

# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 16 No.3 July 2012

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## *A Home for Heroes: The Fort York Armoury*

by Scott Weir

Completed in 1935, the Armoury at Fort York in Toronto follows the traditional programme for Canada's armouries but combines classical components in a modern form. It sits on a site leased from the City of Toronto on 1 Nov. 1932 for 99 years, and was constructed using an unusual arrangement of private mortgage financing to relieve the cash-strapped Government of Canada. Built to serve the five units of the 14th Infantry Brigade, it currently houses the Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment), the Royal Regiment of Canada, 32 Signal Regiment, and the Battle School of 32 Canadian Brigade Group, all of the Army Reserve.

A programme to erect armouries for the local militia was undertaken in Canada in the late 19th and early 20th century and resulted in more than 100 of them across the country. Eleven of these were constructed in Ontario, including one on University Avenue, Toronto, now demolished. Many during this period were designed by the Chief Architects for the Department of Public Works, Thomas Fuller and his successor David Ewart. Extant and intact examples include the Major FA Tilson VC Armoury in Windsor, the spectacular James Weir Foote Armoury in Hamilton, and the Peterborough Drill Hall. But few armouries apart from that at Fort York were constructed between the First and Second World Wars.

The building is enormous. It contains over 122,300 sq. ft (11,360 sq. metres) spread over four floors, with the drill hall on the ground floor itself occupying almost 30,000 sq. ft. (2750 sq. m.). Fleet Street was a fitting context for a statement on this scale. In the immediate vicinity stood striking new structures for Tip Top Tailors, Crosse and Blackwell, and Loblaws, all of which survive, and Maple Leaf Stadium, now demolished. In some ways the armoury was similar to the buildings of the nearby Canadian National Exhibition, particularly the Automotive and Electrical Buildings just inside the Princes' Gates.

Like the CNE buildings, its plan is formally organized around a large central space, enclosed by multiple levels of smaller rooms. The central space takes the form of a double height drill hall 125' x 138' encircled by a gallery at the second floor. In the basement originally were training rooms, locker rooms, a rifle range, service rooms, and a caretaker's apartment. The ground floor held the drill hall, company rooms, orderly rooms, and office canteen. The second floor perimeter contained officers' messes, sergeants' messes, drum rooms, lecture rooms, engineers' offices. And on the third, band rooms were combined with flat decks for open-air practice.



Fort York Armoury, Fleet Street entrance facing south. Credit: Laila MacDougall, ERA Architects Inc.

The armoury faces Fleet Street and parklands leading to Lake Ontario beyond. The arrangement of the broad façade reveals a *piano nobile* arrangement where the ground floor is subordinate to the second, shown through windows of different sizes, the presence of four second-floor French doors with metal balconies, and horizontal bands of stone indicating ceiling heights inside. The main entrance is flanked by a two-story Gibbsian surround of lightly-rusticated Queenston stone, and surmounted by the coat of arms then in use for the Dominion of Canada, carved by Sciortino of Architectural Ornaments Co. and picked out in colour. Similarly the French doors and their transoms are set within stone fields and are crowned by stone crests in the parapet representing the original four battalions and their supporting engineers.

At the time of construction articles on the building were published in both *The Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada* 12:10 (Oct 1935) pp 162-5 and *Engineering and Contract Record* 48:47 (21 Nov 1934) pp 987-9. They credit Marani, Lawson & Morris of Toronto as the architects; Harkness & Hertzberg, also of Toronto, as the structural engineers; and W. H. Yates Construction Co. of Hamilton as the general contractors. *The Mail and Empire*, 19 July 1933, reported that the design originated with Lieut-Col. Ferdinand Herbert Marani, Commanding Officer of the Toronto Regiment from 1932-1936. Marani's work demonstrated a mastery of classical architectural forms reinterpreted through the lens of modernism, seen also in his other projects like the Crown Life Insurance building at 120 Bloor St. E. (1953) and Bank of Canada at 250

University (1958), both in Toronto, and Bank of Canada, Ottawa (1937-38). In the armoury his restrained Edwardian classicism is overlaid with references from technology and the *art moderne* movement. Edwardian or Georgian architectural elements, like multi-paned sash windows and limited ornamental stonework, contrast with simple brick cladding. The red brick envelope is horizontally striated with dressed stone string coursing and banded rustication to emphasize the mass. The central drill hall is clad in pressed brick to the height of the 2nd floor gallery, with cinder block above.

The end gables of the parabolic roof recall an airplane hangar, a relatively new form at the time. The soaring lightness of the roof, built from British Columbia Douglas Fir timber, is expressed on the exterior. It is particularly effective when viewed from Strachan Ave. to the west, the delicacy of the broad arch hovering above a field of glazing.

The Fort York Armoury remains in use by the military. Throughout Canada many of these buildings continue to fill their original purpose, while others have been adapted to new uses because their well-built construction and broad spaces are ideal for modification to a variety of other functions.

*Scott Weir is a Principal at ERA Architects, Toronto, where he specializes in heritage conservation, with a particular interest in adaptive reuse, residential design, heritage planning, and advocacy for heritage buildings, cities, and the built environment. He has written on architecture and conservation for the Globe and Mail and the National Post.*

## *World-Class: The Armoury's Lamella Roof*

by Paul Gaurvreau

The roof of the Fort York Armoury is a barrel vault constructed entirely of wood. Its parabolic shape enables it to carry load with maximum efficiency. The structural system, commonly referred to as a lamella roof, consists of main members that span from one side of the vault to the other in two diagonal directions, thus forming a rhombic pattern. This arrangement allows the relatively slender members to act together, endowing the system with greater stiffness and stability than would be possible if the members all spanned along the shortest path.

