

The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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INVITATION TO A GRAND OPENING

On Saturday and Sunday, September 20-21

You Are Invited To View the New

VISITOR CENTRE AT FORT YORK

Open to the public as part of the On Common Ground festival.

FREE ADMISSION

This will be the first opportunity to see inside a dramatic new landmark that has been two years in construction. The inaugural displays will highlight Canada's part in the First World War.

Volunteers and staff will be on hand to explain how the spaces will be used in the longer term.



Fort York, What Is All the Fuss About?

by Antonio Gómez-Palacio

Commemorating history has no purpose for dead people. They don't care anymore. It is not intended for the sake of folks who lived heroic or ordinary lives in times past—they are long gone.

It is about us, today, and our kids, tomorrow.

We look at the road travelled because it helps us understand where we are going. Because it gives our journey a sense of purpose and direction. Because it grounds us. It is in the context of understanding our time and place that our individual journeys gain perspective. Or so we like to think. So...does it really matter that a battle was fought 200 years ago on this spot, to our lives today?

To get an answer, I talk to my kids. My 11 year-old spent the night at Fort York as part of a reading club outing. My 9 year-old was recently able to dress up as a soldier and parade around the fort in a red coat. They tell me: "we would have been part of the USA"... "sometimes, kids my age had to fight"... "the food was terrible." It becomes clear to me that my children have gained perspective of their national identity, their

privileged childhood, and a slightly-greater appreciation for my home cooking, among other things. As they talk about their impressions of the fort, I can see them mirror an understanding of themselves.

Now, it is my turn to stand on the grounds of the fort and reflect on how times have changed. Open spaces have transitioned from battlefields to port lands to parklands. A sense of expanse and seclusion has been replaced by the clamour of urban vibrancy. A defensive ethos has been replaced by a welcoming and celebratory vocation. Even the shoreline has receded and been infilled with expressways, condos, and one striking library. And, somewhere in the midst of all of this is a story that perseveres and continues to be written.

It is clear to me that conserving the 41-acre grounds of Fort York is about much more than keeping a memory alive. It is about accepting the legacy we inherit, for building a city and defining ourselves. It is the inheritance of our generation. How we choose to leverage it or squander it is up to us. What we manage to pass on to our children is also up to us.

So, the question remains: will the lives of our children be richer by how we invest or extinguish the legacies we receive? To this question, the new Visitor Centre at Fort York is a resounding yes. It is a declaration in favour of building a city upon our endowments. It draws from times past to give us a mirror upon which we can understand ourselves and imagine a future. It is also reinventing an extremely riddled juncture of the city—under an expressway, across a former shoreline and palisade—as a renewed crossroads. This time for children, families, tourists, residents, and visitors, as they make their way from downtown to the waterfront, from the new library to a park. It is healing a series of gaps in the urban fabric—alongside gaps in our sense of identity—enhancing a sense of place and quality of life. It is a renewed beacon at the centre of our city (formerly at the edge) that anchors a new neighbourhood and a renewed sense of Toronto as a welcoming, vibrant, robust populace, still “fighting” for a brighter future—bridging from the military past with contemporary design by Patkau Architects and Kearns Mancini.



Photo courtesy of Antonio Gómez-Palacio

So, what’s the take home?

Everyone will take home a different experience from visiting Fort York—and I urge you to visit. One particular notion I would like to put on the table is the importance of investing

in our cultural institutions. This is not a moralistic enterprise. It is not something we do because it is the “right” thing to do. Rather, we do it because we have a tremendous amount to gain.

Think about all the places in the world that you enjoy visiting. Close your eyes for a minute and picture yourself in one of them. Now, ask yourself: why are you there? In all likelihood you have chosen to be there because of its strong sense of place and character; because it has a history you can relate to; because it is animated and vibrant; because it is beautiful.

In Toronto we are at a crossroads. We can embrace our future with enthusiasm and work tenaciously to deliver a grand vision, or we can incrementally chip away at our legacy till the authenticity melts away. The Fort York Visitor Centre clearly opts for the former. But, it is not a one-step journey. In fact, it requires each and every one of us to support the enterprise, to carry a torch for the Centre, the Fort, the neighbourhood, and the city.

Commemorating history is not about romanticizing a distant past, it is a call to action and an open question: what is the sense of self and the character of city you wish to bequeath to your children?

Antonio is a founding partner of DIALOG. Acting at the intersection of urban design, planning, and architecture, his work with cities, communities, and campuses is characterized by an engaging and collaborative process. He has worked on a number of city-building projects and heritage districts and acted as a juror for the Fort York Visitor Centre competition.

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Before the Visitor Centre: An Archaeological Journey

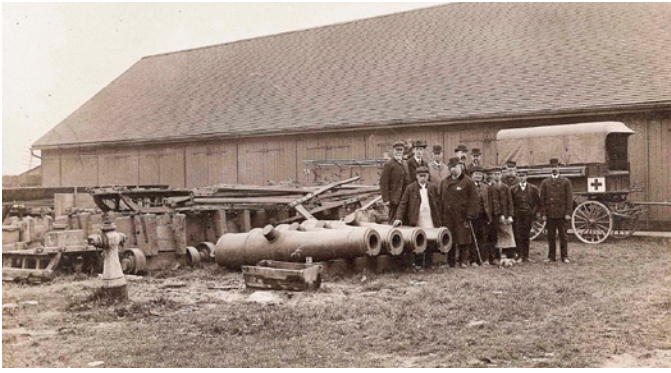
by *Andrew M. Stewart*

The site of the new Visitor Centre is a layered story, both physically and historically—a place *en route* and perpetually, it seems, in transition.

