

The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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There's a Great Day Coming

by Stephen Otto

This special number of *The Fife and Drum* newsletter of The Friends of Fort York is published on the eve of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of York. On 27 April 1813, after the fort was overwhelmed by a stronger force of American invaders, the town was occupied, its public stores seized, and parliament buildings destroyed. Below we outline how the battle will be commemorated across the city so you can join in. This issue of *Fife and Drum* goes to a wider readership than usual, thanks to the co-operation of Heritage Toronto, Toronto Culture, and the good offices of Councillors Mike Layton and Adam Vaughan, and other friends.

Fort York is the natural focus for commemorative events related to the battle. These are listed as **Upcoming Events** on page 12. But that's just for starters. On Saturday, April 27, there will be a **Sunrise Ceremony** from 6 to 7:30 am at the Palais Royale coinciding with the hour when British and Canadians were girding for battle while their Native allies prepared with spiritual rituals. At 10 am **those who like walking** will gather at the Palais Royale to trace the 5 km path of the American advance along the waterfront to Fort York. En route, near where many of the invaders landed, there'll be an **unveiling of a plaque** sponsored by the Boulevard Club and Heritage Toronto.

Also at 10 am a **military parade** will form up in front of Queen's Park, where HRH Prince Philip will present a new

Regimental Colour to the Royal Canadian Regiment before more than one thousand assembled soldiers and sailors march to Fort York accompanied by **more than a dozen bands**, arriving at 1 pm. As they pass through Victoria Memorial Square they'll salute the **Old Soldier Monument** and wreaths laid there to honour the Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Fencible Infantry who fought at York, embracing our common cause before the nation existed. At the fort a **military-style service of remembrance** will follow and **three plaques will be unveiled**. Exhibits related to the war, booths, and story-telling displays highlighting the Native role in the battle will abound. See www.toronto.ca/1812 for more information.

Later that day, at 5 and 6 pm, the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA will present two performances of a **20-30 minute play**, *The Capitulation of York*, in St. Lawrence Hall, 157 King St. E. Admission is free. At 7:30 pm, in St. James' Cathedral opposite, the Tallis Choir will perform a **Grand Concert for the Battle of York**. Tickets and information <<http://www.tallischoir.com/ticketing.html>> The **CN Tower will be lit** that night in the purple and green colours of the city's Bicentennial initiative. And at the Sunday morning services at St. James special prayers will be said. On Sunday afternoon visitors from Sackets Harbor will drop by the Reference Library, 1:30 to 2:30 pm, to present new books to replace those looted during the 1813 invasion.

Battle of York Day will be anticipated by a series of **free lectures** organized by Heritage Toronto. See the schedule on page 7, but note that the first up after this newsletter appears

*We Welcome Many New Readers to Fife and Drum
with this special issue marking the
Bicentennial of the Battle of York, 27 April 1813.*

You may be among our new readers because you receive mailings from your local councillor, from Heritage Toronto or Toronto Culture.

If you would like to receive future issues of *Fife & Drum* directly, please subscribe at no cost at www.fortyork.ca.

is April 3 when Dr. Cecilia Morgan talks about **Candy, Cows, and Commemoration: The Case of Laura Secord**. On April 14 Fort York will present a Parler Fort talk by British historian and archaeologist Andy Robertshaw on **The Battle of York: Myth, Reality, and the Explosion of the Grand Magazine**. See Upcoming Events on page 12 for details. In the blogosphere the *Torontoist*, *Spacing*, and *Blog T.O.* will be generating special posts in the days leading up to April 27.

The Toronto Public Library is opening an exhibition of first-hand accounts from its Special Collections, **War Stories: Toronto and the War of 1812–14** from March 30 to June 22 in the Library's TD Gallery, 789 Yonge Street. The exhibition will use original letters, maps, art, and books to follow the stories of a diverse cast of characters—the heroes who emerged, the lesser-known but key figures who drove the action, and the supporting cast of players who were too often the victims of war. On May 24 at 2 pm, in the Library's Beeton Auditorium, Richard Gerrard, a historian with Toronto Culture, will talk on **York during the War of 1812: A Re-examination**.

Starting in March Palatine Hills Estate Winery, the maker of 1812-brand wines sold in selected LCBO stores, will place **neck tags on bottles** directing people to websites where information on 1812-related events and on The Friends of Fort York can be found. Robin Brass Studios, the publisher of Robert Malcomson's *Capital in Flames*, the best account around of the Battle of York, will be **bringing it out in a paperback edition**.



Credit: Terry Gibson

On our website, www.fortyork.ca, new features will debut such as a **collection of first-hand accounts** by those on hand during the battle and a link to a website of 70-odd historical **maps of Fort York and the Garrison Common** fortyorkmaps.blogspot.ca. The Friends are also joining with fort staff to design and produce a **new brochure for site visitors** replacing one that is many years out of date.

The Untold Story: Winning the Battle While Losing the Peace

by Amelia Maynard

The War of 1812 is an event highly regarded by Canadians, barely acknowledged by Americans, forgotten by the British, and haunting to Native people. There is often debate about who won the war, but what about those who lost? The war brought unity, helping to mould the future Canada; it marked an end to the ongoing dispute between Britain and the United States and strengthened the American position in relations with Britain. However, the Natives continue to suffer and, in a sense, still await the end of the war.

