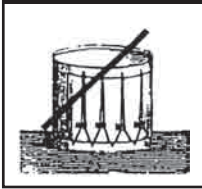


# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 10 No. 1 February 2006

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## Garrison Common History: Northeast Liberty Village

The 45 acres bounded by Dufferin, King, Strachan and the CN mainline linking Toronto and Hamilton, known as Liberty Village after one of its main streets, was once part of the military reserve surrounding Fort York. Indeed, the 1813 Battle of York may have spilled into the area, although most fighting took place on what are now the CNE Grounds and on the open land immediately west of the fort. Later, the Liberty Village area was given over in stages to railways, heavy industry and a prison.

The history of its development divides conveniently into two parts along a diagonal line formed by the original Grand Trunk Western line from Toronto to Georgetown, later sold to the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railway, and now replaced partly by East Liberty Street. The triangle northeast of this diagonal, up to King and over to Strachan, was developed first between 1865 to 1900. Very little of its original fabric survives. The other part southwest of the diagonal, down to the CN mainline and over to Dufferin, dates almost entirely from the early 20th century. Most of the buildings constructed there, with the notable exception of the Mercer Reformatory, are still standing.

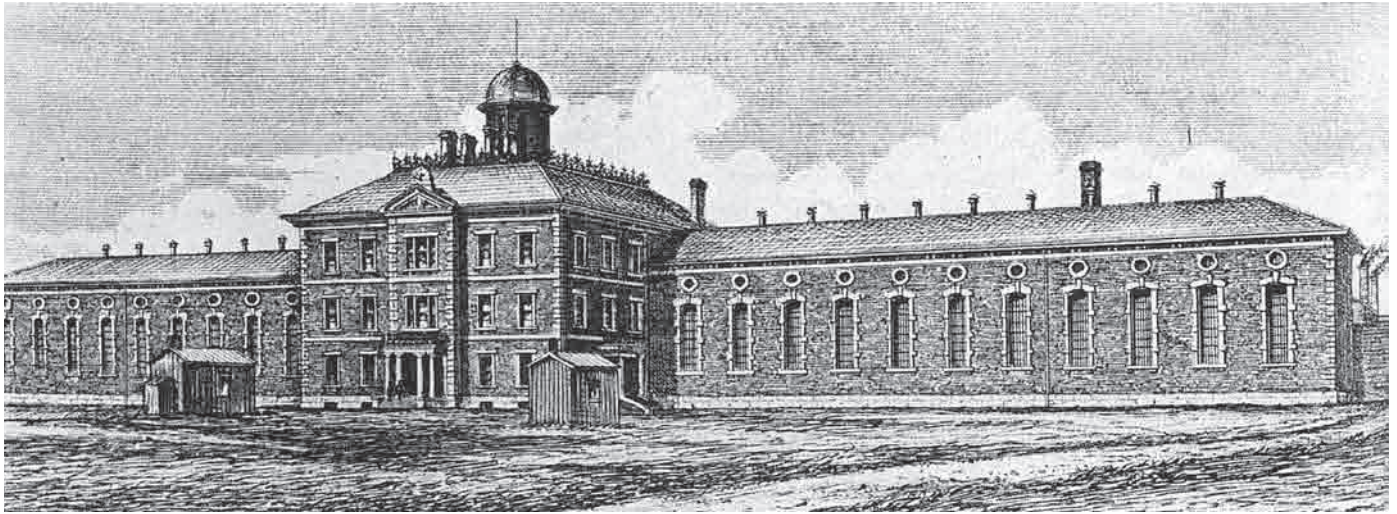


Map of the area, City Engineer's Office, 1885

Railways were thrown helter-skelter across the Liberty Village lands in the 1850s, but another decade passed before the first industry was located there. About 1865 the Toronto Steel, Iron and Railway Works Company was established to make rails, axles, wheels, switches and points. It stood on the west side of Strachan just north of the diagonal rail corridor. In 1872 the company's premises and machinery were taken over by the Canada Car Company, which had negotiated to do some of its manufacturing using prison labour in workshops within the walls of the Central Prison then being constructed on an adjoining site.

