

# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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## Sleighing Soldiers: The Toronto Tandem Club

by Kevin Plummer

“Success attend us, and conduce / To make our winter gay, / And may our Club the seeds produce / Of many a happy day.” Such was the *raison d'être* of the Toronto Tandem Club, as announced at its first outing by Major Frederick Markham, hero of the attack on the *Patriotes* at St. Denis in 1837. Markham was typical of the sports-loving British soldiers who thought, during the long winter months spent in Canada, there was nothing better than racing around town and gliding swiftly across frozen waterways in tandem sleighs. Tandem clubs were formed wherever the British were garrisoned in the nineteenth century—Quebec, Montreal, Halifax, and Toronto—becoming such a defining feature of winter in colonial Canada that the associated equipment merited inclusion in the Canadian exhibit at the Great Exhibition held at London's Crystal Palace in 1851.

What made Toronto's club unique was that, during the winters of 1839–40 and 1840–41, its members immortalized their adventures in verse, published as *Proceedings of the Toronto Tandem Club* (H&W Rowsell Printers, 1841 [http://archive.org/details/cihm\\_62461](http://archive.org/details/cihm_62461))—making the Tandem Club not only one of the city's earliest sporting clubs but also among its earliest literary societies. The poetry—which has so little to recommend it that even club members admitted it was “doggerel”—is dense with foggy, antiquated allusions. The identities of club members were obscured—each referred to only by the nickname given his sleigh—and are only made certain by the inclusion of a key published in the *Proceedings* (and handwritten annotations in the margins of several copies of that document).

Club membership was drawn principally from the officer ranks of the 32nd (Cornwall) Regiment of Foot and, after its arrival at Toronto in May 1840, the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot, as well as from the assortment of other officers stationed in Toronto. The 32nd and the 34th had both been stationed in British North America for most of the 1830s, in Lower Canada and the Maritimes respectively, prior to seeing action in putting down the Rebellions in the Canadas. After the Battle of Pelee Island—in which both the 32nd and the 34th were active—the regiments' time at Toronto was quieter, mostly

spent drilling colonial militia, as the tensions abated in the colonies. The membership rolls were filled out with select locals drawn particularly from the town's loyal conservative faction, including Captain James McGill Strachan, the Bishop's eldest son who'd served with the 68th (Durham) Regiment of Foot until returning to Toronto in 1836 to become a barrister and military secretary to the governor during the Rebellion; young lawyer and municipal politician of rising influence William Henry Boulton, who was acquainted with several younger club members through their common initiation into the Masons during this same period; the jovial Irish brothers of Erindale, Major Thomas William Magrath and Captain James Magrath, both officers of the 1st Battalion of Incorporated Militia; and their Dragoon Cornet, Charles Heath, who would come to be closely linked by marriage to the Boulton family. Most of these locals were well-acquainted with the soldiers through involvement in organizing summertime horse races on the Garrison Common under the auspices of the Toronto Turf Club.



In 1841, Lieutenant Charles John Colville (1818–1903) of the 85th Light Infantry made this watercolour sketch at Toronto of a gentleman readying two horses to be hitched in tandem fashion (one behind the other) to a sleigh. Credit: City of Toronto, Museum Services, 1970.330.19A

Gathering as often as weather (and duty) allowed during the winter months, club members most frequently assembled at Osgoode Hall—in use as a barracks from 1837 to 1844—or outside the Parliament building. In trains sometimes a dozen sleighs deep, the officers raced through town with “reckless speed,” challenging each other to go faster and faster, taking corners hard, and testing each other’s driving skills. Lieutenant E. Talbot described a typical day: “And now a curious maze was run / Through streets most intricate, / And prodigies of skill were done / Till it was getting late.”

Excursions might begin by dashing up and down King Street, wreaking havoc through the market place, and sliding across the ice of Lake Ontario—following whatever route was charted by the President assigned for that outing. “Away they go, and in and out,” Lieutenant Charles John Colville of the the 85th Regiment of Light Infantry (Bucks Volunteers), the club’s resident painter, contrived in January 1840, “Through street and lane, they wander; / Like snakes, they twine and twist about, / In wonderful meander.” They might race to the Magnetic Observatory and through the King’s College grounds, travelling as far as the Credit River in the west, across the Don in the east, and up to Sugar Loaf Hill near the present-day Prince Edward Viaduct. The *Proceedings* include copious references to extant and extinct landmarks in and around Toronto.