This type of structure has been built in all of the major construction materials. The Italian engineer Pier Luigi Nervi, for example, designed several concrete lamella roofs for airplane hangars in the 1930s and 40s [1]. The system for constructing lamella roofs entirely of timber was invented and patented by the German Friedrich Zollinger in the 1920s [2]. His insight was to arrange the primary members such that exactly one of them was continuous across each corner of every diamond. This resulted in a simple, standard joint detail and enabled large roofs to be assembled from relatively small and light beams that could easily be handled by workmen on site without heavy equipment. This is confirmed by the photograph of the Armoury roof during construction, which

shows the structure being erected using only a relatively simple scaffolding that was advanced as the work progressed and, significantly, no large crane.

A distinctive feature of timber lamella roofs is their woven appearance. Along a given line of beams, the members appear to pass alternately under and over the members they intersect at the joints. This is a result of the shape of the individual beams, which are deeper in the middle than at the ends. The detail originates not from a preconceived architectural preference, but rather from the need to maintain the structural integrity of the beams as they pass through the joints. The Zollinger system connection requires that one or more holes be drilled through the middle of each member. Making the beams deeper in the middle enables these holes to be located away from the lower half of a given member, thus minimizing their impact on the capacity of the member to resist bending.

The roof of the Fort York Armoury stands out among other lamella roofs in several regards. Anecdotal evidence supports the claim that its clear span of 37.69 m (123 ft 8 in) is the longest in the world for this type of roof. It is certainly longer than the 36.36 m span of the Halle Münsterland (Germany), which was identified by German engineers as the longest



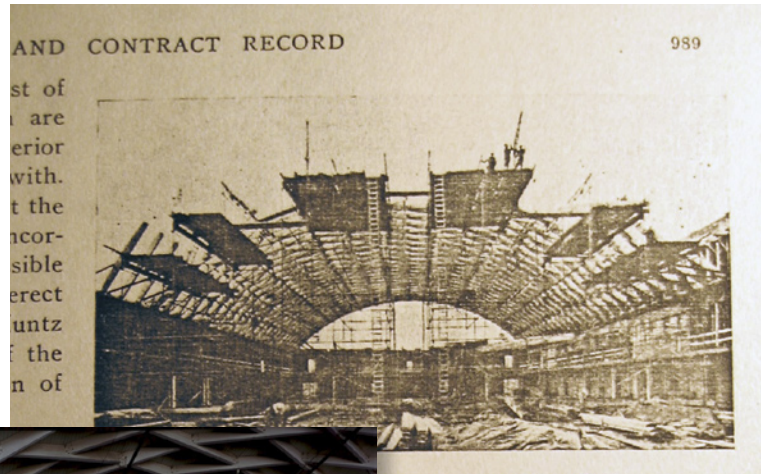
spanning timber lamella roof [3]. The connection details used in the Armoury roof are different from the standard details of the original Zollinger system. The latter detail, which was used at Halle Münsterland, connects three beams using only one set of bolts. This connection is relatively simple to execute but does not enable the members to intersect at a common point. It creates an indirect load path and increases the flexibility of the system. For the Armoury roof, the connections incorporate steel splice plates which permit the members to intersect at a common point. Simplicity of construction is not adversely affected.

The Münsterland roof required extensive rehabilitation in the 1980s to correct large deflections that developed over time. The Armoury roof, however, has performed well over its entire life. This may be related to the greater stiffness and structural efficiency of its connections.

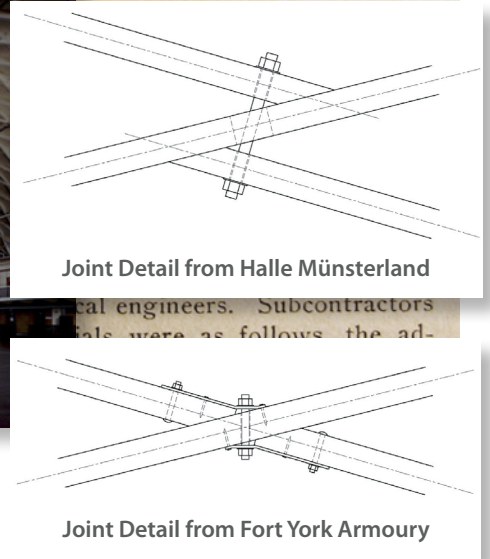
The structural engineer of record for the Fort York Armoury was the Toronto firm Harkness and Hertzberg [4], one of whose partners, Charles S. L. Hertzberg, was also a military man of considerable renown [5]. It is unlikely, however, that the lamella roof was designed by this firm. The roof was a proprietary product furnished by licensee Lamella Trussless Roofs (Ontario) Ltd. of Toronto [6].

