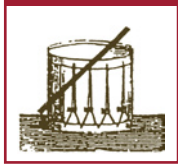


The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 14 No. 4 December 2010

Contents



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Victory at Fort York | 7 An Invitation to the Lieutenant-Governor's New Year's Levee |
| 2 Reviving the Volunteer Historic Gardening Programme at Fort York National Historic Site | 7 What the Friends of Fort York Do: Our Accomplishments for 2010 |
| 4 Brock and Tecumseh: What's In a Name? | 8 Who Built the Well at Fort York in 1802? |
| 4 Victoria Memorial Square Restoration Complete | 8 Administrator's Report |
| 6 A Rebellion Veteran Survives | 9 Upcoming Events |

Victory at Fort York

by Mark Osbaldeston

Fort York isn't normally associated with victory—having been captured and burned by the Americans during the Battle of York in 1813. But a little over fifty years ago, the fort emerged victorious in a battle of a different kind, when three levels of politicians tried (and failed) to push the new Gardiner Expressway through the birthplace of modern Toronto. Foreshadowing future expressway battles, it was local activists, in this case largely forgotten, who rallied to fight the destruction.

Although construction had started on the eastern and western sections of the expressway in 1955, it wasn't until 1958—the year after the expressway had been named after sitting Metro Chairman Frederick Gardiner—that Torontonians learned that Metro intended to build the central portion over Fort York. In January of that year, Metro Parks Commissioner George Bell told the Metro parks committee that an on-ramp from Bathurst would necessitate two piers being constructed in the fort's southwestern wall. One hundred feet of elevated roadway would be constructed as much as fifty feet inside the walls of the fort itself. In other words, part of the fort would be under the Gardiner.

Despite the objections of the Toronto Civic Historical Committee, which had been created earlier in the decade to manage the fort (and had learned of the new expressway plans at the same time as the general public), the parks committee gave its approval to the scheme the following month. Key to their decision was Metro Roads Commissioner George Grant's opinion that moving the expressway further south or having it curve was technically impossible. As Grant explained, the six-degree curve in the expressway necessary to avoid the fort would reduce speeds to 35 miles per hour. Moreover, it did not appear that more land could be acquired from the railways to allow the entire expressway to be moved south.



Opponents of the plan to move Fort York attend a public meeting of the Toronto Civic Historical Committee, 11 January 1959. From left are Helen Durie, secretary of the Associated Historical Societies' Committee, Harriet Clark, Mrs. John Chase Green, and B. Napier Simpson, Jr. (Credit: York University Archives, ASC04877)

Within days of this decision, fifteen historical groups banded together to fight it. They organized themselves as the Associated Historical Societies' Committee of Toronto. Gordon Clarry, president of the York Pioneer and Historical Society, was chair, and Helen Durie, second vice-president of the Women's Canadian Historical Society, served as secretary. The AHSC had two factors potentially in its favour, but it had to act fast. First, the city still needed permission from the province to convey the necessary Fort York land to Metro. Second, when the federal government had transferred Garrison Common (which included Fort York and the CNE grounds) to the city in 1909, it was subject to two conditions: that the land would revert to the federal government unless the city restored the fort to its original condition (which it had more or less done between 1932 and 1934), and maintained it that way forever (which, absent any evidence of an expressway over the site in the early nineteenth century, the city was now manifestly not proposing to do).

The AHSC lost no time in publicizing the threat to the fort and the conditions under which the fort had been entrusted to

the city. It lobbied all levels of government. Its representations to the municipal law committee of the provincial legislature in March resulted in what appeared to be total victory when the committee refused to endorse legislation that would have allowed the transfer of the Fort York lands from the city to Metro. But under pressure from Frederick Gardiner and Premier Leslie Frost, they reconsidered the issue after visiting the site, ultimately agreeing on a compromise suggested by Gardiner himself: Metro could build the expressway on the Garrison Common lands west of Strachan, but could not touch the military cemetery or the Fort.

Gardiner described his compromise as an honourable retreat on his part. Observers might well have wondered whether it was either when, less than three months later, he was urging a new approach: if the expressway wasn't to touch the fort or cemetery, then perhaps it was the fort and cemetery that should be moved, "piece by piece, and brick by brick," to a new location in Coronation Park, just outside the Princes' Gates. The Toronto dailies, which had generally been opposed to building the expressway over the fort, rallied around the much more drastic proposal of moving the fort entirely. The view was that years of fill had made the site of the fort a-historic, since it was no longer on the waterfront; moving the fort would actually be an act of restoration. And there was an exciting precedent. Just that year, the provincial government had started work on Upper Canada Village, an attraction consisting of pre-Confederation buildings moved out of historic settlements flooded by the St. Lawrence Seaway. In July, the AHSC organized a memorial service at the military cemetery in order to highlight that the fort was not only a collection of buildings, but a battlefield and burial ground as well. Members of the AHSC, and anyone else who wondered how you could move a national historic battle site to a more convenient spot, were painted as fussy, elitist members of "hysterical historical societies."

