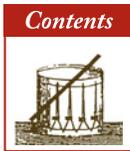


# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 21 No. 2 July 2017



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## Fort York Guard Footsore for Canada

by William Stewart

*To mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation this year, the editors invited one of the guard who marched in 1967 from Fort Niagara to Fort York to write about it.*

The Fort York Guard continues to play a significant role portraying the life of a British soldier garrisoned at York in the early 1800s, making history come alive for visitors to the fort as the soldiers carry out their duties.

I had the good fortune to join the guard as a part-time employee of the former Toronto Historical Board in the spring of 1967 when I was a high school student and a trooper in the Queen's York Rangers. Other student guardsmen also served in various Militia regiments in Toronto. The guard's nominal strength was increased for Canada's centennial of Confederation to a complement of thirty-five to forty members.

I was paid approximately \$1.25 per hour. Shifts were normally either four or eight hours for the princely sum of \$5 or \$10 a day. My initial training started at Fort York Armoury where the guard had use of the parade square to practice the required foot drill of the British army circa 1812. We quickly learned the drill and the proper pace of 108 steps per minute. Our next introduction was to the Tower musket, affectionately known as the Brown Bess. Musket and bayonet drill movements were mastered as well as loading and firing the musket.

British square was a military tactic used by the guard. Although muskets fired in British square would occasionally singe the blankets on our backpacks, the realism of firing the muskets was an integral part of our Retreat Ceremony, complete with cannon fire and bugle calls of the British army from that period.

In 1967 the guard played a role in recreating history, not only at the fort but across our region, when twenty-five members completed a march from Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake to Toronto. Short training sessions were held to ensure that guardsmen had the physical stamina to undertake a re-enactment of these British troop movements. I was fortunate to have been selected for the march; not all members could participate because the fort also had to be staffed throughout the period.



Guardsman David Rapson rubs his tired feet at Fort York, having finished the 80-mile march from Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake. (From The Telegram [Toronto] 18 August 1967. Photo by Jac Holland. Courtesy Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections, York University Libraries, ASC41074)



Three guardsmen perform a musket drill for onlookers in Battlefield Park, Stoney Creek, en route from Fort George to Fort York. (From The Telegram [Toronto] 16 August 1967. Photo by John Sharp. Courtesy Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections, York University Libraries, ASC410750)

The event began with an initial Retreat Ceremony at Fort George where the guard was billeted for the night in the block-house. We set off on our five-day march the next day, stopping each evening to perform a Retreat Ceremony in the communities where we were quartered in either a private home or motel. The guard marched on the shoulder of the road though one noted they “had to ride in a truck for a couple of miles to prevent being mowed down by cars.” We stopped in St. Catharines, Grimsby, Stoney Creek, and Burlington. Our order of dress was grey uniform trousers, black boots, and the guard’s navy blue sweatshirt and pack.

Prior to reaching a town, our escort vehicle would stop to provide our shakos, tunics, and cross belts. George Waters, the curator at Fort York, followed the marchers in the truck, toting a one-pound cannon and blank munitions. Entering the town we were in full uniform with muskets, cannon, and our fife and drums playing. Waters also delivered a capsule account of Canadian history and explained the purpose of the march while the guardsmen performed.

Our schedule required us to arrive in Toronto by 2 pm on Friday, August 18, to form an honour guard for the official opening of the Canadian National Exhibition. On arrival the chairman of the Toronto Historical Board, Colonel William James Stewart,

and Brigadier General John A. McGinnis, the board’s managing director, were on hand to welcome us. Local media covering the march reported on our daily progress. Bugler Steve Cadoran, 15, found the march “real easy” except the trudge up the Queenston Heights to Brock’s Monument. Another guardsman pointed out that as bugler he had no pack on his back, nor a ten-pound musket over his shoulder. Kenneth Stone, 17-year-old drummer from Riverdale Collegiate, summed it up: “Slogging along the flat is not too bad but it is the hills that [are] the real grind.” As another marcher remarked while he cleaned his 150-year-old flintlock musket, “I can hardly wait to get into a hot bathtub and then watch a bit of television.”

Throughout that summer season the fort was busy with Torontonians and tourists visiting the site. The guard completed many Retreat Ceremonies there as well as one at Toronto City Hall on Nathan Phillips Square. Members of the guard also worked at the Marine Museum of Upper Canada located on the Canadian National Exhibition grounds in the former officers’ barracks of the New Fort of 1841. I also had the opportunity to serve as a tour guide at Mackenzie House, located at 82 Bond Street.

