

The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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Contents



- 1 What the Friends Do:
Our Accomplishments (2009)
- 2 New Chief Curator
- 3 Order out of Chaos:
The Fort York Resource Centre
- 4 Administrator's Report
- 5 Whatever the Game:
Sport and the Military in Early Toronto
- 7 Bread and Butter Pudding
- 7 Upcoming Events

The proposal submitted jointly by Patkau Architects of Vancouver and Kearns Mancini Architects of Toronto has been recommended by the jury convened to pick a winner in the Visitor Centre Design Competition

A full article appears on page 4.



Visitor Centre drawing courtesy of Patkau/Kearns Mancini.

What the Friends Do: Our Accomplishments (2009)

- celebrated the 15th anniversary of our founding in 1994 with a blockhouse-shaped cake; the first slice was cut by Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone
- raised substantial funds to benefit Fort York through donations, dinners, memberships, and parking ventures; also secured grants of \$15,000 from Toronto Culture and \$11,000 from the Government of Canada for summer youth employment
- spent our income for several purposes, including operation of the Fort York Guard and Drums (\$140,000) and office rental and expenses (\$25,000)
- published four regular issues of our quarterly newsletter, *The Fife & Drum*, which included essays on Charles Fothergill's museum on the Garrison Common and on the making of our model of the *Nancy*; also issued three numbers of *Drumroll* to promote special events at the fort
- completed the lighting and enhancement of the model of *H.M.S. Nancy* in the Blue Barracks using donations in memory of a late director, Robert Nurse
- staffed and operated the parking concessions on the lots and lawns west of Fort York for a total of 59 event-days between April and October; began a program of monthly parking for condo construction workers and overnight parking for condo residents/workers. Coordinated parking activities with an archaeological dig on the parking lot
- sold out our eleventh annual Georgian Dinner to raise funds for the Fort York Guard and Drums. Many of the recipes and some of the dishes served came from the fort's kitchens
- put 25 young men and women in uniform as the Fort York Guard and Drums to march, drill, and animate the site. They also served as honour guards off-site on 15 occasions and represented the fort in battle re-enactments at Fort George in Niagara
- commissioned the embroidery of new colours for the Guard
- strongly supported the City's position on the design of a replacement bridge on Strachan Avenue. As a result the Georgetown rail corridor will be lowered to preserve the existing pattern of streets below King, allowing turns on



Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, flanked by Rollo Myers (l) and Joe Gill (r), uses a 1796 service sword to cut a birthday cake shaped like a blockhouse at the Friends' 15th anniversary in April.

Wellington eastbound to permit deliveries to continue to Quality Meats' plant on Tecumseh Street, which otherwise would be forced to close

- sustained our opposition to the TTC's proposal for the Western Waterfront LRT to cut through the FY National Historic site, breaching its integrity
- held monthly board meetings and met another dozen times in committees and task forces. One director at least, often more, attended every special event and function held at the fort
- welcomed one new director to our board
- had extensive discussion on our strategic directions and the organizational form we need in lieu of permanent staff to co-ordinate our efforts
- continued to provide two or three days of volunteer time weekly to organizing and cataloguing the fort's collections of books, research files, photographs, etc. in the Resource Centre
- maintained and updated our electronic address lists. Some 2600 recipients now get our mailings
- embarked on a review and reconfiguration of our website
- ran full-page ads featuring less well-known aspects of the fort in three issues of *Spacing* magazine
- co-operated with 80 volunteers who cultivated vegetables and herbs in plots on the fort's north ramparts as part of a community-based initiative backed by the Trillium Foundation, Hellmann's, Walmart, and Evergreen
- joined with the FY Management Board and fort staff in holding two ceremonies to confer citizenship on some 80 new Canadians

- resolved to prepare a background report on the FY armory to assist with planning its future
- met with neighbouring landowners and developers to affirm our interest in great public spaces and well-designed buildings in the area
- participated through our representatives in the work of the 1812 and Visitor Centre Steering Committees

New Chief Curator

The Friends are pleased to welcome Wayne Reeves to the position of Chief Curator, Museum Services of the City of Toronto.

A graduate in historical geography from the University of Victoria and the University of Toronto, he joined Metro Planning in 1993 as a project co-ordinator. Since 2001 he has led policy and research projects for Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation.

