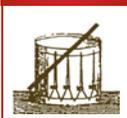


# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 17 No. 3 Oct. 2013

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## Popular Culture's Hold on Tecumseh

by Kyle Wyatt

Earlier this year, the Montreal-based CSL Group completed *Tecumseh*—a 228.5-metre, 71,405-tonne Trillium-class self-unloader. The cargo ship, among the most advanced in the world, enters service for CSL's Americas division just in time for the two hundredth anniversary of the Battle of the Thames, and the death of its famed namesake.

*Tecumseh* joins a centuries' long tradition of letters, song, and material culture that purports to honour the nineteenth-century Shawnee leader while simultaneously evacuating his name of meaningful historical significance or culturally specific agency. This tradition operates like an empty ship: a vessel that governments and private concerns, in Canada and the United States, can fill at their discretion with partisan interpretations of the past and propaganda for the present. The Shawnee Confederacy and Tecumseh's role in the War of 1812 become mere containers, the contents of which are determined by colonial powers.

This ongoing process of mythmaking began shortly after Tecumseh's death on 5 October 1813. Even before John Richardson—who later recalled shaking Tecumseh's hand that day in Moraviantown, Upper Canada—published his poem *Tecumseh: Or the Warrior of the West* (1828), the British navy had commemorated the fallen warrior with a 124-foot schooner, HMS *Tecumseth* (1814). Today a replica is the flagship of Discovery Harbour, in Penetanguishene, Ontario, and HMCS *Tecumseh* is a Canadian Naval Reserve base in Calgary. The US military has likewise paid tribute to its former

adversary with USS *Tecumseh*, a Canonicus-class monitor launched in 1863 and sunk in 1864. Two tugboats of the same name followed in 1898 and 1943; the navy launched a nuclear submarine as the fourth USS *Tecumseh* in 1963.

Following the Civil War, in 1866, the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, salvaged the wooden figurehead from a 74-gun ship of the line, USS *Delaware*, which had been scuttled five years earlier. Originally, the figurehead portrayed Tamanend, the Delaware chief who met with William Penn in 1682. The memory of Tamanend did little to stir the martial imagination of officers-to-be, so they changed the name to Powhatan (of John Smith and Pocahontas fame), then to King Philip, or Metacom, the Wampanoag war chief who led a bloody uprising against English settlers from 1675 to 1678. But finally, the cadets settled on Tecumseh—the God of 2.0 (the academy's passing grade point average) and a war-painted idol who ensures victory at the annual Army–Navy football game.

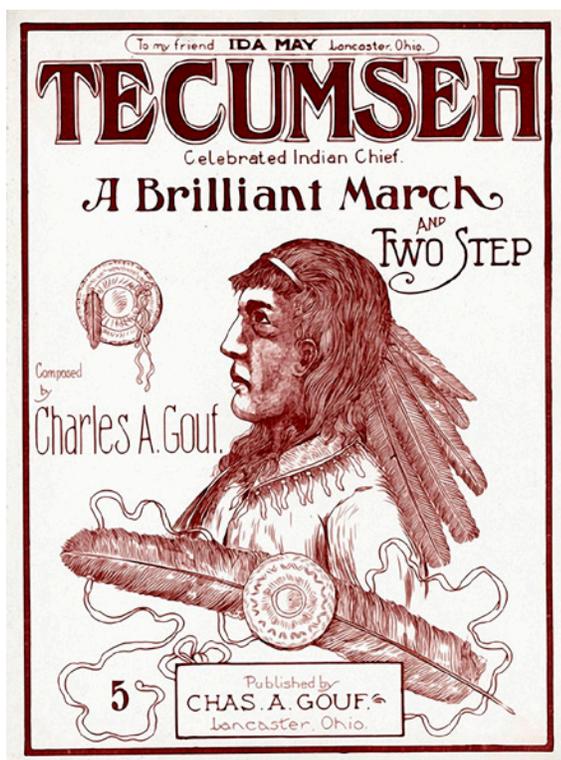


Midshipmen at the US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, march past the bust of 'Tecumseh' who has a large role in the school's traditions. It is a bronze replica of the figurehead of the USS *Delaware* carved originally to represent Tamanend, a Delaware chief. Credit: Special Collections & Archives Department, Nimitz Library, US Naval Academy, #4632

That cadets continue to pray to Tecumseh for passing marks and success on the field, rather than Metacom or any other historical figure for that matter, says much about his legacy in popular culture. As *The North American Review* put it in 1832, Metacom "lived at a period, and among a people, which gave him some prospect of success. But Tecumseh's exertions were hopeless. He was feared too little to be duly appreciated, as the other was feared too much." Less than two decades after his death, Tecumseh was perceived as America's

“less obnoxious enemy,” who was “contemned” rather than “hated.” A “patriot” for “wild lands and for wild liberty,” his failed confederacy—his 2.0 of statesmanship—posed no real threat, historical or contemporary, to US expansion. As his aims were hopeless, his quixotic nobility could be refashioned as a malleable building block of nineteenth-century US nationalism. In the words of historian and biographer John Sugden, “The historical facts about Tecumseh were soon forgotten.”