The Tandem Club, each member trying to outdo the other in extravagancies of dress or the handsomeness of his sleigh, made quite the scene around town. And naturally the dashing officers—most of them young and unattached—had no difficulty enticing the daughters of the local elite to join their sleighing parties. But while many “fair companions” surely hoped that huddling beneath bear-hide robes for warmth in the open sleigh might lead to matrimony with their gallant escorts—and the *Proceedings* recount at least one maiden’s jealous reaction to seeing another in a club tandem—the officers knew well that a colonial pairing would be frowned upon at home. Although almost every entry referenced female accompaniment—including the officers’ own wives, and married women of the town—the identities of most remain concealed beneath poetic references in the *Proceedings*, making it difficult to name all but a handful with certainty. Emily Robinson, eldest daughter of the Chief Justice, regularly joined Captain Osborne Markham; her sister Augusta who

likewise partook in the fun, eventually married club member Strachan; and a daughter of Francis Thomas Billings, treasurer of the Home District Savings Bank, who would shed tears for Captain R.W. Byron upon the departure of the troops.

The President’s responsibilities included organizing the day’s repast at a tavern—the Race Course Inn and Blue Bell Tavern, both on Queen Street west, and the “gaudy Peacock” on the Dundas Road were favourites—at the barracks, or at their own quarters in town. The lunches were extravagant, featuring hot pies, mutton chops, hashed venison, oyster patties, and ginger snaps. As members “quaff[ed] full many a toast” of champagne, flip, and hot mulled port, the President—having acted as Vice President during the previous outing and taken up the rear to better observe his fellow sleighers—would grandly recite the poem he had composed to commemorate that earlier outing’s comedies and the many ways the club made a nuisance of itself.

The poets boasted of boisterous late evening returns down King, of giving “no end of sleepless nights,” and of dashing through the gates of prominent citizens like Judge (later Chief Justice) Archibald McLean and Lieutenant-Governor Sir George Arthur, who had a reputation as a dour evangelical that disapproved of public amusement. The club’s harassment of the latter was allayed because Arthur’s son Frederick and his aide-de-camp (and future son-in-law) Lieutenant Compton Charles Domville were both members of the club.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Henry Wingfield, commanding officer of the 32nd, recounted Lieutenant Colville’s near-collision with Governor General Lord Sydenham and Ensign William Henry Baring, his aide-de-camp. “Had it not been for ready skill, / Which for all else atones, / He had paid off the Union Bill, / With disunited bones,” Wingfield said of Colville, with tongue-in-cheek reference to the controversial joining of Upper and Lower Canada. Almost every club excursion included at least one crash, often tipping on a tight turn or misjudging the width of a gate. They were regarded as great fun, even by female passengers—who were considered to have “earned [t]hy laurels” after their first tumble. Although broken sleds and bruised egos were the only casualties according to the *Proceedings*, the club eventually recruited a doctor to trail the party on watch for accidents.

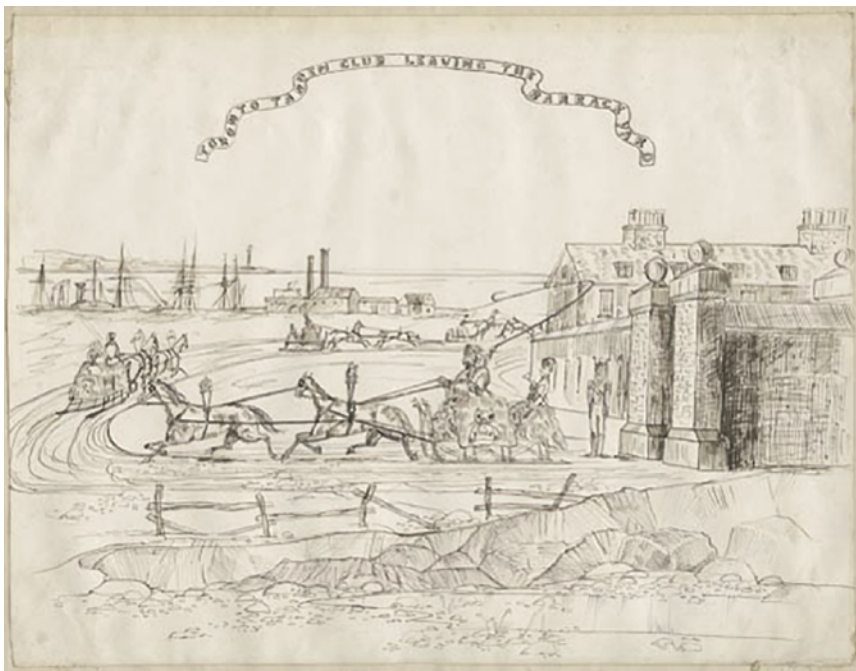


Charles Wallace Heath of “Deer Park,” Toronto, was a lieutenant in the 1st Incorporated Light Dragoons and member of the Toronto Tandem Club. A contemporary described him as “a very tall and remarkably fine-looking young man.” This portrait in watercolour was made in May, 1843, by Henry Bowyer Lane, a Toronto architect. Heath who later became a lawyer married Sarah Anne Boulton of “The Grange.”  
Credit: Lawrence Fine Art of Crewkerne



As beloved by local society as they might've been as officers, they earned criticism as coachmen. "Altho' I hear it has been said / Within the town by some wise head," Lieutenant F.H. Lang of the 34th admitted, "That we are ruining the nation / By this complete misapplication / Of draft I hope our Club will thrive, / And we may yet have many a drive." Local boys expressed their opinion by pelting the notorious club with snowballs as they glided past.