Dana Ashdown, in his splendid book, *Iron and Steam: A History of the Locomotive and Railway Car Builders of Toronto* (Toronto: Robin Brass Studio, 1999) details in a masterful way the short history of this arrangement from the prison's opening in 1874 to the company's demise in 1879. Two years later the property was sold to a firm of iron founders and machinists in Guelph that moved its operations to Toronto and was reorganized as John Inglis & Sons. For over a century until 1989, Inglis and its successors occupied this site and much of the former prison property, evolving from a manufacturer of heavy engines and armaments into a maker of consumer goods and appliances, particularly washing machines. Now a tide of town houses has taken Inglis's place.

Visit our website at [www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca)



*View of the new Central Prison, Canadian Illustrated News, 19 Sept. 1874*

The Central Prison for Men was constructed in 1872-74 on 14 acres on the west side of Strachan Ave. to take lawbreakers formerly consigned to county jails whose sentences were too short to be served in one of the new Dominion's penitentiaries. Its severe design came from the drafting board of Kivas Tully, the provincial architect. Until the prison closed in 1915, when the inmates were transferred to reformatories in Mimico, Guelph and elsewhere, it was a sombre presence, even in a neighbourhood given over to industry. Today a chapel survives that was built in 1877 at the south end of the main prison building. Used on an interim basis as a presentation centre for condos in the area, eventually it will become some sort of 'community facility.'

Of course, the best known of the enterprises in the area was the Massey Manufacturing Company established at King and Strachan in 1879, having moved there from Newcastle, Ontario. By 1891 when it merged with A. Harris, Son & Co. of Brantford to form Massey-Harris, it was Canada's biggest farm implement maker, employing from 650 to 750 men in

Toronto. In the 20th century it went on to become a legend among Canadian companies, with showrooms and factories around the globe.

Its Toronto factory of a dozen or more interconnected buildings was constructed in stages. The only part to survive today is Massey's office building at 915 King Street W., commissioned from architect E.J. Lennox in 1883 and altered by G.M. Miller in 1912. Miller who was supervising architect on the construction of Massey Hall (1894), designed many utilitarian buildings at the Massey factory as well as the renascent Gladstone Hotel (1889-90) on Queen Street and Lillian Massey Household Science Building at the U of T (1908-12). The Toronto factory operated until the 1980s and then was torn down to make way for offices and new housing, but not before Peter MacCallum, a photographer on the City's staff, produced an elegaic series of pictures of the deserted buildings.

*by Stephen Otto*

## *Public Art in West Harbour City*

Plazacorp, the developer of West Harbour City on the lands under the Molsons building on Fleet Street in the Fort York Neighbourhood, is moving ahead on its commitment to provide art for the first phase of its development. Since 1985 it has been the City of Toronto's policy to condition rezonings and site plan approvals on a public art contribution of 1% of a project's construction costs. In the past these contributions have included such eye-catchers as Joe Fafard's cows at the TD Centre and the arching-girder design by architect Santiago Calatrava for the Galleria at BCE Place. Public art projects are approved by the Urban Development Services department and the Public Art Commission, a citizens' advisory body.

Phase One at West Harbour City is a city-block bounded by Fleet Street on the south, future Bastion Street and June Callwood Park on the west, Grand Magazine Street on the

east and Sloping Sky Mews on the north. This block can be located on the plan of streets in the Fort York Neighbourhood that appeared in *Fife & Drum*, v. 9, no. 2 (May 2005), available on our website <[www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca)> . The principal building in Phase One is a 36-storey tower terraced above the 11th-floor podium on the north side facing the fort. Clad in precast panels that are a limestone colour and having very large windows to give it a distinctly residential appearance, it will contain about 460 condominium units. Quadrangle Architects are responsible for its design.