A conflict in British North America between Britain and the United States, the war occurred as a result of British impressments of American sailors within a larger European conflict. Natives hoped to remain neutral but as Ryerson University historian Carl Benn explains in his book, *The Iroquois in the War of 1812*, “the unfolding events, changing perceptions of their interests, powerful cultural pressures, divisions within their communities, and the broad personal freedoms enjoyed by individuals all combined to make it very difficult for the Iroquois to remain at peace.” Increased

pressure from the Americans moving westward forced some Natives to choose sides.

Donald Fixico, a professor of history at Arizona State University, explains that the Natives knew that the “British and American linear minds moved from claiming the land, to colonization and exploitation of natural resources.” It is thought that this knowledge guided them in their decisions, where the majority sided with the British over the Americans. Those that took the side of the United States, in the words of Benn, “reflected their desire to maintain possession of their reservations without having to purchase American benevolence by fighting for the United States against the interests of other aboriginal peoples.” Alternatively, the majority that sided with the British hoped that a victory would curb American expansion, thus preserving their lands.

Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief, was a notable leader known for forging an alliance with the British who promised to return the Natives’ old boundaries, and to restore and preserve their



Three Six Nations veterans of the War of 1812, Young Warner, John Tutela, and John Smoke Johnson (l. to r.), sat for the Brantford photographer E.P. Park of Park & Co. in July 1882. Johnson was the grandfather of the poet Pauline Johnson. Credit: Brant Historical Society

hunting grounds. Their forces contributed to Britain's victories while on both sides, British and American, Native allies fought in more than forty battles. Forgetting the main reasons for their alliance, Natives fought each other. Tecumseh's death in battle in 1813 led to the collapse of his unified confederation.

Native peoples lost the War of 1812, and continue to lose in the present day. The British abandoned them after the Treaty of Ghent was signed, leaving their promises unfulfilled. Consequently, after the war those who sided with the British were treated badly by the Americans. They were pressured into giving up their lands for wilderness areas in the west. David Morris, playing the role of Tecumseh in a history re-enactment, spoke, "I don't know who won the war, but I do know who lost—there is no doubt about that in my people."

Amelia Maynard is in Grade 11 at Bishop Strachan School in Toronto. She is a boarding student from Nassau, Bahamas, and is in her first year at the school. From a young age her grandparents, parents, and teachers have instilled in her the importance of history.

From the History Classroom

J.D.M. Stewart teaches history in the Canadian, Business, and World Studies Dept. at Bishop Strachan School, Toronto. Last autumn he proposed to Patricia Fleming, editor of *The Fife and Drum*, that his students write on some aspect of the War of 1812, with the best essay to be published in the newsletter. In his own words,

We need to continue to engage our students in the study of the past. One of the ways of doing that is to give students authentic and meaningful tasks that capture their interest in history and show them that the subject has real value beyond the classroom.

This year, in my Grade 11 American History class . . . I decided it would be fun for students to write an article about the War of 1812 for The Fife and Drum newsletter. Rather than give a presentation to the class or some other assignment, writing for an outside publication seemed like a novel way to hook them on the topic that is part of the course curriculum.

When students heard that they were writing for a real publication, they were more excited than I had anticipated. They took to the task with gusto and produced a variety of interesting pieces, ranging from the age-old question about who won the war to whether the topic is worth learning about at all.

Students conducted their own research in books and on the Internet. They were encouraged to have an opinion and to quote from their research. . . . Everyone in our class appreciated the opportunity.

The students who contributed to this endeavour were Sydney De Zen, Vanessa Gentile, Vanessa Guzylak, Tasha Lin, Amelia Maynard, Katherine Moore, Helena Pearce-Reilly, Anisette Ruda, Eily Shaw, Leslie Schwartz, Erin Silgado, Greer Tanzer, and Ashlon Valliani. Picking the best from a strong field was difficult, but with the help of Nancy Baines, a retired teacher of history at North Toronto CI, and Kyle Wyatt, managing editor of *The Walrus* magazine (both of whom are directors of The Friends of Fort York), the editors chose Amelia Maynard's essay.

VOLUNTEER on Battle of York Bicentennial Day

Honour those who fought 200 years ago at the Battle of York by acting as a Fort York National Historic Site Volunteer on *Battle of York Bicentennial Day*, Saturday, April 27. Heritage Hosts and Garrison Greeters are needed for this unforgettable experience. Early risers are required at 6 am for the *First Nations' Sunrise Ceremony*, followed by *Walking in their Footsteps*, a 5 km walk at 10 am from the Palais Royale to Fort York, concluding in the afternoon with a *Commemorative Ceremony* at the fort. Training scheduled for Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 pm.

Contact Cathy at fortvolunteers@toronto.ca or call 416-392-6907 x 226.
For event information, log onto www.toronto.ca/fortyork



Fort York Gets Knitted In

by Shawn Micallef

Fort York famously was isolated, in that particularly silly Toronto way where things like railway tracks create nearly insurmountable psychological barriers. Though just on the edge of downtown, it was just over-the-way enough to feel like a trek. Those who come to the fort by car don't experience this as driving distorts how cities are put together by compressing distance, but most everyone else comes via the Bathurst bridge, either on foot or by streetcar. It was the most direct route from downtown or otherwise, but the route passed through a bit of desolate territory over and before the tracks, the kind that makes even brief distances seem longer. When walking through a dense urban area, the distractions keep us from thinking about the walk. So the fort remained over there rather than right here.

