has now been made to Ausma Malik, Toronto District School Trustee for Ward Ten (City Wards 19 & 20), when the school planned for Fort York Blvd. between Bathurst and Spadina opens in 2018/19. It is supported by the biography below, and seems to us entirely fitting.

Jean Earle Geeson (13 Oct. 1864 - 4 Oct. 1907), teacher, artist, journalist, and early champion of Fort York, was born in London, England, the youngest of six children of William Geeson and Emma Dansey. Her father, listed in the 1861 British census as a coffee-house keeper in Finsbury, London, was a linen draper by trade. He came with his family to Canada in August

1865. They settled first near Streetsville, Peel County, Ontario, but moved to London, Ontario, when Jean was about nine.

She attended primary school in London and continued her education at that city's Western Art School. Having enrolled at Alma Ladies' College in nearby St. Thomas in 1887, she graduated two years later with honours in Fine Arts. Her studies were guided by the well-known painter Frederic M. Bell-Smith, RCA, who was then director of Alma's Art Department. In 1890-92 Geeson continued her training at the Cooper Union, New York City, and Pratt Institute, Brooklyn. In the mid-1890s she taught art in a ladies' school in Harlem and worked briefly as a designer and decorator for the 'Corona Novelty Glass firm' (not to be confused with the Tiffany Glass Company, also in Corona, NY.) until ill health forced her return to Canada. Appointed a teacher of painting at Alma College in 1896, she held that post until her resignation in late 1900.

Then as now, making art went hand in hand with exhibiting and marketing it. Geeson's debut may have been the drawing she entered in the Fine Art section of the Provincial Exhibition in London in 1889. But she hit her stride later with woodcarvings sent to the World's Fair, Chicago, in 1893; paintings shown at the Ontario Society of Artists' exhibits in 1903 and 1904, the latter at the Canadian National Exhibition; and at the Royal Canadian Academy show in Montreal in 1904.

Jean Geeson moved to Toronto in December 1900 and continued to study with Bell-Smith and Laura Muntz, ARCA, at their city studios. An early attempt to depict her new hometown was an oil painting of the buildings at the west end of Fort York dated 1901, now in the Toronto Public Library collections (cat. 979-19-2). The Library also has a 1902 watercolour of the mill at Lambton on the Humber River (cat. B-4 25c). Her attention fastened next on 'High Park' and John G. Howard who gave the land to the city. This led to the first of several pieces she wrote for *The Globe*; it was published 12 July 1902 and illustrated with her own sketches.

While teaching and making art may have given Geeson a modest living, it is clear Fort York provided her with a cause. On 4 July 1903 an article by her on "*The Old Fort of Toronto*," appeared in *The Globe*, again accompanied by some sketches. When she returned to the subject in *The Globe*, 4 October

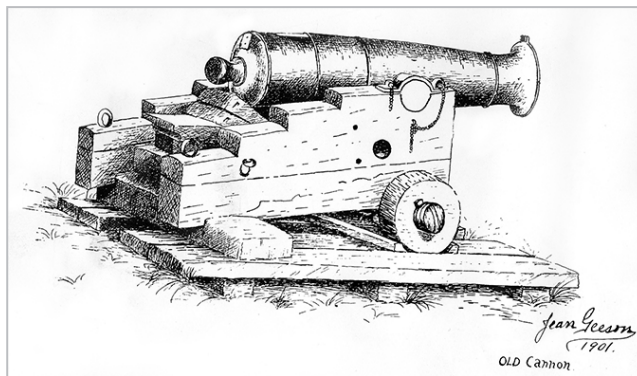
1905, however, it was to report that the Street Railway Company with the support of city council intended to build a streetcar line through the centre of the fort. She was the first to sound the alarm, prompting a swift reaction by the Ontario Historical Society, IODE, and Women's Canadian Historical Society. Indignation was fanned by an article in *The Globe* illustrated with two of her sketches. A meeting at the fort a few days later, attended by hundreds, was presided over by the lieutenant-governor. Geeson gave a short paper followed by a speech from Nathaniel Burwash of Victoria College.