By September, Metro engineers had finalized a new plan, using additional railway and hydro lands, to keep the expressway basically on course while avoiding the fort and cemetery. But if the Gardiner Expressway was for moving, Gardiner the man wasn't. The Metro chair still planned to seek the province's approval to move the fort. Meanwhile, the AHSC, sensing the battle might have to be won at the federal level, had sent out two thousand questionnaires to literary, historical, and archaeological authorities across the continent, to all members of the federal parliament, and to members of all the provincial legislatures. The questionnaires asked respondents if they were in favour of the federal government approving Metro's proposal to demolish Fort York and move the garrison cemetery. For its part, Metro was of the view that the feds had no jurisdiction. Although the federal government wasn't committing one way or another on whether the fort should be moved, the AHSC was encouraged when the Minister of National Defense warned in the House of Commons that any move would require federal approval.

In January 1959 the province and Metro agreed to split the cost of moving the fort. Metro's engineers actually preferred the new route they had come up with to avoid the fort, but

the idea of moving it had taken on a life of its own. Many politicians, Premier Leslie Frost and Mayor Nathan Phillips among them, had come to believe that moving the fort to the waterfront was just the right thing to do, expressway or no expressway. But by now, Fred Gardiner, who had raised the idea of moving the fort in the first place, no longer supported it. He could see that the AHSC would not back down, and had begun to fear that the whole issue of the 1909 agreement would lead to litigation and delay. And even if the federal issue could be resolved, the physical act of moving the fort would cause delay by itself. In January, Metro's executive committee proposed giving the city until March 31 to negotiate with the federal government for a release from the 1909 agreement, failing which Metro would proceed with the alignment that skirted the fort. At Gardiner's urging, however, the committee's recommendation wasn't ratified by Metro council. Fort York would stay where it was, and the Gardiner would bend around it.

In 1970, Metro Chairman Albert Campbell and Metro Parks Commissioner Thomas Thompson again raised the idea of moving the fort to Coronation Park. The rationale now was that it would be closer to the crowds who would be thronging to the exciting new Ontario Place complex. W.J. Beaupre, vice-chair of the Toronto Historical Board, responded immediately, saying that the board would fight any move: "The ground itself is the historical site. If you move it away from that you will have destroyed its historical value." At its meeting the next day, the Metro parks and recreation committee agreed to drop the idea. Fort York's defenders had kept the invaders at bay once more.

Mark Osbaldeston is the author of Unbuilt Toronto (Dundurn Press, 2008). He is currently working on Unbuilt Toronto 2, which will be published in Fall, 2011.

Reviving the Volunteer Historic Gardening Programme at Fort York National Historic Site

by Eva MacDonald

The Food History Programme (formerly Historic Foodways) for which the City of Toronto's museums are justly famous was started at Fort York in the 1980s, and it carries on today with the Volunteer Historic Cooking Group under the direction of programme officer Bridget Wranich. Several attempts have been made to complement this programming by interpreting an officers' mess kitchen garden that would have supplied fresh food to the officers while in garrison. In 2010, the Friends of Fort York joined with city staff, volunteers, and the Evergreen Foundation to revive the Volunteer Historic Gardening Programme by building and maintaining raised garden beds in the northwest bastion of the fort.

One important document for interpreting the gardens at Fort York is an 1813 "Plan of Rebuilding" by George Williams that placed a large fenced garden in the northwest bastion.

The garden was composed of individual plots of varying sizes separated by paths of circulation, which suggests that the garden beds were raised, a common form during the Georgian period. David Spittal (former Fort York Archaeologist and now Project Manager for the City of Toronto) has estimated the size of the garden to be just over one-third of an acre. That particular garden had been planted for the lieutenant-governor, whose residence occupied the site of the fort until April 1813, when it was destroyed during the Battle of York.