The public-art element will take the form of a frieze at the third-storey level to be designed by one of six competing artists—James Carl, Carlo Cesta, Christian Eckhart, Nelson Kruger and the team of Susan Schelle and Mark Gomes—with the winner to be chosen by a five-person jury of curators,

artists, and representatives of Quadrangle and Plazacorp. Their choice, expected to cost about \$1 million to execute, will be announced in May. To make way for Phase One the largest Molson building will be demolished shortly, and construction will follow in the Spring.

Later phases of West Harbour City will have their own public-art elements too, although these have yet to be worked

out in detail. In Phase Two on the block east of Phase One the contribution is proposed to be “small gestures” having an artistic theme related to Fort York and costing about \$250,000. In Phase Three on the block north of Phase One it is proposed to be an enrichment of June Callwood Park and is budgeted at about \$200,000.

## *Adding New Buildings – An Update*



In the last *Fife & Drum* we reported that City Council's Economic Development and Parks Committee (EDPC) had approved the building program set out in *Fort York: Adding New Buildings*. We are pleased to report that Council, meeting in December, adopted all the motions on Fort York passed by the EDPC and, in addition, approved funding for

the construction of the entrance to the fort off Fort York Boulevard.

The overall cost of the building program is estimated to be \$11 million. Council's support for the program hinges on \$5.5 million being raised from the private sector and other levels

of government, essentially limiting the city's share to 50%. The motions passed ask staff of the Culture department to report back to Council with a detailed critical path showing how the new building proposals can be completed by the end of 2011 so the new facilities are available for celebrations of the bi-centennial of the War of 1812. With this information, the project costs can be more accurately allocated over the years 2007-2011 as part of the five-year budget cycle that begins with the 2006 budget process. It is expected that Council will also want to consider then the plans for the outside fundraising. The Friends are in the process of setting up a fund-raising structure including the formation of a Fort York Foundation. More on this later this Spring.

The approval of a funding allocation in 2006 for the entrance to Fort York from Fort York Blvd. should mean that the entrance will be completed this year.

# A PROCLAMATION!

TO ALL LOYAL CITIZENS OF YE TOWN OF YORK  
(AND OTHERS) GREETINGS!

*Be it known to all Loyal Citizens that the Ninth Annual Mess Dinner  
of His Majesty's Garrison at York will be held on the evening of  
Thursday, the eighth day of June of this calendar year.*

*More particular information will be sent by Post.*

*Assure yourself a place by reserving this date, and by ascertaining that  
your name is on the Mailing List by calling 416-860-6493.*

**GOD SAVE THE KING!!**

## What Are The Friends Doing?

We thought it would be of interest to review a few of the projects that the Board of Directors of the Friends is focusing on at present.

The expansion plans for the fort set out in *Adding New Buildings* clearly are our primary concern. The reconstruction of the Splinterproof Barracks and the Guard house will only be possible if we can determine the historical construction design and materials. This requires a substantial research project and time is of the essence. As well, planning for the process to determine a design of the proposed visitor centre is underway.

Funding for the future development of the fort is a major concern. We plan to have the Fort York Foundation in place by early summer. This will be a vehicle for the receipt of bequests and endowments. At the same time we are in the process of building a fund raising team to support a campaign

to fund our share of the Adding New Buildings project. Geordie Beal has been leading a very active committee on this project.

Board members are starting to focus on planning for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. The bicentennial will be a major tourist event for the country if properly planned and certainly will draw attention (and hopefully funding) to our plans for Fort York.

Lastly, our History and Archaeology Committee chaired by Andrew Stewart is working hard to establish a Research Centre at Fort York – combining the library and a computer research centre.

All of these projects are succeeding because of very positive team work between Culture Division staff and the volunteers in the Friends and on the Fort York Management Board.

## Tell A Friend About The Friends!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and will pass it on to members of your family and to friends. We wish to thank those who have paid their 2006 membership or made a donation to support our activities. The cost of operating the Friends is funded totally by our membership, so your financial backing is essential.