The following year she authored a 16-page illustrated booklet, *The Old Fort at Toronto, 1793-1906*, published on

the strength of an order from the Board of Education for 3000 copies for presentation to senior classes throughout the city. That May, megaphone in hand, she began giving weekly tours of the fort to schoolchildren, attracting 300 or so each time. She acknowledged assistance with this initiative from School Inspector James Laughlin Hughes and Alexander Muir. The latter, principal at Gladstone Avenue Public School and composer of *The Maple Leaf Forever*, had

brought about two dozen of his pupils to the mass meeting in 1905. So both Geeson and he can be credited as co-founders of a tradition of school visits to Fort York that has continued with vigour since.

In 1907 Jean Earle Geeson, then on the staff of the Sunday School Publications department of the *Church Record*, attended the World Sunday School Convention in Rome. She filed reports from Italy as a special correspondent for *The Globe*. Returning to England after the conference, her assignment from the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture was to write articles for the British papers on the advantages of settling in Ontario. Unfortunately, this assignment had hardly begun before she fell ill in late September and was admitted to the Cottage Hospital in Leek, Staffordshire, England. She died there on 4 October 1907 from peritonitis following an operation and was buried in Leek Cemetery three days later. Obituaries in both the *Toronto Globe* and *Daily Star* paid tribute to her work in preserving Fort York as a heritage site and the education of the public about the history and significance of this Canadian landmark.



Geeson drew this 1843 bronze cannon which sits in front of Colborne Lodge, High Park, for a 1902 newspaper article. Originally part of Fort York's arsenal, the cannon was relocated probably after the City of Toronto received the south part of the park as a bequest on John Howard's death in 1890. Credit: Toronto Culture Collections.

Army and Navy Veterans' Medal Wanted for Fort York Collection

by Staff

Her Majesty's Army and Navy Veterans' Association (sometimes Society), formed in Toronto in August 1887, and incorporated in 1888, deserves to be remembered better. Open to all who had served Britain in uniform, the organization emerged from the celebrations of Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. Among its initial purposes were to do all in its power to establish an Army Veterans Home in Toronto; to give old comrades-in-arms a decent burial; and to provide their widows with modest aid. Within a year of its founding, however, the association had also set its sights on improving the former military cemetery in Victoria Square, Toronto, and on raising a monument there. Apart from holding meetings, suppers, and church parades, the veterans organized athletic games and fielded a band that was much in demand. They held their gatherings in different halls around town.

An earlier organization with a similar name and purpose had existed in Halifax since 1872. Another, with a name identical to the Toronto one, was established in Great Britain

in 1891 under the patronage-in-chief of HRH the Duke of Cambridge. This may account for a similarity in the distinctive badge worn by members of the Toronto group, as prescribed by Article 16 of its by-laws, to examples found today in the UK and Germany. Made in sterling silver, silver gilt, or white metal, the medal was cast in the form of a Maltese cross with the royal coat of arms in the centre flanked by a gun carriage and two crossed rifles; two crossed swords sit above the arms and two crossed anchors below. The reverse is blank. Among the examples found to date by The Friends, the crown in the royal coat of arms varies between those of Victoria and Edward VII. Also, on some medals the crossed swords are thicker than on others.

All the badges hang on a blue ribbon with a central red stripe bordered with white, but there are important differences in the clasps and hangers. Three examples located have a single, deep bar stamped "Imperial/Army and Navy/Veterans." Another variant has the same wording on three separated bars, while an odd outlier has "His Majesty's/A & N Vet's/Hamilton" spelled out on three bars.

Because Victoria Square is part of the Fort York National Historic Site we'd like to have an example of the medal issued by the Toronto association in our collections and for display in the wider context of the Square's place within Toronto's park system. Anyone who has an example of the badge and would like to discuss a gift of it to Fort York should e-mail info@fortyork.ca to be put in touch with the Chief Curator for Toronto City Museums.