Actual construction of the roof was done by E. P. Muntz Ltd. of Hamilton [4]. (Eric Percival Muntz, a 1914 civil engineering graduate of the University of Toronto, was a talented engineer in his own right who was active as both a designer and a builder. He was granted several patents for inventions, including a system for constructing prestressed concrete members [7].) In the US and Canada, rights to the Zollinger patent were held by Lamella Roof Syndicate, Inc. of New York, which acted through independent local licensees operating under some variation of the name Lamella Trussless Roofs [8]. In the case of another major Zollinger lamella roof, the Houston Convention Hall, design was done in New York by Wilhelm Klingenberg of the Lamella Roof Syndicate. It is likely that the design of the Armoury roof originated from the same organization.

It is unfortunate that we do not know the name of the engineer who designed this magnificent roof. The clean, efficient connection details and probable record span are evidence that this was an individual of considerable technical talent. The structural system he designed creates one of the most visually compelling spaces in Toronto.



Fort York Armoury under construction, 1934. Canadian Contract Record, 21 Nov. 1934, p989.  
Interior of armoury with lamella roof. Photo credit: Paul Gauvreau. Both joint-detail sketches also by Paul Gauvreau.



1. Nervi, Pier Luigi. *Costruire correttamente*. Milan: Editore Ulrico Hoepli, 1965.
2. Winter, Klaus and Wolfgang Rug. "Innovationen im Holzbau - Die Zollinger-Bauweise." *Bautechnik* 69 (1992): 190-97.
3. Krabbe, E. and J.-J. Niemann. "Tragverhalten eines hölzernen Zollbau-Lamellendaches am Beispiel der Halle Münsterland." *Bauingenieur* 58 (1983) 277-84.
4. "Lamella Type of Roof with Largest Lamellas Ever Used." *Engineering and Contract Record* 48 (1934): 987-90.
5. "Hertzberg, Charles S. L.", St. Andrew's College, accessed June 20, 2012, <http://kilby.sac.on.ca/activitiesclubs/cadets/history/militaryoldboys/wwi/HertzbergCharles.html>.
6. "The Lamella Roof." (Advertisement) *Engineering and Contract Record* 48 (1934): 986.
7. Muntz, Eric P. "Process of Making Prestressed Reinforced Concrete." US Patent 2,413,990 filed January 25, 1943 and granted January 7, 1947.
8. "Building Houston's Great Convention Hall." *Engineering News-Record* 100 (1928): 815-17.

*Paul Gauvreau Dr.sc.techn., P.Eng. is Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto and structural engineer in private practice, specializing in bridges.*

# Revealing the True Face of Sir Isaac Brock

by Guy St-Denis

Anyone familiar with the War of 1812 will surely recognize the portrait below of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock (1769-1812). And given his association with Fort York, the “Hero of Upper Canada” certainly requires no introduction to readers of *The Fife and Drum*. Yet, these same readers might be surprised to learn that the portrait reproduced here is not that of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock. Rather, it is Brock in his earlier appointment as a *brigadier-general* and staff officer.

This is one of several new details to emerge from a close study of Brock’s portraits, which I undertook in conjunction with my on-going research into the life of the celebrated British commander. I had already decided that a likeness of Brock approaching middle age would be the most relevant, both in terms of Canadian history and also for my project. After careful investigation, I satisfied myself that the quintessential Brock is the one featured in this well-known profile portrait, which was done mainly in pastels. But I soon began to question the identity of the artist responsible for this image. Although it had long been touted as the work of William Berczy, the Bavarian-born artist and Upper Canadian land settlement agent, this attribution ultimately proved incorrect.

Brock’s portrait was actually executed by Gerrit Schipper, a Dutch itinerant artist who never set foot in Upper Canada.

Schipper, however, did venture into Lower Canada, and it was while practising his art in Quebec City that he came into contact with Brigadier-General Isaac Brock sometime between late May of 1809 and mid-July of 1810. Although the sitting was brief (about three-quarters of an hour), this session resulted in a finely rendered portrait, the only one known of Brock from near the end of his life. It was likely produced with the aid of a physiognotrace, a mechanical drawing device used for delineating profiles.

During my scrutiny of Schipper’s portrait of Brock, I recognized the need to clarify details of his uniform. Everything about it pointed to the coatee of a brigadier-general and staff officer—except for the evenly spaced buttons, which should have been sewn in pairs. Fortunately, I was able

to resolve the dilemma of these misplaced fasteners: Brock was portrayed wearing an outdated colonel’s uniform because he was still awaiting the delivery of his new regimentals. When Brock’s old uniform was modified in keeping with his new appointment the buttons, it would seem, were too difficult to move so they were left in their original placement. It was a minor departure from the dress regulations, or the rules which—to a degree—governed the attire of British military officers. Brock was clearly allowed some leeway in this regard, and the fact that his buttons

were not properly placed was of no real consequence, not in a distant posting such as Quebec City. Brock was promoted to major-general in June of 1811, and once again his new outfit was delayed (which explains why he donned a brigadier-general’s uniform for the fatal Battle of Queenston Heights in October of 1812).

Another discrepancy, and one more troubling than all the non-regulation buttons put together, is Schipper’s portrayal of Brock’s physical appearance, which does not conform with surviving eyewitness accounts of the great man. One of these descriptions originated with Brock’s nephew, Ferdinand Brock Tupper, who observed that his uncle “was perhaps too portly” towards the end of his life. However, Schipper’s portrait of Brock gives no indication of a portly sitter,

which has led some to question the officer’s very identity. Nor does it help that Brock himself acknowledged the “enormity” of his head, a characteristic not readily apparent in his portrait. Judging from the size of his cocked hat, which is preserved in the Niagara Historical Museum, Brock did have a large head—but it was obviously not out of proportion with the rest of his body. Instead of a portly sitter, the picture that emerges of Brock is one of a big man who carried his weight well.