His 2001 report "Cultural Heritage Landscapes: A Backgrounder, with Implications and Potential Directions for Toronto" has been influential in assisting City departments to incorporate heritage into their work. Over the past five years he has prepared historical studies for the Lake Ontario Park Master Plan and the Western Waterfront Master Plan, and provided input to the Toronto Island Heritage Study. To document a decade of restoration activity, Wayne is now updating the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant heritage inventory he prepared for Toronto Water in 1997.

He frequently donates his time to deliver heritage walks and talks to organizations like Lost Rivers, Riversides and the Toronto Field Naturalists. For the Market Gallery he guest-curated *Playing by the Rules* which is now mounted on the City's website.

The findings of his Ph.D. research on the history of land use and infrastructure planning was published as *Visions for the Metropolitan Toronto Waterfront* by the Centre for Urban & Community Studies, University of Toronto in 1992-3. Over the past decade Wayne's publications have all focused on Toronto history. He examined changing approaches to protecting natural areas in *Special Places: The Past, Present and Future of the Ecosystems of the Toronto Region*, and proposed a framework for local environmental history in *GreenTOpia: Towards a Sustainable Toronto*. Last year, he co-edited and contributed three essays to *HTO: Toronto's Water from Lake Iroquois to Lost Rivers to Low-flow Toilets* for Coach House Books. His most recent essay, a 200-year sketch of craft beer and brewing in Toronto, appeared last month in *The Edible City: Toronto's Food from Farm to Fork*.

Wayne Reeves took up his new position on December 14.

Order out of Chaos: The Fort York Resource Centre

by Nancy Baines

Until recently, the Fort York Library was a little known resource tucked away in the back of the 1815 Senior Officers' Quarters. Like many other administrative offices at the fort, it took up the space of a Senior Officer's bedroom, a room 15 by 20 feet, with a brick fireplace and two lovely, deeply set and shuttered windows. Now one might think this would make a wonderful library. Maybe so, in a domestic setting, but although the ceiling leaks had been stopped, they were never repaired, so the peeling paint and damp was still in evidence. The shelves were rather ramshackle metal affairs not very securely fixed to the historic walls, and an old wooden catalogue and some filing cabinets obscured the fireplace. Two desks sporting computers were crammed in along with some old wooden shelving overflowing with the collection of journals, training manuals, old display materials and uncatalogued books. In a nearby office were the map files, a large, disorganized slide collection and two big cardboard boxes containing Carl Benn's photos.

Since there had been drastic cutbacks at the fort, there was no one on staff who could spare the time to look after this collection. However, the library was very necessary to the staff for research on the fort, military music, the kitchen program and military life in the 19th century. Returned books lay everywhere and piles of recent journals and photos testified to the constant use of the library. This matter was brought to my attention as a history teacher and librarian early in my first term as a director of the Friends. I recruited a friend, Heather Cirulis, to help me. We volunteer at the library every Thursday, and have tried to create some order out of chaos. We have reorganized and indexed the journals, maps, plans and photographs. It has been a labour of love. In the process, we have learned a great deal about the fort and military life in early Canada. We have also been impressed by the depth of knowledge and enthusiasm displayed by the staff, who are very generous with their time and advice. How lucky we are to have them!

We also look after acquisitions, especially since the fort staff now welcome classes for World War One tours and the collection is weak in that area. All these new books, and many old ones, need to be processed and catalogued. Another wonderful asset to the Friends and the fort is Christine Mosser, recently retired from Toronto Reference Library, who has undertaken to catalogue the uncatalogued, process the books and bring the shelf list up to date. This is a huge task and Christine has laboured faithfully to complete it. What would the fort do without its volunteers?

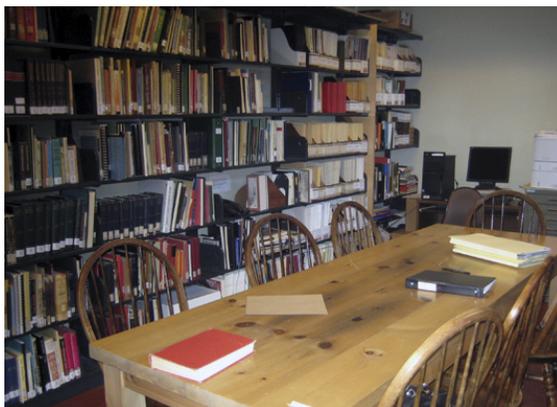
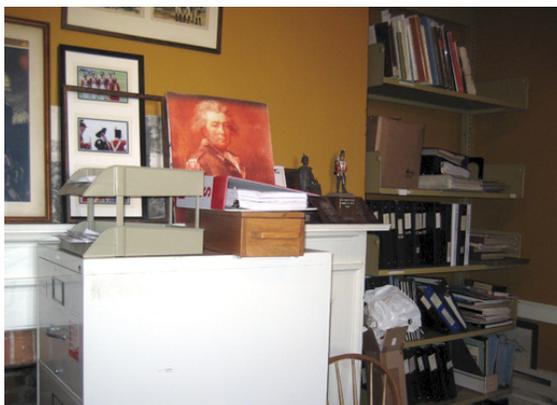
When I explained to the History and Archaeology Committee how poor were the conditions in the old library, it was determined to find a new temporary home for the