While it is not known exactly what was grown in the first garden planted at Fort York, there are historical sources that indicate what types of plants and seeds could be purchased in the early nineteenth century. One of the earliest known Toronto advertisements is that of merchant Quetton St. George, who listed numerous kinds of sweet herb and vegetable seeds for sale in the *York Gazette* of 20 February 1808. While today's gardener can choose from seed catalogues that list a myriad of varieties for any given type of vegetable, Quetton St. George's list did not specify varieties for many of the vegetables. Where more than one variety was available, he qualified the name of the vegetable by providing a descriptor such as "early purple" bean, or "winter" cabbage, or "long" cucumber. Some vegetables such as carrots, lettuce, and celery did not receive any further description. Twenty years later, William Custead of Toronto Township advertised for sale an expanded list of vegetable seeds with names familiar to those who grow heirlooms today, such as "Early Frame" cucumber and "Hollow Crown" parsnip.

In planning the garden, William Woys Weaver's book *Heirloom Vegetable Gardening* also was consulted to confirm what varieties available today are closest genetically to those available 200 years ago, given that these are open-pollinated varieties that are prone to genetic change from generation to generation. Also important was consideration of the types of vegetables commonly used in Georgian-period recipes. Thus, a list of vegetables was compiled and a garden seed shopping list created that was based on the types of vegetables that are appropriate for use by the cooks animating the historic 1826 officers' mess kitchen.

The current project is modest, starting with eight garden squares, each of which is 8' x 8' in size. In addition to being period-correct, the raised beds also protect the archaeological remains of the Rebellion Barracks, a building that was located in the northwest bastion between 1838 and 1934. The garden beds were constructed in May 2010 from 2" x 10" untreated hemlock boards sawn into 8' lengths and joined together in butt joints with period reproduction "rosehead" spikes made by a Toronto blacksmith. The design was conceived by Historic Site Technician Chris Laverton, who also fashioned wooden stakes to be driven into the ground outside the boxes to keep them from shifting in place. Paths of circulation 3' wide were placed between the squares to allow for access by visitors to Fort York in wheelchairs. The beds were lined with a permeable barrier cloth and filled with triple mix soil. Seedlings for three varieties of cabbage and two of lettuce provided by City of Toronto Horticulturist

Wendy Woodworth were planted on May 20-21, along with red-seeded citron seedlings I started from seeds saved from a melon grown at Doon Heritage Crossroads and used in the first "Mad for Marmalade" event hosted at Fort York in 2008.

More additions to the garden were made during Doors Open on May 29 when Chantenay carrots, Hollow Crown Improved parsnips, Blue Coco pole beans, West India burr gherkins, yellow onion sets, salsify, nasturtiums, and calendula were direct-seeded. On June 1, sweet herb plants such as basil, sage, curled parsley, English thyme, and rosemary were set out in a square previously seeded with Scarlet Runner beans. Harvest began with the lettuces, and carried through the summer and fall as staff and the Volunteer Historic Cooks used the produce in cooking demonstrations, workshops, and special events such as the Conscious Food Festival in August.

It is hoped that period appropriate tools, outbuildings, and more garden squares will be added as the Historic Gardening Programme takes root and flourishes, and allows another dimension of garrison life to be interpreted at Fort York.

Eva MacDonald is a director of The Friends of Fort York.



Looking east over the newly planted garden squares on 29 May 2010.
(Photo courtesy of Eva MacDonald)



Volunteer Historic Cooks Mya Sangster and John Hammond with Programme Officer Bridget Wranich show off some of the Fort York produce.
(Photo courtesy of Eva MacDonald)

Brock and Tecumseh: What's In a Name?

by Stephen Otto

Allies in arms, Isaac Brock and Tecumseh died in separate battles within a year of each other. Brock, commander of British forces in Upper Canada, fell at Queenston Heights on 13 October 1812, while Tecumseh, the great Shawnee chief, was killed near Moraviantown on the Thames on 5 October 1813. Initiatives to honour both were swift in coming. In January 1813, a frigate, *Sir Isaac Brock*, was begun at York [now Toronto], only to be burned four months later when partly completed to prevent it from falling into the hands of US invaders. The schooner *Tecumseth*, launched at Chippewa in 1815, carried an alternate spelling of the chief's name found occasionally and only in Canada. More recently, in 1941, the Canadian Navy christened its Calgary naval reserve division *HMCS Tecumseh*.

Today there is no shortage of places, schools, roads, and even people named for the two heroes. Ontario has Brockville and Brock Township as well as towns of Tecumseh and New Tecumseth. Saskatchewan boasts a village of Brock and rural municipalities that recall both warriors. In the United States no fewer than five towns carry Tecumseh's name, the largest being in Michigan. Two villages, one in Nebraska and the other in Texas, are called Brock but probably have no connection with Sir Isaac.