*Guy St-Denis is the author of Tecumseh’s Bones (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2005), an award-winning study of the mystery surrounding the Shawnee warrior chief’s death and burial.*

*Gerrit Schipper’s portrait of Brigadier-General Isaac Brock is currently on display at the RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston, Ontario. It returns to Guernsey at the end of October.*



*Gerrit Schipper’s portrait of Brock (restored). Credit: Courtesy Guernsey Museums & Galleries, States of Guernsey*



# *In Review:* Redcoated Ploughboys: The Volunteer Battalion of Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, 1813–1815

by John R. Grodzinski

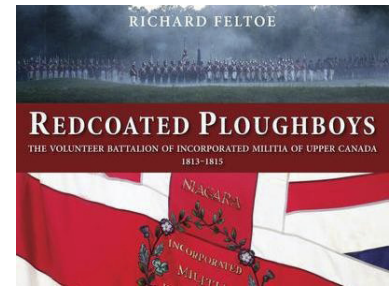
Richard Feltoe. *Redcoated Ploughboys: The Volunteer Battalion of Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, 1813–1815*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2012. 432 pages, illustrations, 65 illustrations, 35 maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 (paper)

The British regulars that provided the backbone to the defence of the Canadas during the War of 1812 were, until the late autumn of 1814, outnumbered by the entirety of the US Army. To augment their manpower, British commanders looked, in addition to their Native allies, to the resources of the militia of Upper and Lower Canada. Unfortunately, and despite last minute attempts to improve their skills on the eve of the war, most of the sedentary militia lacked the discipline, training, and equipment to allow their being employed in the line, alongside regulars. As this problem continued into 1813, the role of the militia was further modified and expanded in both Canadas. Between March and June 1813, the legislature in Upper Canada approved of the formation of volunteer incorporated militia to serve as infantry, three troops of cavalry, two artillery companies, and a corps of artillery drivers for the duration of the conflict. The story of one of these units, the Volunteer Battalion of Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, is the topic of this book.

Some historians have argued that the Anglo-American war of 1812 to 1815 began not in 1812, but in 1811, when President James Madison became convinced that the differences between his country and Britain could be resolved only by war, while a military regime was installed in British North America under Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost that commenced its own military preparations. One might further argue that unpreparedness on the part of the Americans and the absence of a professional British naval service on the inland waters, meant that the events of 1812 were merely a series of uncoordinated actions undertaken without sufficient means and that the war did not begin in earnest until 1813, when a revived American army took to the field, the Royal Navy arrived on the lakes, and the strength of troops serving in Upper Canada increased.

It was in 1813 that three regiments of incorporated militia were recruited for service in Upper Canada. This was an improvement over the previous system as incorporated units were to consist of volunteers that were trained, armed, and equipped like regular troops. The first of the incorporated infantry units was raised in the region between Kingston and Lower Canada, the second between York and the Head of Lake Ontario, while the third was raised in the territory between the Niagara River and the Grand River.

By early 1814, manpower limitations had made it evident that the individual company detachments could not be expanded



into three battalions and it was decided to concentrate the embodied divisions at York, where they would be grouped into a single regiment. Beginning in March, a vigorous programme of company- and battalion-level instructional drills commenced under the watchful eyes of Lieutenant-Colonel William Robinson, a professional officer appointed to command the regiment, and drillmaster Sergeant-Major William Robinson, from the 41st Foot. Within a few weeks, the independent divisions—who were joined by new recruits and by regular officers and NCOs—had been made into a cohesive battalion of ten companies.

By June 1814, the 29 officers and 377 personnel of the regiment had been assigned to the Right Division of the Army of Upper Canada and in July the battalion moved from York to the Niagara Peninsula where it was stationed around Fort Mississauga before joining the reorganized Right Division's Light Brigade and fighting in the battle of Lundy's Lane. The battalion then participated in the siege of Fort Erie before moving to the defensive line along the Chippawa River that September. The end of the war found the battalion in Butler's Barracks at the northern end of the Niagara Peninsula. In late March 1815, plans to transform the battalion into a light infantry regiment ended when the unit was disbanded.

The story of the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada did not end there, and in April 1822, the lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada awarded the battle honour "Niagara" to the Incorporated Militia Battalion of Upper Canada in recognition of its wartime service. The colours bearing this honour are now in the Canadian War Museum.

The research undertaken by this author is impeccable. Historian Ben Greenhous once commented that most regimental history "developed imperceptibly over a series of late-night sessions in the mess, conceived over a whisky and soda, born of a good claret, and weaned on port." While this is also true for other regimental histories, Feltoe has made superlative use of archival material to craft a balanced examination of the history of the Volunteer Battalion of Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada within the context of the greater events of the War of 1812.

Of interest are the many maps, which the author created, that not only depict the movements of the regiment, but also provide useful context for the campaigns and battles it participated in. Having taken over fifty military groups on staff rides of the 1814 Niagara Campaign over the last several years, I found the eleven maps portraying the events of the battle of Lundy's Lane instructive and superior to anything published

to date. Historians, re-enactors, and War of 1812 mavens alike will appreciate the appendices that provide specifics on the careers of individuals from the regiment, information on weapons and clothing, and details on soldiering, discipline, diet, health, and military families.