Above ground it was important to maintain a respectful distance between the Visitor Centre and both the fort and Garrison Common (part of the 1813 battlefield). To the south, the elevated Gardiner Expressway provided its own set of challenges. Below the ground, archaeological excavations were, in 2009, beginning to reveal features of interest to be taken into consideration by the five short-listed architectural teams that were preparing submissions.

During excavations in 2009-10 by Archaeological Services, Inc. (ASI) and Strata Consulting Inc., followed by more excavations in 2010-11 (by ASI), a substantial area south of Garrison Road was found to contain layers of evidence for a complex of ordnance and supply buildings, and a work yard, all enclosed by a high wooden fence. Established in 1868, this complex expanded to the west in the 1910s and was demolished in the mid-1930s.

Under these layers of archaeological evidence, a deeply buried dark soil was preserved. This soil essentially represents the surface of the ground on which the military complex was built. It was also part of Fort York’s field of fire during the War of 1812. The ground had been deliberately cleared of vegetation to deny an enemy cover and allow the fort’s guns to be brought to bear on a force approaching from the west. At approximately 1 pm on 27 April 1813 they did precisely



Part of the 1868 yard and one of the ordnance buildings (gun carriage shed), photo taken in 1899. City of Toronto Archives Larry Becker Collection 150735-3

that. Just 100 m or so southwest of the Visitor Centre, the US Army drew up during the final moments of the Battle of York to prepare for an assault on Fort York. The ground briefly became a no man's land, with an exchange of artillery fire.

In stark contrast to the dense and overlapping archaeological features in this area, nothing but pure sand was encountered south of a line running parallel to, and just north of, the Gardiner Expressway. This latter deposit related to the east-west cut that was made to build the expressway in the 1950s. To minimize disturbing any archaeological deposits as much as possible, the architects located the Visitor Centre largely within this cut.

Part of the new building runs into the archaeological site but avoids the 1868 work yard. The surface of that yard—flagstones covered with a thin layer of pebbles—survived the 1930s demolition when it was buried under layers of fill to create the current parking lot. This 19th century surface is about 1.5 m below the lot. The flagstones overlie and protect part of the original (“battlefield”) soil, which was excavated (and removed) in other places. The yard pavement and underlying soil serve, therefore, as time capsules for future archaeologists to investigate, perhaps with techniques that we don't yet possess.

Other archaeological features included piles (wooden support posts) for the military buildings of the 1860s; ceramic drain pipes laid in trenches servicing water hydrants; layers of coal ash containing glass, metal, shale, and slag and representing industrial refuse deposits; and a smithing slag and red-fired sand layer associated with a 1920s forge.

Excavations yielded nearly 40,000 artifacts, the fragments of cultural material or byproducts of human activity (everything from pieces of window glass to animal bones discarded from meals). Artifacts associated with and recovered from “lots” (distinct layers, or contexts, in the ground recorded individually by archaeologists) provide information about that lot's origin, including its age. For instance, musket balls and copper fragments of barrel hoops belonging to gunpowder kegs found in the buried soil clearly date to the Battle of York in 1813.

Almost half the artifacts came from the buried soil and include flakes of chert (a flint-like rock) that were produced by aboriginal flintknappers. However most of the material relates to:

- demolished buildings and their furnishings (nails, window glass, flower pots, lamp chimneys);
- kitchen and food waste (tableware, liquor bottles, animal bones);
- tools and equipment, including a 1910 licence plate for a Dept of Militia and Defence service wagon, and armament, ranging from War of 1812 grapeshot fragments and musket balls to a device for cleaning a Webley service revolver from the Great War period; and
- personal gear (smoking pipe fragments, bone buttons used to secure men's underwear until the 1850s, and an epaulette belonging to the uniform of the 2nd Depot Battalion of the 1st Central Ontario Regiment from 1917-18).

One peculiar item, a corroded copper coin subjected to X-radiography, turned out to be a counterfeit George III halfpenny dating to the late 18th or early 19th century. It was counterstruck with the initials “CD” or “GD”—possibly indicating its ownership by a member of Coleman's Dragoons which served in the Niagara and Thames River valley theatres during the War of 1812; or the “Green Dragoons,” the nickname for the 13th Hussars which garrisoned Toronto during the period 1866-69 and helped established a cavalry school here.

Also remarkable are seventeen artifacts (marbles, a doll's head) relating to children. Eight of them were recovered in contexts that suggest they were deposited between 1868 and the mid-1930s rather than having been brought into the site later, for example within the fill that was used for leveling the parking lot.



Porcelain doll head. Courtesy of Archaeological Services, Inc.

These excavations have added to an already large archaeological collection of about 300,000 items from Fort York curated by City of Toronto Museums & Heritage Services. Most previous archaeological work was concentrated inside the fort walls. Here, to the west of the fort, we had the opportunity to look at a little-known part of the site's history and to consider intriguing questions, like the place of children in the ordnance and supply complex.

Andrew Stewart is a professional archaeologist who chairs the Fort York Foundation board and is also a director of The Friends of Fort York.

