

The Fife and Drum

Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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Fort Rouillé an outpost of French diplomacy and trade

by Carl Benn

The largest number of francophone soldiers in the history of colonial Toronto served under British command, at Fort York, between the 1790s and 1810s in regiments raised in Canada. Yet, there was a French-led military presence here during the 1750s, at Fort Rouillé, when southern Ontario formed part of New France. That post stood near today's Bandshell inside Exhibition Place, and its story connects deeply to Native-newcomer relations during the struggles between Great Britain and France for control of the vast North American interior.

Fort Rouillé was a French

royal post and dependency of Fort Niagara across Lake Ontario (in modern Youngstown, New York). Its name honoured Antoine Louis Rouillé, Comte de Jouy, who served as secretary of state for the navy from 1749 to 1754 and then as foreign secretary until 1756. People usually referred to the post as *le fort royal de Toronto*, or Fort Toronto, and occasionally, as Fort Saint-Victor.

It anchored the southern end of the Toronto Passage, an ancient water and portage route between Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay. From this strategic location, Fort Rouillé provided a base for Franco-Indigenous diplomacy and trade. At a secondary level, it helped to meet French logistical needs as soldiers, sailors, and others travelled across the Great Lakes.

From some point in the 1600s, French traders had set up short-term camps along the Toronto Passage. In the 1720s, a government-licensed *Magasin royal* stood near the south end of the Toronto Passage on the Humber River. It was one of three such posts founded then, with the others established at the eastern end of Lake Ontario and on the Niagara River. The *magasin* likely consisted of one or two modest buildings surrounded by a stockade to house a few men and their supplies. Beyond trade, the authorities wanted



This vignette from a map cartouche shows a representation of Indigenous/Euro-American trade. The depiction of the Native men is relatively generic but variations occurred across numerous 18th-century prints, watercolours and maps to portray Natives from today's southern Ontario. One man offers a beaver skin to exchange for goods while another smokes a 'pipe tomahawk.' Good documentary images of the Mississaugas in the mid-1700s do not exist. Source: Detail from A Map of the Inhabited Part of Canada by Claude Joseph Sauthier, courtesy John Carter Brown Library, C-7603

to use their Toronto post to maintain good relations with the local Mississaugas and people from farther north who journeyed between the upper and lower lakes along the passage. Nevertheless, both before the French abandoned it about the year 1730, and then afterward, Natives often travelled around Lake Ontario to trade with the British at Oswego in New York. Some even allied with Anglo-Americans against France and its Indigenous allies during the War of Austrian Succession in the 1740s. Yet others, such as 65 men from the Toronto area, fought alongside French forces in 1745 and 1746.

As part of subsequent efforts to undermine their imperial rival, the French decided in 1749 to build an entire series of posts. Among them was a small stockaded fort on the Humber, which they built in 1750. They hoped it would help cut one of the links between Oswego and the First Nations north of Lake Ontario, and perhaps even make the competing post unprofitable so that the British would abandon it. The French also thought they could cultivate good relations with the Mississaugas and thereby encourage warriors to fight alongside them in a future conflict with Great Britain.



Almost immediately, the volume of trade exceeded expectations. Thus, the newcomers found they could not lay up enough stock to exchange for furs, venison, canoes, fish and bear oil and other Indigenous goods. Native people, to the delight of their French trading partners, even suggested that they might stop visiting Oswego if the post at Toronto could meet their needs for Euro-American supplies. At the same time, officials worried that their new establishment was too small for the garrison of around 15 soldiers (accompanied by a few workmen and some women from time to time). Therefore, they replaced it with a larger one – Fort Rouillé – which also had the advantage of being more defensible should Franco-Indigenous relations degenerate into armed conflict, as seemed possible given the numerous tensions that existed between Natives and newcomers.

Construction on Fort Rouillé began in September 1750 several kilometres to the east of the Humber River on a four- or five-metre-high bank overlooking Lake Ontario. The lake at that spot was not suitable for shipping because of a large flat offshore rock. That feature enhanced the site's security against a naval assault but required sailing vessels to anchor to the east or west. Workmen completed most of their tasks by the spring of 1751, although they

added more buildings later. Much of the cut timber, ironwork and other materials had to be shipped from Fort Frontenac (at present-day Kingston). The basic technique used to assemble the buildings was *pièces-sur-pièces*, a method of raising walls by inserting horizontal squared timbers into upright wooden frames. The defensive walls, at least in part, likely were constructed in stockade fashion, as one period source called them “upright piles.” The otherwise-square fort had pointed bastions at the corners. The distance from the tip of one bastion to another was about 40 metres. The site seems to have been armed with at least four swivel guns or other kinds of small artillery pieces.

The men of the garrison cut down trees around the fort to use for construction and firewood as well as to improve security by creating an open field of fire. This open area also provided space for the gardens, cemetery and other landscape components associated with such posts. There were five or six main buildings inside the defences along with some structures beyond the walls. As a dependency of Fort Niagara, it formed part of a chain of military works that the French hoped would project power throughout the Great Lakes in support of their colonial ambitions. The resources devoted to this grand scheme, however, were modest,

Fort Rouillé formed part of a chain of military works that the French hoped would project power throughout the Great Lakes

Who would lay cement with a silver-plated trowel?

by Richard Gerrard

Well, the short answer is: "No one in their right mind." At least, not any longer. This class of ceremonial object is from a time more refined and dignified than our own (no shiny chrome-plated shovels for us, *thank you very much*). In fact, this mason's trowel was used for the laying of the cornerstone of a new and important building. It lives on as a physical document commemorating the same.

Which brings me to the object at hand, displayed below. It is the silver electroplated ceremonial trowel used to lay the cornerstone of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, sometimes called St. John's (Anglican) Garrison Church, in Toronto.

How do we know this?

First, the object is conveniently engraved with a legend saying CHURCH OF ST. JOHN // THE EVANGELIST // TORONTO // OCTOBER 8TH // 1892. So, our conclusion would not be a stretch for even the most curatorially challenged. But how do we know this was not added later, perhaps by some unscrupulous silver dealer for the purpose of deceiving an otherwise trusting public?

Second, the object has a plethora of other marks that tell us when, where, and by whom it was made. It's stamped with B and B, two unidentified pictorial marks, and EP surmounted by crown, both inside a crest. This means it was made by the Sheffield, England, firm of Briddon Brothers, who operated from 1863 to 1910. It was probably purchased by a Toronto retailer from them, then engraved to the purchaser's specification. And EP refers to electroplated silver, so this trowel is not solid sterling. All of this confirms the engraving as being contemporary with the object.

And third, at the end of the day, why bother to expensively engrave the date of an obscure event that relates to a long-demolished building?

We can also see that the handle is embossed Rd 146199. This is a Patent Office registration number. It was checked against the British, American and Canadian registration databases, and surprisingly matches none of the descriptions of the items

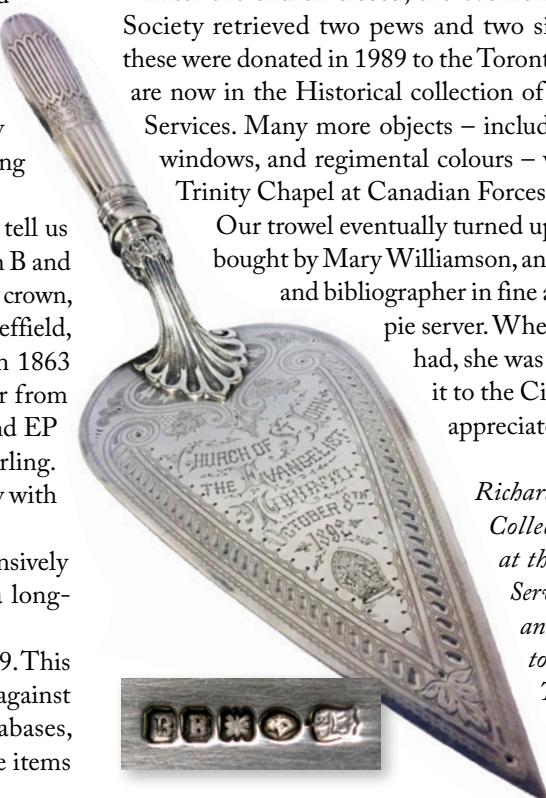
registered under this number. I expect it's a typo (these things happen). Oddly, this error supports the argument for authenticity.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist was the first garrison church for Fort York. It was located on Victoria Memorial Square (originally known as St. John's Square and now part of Fort York National Historic Site). The first church was a frame building put up in 1858. It was replaced by a brick structure that opened in 1893, and the laying of its cornerstone in 1892 was the reason this object was purchased. As the neighbourhood evolved from residential to largely industrial, the building was deconsecrated and ultimately demolished in 1963. (For a fascinating history of the church, see <http://www.wellingtonplace.org/history/church.php>)

After the church closed, the Women's Canadian Historical Society retrieved two pews and two signs from the church; these were donated in 1989 to the Toronto Historical Board and are now in the Historical collection of Museums & Heritage Services. Many more objects – including memorial plaques, windows, and regimental colours – were transferred to the Trinity Chapel at Canadian Forces Base Borden, Ontario.