The parade of new and re-issued books leading up to the bicentenary of the War of 1812, has in the main, been disappointing for a lack of originality, shortfalls in research and writing, repetition of tired myths, or unwarranted brevity.

## *The Friends Welcome Three New Directors*

At our Annual General Meeting on June 21 three new directors were elected to The Friends' board: Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Kyle Wyatt, and Peter Zimmerman.

Before her retirement in 2010 Ceta worked for thirty years with the City of Toronto where she introduced groundbreaking human rights policies that made Toronto a social justice leader. Her notable interests have included chairing the LEARNXS Foundation and leading efforts to revitalize Grange Park near where she lives. Ceta has a BA and MA from the U of T; a graduate diploma in Child Studies; and has completed her residency requirement towards a PhD at OISE.

Kyle Wyatt is managing editor of *The Walrus* magazine. He received his PhD from the U of T in 2011, and for five years before taught courses there in American, Canadian, and Indigenous literatures. Nebraska-born, Kyle is now a landed immigrant, able to apply for Canadian citizenship in two years. Maybe he can receive his certificate in one of the twice-yearly citizenship ceremonies held at Fort York!

## **Fort York Guard provides honour guard for His Royal Highness Prince Charles and Prime Minister Stephen Harper**

The Fort York Guard had the honour to flank the route Prince Charles and Stephen Harper took to enter the armoury for a Military Muster on May 22. Coinciding with the event the PM's office announced that, "In commemoration of the War of 1812, the four Canadian Army regiments with links to the Battalion of Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, which played a major role in the Battle of Lundy's Lane, will now perpetuate the Battle Honour NIAGARA, originally granted to the Militia after the War of 1812. These Canadian Army regiments are the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, the Queen's York Rangers, the Brockville Rifles and the Princess of Wales Own Regiment." Nothing was said about a complementary initiative on the part of the Canadian government and DND to allow long-established units honours for other important battles in the War.

In his *Redcoated Ploughboys*, Richard Feltoe brings us a well-researched and written illustrated history of an important Canadian unit from the War of 1812. No one unit can claim to have won the war, however, without good unit histories, our understanding of how the war was won suffers; *Redcoated Ploughboys* is a model of how such histories should be written.

*Major John Grodzinski teaches history at the Royal Military College of Canada, where he specializes in North American colonial warfare and navies in the age of sail.*

Peter Zimmerman is Director of Development at Freed Developments; he was formerly with the Toronto Community Housing Corp. Peter has been involved in municipal housing policy and development for more than twenty years. A Registered Professional Planner, he has a Masters in Environmental Studies from York University.

Re-elected as directors at the AGM were Nancy Baines, Geordie Beal, Matthew Blackett, Sid Calzavara, Harriet De Koven, Richard Dodds, Patricia Fleming, Joe Gill, Shawn Micallef, Marc Nufrio, Stephen Otto, Michael Peters, Elizabeth Quance, Ted Smolak, Andrew Stewart, George Waters, and Rob Zeidler.

A motion was passed at the meeting recording thanks for the dedicated service given the The Friends by Meg Graham and Eva Macdonald who chose not to stand for re-election, and by Brian Maclean and Greg Kitscha who resigned for different reasons during the year.



HRH Prince Charles and PM Stephen Harper take note of the Fort York Guard as they walk into the Armoury for a Military Muster on May 22. Credit: Mark Blinch, Reuters



## Bicentennial Timeline: July to September 1812

**Jul.** A corps of about 30 Black soldiers was organized in the Niagara Peninsula at the urging of Richard Pierpoint, a Black veteran of Butler's Rangers. Subsequently it fought at the Battle of Queenston Heights and in the siege of Fort George.

**Jul. 12** Home District Magistrates ordered that no person should bathe in front of the town of York between sunrise and sunset.

**Jul. 17** Capt. Charles Roberts and his Native allies captured US Fort Mackinac from its surprised defenders who had not heard that war had been declared.

**Jul. 28** Isaac Brock addressing the Legislative Council and House of Assembly: 'We are engaged in an awful and eventful contest. By unanimity and dispatch in our Councils, and by vigor in our operations, we may teach the Enemy this lesson — that a Country defended by FREEMEN enthusiastically devoted to the cause of their King and Constitution, can never be conquered.'

**Jul. 29** Brock to a colleague: 'Most of the people have lost confidence — I however speak loud and look big.'

**Aug. 4** 'The acquisition of Canada, this year, as far as the neighborhood of Quebec, will be a mere matter of marching, and will give us experience for the attack of Halifax the next, and the final expulsion of England from the American continent.' wrote former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson to William Duane, a Philadelphia journalist.