One last memory of that year is the Eaton’s Santa Claus Parade in November when I participated as one of four members of the guard. The parade set off on Bloor Street near Christie Pits and ended downtown by City Hall. The morning was cold and wet with freezing rain and we marched in front of the float

carrying Bobby Gimby as he played his song *Canada* which was written for the centennial and Expo. The trumpet played as freezing rain fell; at the end of the parade route our new wool tunics had shrunk approximately one inch.

*Fire Chief of Canada’s largest municipal fire department from 2003 to 2012, William Stewart served the city and citizens of Toronto for thirty-nine and a half years. A past board member of the Public Administration and Governance Program at Ryerson University, he has also been a member of the Canadian Armed Forces as a commissioned and non-commissioned officer. He continued with the Fort York Guard in the post of Guard Sergeant through 1968 and 1969.*

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**“As another marcher remarked while he cleaned his 150-year-old flintlock musket, “I can hardly wait to get into a hot bathtub and then watch a bit of television.”**

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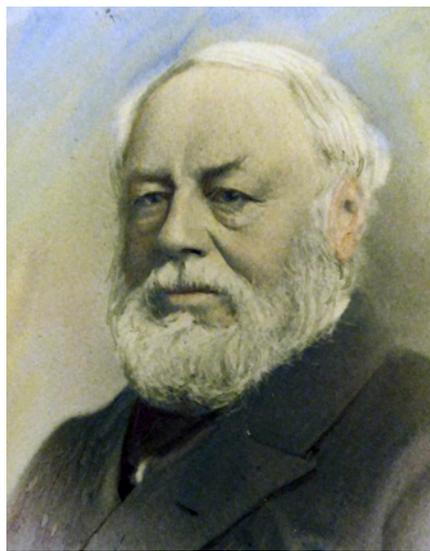
# More on Thomas J. Sutherland's Trial at Fort York

by John C. Carter

*The diary of William Helliwell, Todmorden Mills brewer, offers an eyewitness account of Sutherland's trial to supplement the report published in our last issue (March 2017).*

On 4 March 1838, "Brigadier General" Thomas Jefferson Sutherland became the highest ranking officer in the American "Patriot Army" to be arrested. Initially he was held at Fort Malden in Amherstburg. Worried about security, Lieutenant-Colonel John Maitland, commander of the British troops in the Western District of Upper Canada, ordered that Sutherland be transferred to Toronto.

Sutherland arrived in Toronto on March 12. There he met with Lieutenant-Governor Sir Francis Bond Head. Head later recorded this meeting in his reminiscences, and wrote that Sutherland had travelled 190 miles through "dense districts of forests from Fort Malden to Toronto...to appear before me at Government house." Head had few positive words to say about the captive, commenting that "This vagabond, for he deserves no other appellation, had had the cruelty, as well as the audacity, to direct a heavy fire of cannon upon the inhabitants (women and children), from an American vessel [schooner *Anne*], which he had conducted into the harbour



William Helliwell (1811-1896) kept a diary for nearly sixty years. His observations on Sutherland's trial date to 1838, many years before this portrait was made. Credit: Toronto Public Library, JRR 4529

of the town [Amherstburg], under the pretence of liberating the British people."

Sutherland was then moved to Fort York, where his court martial began on March 13. In his diary Todmorden Mills brewer William Helliwell recorded his thoughts about these proceedings: "This morning I went to the city [Toronto] and hearing [that] general Sutherland was to be tried by court marshal in the garrison I went up to see [and] after some time was admitted into the mess room where the court was held and after waiting some time the prisoner was brote him and the members of the court was sworn inn and the commission read & the indictment a copy of which and the Law by which he

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**"...with a penknife which he had borrowed from one of the guards to make a pen, he opened a vein in each foot and his arm."**

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would be tryed was given him when the court ajorned till ten o'clock tomorrow morning at which time he will be tryed."

That evening, Sutherland had a private talk with Lieutenant William Spring, adjutant of the 24th Regiment. Spring had been visiting the prisoner with officers of the guard, and had responded to a request from Sutherland "to sit a short time and converse with him." Spring noted that the prisoner had "entered freely into a conversation, but chiefly on the politics of the country, and stated his own views." Only a brief time after Spring's departure, did Sutherland attempt to take his life.

William Helliwell, who had returned to witness the trial, wrote the following in his diary entry of March 14: "after the court opened and the prisoner called for, Major [George] Gurnett got up and stated that during the night he [Sutherland] made an attempt to bleed himself to death that he had opened a vane in both arms and both feet in warm water to make the blood flow

more freely – he had done this while the constable in the room was asleep and who was

awakened by the prisoner falling down in the state of insensibility – and that he was in such a state that it would be som[e] days before he would be in a state fit to be put on his trial the court therefore ajorned till Monday next a man[’s] mind must be in a wretched state who can thus deliberately make an attempt on his own life."