Brock University in St. Catharines, ON., gives lustre to Sir Isaac's name, as do dozens of schools and high schools. Tecumseh is similarly commemorated across both Canada and the US. In 1837 Upper Canada's Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Francis Bond Head, in approving a subdivision of Toronto's Garrison Common, called four streets created there Brock (now Spadina), Portland, Bathurst, and Tecumseth. Whitby boasts a Brock Road and Windsor a Tecumseh Road, both leading to places with those names.

Tecumseh has been a sometime middle name among Americans since the father of William Tecumseh Sherman, the great Union General in the US Civil War, called his eighth son after the chief whom he much admired. Today it is carried by a Californian winemaker, a professor at St. Andrew's University in Scotland, and the fictional character Colonel Sherman T. Potter on *M*A*S*H*, among others. In a subtle salute to history, the winemaker has branded some of his line "Shooting Star," an English rendering of Tecumseh's name.

In July 1812, William Wells, a Yankee-born settler in Augusta Township near Brockville, had the fifth of his children baptised Isaac Brock after the still-living leader. Each year since, thousands of Canadian parents have named their offspring 'Brock,' currently at a rate of about 200 annually. However, few have attained fame to match that of Isaac Brock of Portland, OR., lead singer, guitarist, and songwriter for the indie rock band, Modest Mouse.



This preliminary sketch of Tecumseh by Gertrude Kearns was made for an oil portrait that now hangs in the Royal Canadian Military Institute, Toronto. (Credit: Gertrude Kearns)

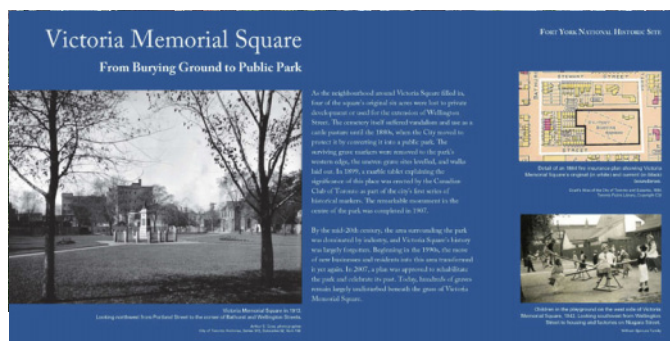
Victoria Memorial Square Restoration Complete

by Scott James

The restoration of Victoria Memorial Square, conceived in 2001, is at last complete. It was in the February 2004 issue of *Fife and Drum* that I reported the beginning of the city's contracting process, hardly anticipating that construction would proceed in three separate phases and take seven long years.

When Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe effectively opened the garrison cemetery with the interment of his infant daughter Katherine, in 1794, he could not have imagined that more than 200 years later this space would be the central amenity in the new neighbourhood of Wellington Place.

The burying ground was in use until 1863 when it was declared full and a new garrison cemetery opened near Strachan Avenue. After twenty years of neglect the former's derelict state persuaded the city to appoint a commission to clean up the site and preserve the surviving artifacts. From the



*This explanatory signboard is typical of those to be found in the Square.
(Credit: City of Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation)*

mid-1880's, though still owned by the Government of Canada and containing the original estimated 500 burials, Victoria Memorial Square has been operated by the city as a park.

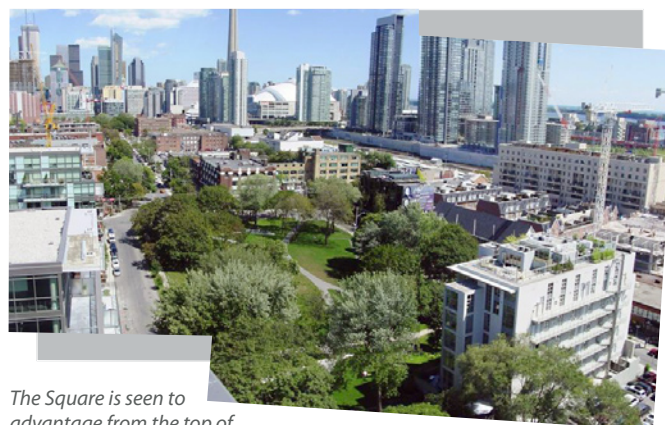
For many more years the Square sat in a commercial and industrial wasteland, a consequence of the coming of the railways to Toronto's waterfront. In 1919 one writer described it as "a slum of Toronto, a shabby little park or base-ball ground." Finally, in the mid-1990's, when the city changed the planning rules for the area to permit residential occupancy through the "Kings" (King/Spadina and King/Parliament) initiative, a booming mixed-use neighbourhood was born.