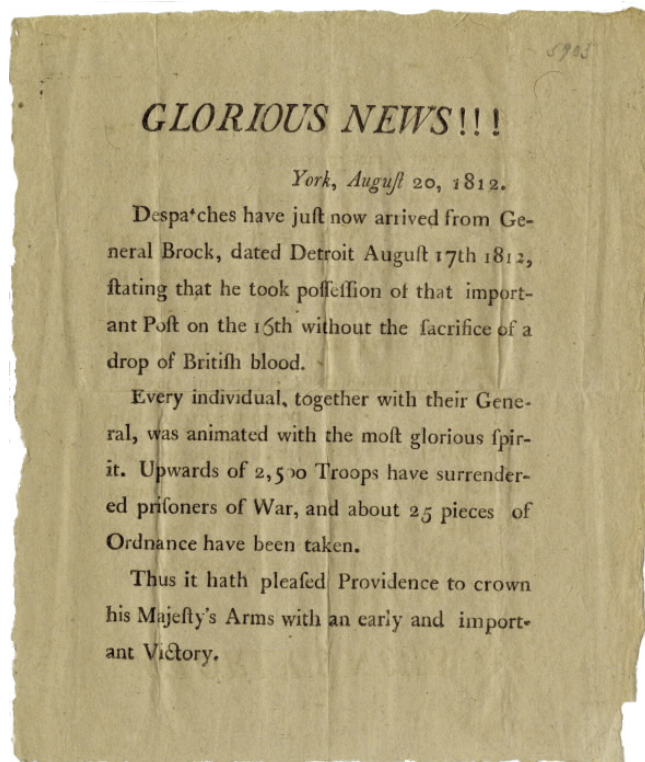
**Aug. 8** *Montreal Herald* reported that W. McKay left Montreal on July 1 with dispatches for St. Joseph and Fort William and returned after a journey of 3100 miles in the short space of 32 days.

**Aug. 10** James Brock (for whom Brockton is named) wed Lucy Short at Three Rivers. James was Isaac Brock's cousin and Paymaster of the 49th Regiment of Foot.

**Aug. 16** In General Isaac Brock's first great victory, American General William Hull surrendered Detroit without a fight to British forces and their Native allies.

**Aug. 16** Following the day's events, Brock sent a message to his men: 'Major-General Brock has every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the troops, he had the honor to lead this morning against the enemy.'

**Aug. 20** When news of Detroit reached York a handbill was distributed headed 'Glorious News!!!' Not to be outdone a Quebec City newspaper a few days later entitled its bilingual notice 'More Glorious.'



Credit: Toronto Public Library

**Aug. 27** On his arrival back in York Isaac Brock was presented with an Address of Congratulations by the inhabitants.

**Aug. 29** Alexander Wood, a merchant, reported every article in the grocery line is scarce in York.

**Sept. 4** Miles Macdonell, Governor of Assiniboia, took formal possession of 116,000 square miles of land near the forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers that Lord Selkirk had acquired for settlement from the Hudson's Bay Company. Manitoba traces its founding to this event.

**Sept. 7** The Battle of Borodino near Moscow, the largest and bloodiest battle in the Napoleonic Wars, was a turning point in Napoleon's invasion of Russia. It inspired Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* written in 1880.

### War of 1812 veterans photograph

Heritage Toronto has posted on its blog a piece about a famous photograph of ten veterans of the War of 1812 taken during a reunion at 'Rosedale,' Toronto, in October 1861. <http://www.heritagetoronto.org/news/blog/heritage-toronto/some-1812-veterans-rosedale>. It may be the first record of this sort made as those who had fought in the War of 1812 aged and began to die off, triggering a reawakening of public consciousness.

Survivors of The War of 1812 in 1861.  
William Armstrong, Photographer  
McCord Museum, Montreal, MP-000.133



*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

## Administrator's Report

*by David O'Hara, Site Administrator*

The official launch of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 has made for an extremely busy few weeks. On June 7 we hosted *Toronto the Good*, a gathering which brought to Fort York a broad cross-section of Torontonians with an interest in the City and in city building. On June 8 *The Encampment* opened on the first night of Luminato.

Commissioned in partnership with Luminato, it proved to be the great success we hoped when we first discussed the installation more than three years ago with artists Thom Sokoloski and Jenny-Anne McCowan ([www.thomasandguinevere.com](http://www.thomasandguinevere.com)). Each evening between June 7 and 24, crowds of people visited *The Encampment* to experience the magic of 200 individually illuminated tents located within the fort's walls. In the end there were more than 10,000 visitors. Anyone interested in ensuring that the stories associated with the War of 1812 and the potential of Fort York are understood and appreciated owes a huge thank-you to the 125 creative collaborators, scores of Fort York volunteers, and many others involved with the installation.

On June 14 the City of Toronto officially launched its War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration at Fort York. As part of the event it was announced that a lead legacy gift of \$1 million from the W. Garfield Weston Foundation had been made to the Fort York Invigorated Capital Campaign ([www.fortyorkfoundation.ca](http://www.fortyorkfoundation.ca)). The Foundation's gift will be directed toward the rehabilitation of Garrison Common, which is part of the ongoing revitalization of the larger 43-acre national historic site. The event was attended by Andy Pringle, Chair of the Fort York Foundation fundraising cabinet; Geordie Dalglish, Director of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation; the Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport; the Honourable James Bartleman; elder Garry Sault of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation; and the co-chairs of the City's Bicentennial Steering Committee: Councillor Michael Thompson and Blake Goldring.