Please mention us to any friend you feel might be interested in helping to preserve and enhance the fort. Members will

receive a renewal request one year from when they last paid. For those who wish to join, or have overlooked renewing their 2006 membership, we invite your consideration. An individual membership is only \$35, and may be sent to:

The Friends of Fort York  
c/o Nancy Baines – Membership Chair  
72 Alexandra Blvd.  
Toronto, Ontario, M4R 1L9



## FORT YORK GUARD NEEDS RECRUITS

If you know any potential members of the Fort York Guard or the Fort York Drums, now is the time to be encouraging them to prepare resumes. This year we will be hiring 24 high school and university students. As well, we continue to look for aspiring volunteers aged 12-15 with musical skills for the Fife & Drum Corps. These volunteers receive training on the fife or drums every second weekend during the Spring and join the corps on a part-time basis in the Summer. This year we are instituting a program for volunteers aged 15 who want to join the Fort York Guard for the summer.

*Students interested in the **Fort York Guard** should contact  
Matthew Wickson  
fortyorkguard@yahoo.ca*

*Those interested in the **Fort York Drums** must speak with  
Ewan Wardle  
e-mail fortyorkguard@yahoo.ca*

*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

In the following article David Juliusson, a Program Officer at the fort, continues the story of the Canadian Fencibles begun by Ross Flowers in the last issue of *Fife & Drum*. The Fencibles were among the first regiments to garrison Fort York after its rebuilding in 1814-16.

## **A History of the Canadian Fencibles, 1803-1816**

*By David Juliusson*

In British Army parlance of the 19th century, Fencible Regiments were units raised in Scotland, Ireland or the colonies who were stationed locally to free up the regular army so it could be sent elsewhere. Led by officers from the Regular Force, Fencibles were paid and trained as regulars. During the War of 1812, five such regiments served in Canada: the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Regiments, the Canadian Fencibles, Glengarries and Royal Newfoundlanders. Only the last three saw action in Upper Canada.

The Canadian Fencibles had an inauspicious beginning. In 1803, the Passenger Act was passed limiting the number of emigrants a ship could carry, thereby frustrating thousands of Scots, most of them Highlanders, who wanted to leave for North America. Colonel Thomas Peter was given orders to recruit among them for defenses in the Canadas. When 700 men had signed on, they and their 1500 dependents were marched out of the Highlands in driving rain. Along the way they were mocked for their ragtag appearance—none had been given uniforms—and when they got to their destination in late June, 1804, they were inadequately supplied and housed. Another of their grievances was that none of their officers spoke their Gaelic language.

A short time later a rumour spread that the Regiment had been sold to the East India Company, which seemed to be confirmed when the unit was ordered to the Isle of Wight, the normal embarking point for India Minor. Disturbances among the recruits broke out that culminated in rioting. In response, the War Office ordered the Canadian Fencibles disbanded but kept on the Establishment List.

The regimental officers and sergeants then were transferred to the Canadas to start recruiting anew. Initially, they were met with mistrust by French Canadians, because the recruiters were unable to speak French, and by Scots settlers who were more likely to join the Glengarries. But the promotion of Canadian officers coupled with hard economic times fostered the regiment's growth. By November 1808 the army list shows 24 sergeants, 22 drummers and 411 rank and file. As of June 1812 there were 700 men on strength.



*Victor Sutbren and Parks Canada*

A Return for the Canadian Fencibles made in 1810 provides an interesting insight into the unit's composition: 58% were Canadian-born, most of them French-speaking, 10% were Scottish, 8% Irish, and 19% foreign. A majority of the foreign-born were American, but others hailed from Prussia, Finland, Bermuda and South America. Sixteen of the 29 sergeants were Scottish, 6 were Canadian, 5 foreign and 2 Irish.

