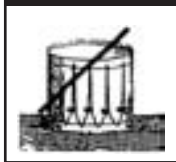


# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 11 No. 2 July 2007

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## 1813 Colours Offered to Fort York

It was a letter we had all been waiting for. On June 12 the Very Reverend Douglas Stoute, Dean of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, wrote Michael Manning, a director of The Friends, to say the Cathedral Corporation was willing to give Fort York the Colours of the Third York Militia held in its archives. Dean Stoute affirmed that these important survivors from the War of 1812 would be in good hands with The Friends and the fort.

Elsewhere in this newsletter (p. 5), Carl Benn tells the history of these venerable relics. It is an absorbing one involving many of the town's citizens, both men and women, on the eve of the Battle of York. Later the colours were stored in the attic of the old Normal School on Gould Street and not rediscovered until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. At that point they were taken carefully in hand for repair by Adelaide Allan, the wife of George William Allan of Moss Park, then given to St. James' for safe-keeping.

It was Carl Benn who told us about the important decision faced by St. James: what to do with the colours as it prepared to empty the Parish House to undertake extensive renovations. They would have to be put in storage, but what then? Wouldn't it be better to entrust them permanently to some organization that could take responsibility for conserving them at considerable expense? The Friends knew instinctively that the right place for the colours was in the fort's collections so that, after conservation, they could be displayed to the extent their fragile condition allowed. And so, with the support of the board of directors, Michael Manning wrote St. James making the case for the fort being the most fitting place for the colours, and The Friends their champions who were committed to raising from private sources and government programs the tens of thousands of dollars needed for their conservation. We had no excuse for letting the colours go elsewhere. There is no doubt the costs of caring for the colours properly will be considerable. Very little, if any, conservation work has been done on them since Mrs. Allan's time. Conservators have begun to study them but no estimates of expense have been made yet. Already, however, the Fort York Foundation has received one pledge of \$10,000 towards the expenses of conservation, and other potential donors are being sought out.

Even when restored, the colours will be very fragile and cannot be exhibited in less than ideal lighting, environmental and stress-free conditions. It may be they will be best seen in sloped repose, like Mae West. Perhaps they should not be on year-round display. The need for a gallery meeting the highest standards is recognized by those planning the proposed Fort York Visitor Reception Centre which is, for all practical purposes, the only building on the site where optimal conditions can be assured. A sense of trusteeship pervades the honour St. James has given us.

## Thank you Joe!!

As reported below, at the Friends' annual meeting on June 21 Joe Gill stepped down as our long-time chair and will serve instead as our Treasurer.

For a decade Fort York, this city and the Friends of Fort York have benefitted from Joe's selfless dedication and tireless energy. His skills, enthusiasm, persistence, and creativity have been central to many of our successes. Working with officials, fort staff, volunteers and his fellow directors, he has used persuasion and encouragement to build respect and support for Fort York. His involvement has been critical to many of our most important accomplishments.

The high level of cooperation found today among the fort's stakeholders speaks of his infectious commitment and ability to engage the interests, skills and energies of others. His leadership has given the Friends strength and credibility to meet the opportunities and challenges ahead. In all of this, he has had the wonderful support of his wife and selfless partner, Jane. Many thanks, Joe and Jane, for your inspiration and friendship. *George Waters*

# How The Railways Strangled Fort York

by Stephen Otto

“Who shall say what Toronto may not yet be?” asked one of the city’s newspapers in 1844 as it admired the many local improvements rising on all sides, somewhat unexpectedly, after the seat of government had been moved to Kingston and predictions proved wrong that grass would grow in the streets of Toronto. Another journal, noting the evident signs of progress, remarked, “One great work remains [unrealized]... The Toronto and Lake Huron Railroad.” While railway-building had been in the air since the mid-1830s when a line to Lake Huron was surveyed, all plans had been put on hold by political and economic uncertainty following the 1837 Rebellion.

Responding to the political unrest, British authorities asked Lord Durham to look into matters. His impressive report gave rise to legislation at Westminster in 1840 to combine Upper and Lower Canada into the Province of Canada. In tidying up some loose ends a few years later, the Imperial Parliament passed the Canada Vesting Act empowering the Parliament of Canada to authorize the construction of canals or railways over lands set apart for military purposes.