By February 19, 1841, the club's last official outing, it was apparent that the Tandem Club's days were numbered. Lieutenant Talbot expressed some officers' sadness at their impending departure: "Ah, [Boulton] can but little guess, / And few there are will ever know, / Our deep-felt grief and wretchedness, / Our utter misery and woe, / When we are forced to leave this place / To sail for England's milder shore, / Regretting many a pretty face / Whom we perhaps shall see no more." That spring, the 34th and few remaining members of the 32nd removed to Quebec and beyond. While former Tandem Club members distinguished themselves in India and Crimea in the next decades, it is certain that the club's spirit was kept alive by other horsing enthusiasts in the city.



Toronto Tandem Club Leaving the Barrack Yard is probably another sketch by Lieutenant Colville. On the right is the Royal Engineers' office and yard at the foot of Peter Street, Toronto. Beyond, on the lakeshore, stand the pump house and chimney stacks of the Toronto Waterworks. Since the latter dates from 1843, the sketch shows that the Tandem Club continued in some form after 1841. Credit: Neil MacDonald

Kevin Plummer co-authors a weekly local history column on Torontoist <http://torontoist.com/tag/historicist/>.



## 200 YEARS AGO

WE WOULD HAVE ASKED YOU TO ENLIST.

## TODAY

### We're Only Asking You To Contribute

Fort York stood between the Americans and their annexation of Canada in the War of 1812. We're proud to be honouring that fact with the completion of the Visitor Centre at the Fort York National Historic Site in 2014.

Join The W. Garfield Weston Foundation in supporting the re-invigoration of our cultural heritage by making a contribution.

Fort York helped save our country, let's show our appreciation.

### Donate Now

Contact Susan Perren, Executive Director of the Fort York Foundation, [susan@fortyorkfoundation.ca](mailto:susan@fortyorkfoundation.ca)

or visit Canada Helps at [www.fortyorkfoundation.ca](http://www.fortyorkfoundation.ca)

# More To Be Pitied than Censured: Prostitution and the Toronto Garrison

by Victor Russell

It was late, nearly midnight, on 5 September 1865 when Mr. Attorney General John A. Macdonald stood in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada to present a bill entitled *An Act for the prevention of contagious diseases at certain Military and Naval stations in this province*. The act received royal assent on September 18 (29 Vic. 1865, C.8).

Macdonald was no doubt acting at the behest of British authorities. The previous summer, on 29 July 1864, the British Parliament had passed the first *Contagious Diseases Act*. That legislation and the subsequent bill in Canada originated with the military and both “were intended to control the high rates of venereal disease, namely syphilis and gonorrhoea, within the armed forces through the sanitary regulation of prostitutes.” Statistical evidence had convinced military leaders that something had to be done, not on moral grounds, but rather for two more practical reasons: the high cost of treatment and the loss of manpower due to illness. By 1860 the annual cost to the navy was calculated at more than £20,000 to treat sailors with venereal disease. As for the British army scattered around the world, one of every three army hospital patients was said to suffer from a venereal complaint.

Toronto had always been a garrison town and like other outposts of the British Empire, the local garrison too suffered from a high incidence of venereal disease. It was estimated that between 1837 and 1847 more than 25 per cent of soldiers admitted to the military hospital here suffered from sexually transmitted diseases. By 1859, the number had grown to 42 per cent.

Prostitution had been a fact of life in Toronto virtually from its founding. As early as January 1804, Elizabeth Ellis and her husband Stephen were arrested for operating a “bawdy house”

in a town with a garrison of 200 and a population of just 400. Mr. Ellis was not prosecuted, but Mrs. Ellis received a harsh sentence indeed: six months in the jail and two, two-hour sessions in the pillory on market days. Nevertheless, by the 1830s, notorious women such as “Steam Boat Mary” openly plied their trade on York Street near the waterfront and in

1834 the city’s first mayor, William Lyon Mackenzie, became embroiled in controversy when he sentenced two prostitutes to jail. In 1847, Toronto mayor and Tory luminary, William Henry Boulton of “The Grange,” became the victim of innuendo and controversy when a man named Daniel Bloxson was arrested for keeping a bawdy house. Turns out, Mayor Boulton owned the house and political opponents quickly accused him of living off the avails of prostitution.