For years much of the land around the fort was impenetrable to the average Torontonian. The urban explorers and nighttime infiltrators might likely have entered the old Molson's plant that stood on the north side of Lake Shore Boulevard, or wandered into the cement yard that helped supply Toronto's building boom for the last decade, but for most everyone else it was one of those chunks of the city that became black holes on our mental maps. Add in the Gardiner running along the top of this small industrial parcel and it was an official nowhere. We manoeuvred around it to get to where we were going; to Fort York, the CNE, or we drove by it on the way in to or out of downtown without a thought.

That's changed, radically. Over the last half-decade or so, those industrial operations between the Gardiner and Lake Shore have been removed. First Molson's was demolished, and then finally the cement trucks went elsewhere for their loads. Holes were dug, cranes were erected, and what seemed like an eternal construction site has slowly given way to a partial neighbourhood. Partial because it's still half under construction but there's enough there now to see the form and shape of the neighbourhood that's been created here.

What's most remarkable is that what was impenetrable is now permeable, with streets and other passages crossing the area. This means there's a new way to get to the fort, from the south, previously an unappealing stop due to the walk around the industrial buildings. The 509 Harbourfront streetcar line stops two blocks south of the fort and from there the fortifications and tops of the blockhouses are visible. These new, albeit narrow, vistas are as close as we can get to seeing the fort as somebody might have during the War of 1812, aboard a ship a few hundred metres out in the lake, perhaps on the attack. The Gardiner is conveniently high enough to see under and it also marks where the original shoreline was. Suddenly, the fort has a new public transit route direct from Union Station.

There are new, good views to the south too. On Grand Magazine Street new condo buildings frame the Tip Top Tailors lofts, a perfect terminating view in a city that doesn't have too many great ones. Other streets like Bastion and Gzowski reference Toronto history and the oddly named Sloping Sky Mews cuts east-west, as does Bruyeres Mews. The mix here is made up of town homes along some of the



Credit: Shawn Micallef

mews and taller mid and high-rise condo buildings along Lake Shore. On weekends, when the construction of the additional buildings is paused, it's a quiet place to walk through, with those passages through the larger developments making a wander more interesting as there are options beyond the street grid. People walk their dogs to the Garrison Common, crossing Fort York Boulevard without a light. With all this new human activity, this street seems a bit too fast and wide for a residential neighbourhood; a pedestrian crossing will be needed here to further connect the fort to the neighbourhood soon.

Some imagination is still needed to envision the completed new neighbourhood, but not much. Even the awkward, triangular parcel of land at the corner of Fort York Boulevard and Bathurst—the highway bends south here, separating this corner from the rest of the area—has a mid-rise building on it, famously the closest building to the Gardiner now as some of its units look out at the roadway just a few metres away. One can imagine a David Cronenbergesque film about an insomniac on amphetamines staring out at headlights all night long, though when standing next to the building itself it isn't much different than the thousands of people in other buildings who live on busy arteries across the city. The Gardiner, after all, is often slow moving. Underneath here paving stones have been laid and bike rings installed so yet another pedestrian passage, this one using the Gardiner to advantage on rainy days, will open. There are a few businesses in the base of the condos along Lake Shore, including two banks, but these are about as interesting as, well, banks. There isn't much additional space for commercial at the bottom of existing buildings for cafés or even a bar—places where people can gather informally—so the neighbourhood risks being rather boring if the new buildings don't add a bit more life.

In the middle of the new neighbourhood is a muddy linear plot of land running from Lake Shore to Fort York Boulevard, the future home of June Callwood Park. Now that soil remediation has been completed and ownership of this land is being transferred from the developer to the City of Toronto, construction of the park is set to begin this spring with an official opening planned for late spring or early summer 2014. In a meeting in 2005, before her death, Callwood stated that she wished for the park to be designed for toddlers and their caregivers.

This raises the ongoing issue in Toronto's new condo neighbourhoods of unit size. Will toddlers even live in these buildings if some aren't built family sized? Developers have said the market will not bear these larger, more expensive units, though some city councillors are trying to change this.

Unit size and the poor sidewalk commercial levels of the condo buildings were concerns brought up at a recent meeting regarding development of the Ordnance Triangle, just over the tracks to the north. They're valid concerns for residents but also for the fort, as a vibrant street culture is good for everybody. Once Fort York Boulevard is extended east across Bathurst, the new Toronto Public Library branch and other services in City Place will connect to and continue the fort

neighbourhood so there will be more variety and people. When Ordnance is built up there will be continuous life connecting the fort to Liberty Village just across Strachan, and the pedestrian and cycling bridge will further connect with residences due north.

Within a few years the fort will be completely knitted into a continuous urban residential neighbourhood. When that happens, people will come to Fort York from any direction and never think of how far they've walked.

Shawn Micallef is a co-owner and senior editor at Spacing magazine, a Toronto Star columnist, and a director of The Friends of Fort York.

Bicentennial Timeline: April to June 1813

Apr. 24 Home District Magistrates increased the salary of John Bazell, the town crier, from £10 to £15 a year.