A pristine example of the Army and Navy Veterans' medal in silver gilt shows clearly the detail on the face. It once belonged to Sgt. William H. Denman. Credit: eMedals, item C4109

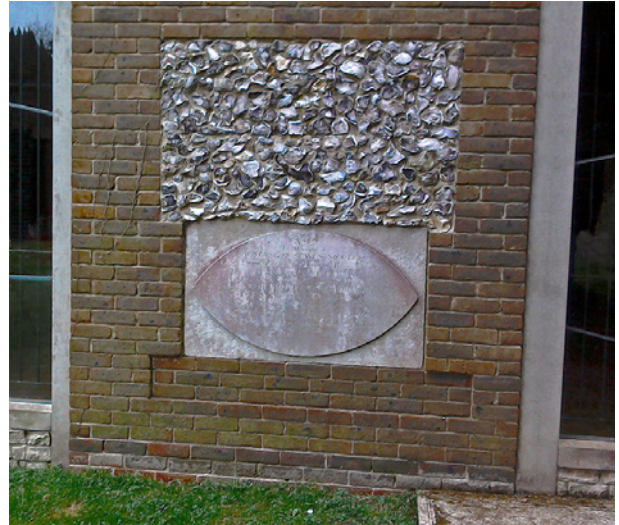
Sergeant Michael Brophy, a veteran of Crimea featured in Fife & Drum in March 2014, wears his Veterans' medal with pride. Credit: Private collection

Gustavus Nicolls' Grave Identified

In an article "Who Was Gustavus Nicolls?" that appeared in the last issue of *Fife and Drum* his date of death was included, but not where he was buried. This omission was set right recently when Anne Butcher, parish administrator for the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Fareham, Hampshire, England, wrote to say she'd found a memorial tablet to him and his wife set into the wall of their church hall built in the early 1970s. Strangely, the plaque seemed to have been part of some previous, larger structure, probably an above-ground tomb. The inscription begins with the word "Also" and sits within an almond-shaped field surrounded by hammer-picked stone, distinctly modern in feeling.

The full inscription reads "Also to/The Memory of/
GENERAL GUSTAVUS NICOLLS/Colonel Commandant
of the Corps of Royal Engineers/who was born October
24th 1779/and died at Southampton August 1st 1861/and
of HERIOT FRANCES THOMSON/Relict of General
Gustavus Nicolls/who was born October 21st 1782/and died at
Southampton December 12th 1866/Here we have no abiding
place but we seek for life to come/Heb XIII 14."

Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed that the year of his death on the plaque is wrong: he died in 1860, not 1861. Presumably, by the time heirs or executors got 'round to commissioning a stone-carver after Heriot's death their memories had dimmed slightly.



*Memorial tablet to Gustavus Nicolls set into the wall of a building at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Fareham, England.
Credit: Anne Butcher*

Friends of Fort York Annual General Meeting

by Don Cranston

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common was held at 6 pm on Thursday, 16 June 2016. Treasurer Joe Gill walked members through the Financial Statements, describing the strong position of the organization. The Fort York Guard Future Fund, a segregated fund to support the future financing of the Fort York Guard, is in excess of \$403,000 at year-end.

The Nominating Committee presented the following people as the proposed slate of directors for the upcoming year: Nancy Baines, Sid Calzavara, Jennifer Chan, Don Cranston, Harriet De Koven, Richard Dodds, Jeff Evenson, Patricia

Fleming, Joe Gill, Christopher Henry, Mima Kapches, Michael McDonnell, Shawn Micallef, Stephen Otto, Elizabeth Quance, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Ted Smolak, and Andrew Stewart. The slate of directors was unanimously approved.

Mr. George Beal, a director of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common since its founding in 1995, decided not to stand for re-election for the upcoming year. Geordie's efforts over the past twenty-one years have been brilliant. He has been a leader in every area of The Friends' activities. We will miss his sage advice and wicked sense of humour, and wish him all the best in the years ahead!



Project: Under Gardiner: Design Development and Naming Update

by Christopher McKinnon

Beginning in March, Torontonians engaged in a city-wide brainstorming session to come up with possible names for this new public space. A jury representing some of Toronto's most creative, engaged, and diverse citizens reviewed 884 suggestions and shortlisted four names for public voting. The first round of voting narrowed the field from four names to just two. Those two names then met head-to-head in a four-day runoff vote when 1333 votes were cast. 'The Bentway' had 845 votes, while the 'Artery' had 488. The winning name celebrates "the bents", the column-and-beam structures that frame the space under the Gardiner Expressway. On June 6,

Project: Under Gardiner officially announced the winner of the #ReclaimTheName campaign: The Bentway. [Read more about the announcement.](#)

Meanwhile, the design team has continued to advance toward detailed design. A number of new drawings and renderings of the landscape and architectural features were presented at a public meeting on May 31 and are shared below. [View the full presentation.](#)

Christopher McKinnon is manager of digital and social media, Waterfront Toronto.