New residents quickly realized the importance of the two-acre Square as a focus around which a community could grow and were prepared by 2002 to submit a restoration proposal to the city through the Wellington Place Neighbourhood Association (WPNA), formed in 1999, and with the active participation of the Friends of Fort York.

WPNA had taken the initiative by raising funds to engage a landscape architect who would lead a series of community meetings with the goal of producing a concept plan for the restoration. The meetings, led by David Leinster (ENVision - the Hough Group), identified the primary objectives of the plan: enhancement of the park facility for community use while protecting and interpreting the historical significance of the cemetery and its related artifacts. The Square's hybrid nature is the key to its restoration and interpretation.

Work proceeded according to the availability of funding. The community began a fundraising campaign (a local theatre contributed one night's receipts, an individual made a private gift of \$10,000) to augment the Parks Department's limited capital budget. The critical factor proved to be the overheated condo market in the area when contributions from developers began to flow in as a result of Section 45 agreements under the Planning Act made at the Committee of Adjustment in return for minor variances. The assistance of our local councillors, first Olivia Chow and now Adam Vaughan, has been crucial. In 2003 the importance of the enterprise was recognized when the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada declared the Square to be a part of the Fort York National Historic Site.

In April of 2004 a design team had been selected, consisting of Michael McClelland of ERA Architects and landscape architect David Leinster (now with The Planning Partnership). By November of 2005 sufficient funds had



*The Square is seen to advantage from the top of the newly-opened Thompson Hotel on Wellington Street.
(Credit: Ken Greenberg)*

accrued to the account to allow Phase 1 to be contracted and work began in May 2006.

Phase 1 consisted of: conducting a new survey of the park, archaeological scanning of the burial sites (establishing that some were only 20cm deep) by Ron Williamson's Archaeological Services Inc, re-grading of the site (to protect the burials and improve drainage), new irrigation system, new pathways, a tree inventory, removal of the headstones (embedded in concrete around the base of the monument) for restoration and removal of the monument fence. All restoration was carried out under the supervision of the city's conservator, Sandra Lougheed.

Phase 2, contracted in October 2007, consisted of: removal of dead trees, a granite walkway to mark the boundaries of the cemetery, restoration of the surviving headstones and their re-installation in a "memorial wall," restoration of the *Old Soldier* sculpture by Walter Allward, relocation of the flagpole outside the cemetery, replacement of the restored monument fence, new park lighting and furniture, and fencing for the children's playground.

Phase 3 was primarily concerned with the interpretation of the site. This consisted of: attaching to each headstone an aluminum plaque bearing its original inscription (washed away by decades of acid rain but available from the City Archives in a notebook prepared by the burial commission in the 1880's), finding a place in the park for the cornerstone of Eden Smith's garrison church (demolished in 1963), and installing a series of panels explaining the significance of the park, the cemetery, and all of the various artifacts. This phase has benefitted from the guiding hand and research skills of Gary Miedema of Heritage Toronto.

Now that the contractor has at long last completed the basic work of restoration, WPNA is looking to the future and exploring the potential to set up a "PIA" (Parks Improvement Association) that would enable the community to play an ongoing stewardship role in overseeing the maintenance and care of this unique and priceless public space.

Scott James, Secretary, Wellington Place Neighbourhood Association, was formerly City Archivist and Managing Director, Toronto Historical Board.

A Rebellion Veteran Survives

by Bruce Cane

In the turbulent years that followed the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837, many thousands of provincial troops saw service in the defence of Upper Canada. Yet, relatively few of their uniforms exist in public collections today. And those uniforms that do exist almost always belonged to commissioned officers. There is, however, a rare private's coat from the Rebellion era that soldiers on in the collection of the City of Toronto Museums.

Marked to the 1st Incorporated Militia Battalion, the coat is made from coarse red wool, with the facings—the cuffs and collar—made from dark blue wool of similar quality. The half-inch lace is white and plain. On the front of the coat, the lace is arranged in square-ended pairs that taper in width from the top of the chest to the waist. The throat was held closed above the top button by a hook and eye, although only the eye remains. The red colour of the wool now has a slight brownish cast, which is probably due to the dye pigment oxidizing. The inside of the collar is lined with lightweight red wool and is smudged with black streaks. These streaks likely came from blackball, the polish used by the soldier to shine his leather neck stock, which later rubbed off on the lining. The body, skirts, and sleeves are also lined throughout with a lighter weight, white wool. The remaining pewter buttons are three-quarters of an inch in diameter, domed, and hold the cypher of Queen Victoria—the letters VR in script with the image of St. Edward's Crown above—in the centre. Around the edge of the buttons are raised the words "Canadian Militia". In the late 1830's, the shoulder straps on the other-ranks' battalion-company coats took the form of an epaulette. Unfortunately, the shoulder straps are no longer with this coat. Although, the left shoulder still retains a small loop of white cloth that might have been a part of the shoulder strap attachment.

