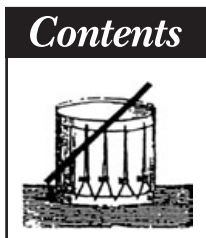


The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 9 No. 1 January 2005



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David O'Hara Appointed Administrator for Fort York

Rita Davies (Executive Director, Toronto Culture Division), Karen Black (Manager, Museums and Heritage Services), and Richard Shoichet (Chair of the Fort York Management Board) were pleased to announce the appointment of David O'Hara to the position of Museum Administrator, Fort York, effective January 4, 2005.

David has worked for the past twelve years as a Parks and Recreation Planner with the City of Toronto. His special interest in heritage landscapes and conservation issues has drawn him over the past few years into a close involvement with various fort-related projects, including the Fort York & Garrison Common Parks & Open Space Design and Implementation Plan, development of Fort York Boulevard and long-term planning for Victoria Square.

He has also played a large role in creating the Public Space Framework plan as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the Central Waterfront and most recently has been the project lead for the development of the Harbourfront Parks & Open Space System, including the new HTO Park at Maple Leaf Quay. He has a degree in Landscape Architecture and a Master of Science in Planning that complement his practical experience. He will be a great asset to Fort York, and is welcomed most warmly to his new position by the Friends of Fort York.

Front Street Extension

This project is in the news again as committees of City Council debate whether to continue funding the planning of the project this next year before some issues are sorted out that are related to Waterfront Development. In the community at large, opposition to the project has been building around its cost, currently estimated at \$255 million; how it reverses thirty years of transportation policy by encouraging more automobile traffic in the city centre; the uncertainty whether the FSE will solve commuter traffic problems so long as the Humber Bridge remains a pinch-point; and the road's impact on downtown neighbourhoods, particularly Parkdale.

Although the directors of the Friends of Fort York may have views as individuals on these issues, our collective position as a Board must focus on the interests of Fort York consistent with our objects and powers as a charitable organization. Accordingly, we have strongly opposed aspects of different designs for the FSE that have been put forward in the past, and have expressed our objections vigorously. We fought a proposal to have the FSE pass over the mainline railway tracks between Bathurst St. and Strachan on a high, elevated structure like the Gardiner Expressway; the latter has been a blot on the face of the fort for forty-five years. In this, Council agreed with us and directed the planners to place the new roadway in an structure that passed beneath the tracks. We have warned against taking any lands along the north edge of the Fort York National Historic site to allow the railway corridor to be relocated southward. We suspect the relocation would be made necessary by the traffic planners' desire to provide for three lanes of traffic in each direction on the FSE, rather than two as first proposed. We oppose a six-lane road that becomes eight lanes at Bathurst St. as likely to create intolerable traffic congestion in our neighbourhood.

Supporters of the Front Street Extension have said that if it isn't built, the Gardiner Expressway can never come down. While the Friends of Fort York want very much to see the elevated Expressway removed between the CNE and Bathurst, the Board is cautious in expressing any support for a Front Street Extension that meets all of our objections before City Council decides irrevocably to take down the Gardiner and enters into ironclad commitments to do so.