At Strachan Avenue a timber staircase with integrated ramps for barrier-free access forms an iconic entrance to the site from the street. It will also serve as an informal bleacher system to the stage below. (Image courtesy of PUBLIC WORK)



The project hopes to create a suspended timber bridge to provide a safe crossing at Fort York Boulevard. A key feature in the bridge's design is a rolled timber bench running along its south edge. The bridge and the seating will provide a new panoramic view of the Fort York National Historic Site's lawns and buildings. (Image courtesy of PUBLIC WORK)

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Manager's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Manager

Although access to Fort York remains severely constrained due to construction on the Gardiner Expressway, as we reach the midpoint of 2016 we are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. With the actual expressway deck demolition and replacement complete, the finishing work (painting, drain installation) over the remainder of the year will have less of an impact on our programs and events. Our own landscaping work on Garrison Common, which included reconstructing Garrison Road, was largely done by the end of May. Our contractor, Ashland Construction Ltd., did a wonderful job and finished the work in time for our summer season. The final landscaping, including the removal of the upper gravel parking lot, will be in place in the fall once our major event season is finished and Gardiner construction is complete.

The construction of the Fort York Pedestrian Bridge will likely ramp up throughout the remainder of 2016 for an opening at some point to be confirmed in 2017. If all continues to go according to plan, construction will begin on Project: Under Gardiner, now known as The Bentway, in late 2016 and into 2017. Project: Under Gardiner is moving very fast and will have an important impact on Fort York as it occupies a significant portion of the National Historic Site. Visit www.undergardiner.com for more information and to follow along as it unfolds. Although \$25 million has been generously donated towards the project, we still have several major unfunded projects at Fort York, including the completion of the Visitor Centre's weathered steel façade. Visit www.fortyorkfoundation.ca for more information.

Within the Visitor Centre itself, the exhibit installation is well underway and is scheduled for completion in late July or early August. This will include the installation of exhibits within the gallery, Vault, Time Tunnel, and lobby, and the launch of our new orientation film in the theatre.

With many of these major pieces finally falling into place, we are pleased to announce that the Fort York Visitor

Centre is being considered as a finalist for a significant architectural award. The Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize, awarded biennially, was established by The College of Architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology to recognize the most distinguished architectural works built on the North and South American continents. The recipients of the prize will be named by a jury of professional architects, curators, writers, editors, and other individuals whose work has had a lasting influence on the theory and practice of design. <http://www.arch.iit.edu/life/mchap-201415-finalists-announced> Our summer season is well underway and has already been a busy one. In addition to Doors Open, we had two additional events on site in late May. The second annual 200 Years of Firepower showcased artillery over two hundred years, from 1816 to 2016. Guns in the battery ranged from the fort's light 6 pdr. field gun crewed by the Fort York Guard to the ultra-modern M-777 (155 mm) Howitzer crewed by the 2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery from Garrison Petawawa. The 7th Toronto Regiment (Royal Canadian Artillery) crewed the 105 mm Howitzer and their support group, the Limber Gunner's Association, fired the Second World War 25 pdr.

We also hosted the 125th Anniversary Tattoo of the 48th Highlanders of Canada and showcased the famous Toronto regiment's service to Canada with a spectacular parade by the unit and its Pipes and Drums. Thanks to everyone for participating in such a wonderful series of events during Doors Open.

Arts and Crafts Field Trip brought thousands to the fort during the first weekend in June for the annual music and arts festival while the fourth annual Indigenous Arts Festival took place from June 16 to 19. The Indigenous Arts Festival celebrates traditional and contemporary music, dance, theatre, literature, storytelling, visual arts, crafts, and food created by indigenous artists from across Canada. It included the Na-Me-Res Pow-Wow on the Saturday.

The impressive program for the Indigenous Arts Festival was the result of a collaborative effort with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, with financial support from TD Bank and the Department of Canadian Heritage (visit

<http://bit.ly/1TFA4mz> for more information). We've been extremely fortunate to have had Robert Kerr, our Supervisor of Special Events at Fort York, working on all aspects of this event and many others. We wish Robert well as he moves on to take a 12 month position with the City Cultural Events Team as the programming lead for the upcoming Canada 150 Event Celebrations. Robert's experience leading arts organizations, programming and producing extraordinary festivals and events emphasizing partnership, collaboration,



and community engagement has been invaluable in everything we've been working on at Fort York. We wish him the best and look forward to his return.