Our trowel eventually turned up in an auction and was bought by Mary Williamson, an accomplished librarian and bibliographer in fine arts, to use as an elegant pie server. When she realized what she had, she was kind enough to donate it to the City's collection – and we appreciate her thoughtfulness.

Richard Gerrard is Historian, Collections and Curatorial, at the Museums & Heritage Services of the City of Toronto and a frequent contributor to F&D. Photos courtesy Toronto M&HS.



Howie Toda (1927–2017)

A long-time supporter of the Friends of Fort York passed away on December 16 in Toronto. Howie (Hisao) Toda was born in New Westminster and was a young teenager when his family was forced away from the coast following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. After the war, his family moved to Ontario and Howie graduated from Queen's with a degree in electrical engineering, spending a long and fruitful career with Ontario Hydro. He is survived by his wife Mariko – also a great supporter of Fort York – and three generations of descendants.

We appreciate all the help they've given the fort over the years.

Snowdrifts at the Fort

by Shawn Micallef



Stephen Anderson Otto is seen with Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, wearing the insignia of his membership in the Order of Canada, which she had just pinned on during a ceremony February 20 at the Royal York Hotel. The honour, says the vice-regal citation, is "for his sustained advocacy in support of heritage conservation and for his contributions to preserving and promoting Ontario's buildings and architecture." Photo: Master Corporal Vincent Carboneau

There are places in Toronto where the snowflakes pile up into drifts. Massey College on the University of Toronto campus is in the heart of the civic snow belt, where encountering somebody with a bejewelled and enamelled Order of Canada snowflake pin affixed is as common as meeting a high school-aged kid with a button of their favourite band on their knapsack. At any given event at Massey the glint off the pins can dazzle and give the impression everybody has one.

Of course, everybody does not have one, but Massey is a special place that regularly attracts Order of Canada types into its orbit. During the 2011-2012 academic year I was lucky to be a Canadian Journalism Fellow at Massey, a program that's been taking practising journalists and writers in since 1962. The idea is, in part, to give journalists a chance to recharge, take university courses, and immerse themselves into collegial life, learning and sharing with the graduate student Junior Fellows and the Senior Fellows who are faculty members and other accomplished folk.

Many of the latter have the Order of Canada too and it became a bit of good-natured sport among my fellow Fellows to spot and point out the pins like kids would do with Volkswagen Beetles on road trips in the recent past. During the second semester it's customary at Massey for the journalists to organize a party one night at the college. To poke a little good-natured fun at members of the Massey community, I had a friend create one-inch buttons with the Order of Canada insignia printed on them and made enough for everyone in an effort to "level the playing field."

At the beginning of the evening I pinned one of the giant buttons to John Fraser, then Master of Massey and already an Order of Canada recipient himself, declaring him the "best Governor General Canada never had." He and I then proceeded to hand them out to everyone. I worried about a bit of blowback or shade from the people who had earned them with a lifetime of good and hard work, but there wasn't any that I was aware of: people enjoyed the joke.

Six years later I still have a few dozen left over from the event and occasionally give to someone I think is deserving. Bigger than the real things, my buttons don't catch the light like the proper pins do: though rather tiny, the pins stick out mightily once you know what they are. During the most recent Oscar ceremony, Christopher Plummer sported his pin on his lapel, shining Hollywood-bright as the broadcast cut to him when his Best Supporting Actor nomination for *All the Money in the World* was announced.

Though only partially as glamorous as Hollywood, there'll be a little more glint around Fort York now. Stephen Otto, co-founder of the Friends of Fort York and indefatigable champion of the fort and Toronto and Ontario history, received his long-overdue appointment to the Order at an intimate February ceremony in Toronto with Governor General Julie Payette. He's been

He's been a mentor to many of us who started working on civic issues, Toronto or otherwise, in the last two decades

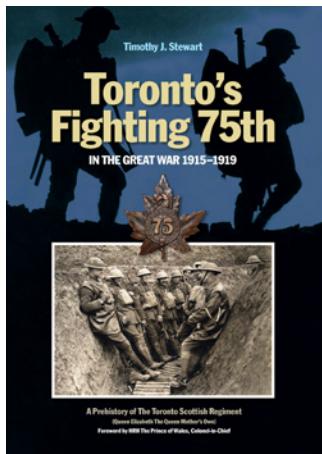
a mentor to many of us who started working on civic issues, Toronto or otherwise, in the last two decades.

His appointment also recognizes his writing, including his revision of Eric Arthur's canonical book *Toronto, No Mean City* and being the founding editor of *The Fife and Drum*, the Friends of Fort York's quarterly journal, a volunteer position he held for 20 years (including 14 as managing editor). His 1994 publication "Once more unto the Breach: Defending Fort York in the 20th century" chronicled the decades-long fight to preserve the fort in a rapidly expanding and rebuilding city, a story of eternal vigilance, negotiation and perseverance, themes that apply to so many civic struggles that Stephen has advised on, and those he's watched as a private citizen. As a civil servant, he was head of the Heritage Conservation Division at Ontario's Ministry of Culture and Recreation between 1975 and 1981.

Just as the fake buttons at Massey were intended to "level the playing field," Stephen's Order of Canada appointment can also be seen in the same light, as he's generously shared his knowledge and experience with others.

May the snow at Fort York never melt.

Shawn Micallef is a member of the board of the Friends of Fort York, a columnist with the Toronto Star, senior editor of Spacing magazine and author of *The Trouble With Brunch*, *Stroll: Psychogeographic Walking Tours of Toronto* and *Frontier City: Toronto on the Verge of Greatness*.



The unsolved mystery of fighting on

In Review: Timothy J. Stewart *Toronto's Fighting 75th in Great War 1915–1919*
(Wilfred Laurier Press, 2017)

by John Thompson

book with reverential hands and promise to care for it accordingly. The quality of its manufacture, at least, demands no less.

This is the account of a Toronto-based infantry unit, now the Toronto Scottish Regiment, and how ordinary Canadians carried John McCrae's torch into the blackest darkness and did not let go. Histories of the numbered battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force are common enough, but stories like those of the 75th are well worth retelling.

Ottawa's decision to recombine our county and traditional regiments into numbered battalions in 1914 robbed some of the chance to add new lustre to well-burnished names. The confusion caused by Sir Sam Hughes' purported genius at mobilization seems to have bred more desperate hacking melees than your average hockey tournament.

The story of the 75th Battalion of the CEF is tangled but Stewart walks us through it. The distant view of Canada's pre-war Militia seems oddly familiar. Earnest officers, under-trained privates, desperate shortages of training space, equipment, uniforms, pay, and – strangely for an infantry regiment – shortages of horses. What became the Toronto Scottish was mostly drawn from the long-vanished 9th Light Mississauga Horse and it was more familiar at first with boots and saddles than kilts and bagpipes.

The second scramble occurs in England. The numbered battalions slotted into the first three Canadian divisions were largely assured of their continued existence. The rest had to politic, posture and plead for a chance at a future and deployment to the front; this battalion very nearly became little more than a footnote. Their founder, Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Beckett, won some significant victories ere he reached France and died on Vimy Ridge.

The Toronto Scottish and other elements of the 4th Canadian Division have always been a little defensive about their performance at Vimy in April 1917. Stewart revisits the disastrous gas raid that cost Lt.-Col. Beckett his life as well as the controversy of the unshelled trench line in front of Hill 145. Note to Stewart: the rest of the Canadian Army doesn't care! The 75th still did good work on the day and sterling work in the coming months.

The rest of the story in Flanders is well known. Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens and the Hundred Days come in their turn, and the men of the 75th settle into a groove as highly skilled and capable soldiers – like the rest of CEF. Some of the

defensiveness Stewart exhibits about Vimy returns for Amiens (traffic snarls and other factors out of their control didn't help) but again, the "Six Bits" acquitted themselves very well.

In some respects, the strength of the book is also its failing: like other historians of the period, Stewart can mostly turn to the unit's war diaries, buttressed by the nominal roll, to produce a solid historical work. Yet, like many similar books, it doesn't really convey a feeling of how those soldiers coped on the battlefield. What put fire in their bellies and kept them going?

For example, the 75th's effort at Drury Ridge (part of the formidable Drocourt-Quéant Line) cost them 67 officers and men dead, and 246 wounded, in just one day. It also got their American doctor, Captain Bellenden Hutcheson, one of the CEF's most spectacularly earned Victoria Crosses. But what kept those men working their way through 50-metre-thick belts of barbed wire, while being hosed by dozens of machine guns and blasted by shellfire? What kept them going on days like that?