Police and Police Court records for the mid-nineteenth century indicate that prostitution (euphemistically labelled “disorderly conduct”) was by far the most common offence of the period with hundreds of charges per year. In 1840 Charles Daly, clerk of the peace for Toronto, reported that 317 cases of “disorderly

conduct (whores, rogues and vagabonds)” were tried in the Mayor’s Court. By 1857 the number of “disorderly” arrests involving women had increased to 675 with an additional forty-four cases of women charged with “keeping a disorderly house.”

Typically, the women plied their trade by patrolling certain infamous streets, operating or occupying a bawdy house, or more commonly, “touring” open spaces on the edges of town. Extending over some 500 acres in 1851 the Garrison Common, close to the Fort with its hundreds of potential customers, was an ideal location for such activity. Not surprisingly (as noted by Aldona Sendzikas in *Stanley Barracks* [see *Fife and Drum* July 2011]) the Garrison



George Morland's depiction of lovers parting captures the sacrifice made by British soldiers posted abroad. Only six wives in a hundred, selected by lottery, were allowed to accompany their husbands; the rest stayed home. Couples lived together in the barracks, where the women took care of washing, cooking, and sewing. Hence, most soldiers functioned as single men.  
Credit: Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University, Providence, RI

Common became “one of the most frequently patrolled areas of Toronto by constables in search of disorderly characters” and most of those arrested were women. On one patrol in August 1850, nine women were removed from the Common to jail.

By the 1860s the pattern of “disorderly conduct” continued as women were routinely arrested on or near the Common. For example in August 1864, Annie Chetanaw and Elizabeth Stuart, “two girls of the town,” were arrested near the Garrison and sent to jail for four months. That same month, Mary Charley was arrested “out near the Crystal Palace,” on the northern edge of the Common.

Throughout the period, officials were vigilant about the women frequenting this area. A case in point: in early June 1864, Casimir S. Gzowski, president of the Toronto Rifle Association, announced that arrangements were well underway for a week-long shooting competition to be held on the Garrison Common. The night before the big event, on the evening of June 20, local constables did their part to prepare for the arrival of participants and dignitaries by arresting “a portion of the frequenters of the garrison common.” That is, they arrested the prostitutes that regularly trolled there for customers.

The following day, as the visitors arrived and competition began, Mary Lee, Ellen Hill, Mary Ann Smith, and Ellen Blore (sic) appeared in Police Court on the other side of town before Magistrate George Boomer on a charge of disorderly conduct. To ensure that the ladies of the Garrison Common were out of the way for the big event, Boomer sentenced them to four months in jail.

To a large degree, an unabashed double standard prevents a more accurate account of the activity of the soldiers on the Common or their interaction with the prostitutes. There is a famous (or infamous) incident in June 1849 when a group of soldiers of the Rifle Brigade protected the women by attacking three constables sent to round up them up. While female “frequenters” of the Garrison Common regularly appear in Police Court, garrison soldiers were not charged unless unduly “rowdy.”

To be sure, the men were involved in the street life of the city and from time to time would show up in Police Court for various offences. This was especially evident during the 1860s when the garrison had increased to some 1,200 men. For example in August 1864 James Cleary of the 16th Regiment was arrested for “insulting females” on the street outside a tavern. That same month, John Lovedon, a private in the 16th, was arrested on Palace Street for being drunk and disorderly. A month later, Michael Malone of the 16th was arrested for disorderly conduct and appeared in Police Court with his sergeant. Typically, these cases were discharged by the magistrate and the prisoner released—no doubt to face military discipline.

While it appears that local military authorities tolerated the women as long as they remained on the periphery of the Common, there were cases of military personnel taking action. In May 1867 Eliza Nolan “an old offender” was apprehended by police “near the military quarters” on a complaint by Gunner Smith of the Royal Artillery; similarly Margaret McLeod “an abandoned girl” was arrested “as a disorderly” after a complaint by Sergeant Webster of the 17th; in July 1868, Minnie Logan and Mary Waybrant appeared in Police Court after being arrested by the military police.