Also on the staff front, we'd like to wish program officer René Malagon all the very best upon his recent retirement. Although René's 28 years have been predominantly at Fort York, he has also worked at Mackenzie House and Colborne Lodge. Congratulations and all the very best René.

In May, Dave O'Hara, manager of the Fort York National Historic Site, joined Bridget Wranich, program officer, to congratulate volunteers in the fort's cooking program after they were presented with 20-year awards for service from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration. Seen here with Dave are (l. to r.) Bridget, Rosemary Kovac, Mya Sangster, and Joan Derblich.

Toronto's Great War Attic: Lest We Forget

by Sandra Shaul

Toronto's Great War Attic is part of the First World War programming produced by Museums & Heritage Services in the city's Culture division. As an oral history project it provides moving insights into the First World War that can't be found in formal histories or conventional museum collections.

During a dozen events across the city in the fall of 2014 to which people were invited to bring items they treasured that were related to the conflict, the project collected almost one hundred stories. In a modest way they show the broad impact of the war. While the storytellers are all from Toronto or the GTA, the memories were rooted in Canada, Great Britain, Europe, the Caribbean, and Siberia. From among them, ten were chosen to be featured on videos now found at this link: [Toronto's Great War Attic, Short Documentary Films](#) A poetry volume that shatters a stereotype, an autograph book that bonds a woman with her late father, and a series of letters that gives a new bittersweet sense of family are just a few of the keepsakes and stories revealed in the ten videos. They were directed, edited, and filmed by Juan Baquero, in consultation with Museums & Heritage Services.

School programs are also being produced as part of the Great War Attic for launch in September in support of the major nationwide commemoration in April 2017 that will be focused on Vimy.

Sandra Shaul was the production manager for Toronto's Great War Attic.



In the first video in the series, Darin Wybenga, librarian for the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, tells of the serendipitous return of a book of poetry carried into war by Lt Cameron Brant, great-great-grandson of Mohawk chief Joseph Brant. A member of the Canadian expeditionary Force, Lt Brant died early in the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915.

In Review: *Recipes & Remedies in Upper Canada* by Hannah Peters Jarvis

by Bridget Wranich

Compiled and edited by Elizabeth Oliver-Malone

Recipes & Remedies in Upper Canada by Hannah Peters Jarvis

Gaspereau Press, 2015, 96 pp. \$25.00 ISBN 978-0-9938339-0-8

This little book is a complete transcription of Hannah Peters Jarvis's journal with entries dating from the late 1700s through to the 1840s. The original at the Guelph University Library has been transcribed and published by Willowbank School of Restoration Arts and Centre for Cultural Heritage in Queenston, Ontario, to honour the Jarvis and Hamilton families.

The Jarvis journal has always been of interest to the Historic Foodways Programme at Fort York because of its close connection to the garrison and the early town of York (Toronto). Hannah Jarvis was married in 1785 in London to William Jarvis, an ensign in the Queen's Rangers under the command of John Graves Simcoe during the Revolutionary War. When Jarvis was appointed secretary and registrar of the Legislative Council by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, William and Hannah Jarvis along with their three children moved to Upper Canada in 1792, to Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake). The portrait of Hannah Jarvis with her two daughters was painted in England before the Jarvis family sailed for Canada. In 1798 they moved to York, the new capital. Hannah Jarvis left York by 1819 after their property and debts were transferred to their son Samuel and her husband William had died. She moved to Willowbank in the 1830s to live with her daughter Hannah and son-in-law Alexander Hamilton.

Her journal provides a fascinating glimpse into the household of a gentlewoman in Upper Canada. The recipes include drinks (mostly alcoholic), cakes, biscuits, puddings, vinegars, sauces, spice mixtures, and potted and pickled meats. Living in York, Hannah borrowed recipes from friends and acquaintances such as Mrs. William Dummer Powell, wife of the chief justice, and Mrs. John McGill, whose husband was a member of the Executive Council. Both shared recipes, bearing their husbands' names, for rusks (toasted sweet dried bread). Many of the recipes can be traced to British and American cookbooks of the period such as Amelia Simmons, *The First American Cookbook*, 1796; Maria Rundell, *The New System of Domestic Cookery*, 1806; and Eliza Leslie, *Seventy-Five Receipts, for Pastry, Cakes and Sweetmeats*, 1828. Later, her daughter Hannah added recipes to the journal from Dr. William Kitchener's *The Cooks' Oracle*, 1822.