collection; temporary, because we hope to put this collection in the new Visitor Centre, close to the staff offices. Board chairs Joe Gill and Stephen Otto both embraced the idea and David O'Hara, the administrator, agreed to find us a location in the Blue Barracks. New shelving was securely fixed to the walls, larger flat map files were located and the Friends bought new filing cabinets for the vertical file and photo collection. Finally, the books and journals and other research materials were moved into the new space more than two years ago. We also acquired a very useful and attractive library table made from the salvaged old Queen's Wharf timber. Recently we have bought a computer and printer so that research, cataloguing and indexing can be done in the Blue Barracks rather than the old library.

Our next endeavour is to purchase a scanner, so that researchers can scan maps and photos etc. on the spot. Heather and I have yet to organize the slide collection. I

think we've been putting it off, hoping that the slides will be obsolete by the time we get to them! However, creating order out of chaos is addictive to some of us – and we'll probably feel that since they have become artefacts by that time, we should index them anyway!

The new library may be temporary, but it is as organized and useful as we can make it. Thanks to the Friends of Fort York this new facility will make it easier for the staff and the general public to access the fort's rather impressive collection of materials on Toronto military history.



Library (top photo) as seen when located in Senior Officers' Quarters and new library (lower photo) now in Blue Barracks.

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Administrator's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Administrator

The last several weeks have been both busy and productive. November began with another well-attended Remembrance Day ceremony and the swearing-in of 40 new Canadians on November 13. On December 3, the final submissions for the Visitor Centre design competition were received and exhibited at a public open house at City Hall from December 4-6. At the launch of the open house, Member of Parliament (Burlington) Mike Wallace attended on behalf of the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, to announce that the Federal Government, through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, had approved a grant of up-to \$4 million for the construction of the Visitor Centre. This amount is in addition to the \$617,000 grant approved in 2008 for pre-construction work, including design. The time and effort put in by all those who assisted with the open house was appreciated by everyone.

Work continues on several other projects, including the design of a series of exterior interpretive panels, the restoration of the former Guard Room in the South Soldiers' Barracks, and plaster restoration in both the Soldiers' Barracks and Officers' Barracks and Mess. The installation of the Stone Magazine exhibit has unfortunately been rescheduled to 2010 in order to allow for floor repair prior to exhibit installation. The majority of these capital projects have been advanced under the direction of David Spittal, Senior Project Manager.

We would like to welcome our two new Management Board members, Curtis Barlow and Brian Maclean, who were formally appointed after a meeting of the City's Executive Committee on November 12. We would also like to welcome Kelly Nesbitt, who joined the staff team at Fort York on December 21. Kelly originally began work at the fort in 1989, and then moved to Mackenzie House in 1996 where she managed the retail shop and acted as Site Coordinator from 2002 to 2004. Kelly's recent work at Todmorden Mills included developing new special events and programs and assisting with the daily operations of the museum, gallery and theatre.

Recommended Design Chosen for the New Visitor Centre



A jury unanimously recommended the conceptual design submitted by Patkau Architects Inc., Vancouver, with Kearns Mancini Architects Inc., Toronto, for the new Visitor Centre.

In the recommended design, the Visitor Centre forms a new escarpment of weathering-steel, re-establishing the original sense of a defensive site. The jury noted that the success of the Patkau/Kearns Mancini design lies in the use of the steel-escarpment and a simple foreshore of grasses, which when combined with the recently launched multi-media art installation *Watertable*, interpret the historic site condition of the original Lake Ontario shoreline bluff, and provide a strong visual presence for the Fort.