Incarcerated Patriot Edward Theller also recorded this event: "On retiring to his quarters, he obtained some warm water to bathe...and when the constable who remained in the room to watch him had fallen asleep...with a penknife which he had borrowed from one of the guards to make a pen, he opened a vein in each foot and his arm." Even Lieutenant-Governor Head made comment about Sutherland's attempted suicide. In his *Narrative*, he wrote: "In the course of last night [March 13] he [Sutherland] managed to open veins in each arm and in each instep, and this morning [March 14] he was found nearly lifeless from the loss of blood; in consequence of which, the court-martial has adjourned until Saturday."

It was some time before Sutherland recovered, and Edward Theller noted that at the garrison "he [Sutherland] had every care taken of him, so as to be able to as soon as possible undergo the trial." By March 19, Sutherland had sufficiently regained his health and was ready to again be brought before the court. William Helliwell confirmed this in his diary entry for March 20: "General Sutherland's trial is going on at the Garrison." The trial came to a conclusion on March 29, and Sutherland remained locked up at Fort York for nearly a month until a verdict was announced. In part it read "that the prisoner, Thomas Jefferson Sutherland, be transported as a felon to one of her majesty's penal colonies, for the term of his natural life."

Sutherland would leave Fort York, be held in the Toronto jail, at Fort Henry, and then in the citadel at Quebec before he was pardoned and deported back to the United States.

*Dr John C. Carter is a research associate in the School of Humanities, University of Tasmania. He can be contacted at [drjohncarter@bell.net](mailto:drjohncarter@bell.net).*

## Friends of Fort York Hold AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common—the twenty-second since our founding in 1994—was held at 6 pm on Thursday, 15 June 2017, in the fort’s Visitor Centre. Chair Don Cranston reported on the healthy state of the organization and its several committees, and gave a fuller explanation of the delay in producing our annual statements. It has

arisen from converting to a new recording system. The 2016 balance sheet and related report will be available within the next couple of weeks, well within the time we have to submit them to the government overseers of charitable institutions.

The Nominating Committee presented the following proposed slate of directors for the upcoming year: Nancy Baines, Sid

Calzavara, Jennifer Chan, Don Cranston, Harriet De Koven, Richard Dodds, Jeff Evenson, Patricia Fleming, Joe Gill, Christopher Henry, Mima Kapches, Shawn Micallef, Stephen Otto, Elizabeth Quance, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Ted Smolak, Andrew Stewart, and Tyler Wentzell. The slate of directors was unanimously approved.

## More Parkland in the Vicinity of Fort York Approved

At Toronto city council’s meeting of April 26 to 28, members decided unanimously to accept a recommendation to rezone the heavily polluted former industrial lands at 28 Bathurst Street (see map) for park purposes after they’ve been remediated to the level provincial regulations require. The property has a long and tortured history starting around 1890 when two Consumers’ Gas structures for storing coal gas were built there. Elias Rogers operated a coal yard next door until both coal as a fuel, and gas manufactured from it, passed from general use in the 1950s. Then the land became a smelter and refinery for recovering the lead from old batteries. Their disused casings

were disposed of in the basements left by the gas holders. In 1988 the City of Toronto expropriated the property, one of Toronto’s most heavily polluted sites, hoping to bury the south half under an extension to Front Street. During the 1990s the north half

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**“...new condos have sprung up in all directions like dandelions in a spring lawn, with more to come.”**

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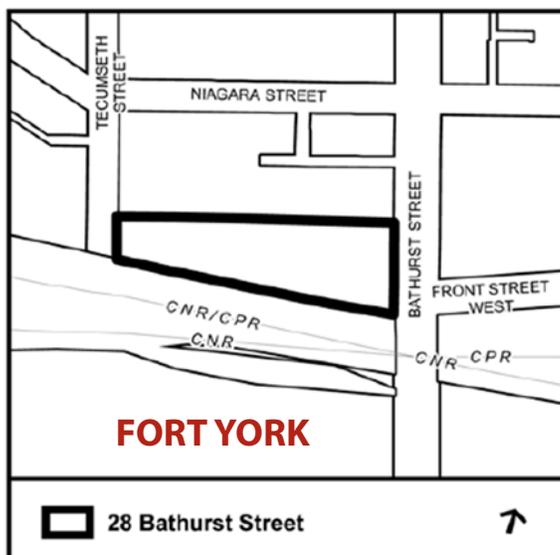
was dealt with properly: the toxic soil was carried away at a cost upward of \$25 million so a daycare and men’s shelter could be built on the land.