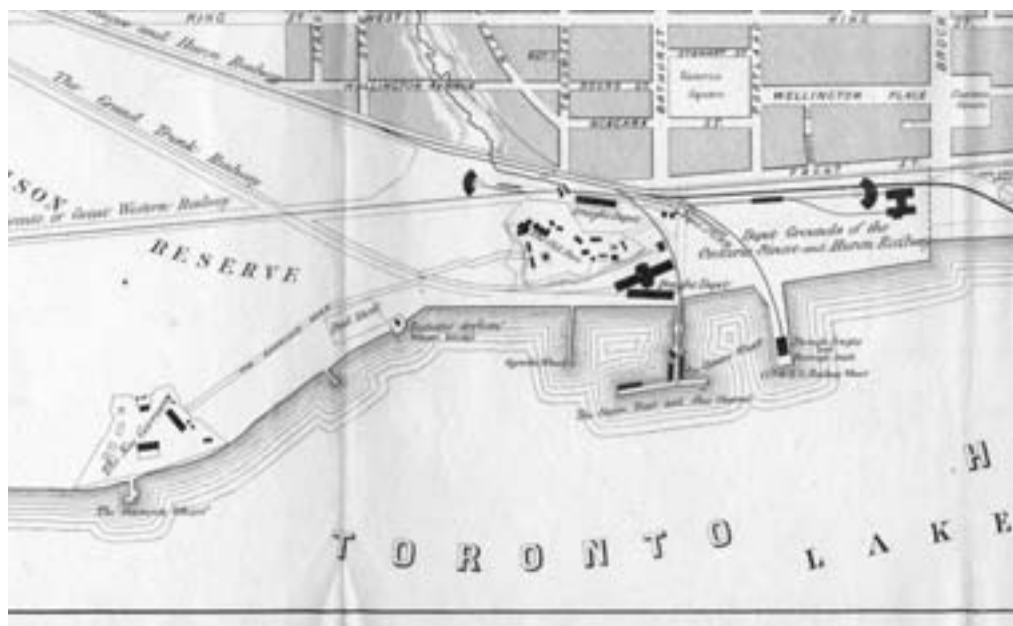
Thus, the stage was set for untrammelled railway expansion near Fort York. The plot to make railway-building a matter of public business was advanced by the Canadian Parliament when it passed general railway legislation, specific company charters and acts of incorporation. As the mania for railways climaxed in the 1850s the stream of loan guarantees, municipal subsidies, bond purchases and pieces of facilitating legislation seemed endless. In this frenzied environment the sacrifice of Ordnance lands to facilitate construction was small potatoes, made easier because until 1856 the Province of Canada had no responsibility for the lands, including Toronto’s Garrison Common; they were managed by the British Board of Ordnance.

Initially three railway companies were chartered to serve Toronto. They all pursued their own interests with vigor and hardly a side glance for the common good. The Board of Ordnance was powerless to resist. So long as any of its land taken was paid for, few people seemed worried about good land

planning or compromising Fort York. Toronto mayor John George Bowes was an exception. In an effort to preserve the City’s lease on 287 acres of the Garrison Common for a Western Park, he wrote the Officers of H.M. Ordnance in March, 1852, proposing the Northern, Western and Eastern Railroad companies be induced to unite and enter the City by the Garrison Ravine. (See *Fife & Drum*, August 2005) Presumably his far-sighted suggestion carried extra weight because he was also President of the as-yet-unbuilt Toronto & Guelph Railway. But nothing came of it.

The Ontario, Simcoe & Huron (OS&H) was the first to start construction in October, 1851, when Lady Elgin officiated at a sod-turning ceremony. Service from Toronto to Aurora began in May, 1853, and to Allandale, near Barrie, six months later. The OS&H’s operations occupied 34 acres of Ordnance land at Toronto. Most of it was used for a depot south of Front Street between Bathurst and Spadina. The balance lay in a rail corridor that carried the tracks west from the depot, along the north side of Garrison Creek and then in a long arc across the Common to Queen Street. A spur line south to the Queen’s Wharf wrapped tightly around the fort’s east end. These works required the leveling of the site of the original Fort York on the east bank of Garrison Creek, filling much of the adjacent ravine, and diverting the Creek itself into a sluiceway.