It may be that the authors of the first wave of regimental histories were too close to the war to be candid about it, while those of this generation are too far away to comprehend it. We may never understand what made the 75th and the rest of the CEF so special; and that is a tragedy.

Some 23 per cent of the 4,000 soldiers who served in the battalion died as a result, and 57.5 per cent were wounded at least once. One



Canadian troops pause during the battle of Vimy Ridge on the Easter weekend of 1917. Source: CWM 20020045-2449

appendix also gives an eight-month snapshot (August 1916 to April 1917) of disciplinary statistics in the four battalions of its brigade. Almost three-quarters of their charges related to shortages of kit. (I would love to know more about the Canadian soldier charged with Writing the War Office Directly.)

A more illuminating statistic is also drawn from the same period: ten men went through courts martial. There were six convictions, and one deserter was sentenced to seven years of penal servitude. Seven were charged with wounding themselves; five were convicted, but the worst award was 90 days of Field Punishment. Yet this was from a new and inexperienced unit, with men only getting their first exposure to combat (on the Somme) at the beginning of that eight-month period. These single-digit figures suggest that Canada's soldiers were strongly committed to the war.

There are other nuggets that make Stewart's book a treasure. The unit's first wartime death, for example, came eight days after arriving in the United Kingdom in April 1916. A handful of soldiers had been granted leave after the voyage from Canada; Private Neville Fryday went to see his mother in Dublin for Easter and was shot by an Irish rebel. A Scottish battalion from Toronto, they went to war with two Sikhs in their ranks – and left one buried in France. The other was still with them for the 1939 Royal Visit.

Lt.-Col. Colin Harbottle, as instrumental to the 75th and the Toronto Scottish as Sam Beckett, drafted his final orders as the battalion came home in June 1919. He warned his boys about black-market hooch and labour agitators, and he asked them to stick together and look after each other. They did.

The tight cohesion of the returning veterans gave renewed life to the pre-war Militia organization that had hung on into 1919. The 75th Battalion CEF soon became the Toronto Scottish Regiment. There is also a poignancy to those veterans, and Stewart samples it. Some lingered long, like the hard-bitten scout sergeant with the Military Medal and a wound stripe who was still selling hats on King Street within living memory. Others, like Lt.-Col. Harbottle, were in their graves before the next war started.

We may never understand what made the 75th and the rest of the CEF so special; and that is a tragedy

Along with lavish illustration and 16 original maps, a substantial portion of the book is reference material. A history teacher, piper and long-term curator of the Toronto Scottish archives, Stewart has been collecting and

sorting artifacts, photographs and documents for years. Among the 15 appendices are citations for medals, statistics of courts martial and a very long list of the Six-Bits' fallen members.

Toronto's Fighting 75th is a fine examination of one battalion of the CEF and the people behind it. Members of the Toronto Scottish will find the book a treasure, and they won't be the only ones. The only flaw of the book is one that very few modern writers could rectify: that after 100 years, we still don't really understand what drove these very ordinary Canadians forward and made them such formidable fighting men.

John Thompson is a Toronto-based commentator and writer, formerly of the Queen's York Rangers. He is also the author of Spirit over Steel: A Chronology of the Second World War (Carrick 2014) and an inveterate essayist

Raspberry Cream for dessert!

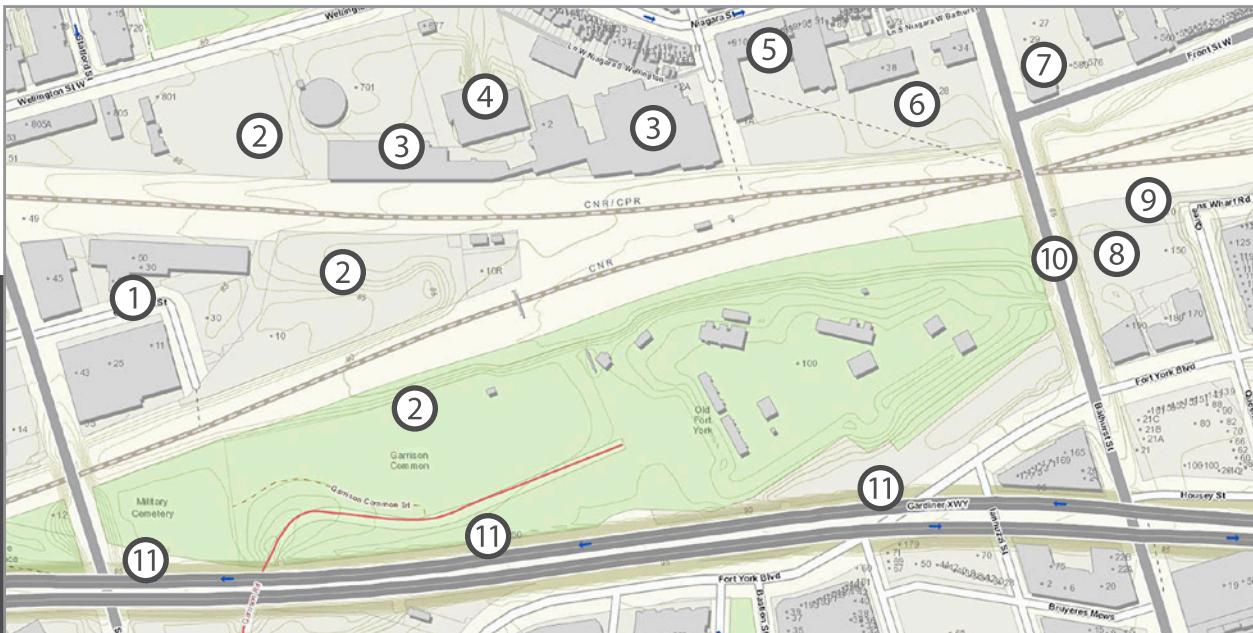
To make Rafpberry Cream.

Take a quart of thick Cream, and add as much Rafpberry Jam as (when mixed) will make it a pink colour; put into a large bowl, with the whites of two eggs then wifk it till it is quite thick, and fend it to table in cups or glaffles.

This recipe is from Addison Ashburn's *The Family Director: or, Housekeeper's Assistant*, published at Coventry, England, in 1807. The ready-to-eat Raspberry Cream seen here was made in Fort York's own kitchen. Modern chefs know that it's best to use pasteurized egg whites, instead of just raw eggs from the fridge. Fresh raspberries can be used instead of jam, but (explains our connoisseur), "it will not be as sweet as the recipe intends."



We're Surrounded: A guide to changes on the perimeter of Fort York National Historic Site



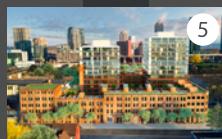
Text: Bob Kennedy
Map Source: City of Toronto



Ordnance Triangle: Five big towers (rental and condo) are expected here, four of them under way, some of them designed by Hariri Pontarini. The tallest will be 49 storeys. The eastern tip of "Garrison Point" and "Playground" is still undefined open space, the at-grade portion of Garrison Crossing, and future electric-train infrastructure.



2 Tecumseth: At the old City abattoir, developer TAS has assembled KPMB, Public Work and ERA for a complex five-acre site that stretches 300 metres along the tracks. Proposed are an office and greenhouse cube above the abattoir and two very different residencies, all organized around the topographical shadow of the Garrison Creek ravine.



National Casket Factory: The brick buildings at 89-109 Niagara are designated heritage and will be left alone for now. A Core Architects condominium will put two cubic structures onto a common podium behind, and matching the massing of, the old factories (still live/work rentals). There are 268 units; completion target is Nov 2020.



Minto Westside: This 1200-unit condominium by Wallman Architects – two volumes of 18 and 20 storeys on a full-site podium – will be topped off early this summer. Minto expects to see people and street-level retail moving in by this time next year.



Block 36 North: Zeidler has designed a nine-story, 80-unit colour piece for the Toronto Community Housing Corporation to stand beside two existing KPMB towers. Dominus Capital won a contract in 2016 to build it but there's been no sign of activity.



Garrison Crossing: Foundations are in, major components are being made off-site and, if Metrolinx is still happy, the two-span stainless steel bridge for cyclists and pedestrians will be erected this summer. Designed by Pedelta with DTAH, it will connect Garrison Common across the Ordnance Triangle to a future South Stanley Park.



Wellington Destructor: This long-abandoned and much-studied former garbage incinerator, still owned by the City, is embraced by the irregular shape of the 2 Tecumseth properties – and by the visionaries of TAS and Public Work. Engineers have stabilized the huge heritage structure for its eventual undefined repurposing.



Stack Container Market: The asphalt empty lot at 28 Bathurst was made future parkland by City Council in April 2017. This summer the space will become a temporary (two or three year) assembly of sea containers filled with shops, studios and others. Designer LGA Architectural Partners promises "an experience of curated discovery."



