



The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

Vol 2 No.3

KEY DATES

FRIENDS OF FORT YORK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 18 - 7:00 P.M.
CENTRE BLOCKHOUSE, HISTORIC FORT YORK

PUBLIC MEETING TO SAVE CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION IN HERITAGE
ROTUNDA CITY HALL (QUEEN STREET)
MONDAY, JUNE 22 - 7:00 P.M.

CONTENTS

The Crisis in Heritage - Is This The End of the Fort York Business Plan? Actions you can take.
The Annual General Meeting.
The Heritage Flagpole Dedication - A Day to Remember.
The Fort York Festival - A Fine Weekend.
Membership
Your Executive Needs Help.
Day Trip to Fort George.
Membership Application.

The Crisis in Heritage. Is this the end of The Fort York Business Plan? Actions you can take.

For 50 years The Toronto Historical Board (now Heritage Toronto) has protected Heritage in Toronto as an arms-length citizen board. It's independence has been crucial. It has been citizens that have saved the old City Hall and the Union Station. It has been citizens that have saved Fort York. While crucial in the past - empowered citizen leadership is equally essential for Toronto's future. We must work to continue to preserve our heritage sites and our history.

The bureaucracy in the new Toronto is determined to dismantle Heritage Toronto and move control of all heritage activities into the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department. Citizen involvement would be limited to membership on advisory boards. Job tenders for the senior positions relating to heritage were issued June 2nd, to close June 12th. Rumours have it that appointments will be made by June 19th. Job descriptions include "overall management of 14 museums" which we presume includes Fort York. Thus the whole process of negotiation by organizations such as the Friends of Fort York with the CAO's office has been rendered useless. The fact that neither the Miller Committee nor City Council has made any decision on the future of the Heritage Toronto seems to matter not. City Council is being deprived of its powers to restructure the city

As we stated in our brief sent to you in early May, we do not believe the Fort York Business Plan can be implemented if the bureaucracy succeeds. Fort York must have extensive volunteer involvement and leadership to succeed. Fort York must be able to raise funds from senior levels of government and the private sector to finance its capital plans. None of this will be possible if Fort York is part of a municipal department.

We are active participants in a citizen's committee - The Citizens Committee to Save Heritage in Toronto. This Committee is sponsoring a public meeting at City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22nd. It is also urging all interested parties to make deputations at the Miller Committee Hearings, even though a date for these hearings has still not been set. Please see their flyer enclosed with this Fife & Drum. Please help them in their attempts to get our Councillors to take control of this issue. Attend the public meeting and urge your friends and associates with an interest in the future of Toronto to attend as well.

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Fort York will be held in the Centre Blockhouse at Fort York at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 18th. We urge all members and friends to attend.

After the business portion of the meeting which will include an update on the negotiations with the city on heritage, we are hoping to have a historical interlude with Carl Benn.

The Nominating Committee will be pleased to receive nominations for the Board of Directors. Please call Don Brydges at 247-1377.

The Heritage Flagpole Dedication - A Day to Remember

Thursday, May 7 was a glorious warm sunny day. The King Edward School Choir, including 93 children, were relaxing in the sun by noon and starting to assemble for the flag raising ceremony. The uniformed Fort York Guard were gathering and examining the flag. Shortly before 1:00 p.m. the Honourable Hilary Weston arrived and proceeded to the guest platform. In a warm breeze the Lieutenant Governor presented her comments, showing her fondness for history and for Fort York. She was followed by Arthur Lee, the donor of the McRae medals, who inspired those assembled. Garfield Mitchell of George Weston Limited, Marion Joppe, Chair of Heritage Toronto and Joe Gill then spoke briefly.

When the order to raise the Union Flag was given, the choir started to sing 'God Save the King' (remembering George III in 1792). The flag stayed tight to the pole until over half way up its 70 ft. climb when it suddenly unfurled dramatically into the wind to the spontaneous applause of all. The choir then sang 'O Canada'.

After the ceremony a very pleasant reception was presented by the staff at Fort York.

For those attending, it was a day to remember. For those who did not, we do have a wonderful video of the full ceremony. Our thanks again to John Barclay, the "Father" of this project and also to George Weston Limited, Black and McDonald and Peter Gooderham for their generous donations that made it all possible.