Not To Be Outdone, Fort York Makes Its Mark

by Stephen Otto

From outside the visitor centres at many historical and natural sites seem to have little in common. While most contain many similar functions—admissions desks, orientation theatres, galleries, classrooms, restrooms, restaurants, kitchens, gift shops, offices, storage rooms and the like—they're stylistic shape-shifters and rarely resemble one another. Some are faded back to avoid competing with what they support; others, the work of star architects, are given prominence. Both qualities exist in the latest, remarkable example of this building type, opening at Fort York on 19 September 2014.

After World War II when North Americans were given mobility and leisure to travel more widely, they needed to better understand the places they visited, and to have their human needs cared for too. Hence, the Visitor Centre emerged. The term was coined in the mid-1950s by the US National Park Service as it modernized after a tenfold increase in visitation from 1931 to 1948. Then in 1956 Congress spurred things on by authorizing the decade-long Mission 66 program to improve the national parks. In 110 of them visitor centres were built, introducing this new kind of building to the world.

Leading American sites like Gettysburg had decades of experience to inform the upgrading process. Its battlefield had been an attraction since shortly after the Civil War when non-profits and private interests began assembling some of the land that forms the present-day park. For-hire guides took visitors round, and a major attraction apart from the sense of history that pervaded the place was a privately-owned 19th century cyclorama of Pickett's Charge relocated to Gettysburg in 1913 after being on display for several years in Boston and Newark.

Hung in an unheated, leaky building, the cyclorama was acquired by the National Park Service in 1942. Two decades later as part of Mission 66 it was re-housed in a structure

designed by Richard Neutra, a noted modernist architect. In 1970 the Park Service secured another attraction when it purchased a private museum near the site with a huge collection of battle-related artifacts. Not until 2008, however, were both the museum and cyclorama brought together—the latter in a structure resembling a round barn—within a \$103-million complex by Cooper, Robertson & Partners of New York City and LSC Design of York, PA. Its appearance recalled a typical Pennsylvania farmstead. Under an arrangement unusual even for our neighbours in the Great Republic the building is owned by a private foundation but will be donated to the National Park Service, debt-free, after twenty years of operation. Currently about 1.3 million people visit each year.

Like Gettysburg in the US, Stonehenge ranks among Britain's leading attractions with a million plus visitors annually. For forty-five years until 2013 they arrived through a bunker-like building surrounded by parking that reminded one observer of a skanky lay-by. In 2013 it was replaced by a new structure about a mile and a half away designed by the Anglo-Australian firm of Denton Corker Marshall and costing £27 million. Visitors now must walk in, or take a shuttle. In recent years English Heritage has moved aggressively to protect the monument, rerouting a nearby highway and fencing off the stones to visitors except for a few days around the summer and winter solstices.

Among older visitor centres that still work well, thanks to periodic upgrades, is the one at Sainte-Marie-Among-the-Hurons near Midland, ON., opened in 1967. A Jesuit mission in the wilderness two months by canoe from Montreal, Ste. Marie was built in 1639 and burned a decade later after tensions between the Iroquois, the French, and their Huron allies boiled over. Extensive archaeology in 1941-51 allowed the Ontario Government and its partners to replicate the original buildings. Then, with advice from the staff at Gettysburg, leading educators and others, notably Bill Cranston and Vernon Mould, a visitor centre designed by Blakeway Millar of Toronto was built to house the orientation theatre and a museum that sits astride the exit path. Still



The Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Centre, at 139,000 square feet in size, is larger than the Fort York Armoury but broken into smaller volumes so it's not overwhelming. The tall polygonal structure that resembles a round barn houses its cyclorama. Courtesy The Gettysburg Foundation; Bill Dowling, photographer.



The new Stonehenge Visitor Centre near Salisbury, England, is seen here just before its opening day in December 2013. Courtesy Denton Corker Marshall; Peter Cook, photographer.



Sainte-Marie-Among-the-Hurons, near Midland, ON, is on an inlet off the Wye Marsh in Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. The reconstructed mission is screened from the parking lot and a railway by the Visitor Centre, a high palisade, and thick plantings. Courtesy Huronia Historical Parks.

magical today is the orientation film: as the closing scenes appear, the screen rises and viewers are invited to walk directly out into History.

There is no typical look for a visitor centre. At Ste. Marie it was rendered shapeless by landscaping to help buffer the modestly-scaled site from modern intrusions. In other places the building's appearance is not an issue because it is widely separated from what it supports, as at Stonehenge or Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island. The design may even be a positive attraction, the work of a celebrated architect. In each case, however, the centre must defer to, or not get in the way of, interpreting the site. At Giants' Causeway in Northern Ireland, it disappears into folds in the landscape from some angles. At Culloden, near Inverness, where the Scots fought a pivotal battle with the English in 1746, a visitor centre built in 1984 was preceded by too little archaeology and research. Later it was found to intrude on a line of battle. This was remedied by a new building opened in 2008 which now serves about 100,000 visitors annually.