Lower Garrison Creek Park: Work begins on this last corner of the Railway Lands when work on the bridge is complete; the park will then take about two years to build. Look for a landscape of creek bed, marshland and bluff, with play spaces and paths to CityPlace, the library and under the bridge to the fort, the Bentway and Garrison Crossing.



Bridge Rehabilitation: Restoration work, mostly underneath, will continue all summer. The crumbling footbridge to the fort's eastern gate has been demolished and won't be replaced (for what will appear, see the next F&D). No road work is planned for Bathurst south of Fort York Blvd, where the new buildings still don't connect to the sidewalk.

11 The Bentway: See an update on page 9.

Engaging the founding landscape of Toronto

Public Work, one of Toronto's leading firms in urban design and landscape architecture, is an important part of three nearby projects: Lower Garrison Creek Park, the Bentway, and the complicated 2 Tecumseth. We asked Marc Ryan, Principal of the firm, what might unite his work on these very different sites.

by Marc Ryan

We're currently involved in three public realm projects which, at their core, seek to expand and enrich the narrative and experience of Toronto's founding landscape. There are a few common threads in our approach to these sites. In each case, we're using landscape as a medium to express and interpret the multiple, overlapping and sometimes hidden histories here.

We're aiming to support new readings of the fort within a wider framework of the evolving cityscape. We especially want to express traces of the landscape which preceded the city. Adding emphasis to 12,000 years landscape history enriches the context of the 225-year-old military story of the fort. Re-articulating the natural contours of the banks of Garrison Creek on the 2 Tecumseth site, building the promontory bluff in Lower Garrison Creek Park, and enhancing the shoreline landscape along the Bentway all create legible landforms which clarify the original topography.

In every case we're trying to create immersive encounters which bring history to life. The rammed-earth re-construction of the promontory at Lower Garrison Creek Park, for example, will bring a visitor face-to-face with the imposing and visceral bluff while also enabling new pathways and an archaeological play area within the remains of the former railway engine house. Topography, vegetation and hydrology are critical here. New textures in the form of plantings, creative stormwater management, and flexible public spaces – spaces equipped with the infrastructure needed to support public life, but infrastructure that is minimally intrusive – are part of each design.

Above all, every landscape is conceived to evoke traces and stories from the past even while contributing to the role and relevance of Fort York in the city today. We recognize an obligation for all works in this district to strengthen a broader reading of the cultural landscapes around this National Historic Site amidst a rapidly transforming cityscape.



Looking east under the Bathurst Street bridge toward the promontory of Lower Garrison Creek Park. The two cyclists are on the north side of the fort, heading for Garrison Crossing. Source: Public Work

Bentway building summer

With the closure of the first phase of the skating trail in early March, new plantings and hints of a gravelly shoreline are beginning to appear to the east of the Wharf, the platform built last fall in front of the Fort York Visitor Centre. This is where the waters of Lake Ontario once reached to a narrow beach down below the ramparts of the fort. New sculpture is also appearing here now, but the biggest project yet is at the far end of Garrison Common.



What the Strachan Gate of the Bentway will look like this coming summer. We are facing south; Strachan Avenue is at the right edge of the rendering. Amphitheatre seating cascades down from the street, and theatrical equipment is suspended from the bents, making this space adaptable to all kinds of live and digital programming. In the photo (taken at the end of March) we're looking down on the construction from the street, facing the screen that many of the imaginary people are watching. The mounds will shelter the space from the south, while Fort York Armoury – still with four active units of the Canadian Army – is seen beyond. Rendering: Public Work / Photo: Bob Kennedy



Mayor John Tory speaks during the opening weekend of the Bentway's skating trail. On skates himself, he's standing in front of the Zamboni extension (which is still unfinished) to the Fort York Visitor Centre. Crowds of skaters joined him under the Gardiner in genuine winter temperatures approaching 20 below. Later programming on the trail included ice-break-dancing workshops, a fashion show and a series of DJs. Refreshments were available evenings and weekends but you had to put your skates on in the cold. On the right, a young skater zooms along in front of the colours of Pro Tem, a temporary art installation by Janine Miedzik. Photos: Daniel Dishaw

and once built, the forts were not well maintained. Major Anne-Joseph-Hypolite de Maurès de Malartic saw Fort Rouillé in 1756 and declared that it was “in a bad condition.”

Earlier, in 1752, when a Roman Catholic priest, François Picquet, visited Toronto, he found that “there is no scarcity in this fort; everything is in abundance, excellent, and good.” In contrast, the Mississaugas complained that the post was nothing more than a brandy shop. Instead, they wanted to have a mission settlement established to serve their needs like one Picquet had founded in 1749 among the Six Nations Haudenosaunee (or Iroquois) on the St. Lawrence River at Oswegatchie (in modern Ogdensburg, New York). Their comments likely represented protests against both the more favourable treatment the Six Nations received as well as alcohol’s destructive impact on their society, as Euro-American traders regularly and ruthlessly used brandy, rum, and whisky to maximize their profits rather than sell useful items at smaller margins.

Native opinions also suggest that the French subverted their diplomatic intentions through their parsimonious investment at Toronto. Picquet responded by saying that the Mississaugas had not received religious attention because they had not shown any interest in Christianity (while overlooking the diplomatic and other benefits a mission could provide to an Indigenous population). Nevertheless, he was willing to invite them to move to Oswegatchie, but his superiors ordered him to confine his work to the Haudenosaunee instead.

The establishment at Toronto was reasonably successful in terms of trade but much of it came at the expense of Niagara and other French posts rather than at the expense of the British. This was due, in part, to its convenient location, but also because Anglo-American goods generally were more competitive in price and

quality, even when the French sold things at a loss to promote their Native alliances. In 1757, for instance, business at Fort Rouillé produced 150 bales of furs (each commonly weighing about 40 kilograms). In contrast, traders assembled fewer than 30 bales at Fort Frontenac and 250 at the much larger Fort Niagara.

The trade at Toronto belonged to Jean-Victor Varin de La Marre, a senior office-holder in New France. Like many of his peers in the middle and upper echelons of the colony, La Marre

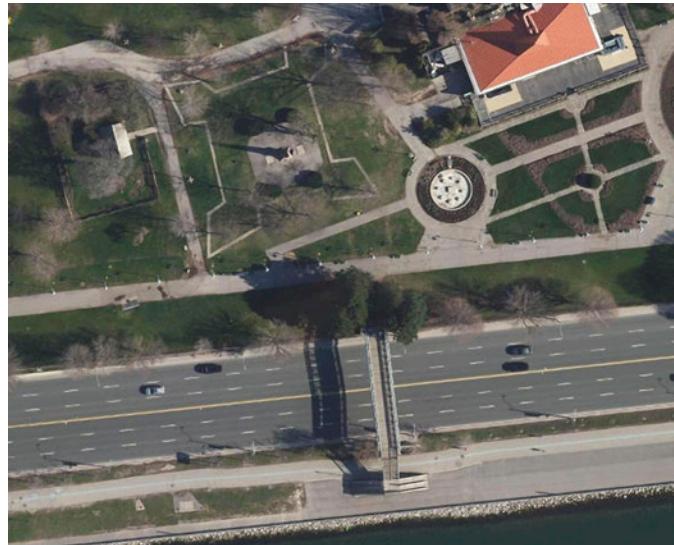
used his position to embezzle goods and otherwise illegally promote his financial interests at the expense of the government’s agenda and treasury and the needs of the population in general.

The Seven Years War broke out in North America in 1754 (and then

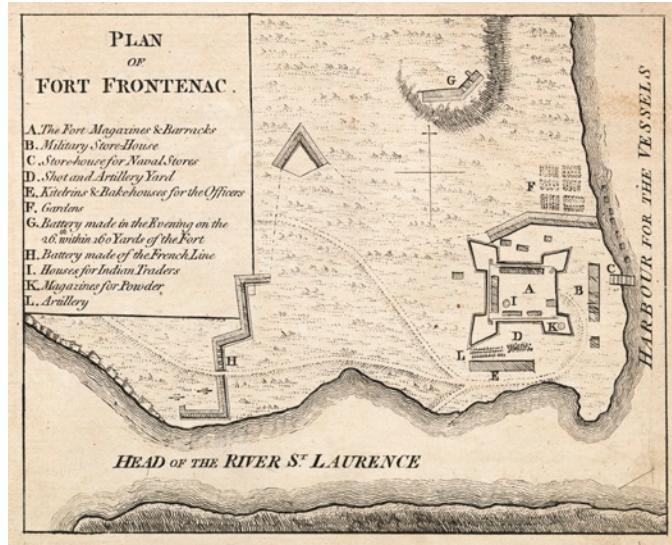
two years later in Europe). Despite its limitations, Fort Rouillé demonstrated its worth in 1756 when some Mississaugas who frequented the post agreed to participate in an attack on Oswego, which the British had not abandoned as French officials had hoped, but which fell after a short siege. (That victory even suggested that some Haudenosaunee in New York might trade with the French across the lake.) The destruction of Oswego was not the only combat the Mississaugas saw. The historical record is fragmentary, but other references to their actions appear from time to time. On another occasion in 1756, for instance, Maurès de Malartic saw three British prisoners and nine scalps taken by a Mississauga war party that had attacked a boat along the south shore of Lake Ontario.