Apr. 26 "My dear Clara, We are now standing on and off the harbor of York, which we shall attack at daylight in the morning: I shall dedicate these last moments to you, my love, and to-morrow throw all other ideas but my country to the wind." So began US General Zebulon Pike's last letter to his wife.

Apr. 26 "The enemy's flotilla is within a few miles steering for this place all is hurry, and confusion" wrote the Reverend John Strachan on hearing that an American fleet was approaching York. "I am not afraid, but our Commandant [Sheaffe] is weak."

Apr. 27 Americans attacked York at 7 am; fighting was over by 1:30 pm. After Sheaffe ordered the Grand Magazine to be blown up (resulting in General Pike's death from falling debris) and the *Sir Isaac Brock* burned in the stocks, he and his British Regulars began a withdrawal to Kingston.

Apr. 28 Terms of capitulation were signed for the surrender of the Town of York but looting continued.

Apr. 30 American sailors set fire to the parliament buildings for Upper Canada at Front and Berkeley streets within the King's Reserve.

May 2 General Roger Sheaffe and his British Regulars arrived in Kingston from York.

May 8 The American invaders, after waiting five days for good winds, left York.

May 11 Dr. William Beaumont, surgeon's mate with the 6th US Infantry, attended the public auction of General Sheaffe's baggage in Oswego. "Saw his most superb Scarlet coat sold for \$55, which I presume cost not less than \$300. It was the most elegant thing I ever saw."

May 15 Captain Sir James Lucas Yeo, RN took command of British naval forces on the Great Lakes.

May 27 Americans captured Fort George at Niagara.

Jun. 5-6 British under Brigadier General John Vincent defeated Americans at Stoney Creek in a night attack.

Jun. 19 Major General Francis de Rottenburg appointed Commander of British forces in Upper Canada *vice* Roger Sheaffe whose failures in leadership result in his transfer to Montreal.

Jun. 21 Wellington defeated the French decisively at Vitoria, south of Bilbao, Spain. To mark the event Beethoven wrote *Wellington's Victory* which was first performed in Vienna on 8 December 1813.

Jun. 24 Warned of American plans by Laura Secord, the British won the Battle of Beaver Dams (Thorold) with strong Native support.

Gerald Murray

Gerald Murray served as treasurer of The Friends for several years in the late 1990s. He was active in the management of the re-enactment festivals staged by The Friends during that period, teaching us all about good cash management procedures. Later he moved to Thornbury where he drew on his experience to serve energetically as the volunteer manager of the Big Band Festival held every April. He kept in contact with a number of the members of the FOFY board from the earlier days. Gerry passed away on December 17 at the age of 81. He will be missed.

Early Toronto Tandem Club Drawing Found by the Colville Family

Inspired by Kevin Plummer's article on the Toronto Tandem Club in the last issue of *Fife and Drum*, the Colville family in England looked and found they had this sketch of eight sleighs on Toronto Bay in January 1841. The artist was their ancestor Lieutenant Charles John Colville, later Viscount Colville, who was stationed here ca. 1839-41. In the background is the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse on Toronto Island.

Credit: Edmund Colville



“Tecumseh” and “Honest Ed” Go to Washington

Toronto Police Services was invited to send two of its best-tempered horses to Washington, DC, to help with crowd control at President Obama's inauguration in January. How fitting this Bicentennial year that one of the mounts was “Tecumseh.” That's him on the left giving profile with Staff Inspector William Wardle up top. Tecumseh's companion on the trip was “Honest Ed” on the right, ridden by Sergeant Jim Patterson.

Eleven Friends Are Awarded Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Last spring when Canadians were invited to nominate fellow citizens to receive the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for significant contributions, The Friends of Fort York put forward the names of several of our current and past directors, senior staff, members of the Fort York Guard, and cooking program volunteers. The nominations were made through the candidates' Members of Parliament. Now that the lengthy process of selection has been completed, we're pleased that a number of our colleagues have been honoured. We congratulate the following and share their pleasure in being awarded a medal: Nancy Baines, Matt Blackett, Harriet De Koven, Ned Gallagher, Eva Macdonald, Shawn Micallef, Rollo Myers, Cathy Nasmith, Stephen Otto, Elizabeth Quance, and Ewan Wardle.



Nancy Baines, a ten-year member of The Friends' Board of Directors, receives a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal from her MPP, Mike Colle. Credit: Gary Beechey, BDS Studios



Battersby's March to Burlington

One of the twenty-five stops on Islington's [ArtWalk](#) has been recognized with an award. The mural, *Battersby's March*, is the result of a search by the village's Business Improvement Area (BIA) for a lasting project to commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Acting on a suggestion by Ewan Wardle, an interpreter at Fort York, the BIA commissioned artist John Kuna to depict Colonel Francis Battersby leading troops, including the Glengarry Light Infantry, along Dundas Street in July 1813, to secure Burlington against an American attack. The artwork is shown here in situ on a wall of the CIBC branch at 4914 Dundas Street. *Credit: Anton Degiusti*



Heritage Toronto's War of 1812 Bicentennial Lecture Series

Perceptions of 1812: Identity, Diversity, Memory

Visit the new state-of-the-art facilities of the Archives of Ontario to hear curator and historian Dr. Ross Fair (Ryerson University) discuss his selection of original materials pulled from the Archives' vaults for the current exhibit.