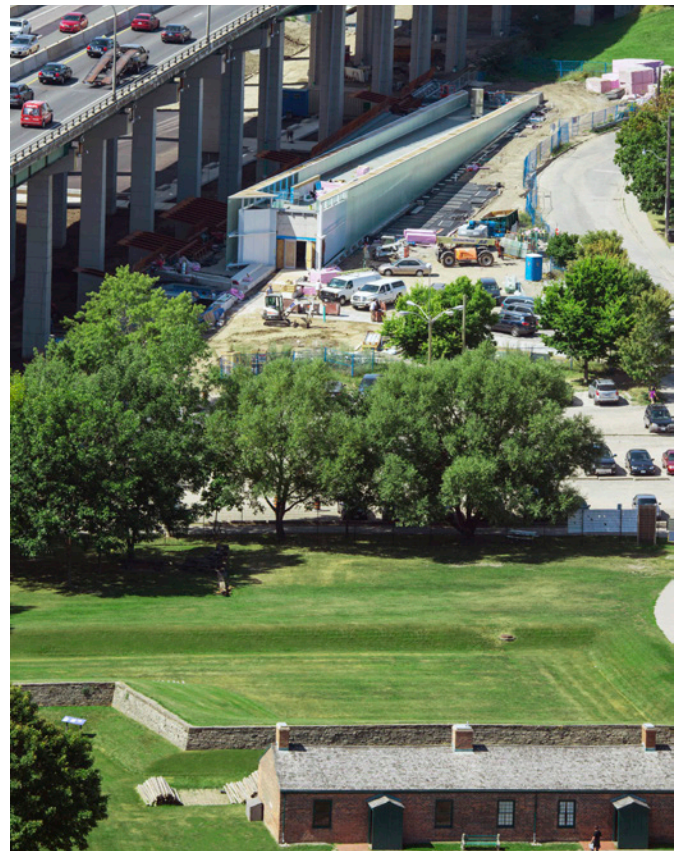
The location for the Visitor Centre at Fort York was fixed generally before an open competition for its design took place. Several alternate locations were considered within the national historic site's long and narrow shape, and each was evaluated carefully: how far would visitors have to walk? where was public transit located? how would drop-off and parking for cars and buses work? how visible from the road would the centre be? Then, Herb Stovel, a noted conservationist, offered other cautions: build off-site or reuse an existing structure, if possible; locate where the land was disturbed previously; and stay off the battlefield. In the end the only place within the 41-acre park that met most tests was a sloping strip in the shadow of the elevated Gardiner Expressway and to one side of the main thrust of the American attack in 1813. After archaeological testing, it became the confirmed location. The slope had an added advantage in being able to conceal some of the building's mass.

Fort York's Visitor Centre was not intended primarily as a landmark, but may become one thanks to its dramatic location in counterpoint to the fort's nemesis, the Expressway. The centre turns that soaring structure at its highest point as it crosses Toronto's waterfront into an arcade over the building's main entrance and a cover for nearby parking. What takes the centre's design by Patkau Architects and Kearns Mancini into the realm of genius, however, are large rusting steel panels on the street elevation to recall the low bluff along Lake Ontario originally in that place. The north or rear facade is equally masterful. A rising ramp emerges from the structure's lower core to place visitors a short walk across the Garrison Common from the fort's west gate. This side facing the battlefield where American and British casualties may still lie buried where they fell is reposeful and sheathed in ghostly-pale glass.

Efforts begun in the 1980s have now resulted in a wonderful structure which has cost \$21 million to date, giving Fort York a focus it never had before. As well, it provides the neighbours with a peerless place to meet, if only perhaps to look out over the Common from the roof terrace and watch the sun set.

Congratulations are deserved all 'round.

Stephen Otto is a founder of The Friends of Fort York and the current co-chair of its board of directors.



Seen here under construction, the Visitor Centre flanks the site of the Battle of York in 1813 and stands near the original shoreline of Lake Ontario. Photo by Sid Calzavara.

Our Colleague Ceta Is Appointed to City Council



On 7 July 2014 City Council appointed Ceta Ramkhalawansingh to represent Ward 20 on council to complete the balance of Adam Vaughan's term after his election to the Parliament of Canada. A director of The Friends of Fort York since 2012, she has taken a leave of absence from our board to serve at City Hall. Long an activist in her Grange neighbourhood and a former manager of the City's Corporate Diversity and Human Rights program, Ceta has deep roots in education having worked during the 1970s on the development of anti-racism and multicultural policies and programs at the Toronto school board. From 1983-88 she was an Order-in-Council appointee to the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues. Needless to say her Fort York colleagues wish her well in this new role.

Courtesy of Metroland Media Toronto, David Nickle photographer.

Bicentennial Timeline: October to December 1814

Oct. King's Printer John Cameron struggled through the autumn to restore his printing office destroyed after the Battle of York in April 1813.

Dec. 7 Home District Magistrates ordered a Market House built at King and New [Jarvis] streets, York, on ground set aside for a market in 1797. It had been completed by April 1815 when regulations were made to govern the sale of food in the town. Two hundred copies were printed.

Dec. 17 Notice that the next Dancing Assembly in York will be held on January 2; subscribers who have not yet paid their subscriptions will please remit them to the Managers.

Dec. 21 Thomas Tivey and John Dennis received £36 "For materials furnished and work performed, Repairing the Church Damaged while occupied by the troops for a hospital."

Dec. 24 Treaty of Ghent ended the War of 1812. This news reached York on 15 February 1815 prompting publication of a *York Gazette Extra*.

Dec. 25 *The York Gazette* resumed publication although "The courier arrived yesterday, but to the Editor's disappointment brought no papers." Cameron announced *The Upper Canada Almanack for 1815* as "shortly for sale." Available January 14 it presented an editorial opinion: "We have held our own against powerful odds – our defenders are heroes, and ably commanded: should the continuance of war lead to another campaign, may our heroes be sown broad-cast, not dabbled on our soil."