From a field of 31 architectural firms who originally expressed interest in the design of the Visitor Centre, five teams were invited to submit conceptual design proposals. Submissions were received from: Patkau Architects with Kearns Mancini Architects Inc.; Raw Design with Gareth Hoskins Architects; du Toit Allsopp Hillier/du Toit Architects Ltd.; and Baird Sampson Neuert Architects. Diamond Schmitt were invited to submit a design, but notified the City in November that they would not be participating due to scheduling conflicts with other projects. Additional information regarding the jury and the conceptual designs is available at <http://www.toronto.ca/visitorcentre>.

After being displayed at a public open house, the anonymous designs were reviewed by a jury, which included George F. Dark, Antonio Gomez-Palacio, Rick Haldenby, Rocco Maragna, Marianne McKenna, Charles Pachter and Anthony Tung. As part of the evaluation, the jury considered a summary of public comments gathered at the open house.



Visitor Centre drawings courtesy of Patkau/Kearns Mancini.

The high quality of all four submissions was a comment heard consistently since the public open house and all teams are to be congratulated for their efforts. This is an important project for the Fort and the City of Toronto, and we want to thank all competition participants, the jury and members of the Fort York Visitor Centre Steering Committee. Work will begin with the Patkau/Kearns Mancini team in early January and all efforts will be made in order to ensure that the project is completed in time for a June 2012 opening.

Whatever the Game: Sport and the Military in Early Toronto

by Ken Purvis

It has been often observed that the life of a soldier is characterized by long periods of boredom interrupted by explosive periods of intense stress. For the British soldier performing garrison duty in York, Upper Canada, the former was the more common experience. Desertion rates were high in North America, due in large part to the proximity of the United States: from January of 1839 to January of 1847, some 2228 men deserted from British regiments stationed in Canada. Even those soldiers who didn't desert too often would spend their idle hours in the canteen or at one of the many taverns characteristic of garrison towns like York. Regimental authorities tried to provide soldiers with alternative ways of spending their leisure time – arguably the most important of which was organized sports. Team games lured the rank and file away from harmful pursuits and offered continuity for the officers whose education would have included sporting events.

Since sports also provided additional training for the battlefield, friendly competition which focused on a soldier's skills was inevitable. An early Toronto example of this occurred in 1802 when a militia field day concluded with a

marksmanship competition – the first prize for which was a pair of beaver hats. One was to be awarded to the “best marksman with the smooth board [sic] guns and another to the best with there [sic] rifles”. Among the officers, marksmanship was often combined with hunting as in 1848, when Lt. Gilbert Elliot of the 60th rifles, an officer posted to Toronto, wrote “I shot at a rifle match not long ago and slew two very fine birds” which he was able to keep as prizes. Artillery target shooting competitions were also a common occurrence in Toronto. In 1847 the Toronto Independent Artillery Company staged a firing competition which elicited cheers from the “many spectators within the garrison”.

Participating in team games and sports also gave officers the opportunity to mix with the elite and integrate themselves into the local community. In York, this included the popular English game of cricket, with local roots at the Home District Grammar School, founded in 1807, and the Toronto Cricket Club formed in 1827. On at least one occasion in 1837 the garrison common was chosen as the playing ground for a match between the Toronto Cricket Club and the fort's officers.

After 1837, cricket matches were held at *Caer Howell* near the site of today's Princess Margaret Hospital (*Caer* from the Welsh word for citadel and *Howell* after the Welsh ancestors of the property's original owner, William Dummer Powell). In June of 1845, *Caer Howell* would be the venue for a match between the Toronto Garrison and Upper Canada College; in July of that year, the Toronto Garrison vs. Yonge St.; in 1846 Toronto vs. the Toronto Garrison and; in 1852, Toronto vs. the Military Officers of Canada.

Another sport popular among the local elite and the officers was the English country blood sport known as the fox chase. Equestrian pursuits would rank highly among officers and soldiers as a test of courage, athleticism and riding skill – all of which easily translates to the battlefield. One such event took place in February of 1801 when several members of York society, including Robert Gray, the solicitor general, dined at the blockhouse before joining the officers in pursuing the *beast of the chase*.

Whether they were chasing foxes, shooting fowl or catching salmon in Garrison Creek, hunting and fishing were among the most popular of sporting activities for the fort's inhabitants. In her diary Mrs. Simcoe mentions an ingenious combination: “Mr. Pilkington shot a sturgeon” while Gilbert Elliot writes of his hunting expeditions on the garrison common where he would shoot snipe “which make their appearance on small bits of toast in the morning”. Fort York's archaeological record includes examples of fish hooks, faunal remains of indigenous species and other evidence of a lively culture of game hunting and fishing. One of the more curious objects is the bone from a passenger pigeon, extinct game birds once so plentiful that they darkened the skies for hours during migration. Soldiers standing on the fort's walls were able to knock them out of the sky with sticks or, as was the case at Fort George in Niagara, sticks with musket balls tied to the end.