Soon after its implementation in Great Britain the *Contagious Diseases Act* encountered widespread disapproval, especially from women’s groups, including one led by Florence Nightingale. Eventually, their opposition would force the non-renewal of the act. In Canada, the act was never implemented, in part because of the inherent confusion over who would administer it. The fact that the act was ignored here may also have stemmed from moral objections to what could be seen as the legalization of prostitution. While intended to curb venereal disease in the military, the act made no attempt to regulate the behavior of the soldiers. Rather, the military proposed invasive controls on a sector of the civilian population—the prostitutes. To some extent it was a tacit recognition that the soldiers would continue to employ prostitutes (nine out of ten soldiers were young bachelors) and a reflection of the military’s belief that the best way to limit venereal disease was to license prostitutes and subject them to medical examination. Critics argued that this amounted to legalization along the “French model.” George Brown of the *Globe* professed moral outrage following a Grand Jury Pronouncement in 1866 that suggested a similar model to deal with prostitution in Toronto. Brown railed against the notion of the regulation of prostitution and ended his editorial: “God forbid that any City of Canada shall ever front prostitution otherwise than a crime against God and man.”

In the event, for the soldiers, the prostitutes, and the courts, it remained business as usual until 1870 when British troops were withdrawn from Canada.

*Victor Russell is the former Manager of the City of Toronto Archives and the author of a number of books and articles on the history of Toronto.*



# *A Monument of Neglect: Commemorating the Centennial of the War of 1812 in Toronto, Part 2: 1913–14*

by David Roberts

With the failure of many commemorative initiatives in Toronto in 1912, little momentum carried into 1913. There was the laying of wreaths on Empire Day in May at the Queen's Park portrait of Laura Secord (the heroine of Beaver Dams) and at the monument to the soldiers of 1812–14, erected in 1902 at Victoria Square by the Army and Navy Veterans, who had a long interest, from at least the 1880s, in the war's cemeteries and battlefields. As a major publishing centre, Toronto also saw a number of war-related works in 1913–14. *The Battle of York*, by F. Barlow Cumberland, an imperially minded shipping executive, was the only one that dealt primarily with Toronto. What other commemorative interests then were displayed by Torontonians or in Ontario's capital?

Not all observed the anniversary locally. In October 1912 many enthusiasts and dignitaries had travelled to Niagara to celebrate Brock's victory at Queenston, an event recounted by archivist Alexander Fraser in 1913. In that year thousands went to mark the victories at Stoney Creek and Crysler's Farm (east of Morrisburg) and in June 1914 the Canada Steamship Lines ran trips from Toronto to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where excursionists viewed "relics of 1812" and other attractions. The following month, jubilant groups, among them Laura Secord's cultish devotees, went from Toronto to Lundy's Lane and Beaver Dams for celebrations at these famous Niagara battle sites. In Toronto remembrance could also be shaped by living memory: with numerous local veterans of the North-West uprising of 1885 still alive in May 1913, fêting the battle of Batoche had a vibrant core.

An obvious focus in Toronto in 1913 was the anniversary of the battle of York, fought on 27 April 1813. The event was marked by Cumberland's enthusiastic booklet, which received a little advertisement in the *Globe*. At best, most local dailies and weeklies published only small articles or notices on the Centennial, with no mentions of the old fort's fate. The *Mail and Empire's* piece appeared in the "Romance of the Past: Stories Gathered from the History of Toronto and Its Environs," a column by "E.L.M." Far more prominent was the illustrated, two-page spread written for John Ross Robertson's *Evening Telegram* by Lyman B. Jackes, then an aspiring young journalist. The original manuscript of York's capitulation, on display at the Toronto Public Library, was reproduced in the *Telegram* on 28 April. As well, Robertson commissioned a panoramic painting of the battle by Owen Staples, part of a group intended for display at City Hall.

By and large, British defeats were not popular for commemorations throughout Ontario in 1912–14. Newspaper coverage understandably centred more on current news,

such as the hunger strike of militant suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst in England and ominous tensions in Europe following the first Balkan War.

Locally, interest in the 1812 war waned after April 1913. Cumberland would die on 1 September. His booklet was the proposed beginning of a centennial series on the war by the William Briggs firm, but nothing followed. Quickly outdated, *The Battle of York* is riddled with historical inaccuracies and bias. Still, as a noble mission of commemoration, it unapologetically promoted the defence of York, "our Upper Canada field of Abraham," and the campaign in 1913 to restore the the old fort and maintain it "as a national monument," overcoming public neglect. Indeed, restoration of the fort was the main effort carried over from 1912, only to falter before bureaucratic disinterest and the requirements of an all-engrossing new war.

In 1912, under pressure from various historical groups, the city, which had taken over the site, had committed to restoring the dilapidated fort to commemorate the War of 1812. But in 1913 only some repair work was accomplished, just as commemorative events elsewhere in the province were grandly unfolding. By 1914, with ongoing financial quibbling in city council, new gates had been erected and some more repairs were undertaken by the city. With Cumberland gone, most of the supplication was made by Major William A. Collins, the public-spirited, long-time president of the local Army and Navy Veterans' Association, who equally understood the needs of the army.