In 2011 when council removed the Front Street extension from its Official Plan, 28 Bathurst was handed over to Build Toronto after all other city departments, including Parks & Recreation, had declared their lack of interest in it. Build Toronto then looked at several ways of constructing new buildings on the land, but the underlying costs of full remediation dictated greater heights and density than anyone, including those of us at Fort York,

was prepared to accept.

What a difference a half-dozen years make! The neighbourhoods around Fort York have since come to be among the most park-deficient areas of the city as new condos have sprung up in all directions like dandelions in a spring lawn, with more to come. In a letter dated 21 April 2017 The Friends of Fort York urged Mayor Tory and council to accept the recommendations put forward by the Toronto & East York community council to rezone 28 Bathurst for use as a park. Our councillor, Mike Layton, steered the item forward with great skill, achieving for an estimated expenditure of \$5 million some 2.36 acres of new parkland that would cost \$50 million were the city to go out and buy a comparable site in the area on the open market. The sum of \$5 million is the estimated cost of skimming the top layers of polluted soil away, installing an impermeable membrane, and covering it with fresh earth, then improving it with walks, sports fields, and the like. In addition, council agreed to reimburse Build Toronto for its out-of-pocket costs in exploring other uses for the site before the rezoning was agreed upon, estimated to be about \$1.2 million.

Now 28 Bathurst will add to the chain of connected parks surrounding Fort York and provide a link along the rail corridor to the West Toronto Railpath where it terminates in South Stanley Park.



Credit: City of Toronto

## *New Managing Editor Sought for Fife & Drum*

The search is on to find within the next six months a successor to the current managing editor of this newsletter, who has indicated a wish to step down.

Currently, the managing editor's responsibilities include the following tasks:

- Coordinating the process so all involved get real satisfaction from it.
- Originating with input from others a balanced lineup of subjects for articles having a connection with Fort York, usually three or more months in advance; negotiating and persuading qualified authors to take them on; giving guidance as to length, focus, quality, diversity of our non-expert readership, and character of the publication. *F&D* is a newsletter, not a refereed journal.
- Maintaining contact by e-mail and phone with authors through the development and writing process, referring them to sources they may not know about.
- Sourcing and securing 300 dpi files of illustrations in consultation with the authors, licensing their use, and paying fees as needed. These files are sent with captions and credits to the designer as they come in, not held until text is edited.
- Checking on delivery of draft texts to text editor about six weeks before quarterly publication deadlines, more urgently three weeks before.
- Selecting titles for the articles in concert with the author and the text editor.
- Undertaking with the text editor and other editorial experts, but not the author, proofreading of first, second, sometimes third drafts as the designer makes adjustments, typos are rooted out, and final tweaks are made.
- Ensuring authors receive a copy by e-mail of the issue where their pieces appear, and are thanked appropriately.

Neither the managing editor nor other staff working on the newsletter are paid for their services.

Authors are invited to contribute pro bono. Fees for the use of illustrations are paid only with great reluctance.

*The Fife & Drum* has been published gratis and quarterly by The Friends of Fort York continuously since May 1996.

<http://www.fortyork.ca/images/newsletters/fife-and-drum-2016/fife-and-drum-july-2016.pdf>

It has been curated by the present managing editor since November 2003.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment as managing editor of *Fife & Drum* please send by 31 August 2017, a brief resumé of your experience with a covering letter explaining why you would like to be selected.

These should go to: Mr. Don Cranston, Chairman, The Friends of Fort York,  
260 Adelaide St. E., Box 183, Toronto, M5A 1N1, or by e-mail to him at [fofy@sympatico.ca](mailto:fofy@sympatico.ca)



## **CELEBRATE CANADA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

**BY HELPING TO PRESERVE OUR HISTORY**



### **JOIN THE FRIENDS OF FORT YORK**

who are dedicated to supporting and enhancing the Fort York National Historic Site, Toronto's birthplace.

[www.fortyork.ca/join-us/become-a-friend-of-fort-york](http://www.fortyork.ca/join-us/become-a-friend-of-fort-york)

*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

## Manager's Report

*by David O'Hara, Site Manager*

The first half of 2017 has been busy at Fort York. As part of the city's Canada 150 TO Canada with Love program (and in partnership with the Ontario150 program) Fort York hosted Vimy 100 Toronto on April 8 - 9 with close to 5000 people visiting throughout the weekend to participate in a variety of free programs. The Sunday included a Service of Remembrance with Canadian Armed Forces to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Attending were the Mayor, Lieutenant Governor, Premier, Chief Stacey LaForme, Consuls General of France, Germany, and Great Britain, and many more.