The perception of Tecumseh as the vanquished enemy launched the presidencies of Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison, and Zachary Taylor. Simultaneously, the popular notion of Tecumseh as the last great Noble Savage led to the naming of countless towns, streets, and schools—particularly west of the Mississippi River, where, ironically, the Indian Wars would continue for decades. Novelists, songwriters, playwrights, and later film and television directors, glorified him, putting him on par with Leatherstocking and Wild Bill Cody as the quintessential frontier icon. They stripped him of his ability to speak English, dressed him up in stereotypical garb, and romantically linked him to beautiful pioneer girls in Ohio. Marketers, in turn, exploited his increasingly circulated name to sell cigarettes, chewing gum, flour, refrigeration equipment, and engines.



Sheet music like this march and two-step published in Ohio in 1906 is one of the many forms in which Tecumseh's name has been carried forward. Image from the Internet

North of the border, Canadians have constructed a historical memory of a nobler Tecumseh, the great defender of a nascent nation. His name and likeness grace streets, schools, and towns; government buildings, commemorative stamps, and coins. In language that has come to typify the popular imagination here, a Government of Canada press release stated in February, “The outbreak of the War of 1812 drove Tecumseh to collaborate with the British to resist the American invasion of British North America.” Vainglorious appraisals of Tecumseh’s loyalty to British North America—as a *Canadian* hero loyal to *Canadian* territory—have done as much to evacuate him of historical meaning as dime novel and comic strip depictions have. Indeed, they position him as a prototypical token of diversity, anachronistic evidence that reinforces contemporary celebrations of multiculturalism. As Sugden argues, such treatments demonstrate that Canadians have failed to probe “too deeply into Tecumseh’s motivation, [seeing] only a warrior who had given much, including his life, to their country in its hour of peril.” In fact, “his loyalty to the British, to Canada, was purely dependent upon their value to his own cause.”

Ships will continue to sail the Great Lakes and the world’s oceans, emblazoned with Tecumseh’s name. Postal workers will continue to deliver envelopes with Tecumseh stamps to Tecumseh Streets and Tecumseh Townships. And rightly so. He belongs in the historic and popular consciousness of the United States and Canada—but not as the idealized enemy or the selfless ally that has circulated these past two hundred years. Both interpretations belie his own attempts at nation building and the recognition that Canada was merely the means to the defence of Shawnee territory. The anniversary of the Battle of the Thames and Tecumseh’s death should prompt critical and historic re-evaluation of him as the international statesman that he was: A key player in a multinational struggle that predated the War of 1812 by decades. Not a high-level military recruit in a short-lived binational conflict between the United States and what became Canada.

*Kyle Carsten Wyatt is the managing editor of The Walrus magazine, and a Friends of Fort York board member. He holds a Ph.D. in American and Indigenous literatures from the University of Toronto.*

# The Royal and Viceregal Fort at York

by Nathan Tidridge

Sites that are important to our history quickly become magnets for the royal family and their representatives. We steer them to these places since a royal visitor brings attention (especially from the media) to their role in the development of modern Canada. Fort York has enjoyed a strong relationship with the Crown and its representatives since Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe first erected his tents near its grounds on Garrison Creek in 1793.

It was during a visit to the fort that Sir William Mortimer Clark, lieutenant-governor of Ontario from 1903 to 1908, declared that the site served a useful purpose in teaching new Canadians about their adopted home. Nearly thirty years later Governor General The Earl of Bessborough toured the fort on Victoria Day when it was re-opened to the public as a historic site museum (an effort begun in 1907 by The Old Fort Protective Association under the patronage of Governor General Earl Grey). Since then the site has been supported by a succession of lieutenant-governors; today fort staff love to point out that David Onley, current lieutenant-governor, has adopted, and in return has been adopted by, the fort.

On 1 January 2011, Lieutenant-Governor Onley raised his own marquee tent on the historic site convening the annual viceregal New Year's levee. This event briefly restored the Crown's representative to the site of Upper Canada's first permanent Government House, the official residence of such representatives of King George III as Peter Hunter, Francis Gore, and Isaac Brock. It was from that residence that Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe personally removed military and government papers before ordering the destruction of the Grand Magazine during the 1813 American invasion of York. The explosion destroyed the residence, but not the royal standard (Sovereign's personal flag) that had been flying over it. Captured by the advancing American forces, the flag is held in Mahan Hall at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

The fort has hosted many members of the royal family over the years, though not as many as some have claimed. Æneas Shaw (commander of the Queen's Rangers and landowner of my hometown of Flamborough) claimed to have entertained Prince Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent and father of Queen

Victoria, during a tour of the settlement in 1799. Although such a visit never took place, since Prince Edward was posted to Halifax then, only visiting Upper Canada in 1792, it highlights the strong connection, or want of connection, between the fort and the royal family.

Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria, paid a visit to Garrison Common with her husband, Governor General The Marquess of Lorne, to review the assembled militia in 1879. Regiments from across Ontario, as well as the Montreal Engineers, appeared on the Common but there are no reports that the royal couple ever entered the fort itself.

More than twenty years after Princess Louise, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (the future King George V and Queen Mary) arrived on the Common to review the militia accompanied by Prince Alexander of Teck (later Governor General The Earl of Athlone), and the Duke of Roxburghe, as well as Governor General The Earl of Minto and Lady Minto. Presenting the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant Hampden Cockburn, the Duke and Duchess presided over a military spectacle encompassing thousands of soldiers and even more spectators.



Lieutenant-Governor David Onley is taken on an inspection of the Queen's York Rangers in 2010 by Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Zdunich. Two years ago Ontario's Lieutenant Governor became the Colonel of the Queen's York Rangers in perpetuity, which means that his successors automatically become the Regiment's Colonel upon their appointments. Photo by Kathy Mills

The first royal visit to the fort itself was by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, on 30 June 1979. As consort to King George VI, Queen Elizabeth had come only as close as Coronation Park during the historic 1939 Royal Tour of Canada. Although unseen by the royals, Fort York had been decorated for that occasion. Forty years later, Her Majesty sat for a picture with members of her regiment, The Toronto Scottish ("The Queen Mother's Own" was added to its name in 2000). She made her second visit in 1981, on a hot July 6. Andrew Gregorovich, chair of the Toronto Historical Board, greeted the Queen Mother in the company of his own mother at the entrance to the Officers' Barracks. Gregorovich later wrote about watching the Queen Mother quietly pause to enjoy the cool breeze and surrounding skyline before entering the building.

The 1984 visit by the Sovereign cemented the symbiotic relationship between the Crown and the fort in the year of Ontario's Bicentennial and Toronto's Sesquicentennial



HM Queen Elizabeth's visit to Fort York in September 1984, on the occasion of Ontario's Bicentennial and Toronto's Sesquicentennial, underlined the fort's links with the Crown. Here she is seen leaving the Officers' Mess. Photo by George Rust-D'Eye

celebrations. Queen Elizabeth II visited Fort York for a garden party from 4 to 5:20 pm on September 29, also hosting a luncheon in the Officers' Barracks and Mess Establishment.

Security was so tight that a young member of the King's Royal Yorkers, Kevin Hebib, remembers being told by the security team that if his musket happened to go off during the visit it would be the last sound he ever heard! Walking among the dignitaries and spectators, inspecting assembled soldiers and re-enactors, the Queen affirmed by her presence the importance of the fort to Canada's story.

At times honoured and respected, while at other times largely forgotten and ignored, Historic Fort York and the Canadian Crown in many ways have shared experiences in this country. They are what John Fraser, author and master of Massey College, calls "golden threads" running through our history. It is appropriate that over the past 220 years their histories have intertwined time and time again.

*Nathan Tidridge is a member of the Department of History at Waterdown District High School. He has written two books on the Canadian Crown: Canada's Constitutional Monarchy (Dundurn, 2012) and Prince Edward, Duke of Kent: Father of the Canadian Crown (Dundurn, 2013). Nathan was recognized for his work in 2012 when he was presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal by his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales.*

## Peter Rindlisbacher: Picturing the War

by Gary M. Gibson

For anyone interested in the naval aspects of the War of 1812 on the lakes, the work of Canadian artist Peter Rindlisbacher is hard to miss. For over twenty-five years he has been producing images that are stunning in their quality and composition while always maintaining a very high level of accuracy both historically and technically.

Rindlisbacher paintings have been featured on the covers of many recent studies of the War of 1812, including those of historians Donald Graves, Robert Malcomson, James Elliott, Barry Gough, and David Skaggs. His paintings have been purchased by governments and organizations on both sides of the border, including the Canadian War Museum, Parks Canada, and the Sackets Harbor Battlefield New York State Historic Site. In addition, the artist has almost fifty posters and prints of his work in circulation, many sponsored by heritage organizations. He has also generously permitted his work to be used to illustrate issues of *Fife & Drum*.

Considering all that, you might safely assume that he has spent his entire life as a professional artist, but you would be wrong. His formal training was very different: he holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Queen's University at Kingston. That notwithstanding, Dr. Rindlisbacher was interested in the sea from a very early age.