Nevertheless, France’s Native alliances were precarious. In the spring of 1757, 90 Mississauga warriors surrounded Fort Rouillé and threatened to destroy the post and kill a 12-man garrison under the command of Lieutenant Charles-Joseph de Noyelles. Two people from the fort got away in a canoe to seek help at Fort

Traders regularly and ruthlessly used brandy, rum and whisky to maximize their profits



An aerial photo of the CNE grounds shows the outline of Fort Rouillé as revealed by archaeological work in the early 1980s. A concrete outline is built into the ground. No detailed plan of Fort Rouillé exists comparable to this map of Fort Frontenac. Although larger, it had a similar layout to the post in Toronto. This print presents details from the capture of Fort Frontenac in 1758. Today, small fragments of Fort Frontenac may be seen on the Canadian Forces base of the same name. Source: John Rocque, *A Set of Plans and Forts in America Reduced from Actual Surveys*, London: Mary Ann Rocque, 1765, courtesy Toronto Public Library



Niagara. Its commandant, Captain Pierre Pouchot, recorded that he immediately dispatched 63 soldiers in two whaleboats (each armed with a swivel gun) to rescue the garrison. As the boats passed the warriors' camp on the lake shore near the fort, they fired a "salute" to demonstrate their power and try to end the crisis. Another account, by Captain Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, added that some Potawatomies, who had been wintering at Niagara, accompanied the French force and "contributed not a little to quieting this quarrel."

Paradoxically, the warriors who threatened the post were French allies preparing to attack Fort William Henry in New York along the Montreal-to-Albany corridor, but who planned to pillage the stores at Toronto on their way east.

According to Euro-American sources, the Mississaugas, who decided against assaulting Fort Rouillé once the post had been reinforced, said they had been motivated by false news that the French had sent troops to North America to kill them, had made peace with the Mississaugas' Native enemies, or had been beaten by the British in the east.

Given that our only records are French, and given what we know about Indigenous-newcomer relations in general, we might wonder if the people in the garrison had offended the warriors, thus bringing the crisis upon themselves to some degree. For instance, they may not have shown the generosity expected of allies, such as by failing to give them enough supplies and presents for the expedition against the British. (At the time, gifts not only were important in diplomacy as demonstrations of respect and friendship, but also comprised a significant portion of the Euro-American goods that Indigenous people acquired to support their material well-being.) Unfortunately, we know little about the Potawatomis' role beyond Bougainville's brief comment; but the presence of these Algonquian-speaking people from the lands to the west of the Detroit River underscores how interwoven diplomatic and other relations were across a wide range of cultures throughout the Great Lakes region.

Despite the confrontation, the Mississaugas then travelled to Lake George, and according to Pouchot, "conducted themselves well," being "more dangerous" combatants than the Haudenosaunee. Other Mississaugas disowned the behaviour of those who had threatened Fort Rouillé, which speaks to the diversity of opinion that existed within the First Nations as they considered how best to protect their interests amidst the uncertainties and violence of 18th-century North America.

Likely unbeknown to the garrison at Fort Rouillé, a Shawnee leader, Parinosa, also tried to organize an assault against the post at around the same time with warriors recruited from south of Lakes Ontario and Erie, but nothing came of his plan.

The capture of Oswego in 1756 gave the French some relief from the threat of imminent attack from British forces, but the strategic situation changed soon afterward. Smallpox swept through the region over several years during the war, killing a great

many people, including Mississaugas.

In 1757 there was a widespread crop failure, which deepened Native and newcomer suffering. In 1758, the British reoccupied Oswego and then captured both Fort Frontenac and the French Lake Ontario squadron, along with desperately needed

supplies intended for the fur trade and for preserving Franco-Indigenous alliances.

These events magnified Fort Rouillé's isolation and vulnerability. As the strategic situation deteriorated, the men of its garrison found themselves unable to meet Native demands for goods. This was due to both the immediate losses in the region and the Royal Navy's broad high-seas effort to isolate New France. As the situation became increasingly perilous in 1758, the commandant at Fort Rouillé received orders to burn his post and retire to Fort Niagara if the British were to threaten him.

A year later, new orders directed him to recruit as many Mississauga and other warriors as he could and send them to reinforce Niagara if the British were to advance against the larger post. Yet, it was unlikely that many Natives would choose at this stage to assist the French. Not only had they been weakened by disease and hunger, the people north of Lake Ontario also saw the British gaining the ascendancy, had their own grievances with the French, and noted that more and more Indigenous people to the south were choosing to align with King George II as the power of King Louis XV crumbled. In fact, Mississauga and other Anishinabe (or Ojibwa) diplomats from southern Ontario already had opened negotiations with the British as Natives debated whether to ally with one Euro-American power or the other, play the two off each other, or embrace neutrality.

On July 6, 1759, the British and their Haudenosaunee allies began a siege of Fort Niagara. Only a modest number of Mississaugas came to the aid of the French garrison. Meanwhile, French officers south of Lake Erie dispatched a relief force but the British destroyed the 1,500-man contingent almost within sight of the fort on July 24.

Mississauga warriors surrounded Fort Rouillé and threatened to destroy the post



*French infantry of the Seven Years War period.
Source : Denis Diderot, Recueil de planches,
sur les sciences, les arts libéraux, et les arts
méchaniques, avec leur explication, 2nd
ed., Paris: Briasson et al., 1763, courtesy of a
private collection*



The surviving stone barracks of Fort Niagara indicate the importance of these fortifications, on the east bank of the mouth of the Niagara River, to New France and British North America. Begun in 1726, it played a significant role in the Seven Years War, the American Revolution – when it was a Loyalist base – and the War of 1812.

Realizing that this disaster rendered his position untenable, Captain Pouchot surrendered to the opposing commander, Sir William Johnson, who took possession of Fort Niagara on July 25. Among those captured were two women whose identity is unclear but who were relatives of the commandant of Fort Rouillé at the time, Captain Alexandre Douville. They later were freed on the St. Lawrence River when their British escort turned them over to French scouts, who then took them to Montreal.

On July 27, Johnson sent 30 soldiers in three whaleboats across Lake Ontario to reconnoitre Fort Rouillé. They discovered only a smoking ruin. According to their leader, Lieutenant Turbutt Francis, the French “had burned and abandoned that post, and destroyed many things which they could not carry along, viz. working utensils, arms, etc.” Earlier, Captain Douville had assumed that Niagara had fallen once he no longer heard the sound of artillery fire across the lake. With his 15 men in Toronto facing a hopeless situation, he decided to retire to Montreal.

Lieutenant Francis’s men arrived back at Niagara on July 30. Mississauga chief Tequakareigh accompanied them. He had fought as a French ally but now wanted to protect his people’s interests through forming an alliance and improving the trading relationship with the ascendant British, and thus hoped to meet Johnson. After their negotiations, Sir William had Tequakareigh transported back across the lake, accompanied by British representatives who invited the Mississaugas as a whole to embrace the new connection. Nonetheless, some Mississaugas continued to fight alongside the French for a time. A few years later, many of their men took up arms against Anglo-Americans in the Pontiac War of 1763–64, when First Nations around the Great Lakes used force to defend their lands and societies against increasing British encroachments.

With the surrender of Niagara in the summer of 1759, the French destroyed and evacuated other posts in the region during the next



This c.1900 photograph shows the tall Fort Rouillé Monument from 1887. Governor-General Lord Lansdowne unveiled it as part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign. Designed by the architectural firm of Langley and Burke, it dominates the older memorial from the 1870s beside it. To the right is the unrelated 1790s Scadding Cabin from the Don River, reconstructed at this location in 1879 as one of Ontario's earliest historical preservation efforts. Source: Toronto Public Library, E4-97e

few weeks. Among other calamities to strike them, the greatest was the fall of Quebec in September. Then, in 1760, Montreal capitulated. In the Treaty of Paris of 1763, France transferred most of its North American possessions to Great Britain.

People explored the ruins of Fort Rouillé in the decades following the dramatic events of the 1750s. The earliest record of such a visit dates to 1760, when Major Robert Rogers (of Rogers’ Rangers fame) stopped briefly in Toronto while sailing west to take possession of Detroit as part of the surrender of Canada. In his famous journal, published in 1765, he remembered

that deer were “extremely plenty,” thought Toronto was a good place for a trading post, and claimed that there were (a rather startling) 300 acres of open ground around the site.