The second railway to serve Toronto was the Great Western (GWR) which, for technical reasons, was organized as the Hamilton & Toronto. Its construction started at the Hamilton end in April, 1853. By the time it secured “eleven acres of the Ordnance land at the west end of the Queen’s Wharf adjoining the Old Fort” for its Toronto terminus, the area had become crowded. The GWR was forced to fill even more of the Garrison Creek ravine in order to slip its tracks, locomotive roundhouse and passenger station between the OS&H right-



Detail from plan of railways at Toronto by Thomas Blackwell, 1859. Courtesy: TPL, Baldwin Room

of-way and the north ramparts of Fort York. Service between Toronto and Hamilton opened in December, 1855.

By then Toronto's third railway, the Grand Trunk was well along in building its line from a staging area south of Fort York. Of 20 acres of land it had there, almost ten were reclaimed from the lake by its enterprising contractors, C. S. Gzowski & Co. The rest was acquired from the Board of Ordnance. When trains began running to Guelph, Berlin [Kitchener] and Stratford in June, 1856, there was no connection between this part of the GTR and the main line joining Toronto with Montreal. Only in 1857 were tracks laid along the city's esplanade. Accordingly, the GTR's western section required, besides the usual freight house and passenger station, a huge locomotive house some 585 feet long for maintaining the engines, particularly in the punishing Canadian winter. These buildings, located on fill south and east of Fort York, closed the noose to within a few feet of the ramparts on all sides but the west.

What had been put in place within five short years proved very long-lasting. Although the names of the railways and who controlled them changed, their marks on the landscape have endured for more than 150 years. The OS&H was renamed the Northern Railway in 1858 and taken over by the GTR in 1888, which in turn was combined with the Canadian National system in 1920. Today its right-of-way survives as the CN Georgetown line. The GWR was merged with the GTR in 1882, and its corridor continues to serve as the CN main line between Toronto and Hamilton. About 1871 the GTR leased running rights on its Garrison Common tracks to the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway, in which it had a minority interest. In 1883 the TG&B came to be controlled by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and CP bought the former GTR right-of-way and yards. The engine house came down in 1888/90, but its foundations still turn up whenever there is an archaeological excavation in the area.

Only recently has Fort York got some of its own back. In the 1990s nearly 9 acres were added to the south edge of the site under development agreements with Wittington Properties and Molson Breweries, and a further 3.5 acres acquired from CN along the northern ramparts. The Fort York National Historic Site now takes in 41 acres around the fort, and another two acres in Victoria Memorial Square.

## *British Regiments Contact Project*

In 2005 the Friends' History & Archaeology Committee, chaired by Andrew Stewart, launched a project to identify and contact the successors to all regiments in the British Army who served at Fort York from 1793 through 1870, when the last British forces withdrew and Canada assumed responsibility for its own defense. With invaluable help from

David Spittal, Carl Benn and others a 66-page report has now been prepared tracing the lineage of the approximately 40 units through various amalgamations and changes in title down to their successors in the present-day British armed forces. The document gives current contact information for the regimental headquarters of each unit, the regimental association, and any affiliated museums or archives. Included as well is a brief history of the regimental organization of the British army from roughly 1660 until now. A special section deals with the half dozen early units that were raised in Canada.

We have now written to several British units or their affiliates, asking if they had materials, particularly photographs and sketches, related to their time in Canada. Our hope is to uncover out-of-the-way information to supplement what is in the British and Canadian archives. Updates on this initiative will appear in subsequent issues of this newsletter. The Committee's report is available for study and reference in the fort's Resource Centre by making an appointment through <fofy@sympatico.ca> well in advance of a visit.

## *Fort Misses Out On The Action*

Two paintings of interest to Fort York passed through Ritchies Toronto auction rooms in late May. Both were oil portraits of Francis Battersby: one in his uniform as a major in the 8th (King's) Regiment of Foot painted in 1811 by Robert Field of Halifax, N.S., the other showing him as lieutenant colonel of the Glengarry Light Infantry, done ca. 1816 by a less well known artist, Levi Stephens. Both paintings had descended within the Battersby family, but were owned by an old family servant when they were noticed in 2004 as they passed through a small English auction house. The Field portrait sold for \$25,000 to which was added a 20% purchaser's premium; the Stephens went for \$13,000 plus the premium. The latter work, which was of particular interest to Fort York, was purchased by the Portrait Gallery of Canada for Library & Archives Canada.