Garrison Common History: The Robinson Cottages

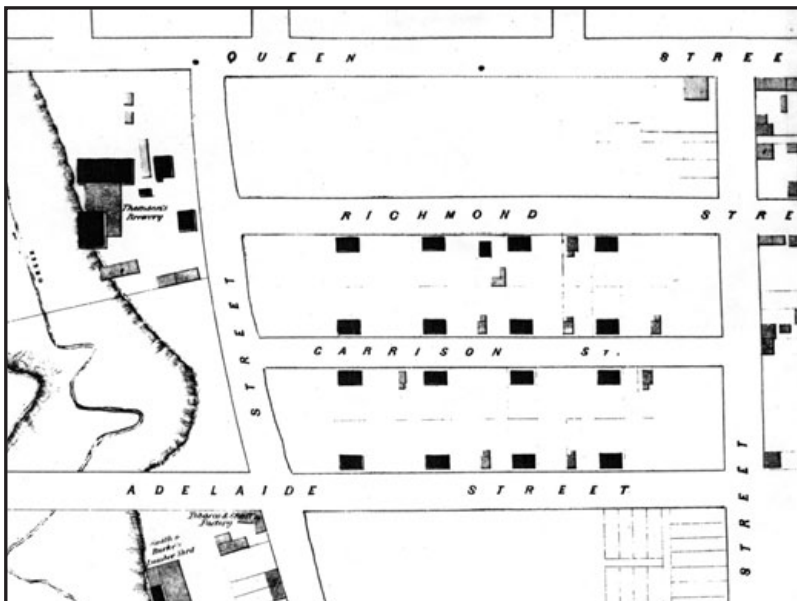
One of the more remarkable housing developments among the great many that have occurred on the Garrison Common was undertaken in the 1850s by James Lukin Robinson, the eldest son of Sir John Beverly Robinson. Like his father, the younger man trained as a lawyer but for a time was active in buying land and putting up buildings to a degree that was far from typical of an offspring of the Family Compact. In 1856, as the economic boom of that decade neared its crest, Robinson had under construction a boarding hotel on Bay Street, an office building on Jordan Street at Melinda as well as several comfortable houses on Windsor Street, which had been laid out like a London square between Front and Wellington. West of the city, he registered a plan of subdivision beyond the Humber River that covered the greater part of the former town of Mimico.

Also in 1856 he began developing nearly eight acres of land in the Garrison Common he bought from Trinity College at auction for £9155 the year before. Bounded by Richmond, Tecumseh, Adelaide and Niagara streets and bisected by Mitchell (formerly Garrison) Street, the property was surveyed into lots by J. O. Browne, P. L. S., shortly before work began on what eventually came to be thirty-two semi-detached cottages and eight or nine single ones. All the semi-detached cottages were brick-built and substantial; the single ones, with perhaps one exception, were frame and stucco. Building plans for them may have come from either Kivas Tully or Cumberland & Storm, both of whom were working for Robinson on other jobs that year. Boultons' atlas of 1858 shows the scope of Robinson's scheme before it was lost among neighbouring houses erected in the 1870s and 1880s. (Fig. 1) Worth noting is the generous amount of land that surrounded each cottage originally.



719-721 Richmond St. W., November 19, 1983 – April 4, 1998

What is remarkable today is that while all Robinson's single cottages have disappeared (or been incorporated into later buildings), almost half of his semidetached houses – fourteen out of thirty-two – survive in one form or another. The semis number 703-05, 719-721, 735-37 and 753-55 on Richmond Street, and 18-22, 40-44 and 71-75 on Mitchell Street. They are now among the oldest modestly-scaled dwellings in the city. Patrick Cummins, a staff archivist for the City of Toronto as well as a talented photographer, recorded the Robinson cottages in 1983 and 1998. His pictures show how much – or in some cases, how little – they changed in that fifteen-year interval. (Fig. 2)





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
Keiko Twist: phone 416-979-9487;
e-mail <Keiko.Twist@utoronto.ca>*

*Those interested in the
Fort York Drums must speak with
Ewan Wardle: phone 416-652-1368;
e-mail <Regwardle2@netscape.net>*

Georgian Dinner

The Friends will be holding our annual Georgian dinner for 2005 on June 8 in the Blue Barracks at Fort York. The dinner raises funds for the Fort York Guard and Drums. Currently our Special Events committee and Bridget Wranich of the fort staff are planning the menu for another splendid and authentic repast. Preliminary discussions have also taken place with En Ville, newly appointed by City Council as caterer for the site. En Ville succeeded Jessup Food & Heritage which withdrew from Fort York to concentrate on its main operation at Fort Henry, Kingston.

Public Meeting on Victoria Square



OLD CEMETERY TOMBSTONES.