Much of the land around the fort’s ruins remained clear of trees decades later, in 1813, when the Americans attacked the British colonial town of York that had been founded in 1793. The invaders intended to land their troops at the clearing from their naval squadron but high winds blew their boats farther west (to the area north of today’s Boulevard Club in Parkdale).

As the 19th century progressed, people continued to visit the remains of the French presence. Southerly components of the site disappeared into the lake through erosion, although building materials, animal bones and other objects from the fort could be seen by the water’s edge where they had tumbled out of the bank above. (Most of the land to the south of the site today is later lake fill.) In 1878, workers graded the visible remnants of the post out of existence when they prepared the ground for the Toronto Industrial Exhibition of the following year. Nevertheless, individuals concerned to preserve the fort’s story erected an

inscribed boulder at the time of the landscaping. Today, there are several monuments and plaques of varying levels of accuracy to mark Fort Rouillé's history, including a large commemorative plinth from the 1880s. There also is a concrete outline of the fort's walls on the ground, the location of which had been detected through archaeological investigations conducted between 1979 and 1982.

In modern times, people occasionally recommended that Fort Rouillé be reconstructed as a heritage site. However, we simply do not (and cannot) know enough about the post's physical characteristics to create a credible representation. As an attraction, a reconstruction would be too small to be viable in relation to its operating costs (even recognizing that such facilities always need to be subsidized) and likely would draw funds away from existing heritage resources. Yet, site interpretation could be improved, such as through carefully curated outdoor display panels, which might be designed to link visitors to online sources through their electronic devices. During periods of high visitation – such as the annual Canadian National Exhibition – pop-up displays and programming might be presented to explore the Franco-Indigenous story of the fort.

In visiting the western end of Exhibition Place today, it is hard to imagine either the physical or the cultural landscapes that once existed when Natives and newcomers dealt with each other at Fort Rouillé in the middle of the 18th century. Nevertheless, we are fortunate that some of its archaeological resources have been explored and that others remain below ground for future examination, and that the site has been commemorated to tell its story on the spot where some of the significant events in Toronto's pre-urban history transpired.

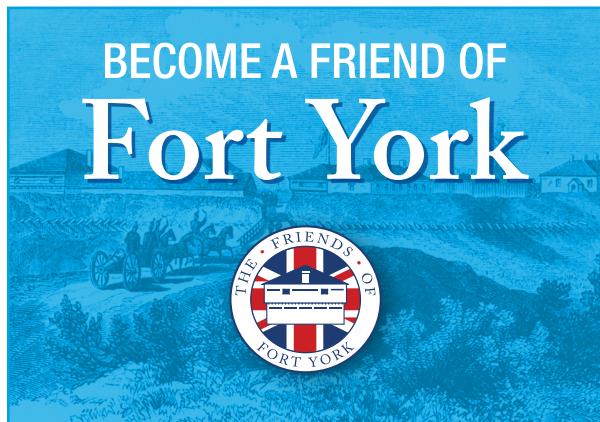
Before joining the Department of History at Ryerson University, Dr. Carl Benn was Chief Curator of the City of Toronto museums services between 1998 and 2008. His books include Historic Fort York; The Iroquois in the War of 1812; The War of 1812; Mohawks on the Nile; and Native Memoirs from the War of 1812, along with a forthcoming study of Mohawk chief John Norton (1770–1827). He currently is conducting research for a book on the history of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Further Reading on Fort Rouillé

Beyond basic summaries in local and other histories, literature on Fort Rouillé is sparse, but there are some easily accessible publications available to those who want to pursue its story further. The post dominates two chapters of Percy Robinson's *Toronto during the French Régime*, second edition (University of Toronto Press, 1965). A commemorative study reflecting Victorian understanding is Henry Scadding's *History of the Old French Fort and its Monument* (Copp Clark, 1887). An archaeological assessment, which includes a bibliography of primary and secondary sources, is Donald Brown's *Fort Rouillé Excavations* (Learnxs Press, 1983). Dr. Brown also wrote an article that studies the fort in its larger historical context: "French Occupation of the Lakes Ontario and Erie Drainage Basins, 1650–1760," *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 14 (1985), which is available online.

Although centred on Fort Niagara, an outstanding primary French source on the Seven Years War that mentions the site, explores the larger context in which its garrison played a part, and notes the Mississaugas is Pierre Pouchot's *Memoirs on the Late War in North America* (1781), annotated by Brian Dunnigan and translated by Michael Cardy, second edition (Old Fort Niagara Association, 2004). Fort Rouillé does not appear much in British records, but some Toronto-centred primary documents may be read in James Sullivan et al., eds., *The Papers of Sir William Johnson*, 14 vols. (State University of New York, 1921–65). The Johnson papers include information on the burning of the post and Tequakareigh's negotiations with the British as well as data on the fur trade in Toronto afterward during the historically elusive 1760s and 1770s.

A general history of the Mississaugas and other Anishinabek (who had replaced Iroquoian-speaking peoples in the Toronto region toward the end of the 17th century) is Peter Schmalz's *Ojibwa of Southern Ontario* (University of Toronto Press, 1991). A very detailed scholarly study of the complexities of Native-newcomer relations is Richard White's *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650–1815* (Cambridge University Press, 1991). A solid one-volume history of the Seven Years War is Fred Anderson's *Crucible of War* (Knopf, 2000).



The advertisement features a blue-toned illustration of a fort with a flag flying from its top. In the foreground, a horse-drawn carriage is moving towards the fort. To the right of the illustration, the text reads: "BECOME A FRIEND OF Fort York". Below this, there is a circular logo for "THE FRIENDS OF FORT YORK". The logo features a stylized building with a flag on top, surrounded by the words "THE FRIENDS OF FORT YORK".

Membership in The Friends includes a subscription to *The Fife & Drum* newsletter and updates about what's going on at the fort and in its neighbourhood. Your membership strengthens advocacy with donors, developers, politicians, and others having sway over what's happening at Toronto's premier historic site. There are additional perks such as invitations to exclusive activities and exhibitions.

Join us today!

<http://www.fortyork.ca/join-us>

From the Birthplace of Toronto

Notes from the Staff

Manager's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Manager

On the heels of an event-filled Canada 150, we're expecting to return our focus in 2018 to the fort's core missions. Our calendar is still full, though, and we were off to a busy start with the opening of the Bentway's skating trail on January 6 and the Mayor's Skating Party the next day. The circuit certainly did what we expected it would in bringing hundreds of people down to Fort York from early in January to mid-March.

As a result of free admission during the opening weekend, we had an extra busy time in the fort itself. The same occurred during Family Day, with over 1200 visitors taking advantage of free admission to the site. As we continue to work with The Bentway Conservancy, we'll develop an approach that encourages more of the same. With the skating season finished, efforts have returned to completing construction on the remainder of the first phase of the Bentway. For more on the Conservancy, visit www.thebentway.ca.

More than 260 people visited Fort York on February 11 as we hosted a Sofar Sound pop-up show featuring Indigenous throat-boxer **Nelson Tagoona**, Juno-nominated **Beny Esguerra**, and local band **Little Coyote**. And on February 24 more than 100 people attended *Hungry for Comfort: A Celebration of Canadian Food History*. In what we intend to make an annual event, the day-long program supported by Redpath Sugar featured panel discussions, workshops, cooking demonstrations and a catered lunch. Historic foodways of the French, English, Indigenous and Métis communities were all well represented; for a complete report, see the story from **Melissa Beynon**. Thank you to **Bridget Wranich** and all of our wonderful volunteers and partners who came together

to make this event the success that it was.

Recently installed in the Brick Magazine are 21 images from the more than 30,000 photographs by Arthur Goss in the City of Toronto Archives collections. The photographs depict various aspects of Fort York's conversion from an active military establishment to a public museum in the early 1930s. Thanks to staff on-site and to the Collections and Conservation staff at Atlantic Avenue, **Christophe Jivraj** in particular, for making this happen in such short order.

As a staffing update, we're pleased to announce that **Erica Roppolo** will be joining the Fort York team as our permanent Museum Outreach Officer. Erica has been acting in the position for the past year and has previous experience as a Support Assistant and Museum Attendant at six of our Toronto History Museums. She has also worked with Nuit Blanche, the Luminato Festival and TIFF. Among those who've been here for years, quietly making the place better, volunteer cooks **John Hammond**, **Sherry Murphy** and **Ellen Johnstone** have been honoured by Queen's Park for their dedication to Fort York's culinary history (see picture on page 18). Congratulations, and thank you for all 15 years!

On the construction front, we'll be pleased to see the first phase of the Bentway wrap up in the next few months along our Fort York Boulevard frontage. The same can be said for Garrison Crossing (the Fort York pedestrian bridge), which will be completed this year. These projects will go a long way toward better connecting the fort with surrounding neighbourhoods (for more on developments around the perimeter, see page 7).