There is nothing outwardly that identifies the coat as having belonged to the 1st Incorporated Militia Battalion, which had its headquarters at Hamilton (five incorporated militia battalions were raised between 1838 and 1839). However, the original owner of the coat wrote the following on the lining: 1 IMB, C, AH, 190. "1 IMB" stands for the 1st Incorporated Militia Battalion. The letter "C" refers to C Company (some documents also referred to it as 3rd Company). The number "190" was the soldier's regimental number. "AH" were most likely the owner's initials.

During the 1st Battalion's first term of service, the monthly pay lists were organised by company. An examination of those lists returns only one soldier in C or 3rd Company with

the initials A. H., Anthony Hinchey. Unfortunately, the pay list does not also include the soldiers' number, so there is no way to correlate Hinchey's name and number to be certain that he was the A.H. who owned the coat. After April 1840, Hinchey's name disappears from the pay list, suggesting that he did not re-enlist when the Incorporated Militia's first term of service expired.

A surviving letter from Captain Thomas Benson, the paymaster of the 3rd Incorporated Militia Battalion at Niagara, gives us some insight as to perhaps why so few other-ranks uniforms exist today. At the beginning of June 1841, Benson's 3rd Battalion had more summer trousers on hand than they needed. Indeed, their surplus was enough that Benson was willing to sell it, with the modest profit going to the 3rd Battalion coffers.

In a letter to Lieutenant-Colonel William Gourlay of the 1st Battalion, dated 16th June 1841, the enterprising Benson agreed to sell the trousers—which he would later value at just over five shillings apiece—for six shillings eight pence each. But, before Benson could process the sale, the demands of his own men almost ran the surplus into deficit.

On 28 June, Benson wrote again to Gourlay, explaining that, "... since I wrote to you on the 16th we shall require all the white trousers for our own men." He concluded his note with disgust, "It's astonishing how fast these thriftless dogs destroy their clothing."



*First Incorporated Militia Battalion coat, front and rear view.
(Credit: the author)*

What became of Anthony Hinchey after his service in the Incorporated Militia is unknown. But in 1850, Thomas Benson was elected the first mayor of Peterborough, Ontario. Later, he became the secretary treasurer of the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton Railway. On 12 March 1857, while travelling from Toronto to Hamilton, the locomotive pulling the train on which Benson was a passenger plunged from the bridge it was crossing and into the frozen Desjardins Canal, 20 metres below. Benson was one of 59 people killed in the accident.

Currently, the Incorporated Militia coat is in the reserve collection of the City of Toronto Museums. It's hoped that someday, it may be on display in the new Visitor Centre currently planned for Fort York National Historic Site.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Lisa Buchanan, Richard Gerrard, Kevin Hebib, and Chris Laverton of Toronto Culture for their invaluable assistance in the research of this article.

Bruce Cane, formerly a curatorial assistant at Fort York, has written several articles that have appeared in the Journal for the Society of Army Historical Research. In 2004 he published his first book, It Made You Think of Home: The Haunting Journal of Deward Barnes C.E.F. 1916-1919.



The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario

is hosting the Lieutenant-Governor's New Year's Levee at Fort York National Historic Site.

The Levee will be held on Saturday, 1 January 2011 from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m.

A tradition in Canada since 1646, the Levee is a special opportunity to meet The Queen's representative in Ontario, and enjoy festive family entertainment and refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

For this special occasion, admission is free to Fort York National Historic Site. Plans for the Bicentennial Commemoration of the War of 1812 will be on display. You may also tour the Fort before or after attending the Levee. To allow more time for your visit, the Fort will open one hour before the Levee and close one hour after.

What: The Lieutenant-Governor's New Year's Levee

Who: The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario
Mr. David O'Hara, Museum Administrator, Fort York National Historic Site

Where: Fort York National Historic Site, 250 Fort York Blvd, Toronto

When: Saturday, 1 January 2011, from 12 noon until 2:00 pm.

Note: Fort York will be open to the public from 11 am to 3 pm.