On April 19 Fort York hosted one of its two annual citizenship ceremonies in partnership with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship. There were forty-two new citizens and approximately eighty overall participants in the round table discussions, ceremony, and lunch reception. MP Adam Vaughan was a guest speaker as well as Chief Stacey LaForme from Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation.

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**“...visitors enjoyed the new War of 1812 exhibits, and in particular the Battle of York immersive experience. We hope more people come down to see these new features in the coming months.”**

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Our Battle of York weekend, April 22 - 23, included themed tours, cooking demonstrations, and kids' activities. The regimental colours of the 3rd Regiment of York Militia were back on display in the special collections 'Vault' within the Visitor Centre. This is one of the two colours (flags) of a local militia unit that defended the Town of York during the Battle of York that were generously donated to the City of Toronto by St. James' Cathedral for display at Fort York. Richard Haynes, our site coordinator, conducted two Battle of York walking tours focussing on the combatants as well as the course and outcome of the battle while visitors enjoyed the new War of 1812 exhibits, and in particular the Battle of York immersive experience. We hope more people come down to see these



*Candidates for Canadian Citizenship at Fort York, 19 April 2017.  
Photo by Lambrina Nikolaou*

new features in the coming months.

Moving into May we partnered with the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival and hosted an installation by Governor General Award-winning photographer Shelley Niro (Mohawk, Turtle Clan). Titled *Battlefield of My Ancestors*, the series documents the historic battlefields that hold significance for Niro's people. Sixteen images were displayed at Fort York with additional examples at Ryerson for the month of May, and as part of the Indigenous Arts Festival. We were pleased to see Shelley Niro presented with the 2017 Scotiabank Photography Award. Congratulations once again and thank you to our partners at CONTACT and at the Ryerson Image Centre. [www.scotiabank.com/photoaward](http://www.scotiabank.com/photoaward) [www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/indigenous-artist-shelley-niro-wins](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/indigenous-artist-shelley-niro-wins)

Also in May, more than 3000 people moved through Fort York as part of the 16th annual Meagan's Walk <http://www.meaganswalk.com/> and we were pleased to host a group of University of Toronto Museum Studies students who visited our historic kitchen as part of their work on an exhibit which will showcase culinary culture in Canada through the work of women. The exhibit will be coming to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library next summer. [www.utoronto.ca/news/u-t-students-make-culinary-connections-fort-york](http://www.utoronto.ca/news/u-t-students-make-culinary-connections-fort-york)

On May 20-21, Toronto's Festival of Beer held one of its smaller

Spring Sessions, with over 5000 attending and Mayor John Tory joining in for the opening. Victoria Day weekend was busy with cooking and dance demonstrations, and on Artillery Day and Doors Open (May 27 - 28) we partnered with the Department of National Defence, 7th Toronto Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery. On the Saturday of Doors Open re-enactors of the 22nd United States Infantry Regiment and students from Norwood District High School dressed in the uniforms of the 16th US Infantry animated the site and on Sunday members of the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada and Glengarry Light Infantry re-enactment units performed similar demonstrations throughout the day.

On June 3 and 4 Fort York hosted the annual Arts & Crafts Field Trip for the fifth year. Although final figures aren't in, it's expected that attendance topped 12,000. Field Trip bills itself as a celebration of Toronto, of community, and above all else, of the collaborative spirit. <http://fieldtriplife.com/experience/>

Taste of Toronto landed on site from June 15 - 18 and we then moved into our five-day Indigenous Arts Festival which launched on National Aboriginal Day. The National Aboriginal Day programming was done in partnership with APTN and with the financial support of the Government of Canada, Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), Investors Group, and TD Bank Group.

The Indigenous Arts Festival showcased performances by more than thirty indigenous artists from across Canada. It featured traditional and contemporary music, dance, theatre, storytelling, visual arts, crafts, and food. There were performances by Crystal Shawanda, Wayne Lavallee, and Nick Sherman. The Na-Me-Res Powwow returned on the Saturday as part of the festival.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved in making this five-day festival such a success; among others, this includes our staff team led by Kristine Williamson, our partners at APTN, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, and Na-Me-Res, as well as TD Bank, the Government of Canada, and Tim Hortons for the financial support.

On the construction front, we're still very much surrounded. Work on The Bentway continues across the frontage of Fort York (<http://www.thebentway.ca/about/>) while construction of Garrison Crossing, the bicycle/pedestrian bridge, goes forward on the Common. We expect most of this work will be complete by year-end so we'll be much easier to find in 2018.