Kingston Dockyard, December 1814, with the 102-gun ship-of-the-line St. Lawrence in the foreground laid up for the winter. Courtesy of the artist

Born in Windsor, Ontario, Peter built his first boat model at age eight. As he describes it, "I've been a boat maniac since youth." His mother was a commercial artist and his father owned a printing company and was also a part-time boat-builder, so Peter's interests came naturally: "early on, I did art when I couldn't go sailing." He owned his first boat when he was only twelve and in his teens was a Canadian Yachting Association sailing instructor as well as a racing sailor himself. When it came time for university, however, Peter left the sea and studied for three years in Alberta and a further eight years at Queen's, earning both a masters and a doctorate in psychology. During those years he never lost his interest in naval art and he began taking commissions for paintings from the increasing number of people who recognized his self-

taught talent. It did not take long for art to become his career, which has continued to this day, even after his 2012 move across the border from Amherstburg to Katy, Texas.

Although he has painted scenes from other time periods, the artist confesses that “War of 1812 subjects tend to be my favourites.” He takes an incredible amount of care in his work: “I try to make each painting as historically accurate as possible, even if the client is not concerned about accuracy.” This is not always easy, particularly when it comes to fine details such as ship rigging. As he says, “the danger is that some line will be omitted or done incorrectly, and embarrass me for years afterwards.” To avoid rigging lines appearing too thick, a not uncommon problem in the work of others, he first paints each line as finely as he can, and then shaves them down with a razor knife to make them even finer. As he admits, this is “very tedious work.” The quality of the result, however, is evident in all his paintings.

In addition to being a superb artist, Peter is also a fine naval historian in his own right. While designing a painting, he enjoys working as part of a research team as some commissions require him to learn about a new era or a new type of vessel. The results of these collaborations are sometimes easily overlooked. When painting Kingston Harbour at midnight on 24 December 1814, he even made sure that the phase and location of the moon in the sky appeared as it did at the time. In the past several years, Peter has been experimenting with computer imaging technology. As he explains, “as better information arrives, I even computer correct finished paintings so that subsequent photos of it can be more historically correct.”

When asked which of his paintings he believes are the most historically correct, Peter declined to answer, stating that as new



*The British squadron on Lake Ontario, early November 1814. The ship-of-the-line St. Lawrence, flying Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo's broad pendant, leads the frigate Prince Regent and the rest of Yeo's squadron as they sail from Kingston to Niagara. Courtesy of the artist*

information appears all the time, it “feels like a jinx to name any.” He did say that his most satisfying work is when he paints a subject that really needed attention but has been overlooked by other artists. Peter says that “the War of 1812 has many of those,” and I am looking forward to his painting all of them.

*Dr. Gary Gibson of Sackets Harbor, NY, is a retired computer scientist and a distinguished historian of the naval war on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence. He is a trustee and past-president of the Sackets Harbor Battlefield Alliance.*

*Peter Rindlisbacher can be reached at [rindli@comcast.net](mailto:rindli@comcast.net)*

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## *Bicentennial Timeline: October to December 1813*

**Oct. 5** Americans win Battle of Thames at Moraviantown near Chatham, where Tecumseh is killed.

**Oct. 26** Charles de Salaberry leading 1600 French Canadian militia turned back Gen. Wade Hampton and an invading army of 3000 Americans after four hours of fighting at Châteauguay 56 km southwest of Montreal. An official report of “this brilliant occasion” praised the “gallantry and steadiness” of every officer and soldier (*Montreal Herald* 30 October, *Québec Gazette/Gazette de Québec* 4 November). The *Gazette* noted that “the whole of our force, with a very few exceptions, from the commander downwards, were Canadians.”

**Oct. 31** A travel tip from Lieut. John Lang of the 19th Dragoons: “. . . very good quarters at Jordan's Tavern York, the best I had seen in the country. A very good dinner, delicious water fowl.”

**Nov. 7** George Williams, a military surveyor, mapped York for the Board of Ordnance, including all roads, every building, garden, orchard, and pasture, from the Don to west

of Fort York. <http://fortyorkmaps.blogspot.ca/2013/02/1813-williams-sketch-of-ground-in.html>

**Nov. 11** British win Battle of Crysler's Farm near Morrisburg, ON.

**Nov. 16** Ely Playter noted in his journal that books looted from the Toronto Library were returned: “An American Vessel came in with a flagg this Morning had some Books &c for the Chief Justice – supposed to be an excuse only to see what was going on, she didn't stay long.”

**Nov.** Rebuilding Fort York after the war began to plans by Col. Ralph Bruyeres; the two blockhouses were the first structures completed.

**Dec. 10** Retreating Americans burned 149 houses in the Town of Niagara leaving 400 homeless; the British retaliated by burning Buffalo.

**Dec. 19** James McGill, a Montreal merchant, fur trader, and landowner, died leaving a bequest that led to the founding of McGill University.