The regiment served with distinction in various roles throughout the ensuing war. In 1812 one company served as Marines on the St. Lawrence flotillas. A second company acted as militia administrators, instructors and artificers and assisted the Royal Artillery. In 1813 Canadian Fencibles participated in the Lake Champlain campaigns and in the defense of Montreal. The Light Company distinguished itself at the Battle of Chateauguay. At Chrysler's Farm, another company sustained thirty-five percent casualties in charging the enemy guns. At LaColle, when the Grenadiers were ordered to relieve the garrison, they twice charged the hostile guns.

In 1814, the Canadian Fencibles were posted to Upper Canada. Some of the men did garrison duty at Kingston, while small detachments fought at Chippewa and in the Niagara campaigns. Late in the year both the Canadian Fencibles and the Glengarries were ordered to Fort York to serve as the new garrison, which is where they were when the war ended. On 15 April 1815 the York Gazette reported, "Lieut. General Sir George Murray reviewed the battalion of Canadian Fencibles now doing duty here and was pleased to express his approbation of their steady discipline and soldier-like appearance".

After the regiment was disbanded at Montreal in 1816, many of the men returned to their homes in Lower Canada. But others sought land grants in Upper Canada, particularly in the townships near the Perth Military settlement in what is now Lanark County. Captains William Marshall and Josias Taylor, Lieuts. Benjamin De Lisle and Noah Freer, Sergt. William Matheson and Privates Joseph Legary and Louis Grenier are known to have been among these settlers.

## An Herb Pie For Lent

*Recipe from the Mess Establishment at Historic Fort York adapted by Bridget Wranich*

This recipe was served at Fort York's Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball in January. It comes from a facsimile of the 1769 edition of Elizabeth Raffald's *The Experienced English Housekeeper* (East Sussex: Southover Press, 1997, with an introduction by Roy Shipperbottom) page 76.

Elizabeth Whittaker (1733- 1781) was an experienced housekeeper who began her career at Arley Hall in Cheshire where she met and married John Raffald, the head gardener on the estate. In 1763, after they moved to Manchester, Elizabeth opened a confectionary shop which also sold cold dishes, preserves and condiments. She added a registry office (employment agency) for servants in 1764. The first edition of *The Experienced English Housekeeper* was published by subscription in 1769. The cost of the book was 5 shillings and she successfully sold 800 copies. Raffald's cookbook was unique for the late 18th century because she did not borrow any of the recipes for her book from other authors. She made it very clear that her first edition included only original recipes. In the second edition she added another 100 recipes to the original 800 and gave credit to a "noble generous minded lady" (referring to Lady Elizabeth Warburton of Arley Hall, to whom she dedicated her cookbook) and other "worthy ladies." There were seven editions published in her lifetime and an eighth appeared posthumously.

The original recipe read as follows: Take lettuce, leeks, spinach, beets and parsley, of each a handful. Give them a boil, then chop them small, and have ready boiled in a cloth one quart of groats with two or three onions in them. Put



*Engraving of E. Raffald in 8th edition (1782) of The Experienced English Housekeeper*

them in a frying pan with the herbs and a good deal of salt, a pound of butter and few apples cut thin. Stew them a few minutes over the fire, fill your dish or raised crust with it, one hour will bake it. Then serve it up.

*Here is the modern equivalent:*

|         |                         |         |
|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| 4       | onions, chopped         | 4       |
| 4 cups  | groats (steel cut oats) | 1 litre |
| 1 head  | Boston lettuce          | 1 head  |
| 6       | leeks                   | 6       |
| 2 cups  | spinach                 | 500 ml  |
| 2 cups  | parsley                 | 500 ml  |
| 2 cups  | beet greens             | 2 cups  |
| 6       | apples, finely sliced   | 6       |
| 1 tbsp. | salt                    | 15 ml   |
| 2 cups  | butter                  | 500 ml  |

Place groats and onions in 2 cloths and boil them approximately 1 hour or until they are tender. Set aside to cool. Finely chop the herbs and blanch them. Drain. Melt butter in large frying pan or sauté pan and add groats, herbs and apples. Stew mixture until well combined. Place in two, unbuttered 33 cm x 23 cm (13" x 9") pans. Bake at 180 °C (350° F) for one hour or until pie is lightly browned. Serve immediately. You may also bake this pie in a crust. The recipe can be easily halved.