Dec. 25 Yesterday an attempt was made at Kingston to launch the frigate *Psyche* "which failed due to the severity of the cold. Today she went handsomely into her element. She is a beautiful ship."

Dec. 25 Army life: the Regulations posted in Barrack Rooms in Canada prohibited the wetting of coals, sawing or splitting of wood on the floors, or injuring the floors by iron creepers or otherwise. Also, proscribed was the fixing up of shelves, racks, hooks or boards; driving nails or holdfasts into the partitions or walls that injure or deface the paint or plastering; or the fastening of clothes lines to any racks or shelves in the rooms.

Dec. 25 Henry Clay, one of the US Negotiators of the Treaty of Ghent, wrote: "The terms of this instrument are undoubtedly not such as our country expected at the commencement of the war. Judged of however by the actual condition of things ... they cannot be pronounced very unfavorable. We lose no territory, I think no honor."



Under US and British flags supported by sailors the figures of America and Britannia extend olive branches to mark the Treaty of Ghent, signed 24 December 1814. The dove of peace crowns the allegory. John Rubens Smith, Peace, ink and watercolour, 1814? Credit: Library of Congress

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Manager's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Manager

As expected, the summer season at Fort York was busy with many activities, large and small. On the music front our calendar included a combination of larger events such as Toronto Urban Roots Festival and TIME Festival, and smaller more intimate programs such as the series produced in partnership with the Guelph Jazz Festival. On July 13 we launched the inaugural New Generation Steelband Festival in partnership with the Pan Arts Network, featuring ten steel pan groups with strong youth participation.

Working with the David Suzuki Foundation's Homegrown National Park Project an outdoor screening of "Project Wild Thing" attracted an audience of almost one thousand and on a beautiful evening in early August twenty families spent the night camping at Fort York as part of the first Homegrown Jamboree. In partnership with Fresh Air Cinema, and sponsored by Scotiabank, additional free outdoor movie screenings continued on Tuesday evenings throughout August.

Following stops in cities such as Dublin, London, Helsinki, and Milan, and before moving on to Rome, Moscow, and Stockholm, Taste of Toronto landed at Fort York as the first North American stop for the international restaurant festival. The event brought thousands down to Fort York to sample food from some of the city's best chefs, restaurants, and exhibitors. The fort was open for visitors to enjoy throughout the festival and the Fort York Guard figured prominently.

After beginning our season with Canada Day and hosting the Afghanistan Memorial Vigil, our core programming continued throughout the summer. On Simcoe Day we again partnered with the Ontario Black History Society to

mark Emancipation Day and the role of our first Lieutenant-Governor in gaining freedom for Black people in Ontario.

Showing no signs of letting up, our events and programs will continue throughout the remainder of 2014. Next up is the On Common Ground Festival on September 20-21 and our Great War Food Symposium on September 28. We hope everyone marks October 4 in their calendars for Nuit Blanche when Fort York will play a key role as one of the curated zones for contemporary art installations. The entire site, including the new Visitor Centre, will be brought to life throughout the night.

The construction of our Visitor Centre is nearing completion with the grand opening celebration coming up September 20-21, noon to 7 pm daily, alongside our On Common Ground Festival. The official ribbon cutting will take place at 2 pm on Friday, September 19, and the building and exhibits will be open and free throughout the rest of the weekend. Inaugural exhibits are focussed on the Great War and will draw from the City of Toronto's collection of artifacts, archives, and fine art. Other components will include Charles Pachter's *1812: The Art of War Series* and *An Act of Timing*, an art installation by Nestor Kruger that transforms Woodrow Wilson's 1918 Fourteen Points speech to Congress into a large, non-repeating, geometric wall pattern.

The opening of the new Visitor Centre marks a major shift in how visitors will arrive and begin their Fort York experience. While the new building will officially open in September, a significant amount of work in and around the site will be completed over the fall and spring. This includes important landscaping, including demolition of the Garrison Road bridge and reworking our parking lots, and the development of permanent exhibits within the Visitor Centre and elsewhere on-site. We appreciate everyone's patience as we welcome change in the months ahead.



THE OPENING OF THE VISITOR CENTRE signals a new phase in the relationship between Fort York and The Friends of Fort York. As part of planning for the future The Friends look to find people with special skills to join our board. Our organization is made up entirely of volunteers; we have no staff.

If you're interested in and qualified for the following roles: (1) to understudy our Treasurer, (2) to raise funds in the private sector to support the Fort York Guard, or (3) to train as "Planning & Pictures" editor for our Fife & Drum newsletter, please let us know or ask for more information at info@fortyork.ca

Before the Condos: The Garrison Community, 1870-1934

by Richard Gerrard

Fort York's interpretive emphasis has traditionally focused on the period starting with John Graves Simcoe's arrival in 1793 to the British army's departure in 1870. This research note presents some preliminary findings regarding a neglected period of the fort's military history after the British left and before the site became a museum in 1934. It is true that much of Toronto's 'military' activity shifts west to the New Garrison after its completion in 1841, but the Old Fort's story still deserves our attention. A careful reading of the Toronto city directories reveals a great deal about who was living at the site and when.