Field Trip, June 3 - 4, 2017

## Chinese-Canadian Community Leader and Upper Canada's First Catholic Bishop Commemorated in Neighbourhood Schools

The Toronto District School Board will name its new elementary school at CityPlace after Jean Lumb (1919-2002), a downtown businesswoman whose wide-ranging public service earned her an Order of Canada in 1976. During the 1950s, she had successfully argued for the reform of discriminatory immigration rules and she became a leader of the Chinese-Canadian community.

This new school is part of a complex by ZAS Architects that will soon fill the last block of the Railway Lands. [fife-and-drum-mar-2017-page 6](#) Included are another elementary school, a daycare, and a community centre. Bishop Macdonell Catholic Elementary School is being named for Upper Canada's First Bishop, Alexander Macdonell (1762-1840), a modern bust of

whom now stands outside St Mary's Church at Bathurst and Adelaide.

The City intends to wait for the other spaces to come into use before selecting a name for them. In the meantime, they'll nod to the adjacent park and simply call the main space Canoe Landing Community Recreation Centre.

As readers will recall, The Friends had urged the school board to recognize Jean Geeson (1864-1907) for her prescient work in preserving the fort and involving schoolchildren. [fife-and-drum-july-2016 pages 3-4](#) We'll remain alert to other opportunities in the neighbourhood to highlight our engaging Edwardian activist.

## Redeveloping the Abattoir Site

Between January and April 2017, TAS Design Build, the new owner of the former Quality Meats property at 2 Tecumseth Street, held three community consultations for people in the area. The purpose was to introduce TAS and its consultants, and to gather feedback ahead of launching any formal applications for the redevelopment of the site. The meetings, particularly the first on January 28

which had standing room only, were very well attended. TAS's spokesman, Mazyar Mortazavi, led off on all three occasions and introduced its four high-powered consultants—Marianne McKenna of KPMB Architects, Michael McClelland of ERA Architects, Marc Ryan of Public Work (landscape architects), and Ken Greenberg, an architect and prominent urban planner—who explained their comple-

mentary visions for the property. Located north of Fort York across the rail corridor and south of Niagara Street, 2 Tecumseth will set the pace for other growth in the South Niagara Neighbourhood.

Later this year TAS is expected to make formal applications to the City of Toronto for its proposals for redevelopment of the former abattoir lands and buildings.

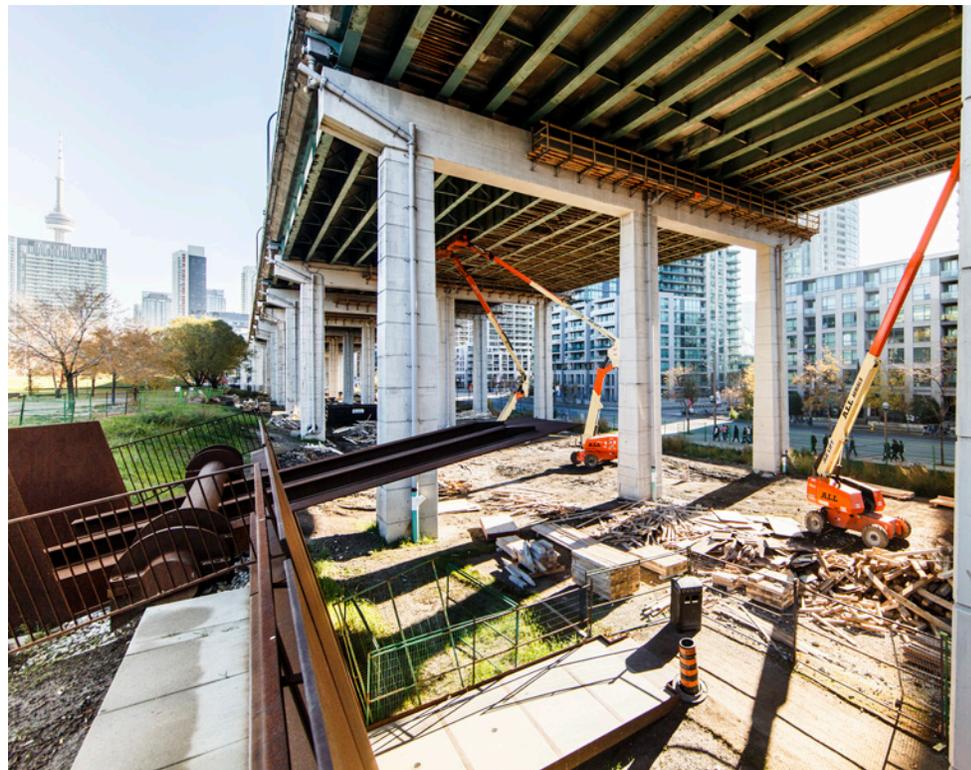
## The Bentway Update

by Julian Sleath

Over the last couple of months I have been delighted to get to know the project better and to build relationships with our good friends at Fort York and others in the neighbourhood. I have also been busy building The Bentway team and would like to welcome David Carey as director of development and Ilana Altman as director of programming. It is wonderful to see the progress that has been made—we are all excited to turn this wonderful vision into reality.