Francis Battersby (1775-1844) was an Irish-born career soldier who joined the 8th Foot as an ensign in 1796. During the Napoleonic wars he saw action at Alexandria (1801), Copenhagen (1807) and Martinique (1809). After his service in the West Indies, while still a captain, he became Deputy Quartermaster-General for the army in Nova Scotia and soon after was promoted to the rank of major. In early 1812, he became lieutenant colonel of the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles who had been raised among the Scottish Roman Catholic settlers in the Eastern District of Upper Canada. The Glengarries fought under his command at York in April, 1813, and later with distinction at Burlington, Lundy's Lane and Chippewa. At the war's end the regiment was disbanded and Battersby returned to Britain. Before leaving Canada, however, in an act for which he is now recalled more often than for his military accomplishments, he had his horses shot and buried near the military cemetery at York, U.C. (now Victoria Memorial Square, Toronto) because he could not bear the

thought of their being mistreated by a subsequent owner.

Neither the Friends of Fort York nor Toronto Culture bid for the Battersby portrait: the Friends because we were committed to support the restoration of the York Militia Colours if they came to the fort and hence could not spread ourselves too thin; Toronto Culture because since the early 1990s budgets to buy items for the collections at all its ten museums have spiraled down to zero.



*Lt-Col. Francis Battersby by Levi Stephens, c. 1816.  
Courtesy: Ritchies Auctioneers, Toronto*

## *HRDC Grant for Fort York Guard Restored!*

Like thousands of small not-for-profit groups across Canada, the Friends of Fort York got caught up this Spring in the unexpected plans of Human Resources and Social Development Canada to alter how it awarded grants for summer student jobs. However laudable the department's objective to foster the hiring of more disabled and aboriginal youth or members of visible minorities in areas where crime rates and unemployment are high, the reality is that the delivery of many social services at the local level has been built over time upon a partnership of community groups who hired and trained students with funding assistance from the Government of Canada. In this inter-dependent relationship it is essential to have continuity or very long notices of change. Therefore, it is a mystery how HRDC expected to change its criteria and cut funding to the program from \$96 to \$85 million, both in the same year, without creating major disruptions.

Happily, Human Resources Minister Monte Solberg recognized his department's mistake before it was beyond repair, and in late May informed many groups including the Friends of Fort York that their grant for 2007 would be in the same amount as they received in 2006. The grant for the Fort York Guard was restored to \$13,500. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

In 2006 the cost of operating the Fort York National Historic Site was shared among the City of Toronto (68.1%), admissions and rentals (16.1%), the Friends of Fort York (9.5%), the Ontario Government's museums grants program (4.8%), and the Government of Canada (1.6%).

## *Election Of Directors And Officers*

At The Friends' annual meeting on June 21, attended this year by about 35 people including former chair Don Gibson and directors Bob Allsopp, Don Brydges, Ian Keith and Cathy Nasmith, the following were re-elected as directors for the upcoming year: Nancy Baines, Geordie Beal, Henry D'Auchapt, Richard Dodds, Patricia Fleming, Joe Gill, Philip Goldsmith, Heather Inglis Baron, Michael Manning, Stephen Otto, Elizabeth Quance, Ted Smolak, Bret Snider, Andrew Stewart, George Waters and Allan Wilson. Also, a new director, Rob Zeidler, joined the board.

Rob has 30 years experience in both the Canadian and British Armies, where he has progressed from Rifleman to Major. He is now the Training Division Chief for Canada's Land Forces Central Area. A graduate of York University, Toronto, the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and Ecole Européenne des Affaires, Paris, he has completed operational tours in Northern Ireland and with the UN in Cyprus and Israel/Syria. Since leaving full-time service, Rob has worked primarily in the real estate field in both leasing and property management. History has always been a consuming interest for him. As a director, he looks to help strengthen the Fort York Guard and assist with the creation of a landscaping master plan that will better highlight the Fort's historical significance and key geographical position.

Tributes to those directors who did not stand for re-election reflected a deep appreciation for the service given by John Adams, Ross Flowers, Robert Nurse and Peter Twist.