Thursday, March 21, 7 pm

Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Boulevard ([Google Maps](#))

Candy, Cows, and Commemoration: The Case of Laura Secord

Who was the real Laura Secord, and how did her story change as it became legendary in Ontario? Enjoy this opportunity to hear Dr. Cecilia Morgan (OISE) reveal the answers to these questions.

Wednesday, April 3, 7 pm

Mimico Centennial Public Library Auditorium, 47 Station Road ([Google Maps 2](#))

Loyal They Remained? Loyalty, Identity, and the War of 1812 in Upper Canada

Hear Dr. Jane Errington (Queen's University), award-winning author and leading scholar of Upper Canada, explore how Upper Canadians were challenged by the War of 1812.

Wednesday, April 10, 7 pm

North York Central Library, Concourse, 5120 Yonge Street ([Google Maps 3](#))

Lessons from the War of 1812: A Six Nations Perspective

Richard Hill (Six Nations Legacy Consortium at Grand River) reveals the impact of the war on various Six Nations communities at Grand River, Tuscarora, and Buffalo Creek, and the involvement of the Mohawk communities from the St. Lawrence region.

Wednesday, April 17, 7 pm

Native Canadian Centre, 16 Spadina Road (west side, north of Bloor) ([Google Maps 4](#))

Great Guns, Brown Bess, Supply Wagons, Poor Old Soldiers, and Jolly Tars: The Art and Science of Warfare during the War of 1812

Three days prior to the anniversary of the Battle of York, Major John Grodzinski (Royal Military College of Canada) explores the strategy and technology of military operations during the War of 1812.

Wednesday, April 24, 7 pm

Todmorden Mills, 67 Pottery Road ([Google Maps 5](#))

FREE

Reserve your free seat at HeritageToronto.org/lectures or call (416)338-1339



Detail painting by John David: Library and Archives Canada, C-000273.

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Administrator's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Administrator

As we move into April, the final stages of planning are underway for the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Battle of York on Saturday, April 27th. Details regarding the program for April 27 and other events can be found at www.toronto.ca/1812. While significant efforts have gone into preparing for key Bicentennial activities, staff at Fort York have already mounted several successful events to mark the new year. The annual Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball and Mad for Marmalade, Crazy for Citrus! provided opportunities for our culinary experts to shine, and on February 24th as part of Black History Month, Gareth Newfield gave a talk on "Free Men of Colour: African Canadians and the Defence of Upper Canada, 1812-1815."

Since planning for all of our programs and events is undertaken by a small team, I'm pleased to announce that we have two recent additions to the group. In the fall of 2012 Kristine Williamson was the successful candidate for the position of Museum Outreach Officer at Fort York. With an undergraduate degree in Canadian history and a graduate degree from Western University's Public History program, Kristine has worked at a number of heritage sites and organizations, including the Design Exchange and Lord Cultural Resources. Kristine had been at Fort York on a temporary basis since October of 2011 and was a key player in the programs and events held throughout 2012.

In February Robert Kerr was hired as Supervisor, Special Events. Robert is an arts professional with a long history in developing cultural organizations and delivering arts festivals and events. Career highlights include positions as Program Director for the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad, founding Executive Director of Coastal Jazz & Blues Society / Vancouver International Jazz Festival, founding President of the national arts service organization Jazz Festivals Canada, and Producing Artistic Director of Major Civic Events for Vancouver 125. Robert moved to Toronto in February 2012 and has spent the past year providing consulting services to Ontario arts and cultural organizations including the Aga Khan Museum, Canadian League of Composers, Guelph Jazz Festival, and Small World Music.

It is also a pleasure to report that Ned Gallagher has been hired as our new part-time Program Instructor. As a volunteer, a member of the Fort York Guard, and as Guard

Supervisor, Ned already has several years of experience at Fort York and is a welcome addition to the staff team.

From the trenches, where the excavation for the new Visitor Centre is underway, Project Manager David Spittal reports that construction continues despite the loss of several days due to bad weather. Work was recently completed on storm sewer infrastructure, connecting the new facility to the main sewer system. At this point the anticipated time of building completion is early May 2014, with exhibit installation and final landscape improvements to follow. Restoration work underway in both the Officer's Brick Barracks and Mess and the Brick Magazine, led by Project Manager Gordon Lok, is scheduled to be completed by the end of March.

The Fort York Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge is still moving ahead. On January 31 a public meeting was held to discuss plans for the development of the Ordnance Triangle to the north of Fort York. In addition to a presentation on the development proposed for the lands, city staff provided an update on the Fort York Bridge. As part of an Environmental Assessment Addendum required for the bridge, staff presented three bridge options for further review and costing. The main difference between these new options and the original bridge proposal is that the bridge is now being conceived as two separate structures with shorter spans instead of one longer single-span structure. The two smaller bridges will touch down in the middle of the Ordnance Triangle with improved access for new and existing residents and a direct connection to the future park within the triangle. Staff will be reporting back at a future meeting on the recommended option for the Fort York Bridge. Please visit www.toronto.ca/involved/projects/ftyork_bridge/index.htm for detailed information.