*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

## Administrator's Report

*by David O'Hara, Site Administrator*

Following our roster of early summer events, which included Arts and Crafts 'Field Trip' and our own War of 1812 Festival Weekend, Fort York's event schedule was busy through the remainder of the summer. Major events hosted on-site throughout July and August included The Toronto Urban Roots Festival, Mad Decent, The Grove Festival, and Riot Fest. Our own core events included Canada Day and our annual Simcoe Day and Emancipation Day event on August 5. A special thank you goes to Sandra Shaul, Museum Administrator, and Rosemary Sadlier, President of the Ontario Black History Society, for assisting in pulling together such a wonderful event with The Honourable David C. Onley, 28th lieutenant-governor of Ontario, and over 2000 people in attendance.

The summer season concluded with our On Common Ground: Festival of Culture and Community. On Common Ground was a family-friendly festival that marked the transition from summer to fall, and the global quest for peace, with a creative exchange of arts and culture. The weekend included performances by Jane Bunnett & Carnivalissimo, The Lemon Bucket Orkestra, Escola de Samba, Gordon Monahan's sound installation *Erratum Addendum*, four of Dusk Dances' most popular works, Clay & Paper Theatre, and a farmers' market. This event was planned and implemented by Robert Kerr, Kristine Williamson, and all of the staff and volunteers at Fort York.

Our 2013 season further emphasized the increasingly important role all of our volunteers play in making our programs and events successful. With assistance from our partners at Evergreen, original seed-funding for the program from RBC, and our on-site Volunteer Coordinator Cathy Martin, our volunteer program continues to grow. A special thanks to everyone involved with the success of this program.

All components of our overall site master planning exercise continue to move forward. This includes ongoing work on the future removal of the Garrison Road bridge, planning for the future Fort York Pedestrian/Bicycle bridge, work on the yet to be named park at the east end of the fort

by the new Fort York Library (<http://www.urbantoronto.ca/news/2013/09/proposed-design-released-mouth-creek-park>) and a 2014 phase of landscape improvements to the Garrison Common. All of these components have been integrated into our overall site master plan (DTAH consulting), which was presented to, and enthusiastically received by, the City of Toronto's Economic Development Committee on September 17.

At the September 17 meeting, the Economic Development Committee also acknowledged two generous donations made by TD Bank Group. TD is donating \$100,000 to the Fort York Foundation to assist with the revitalization of the Garrison Common. This donation focuses on the west end of the Common and enhances the \$1-million gift from the W. Garfield Weston Foundation to the Fort York Foundation for the Garrison Common.

TD Bank Group also donated \$50,000 towards supporting War of 1812 Bicentennial educational programs at the City's historic sites. Participating museums include Fort York, Mackenzie House, Colborne Lodge, Montgomery's Inn, and Gibson House. The donation makes it possible for students of the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board to attend the educational programs at no cost. Almost 2000 students have already participated in the program, which will continue through June 2014.



*An aerial view of the fort looking east shows the substantial progress on the Visitor Centre that's been made over the summer. Photo by Danny Williams*

David Spittal, senior project coordinator for the Visitor Centre, reports that over 80% of the Visitor Centre's concrete shell, including the building façade and roof, is complete. Mechanical equipment has been delivered, and electrical and other site-servicing work continues. For those visiting the site, our General Contractor, Harbridge + Cross, has installed the first weathered steel panel at the far west end of the building. This first panel was installed early as a test panel. The building itself is expected to be substantially complete by the end of May 2014, with exhibit installation and landscaping scheduled over the summer months. An official opening date has yet to be finalized.



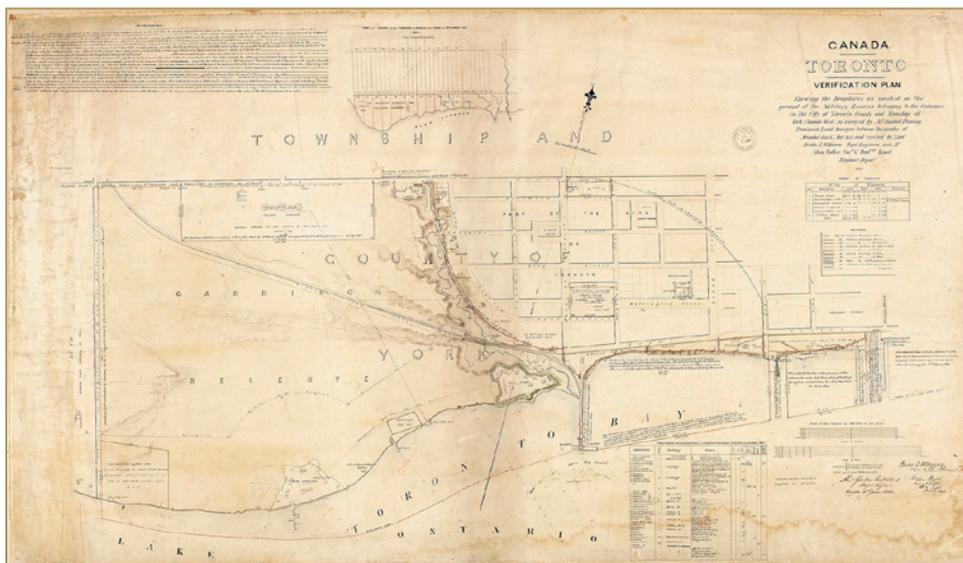
About 80% of the concrete shell of the Visitor Centre has been poured, and the interior spaces are now taking shape. Photo by David Spittal, Toronto Culture