# Site-work Update

by David O'Hara  
Site Administrator

## Victoria Memorial Square

Phase I of the rehabilitation work for Victoria Memorial Square was tendered for construction in the fall of 2005 and awarded in December. The first site meeting with the successful contractor, Zuron Construction, was held in early January. Depending on how soon the ground dries, work is expected to begin in either April or May of this year, and is expected to be completed by the beginning of August, 2006.

The first phase of work will include site grading, new walkways, resodding, relocation and fencing the existing playground, and the restoration of the area immediately surrounding the War of 1812 monument. Delineation of the burial ground, the reinstallation of the remaining grave markers, and the addition of interpretive components and signs will be included as part of the Phase II work. The timing of Phase II is dependant on the availability of funding to be directed to the project as part of various development agreements in the immediate area.

The Friends of Fort York and city staff continue to pursue the potential transfer of title to Victoria Memorial Square from the Department of National Defense to the City of Toronto.

## Mayor's Clean-up Day

Saturday April 22nd has been confirmed as Mayor Miller's clean-up day. Volunteers are invited to join us at Fort York for our annual clean-up from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the west gate (canteen/museum store). Please dress appropriately and bring work gloves if you have them. Coffee and garbage bags will be provided.

## Heritage Conservation District Planning

In 1985 Fort York became the City of Toronto's first designated Heritage Conservation District (HCD) under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. In 2004 City Council approved the expansion of the District to increase its area from 23 to 41 acres, taking in more of the original Lake Ontario shoreline, the original Garrison Creek mouth, lands along the north boundary newly-acquired from CN and west of Strachan Avenue and also the Fort York Armouries site. The boundaries now match those of the National Historic Site, with the exception of Victoria Memorial Square, that were adopted by the federal government in 2003.

The Heritage Act requires the development of an Heritage Conservation District Plan. The expansion of the Fort

York HCD, amendments made to the Act in 2005, and the ongoing need to respond to issues related to development in and around Fort York have highlighted the need to revisit the District Plan done originally in 1985.

Staff will be working with the Friends of Fort York and other stakeholders to define a scope of work for the revised HCD Plan, and to identify funding sources for the project so it can go ahead.

# Planning for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812

by Ken Purvis  
Senior Program Officer

In 1812, the United States declared war and invaded Canada. On the 27th of April 1813, the U.S. Army and Navy attacked York with 2,700 men on 14 ships and schooners. The defenders put up a strong fight but fell back to Fort York in the face of overwhelming odds, eventually abandoning the fort and town to the enemy. In the autumn of 1813, the British returned to Toronto and built the fortification that stands today.

Early in 2005 at a meeting of the Forts Group (a long standing committee drawing its members from Forts Erie, George, Niagara and York), it was decided to form a larger body to discuss shared opportunities and plans for the impending bicentennial. This bicentennial body now includes representatives from other heritage and cultural organizations with connections to the War of 1812.

Preliminary discussions have included the creation of a coordinated event schedule for the bicentennial years in order to avoid potential date conflicts, to provide mutual support where applicable, to improve communications, and to advise non-heritage organizations.

In endorsing Fort York: Adding New Buildings, in December 2005, City Council requested that staff report back on bicentennial planning and on the development of a critical path for the implementation of Adding New Buildings in order to meet this key milestone. Staff will be reporting back to City Council later this year, and will continue to meet with the bicentennial committee. There will be opportunities for the Friends of Fort York and other partners to participate in discussions in the coming months.