The sports field was also one of the few places where officers, NCOs and other ranks could stand in positions of equality. In March of 1801, Sergeant George Purvis of the Queen's Rangers entered a horse race against Mr. McNab, who had been a lieutenant in the Queen's Rangers Dragoons during the American Revolution. Purvis won, no doubt gaining the approbation of his colleagues as well as bragging rights. Whether or not a purse of monies was also offered up, we may never know, but McNab and Purvis were engaging in a time-honoured equestrian activity which would evolve into an annual Toronto event hosted by the City of Toronto and Home District Turf Club Races.

By 1841, the St. Leger Course was the venue for the Club Races. Located on land owned by the Boultons, it was situated opposite the present-day site of the Art Gallery of Ontario. The event was open to officers on full pay in Her Majesty's Militia or Regular Service who had to provide their own horses. The Garrison Plate of £7 10s was the prize for the officer who could complete the mile-and-a-half course in the best time. Unfortunately, Sergeant Purvis would not have qualified, nor was he likely to have been able to afford the £5 entry fee.

Sporting events also provided the garrison with the opportunity to maintain good relations with civilian society. This was of particular value during the Rebellion period, 1837-1841. In 1838 the 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders) Regiment of Foot arrived in Toronto to relieve the Canadian militia and provide a strong military presence in the provincial capital. During their years in Toronto the 93rd would establish an annual sporting event known as "The Gathering". This is a reference to the traditional clan gatherings and highland games proscribed by the English after 1745 which, like other aspects of Scottish culture, would enjoy a renaissance during the reign of Queen Victoria.

An 1841 newspaper account describes the various games which comprised The Gathering in October of that year, as well as the winners, both military and civilian. Games include the running long leap, running hitch and kick, one mile foot race, sack race, putting heavy ball, putting light ball, wrestling, rifle shooting and several others. The event concluded with a pig race which was won by a soldier of the 43rd who was seen "carrying the prize off the field with great glee". The friendly competition and good faith that appears to have been engendered by this annual Gathering, no doubt helped the officers and soldiers of the 93rd to establish their presence in the community and represent the British government in a positive light. As an affirmation of cultural identity, the celebration of Scottish heritage would also raise the morale of Highland units like the 93rd.

For the military, athletic pursuits often embodied ideals of masculine toughness and strength. The inevitability of soldiers hurling cannon balls in a display of physical strength could only lead to the development of a sporting event. Shot put is one example of a sport whose origins are military and we know both from the preceding account of the Highland games, as well as from the accompanying illustration, that it was a pastime engaged in by soldiers



Militia soldiers "putting heavy ball" as depicted in this sketch by Henri Julien. (CIN, XIII, No. 12, 18 Mar. 1876, p 185)

who garrisoned Fort York.

The Canadian winter offered games in which the fort's officers were eager participants. Skating, curling and sleighing are all mentioned regularly in Lt. Elliot's letters home. The latter excited particular interest in the young officer as it provided the opportunity for flirtation, however sophomoric, with the ladies of Toronto, viz.:

Last week we had great fun on the ice when all the ladies made their appearance, some skating, others walking, the walkers all expected to be pulled about the ice on small sleighs by the gentlemen, I succeeded in upsetting more of the fair sex than most people; it was a most absurd sight to see the whole ice covered with little sleighs containing one or two ladies with men harnessed to them; the great object seemed, to upset them as often as possible by shooting them out.

Whatever the nature of the game, there is no doubt that sport contributed immeasurably to life at Fort York for officers, soldiers and their families. Recognizing the positive effects of sport, authorities would continue to foster a



John Downman was a lieutenant in the 83rd Regiment stationed at Toronto in 1842-43 when he painted his fellow officers, some with lady-friends, enjoying driving on the Bay. It was not published until 1853. (credit: Toronto Reference Library, T 13382)

culture of friendly competition that, by the 20th century, would lead to the establishment of regimental sports days, sports officers responsible for the oversight and organization of team games, and by 1918 an Army Sport Control Board to organize sports throughout the army.