On December 13 a public meeting was held in ArtWord Theatre, Portland Street, to report on planned improvements to Victoria Memorial Square. This park bounded by Niagara, Portland and Wellington streets contains within its limits a military burying ground established in 1794 that is now the city's oldest cemetery. In 2003 it was recognized by the National Historic Sites Board as part of the Fort York National Historic Site.

Several people spoke, including Councillor Olivia Chow. An archaeologist, Dr. Ron Williamson, described his investigation of the ground to confirm how shallow some graves were and whether old plans showing where they were located were reliable. David Leinster, a consultant retained by the City to develop a landscaping plan, presented it and showed how earlier comments from the community and a project advisory committee had been taken into account. Michael McClelland, whose architectural practice specializes in heritage work, reported that the iron fence enclosing the monument in the centre of the square would be restored to its original size; also that a number of gravestones set in concrete around the base of the monument, where they suffered much deterioration, have been cut out and removed to safe storage. He showed conceptual schemes for their remounting in a more protective setting.

To date the City has set aside \$350,000 for the first phase of this project, mostly from levies that were part of development agreements with the owners of new buildings in the area. This modest budget will allow a start on the work of rehabilitating the park to be made in 2005. But because more money will be needed to realize the plan's full extent, the Wellington Place Neighbourhood Association (contact Scott James: 416-203-7384) and others will be undertaking fund raising among foundations and within the private sector.

Everybody Needs Friends. We Do!

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and will pass it on to members of your family and to friends. And we thank all those who have paid their membership for 2005 or made a donation towards our activities. As the cost of operating the Friends is funded totally by our membership, your support is essential.

For those who wish to join, or have overlooked renewing their 2005 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*

Banking and Payroll Help Needed

Is there anyone you know out there, maybe someone with accounting experience, who'd be happy to work a few hours a week as a volunteer, helping us with our banking and payroll?

Most of the year our income arrives a few cheques at a time in the form of membership fees, donations and government grants, so it is enough to make a weekly bank deposit. At times during the summer, however, when our two biggest fundraisers occur—the Georgian Dinner and parking concession during the Molson Indy and CNE—we receive a mix of cheques and cash that are deposited daily. In the summer too we issue about two dozen cheques weekly to meet the payroll and expenses for the Fort York Guard. You'd have help with this.

If our urgent appeal speaks to you, please call Joe Gill (416-860-6493), Chair of the Friends of Fort York.

Upcoming Events **2005** Historic Fort York

March Through Time

Drop-in activities for children, ages 3-12

March 21-24, 2005, 10:00-3:00 each day

The theme for these activities will be the history of Fort York and Toronto.

No registration required

\$6/adult, \$4/child, \$4.25/youth & senior, FREE for three and under

Festival of Storytelling

Stories bringing the Fort to life.

April 3, 2005 2:00pm-3:00pm

Pre-registration recommended

Included with regular admission

Battle School

April 10, 11:30am (weather permitting)

Parade of the Gun (part of re-enactor workshop weekend)

Included with regular admission

Community Cleanup Days

April 23-24

Building on the success of the Mayor's initiative last year, which saw a workparty of Friends of Fort York, City staff and others turn out to remove junk such as abandoned shopping carts, old railway ties and soggy sleeping bags, from the fort's north ramparts, there will be a similar site cleanup this year on Saturday, April 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Regular admission waived for volunteers.

Battle of York Commemoration

April 24, 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Special tours, kids' drill, Battlefield walking tour, marking the Battle of York (April 27, 1813).