## Requiem for Toronto's Military Reserve

*In collaboration*

The interests of The Friends of Fort York go far beyond the ramparted fort and open area west of it to include all of the original Military Reserve. Setting aside this buffer was contemplated in the earliest proposal for Toronto's townsite put forward in 1788: Gother Mann's *Plan of Toronto (sic) Harbour*. Augustus Jones contributed next in 1791 with a landmark survey of the north shore of Lake Ontario which laid out thirty-four lots in York Township between the current Victoria Park Avenue and Humber Bay. They extended back to a road allowance, now Queen Street. In 1793 Lt.-Col. John Graves Simcoe, Upper Canada's first lieutenant-governor, reserved thirteen of these lots, centred on Fort York, for military purposes. In allowing the first westward expansion of the Town of York in 1797 Simcoe's successor, Peter Russell, reduced the reservation to nine lots. The Reserve then encompassed about 1040 acres between Peter Street and Jameson Avenue.

Today not a single acre of this space remains in the ownership of the Crown in right of the Government of Canada as successors to the title. Through various means including grants and licences the area was reduced until by 2011 all the original lands had been conveyed to other owners. It took nearly 220 years, but the Reserve was no more.



This plan of 1852 by Sandford Fleming is found on a website of nearly 100 maps of Fort York and the Military Reserve. <<http://fortyorkmaps.blogspot.ca/2013/02/1852-fleming-verification-plan-of.html>> Click on it to enlarge and enjoy its many details. The map was made just as the railways were making their appearance in Toronto. The Ontario, Simcoe & Lake Huron Railroad is seen striking diagonally across the Common from its terminus east of Fort York.

The first lands to be alienated were two parcels granted in 1808 at the north-east corner: **22 acres** to William Halton and a further **10 acres** to John McDonell. The next reduction came in 1812 when **240 acres** were granted to James Brock, Maj.-Gen. Isaac Brock's civil secretary and first cousin. This set the Reserve's new western limit at Dufferin Street.

At a June 1817 meeting of the Legislative Council several members objected that this grant had been made "despite the obvious importance to the defence of this Post," and insisted that the "remainder of the Reserve be dedicated to Military Purposes." Further, they directed that a plan of the

Reserve be supplied. When no such plan was found to exist they commissioned Surveyor General Thomas Ridout to produce one. This 1817 plan is the first survey that showed the actual limits of the Military Reserve.

Pragmatism usually ruled, however, and Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Colborne, faced with finding funds to build a new fort to replace Fort York, directed in 1833 that approximately **223 acres** be laid out in 142 lots for development. These lay between Lake Ontario, Peter Street, Lot [Queen] Street, and the curve of Niagara Street along the Garrison Creek ravine. All save some public spaces were auctioned off to private owners.

Meanwhile, HM Board of Ordnance had been issuing licences of occupation on the Reserve for pasturing and other purposes. James Farr was allowed **2 acres** of land for a brewery, James Givins got **23 acres**, Capt. Fitzgibbon **26 acres**, John Dunn **5 acres**, and James Duffy **18 acres**. Their licences had to be renewed regularly, and some lapsed, but Farr continued to lease until 1854 when he was given freehold tenure on his property.

Public uses were often given preference by the Board of Ordnance. In May 1845 it granted **50 acres** along Queen Street to the Commissioners for building the Provincial Lunatic Asylum. And in 1848 it leased **287 acres** between the Asylum and the New Fort to the City of Toronto for 999 years as a park. Three years later Board forced the City to surrender its lease, ostensibly to allow the settlement of military pensioners, and compensated it with **22.5 acres** straddling Garrison Creek and **33.5 acres** south of the Asylum.

This high-handed conduct appears to have been a smokescreen, however, in anticipation of the needs of the railways which were beginning to exert a dramatic influence on the growth and development of the City. Those entering from the west—the Ontario, Simcoe & Huron (OS&H), Great Western, and Grand Trunk—wanted access to the Queen's Wharf south of Fort York. They also sought to extend their tracks across the front of the city to join with railways coming in from the east. The Ordnance Vesting Act of 1843 allowed them to cross Ordnance land if they had need to and would pay for it.