The medicinal remedies answer to a wide variety of complaints but, as compiler Dr. Oliver-Malone points out, "I must warn you not to use the toxic elements in some recipes which are banned... (e.g. mercury, sulphur, lead, lye, etc.)"



Hannah Owen Jarvis (née Peters) with her daughters, oil on canvas, c. 1791-92. Courtesy of the Royal Ontario Museum, ©ROM

This caution applies to other recipes for paints, cements, cleaners, and cosmetics.

Recipes & Remedies in Upper Canada truly gives the reader an intimate glimpse into the lives of the Jarvis family. It reveals their tastes and preferences in food and household techniques as well as their medical needs. If you love searching through historical documents and old cookbooks you will enjoy this book. However, the fonts chosen to represent Hannah and her family's handwriting, though quaint and historical in style, are somewhat difficult to read. The images of Hannah's original writing are a bonus and might have been enough to give the reader a feel for the journal.

For those who want to cook from *Recipes & Remedies in Upper Canada* be aware that most of the measurements follow the old British/American (1 pint = 16 ounces) versus imperial 20 ounce pint. This is due to the fact that the imperial measures did not come into use until after 1824 with the passing of the Weights and Measures Act.

Since *Recipes & Remedies in Upper Canada* is an invaluable resource for period recipes the Historic Foodways Program at Fort York has already begun testing them. Our first attempt was 'Mrs. Bambridge's way to make Ginger bread' and we look forward to trying many more. Perhaps the next time you visit the Officers' Mess kitchen at Fort York National Historic Site, you can taste one of Hannah Jarvis's favourites.

Bridget Wranich is program officer at Fort York National Historic Site.

Fort York's Archaeological Collections

by Richard Gerrard

Archaeology at Fort York dates back sixty years to at least 1956 when staff undertook exploration of the fort's well prior to its restoration. This was followed by a more 'scientific' dig in 1968 along the east wall of the Officers' Mess to support the restoration of that building. Professional archaeological excavations can be traced to 1973 when the Royal Ontario Museum excavated the former site of the Guardhouse and Artillery Barracks over a period of three years. During the 1990s and 2000s capital projects involving earth moving at the fort were monitored routinely by city archaeologists, although most of the actual field work was completed by contract archaeological firms doing cultural resource management (CRM) assessments prior to and during capital projects.

It is the City of Toronto's Museums and Heritage Services' (MHS) practice to work with Ontario's Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport to repatriate collections excavated at city museums from the archaeological consultants who excavated them.

According to the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18 (sect.66(1)) artifacts may be held in trust: "The Minister may direct that any artifact taken under the authority of a licence or a permit be deposited in such public institution as the Minister may determine, to be held in trust for the people of Ontario." As a result, tucked away in MHS storage building are 682 boxes of specimens. The fort's is by far the largest single collection at 520 boxes but there are another 162 boxes from digs at other city-run museums or where we were the archaeological licence holder. There are even a few antiquarian collections we acquired before the Ontario Heritage Act came into being!

Over the last year, we have transferred more than eighty boxes of material from work done at Fort York by Archaeological Services Incorporated and Strata Consulting. In addition, we accepted specimens from Queen's Wharf (another twelve boxes, plus three 'big and heavy' specimens: 50 foot long schooner remains, a sample of wharf cribbing, and 9 foot length of iron U-rail). More accruals are expected from the work now underway for the pedestrian bridge.

In most cases the collections come prepared to enter long-term storage, but sometimes re-packaging or conservation treatment can be needed, as is the case for the wooden artifacts recovered with the schooner. Coming out of a wet soil, they needed to be carefully dried and stabilized before they can be packaged for storage. This can require our conservator to occasionally be quite inventive in her approach to treatment (figure 1).

But the artifacts are only part of the story. The archive of field notes, photographs, drawings, digital images and databases, and published and unpublished reports, is a significant resource for interpreting the site's history. Coming from different sources they can present challenges to the integration of data into the museum collection management system.