Included with regular admission

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

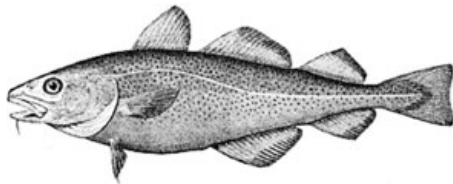

HISTORIC FORT YORK
THE BIRTHPLACE OF TORONTO

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Recipe for Fish Pie



The kitchens at Fort York have long been known for developing recipes (or receipts as they used to be known) for foods that might have been served at Fort York during its military heyday. That for Fish Pie originated in *A New System of Domestic Cookery* by "A Lady" (London: J. Murray, Fleet Street and J. Harding, St. James's Street, 1806). In later editions the pseudonym was dropped and credit given deservedly to Mrs. Eliza Maria Rundell (1745 - 1828), who said she wrote the book primarily to help her own daughters. What follows has been adapted by the staff in the Fort York kitchens to modern terms and measures.

Use an ungreased 33 cm x 23 cm (13" x 9") pan. If using leftover cooked fish, bake the pie for only 15 minutes. The number of oysters and amount of parsley in the pie can be reduced to taste.

6 - 8	<i>fillets of cod or haddock, raw</i>
10 ml (2 tsp.)	<i>salt</i>
24	<i>fresh or canned oysters and /or</i>
250 ml (1 cup)	<i>fresh parsley, minced</i>
50 ml (1 cup)	<i>oyster liquor, broth or water, warmed</i>
25 ml (2 tbsp.)	<i>butter</i>
1 sheet	<i>puff pastry</i>
5 ml (1 tsp.)	<i>pepper</i>
125 ml (1/2c.) or less	<i>rich cream</i>

- Sprinkle: fish with salt; set aside
Shuck: fresh oysters (if using), wash well and retain any liquor, set aside,
Mince: parsley (if using), set aside
Melt: butter in a small pan
Blend in: flour and cook for a couple of minutes until the taste of flour is gone
Blend in: oyster liquor, broth or water, a little at a time to create a smooth sauce
Remove: sauce from heat, allow to cool completely
Fill: buttered baking dish with layers of fish, oysters and/or parsley, and pepper
Pour: cooled sauce over fish
Cover: with puff pastry
Cut out: small air hole in centre of pie using a sharp knife
Bake: in a moderate oven, (180°C -350°F), for 40-45 minutes, or until pastry is golden
Pour: cream into hole, shake pan slightly to distribute evenly. Don't over shake!

Privies, Latrines and Wells at the Fort

by David Spittal



Visitors to Fort York usually focus on the surviving military buildings, the earthworks and other features of the landscape. But the fort is valued as well for its archaeological resources, which include millions of artifacts from every period and the well preserved architectural remains of buildings such as the Commandant's House, Engineer's Quarters, Splinterproof Barracks and the Guard House.

Other structures found at the fort include the more ordinary ones like privies, latrines and wells. Except for the well near the Stone Magazine, there is little visible evidence of them today. Their archival trace appears in requests for monies to maintain and improve the site, in reports from the Medical Department, and on maps and plans. Although few of these structure have been studied through archaeology as yet, they have been protected from disturbance and development so they may be investigated in the future.

Privies, the usual term in the military record for the latrines or outhouses, must have been among the earliest structures on the site. While the military correspondence for Fort York includes many references to them and complaints that they are poorly built or insufficient for the men's needs, no plans or drawings and few clues as to their construction survive. Typically they were sited around the periphery of a fort, tucked in discreetly behind the barracks buildings. In the case of Fort York, this meant they drained into the ravine of the Garrison Creek or directly into Lake Ontario.

Before 1832 two privies were attached to the south wall of Blockhouse No. 1 and overhung the shore of the lake. In that year they were washed away when high water nearly undermined the Blockhouse and the south ramparts themselves. New privies were recommended by Dr. Shortt, surgeon of the 79th Regiment, for the preservation of the health of the troops, especially since cholera had broken out recently in the nearby Town of York. As a result, two

were built at the ends of small wharves south of the central or flag Bastion. Access to them was through gates in the south ramparts. They were frame buildings on stone bases, and appear as small rectangles on maps as late as 1855, when the Grand Trunk Railway began filling the lake south of the fort.