In 1870 we see a mention of the "Garrison Grounds" and "Military Burying Grounds" intersecting Niagara Street. Interestingly the first named resident is a civilian, "WEATHERSTON, NICHOLAS, agent G. W. R [Great Western Railway] office, foot of Yonge and Queen's wharf, h[ome] Garrison Reserve, w[est] of Bathurst." This marks the beginning of civilian occupation of at least a portion of the site. Rental homes existed on the reserve, often occupied for extended periods of time; for example John Eddis's family held a lease for 26 years (1885-1911). There is evidence of other, more transient arrangements, such as the militia families who may have been renting rooms to make a little extra cash in the 1880s and 90s.

The early period (1870 -1895) is dominated by the Active Militia's presence. In 1878 orders are given to provide accommodations for Instructor Sergeant Frederick Gathercole (2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles) and Sergeant Major Fred Smith (Governor General's Body Guards). Evidence suggests that Gathercole may have been resident earlier (possibly 1872); after his death in 1885 he was interred in the Military Burying Grounds making him a permanent resident of the National Historic Site. Besides



Standing outside 12 Old Fort Road (home of Canadian Ordnance Corps Private Robert Patterson and his wife Annie) a knife grinder works his trade as a group of unidentified children watch. Even in 1916 when this photo was taken the fort remained a community of all ages. John Boyd / Library and Archives Canada

the two regiments noted above the fort was also home to non-commissioned officers and men associated with the 10th Battalion Royal Grenadiers, the Militia/Ordnance Stores Department, the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry, and the Ontario Rifle Association. (The Toronto Field Battery was present as well but appears to have only maintained a gun shed without an associated storesman living on-site, unlike the other regiments.)

One thing to bear in mind is that these were part-time soldiers. City directories list other occupations in addition to their military rank; this could explain why three different widows were allowed to live on in their homes after the death of their husbands (in one case for fourteen years). More research is needed to clarify the relationship between these families and the Active Militia, particularly the reason for their coordinated departures in 1894-5.

The middle period (1895-1912) marks the transition from Active Militia to Permanent Force use of the fort. Many of these militia families were long-term residents, in one case spanning two generations. Robert Pirrie was bandmaster and storeman with the GGBG, and his son William served with the Militia Stores Department; both lived on-site continuously from 1878 to 1916. This family also reflects the increasing importance of the Ordnance Department of the Permanent Force at the fort. These were 'professional soldiers' of the Canadian army and increasing numbers of them were being billeted here. As a final note, the purchase of the Garrison Reserve by the City of Toronto from Militia and Defence in 1909 appears to have made virtually no difference to the pattern of use and occupancy.

The final period (1913-1934) begins with three significant events. First is the removal of two long-term civilian residents on Garrison Common, the John Eddis and George Franks families. Second is the near-complete displacement of the Active Militia by the Ordnance Corps. Third is the appearance of numbered street addresses on 'Old Fort Road' in 1914. These addresses persist (with residents listed) until



In 1914 the buildings inside the fort received numbered street addresses. The 1838 Artillery barracks became 1, 2, and 3 Old Fort Road as indicated on the photograph dated 27 June 1930. City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, s0372_ss0001_it095

1934 when "Old Fort Road and Garrison" simply becomes "Restored Old Fort." This period shows a remarkable degree of overall residential stability apart from a major disruption in 1919-20 relating to demobilization following the Great War when members of the Ordnance Corps present during the war years are largely replaced by others following it. In the final decade we can observe occupied homes being abandoned one by one, until at last only eight of the fifteen street addresses have tenants in 1934.

Using listings from the Toronto city directories we have built up a database of the garrison community's fifteen to seventeen residences for the post-colonial period. For most

of the years from just before the Great War to the opening of the museum in 1934 we have identified the individuals and families who occupied the buildings on Old Fort Road. This new research, supplemented with information from other historical sources, will provide additional insights into the development of the site in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In particular it will have significant implications for interpreting the archaeological record, perhaps providing an opportunity to link specific artifacts and features with identified individuals and families.

Richard Gerrard is a historian with City of Toronto Museums. He has been researching the fort's material culture since joining the archaeology program here in 1987.

The Fort York Visitor Centre's Inaugural Exhibits

by Wayne Reeves

Five new exhibits curated by Museums & Heritage Services staff will premiere when the Fort York Visitor Centre opens on September 20-21. Four investigate the First World War; the fifth is a contemporary take on the War of 1812.

Three of the four Great War exhibits are object-rich and historical in focus, drawing inspiration and material from the City's artifact, fine art, and archival collections.

"The Great War—In Your Attic, Closet or Storage Locker" delves into the meaning of small objects which reflect Canada's participation in the war. Cap badges, service medals, sweetheart pins, and other things have long been cherished by individuals and preserved in institutions. What is their significance?

"Outfitted for War: Canadian Uniforms and Arms of the First World War" looks at what particular men and women wore on service, and what unknown men used in battle. Lots of khaki, along with a machine gun and a bluebird.

"Art and the Great War: A Toronto Perspective" will challenge those who think that all of Canada's great wartime art is in the Canadian War Museum. This exhibit teases out some intriguing Toronto stories tied to paintings, photographs, graphic design, and three-dimensional decorative art.