After the directors' election, new officers were chosen. In light of Joe Gill's desire to step down as Chair but willingness to serve as Treasurer, the following were picked to lead the organization for 2007-08: Stephen Otto (chair), Michael Manning and Andrew Stewart (vice-chairs), Joe Gill (treasurer) and Elizabeth Quance (secretary). In addition, approval was given to the membership of our three Standing Committees: Executive, Audit and Nominations.

*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

## **Site-work Update**

*by David O'Hara, Site Administrator*

### **Site Improvements**

[murmur] is an audio documentary that collects and makes available stories and personal memories set in specific locations in Fort York and the surrounding neighbourhood. It will assist in interpreting the fort, particularly for those walking outside the walls, broadening the overall interpretation of the site. Information on [murmur] was included in a special issue of Fife and Drum mailed out to the new condominiums to the south of the fort at 219 and 231 Fort York Blvd (over 950 units). For more information check [www.murmurtoronto.ca](http://www.murmurtoronto.ca)

A more formal audio tour will be developed for the entire area within the walls. This project, which is funded by the Friends of Fort York with matching City funds, will commence at some point this Fall.

### **Well House Reconstruction**

Initially scheduled for a Spring 2007 completion, using wood salvaged from the Queen's Wharf, the well house construction was delayed when Toronto Culture staff unearthed stone foundation walls surviving from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. These remains have allowed us to revise our scheme to more accurately reconstruct the structure. Rather than parallel the Stone Gunpowder Magazine, as it was originally thought to be, the reconstructed well house will be rotated 32 degrees counter clockwise to match the existing/archaeological foundation. This and other information found during the excavation will assist in interpreting the structure

### **Heritage Conservation District Plan**

Work on the development of the Fort York Heritage Conservation District Plan will be undertaken by a team of consultants, led by du Toit Allsopp Hillier and Catherine Nasmith Architect. The team also includes Archaeological Services Inc. and the Centre for Landscape Research, University of Toronto. The Heritage Conservation District Plan will set out the fort's relationship to its surroundings, record what is within the District boundaries, and provide some general guidelines for its management. The plan is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

### **Fort York Visitor Centre Needs Assessment**

In order to advance our bid to construct a Visitor Centre in time for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, a needs assessment will be undertaken to confirm the type and extent of visitor services and facilities required in such a facility. Although discussed for over 25 years, the last look at what would be included within a Visitor Centre was taken over twelve years ago. Lord Cultural Resources has been retained to undertake this work, and will work closely with staff, the Friends of Fort York and other stakeholders over the next few months.

## **The York Militia Colours**

*by Carl Benn, PhD., Chief Curator,  
City of Toronto Museums and Heritage Services*

The two colours (or flags) of the Third Regiment of York Militia, exhibited at St James' Cathedral for many years, are significant artefacts in Toronto's history. They evoke the patriotism of the Georgian-era women who made them, and of the citizen soldiers who fought to preserve Upper Canada during the War of 1812 when the Americans attempted – but failed – to conquer the British colony. Intended to honour the contributions of the flank companies of the York Militia in the capture of Detroit, the colours were sewn by some of the town's leading young ladies in 1812-13 to a design prepared by 21-year-old Mary Warren Baldwin. These women met at the home of the prominent John and Catherine McGill family (on the site of today's Metropolitan United Church) to do their work and to receive visitors, including Major-General Isaac Brock, the victor of Detroit. Other men entertained them as they sewed, as occurred when someone performed a reading of Sydney Croker's poem, *The battle of Talavera*, a stirring celebration of the Duke of Wellington's 1809 triumph over the forces of Napoleonic despotism.

At the time the ladies laboured over the colours, the militia embraced most of the able-bodied male population between the ages of 16 and 60. (The government exempted pacifists from certain churches along with people in important jobs or professions, such as ferry operators and clergymen.) Most Upper Canadian males belonged to the 'sedentary militia,' which possessed only a limited amount of training and equipment, but which

nevertheless could be called out when needed. While service in the sedentary militia was obligatory, many men volunteered to fight in militia flank companies and other formations where they received additional training and better equipment so they could take a more active part in the colony's defence.