Work on the Garrison Common with DTAH continues with improvements planned for 2013 and 2014, and progress on the east end of the national historic site with the Toronto-based design studio Public Work is currently at the stage of public consultation. A public meeting for this project was held at Fort York on March 7th and a second will be scheduled at some point in April. Our colleagues in the city's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division are in the process of awarding the construction contract for June Callwood Park. This new park will be located to the immediate south of the fort, making a strong connection to the system of waterfront parks. While construction will begin this year, it is expected that some of the final planting and other finishing touches will extend into 2014.

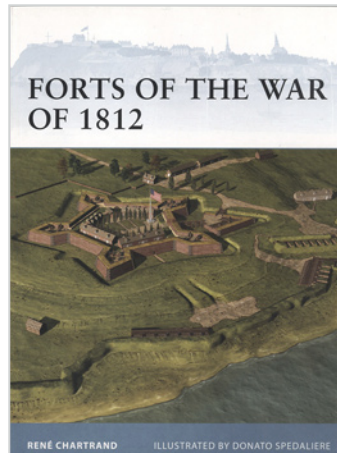
In Review:

Forts of the War of 1812

by Wayne Reeves

René Chartrand. *Forts of the War of 1812*. Illustrated by Donato Spedalieri. Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, 2012. 64 pages, 58 maps and illustrations, glossary, bibliography, index. \$19.95 (paper)

To feline lovers, René Chartrand is the “Catman of Parliament Hill”—a man who spent years tending to the needs of a recently-dismantled feral colony in Ottawa. To others, Chartrand was chief curator for the National Historic Sites Branch of Parks Canada, his employer for nearly three decades. During that time, and in his current role as freelance writer and historical consultant, he has authored nearly one hundred books and monographs on military history and material culture.



Over thirty of Chartrand’s books have been issued by Osprey Publishing in the UK. Osprey’s offerings are always military in focus, short in length, consistent in format, and richly illustrated, boasting newly commissioned artwork reflecting the most current scholarship. *Forts of the War of 1812* is no exception. It includes seven original paintings by Donato Spedalieri, whose art graces four of the six books about North American forts that Chartrand has written for Osprey. Spedalieri’s oblique aerial renderings are highly detailed yet austere, with the contemporary feel of a 21st-century video game.

The bulk of the book is devoted to the American story because US defence emphasized fortifications from the 1790s onward. America saw itself as threatened on two fronts: on the northwestern frontier, where advancing settlement provoked conflict with Aboriginal people; and along the seacoast, where ports were vulnerable to attack by European navies. In an increasingly uncertain world, the safety of American ports became paramount. In 1794, development of the “First System” of coastal fortifications began, which largely involved repairing and extending existing works (McHenry). The “Second System” of new, larger fortifications followed in 1808; Chartrand views some of these forts as being among the most modern and potentially lethal in the world (Castle Williams). These works differed greatly from the wooden stockade structures built on the frontier, though some of the latter could achieve significant size (Meigs).

The defence strategy for British North America was entirely different. Preoccupied with Napoleon, Britain had few resources to fortify and garrison its colonies. Naval superiority and a preference for field operations prompted Britain to pursue a policy of minimal fortifications in Canada. Forts like Amherstburg and George were viewed as temporary; Quebec City was Canada’s only permanent fortress. Existing forts were kept up as bases, while a few new ones (Wellington, Cote-du-Lac) were added along the western St. Lawrence to secure communications between Upper and Lower Canada.

Chartrand does an excellent job of portraying forts as dynamic objects over the course of the war. Fort George exemplifies this well. The original large irregular rectangle earthwork with six bastions was seen as too awkward to defend. By late 1814, the fort had been reshaped into a smaller star-shaped structure with five bastions.

My chief issue with *Forts* is its sole custom-designed map showing the main North American forts and towns in 1812. The map lacks a bar scale and has forts Meigs, Wellington, and Cote-du-Lac, and the US/BNA boundary plotted incorrectly. Some key opportunities are missed. Though Chartrand’s text explicitly focuses on those forts built by the US government and garrisoned by regular troops, mapping those structures built and manned by local communities would have given a more complete visual picture of continental defence. First and Second System forts could have been differentiated to express development chronology. And, space was available (in the Atlantic Ocean) for one or more inset maps to show the complex fortification of places like New York City and Boston (as is done later in the book for Halifax).

Chartrand’s text ends with “The Forts Today.” He notes that many 1812-era forts were substantially rebuilt for military purposes during the 19th century (Bowyer) and some even got emplacements for 20th-century guns (McHenry); others are historical reconstructions (Erie), and one (Wood) became the Statue of Liberty’s base. Chartrand singles out Fort York for having preserved so many of its original structures, while avoiding a related question: which US site boasts the largest collection of authentic 1812 buildings?

Forts of the War of 1812 delivers exactly what one expects from an Osprey book: a concise survey of its topic, with tight, detail-rich prose, and much visual interest. Its continental coverage alone makes it a worthy addition to any War of 1812 bookshelf. René Chartrand might be delighted not that I enjoyed his book, but that I read it in one sitting with a cat on my lap.

Wayne Reeves is Chief Curator, City of Toronto Museum Services.

To Top It All Off: British Line Infantry Headdress in the War of 1812

by Kevin J. Hebib

One of the most distinctive details of the British soldier's uniform in the Georgian era was his regimental cap. Visitors to Fort York will no doubt have noticed two distinct styles worn by 1812 period military staff and guest animators. Both caps are correct and, at times, saw service alongside each other. Though both are tall, black, and feature ornamental brass plates or badges, they are very different in overall design. Known as the "1800 Pattern" (stovepipe) and the "1812 New Pattern" (Belgic) shakos, their general use by the army spanned an important period in British military fashion that covered much of the first quarter of the 19th century until their official replacement was authorized in 1816.