On an 1851 Ordnance Department plan of the fort, privies are shown outside the ramparts south of Blockhouse No. 1, south of the Circular Bastion and in the Garrison Creek Ravine north of the fort. Urinals are indicated south of the "D" Barracks, north of the "C" Barracks, between the Blue and Artillery Barracks and near Blockhouse No. 1. By 1869 there were five latrines as well as several ablution houses where hot water was supplied for washing. One ablution house built in 1862 against the south wall west of Blockhouse No.1 survived until about 1932 and can be seen in several early photographs. Dry earth latrines existed at the fort from the mid-century. They were not flushed but had to be emptied by hand. In 1861 the Barracks Department put a notice in *The Globe* inviting tenders for removing the 'night soil.'

The garrison, sometimes numbering several hundred, required large and dependable supplies of water for drinking, cooking and washing. Water was obtained from both the lake and Garrison Creek. Also, by the 1820s there was a well near the Stone Magazine, probably the successor to one sunk much earlier. A second well, built in 1837 in rear of the "D" Barracks, supplied a fair amount of water except in dry weather when it and the first well both failed. A third well, dug between 1862 and 1866 at a cost of £20, is shown on an the 1871 plan just west of Blockhouse No. 1. It is depicted with a deck and wooden shade or cover in a 1871 watercolour sketch by Joseph Fowler.



Artist, Joseph A. Fowler. Metro Toronto Library T10007

A report on the fort's water supply in 1866 condemned as brackish the water in one of its three wells. Probably this was the well near the Stone Magazine described a few years earlier by the Royal Engineers' Office as being near a large

cess pit. The other two wells were said to afford a very small supply of good water 'totally insufficient for the wants of the troops.' Consequently, water for cooking and drinking had to be carted daily from the Stanley [New] Barracks. The report also recommended the installation of galvanized iron filters for the barracks, married quarters and cookhouses of the fort.

In 1894 the City began supplying water to the fort through a 4" iron water main. Late in the 19th century the historic well located south of the Stone Magazine was covered by a deck and a pump. Early in the 20th century it was finally abandoned and filled in. Its location was forgotten until 1956 when, during a hot summer, a circular patch of yellow grass led to its rediscovery and re-excitation. The top was enclosed by a stone parapet. This coming year, one of the fort's capital projects will be the reconstruction of a more historically accurate well. The parapet will be removed, a deck of heavy timbers constructed, a stand, windlass and bucket added, and the whole covered by a shingled shade or canopy. The reconstruction will be based on photographs of the well, artistic depictions of a contemporary well and on historic military plans. The well will add character and focus to the parade ground of the fort and provide visible evidence of the important systems of water, storm and sanitary services that were so necessary.

Standing water and poor drainage have always been a problem in the central part of the fort, which is shaped like a shallow saucer. Archaeological excavations have found drains of many different types throughout the area. Some dating from the Rebellion Period of 1837-38 still pass large quantities of water. In the 1860s the drainage was improved by collecting rainwater and directing it through clay tile pipes to older, existing drains. These pipes still exist around several of the buildings as part of the extensive spider's web of drains extending in every direction across much of the site.

In 1866 a large subterranean tank was constructed between the Officers' Quarters and the North Soldiers' Barracks in front of the "D" Barracks. This huge brick tank of several thousand gallons capacity was divided into several sections by arcaded brick walls and had a domed roof of yellow brick. Rain water from the eaves of the Officers' Quarters and the "D" Barracks was collected in glazed tile pipes and carried underground to this reservoir. It provided a large store of water for the soldiers and families and a reliable source of water for flushing urinals. A pump on a wooden deck above the tank can be seen in several historic photographs of the fort. When the tank was full, the overflow was piped to the corner of the North Soldiers' Barracks where it entered a large circular brick drain that was the fort's main sewer. The drain extended south along the west wall of the barracks, then west through the West Gate, and then south again to empty into the lake. The reservoir, encountered intact during construction in the 1970s and again in 1989, is now filled with gravel.