Traditionally, a stand of colours comprised two flags that were carried at the centre of the battalion as it formed in line, either to parade or to engage the enemy. In combat, the colours served as a rallying point in the confusion of battle, communicated orders (depending upon how they were waved), allowed generals to see where their battalions were in large battles, and acted as symbols of honour to motivate soldiers. It was this last function that generally was the most important and which clearly stirred the minds of the people who embroidered the flags in 1812-13.

The women presented the colours to the Third York in March, 1813, following evensong at the town's Anglican church (not yet named for St James). They were given to the regiment by one of the daughters of Judge William Dummer Powell (we do not know which, but perhaps it was the oldest, 26-year-old Anne). In her speech, Miss Powell noted that York's young ladies offered the colours as a 'public testimony of their gratitude to their countrymen returning from victory' (which by then also included the battle of Queenston Heights in addition to the capture of Detroit). She then said she wanted the militiamen to receive the colours' as a proof that they [i.e., the women] strongly participate in that generous patriotism which burns with so pure a flame through the Province, and when you behold it unfurled on the day of battle, let it become a kind of remembrancer of the unlimited confidence which they place in the efficiency of your protection.' Sadly, the Third York's next battle resulted in a defeat, at York in April, 1813; but rather than surrender the colours as war trophies, someone buried them in the town where the enemy could not find them so they could be recovered for the regiment after the Americans left the colonial capital.

As is typical for a stand of colours, those of the Third York consist of two objects, a 'king's colour,' which fundamentally is a Union Jack with a regimental crest at its centre, and a 'regimental colour.' Normally the regimental colour looks like an ensign (with a small Union Jack in the corner), but in the case of the Third York its design is distinctly unorthodox, having a plain background upon which are embroidered a number of symbols and words. At its centre is a crown, flanked by the initials 'GR' for *Georgius Rex* (Latin for King George). At the left of the flag is a depiction of the arms of Upper Canada, and at the right is the white rose of York.



*Reproduction copy of the colours made in 1960s.  
Courtesy: Toronto Culture, Collections and Conservation.*

Under the crown is a branch with leaves on it (presumably laurel), below which are the words '3d Regt York Militia' and the motto 'Deeds Speak' (chosen by the town's rector, the Revd John Strachan, in light of the glow of victory at Detroit). We do not know why the colour is so unusual. Presumably it spoke to the local, amateur effort of people who were unfamiliar with the niceties of correct military design. In fact, its conception is reminiscent of American colours; perhaps Mary Baldwin and her friends saw captured US flags displayed in the town after the British victories at Detroit and Queenston.

Most Canadian colours of the War of 1812 era were produced immediately after the conflict, which makes those of the Third Regiment of York Militia particularly enthralling because of their creation during the dark tensions of the war's uncertainties. Beyond that, they are important symbols of the efforts of the town's women to contribute to the dignity of the local regiment. Combined with the primary documents associated with these evocative artefacts, they invite us to explore some of the more elusive themes of the war's history, such as the loyalty of Upper Canada's female population, the colonial sense of honour, and other similarly fascinating topics.

*Further reading: a delightful Victorian narrative of the story of the colours is Mary Agnes Fitzgibbon's 'A historic banner,' in the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Toronto Transactions 1 (1896), 6-22.*

# Spreading The News In 1813

by David Juliusson

Today, when communications bounce around the world in the bat of an eye, it's inconceivable that information once took weeks, if not months, to reach its intended destination.

The fort recently acquired two newspapers, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, that provide a direct link to the Battle of York. Both are issues of *Boston's Weekly Messenger*, dated May 14 and May 21, 1813. (see *Fife & Drum*, December 2006)

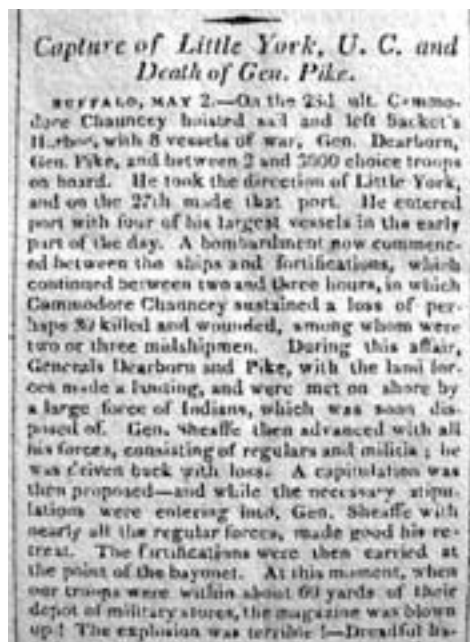
They provide fascinating accounts of the battle from the American perspective. Found there is news of the American victory, praising the professionalism of US troops and lamenting the death of Brigadier General Zebulon Pike. Included also is Major General Henry Dearborn's after-action report as the Army Commander, as is that of his naval counterpart, Commodore Isaac Chauncey. In the May 21 issue there is even a list of the British officers who signed the capitulation. These newspapers were paid for and delivered to Toronto faster than the news reached Boston in 1813. So how did the news travel then between the two places?