The British Army, like its western counterparts in the age of black powder, followed the design principles of martial costume when it came to clothing its soldiers. In 1800, tall caps were common in both the civilian and military worlds and were worn for the same reason, to produce a fashionable, elongated silhouette in conjunction with high-waisted garments. Though the overall effect was physically imposing from a military perspective, there is really no compelling evidence to suggest that the army intended to wage psychological warfare with its tall caps.

The stovepipe, authorized for wear by the Army in 1800, was constructed of heavily lacquered, waterproofed felt. The change to an unlacquered version around 1806 reduced the weight of the cap, but sacrificed weatherproofing. Above all, the 1800 Pattern cap conveyed an important Georgian design aesthetic: simply constructed, well proportioned, and symmetrical. Adopted by most line infantry regiments in the British service it was common in the Canadas during much of the War of 1812. Its replacement, the Belgic cap, was authorized officially in June 1812, but because of

procurement delays, its widespread use in North America likely didn't occur until later in 1813 and into 1814. Historically, soldiers were to receive a new cap every two years. As a result, the wholesale transition from one pattern to another (for the units to which it applied) took some time, especially for those men who operated detached from their regiments at distant posts.

Compared to the stovepipe shako, the Belgic cap's distinctive design represented a major departure from simplicity and symmetry. It featured a tall, false front felt panel stitched to the front of the crown and was usually adorned with a knotted, worsted "chain" or cord across the front. The ends of the cord terminated in ornamental tassels which dangled down the right side of the cap. The colour of the cord corresponded with the company to which the soldier was attached (white for the grenadier and line companies and green for the light company). Belgic caps, like the earlier stovepipe, also mounted a narrow, cylindrical, worsted tuft and small, round, leather cockade with a regimental button or distinctive company device like a flaming grenade bomb or bugle horn. In the case of the Belgic, the tuft and cockade were mounted on the far left of the cap which created its distinctive "off-centre" appearance. Like the worsted cord, the woollen tuft was also colour-coded to the corresponding companies (white for the grenadiers, white over red for the battalion soldiers, and green for the light company).

Though smart in appearance both caps were impractical in thickly-wooded areas. Some caps, especially for troops who were required to skirmish, had cloth tape ties that were wrapped and fastened around the wearer's chin to secure the cap to the head.

Regimental shakos saw very hard use on active service and were prone to weather damage and crushing. As a result, they were usually not worn in camp, garrison, or when performing fatigue duties. Simple undress or foraging caps



The 1800 "stovepipe" and 1812 "Belgic" regimental caps. These authentic reproductions capture the different look and proportions of each. Very few originals survive worldwide. Credit: the author



Various patterns of foraging cap (stocking, "fore and aft," bonnet, l. to r.) used by the Army during the War of 1812. The squat, bonnet style was likely adopted late in the war. Credit: the author

in various forms were normally worn in their stead. Woollen caps of a stocking pattern, "fore and aft," and bonnet style were all in service at different times during the conflict, though attempts to standardize the forage cap were ongoing through the War of 1812 period. It would not have been unusual to see any number of these being worn by various units garrisoned or operating together.

Kevin Hebib is Programme Development Officer, Fort York National Historic Site, and a military material culture specialist. He also researches and fabricates authentic reproduction military equipment for re-enactors and military museums. Some of his work can be seen on display at the Canadian War Museum.

On 27 April 1813 Battle of York Combatants Fought for Control of the Town of York (now Toronto)

Over the past 200 years, these soldiers and warriors have been largely forgotten and the site fragmented. Today, with efforts driven by far-sighted citizens like you, Fort York National Historic Site, 43 acres in size, is being revitalized. Part of the site, Garrison Common, is being enlarged and restored to become a vital and historic central, urban park. The Common will serve to commemorate what happened here. It will also serve a present and growing need for quality green space in downtown Toronto.



Credit: Left to right - Taku Kumabe; Patkau Architects and Kearns Mancini Architects; DTAH

And when it opens in 2014, the Fort York Visitor Centre will be more than an award-winning, environmentally sensitive, and beautiful building. It will be the gateway to a revitalized national historic site.

Fort York National Historic Site Is Our Common Ground

Please Help Us Finish the Task and Donate to The Fort York Foundation in 2013

Canada Helps at www.fortyorkfoundation.ca or send a cheque to
Susan Perren, Fort York Foundation, 2 St Clair Ave East, Suite 800, Toronto M4T 2T5

2013 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Kristine Williamson

APRIL

Parler Fort: The Battle of York: Myth, Reality, and the Explosion of the Grand Magazine Sun. April 14, 7:30 pm

Join celebrated British author, historian, and archaeologist Andy Robertshaw, a featured expert in the film *Explosion 1812*. Robertshaw is best known for his television work with the BBC in *Two Men in a Trench* and *The Trench* as well as the popular shows *Time Team* and *Battlefield Detectives*.

Admission \$10 + tax.

Community Cleanup Day Sat. April 20, 10 am to 12 noon

Help us with spring cleaning of the Garrison Common on Mayor Rob Ford's Community Cleanup Day. All equipment will be provided. Meet at the west Fort York gates.