Ken Purvis, formerly Historic Fort York's Senior Program Officer, is currently the Museum Coordinator at Montgomery's Inn, Etobicoke.

Bread and Butter Pudding

by Bridget Wranich, Food Program Officer at Fort York

Today, bread and butter puddings have once again become popular because of their inexpensive ingredients and comforting flavour and texture. You can vary this recipe by substituting a fruit bread or brioche and adding a little cream. This pudding was served at the Directors' Dinner of the Friends of Fort York on 21 November 2009.

Original Recipe:

Get a penny-loaf and cut it into thin slices of bread and butter as you do for tea; butter your dish as you cut them, lay slices all over the dish, then strew a few currants clean washed and picked, then a row of bread and butter, then a few currants clean washed and picked, then a row of bread and butter, then a few currants, and so on till all your bread and butter is in; then take a pint of milk, beat up four eggs, a little salt, half a nutmeg grated; mix all together with sugar to your taste; pour this over the bread, and bake it half an hour: puff paste under does best. You may put in two-spoonfuls of rosewater.

Glasse, Hannah. *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy*. London: facsimile of the 1796 edition, (Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1971, with an introduction by Fanny Craddock), 252-3.

Modern Equivalent:

6 oz	white bread, sliced thinly with the crusts removed	
250 ml	butter for bread and buttering dish	1/2 cup
75 ml	currants, plumped	1/3 cup
500 ml	whole milk	2 cups
4	eggs	4
1 ml	salt	1/4 tsp
5 ml	nutmeg, grated	1 tsp
75 ml	white sugar	1/3 cup
30 ml	rosewater	2 tbsps

Butter the bread on one side, *as you would for tea*. Place one layer of bread on the bottom of a 13" x 9" (33 cm x 23 cm) buttered baking dish and sprinkle half of the currants over top. Place a second layer of buttered bread over top and sprinkle with the remaining currants. Beat the eggs with the milk and add the salt, nutmeg, sugar and rosewater. Pour mixture over the bread and bake at 350 ° F (180 ° C) for 30 minutes.

This recipe is from the Mess Establishment in the Officers' Brick Barracks.

2010 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Richard Haynes, Site Co-ordinator at Fort York

DECEMBER

Holiday Closure

The Fort will be closed from December 18th, re-open 2 January 2010.

JANUARY

Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball:

Queen Charlotte Honours the Hanoverians

Sat. January 23, 1 to 10:30 pm

Afternoon Dance Workshops and Presentation by Robert Henderson; German food tasting; Elegant Georgian Buffet Supper and Evening Ball with Live Musicians. Costumes Welcome.

Once again, Fort York comes to life for this annual extravaganza marking the birthday of Queen Charlotte. Entertaining in the Canadas in the late 18th and early 19th centuries always included a ball for the Queen's birthday. Our day-long celebration of music, food, and dance is inspired by this tradition. The presentation, *From the Royal Court to Canada: The Impact of Germans on Regency Society*, is by Robert Henderson, former military curator for Canada's National Historic Sites.

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

Come for the full day (\$100: \$95.23+\$4.77 gst), or attend only the Presentation and Dance Workshop (\$25: \$23.80+ \$1.20 gst), the German food tasting (\$20: \$19.04+\$0.96 gst), or the Supper and Ball (\$65: \$61.90+\$3.10 gst)

FEBRUARY

Family Day

Mon. February 15, 10 am to 3 pm

Drop in for a tour of the Fort and a cup of old-fashioned hot chocolate from the historic kitchen.

Regular admission

Mad for Marmalade, Crazy for Citron! *This event is presented in conjunction with the Culinary Historians of Ontario*

Sat. February 27, 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

\$25 in addition to regular admission for CHO members, Volunteer Cooks, and Friends of Fort York; \$27 in addition to regular admission for non-members

MARCH

March through Time, during March Break

Mon. to Fri. March 15 to 19, 10 am to 3 pm daily

The Fort's annual event for kids returns during this school break. Drop-in activities for children, ages 3-12. Dress up, crafts, sword drill, stories and more. History of Fort York and Toronto theme.

No registration required, regular admission

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

 **HISTORIC FORT YORK**
THE BIRTHPLACE OF TORONTO

Regular admission to Fort York is Adult: \$8 (\$7.62 + GST); Senior (65+): \$4 (\$3.81 + GST); Youth (13 - 18 yrs.): \$4 (\$3.81 + GST); Children: \$3 (\$2.85 + GST)

Graphic Design by Arena Design