Initially, news of the victory was delayed when a bad storm kept the US Navy's ships penned up in Toronto harbour. When the storm had blown over, vessels carrying various reports headed out across the lake. Some news reached Buffalo on May 2, and was published in the *Buffalo Gazette* on May 4. It appeared with its Buffalo dateline in the *Weekly Messenger* on May 14. Meanwhile, ships carrying naval dispatches also left York for Sackett's Harbour, the main US Naval base on Lake Ontario. They arrived there on May 3, which explains how some reports first published in other upstate New York towns nearly coincided with the Buffalo dateline but contained different information.

Until the invention of the telegraph in the 1840's, newspapers were the primary way that news spread over long distances. During the War of 1812 as many as 370 newspapers were being published in the United States—over 90 in New York State alone—and a dozen in Upper Canada. There were no conventions against plagiarism, so articles or portions of them turned up in several journals. The old newspaper maxim of "printing all the news that fits" was never truer than when typesetting was in its infancy. Lines of lead type similar to that of an old typewriter key were placed

individually in short rows and then wedged into tight fitting columns before being inked and pressed into broad sheets of newsprint. Once a story was written and the type was set, few changes were made. But a story coming from another newspaper in another part of the country could easily be edited to fit the space available, reset and added to the local edition.

The editor of the *Weekly Messenger* may have received issues of the *Buffalo Gazette* or other journals as they published reports on the battle at York, but equally it is likely he copied what he found in other newspapers between Buffalo and Boston. Clearly, it is impossible to say exactly the route that news travelled, when many alternates existed, or precisely where it originated if no dateline and source is given. However, thanks to the generosity of a Friend of Fort York in New York State who shared his transcriptions of thousands of reports on the War of 1812 from US and Canadian newspapers, we've been able to locate where many of the reports in the *Weekly Messenger* first appeared, when they were published, and how long it took them to travel from place to place. A few examples must suffice.



Part of a report on capture of York, *Boston Weekly Messenger*, May 14, 1813, reprinted from the *Buffalo Gazette*, May 4, 1813. Courtesy: Toronto Culture, Collections and Conservation

The report titled "Capture of Little York, U.C. and Death of Gen. Pike," datelined Buffalo, May 2, which was published two days later in the *Gazette*, appeared in the *New York City Statesman* on May 10, the *Albany Argus* on May 11, and the *New York Spectator*, May 12, before being picked up by the *Weekly Messenger* on May 14.

Major General Dearborn's long report to the US Secretary at War, and Commodore Chauncey's briefer letter to the Secretary of the Navy, both dated at York right after the battle, were direct dispatches later given for publication to Washington DC's *National Intelligencer*, from which they were copied by the *Weekly Messenger* on May 21.

The *National Intelligencer* was also the source for the signed Terms of Capitulation which have been found so far only in the *Weekly Messenger*, the *Charleston, SC Investigator* of May 18 and the *Kentucky Gazette*, published in Lexington on May 25, 1813.

The two newspapers are a rare find for the fort. Eventually they may be available online for those interested in reading them. A downloaded newspaper is definitely exciting, but it is not the same as holding and seeing the real thing. To know that someone read this paper when it was the latest breaking news is a direct link to the actual event and the most important day in Fort York's rich history.

# 2007 Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Melanie Garrison

## JULY

### Fort York Ongoing Summer Programming Daily throughout July, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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. These are the sights and sounds of Fort York this summer. Visitors will enjoy guided tours every hour on the hour and demonstrations every hour on the half hour. Military music, drill, musketry and artillery will be performed by students representing the Canadian Fencible Regiment that was garrisoned at the fort at the end of the War of 1812. Highlights include the cannon firing at 12:30 p.m. (weather permitting) and the music of the Fort York Drums (a fife & drum corps) in the afternoons.