There's good news and bad news to report regarding the fort's east gate connection to Bathurst Street. While working to replace the concrete deck on the east gate ramp, engineers found that the supporting bridge piers were not stable and had to be demolished. Instead of getting into the major cost of total replacement, a deci-



*A Florentine of Oranges and Apples,
by Mya Sangster, a Redpath First Place at
Hungry for Comfort. Photo: Melissa Beynon*



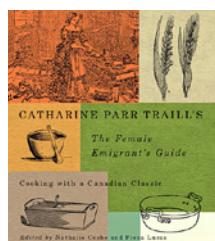
The new pedestrian bridge to the east gate of the fort on June 17, 1931, in two views by Toronto official photographer Arthur Goss. They are in a new exhibition in the Brick Magazine of photographs by Goss documenting work done at the fort during the 1930s. Source: City of Toronto Archives

sion was made to remove the ramp entirely. This will finally allow for the proper rehabilitation of the fort's landscape and ramparts on that side. With the stairs at the south-west corner of Fort York Blvd and Bathurst, improved connections down

through the library and into the coming Lower Garrison Creek Park, and from the west along a planned trail on the north side of the fort, the east gate will eventually be far more accessible than it has been for years.

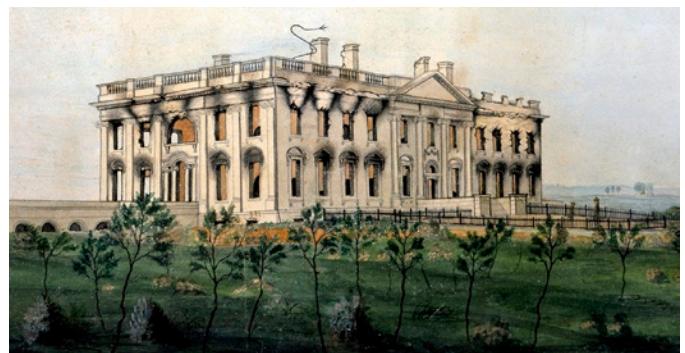
Applewood Military History Series joins Fort York's canteen

A well known American series of facsimile reprints has recently joined the stock of our enterprising canteen. Based in Massachusetts, the Applewood firm reprints "books from the past that are still of interest to modern readers." Available now in our own shop – and a vivid testament to Applewood's optimism – is *1812: The War and Its Moral: A Canadian Chronicle*, by William F. Coffin, first published at Montreal in 1864. It is a partisan piece; and the aforementioned "moral" will not be revealed here.



Culinary historians, adventurous chefs and all lovers of dessert will be pleased to find a new selection of modestly priced Applewood cookbooks, including *The Lady's Assistant* (1787) by Charlotte Mason; *The Imperial and Royal Cook* (1809) by Frederick Nutt; *The London Art of Cookery* (1811) by John Farley; *The Cook and Housekeeper's Complete and Univeristy Dictionary* (1823) by Mary Eaton; and the indispensable *Cottage Economy* (1833) by William Cobbett.

The canteen also has an ample stock of the newly fashionable *Catharine Parr Traill's The Female Emigrant's Guide: Cooking with a Canadian Classic* (MQUP, 2017). An editor of the book, Fiona Lucas, graced *Hungry for Comfort*.



The President's House, watercolour by American artist George Munger, 1814-15. (White House collection)



Culinary historians savour winter cuisines

by Melissa Beynon

On a cold Saturday in February, food lovers converged on Fort York to explore how different peoples in times past nourished themselves during Canada's long winters. The event, on the 24th and based in the Blue Barracks, was named *Hungry for Comfort: A Celebration of Food History*, and – with the generous help of many volunteers – we're planning to make it an annual occasion. This year included stories and flavours from First Nations, Métis, French and English communities all across Eastern Canada. Events included demonstrations, workshops, tastings, an amazing catered lunch, many useful give-aways and the Redpath Baking & Preserving Competition.

Dr. Alison Norman, our keynote speaker, began the day by talking about "culinary exchange" in Upper Canada, explaining how Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples had helped early settlers survive. Dr. Norman is a Research Associate in the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies & Indigenous Studies at Trent University and an advisor to the Ontario government.

The day then broadened out to a national scope with a lively panel on Surviving a Canadian Winter. The panelists were Shawn Adler, of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation and owner of the Pow Wow Café in Kensington Market; Virginia Barter, a Toronto-based Métis writer and storyteller; Chantal Véchambre, a chef well known to the walls of Louisbourg and co-author of *French Taste in Atlantic Canada, 1604–1758: A Gastronomic History* (CBUP, 2012); and Fiona Lucas, author of a standard work on open-hearth cooking and co-editor of *Catharine Parr Traill's Female Emigrant's Guide: Cooking*

with a Canadian Classic (MQUP, 2017).

As if this were not enough to encourage an appetite – just before lunch – Shawn Adler shared his passion for Indigenous-inspired cuisine with a memorable demonstration of spruce-smoked duck. Lunch was then catered by Adler's own Pow Wow Café. Imagine this: green salad with blackberry and honey vinaigrette; venison stew with parsnip and sage; pumpkin seed and cranberry wild rice pilaf; and sun-dried blueberry bannock with maple butter (that green salad might have challenged Mrs. Traill in mid-February!)

In the afternoon, we enjoyed a menu of workshops:

- "Traditional Anishinaabe Teas" with Mark Sault (Migizi Gikino'amaage inini);
- "Maple Syrup Memories" with Virginia Barter;
- "A Taste of Summer" with Mya Sangster;
- "Chicken Soup with Barley and Herbs" with Chantal Véchambre;
- "Give us this Day our Daily Bread" with Mark D'Aguilar; and
- "Hungry for Apples" with Fiona Lucas.

While indulging our sweet tooth with an afternoon dessert of Pippin Tart (*A New System of Domestic Cookery*, 1806) and Silky Ginger Ice Cream (*Rose Murray's Comfortable Kitchen Cookbook*, 2017), we enjoyed a presentation by Rose Murray herself, who shared memories of growing up in rural Canada.

Many talented people helped to make this sold-out event a success, including the Culinary Historians of Canada, who not only helped to organize *Hungry for Comfort* but provided great volunteer support. Special thanks go to the home economists Yvonne Trembley and Pat Moynihan, who organized the Redpath Baking & Preserving Competition.

Exceptional door prizes and draws were provided by KitchenAid, Bernardin, Redpath Sugar, The Ontario Apple Growers Association, Alberta Canola and SaskCanola, as well as *Canadian Living* and *Ricardo* magazines and an armful of Canadian publishers: Goose Lane Editions, Lorimer, Penguin Random House Canada, HarperCollins Canada, McGill-Queen's University Press, Robert Rose, and Whitecap.

More thanks go to organizers Elizabeth Baird and Bridget Wranich for arranging the sponsorship of Redpath and the many donations. And we're especially grateful to our own Volunteer Historic Cooks and staff, who researched, tested and made the historic recipes served for morning refreshments and dessert.

We ended the day with the prizes for all the Redpath competitions. First-Place winners received a basket of goodies from Redpath, \$75.00, and a rosette; Second Place received somewhat less; and Third Place was a modest encouragement to try again next year.

Ingrid MacRitchie was declared to have the best Pure Seville Orange Marmalade, while Susannah Taber's original grapefruit recipe was judged the best Other Citrus Marmalade. Donna Pitcher's own apple-fig recipe earned First Place for Apple Chutney. The day's greatest Apple Pie turned out to be another achievement of Mya Sangster, who beautifully fashioned a Florentine of Oranges and Apples from a recipe first published in 1730.

Knowledgeable speakers, delicious local cuisine and congenial company – experts and newcomers alike – all made for a great day of exploration in food. *Hungry for Comfort* showed again why Fort York National Historic Site is a leading centre of Canadian culinary history.

Melissa Beynon is a Museum Program Officer at Fort York National Historic Site.

Previous page. Raspberry Puffs (left), by John Hammond. No one who attended Chef Shawn Adler's demonstration of spruce-smoked duck will soon forget it (top left). Kristine Williamson (left) and Bridget Wranich of Fort York with Samantha George (right), Vice-President of the Culinary Historians of Canada and our emcee for the day. Guests were greeted by an array of delights. On the left, in front of a basket of beautiful Snow apples – an Ontario rarity – are Mrs. Traill's common bush tea cakes. The apple custard tarts are from The New Perfection Cookbook (1912), while the fine cakes are found in The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy (1796). Photos: Melissa Beynon

Ancient arrowhead donated years after first discovered



Source: Toronto Museums & Heritage Services

This small white projectile point was found in 1935 by Jeanne Carter, then a 10-year-old schoolgirl on a class trip to Fort York. "I was walking towards a building on a sandy path," she recalls. "I looked down and saw this little white thing." Jeanne picked up the souvenir and for the next 80 years kept it in a curio box until giving it to a friend who works in a museum. It eventually found its way to City historian Richard Gerrard.