Since buildings were still in use by the ordnance department, the use of the fort and grounds for martial purposes gained priority as war clouds darkened. In August 1914, after the outbreak of World War I overseas, the city formally turned over to the military the road through the fort, which had serviced the CNE's eastern entrance. Troop assembly and the guarding of ordnance now took precedence. Erecting telephone poles and restoration work such as strengthening floors were geared to military ends rather than conservation. By the fall city staff, reflecting the mindset of many on council, were stating that budget estimates were meant to maintain the fort merely as a park or to meet military exigencies.

As Canada cast itself as a dominion at war, interest in the long-ago conflict of 1812–14 faded. An article on naval battles by Mrs. M. E. Harlow in *Maclean's* (Toronto) in December 1913 was a rare return to the yarns of 1812–14. In March 1914 W. R. Riddell, a judge known for his provocative opinions, felt at liberty to characterize the War

of 1812–14, the *Star* reported, “as the most inhumane and unnecessary in history.” Periodic references to the struggle in the Toronto press ranged from explanations of current war policy to the “memories” of three local lawyers whose British grandfather had survived the conflict’s last battle at New Orleans. If there was any commemorative continuity, it was provided by J. R. Robertson and the Army and Navy Veterans. The single most important celebratory project in Toronto, Fort York, would have to wait more than a decade for forgetfulness to dispel and restoration to resume.

Paradoxically, the most lasting reminder in Toronto of the 1812 Centennial was the founding of Laura Secord Candy Shops by Frank O’Connor. He opened his first outlet on Yonge Street on 20 October 1913 and named it for a woman whose reputation had become synonymous with Canadian heroism. The company was incorporated in November 1916 during the Great War, thus moving Laura from one patriotic front to another.

*A former editor and historian with the Dictionary of Canadian Biography/Dictionnaire biographique du Canada, David Roberts lives in Scarborough.*



*In prim black and white livery with lace-curtained windows filled with trays of chocolates, Laura Secord shops were designed to stand out from their more sombre neighbours. The one at Bay and Adelaide streets in Toronto, seen here in 1927, operated until the mid-1950s. Beyond, at the head of Bay Street, is the clock tower on City Hall and a turret on the Foresters’ Temple Building.*

*Credit: City of Toronto Archives/TTC fonds, Series 71, item 4848, Apr. 27, 1927*

## *Bicentennial Timeline: January to March 1813*

**Jan. 1** Commenting on the war which “the American Fanatic is making on us,” the editor of *The Upper Canada Almanac for the Year of Our Lord 1813* praised “our gallant yeomanry, our regular troops, and our native warriors.”

**Jan. 1** “The Boy’s New Year’s Gift / Etrennes du Garçon” offered readers of the *Quebec Gazette / Gazette de Québec* a long poem “sketching in retrospective rhymes / Recent events in these portentous times.”

**Jan. 2** To recruit sharpshooters the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles promised volunteers a bounty of four guineas and a complete suit of regimental clothing (*Kingston Gazette*).

**Jan. 14** The “Effects of the late Major General Brock,” including silver, furniture, livestock, wine, and books, were sold at auction in York.

**Jan. 23** Lt. Col. Ralph Bruyeres, the Commanding Royal Engineer in the Canadas, arrived in York on an inspection tour. His notes and observations made then would have served well ten months later when he returned to lay out the rebuilding of Fort York following its destruction by US forces in April 1813.

**Jan. 28** Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* was published.

**Feb. 1/3** After much delay the keel for the frigate HMS *Sir Isaac Brock* was laid on the lakeshore just west of Bay Street.

**Feb. 5** William Berczy, Upper Canada’s first professional portraitist, a self-trained architect, author, colonizer, and founder of Markham, died in New York City.

**Feb. 16-21** New Brunswick’s 104th Regiment set off from Fredericton on its famous snowshoe march to Quebec, travelling 350 miles in twenty-four days. Numbering 564 men, eleven of them buglers, the regiment was inspected on 18 March. They left Quebec for Fort Henry later that month, another 350 miles. The 104th would see action at Sackets Harbor, Black Rock, and Lundy’s Lane.

**Mar. 5** Casimir Gzowski was born at St. Petersburg, Russia. Trained as an engineer, he constructed the Grand Trunk Railway from south of Fort York west to Georgetown and Guelph in 1853–56.

**Mar. 20** The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, about 160 officers and men who had been deployed to help in Upper Canada, arrived in York where they distinguished themselves soon after in the Battle of York.