Contact David Juliusson @ 416-392-6907 ext. 233

A Free Family Pass to the site will be offered to all volunteers.

Toronto District School Board History Fair Tues. April 23, 10 am to 2:30 pm

View history project displays from the West District of the TDSB.

Included with regular admission.

Canadian Citizenship Ceremony at the Fort Fri. April 26, 11 am to 12 noon

Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, in partnership with Fort York's volunteer Citizenship Committee and Fort York National Historic Site, will host candidates for citizenship. Prior to the ceremony, community roundtable discussions will be convened to strengthen the connection between new Canadians and their communities, and to remind all in attendance of the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. The event includes guest speakers, music, and a reception.

Free admission until 12:30 pm.

Battle of York Commemoration Saturday, April 27

2013 marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of York. Join Fort York for an unforgettable day of commemorative activities to honour those who fought.

Visit www.toronto.ca/1812/events.htm for the full program and details on access.

SUNRISE CEREMONY: 6 to 7:30 am, near Palais Royale, western waterfront at the Jameson Avenue pedestrian bridge. On the shoreline where the Americans landed four First Nations, led by the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, will hold a solemn ceremony.

WALKING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS: 10 am to 12:30 pm, near Palais Royale, western waterfront at the Jameson Avenue pedestrian bridge. Starting where the disembarked Americans began their advance, the general public and First Nations will be led by historical interpreters and celebrities along the route with stops at significant points, arriving at Fort York by 12:30 pm.

PRESENTATION OF COLOUR: 10 to 11 am, in front of Legislative Assembly, Queen's Park. Following a series of dynamic military displays the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, will be presented with a new Regimental Colour by HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

PARADE: 11:30 am to 1 pm, begins at Queen's Park. Members of the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Army with thirteen bands will march through the streets of Toronto from Queen's Park to Fort York National Historic Site. The parade will end at Fleet and Fort York Boulevard when a hundred-person guard will continue into the fort.

COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES: 1:30 to 4 pm. An hour-long ceremony of remembrance will take place at 1:30 at Fort York National Historic Site in the presence of re-enactment units representing those who fought during the Battle of York, representatives of the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Army, and four First Nations. A commemorative ceremony

from 3 to 4 pm will focus on the dedication of a new memorial plaque to honour the contribution of First Nations during the Battle of York. The dedication will be followed by singing, dancing, and drumming performed by descendants of those who fought in the battle. The rededication of restored plaques presented in 1934 will take place in the presence of the original organizations—the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 and the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire.

Free admission to Fort York all day on April 27.

MAY

Fort York Historic District Walking Tours in association with Jane's Walks: Fort York and 200 Years of Development Sat. May 4, 1 to 2:30 pm

Explore the history and evolution of Fort York, the Garrison Common, and the nearby Lake Ontario shoreline from the early British colonial era to the present day.

Free admission to Fort York following tour.

Victoria Day Mon. May 20, 10 am to 5 pm

What better way to celebrate Victoria Day than to visit the birthplace of Toronto? Enjoy tours, kids' activities, and demonstrations of Georgian-era cooking in one of the oldest kitchens in Toronto.

Regular admission.

Doors Open Sat. and Sun. May 25 and 26, 10 am to 5 pm

Fort York will open its doors for this annual celebration of history and architecture. Enjoy special tours of some of Toronto's oldest architecture and original War of 1812 buildings or stroll the grounds of this National Historic Site. This year's theme 'Creators, Makers and Innovators' will bring some tasty surprises. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for details closer to the date.

Free admission all weekend.

JUNE

Fort York Historic District Walking Tour in association with Heritage Toronto: War, Invasion & Occupation: Fort York & Toronto in the War of 1812 Sun. June 2, 1 to 2 pm

Some of the most dramatic events in Toronto's history occurred during the War of 1812. This special walking tour examines major events of this tumultuous era.

Tour is free and includes admission to Fort York following tour.

The Garrison at York Comes to Life! The Fort York War of 1812 Festival Weekend Sat. June 15, 10 am to 9 pm Sun. June 16, 10 am to 5 pm

Tour authentic War of 1812 encampments; discover period food, music, and entertainment; shop Sutler's Row for historic and period-inspired merchandise, plus much more.

Tactical demonstrations by some of the best units in Canada feature an evening battle re-enactment at dusk on historic Garrison Common on Saturday, June 15. Check www.toronto.ca/1812/events for more details closer to the date.

Free admission.

Aboriginal Festival at Fort York National Historic Site Thurs. to Sat. June 20 to 22

This three-day festival opens Thursday evening, June 20, with the book launch of *Mississauga Portraits* by renowned historian Don Smith of the University of Calgary. Sunset brings the world premiere of Kahá: wi Dance Theatre's 1812 Bicentennial commission *Remember to Honour*, directed by award-winning choreographer Santee Smith. June 21 and 22 will repeat sunset performances of *Remember to Honour* plus performances of new commissions by the Centre for Indigenous Theatre, Métis Fiddler Quartet, Eddie Robinson's traditional music and dance ensemble Morningstar River, and special educational programs by the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation to mark the Strawberry Festival.

Free admission to all Aboriginal Festival events.

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



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 **Toronto Culture**
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)