The Fort York Festival - A Fine Weekend

The 2nd Annual Fort York festival was held on May 16 and 17. The weather was sunny and warm, particularly on the Sunday. The thunderstorms predicted for Saturday afternoon did not materialize - but many stayed away in anticipation of the rain. Overall attendance exceeded 2000, 40-50% above the first year. Our revenues doubled getting us much closer to a break-even which should clearly be achieved next year. More importantly everyone enjoyed themselves.

We added a few new attractions to support the battle re-enactments. The Saturday afternoon puppet show was a major attraction for the children attending and will be repeated next year. The Saturday evening "Sacking of York" party for the re-enactors with the music of Ken Purvis and "Malarkey" had everyone dancing, clapping and singing. This also is a must repeat. The Fort York Festival Regalia tent was a financial success. Chris Korwin-Kuczynski was a great General Pike filling in for Tom Jakobek. We hope they will both be back next year.

Many thanks to our approximately 110 volunteers, to the re-enactors and the Fort York staff for all their efforts and for the support from everyone at 205 Yonge. Once again the Queen Street Out of Cold Volunteers and the Portuguese 55+ Club worked hard to make our food a hit. Many thanks also to Hank Young and Patrick McCrorey our chefs, who can make the toughest cuts of beef a culinary delight.

Who put it all together? Our organizing committees included Jane Kennedy, Anne Beach, Ken Purvis, Peter Twist, Gord Brace, Joe Gill, Carol Philp, Ian Keith, John Barclay, Gerry Murray and Martin Silva - all under the guidance of our co-chairs Don Brydges and Murray Philp.

And plans are proceeding forward for Festival 99. We are hoping to involve a number of tall ships and to stage the landing of the American forces at Sunnyside including the naval bombardment. We also are focussing on publicity and have a new Publicity Committee which has already had its first meeting! Anybody interested in joining this Committee should call Don Brydges at 247-1377.

Membership

Our membership is now to 115.

Please see the application form at the end of this Fife & Drum, whether you have missed renewing or wish to become anew member. Join us and participate in the 1998-99 lecture series, our Members Reception in the fall, and more importantly show your support for Fort York and Heritage.

Your Executive needs help

As the time demands associated with our many goals keep growing we know that we must expand the base of our volunteer efforts during the year.

In particular we need individuals who could take on the following activities.

Editor of the Fife and Drum - We would like to issue the Fife and Drum 6-8 times a year. This activity would suite someone with writing skills who had the time to keep in contact with the Executive so as to be aware of developments affecting the Friends of Fort York.

Mailing list chair - This requires word processing skills and access to a computer and appropriate software to maintain a data base of names, addresses and telephone numbers for a mailing list now at about 400 and growing.

Fife and Drum Mailing Committee - We do not have funds to pay for the folding, stuffing, sealing and stamping for mailings of the Fife and Drum. To date this has been done by members of the Executive Committe. Volunteers to help out would be greatly appreciated.

Computer Design - Membership flyer, Festival flyers, posters, etc.

We do not have these skills on the Executive Committee. Gord Brace has helped us out - but we need more volunteers with these skills.

Website Coordinator

We should have a website and an e-mail address. Again we do not have the skills on the Executive Committee to get this project going in the time available to us.

Please call Joe Gill at 969-8644 or Don Brydges at 247-1377 if you are interested in any of the above activities or have ideas as to how we might proceed.

**Day - Trip - Fort George and other historical sites
at Niagara on the Lake**

The Governor Simcoe Branch of the United Empire Loyalists is organizing a day trip on an air-conditioned fully-equipped cruising bus to Fort George at Niagara on the Lake on Saturday August 8th. This will be a great chance to experience organized tours of a number of sites.

Time and information are set out below:

Departure (and Return)

- 7:30 am *8:30 pm) Scarborough Town Centre
- 7:45 am (8:15 pm) York Mills Subway
- 8:00 am (7:50 pm) Union Station
- 8:20 am (7:30 pm) Kipling Subway
- 8:40 am (7:10 pm) Dixie Mall
- Niagara about 10:00 am, (6:00 pm)

Ticket Order:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal _____ Phone () _____

Number of Tickets: _____ @ \$45:00

Enclosed: \$____.00 (Cheque to "Gov. Simco Branch, UEL").

Mail to: Gov. Simcoe Branch UEL

Attn: Doug Grant, 315 Carlton Street

Toronto, Ont. M5A 2L6

Information:

Doug Grant 416-964-7766

Membership Application

I enclose:

1998 membership \$30.00

Donation to further support the activities of the Friends in support of Fort York *

Total

=====

* Receipt with charitable number will be forwarded promptly.