*Please note: The Fort York Guard will be out of town at competitions on July 20-22  
Regular admission rates apply*

### Canadian Zinfomania BBQ

**Sat. July 21, 4:00 p.m.**

Churchill Cellars, Ravenswood Wines and Toronto's own en Ville Catering partner with Fort York to present an unforgettable night at the Garrison!

For tickets call 416-533-8800 ext. 225. Details can be found at [www.churchillcellars.com](http://www.churchillcellars.com)

*A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends of Fort York.  
\$50.00 per person.*

### The Rogers Picnic Concert

**Sun. July 29 – Gates open at 3:00 p.m.**

**The Roots** headline a star-studded line-up of musicmaking.

Information at [www.rogerspicnic.com](http://www.rogerspicnic.com)

*Tickets \$49.50 per person plus service charge.*

*(Please note: The fort will be closed to casual visitors on Sat. July 28 and Sun. July 29.)*

## AUGUST

### Fort York Ongoing Summer Programming Daily throughout July, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**See description under July above.**

*(Please note: The Fort York Guard will be out of town at competitions on August 17-19.)*

*Regular admission rates apply.*

### Simcoe Day – Annual Event

**Mon. Aug. 6, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

An annual Toronto tradition, Simcoe Day at Fort York connects you with the place where it all began. Period demonstrations of musketry, artillery, cooking and more round out your trip into Toronto's exciting past. Special appearance by "John Graves Simcoe" and the 41<sup>st</sup> Regt. of Foot from Fort George National Historic Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

*Regular admission rates apply*

### Toronto's Festival of Beer

**Fri. Aug 10, Sat. Aug. 11 and Sun. Aug. 12**

The Beer Store presents the 11<sup>th</sup> annual *Festival of Beer*, a Toronto summer favourite. Discover brewers, microbrewers, food, retailers, and more. A 19+ event. Details at [www.beerfestival.ca](http://www.beerfestival.ca)

*(Please note the fort will be closed to casual visitors on Tues. Aug. 7 thru Mon. Aug 13)*

### The Pirate Festival

**Weekends during the CNE**

**August 18–19, 25–26, Sept 1–3**

Your chance to discover a world of pirate-themed excitement and adventure. Food, entertainment, music and more.

Admission: Adults: \$16, Students: \$12, Children 4–12 yrs: \$10, under 3 yrs free. Details [www.thepiratefestival.com](http://www.thepiratefestival.com)

## SEPTEMBER

### Tecumseh Arts Festival

**Fri. Sept. 7, Sat. Sept. 8 and Sun. Sept. 9**

A weekend of Aboriginal, First Nation storytelling, site-specific artworks, food, dance, drumming and skills/learning workshops for young people. This year it honours the life and spirit of the great Shawnee leader Tecumseh, the visionary warrior some historians describe as "the man who saved Canada". He died in battle in October, 1813.

*Regular admission rates apply*

### Crate Productions *Fort York The Play*

**Thurs. Sept. 20 thru Sat. Oct. 13, evenings at 8:00 p.m.**

An original, collaborative, site-specific piece with scenes acted out on the parade ground and inside the buildings that explores how the fort's defenders and residents might have experienced the eve of the Battle of York in April, 1813. The production animates the entire fort with narrative drama, dreamlike sequences, comedy, soundscapes, live music and interactive performers as hosts.

*Ticket prices to be determined*

## OCTOBER

### Dance and Dance-ability

**Fri. Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.**

If you like to dance and enjoy the social history of the early 19th century, you will find a unique opportunity to explore these interests at this 11<sup>th</sup> annual English Country Dance workshop. Participants will be guided through delightfully fun and easy dances from real 1812-era dance manuals. If you can walk to the beat of a lively tune, you'll enjoy this insight into life in the early days of Upper Canada. Beginners welcome. No partners required.

*Pre-registration required. \$10.*

### Ghosts of the Garrison – Annual Event

**Fri. Oct. 26, Sat. Oct 27**

**7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

Family event with lantern tours and ghost stories from the past.

*Pre-registration required. \$10, Children \$5.*