While the area taken by the railways at Toronto was not large, the collateral damage they wreaked was great. The Great Western required 8.6 acres for its tracks across the Reserve and another 10.35 acres for its engine house and terminal north of the fort, a total of only **19 acres**. The Grand Trunk needed slightly more—about **20 acres**—but ten were landfill to create a lakeshore depot in front of the fort. It was built over the strenuous objections of the military authorities, but to no avail.

However, it was the OS&H, the first to cross the Reserve in 1851, that needed the most land, about **34 acres**, chiefly for yards and a terminus south of Front Street between Bathurst and Spadina. Its construction entailed levelling the area at the mouth of Garrison Creek, resulting not only in the loss of a public promenade along Lake Ontario but also in the destruction of archaeological evidence for both the early fort on the east bank of the creek and nearby blockhouse of 1797.

We are also paying today for the railways' invasion by tolerating discontinuities in the street-grid and irregular-shaped blocks throughout the area, to say nothing of the costly grade separation on Strachan Avenue currently under construction.

Following Confederation the Province of Ontario was quick to ask the federal government, on whom ownership of the Reserve had devolved, for land adjacent to the Asylum where inmates could farm as part of their therapy. It was granted **150 acres** in 1870, and leased more for a time. But the provincial government soon found other uses for parts of these Asylum lands. In 1870 it converted a 5-acre leasehold into a freehold for the John Inglis Company. Two years later 20 acres were set aside for a Central Prison, and in 1878 another 11 acres for a reformatory for females. Six acres at King and Strachan granted to the Massey Manufacturing Company in 1879 became a toehold for its later growth. To round things out 81 acres of the Asylum's domain were sold in the 1880s, reducing it to only 27 acres.

The most important grant from Fort York's perspective was the transfer to the City in 1909 of **185 acres** composed of Exhibition Park (156 acres) and Fort York (29 acres). The latter parcel now forms part of the 43-acre Fort York National Historic Site, which includes Victoria Memorial Square.

The Square was the last piece of the Reserve owned by the Crown. Originally six acres, it is now only two; the balance was alienated long ago. The Crown had divested itself of three nearby squares in the 19th century: McDonell [now Portugal] Square to the Roman Catholic Church; Clarence and West Market [St. Andrew's] Squares to the City. Not until 2011, however, did it finally transfer Victoria Square to the City which had maintained it as a public park since the mid-1880s. The delay can be put down to the military cemetery holding 400-500 people that fills most of the square. Indeed, it is fitting that the dead were the best defenders of an open space once under pressure for redevelopment but now valued and vital to the new residential neighbourhood around it.



## Elizabeth Baird Receives Order of Canada

A mainstay of the Volunteer Historic Cooks at Fort York, Elizabeth was recently appointed a member of the Order of Canada. Her friends at the fort where she is found frequently preparing food to historic recipes are tremendously proud she was honoured “for her contributions to the promotion of Canada’s diverse food heritage.” The former food editor of *Canadian Living* magazine, she is the author of more than twenty-five cookbooks. She has co-edited with Bridget Wranich, head of the Historic Foodways program at Fort York, *Setting a Fine Table: Historical Desserts and Drinks from the Officers’ Kitchens at Fort York*, forthcoming shortly from Whitecap Books. Priced at \$19.95, it will be available at the fort’s Canteen shop, mainstreet bookstores, and on the Internet. *Photo by Stan Switalski*

## View of Fort York from the New Toronto Public Library

Taken in June 2013, this is the view of Fort York that users of the new branch of the Toronto Public Library will have from its reading room. The three dead and dying poplar trees seen here are all that remain of an 80-poplar palisade planted circa 1950 to screen the railways and industries surrounding the fort from its visitors. *Photo by Richard Unterthiner, KPMB Architects*



## Shawn Micallef Now TPL Writer in Residence

Shawn Micallef—columnist, author, teacher, and senior editor at *Spacing* magazine—became a director of The Friends in 2011. Previously he was a member of the Fort York Management Board. To these distinctions he has now added that of an appointment as Writer in Residence at the Toronto Public Library in October and November, 2013. His duties there include coaching aspiring writers and journalists on pieces they’ve written about city issues, neighbourhoods, events, or personalities. *Photo by Beth Derbyshire*

## Loblaws Development Proposal

This perspective sketch by architectsAlliance shows what Loblaws hopes to build on the north-east corner of Fleet and Bathurst Streets. It preserves the exterior of the company’s 1928 warehouse while housing a grocery store within a completely new interior. Other parts of the site would be built out for offices and residential towers. Note the Gardiner Expressway passing behind the taller towers. *Image by architectsAlliance*



# Victory at George: Fort York Guard Wins Annual Drill Competition

by Sergeant Cam Anderson

Each summer the regiments of Forts York, Malden, and Erie descend on Fort George for one weekend in August. Intended to put on a powerful display of firepower for the public, the weekend concludes with a stiff drill competition. The regiments are tested on their foot drill and their ability to fire precise volleys as a group. We are proud to announce that this year the Fort York Guard won the competition! Out of 160 total points that could be tallied, Fort York beat Fort

George's 41st Grenadiers by *less than one point*—possibly the closest competition I have seen in my time as a guard.