Free Bicentennial launch events continued over the June 15-16 weekend at Fort York with a variety of family-oriented programs, including music from Gin Lane, Morningstar River, Muddy York, the Barra MacNeils, the Metis Fiddler Quartet, and performances by the Fort York Regency Dancers, Lisa Odjig, Manifesto, and others. A special thank-you goes out to Alok Sharma, Supervisor of Special Events, for planning and producing the weekend, and to the staff and the 70 member

Fort York Volunteer Team who pulled it off so successfully. While things were busy at the fort, various events were taking place as planned elsewhere across the City, including a special service at St. James' Cathedral, a free open-air concert by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra at David Pecaut Square, and *The Loyalists*, a participatory theatre performance in Victoria Memorial Square produced by Single Thread Theatre Company. Worth noting is that after the Fort York Guard opened the TSO concert to loud applause, it was invited to participate in three TSO performances the following week.

On the actual anniversary of the Declaration of War, the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, formally launched the Federal Government's War of 1812 Commemoration at Fort York. The event went well with Fort York as the backdrop, Councillor Paul Ainslie providing remarks on behalf of City Council, and the Fort York Guard figuring prominently.

After the launch, staff then moved into programming for National Aboriginal Day, in partnership with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, and Canada Day. After the July 4 Parler Fort, our next Bicentennial event will be held on July 14. 'On Common Ground' is a free festival that we hope will grow into an annual celebration. The event, which will be our formal launch of the Garrison Common as a new public space, opens at 3 pm and features Sarah Harmer (9 pm), Shad (7pm), The Rural Alberta Advantage (5:30 pm), and Alex Cuba (4 pm). We encourage everyone to come down with family, blanket, hat, and umbrella (i.e. rain or shine).

Although work on various capital projects continues, updates on these items will be left for the next issue. The one to note now is that the tender for the Visitor Centre construction is out and bids from the pre-qualified general contractors are expected to be submitted in July.



*The Encampment. Credit: Tom Ridout, Industryous.com*



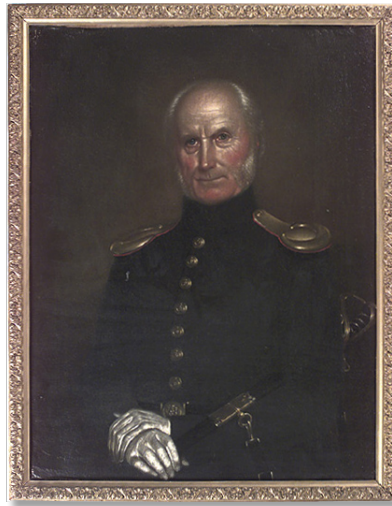
# Henry Evatt, Barrack Master at Toronto, 1835–1841

by Chris Laverton

Henry Evatt was born into a military family in the republic of Ireland in 1774. Having served in the regular army, his father accepted the appointment of Lieut. & Adjutant to the County Monaghan Militia in 1793, quickly rising to the rank of captain. Both Henry and his elder brother Francis served in the unit, which saw action during the troubles in Northern Ireland. Both were present at the Battle of Ballynahinch, June 1798, when their father was shot down by a rebel sniper. Henry later succeeded his father as captain and adjutant, while Francis joined the regular army as cornet in the 21st (Light) Dragoons in 1802. Henry followed, joining his brother's regiment at the Cape of Good Hope in 1806. After a few years Henry and his wife Maria (King) returned to Ireland with their first son. Francis remained, eventually becoming the Commandant of Fort Elizabeth. He died at Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in 1850, and is today considered the founder of that town.

In 1813 Henry Evatt resigned his lieutenantcy in the 21st Dragoons. How he occupied himself as a civilian for the following four years is unknown, but the deep recession into which Europe was plunged following the peace of 1815 must have hit him and his growing family hard. Sometime in 1817 he struck out for Canada in hope of obtaining employment in a military department, and securing a lieutenant's land grant. In February 1818 he was granted

100 acres at Yonge Township, Upper Canada, (Bath). Maria and their three sons joined him that summer. He received approval for another 100 acres in August. His fortunes improved the following autumn when he was appointed Asst. Barrack Master at Côteau-du-Lac in Lower Canada. He served at that post for the following fifteen years, being promoted Barrack Master by 1832. By 1835 he also held the situation of Lock Keeper and Issuer, as well as Post Master. The extra income must have been welcome, for by that date his family had grown to three sons and two daughters.



*Parks Canada has offered to loan Fort York a portrait of Barrack Master Henry Evatt in its collections. Parks Canada and City of Toronto Museum Services are working on an agreement to bring the Evatt portrait to Toronto for conservation and exhibition. (Credit: Parks Canada)*

Upon the retirement of Major Andrew Patton at Toronto in 1835, Evatt was appointed Barrack Master in his stead (the fourth), and he and his family were once again obliged to pull up stakes. Evatt served the troops in this city for the next six years, most notably through the Rebellion Crisis of 1837-38. In 1841, he became Barrack Master at Hamilton, where he moved with Maria and their two daughters who were still at home. He died at his final address, on Hannah Street (now Charlton), on 22 December 1857, aged 83, and was interred at Hamilton Cemetery.

Presumably Henry Evatt sat for his portrait sometime in the 1840s, probably at Toronto or Hamilton. He wears the blue uniform of an officer of the Ordnance Department, to which all Barrack Branch personnel at home and abroad had been attached since 1822. The epaulettes denote the equivalency of a Barrack Master to the rank of major.