Construction work is well underway. More than 50% of the earth moving is complete and later this month we will begin construction of our two main building structures—Strachan Gate, our main performance space, adjacent to Strachan Bridge, and the Skating Shed, which will house the skate trail operations, adjacent to the Fort York Visitor Centre. The contract to build the skate trail has been awarded and we are working hard to make sure that construction is on track for our projected opening for the 2017-2018 winter season.

We are excited to share the news that we have been given access to the north section of the car park at 800 Fleet, which we will turn into a green amphitheatre. A number of city departments came together to make this happen and we are immensely grateful to them all. This is a fantastic addition to the range of facilities



Looking east from the Fort York Visitor Centre. Harry Choi

at The Bentway and a great opportunity for additional outdoor programming.

We are also delighted that "WATER-TABLE", the public artwork by Lisa Steele and Kim Tomczak, will be reinstalled in the fall of this year. The original installation—in 2009—provided a new way to look at the underside of the Gardiner Expressway and helped catalyse the thinking behind The Bentway. It inspires us to look at spaces that have traditionally been overlooked from a new perspective. This

is our aim at The Bentway and we are very happy to see this work come to life again.

I'd like to encourage you to come and see us in our temporary offices at the Fort York Visitor Centre or reach out to us at [hello@thebentway.ca](mailto:hello@thebentway.ca). And please sign up for our email newsletter to get updates on opportunities and events.

*Julian Sleath was appointed CEO at The Bentway effective 27 March 2017.*

# Vimy 100 Toronto at Fort York

by Bob Kennedy

Some 5000 visitors streamed through the gates of the fort on the second weekend of April for the City's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of our most symbolic battle of the First World War. It was at Vimy Ridge on 9 April 1917—Easter Monday that year—that all the divisions of the Canadian Army in France fought as one formation, for the first time, and achieved with professional skill and unfathomable courage what two other armies had found impossible.

Visitors to the fort that weekend were given a wonderfully broad array of history, food, ceremony, and fun, all of it illuminating some aspect of Canada's First World War. Our own historical staff were smartly turned out in period uniforms and they were joined by re-enactors from the Museum of Applied Military History and the Canadian Military Heritage Society.

A fully deployed Casualty Clearing Station, complete with medical equipment and a uniformed cat, was staffed by knowledgeable 'Bluebirds'—nursing sisters of the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Cavalry demonstrations drew crowds out to Garrison Common. Modern scouting and signals troops from Fort York Armoury, arrayed along Garrison Road, pointed to the continuity of the army's presence. Deployed inside the walls was a British field gun from 1917 that fired exactly as loudly as it did in 1917. A few imaginary German soldiers were regarded as harmless by the others.

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**“More than 45,000 Torontonians served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force or with the British Army during the First World War.”**

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Every soldier needs rations and so our own culinary artists worked to unveil the secrets of wartime taffy, vanilla fudge, Great War Heritage Cake, and the truly blissful butter tarts of the 1913 *Five Roses Cook Book*. Their Great War Heritage Café sold out.

Children happily were everywhere: some of them trying the trench maze, some learning a bit of foot drill, others engrossed in a presentation designed just for them.

The climax of the weekend was the Parade and Service of Remembrance on Sunday afternoon. The Queen's York Rangers, descended from Simcoe's own regiment and carrying the Battle Honour VIMY 1917, marched in from the armoury. Many were wearing the medals of modern overseas missions on their ceremonial blue tunics. They saluted the Lieutenant-Governor as Premier Wynne, Mayor Tory, Chief LaForme of the Mississaugas, many other dignitaries, and the crowd looked on.

“More than 45,000 Torontonians served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force or with the British Army during the First World War,” said the Mayor. “Three-quarters of all eligible young men in the city volunteered to serve.” Throughout the war, more than 4900 soldiers and nurses from Toronto died on active service, searing every corner of the city. This April, thousands of Torontonians came to Fort York to acknowledge them all.