Please make cheque payable to the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common and forward to John L. Barclay, 162 Forest Hill Road, Toronto, M5P 2M9.

Name: Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms., _____

ADDRESSES

HOME

or

OFFICE

Street Address _____

City _____

Province _____

Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE TO SAVE HERITAGE IN TORONTO

Committee Members

Robert Allsop
Ernest Annau
Bill Archer
Janine Avigdor
John Barclay
George Beal
Jane Beecroft
Don Brydges
Christine Caroppo
Shirley Duffey
Scott Duncan
Professor Klaus
and Marjut Dunker
David Eckler
Paul Federico
Mike Filey
Joe Gill
Sheldon Godfrey
Barbara Hancock
Jane Harvey
George Hume
Jane Jacobs
Mima Kapches
Peggy Kurtin
James Lemon
Madeleine McDowell
John A. McGinnis
Rollo Myers
Catherine Nasmith
Stephen Otto
Lilian Petroff
Murray Philp
William Phillips
Ken Rawson
Ann Rowan
Colonel Robert Roy
Patricia Robertson
Terry Russell
George Rust-D'Eye
John Sewell
Martin Silva
Jeff Stinson
Marjorie Stuart
Alan Suddon

MEGACITY BUREAUCRATS THREATEN TO ELIMINATE MEANINGFUL CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN HERITAGE AND PRESERVATION

The release of job tenders by the Commissioner has shown the bureaucracy's determination to move the City's heritage activities in museum management, heritage programming and preservation of heritage properties fully within the Department of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism. This renders the current negotiations with the volunteer sector useless and deprives Council of its powers in restructuring the City. This disenfranchises Torontonians because councillors are no longer able to effectively represent them.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION

1. Make a deputation to the Miller Committee (date to be determined). Register by faxing Patsy Morris at 392-2980 or calling her at 392-9151. Please advise us of your action by faxing 943-3771.
2. ATTEND THE PUBLIC MEETING TO SAVE HERITAGE
ROTUNDA, CITY HALL, 100 QUEEN STREET WEST
7:00 P.M. MONDAY, JUNE 22
3. Contact your councillors and express your outrage.
4. Write to the Miller Committee at:
Metro Hall, 55 John Street,
Station 1071, 7th Floor,
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3C6
or Fax the Committee at 392-2980.
5. Write to The Mayor at:
Metro Hall, 55 John Street
Station 1070, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3C6

THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE TO SAVE HERITAGE IN TORONTO

Committee Members

Robert Allsop
Ernest Annau
Bill Archer
Janine Avigdor
John Barclay
George Beal
Jane Beecroft
Don Brydges
Christine Caroppo
Shirley Duffey
Scott Duncan
Professor Klaus
and Marjut Dunker
David Eckler
Paul Federico
Mike Filey
Joe Gill
Sheldon Godfrey
Barbara Hancock
Jane Harvey
George Hume
Jane Jacobs
Mima Kapches
Peggy Kurtin
James Lemon
Madeleine McDowell
John A. McGinnis
Rollo Myers
Catherine Nasmith
Stephen Otto
Lilian Petroff
Murray Philp
William Phillips
Kent Rawson
Ann Rowan
Colonel Robert Roy
Patricia Robertson
Terry Russell
George Rust-D'Eye
John Sewell
Martin Silva
Jeff Stinson
Marjorie Stuart
Alan Suddon

For Immediate Release
June 11, 1998

Citizens' Group Outraged by Bureaucrats

The death of Heritage Toronto and with it the idea of an independent citizen-managed heritage board came one step closer last week when new senior civil service jobs were posted for competition. The new jobs assume responsibility for museums currently managed by Heritage Toronto.

This has happened despite there being no decision by city council on whether these museums as well as other heritage services would be managed by an arms length board or from within the civil service.

A group of citizens concerned about the need to maintain the principle of an independent arms length citizen board has responded and is holding a public meeting on June 22 at 7 pm in the Rotunda of Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West.

What has angered the citizens group, called, Citizens Committee to Save Heritage in Toronto, is that the structure of heritage in the new city was to be studied by a special Committee of Council with the final decision being made by Council. Instead, the Commissioner of Economic Development Culture and Tourism has established a staff structure for heritage within his department and has proceeded to hold a job competition.

"We find it incredible" says Joe Gill, one of the founders of the citizens group. "We have been negotiating in good faith and now have discovered we've been betrayed by the bureaucrats. And so have the politicians. Who's in charge — the bureaucrats or city council?"