What the Friends of Fort York Do: Our Accomplishments for 2010

- undertook to decorate the Assembly Room in the Blue Barracks with framed views of 19th-century soldiers at their leisure
- published four issues of our quarterly newsletter, *The Fife and Drum*, currently sent to almost 3000 subscribers
- continued with design and development on our new website, expected to be up and running in early 2011
- surrendered the lease on our office at the Centre for Social Innovation, 215 Spadina, which had been sublet for the preceding year because we weren't making enough use of it
- operated event car-parking on the Common for the last season before things are scaled back to allow for construction of the Visitor Centre, the Strachan Avenue bridge over the rail corridor, and the pedestrian-cycling bridge linking the Common with the parks north of Wellington Street. Our parking operations usually have employed 15 students on a part-time basis
- welcomed two new members to our board and bid regretful adieu to retiring director Phil Goldsmith
- fielded a Fife and Drum Corps and Guard of 23 young men and women. We covered 80 percent of the \$155,000 spent on wages, uniforms, and equipment. The Government of Canada and City provided the balance
- worked closely with the Fort York Foundation to kickstart fundraising for the new Visitor Centre, loaned it startup funds, and provided five of our most experienced directors to its board
- continued filing and organizing the fort's books, reports, and image-collection housed in the Resource Centre on the lower level of the Blue Barracks. A scanner, computer, and file cabinet were purchased to augment the equipment there
- convened a splendid 12th annual Georgian Dinner to raise funds for the Guard
- assisted with research for the new kitchen garden inside the northwest bastion that was realized over the summer with help from the Evergreen Foundation and Toronto Culture staff
- co-operated with the City's Parks department on the last upgrades to Victoria Memorial Square, a part of the Fort York National Historic Site. These improvements have been ongoing for seven years
- placed full-page advertisements, each different, in four issues of *Spacing* magazine
- convened a successful Directors' dinner for members of the Friends', Foundation, and Management boards and fort staff
- maintained a watching brief with regard to the TTC's plans for a streetcar line that would breach the National Historic Site by cutting across it north of the Armoury
- volunteered as greeters and organizers to work alongside fort staff and Management Board members at the biannual Citizenship ceremonies, "Parler Fort" book-lecture series, etc.

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Who Built the Well at Fort York in 1802?

by Chris Laverton

Earlier this year, in the March issue of *Fife and Drum*, we offered evidence that the garrison well, discovered in 1956, is almost certainly the Government House well built for Lieutenant-General Peter Hunter in 1802. We are pleased to present here our latest research.

As an addendum to the earlier article on the subject of the garrison well, it may be of interest for readers to know that recent examination of the pay lists of artificers employed by the Royal Engineer Department reveals further detail of its construction, not the least of which is the identity of the man who actually sunk it. The several military artificers who had been engaged on the various public works at the garrison, that spring of 1802, are all named on the lists, together with their regimental affiliations. It appears that the well had been excavated and walled up by four masons belonging to the 6th Regiment, while the well house was erected by carpenters of the Queen's Rangers, all of whom were assisted by Fatigue-men of the Queen's Rangers and 2nd Royal Canadian Volunteers.

At the end of July, the men received their first payment for the previous three-month period, but one in particular was singled out for a significant bonus. Of the four 6th Regt. Masons employed, David Clarkson had evidently excavated the General's well single-handedly, over a period of 52 days. By the end of July, the carpenters had erected a well house over it, and the Government House well was complete. So pleased was General Hunter with it, and the 'Great Labor and comparative short time' in which Clarkson completed the well, that he—quite uncharacteristically—authorized the man to be paid at the rate of 3/ per day, instead of the usual 1/3 paid to military artificers.

Chris Laverton, now with Cultural Affairs, worked as an interpreter at Fort York from 1983 to 1986.

Administrator's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Administrator

Although many of our recent efforts have focussed on advancing the Visitor Centre and its component projects, we haven't lost sight of the fact that the protection and presentation of the fort itself is our main objective. While

some initiatives, such as the restoration work in the South Soldiers' Barracks and the exhibit work in the Stone Magazine, are either underway or complete, the focus will now be placed on advancing other priority projects targeted for completion over the next two to three years and beyond.

Expanding Fort York's physical presence and extending the visitor experience across the entire 18-hectare (43-acre) national historic site has been identified as one of our overall objectives for several years now. With approximately fifty percent of the site either undeveloped or underdeveloped as usable open space, the landscape rehabilitation projects remain some of the most significant opportunities for better interpretation of the fort.

The rehabilitation and interpretation of the broader site becomes even more interesting and complex given its multi-layered history. While the military importance of Fort York will always be a principal focus for its interpretation, and the intact 1813 battlefield respected, there is an unparalleled opportunity to tell the other stories associated with the site. The position of the Visitor Centre itself demonstrates this point, located along the original Lake Ontario shingle-beach shoreline to the south and the Garrison Common and 1813 battlefield to the north. Like much of the rest of the original military reserve, these lands were dedicated for other uses during the 19th century. When railways such as the Great Western, Grand Trunk, Ontario, Simcoe & Huron (later Northern), and Toronto, Grey & Bruce laid their tracks into the city from the west over the former military lands, the Grand Trunk cut across what is now the southwest corner of the national historic site and in front of the future Visitor Centre. These interpretive opportunities can be captured in many ways, including the landscape design itself.