Historical Interpreter Samantha Horne in the uniform of a Canadian artillery corporal (a Bombardier) leads some unruly recruits in a lesson on First World War drill. Credit: Kathy Mills



David O'Hara, manager of Fort York (r.), chats with visitors Mike and Yarmila Filey. Mike is well known as a writer of popular local histories and is a regular contributor to the Sunday Sun. Credit: Kathy Mills



Sword drill was a part of the dramatic demonstrations of cavalry tactics on Garrison Common. Credit: Andrew Stewart

This British-pattern 18-pounder was made in the United States by Bethlehem Steel and later re-bored for French 75 mm shells. It was loaned by the Museum of Applied Military History. Credit: Sid Calzavara



# 2017 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Richard Haynes

## JULY

### Canada Day at Fort York - Free admission

Sat. July 1, 10 am to 5 pm

A daylong all ages celebration packed with family friendly activities, demonstrations, tours, and performances. In addition to flag raising and flag lowering ceremonies, the Fort York Guard, dressed as members of the Canadian Fencible Regiment (circa 1815), will perform demonstrations of musketry, artillery, and fife and drum music. Children can enjoy a drill activity, music classes, a scavenger hunt, and hula-hooping. The fort's volunteer cooks will demonstrate period cooking methods and recipes in the historic kitchen—allowing visitors to see, hear, and taste what life must have been like for the fort's early 19th century inhabitants. The Historic Foodways program will feature recipes from the era of Confederation and visitors will have the opportunity to sample delicious cakes, pies, and tarts while learning about the cooking and baking techniques of the 1860s. There will also be a talk on Toronto in 1867. Guided tours of barracks and fortifications will focus on the evolution and history of the old western entrance into Toronto Harbour and highlight the lives of soldiers and officers. The Fort's Visitor Centre, featuring several new exhibits and an orientation film, will be open all day.

[www.toronto.ca/fortevents](http://www.toronto.ca/fortevents)

### All Day I Dream of Sunshine Divine

#### Music Festival on Garrison Common - Ticketed event

Sat. July 15

<https://www.residentadvisor.net/event.aspx?974613>

### The Toronto Rosé Picnic - Ticketed event

Sat. July 22

The Inaugural Rosé Picnic on Garrison Common will include a celebration of life, fine wine, outstanding food, and great music.

<http://festivalstoronto.com/events/the-rose-picnic/>

## AUGUST

### New Generation Steel Band Festival - Free admission

Sun. August 6

A celebration of Caribbean steel pan music featuring GTA youth steel bands and the award winning ensembles Pan Fantasy and Afropan performing outdoors on the grounds of Fort York. Great Caribbean food, all ages pan workshops, and plenty of opportunities for audience participation—dance, dance, dance! Come celebrate Toronto's vibrant Caribbean

community and support youth engagement with this proud tradition. Presented in partnership by Fort York and Pan Arts Network.

### Simcoe Day at Fort York - Free admission

Mon. August 7, 10 am to 5 pm

Fort York comes to life in honour of the first Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada (1793-96) and founder of Fort York and the Town of York, John Graves Simcoe. Walk the historic grounds and thrill to musketry, artillery, and music demonstrations presented by the Fort York Guard and Guards from Fort George National Historic Park from Niagara-on-the-Lake and Old Fort Erie. Visit the working kitchen in the 1815 Officers' Brick Barracks, take tours of the fort's buildings and grounds, and discover the dynamic lives of the fort's men, women, and children. The Fort York Visitor Centre will be open and free all day and will feature new, curated exhibitions alongside permanent installations and films on the Battle of York and the War of 1812. [www.toronto.ca/fortevents](http://www.toronto.ca/fortevents)

### VeganFest - Ticketed event

Sat. August 19

Entering its third festival season, VeganFest brings vegan comfort food and craft brews back to Chicago and Toronto for another round.

<https://www.vegandrinkfest.com/toronto/>

## SEPTEMBER

### A TO Canada with Love Event

#### Citizenship & Reaffirmation Ceremony - Free admission

Fri. September 15

Join Fort York National Historic Site and the Institute for Canadian Citizenship as they host a special Canada 150 citizenship ceremony. Following the service, Canadians from all walks of life can take the oath of citizenship in a public reaffirmation ceremony.

[www.toronto.ca/canada150](http://www.toronto.ca/canada150)

### A TO Canada with Love Event

#### On Common Ground - Free admission

Sat. September 16 and Sun. September 17

An engaging mix of culturally diverse music, dance, storytelling, theatre, visual arts, crafts, local food, and family friendly activities. This event is presented as part of the City of Toronto's yearlong program of celebrations, commemorations, and exhibitions honouring Canada's 150th birthday. [www.toronto.ca/canada150](http://www.toronto.ca/canada150)

### Invictus Games Toronto - Ticketed event

Thurs. September 28 and Fri. September 29

Toronto will host the 2017 Invictus Games from September 23 to 30, with Fort York hosting the archery training and competition.

<http://www.invictusgames2017.com/>

Visit our website at: [www.fortyork.ca](http://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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