Our long-term commitment to the stewardship of these irreplaceable pieces of the fort's history allowed us to reunite two fragments of an astonishing artifact, an officers' gilt gorget (figure 2). A gorget is the symbol of an officer's royal authority, but this example was intentionally cut into several pieces. The how and why is not relevant to this short note (and you can learn all about them by visiting the Vault in the Visitor Centre where they are on exhibit). What is relevant is that they were discovered by two different archaeological projects occurring twenty-four years and two hundred meters apart, and were then reunited physically and intellectually by city staff during exhibition research forty-one years after their initial discovery. I fully expect that future generations will make equally astonishing discoveries as we continue to study the fort's archaeology both in the ground, and increasingly, in storage.

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



Fragments of a 1796 pattern officer's gorget discovered in 1973 and 1997 respectively (NICI.2823 and 14FY3A1.3) (Courtesy of the author)



Artifacts conservator Joan Fussell inspects barrel staves being dried before they can be stored (AjGu-74.2030/.2040) (Courtesy of the author)

Artillery Day at Fort York



Visitors to Fort York for Doors Open on 28 May lucked out in being able to attend Artillery Day and the 48th Highlanders 125th anniversary parade and mini-tattoo. Both took place that same day. Seen there were (left to right) Kevin Hebib, program development officer at the fort; BGen (Ret) Ernie Beno, HCol of the Toronto Gunners; and, in period uniform, Bdr. J. T. Douglas of E Battery, 2nd Regiment Royal Canadian Horse Artillery based in Petawawa, Ontario. The gun is an original 9-pounder, introduced into service with the British Army about 1871.

48th Highlanders Celebrate their 125th Anniversary with a Mini-Tattoo at Fort York



Lt Col Harry S. Pedwell, CD leads the 48th Highlanders of Canada at a mini-tattoo at Fort York on Saturday 28 May as part of a series of events marking the 125th anniversary of the 48th Highlanders since their founding as a reserve (militia) infantry regiment in Toronto in 1891. The 90 minute tattoo featured the regiment's Pipes and Drums, their volunteer Military Band, and soldiers in competitions. General Jonathan Vance, CMM, MSC, CD, the Chief of the Defence Staff, took the salute of the march past of the 48th Highlanders. The 48th Highlanders Pipes and Drums of Holland, a band composed of reenactors from the town of Apeldoorn, participated in the tattoo having travelled from The Netherlands to honour the 48th Highlanders who liberated their town in April 1945. Credit: Ian L. Macdonald



48th Highlanders in period dress lead parade at Fort York during a mini-tattoo on 28 May. The historic uniforms represent the periods in which the 48th Highlanders of Canada earned 50 Battle Honours: South Africa 1899-1900; 21 in the First World War; 27 in the Second World War including honours in Sicily, Italy, and the liberation of Holland; and most recently Afghanistan, recognizing the numbers of Highlanders who volunteered to serve in Canada's engagement there. Credit: Ian L. Macdonald



The Friends Of
FORT YORK
AND GARRISON COMMON

FOLLOW THE DRUM

The Fort York Fife and Drum Corps is looking for volunteers aged 12-16 to join our summer Fife and Drum program

- Perform in our daily War of 1812 music demonstrations
- Free music lessons - no experience required!
- All instruments and uniforms provided

Interested? Email the Drum-Major at fydcorps@gmail.com

2016 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Richard Haynes

Summer at Fort York Daily, 10 am to 5 pm

Thrill to the booming of the cannon, the firing of muskets, the vibrant colours of the uniformed guard, and the lively music of fife and drum. Visitors will enjoy hourly demonstrations performed by students representing the Canadian Fencible Regiment that was garrisoned at the fort at the end of the War of 1812. Program varies daily. Call for specific details.

Regular admission.

JULY

Canada Day @ Fort York Fri. July 1, 10 am to 5 pm

Spend Canada's special day at Fort York, the birthplace of Toronto. The Fort's Summer Guard kicks off the season performing musket and artillery drill as well as fife and drum music. Canada Day 2016 features Toronto artist Bruno Billio's Tri-Mirror Sculpture Field—a playful maze of mirrors to explore outdoors on the grounds of Fort York. Kids can also enjoy crafts, face-painting, hula-hooping, and storytelling sessions. Grab a Fort York temporary tattoo and your own Canadian flag to show your pride. Enjoy the tours, bring a picnic, and learn the exciting story of this National Historic Site.