"The material it's made out of, quartzite, is strange for this part of Ontario," says Gerrard, raising the possibility of wide-ranging travel or trade. The artifact is 4000-6000 years old, dating to the Archaic period, making it one of the oldest in the City's collection and one of only four found at Fort York (the other three were dug up by archaeologists).

"Material recovered archaeologically tells the city's story and reflects the First Nations presence over thousands of years," Wayne Reeves, the chief curator of Museums & Heritage Services, told the *Toronto Star*. "No paper record was left by those early inhabitants, so knowing their story through archaeological specimens is essential."

Fort York volunteers given Ontario honour



John Hammond, Sherry Murphy (both seen above with Trinity-Spadina MPP Han Dong) and Ellen Johnstone, historic cooks in our extraordinary kitchens, ancient and modern, have all been given Ontario Volunteer Service Awards in appreciation of their 15 years of hard labour at the fort. A ceremony and reception were held March 26 in the elegant Arcadian Room of the Simpson Tower on Bay Street. Thousands of visitors to Fort York have enjoyed the delicious outcomes of their efforts and could only wish for many more years of tarts, biscuits and cakes from these dedicated, talented volunteers.

Photo: Bridget Wranich



This striding Tommy Atkins with a mug of hot tea is one of the many fine regimental models to be found in Fort York's well-stocked canteen (he is Britain's No. 23051).

2018 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Erica Roppolo

APRIL

Community Cleanup Day at Fort York

Saturday, April 21, 10 am to 12 pm

Clean Toronto together! Join over 200,000 residents, students, businesses and community groups as we come together for the 15th annual city-wide cleanup of public spaces. Join the team at Fort York to tidy up part of our 43 acres of green space! All who help with the Fort York grounds will get free admission to our museum on the day of the event. We will provide garbage bags, water and coffee. Please provide your own boots, gloves, rakes and/or shovels. Do you want to learn more about the City of Toronto's Community Cleanup? Click here: [Clean Together Toronto](#)

Battle of York Weekend

Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29, 10 am to 5 pm

Honour the 205th anniversary of the Battle of York fought on April 27, 1813. The Fort comes alive with musket firing demonstrations, Georgian cooking in the Officers' Quarters kitchen, site tours and period animation. Kids can try "falling in" for 1812-era soldiering drill! *Regular admission applies.*

Spend some time with one of the actual survivors of the Battle of York!

Now on display in the special collections Vault of the Visitor Centre are the original Regimental Colours of the 3rd Regiment of York Militia, who fought against American

invaders at the Battle of York on April 27, 1813. Produced by the young women of York during the War of 1812, they were secreted away to keep them from being seized as a war trophy by American troops. The flags were donated to the City of Toronto in 2009 and have not been seen by the public for many years. After laborious conservation work, they return to the Fort as a testament to what historians have called Toronto's most traumatic day – the attack on, and occupation of, the Town of York. The Visitor Centre now has permanent exhibits telling the story of the Fort's founding, the War of 1812 and a Battle of York audio/visual experience.

Battle of York Tour: Walking in Their Footsteps

Saturday, April 28, 11 am

Free Admission

Meet outside the Palais Royale (1601 Lakeshore Blvd W). Tread the same ground of the U.S. Army and York's defenders as you follow the guided tour Walking in Their Footsteps. This 1.5-hour walking tour will trace the course and events of the battle which took place on April 27, 1813. Led by staff and volunteers, there will be 5 stops along the way. At each of these stops, a speaker will give a 10-minute presentation on the details of the battle at that point. The walking tour is free and will continue rain or shine.

Battle of York Local Walking Tours

Sunday, April 29, 11 am and 2 pm

In addition to Walking in Their Footsteps and scheduled demonstrations and activities at the Fort, there will also be a local walking tour focusing on the Battle of York. This tour will begin at the canteen/museum store at Fort York, using the Fort, Garrison Common and nearby areas of the original shoreline to highlight the battle that took place here 205 years ago. *Regular admission applies.*

MAY

The French and British Forts of Toronto – A Bicycle Tour

Saturday, May 5, 11 am to 1 pm

Free Admission

Bicycling is a unique and exciting way to view Toronto's early history. Fort York, in partnership with Jane's Walk and Heritage York's Lambton House, hosts this event, beginning at Lambton House, at the edge of the Toronto Passage (or Toronto Carrying Place) trail. From there, we will ride to Teagon, the site of the 17th-century Seneca village and the *Magasin royal* of 1720. Following the Humber Bicycle Trails south, we will stop and explore the site of Toronto's second small 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 urban Toronto (then York) was founded. The bicycle tour is free and includes free admission to Fort York National Historic Site.

The tour starts at Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas St (416 767-5472).

Meagan's Walk

Saturday, May 12, 8 am to 10 am

Meagan's Walk: Creating a Circle of Hope was founded by Denise Bebenek in 2001, the year she lost her cherished 5-year-old daughter Meagan to a cancerous brain tumour. The signature event of Meagan's Walk happens annually on the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend when participants of all abilities take part in the 5 km walk, which culminates with thousands of people joining hands to encircle the Hospital for Sick Children in one gigantic hug. The kickoff to Meagan's Walk will once again happen within the walls of Fort York. <http://www.meaganswalk.com/>

Please note: this is a third-party event. Fort York will be open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm. Regular admission applies.

Beerlicious Spring Sessions – Ticketed Event

Garrison Common

Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20, 12 pm to 7 pm

The fifth annual Spring Sessions of Toronto's Festival of Beer returns to Garrison Common on the May long weekend. Featuring craft brews, great food, games and live music, this is a great way to celebrate May Two-Four! <https://beerpestival.ca/spring/>

Please note: this is a third-party event. Fort York will be open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm. Regular admission applies.

Victoria Day at Fort York

Monday, May 21, 10 am to 5 pm

Why not celebrate Victoria Day with a visit to the birthplace of Toronto? Take tours, let kids enjoy activities such as soldier's drill, see demonstrations of Georgian-era cooking in one of the oldest kitchens in Toronto as well as English country dancing.

Regular admission applies.

Doors Open Toronto presented by Great Gulf

Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27, 10 am to 5 pm

Free Admission

Fort York opens its doors for this annual celebration of history and architecture. Enjoy special tours of some of Toronto's oldest architecture and its original War of 1812 buildings or simply stroll the grounds of this National Historic Site.

Two Centuries of Firepower: Artillery Day at Fort York

Saturday, May 26, 10 am to 5 pm

Free Admission

Join us for Artillery Day and see displays of historic and modern guns from the 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery from Petawawa, the 7th Toronto Regiment (Royal Canadian Artillery) from Moss Park Armoury, and Fort York's own on-site collection of original garrison guns from the War of 1812 and the Victorian era. Demonstrations, presentations and firing throughout the day. At the same time, the Fort is participating in Doors Open Toronto. In addition to the Artillery Day programming, enjoy special tours of some of Toronto's oldest architecture and its original War of 1812 buildings or simply stroll the grounds of this National Historic Site.

JUNE

Field Trip: Downtown Toronto's Community Music & Arts Festival

Fort York and Garrison Common

Saturday, June 2 and Sunday, June 3, gates open at 1 pm

Toronto's boutique community music and arts festival, this year headlined by Metric. Children 12 and under are free with an adult ticket-holder. Single day tickets and weekend passes available at <http://fieldtriplife.com>.

Please note: this is a third-party event. Fort York's historic buildings will be closed to the public from June 1 to June 4 inclusive.

National Indigenous Peoples Day and Indigenous Arts Festival

Thursday, June 21 to Sunday, June 24, times and admissions vary

Presented by Fort York and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, National Indigenous Peoples Day followed by the Indigenous Arts Festival will celebrate Indigenous and Métis culture. Plan to spend the days under open skies in downtown Toronto enjoying traditional and contemporary music, educational programming, storytelling, dance, theatre and food. This series of events will energize the grounds of the National Historic Site with compelling creations by Indigenous and Métis artists.

Na-Me-Res Annual Traditional Pow Wow

Saturday, June 23, 12 pm to 4 pm

Free Admission

The Native Men's Residence (Na-Me-Res) Annual Traditional Pow Wow is held to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day on the Summer Solstice. The event features a sunrise ceremony, a Grand Entry at 12:00 pm, traditional dancing, drumming, craft vendors, and a community feast to end the day.

Indigenous Day Live with APTN

Saturday, June 23

Preshow 5:30 pm to 7 pm

Main Stage 7 pm to 10 pm

Free Admission

The Aboriginal People's Television Network's (APTN) Indigenous Day Live has been delighting audiences since 2007. This event will feature some of the biggest names in Indigenous music and television, including JUNO Award winners and on-the-rise artists. Indigenous Day Live will showcase talent from all genres, regions and nations, ensuring the recognition and inclusion of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

<http://aboriginaldaylive.ca>

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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