The fourth Great War exhibit is *An Act of Timing*, Nestor Kruger's site-specific installation in the tunnel leading up to Garrison Common. Woodrow Wilson's 1918 Fourteen Points speech to Congress is transformed into a large non-repeating geometric pattern—the backdrop for an audio narration of a card game in progress, inspired by its use in Russian folktales as a strategy to outwit the Devil. The work draws a relationship between the various forces (including luck) that affect the movement of history.

The fifth exhibit features Charles Pachter's fourteen-work painting series, *1812: The Art of War*. The bicentennial of the war provided the Toronto artist with another opportunity to explore Canadian history and identity. Pachter's pop art sensibility tackles Upper Canadian icons of the war, period uniforms, and even some re-enactors. Pachter generously donated the entire series to the City of Toronto in 2013; his gift now appears for the first time, in the Visitor Centre's theatre.

Wayne Reeves is Chief Curator for City of Toronto Museums & Heritage Services.



Scotiabank Cinema under the Stars

This summer, Scotiabank presented Cinema under the Stars – a FREE outdoor movie series that screened every Tuesday evening throughout August. In this photo residents are seen gathered on the grass at Fort York to enjoy the movies on a fine summer evening. An added bonus is the remarkable unobstructed views of the Toronto skyline from Fort York.

Photo courtesy of Taku Kumabe, www.thefestographer.ca

David O'Hara Honoured with CLAIR Fellowship

Each year the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) selects a distinguished urban practitioner to participate in a unique educational exchange program in Japan. This year David O'Hara, Manager of Fort York, has been named the CUI's 2014 CLAIR Fellow. The program, organized by Japan's Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), will be held in Tokyo and Amagasaki City from October 19 to 29. Previous CLAIR Fellows over the last twenty years have included Paul Bedford, Glenn Miller, Sue Corke, Jeff Evenson, and John Livey, as well as mayors and senior staff from Canadian municipalities.

As a tireless planner and advocate for Fort York, David is particularly well qualified to make a major contribution to the 2014 program. This year's theme involves the tourism industry with a special emphasis on promoting distinctive local attractions. Amagasaki is interested in local culture as a draw for foreign visitors and in areas of constructed beauty and historical significance—a good fit with the Fort York experience. As well as interacting with representatives from Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, and the UK, David will have the opportunity to share with them the story of Toronto's success at maintaining and celebrating its intact founding landscape in the core of a densely populated and vibrant downtown.

From the Gallery: The Great Sail



The number of Native People having a connection to early Fort York who are known by name is exceedingly small. The Great Sail, a Mississauga headman who lived with his family at Oak-Land (now De Grassi) Point on the west side of Cook Bay, Lake Simcoe, was sketched at the fort by Mrs. Simcoe in January 1794. This portrait was engraved later and prints of it are held at Ontario Archives and Toronto Public Library.

The Great Sail succeeded his father, also called Great Sail but better known as Canis or Keenes. At a ceremony at Fort York on 24 August 1793 when Toronto was renamed York, Canis took up two-year-old Francis Simcoe in his arms, thinking the boy might be frightened by the firing of the cannon. Instead, Francis was delighted by it. A month later Lt.-Gov. Simcoe travelling from York north to Matchedash Bay wanted to visit Canis at Oak-Land Point but was told he was dangerously ill. Returning there two weeks later Simcoe learned to his sorrow that both Canis and his eldest son had died some days before. Almost certainly

they succumbed to infections acquired from Europeans. Simcoe named Canise Island in Lake Simcoe near Beaverton in the headman's honour. Today it is usually called Thorah Island.

This caption is based on extensive research by Conrad E. Heidenreich whose family has owned much of De Grassi Point since the 1890s. Copies of his notes are found in the Resource Centre at Fort York.

Excavations at Stanley Barracks

In 2013 construction of a new hotel began on the grounds of the Canadian National Exhibition. Adjacent to the site, the remains of the East Enlisted Men's Barracks of the New Fort, a military establishment built ca. 1840 by the British to complement the garrison at Old Fort York, were excavated by Archaeological Services Inc. Once construction is complete, visitors will have a rare glimpse of Toronto's mid-nineteenth century archaeological history as the remains will be incorporated into the hotel's design. In the photo, the stone foundations of the barracks are shown, as well as interior and exterior brick features.



Courtesy of Archaeological Services Inc., photo by John Howarth.

2014 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Kristine Williamson

Due to construction, on-site parking is limited.
Visitors are encouraged to walk, take transit or bike to the site.

SEPTEMBER

On Common Ground Festival and Visitor Centre Opening Weekend Sat. Sept. 20 and Sun. Sept. 21, 12 noon to 7 pm

Step through our new "front door" to celebrate the grand opening of the Visitor Centre with On Common Ground. This multifaceted festival of culture and community will animate the grounds of Fort York and the Visitor Centre with culturally diverse music, dance, theatre, multimedia installations, storytelling, crafts, community village, and local food.

For more information visit toronto.ca/fortevents

The Dilawri Foundation presents The Bliss Ball Sat. Sept. 20, 7 pm to midnight Fort York Garrison Common

The Dilawri Foundation is proud to host its third annual Bliss Ball gala in support of one of the world's most remarkable paediatric health care institutions, the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids).

For more information and tickets please visit dilawrifoundation.ca

The Canaccord Genuity Great Camp Adventure for SickKids Sat. Sept. 27, all day Fort York Garrison Common

Take on the challenge of a new adventure walk unlike anything Toronto's ever seen. The Great Camp Adventure is a full day designed so everyone and anyone can participate, from kids to kids-at-heart: babies in strollers, gran & gramps, families, friends, co-workers, and corporations. Join in a challenge-by-choice walk along a planned route, all the way up to 20 km. In support of SickKids Hospital.