Although Fort York has won in the past, this year was especially meaningful. Not only was it my first as a commanding sergeant, but the event marked the final day for Mark Riches, former colour sergeant of the Guard. Riches has been with the Guard for eight summers, and it seemed very appropriate that his final day in uniform was the day of our victory. No doubt we have a title to defend next summer.

*Known as Sergeant Anderson in the summer, Cam Anderson is now entering third year at the University of Toronto. A member of the Guard for four years, he plans to return to the fort for the Guard season next summer.*

## 2013 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Kristine Williamson

**On account of construction, on-site parking is limited. Visitors are encouraged to walk, take transit or bike to the site.**

### OCTOBER

#### Fort York after Dark: Lantern Tours Fri. and Sat. October 18, 19 and 25, 26, 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Tour the grounds of Fort York at night to hear stories about this national treasure, from the haunted lighthouse to the bloody Battle of York. The tour includes two military cemeteries near the fort. This event is not recommended for under 8 yrs. Complimentary refreshments.

*Pre-registration is required. Please call 416.392.6907 x 221 for more information or to pre-register. \$12.50 + tax*

#### Historical Cooking Class: 18th Century Pastry Making Sun. October 20, 10:30 am to 3 pm

Using original recipes and techniques learn how to create puff pastry, short paste, cold crust, and a crust for custards. Lunch included.

*For additional information or to register please contact Bridget Wranich at 416.392.6907 x 225 or bwrnich@toronto.ca. \$50 + tax.*

### NOVEMBER

#### Citizenship Ceremony Fri. November 8, 11 am to 12 noon

Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, in partnership with Fort York's volunteer Citizenship Committee and Fort York National Historic Site, will host candidates for citizenship at a special community ceremony at the fort. Prior to the ceremony, the Institute will hold another in its series of roundtable discussions aimed at strengthening the connection between new Canadians and their communities. The event includes guest speakers, music, and a reception.

*Free admission.*

### Remembrance Day Mon. November 11, 10:45 am

City of Toronto, Fort York National Historic Site, and the Toronto Municipal Chapter IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) are proud to present one of this city's most evocative Remembrance Day Services at the Strachan Avenue Military Cemetery on Garrison Common. Commencing at 10:45 am a procession led by period uniformed military staff and standard bearers of the IODE will make its way from the west gate to the Strachan Avenue Military Cemetery. There, at the eleventh hour, all soldiers of the Toronto Garrison who fell in the War of 1812, the Rebellion Crises, the Crimean War, Northwest Rebellion, South African (Boer) War, the two World Wars, and recent conflicts around the globe will be remembered and honoured.

*Free admission.*

### Historical Cooking Class: Christmas Mince Pies Sun. November 24, 11 am to 3 pm

Learn how to make traditional mincemeat pies. Lunch and mince pies to take home are included.

*For additional information or to register please contact Bridget Wranich at 416 392 6907 x 225 or bwrnich@toronto.ca. \$50 + tax.*

### DECEMBER

#### Baking in the Officers' Kitchen for Children Sun. December 1, 1 to 4 pm

Learn how to read a historic recipe and prepare delicious baked goods. Participants will be taught how to pound and sift spices, separate and beat eggs, and roll out dough to be cut into cakes. Recipes include Derby Cakes, Hard Gingerbread, Queen Cakes, and Lemon Puffs. For children aged 8-12 years.

*For additional information or to register please contact Bridget Wranich at 416 392 6907 x 225 or bwrnich@toronto.ca. \$30 + tax.*

#### Fort York Frost Fair Sat. and Sun. December 7 and 8, 10 am to 5 pm

Feel the excitement and charm of the festive season in Upper Canada some 200 years ago when the local Christmas Market was one of the social and shopping highlights of the year. Wander through the historic buildings of Fort York where merchants in period clothing will be selling quality merchandise inspired from the 18th and 19th centuries. Try your hand at one of the many activities scheduled throughout the day, including printing your own Frost Fair souvenir. Warm yourself by the bonfire or in the cheerful warmth of the Officers' Mess Kitchen.

*Included with regular Fort York admission.*

Visit our website at: [www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca). Learn more about Fort York, subscribe to the [free newsletter](#), become a [member](#), [donate](#) or browse our [historical image gallery](#).



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

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Regular Admission to Fort York (all prices include taxes)  
Adult: \$9.00, Senior (65+) & Youth (13-18): \$5.50,  
Children (6-12): \$4.25, Children (5 and under): FREE

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