# Upcoming Events **2006-07** Historic Fort York

*Compiled by Melanie Garrison*

## **MARCH**

### **March Break**

**Mon Mar 13 to Fri Mar 17 - 10 am to 3 pm**

Family drop-in style event with activities including Soldiers' Drill, Officers' Sword Drill, Cooking in the Officers' Kitchen, Discovery Gallery, Dress Up, and Guided Tours.

*Family Rate: \$20.00 (2Ad/3Ch); Adults \$6.00, Seniors/Youth \$4.25, Children (4 – 12 yrs) \$4.00; 3 Years & Under are Free of Charge.*

## **APRIL**

### **FABLED CITY: Elizabeth Simcoe's Farewell Tea**

**Sunday, April 2 - 1:30 to 3 pm**

Elizabeth Simcoe, the wife of John Graves Simcoe, Upper Canada's first lieutenant governor (1791-1796), kept extensive diaries of her travels and her life in York (now Toronto). Storyteller Maja Bannerman takes on the role of Elizabeth Simcoe as she hosts a farewell tea at Fort York in 1796 and shares incredible stories of her life in Upper Canada. Your ticket includes refreshments from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

*Audience: General. Tickets: Adults: \$12; Seniors & Youths: \$10; Children: \$8. Pre-registration required.*

### **Mayor Miller's Community Clean-up Day - Annual Event**

**Sat. Apr. 22, 10 am to 1:00 pm**

Please join the Friends of Fort York, fort staff and others for our Fort York clean-up. We will meet at the Blue Barracks and pick up litter starting at 10:00 am through approximately 1:00 pm. Coffee will be provided for participants. Please bring your own gloves and wear appropriate clothing for the day such as gloves, boots and long-sleeve shirts. Garbage bags will be provided. Items such as bug repellent, bottled water, sunscreen and a pail for sharp objects can be useful.

### **Battle School – Annual Event**

**Sat. Apr. 22 and Sun. Apr. 23**

Fort York will play host to a number of re-enactors who will be honing their weapons skills in preparation for the summer military re-enactment season. These weekend warriors entertain and edify crowds all over Canada and the U.S. by voluntarily participating in historically significant events that recall Canada's exciting history. Fort York's annual Battle School is an opportunity for the re-enactment and Museum community to share information and safety

tips for the benefit of all. A special feature of the weekend will occur on the morning of Sunday, April 23 when the public is invited to attend the firing of a number of different types of artillery, all from different historic periods. The effect of all of these guns in one place will be quite thrilling! The guns that will be on display include a War of 1812-era 6-pounder and mortar from Fort York's collection, an 1860s U.S. Civil War field gun, an original WWI 18-pounder and a WWII 25-pounder. Soldiers in appropriate-era uniforms will fire these impressive guns.

*Regular admission rates apply.*

### **Battle of York Commemoration – Annual Event**

**Sun. Apr. 30, 10 am to 5 pm**

Tours, kids' drill, military music.

Battlefield walking tour starts from fort at 1 p.m.

*Regular admission rates apply.*

## **MAY**

### **History Fair – Annual Event**

#### **Toronto Catholic District School Board**

**May 4, 10 am to 3 pm**

View the best and the brightest history projects selected from over 50 schools in this city-wide history competition. Participants create projects using a wide-range of media - panel displays, computer presentations, dioramas, and more - or write and perform theatrical or musical pieces. Sponsored by the City of Toronto Culture Division, Historica ([www.historica.ca](http://www.historica.ca)) and the Toronto District Catholic School Board.

*Regular admission applies.*

### **Walking Tour – Annual Event**

#### **Fort York Neighbourhood**

**Sun. May 21, 2 pm**

Discover the history of the neighbourhood of Historic Fort York.

*Free admission to the fort following the tour.*

### **Victoria Day - Annual Event**

**Mon. May 22, 10 am to 5 pm**

Tours, kids' drill, military music.

*Regular admission rates apply.*

### **Doors Open - Annual Event**

**Sat. May 27 and Sun. May 28, 10 am to 5 pm**

Architectural tours, archaeology exhibit.

*Free admission all weekend.*