Register online at <http://www.campforkeeps.com> or by phone at 416-4-4KEEPS(445-3377).

Please note that Fort York will be closed to the general public all day Saturday September 27, for this special event.

Recipe for Victory – Great War Food Symposium Sun. Sept. 28, 10 am to 4 pm

In partnership with the Culinary Historians of Canada, Fort York National Historic Site presents a special food symposium that explores the fascinating history of domestic and military food and beverages during the Great War. The day will be filled with panel discussions; Great War-era cooking demos, including a reconstructed Aldershot Oven; period displays; a butter tart tasting with Elizabeth Baird, and more. Guest speakers include Dorothy Duncan, Liz Driver, and Madeleine Kloske.

Keynote speaker is Andrew Robertshaw, noted BBC personality, military culinary historian, and author of *Feeding Tommy: Battlefield Recipes from The Great War, 24HR Trench*, and *Frontline Cookbook: Battlefield Recipes from the Second World War*.

Early Bird Registration until September 12

Early Bird Fee: \$65; Regular Fee: \$75 (prices include HST)

Pre-registration and payment required. For more information please call 416-392-6907 x225
To register please call 416-392-6907 x221

OCTOBER

June Callwood Park Opening Ceremony Sat. Oct. 4, 7 pm, 630 Fleet Street

The City of Toronto will open this park, a centrepiece of the Fort York Neighbourhood, named in memory of one of Canada's leading social activists, June Callwood (1924 – 2007). Its landscaping has been supported by the Toronto Parks & Trees Foundation, the Francine and Robert Barrett Fund at the Toronto Community Foundation, and the Garden Club of Toronto.

Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2014 Sat. Oct. 4 sunset to Sun. Oct. 5 sunrise

Join curator Magda Gonzalez-Mora at Fort York as she transforms 41 acres of historic space into a zone of artistic installation and contemplation. There will be food vendors on-site through the night. *Nuit Blanche is always free.*

Fort York After Dark: Lantern Tours Fri. and Sat. Oct. 17, 18, 24, 25, 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Tour the grounds of Fort York at night to hear stories about this national treasure and the history that surrounds it, from the haunted lighthouse to the bloody Battle of York. The tour will also visit two military cemeteries near the Fort. This event is not recommended for children under 8 yrs. Complimentary refreshments.

Pre-registration is required. Please call 416-392-6907 x221 for more information or to pre-register. \$12.50 plus tax per person.

Historical Cooking Class: Pastry Making Part II Sun. Oct. 26, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

Join us in the 1826 Officers' Mess Kitchen where participants will prepare (and sample) a variety of delicious 18th and early 19th century dishes.

Pre-registration and payment required. \$75 + HST

For class information please call Bridget Wranich at 416-392-6907 x225
To register, call 416-392-6907 x221

NOVEMBER

Citizenship Ceremony Tues. Nov. 4, 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 at a special community ceremony at the fort. The event includes community roundtable discussions between established citizens and the new Canadians, guest speakers, music, and a reception.

Free admission to the fort after the ceremony.

Remembrance Day Tues. Nov. 11, 10:45 am

Fort York National Historic Site and the Toronto Municipal Chapter IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) are proud to present one of this City's most evocative Remembrance Day Services at the Strachan Avenue Military Cemetery on Garrison Common. Commencing at 10:45 am from the west gate of Fort York, a processional led by period uniformed military staff and standard bearers of the IODE will make its way to the adjacent Strachan Avenue Military Cemetery, where the public will be gathered. There, at the eleventh hour, all soldiers of the Toronto Garrison who fell in the War of 1812, the Rebellion Crises, the Crimean War, Northwest Rebellion, South African (Boer) War, the two World Wars, and recent conflicts around the globe will be remembered and honoured.

Please join us.

Historical Cooking Class: Christmas Fayre Sun. Nov. 16, 11 am to 3 pm

Join us in the 1826 Officers' Mess Kitchen where participants will prepare (and sample) a variety of delicious 18th and early 19th century dishes.

Pre-registration and payment required. \$75 + HST

For class information please call Bridget Wranich at 416-392-6907 x225
To register, call 416-392-6907 x221

DECEMBER

Fort York Frost Fair: A Vintage Christmas Market Sat. and Sun. Dec. 6 and 7, 10 am to 5 pm

Feel the excitement and charm of the festive season in Upper Canada some 200 years ago when the local Christmas Market was one of the social and shopping highlights of the year. Wander through the historic buildings of Fort York where merchants will be selling quality goods inspired by the 18th and 19th century. Try your hand at one of the many activities scheduled throughout the day, including printing your own Frost Fair souvenir. Warm yourself by the bonfire or in the cheerful warmth of the Officers' Mess Kitchen.

Included with regular Fort York admission.

Visit our website at: www.fortyork.ca. Learn more about Fort York, subscribe to the [free newsletter](#), become a [member](#), [donate](#) or browse our [historical image gallery](#).



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TORONTO Culture
www.toronto.ca/culture



Regular Admission to Fort York (all prices include taxes)
Adult: \$9.00, Senior (65+) & Youth (13-18): \$5.50,
Children (6-12): \$4.25, Children (5 and under): FREE

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