*Chris Laverton, on the staff of Toronto Culture, worked as an interpreter at Fort York from 1983 to 1986.*

## Fort York Guard appears at numerous events

The Fort York Guard and Drums have appeared at several high profile events around Toronto recently to highlight the War of 1812 Bicentennial. They were at the Garrison Ball in January, served as the guard of honour when Prince Charles visited the Fort York Armoury on May 22 for a Military Muster (see page 6 above), at four performances by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra during Bicentennial launch week, and at St. James' Cathedral for a special evensong service on June 17.



*Guard at St. James' Cathedral. Credit: Lin Schulz*

# 2012 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Richard Haynes

## JULY

### Canada Day

Sun. July 1, 10 am to 5 pm

Spend Canada's birthday touring Fort York, the birthplace of modern Toronto. The Fort's Summer Guard kicks off the season performing musket and artillery drill as well as fife and drum music.

Free admission.

### Parler Fort: The Four Wars of 1812

Wed. July 4, 7:30 pm (doors open at 7:00)

Put aside what you learned in high school about the causes of the War of 1812. It was more complicated and interesting than that! D. Peter MacLeod, researcher and designer of the major new exhibit at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, 1812: *One War, Four Perspectives*, and political scientist James Laxer consider the pivotal relationship forged between two brilliant leaders: Major-General Brock and Tecumseh. The discussion will be moderated by Wayne Reeves, chief curator, City of Toronto Museum Services

Admission \$10 (\$8.85 plus tax)

Free for students courtesy of Douglas & McIntyre and House of Anansi  
R.S.V.P. to 416-392-6907 ext. 221 or [fortyork@toronto.ca](mailto:fortyork@toronto.ca)

### On Common Ground: A Free Concert to Commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812

Sat. July 14, 3 to 11 pm

Canadian diversity has its roots in the War of 1812. Celebrate two hundred years of common ground with Sarah Harmer, Shad, Rural Alberta Advantage, and Alex Cuba.

FREE, in the Garrison Common.

### The Great Waterfront Trail Adventure

Sun. July 15 to Mon. July 16

On July 16, bicyclists participating in the Great Waterfront Trail Adventure will camp overnight at Fort York. This marathon covers 720 km of Ontario's waterfront and 41 communities over 8 days.

[http://www.waterfronttrail.org/gwta\\_web/index.htm](http://www.waterfronttrail.org/gwta_web/index.htm)

### Assembly of First Nations: Gathering of Eagle Staff Procession and Commemorative Memorial Service, Mon. July 16

Eagle Staff Procession from  
219 Front Street to Fort York,  
2 to 3:30 pm

Commemorative Memorial  
Service at Fort York, 4 to 6 pm

As part of the week-long Assembly of First Nations, the vital role First Nations played during the War of 1812 will be commemorated. Following an eagle staff procession, a special commemorative service at Fort York National Historic Site will honour members of First Nations whose lives were lost during the War of 1812. The service highlights include traditional drumming, prayers, historical accounts, poetry and Scottish pipes.

FREE admission to the public on this day.



Credit: Barbara Gillies

### Fort York Ongoing Summer Programming Daily throughout July, 10 am to 5 pm

Thrill to the boom of the cannon, the firing of muskets, the vibrant colours of the uniformed guard, and the lively music of fife and drum. Visitors will enjoy demonstrations performed by students representing the Canadian Fencible Regiment that was garrisoned at the fort at the end of the War of 1812.

Program varies daily. Call for specific details.

Regular admission.

## AUGUST

### Simcoe Day

Mon. August 6, 10 am to 5 pm

Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe founded the town of York (Toronto) in 1793 and was the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (Ontario). This great day will celebrate the legacy of Fort York as the birthplace of Toronto. Visitors will enjoy exhibits, demonstrations of musketry, cannon and music by the Fort York guard, Regency dance demonstrations, historic cooking in our 1826 kitchen, and the beautiful grounds of this national treasure. Join us at 1pm for a unique walking tour "Simcoe to Skyscrapers" which will explore the development and growth of this ever-changing neighbourhood.

Regular admission.

### Planet IndigenUS Film Screenings

Mon. to Thurs. August 13 to 16, 7 to 9 pm

As part of the Planet IndigenUS Festival, Fort York screens the award-winning CBC *8th Fire* series over four evenings. Each night features speakers before the film, including many of the creators of *8th Fire*.

Free admission.

### Fort York Ongoing Summer Programming Daily throughout July, 10 am to 5 pm

Thrill to the boom of the cannon, the firing of muskets, the vibrant colours of the uniformed guard, and the lively music of fife and drum. Visitors will enjoy demonstrations performed by students representing the Canadian Fencible Regiment that was garrisoned at the fort at the end of the War of 1812.

Program varies daily. Call for specific details.

Regular admission.

## SEPTEMBER

### Ontario Model Soldier Society Show

Sat. September 8, 10 am to 5 pm

Children of all ages will enjoy Fort York as it hosts the Ontario Model Soldier Society's 49th annual show and competition. Demonstrations of casting and painting; displays of connoisseur figures, dioramas, and tableaux of more than a thousand pieces. Many vendors will be offering toy soldiers for sale.

Free with regular admission.

### War, Invasion, and Occupation:

Fort York and Toronto in the War of 1812

Sun. September 16, 1 pm

Some of the most dramatic events in Toronto's history occurred during the War of 1812, particularly the American invasions of 1813. This special walking tour examines major events and the development of our community.

Free, including admission to Fort York following tour.

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



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

TORONTO Culture  
[www.toronto.ca/culture](http://www.toronto.ca/culture)



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