**Mar. 23** The ‘Patriotic young Ladies of York’ presented colours they had embroidered to the 3rd Regiment of York Militia. Now restored, these will be on display in the Visitor Centre at Fort York.



*William Berczy, self-portrait in watercolour, c. 1798–99. Credit: AGO, acc.81/544, Gift of John Andre, 1981*

## *What The Friends of Fort York Do: Our Accomplishments for 2012*

- organized on-site parking for a final season before responsibility was transferred to the Toronto Parking Authority. For over a decade our operations have enabled as many as thirty-five students each year to earn money for their education, working either as parking attendants or Guardsmen (whose wages we pay in large part).
- posted our new website in May. Since then it has had almost 30,000 hits and attracted more than 125 people to subscribe to our *Fife and Drum* newsletter or join The Friends.
- assisted through a link on our website with the recruitment of seventy-five new volunteers who made their debut at Luminato.
- fielded a paid Guard of twenty young men and women plus six volunteers under age sixteen. The Guard travelled to Fort George for the Soldiers' Field Day Drill Competition, and was assisted with costs to go to Queenston on October 13 for a grand re-enactment of the battle where Sir Isaac Brock fell in 1813.
- provided Guards of Honour for the Garrison Ball in January and the visit of HRH Prince Charles and PM Stephen Harper to the Fort York Armoury in May.
- published five numbers of our *Fife and Drum* newsletter and e-mailed it to more than 3300 addresses. Included were articles on the Fort York Armoury, the Centennial of the War of 1812, and Barrack Master Henry Evatt.
- organized another successful Georgian Dinner for ninety-six people featuring dishes of 200 years ago, many prepared by the Fort's Volunteer Cooks and served in the style of the period. Profits from the dinner support the Fort York Guard.
- celebrated the spectacular installation of *The Encampment* as part of Luminato in June; also welcomed other events organized by the City of Toronto's 1812 Bicentennial Committee to animate this special year.
- advertised Fort York in four issues of *Spacing* magazine, building on a series initiated in 2008.
- helped sponsor two Canadian citizenship ceremonies where some eighty people received their certificates.
- copied for the record photo albums of activities from 2001 to 2011 loaned to us by a long-serving FY Guardsman.
- held board meetings monthly, and turned out at every special event and function held at the fort.
- continued to support the site's Resource Centre by finishing catalogue of the slide collection; by adding to the shelves a large bequest of military books from former MPP Donald C. MacDonald; and by producing the first draft of an index for *The Fife and Drum*.
- sponsored three Parler Fort events during the spring.
- welcomed three new directors to our board and saw four others retire. We intend to fill the one vacant place on our board with a colleague having an accounting background.
- held a Directors' Dinner in April for current and former directors of The Friends and Foundation and FY staff.
- nominated several of our past and current board members and senior staff to receive Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals; seven are known to have been honoured.
- co-operated with Ryerson University graduate students in their study of possible uses for the Fort York Armoury when National Defence no longer has need for it, and turns it back to the City.
- continued a watching brief on issues related to development in the fort's precinct, particularly along Niagara Street and in the Ordnance Street lands off Strachan Avenue. A Precinct Advisory Committee, established to help us, functioned only intermittently.
- advised the Site Administrator on the placement of existing and new flagpoles in a relandscaping of the site concurrent with the building of the Visitor Centre.



Panorama of The Encampment installation at Fort York during Luminato 2012.  
Credit: Taku Kumabe, [www.smaku.com](http://www.smaku.com).



*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

## Administrator's Report

*by David O'Hara, Site Administrator*

2012 has certainly proved to be the busy year we all expected. In addition to our regular roster of programs and events we were able to add new offerings throughout the year. Most recently, we scheduled more than sixteen special event days in October, including the tremendously successful food symposium "Best Before 1812." In November we hosted one of two annual Citizenship Ceremonies and at least 900 attended our Remembrance Day memorial. The year comes to a close with the Fort York Frost Fair on December 8–9 and programming throughout the weeks of December 15–31.

An expansion of activities, combined with the efforts of our staff and volunteers, has resulted in a significant increase in attendance in 2012. Staff worked hard to keep up with a calendar booked for school groups; the Canteen's success continues; and our site rentals have increased significantly throughout the year. Largely as a result of the efforts of Kristine Williamson, Museum Outreach Officer, Fort York hosted several unique events in 2012. These included the 2012 Bliss Ball, where the Dilawri Foundation raised more than \$1 million for the Sick Kids Foundation; it featured Grammy and Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson, Steven Page, and Martin Sheen. Other occasions were Diner en Blanc, many smaller private bookings, and five successful concerts on Garrison Common.