The removal of the tree nursery and relocation of the surface parking lot will allow us to move on another very visible first phase of landscape rehabilitation. To the immediate north of the new Visitor Centre, and just outside the west gates of the fort, an expanded Garrison Common will provide additional space for programming and events, and an opportunity to incorporate the authentic 1813 battlefield as a focal point of the national historic site. Like the various building restoration and exhibit projects, and the development of new programs, a phased approach to these and other landscape design and rehabilitation projects will be undertaken over the next several years.



(Credit: Henrieta Haniskova for the Institute for Canadian Citizenship)

and the public for what most find to be a stirring start to the enjoyment of new rights and responsibilities. The most recent citizenship ceremony at Fort York was held on November 12.

The Institute for Canadian Citizenship was founded by the Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson on her departure from office as the 26th Governor-General of Canada in 2005. She and her husband, John Ralston Saul, are the current co-chairs of the Institute. Its mission is to bring together new Canadians and those longer-established into a heightened awareness of the privileges and duties of citizenship. One way to do this has been to turn the ceremonies where people become citizens into more auspicious occasions. Fort York has been part of this program since late 2008. Twice yearly on or near Battle of York Day (April 27) and Remembrance Day, the fort hosts up to 40 candidates for citizenship, their families, friends

2011 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Alok Sharma

JANUARY

Lieutenant-Governor's New Year's Levee
Sat. January 1, noon to 2:00 pm

See invitation on page 7 above.

**Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball à la française:
The Impact of French Style on Georgian Life**
Sat. January 22, 1 to 10:30 pm

Afternoon Dance Workshops, Presentation by Peter Twist, Cheesetasting, Elegant Georgian inspired Buffet Supper and Evening Ball with Live Musicians.

Costumes Welcome.

Pre-registration required (416) 392-6907 ext. 221

Come for the whole day (\$97.35+tax/person) or attend only the Afternoon Workshop and Presentation (\$23.81+tax), the Cheesetasting (\$22.12+tax), or the Supper and Ball (\$65+tax)

Fort York Food Fight: Chef Competition
Sat. January 29, 1 to 6 pm

The afternoon starts with a food tour of Fort York to give guests an understanding of diet during the early days of Toronto, followed by one of two workshops: Eat Green Through the Seasons and Growing Food Indoors. The finale showcases a chef competition like no other. In preparation for the Bicentennial Commemoration of the War of 1812, two of Toronto's top chefs, Ted Corrado and Scott Vivian, will create and prepare recipes incorporating a secret 1812-era ingredient that would have been available in the Town of York and ingredients that are

organic and grown within 100 miles of the fort. The winning chef will be crowned Fort York Food Fight Champion and receive a \$2500 grand prize.

Cost \$30 including tax

Tickets available by phone (416) 392-6907 ext. 221

FEBRUARY

Family Day
Mon. February 21, 10 am to 3 pm

Drop in for a tour of the fort, kids' activities, and a cup of old-fashioned hot chocolate from the historic kitchen.

Regular admission

Mad for Marmalade, Crazy for Citron!
In partnership with the Culinary Historians of Ontario.
Sat. February 19, 10 am to 3:30 pm

Marmalade workshops, lunch, and guest speaker. Also, a marmalade marketplace and tours of the fort.

Pre-registration required (416) 392-6907 ext. 221

Cost to be determined in January

MARCH

March through Time
Mon. to Fri. March 14 to 18, 10 am to 3 pm daily

Bring the kids down to the fort during March Break for some fun-filled activities. Children can dress up, try cooking in the kitchen, or drill like an 1812 soldier. There are lots of timed and ongoing activities to make this a fun and educational day for the whole family. Recommended for ages 3-12.

No registration required

Regular admission

Fife and Drum is a quarterly publication of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common



Editor Emeritus Stephen Otto
Editor Patricia Fleming
Designer Ted Smolak (Arena Design)
Circulation Elizabeth Quance

Toronto Culture
www.toronto.ca/culture



Regular admission to Fort York: Adult: \$8.61, Senior (65+) & Youth (13 - 18 yrs.): \$4.31, Children: \$3.23, Children (5 and under) FREE (all prices include HST, where applicable)