This free Celebrate Canada event is supported by a grant from the Government of Canada

www.toronto.ca/fortevents

Panorama Sun. July 31 & Mon. August 1

Family friendly events for the Caribbean Carnival weekend. Outdoor picnic, great food, Caribbean dance performances, Soca music, and a spectacular steel band competition, including youth bands, award winning Toronto ensembles Pan Fantasy Steelband and Afropan Steelband, plus special guests Fusion Steel Orchestra direct from Trinidad.

Presented by Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival, Pan Arts Network, and Fort York.

www.toronto.ca/fortevents

AUGUST

Simcoe Day @ Fort York Mon. August 1 10 am to 5 pm

Fort York celebrates Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, who founded the town of York (Toronto) in 1793 and was the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada (Ontario). Come learn about the birthplace of Toronto and thrill to the sounds of musketry, cannons, and the fife and drum.

Free admission

TIME (Toronto Independent Music Experience) Garrison Common Sat. August 6

Independent music festival.

<http://time-fest.com/>

Toronto Vegan Food & Drink Festival Garrison Common Sat. & Sun. August 13 & 14

Toronto's first-ever all vegan festival catering to a 19+ crowd. Attendees can indulge and sample the very best in comfort food, craft brews, and wine and spirits from a variety of reputable vegan vendors.

<http://www.veganfestto.com/>

First World War Comes to Life Sat. & Sun. August 13 & 14, 10 am to 5 pm

This fully-animated exhibit explores the lesser known wartime contributions of the Canadian men and women who served beyond the trenches, both at home and overseas. It offers a series of dynamic displays and activities for visitors to experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a world behind the front lines. Visitors of all ages are invited to engage with live costumed interpreters and explore how they too can contribute to the war effort.

Generously funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage and Veterans Affairs, First World War Comes to Life is currently travelling across Canada through to 2018 to mark the centenary of the First World War.

Mad Decent Block Party Garrison Common Fri. August 19

An electronic music festival that brings a beat-blasting block party to cities across North America.

<http://maddecentblockparty.com/>

SEPTEMBER

TURF (Toronto Urban Roots Festival) Garrison Common

Fri. to Sun. September 16 to 18

Closing out a jam-packed summer of music festivals in the city, this year's lineup TBA.

<http://torontourbanrootsfest.com/>

Farm to Fork On Common Ground Fri. & Sat. September 23 & 24, noon to 6 pm

Celebrate the harvest season with a festival of healthy food, music, arts, and community. Featuring an organic farmers' market, dozens of Non-GMO vendors, well-researched speakers, soulful music, site-specific dance, giant puppet theatre, collaborative art making for all ages, environmental defenders, and food safety and seed freedom advocates.

www.toronto.ca/fortevents

www.torontonongmcoalition.org

Sick Kids Great Camp Adventure Garrison Common Sat. September 24

Take on the challenge of a new adventure walk unlike anything Toronto's ever seen: a full day designed so everyone and anyone can participate. Join in a challenge-by-choice walk along a planned route—all the way up to 20 km. Support SickKids Hospital

Bicycle Tour: The Forts of Toronto Sat. September 24, 11 am to 1 pm

Moderate difficulty. The tour begins at Lambton House (4066 Old Dundas Street) at the edge of the Carrying Place trail. From there, we will ride to Teiagon, the site of the 17th-century Seneca Village and the Magasin Royal of 1720. Following the Humber Bicycle Trails we will stop and explore the sites of Toronto's second French fort. Continuing along the Martin Goodman Trail we will go to where Fort Rouillé, the last French Fort, once stood. The tour will end at Fort York, a British fort and the place where Toronto (then York) was founded.

The bicycle tour is pay-what-you-can; donations of \$5+ are encouraged.

Great War Cooking Class Thurs. September 29, 6:30 to 9 pm

Join us in the 1826 Officers' Mess kitchen where participants will prepare (and sample) a variety of delicious Great War dishes.

\$75 plus tax. Pre-payment required (to cover materials and ingredients).

For class information please call: Bridget Wranich at 416 392-7455.

To register, call: 416 392-7484.

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



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



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