Those attending recent events at Fort York might have noticed our new team of front line volunteers—our 'Garrison Greeters' and 'Heritage Hosts.' This new program

was developed then launched as a result of our ongoing partnership with the Evergreen Foundation and thanks to the financial support of RBC. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Cathy Martin, has done a wonderful job recruiting and training over 100 volunteers to assist during special events. As we move into 2013, and with the Visitor Centre opening in 2014, the roles filled by our volunteers are becoming increasingly important (visit [www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca) for more information).

In 2012 restoration work on the Stone Magazine was finally finished and an exhibit on Black Powder installed. Restoration work is also underway on both the Officers' Brick Barracks and the Brick Magazine. Early in 2013 our new interpretive and way-finding signs will be installed. The recent start of construction on the Visitor Centre has required the closure of our Fort York Boulevard entrance. This access will be closed for the duration of construction, requiring those arriving by vehicle to use the entrance at Fleet Street and Garrison Road. When the Visitor Centre opens in 2014 Fort York will be easier to find and easier to access. It will have a more visible street presence with the main entrance at 250 Fort York Boulevard.

Working with the Toronto Parking Authority, we have recently implemented a 'Pay and Display' parking system at Fort York. Given our location in downtown Toronto, with many other major tourist destinations in the vicinity and 6000 new units of housing to the immediate south, the need to implement such a system was pressing. The objective is to keep the small amount of parking that we have priced reasonably, but available at all hours. The majority of net revenues from the parking operation will be directed back towards programming at Fort York.



*Landscape Master Plan for Fort York National Historic Site. Prepared by DTAH, Toronto, 2012.*

Work on the Landscape Master Plan also continues. This Plan is the clearest way of demonstrating how all of the component pieces that are Fort York come together. They are the new Visitor Centre, the Fort York Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, a rehabilitated and expanded Garrison Common, the Strachan Avenue Cemetery, the interface with the Fort York Armoury, and the lands that extend under Bathurst

Street to CityPlace and to a new Toronto Public Library on the eastern boundary of the national historic site. Eventually, this assembly of pieces will make more sense as one coherent whole, providing a much stronger visual and physical presence for the fort and providing many more opportunities for interpretation of the site and its significance.

## Battle of Queenston Heights Re-enactment

On 13 October 2012 to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights, a grand re-enactment involving about 1000 soldiers and watched by an estimated 15,000 spectators took place on the very ground where Brock fell two centuries earlier. At least fifteen of the re-enactors were current or former members of the Fort York Guard.



Credit: Sid Calzavara and John L. Rogers

# 2013 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Kristine Williamson

## DECEMBER

### Holiday Season 2012

December 15 to December 31, 10 am to 4 pm on weekdays and 10 am to 5 pm on weekends

Enjoy a visit to Fort York National Historic Site this festive season. Sample some baking from the 1826 Officers' Mess kitchen and soak up the warmth of a crackling wood fire. Be sure to browse the Museum Store to find that special gift for all ages and interests.

Regular admission.

\*Fort York is closed December 25, 26, and January 1

## JANUARY

### Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball

Sat. January 19, 1 to 10:30 pm

Afternoon dance workshops, presentation by Jim Hill from Fort Erie, elegant Georgian inspired buffet supper and evening ball with live musicians. We encourage you to come in costume.

Admission for the day \$88.50 + tax.

Pre-registration required. Call 416-392-6907 x221.

## FEBRUARY

### Family Day

Mon. February 18, 11 am to 4:30 pm

Explore the history of Toronto and Fort York. Visit the Fort's historic kitchen to sample baking from the hearth. Hot chocolate and a roaring fire will make this visit memorable.

Regular admission.

### Mad for Marmalade, Crazy for Citrus!

Sat. February 23, 10 am to 3:30 pm

Join Fort York National Historic Site in partnership with the Culinary Historians of Canada for our fifth annual celebration of marmalade! Enjoy a marmalade themed workshop, lunch, and tastings, or enter the Marmalade Competition. Your ticket includes a tour of Fort York.

Admission \$50 + tax. Pre-registration required.

For more information call 416-392-6907 x225 or to register x221.

## MARCH

### Fort York War of 1812 March Break

Mon. to Fri. March 11 to 15, 10 am to 3 pm

Bring the kids down to the fort during March Break for some fun-filled activities. Families can learn about Fort York and the War of 1812 through colourful exhibits, costumed education staff, tours, and 1812-related activities. Children can dress up, try cooking in the kitchen, practice musket and sword drills like an 1812 soldier, or learn about music from the War of 1812. Timed and ongoing activities offer education and entertainment for the whole family. Guides and audio tours are available in our Museum Store, which also carries a wide selection of souvenirs and books for all ages. This event is recommended for ages 3-12.

Regular admission. No registration required.

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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)