

The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

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The Invictus Games at Fort York

by Bruce Kidd

On September 27th, 28th, and 29th the archery events of the Invictus Games were held at Fort York. It was a spectacular venue for participants and spectators alike, including the founder and patron, Prince Harry, and the Games drew local and global media of all kinds to the historic buildings at the fort.

'Invictus' is the Latin word for 'unconquered' or 'undefeated'.

The Games brought together 550 athletes from 17 nations to compete in 12 adapted sports. They attracted many other forms of "royalty", including former US President Barack Obama and legendary rock musician Bruce Springsteen. In an even broader way than the Toronto International Film Festival, the Games drew world-wide attention to the city, shining a spotlight on Toronto and highlighting amazing features that many of us fail to appreciate, including state-of-the-art sporting venues such as the Air Canada Centre and the Toronto Pan American Sport Centre at the University of Toronto Scarborough, popular outdoor spaces and historic landmarks including Nathan Phillips Square, Ryerson University, the Distillery District, High Park, the York Lions Stadium, and of course Fort York.

All participating athletes had been injured, traumatized, or became sick in the course of military duty. While most of the attention was placed on the competitive aspect of the events and the friendly athletic rivalries, the overarching purpose of the Games was to enhance the rehabilitation of the participants and to signal the importance of helping soldiers and veterans regain their health and well-being to return to mainstream society. 'Invictus' is the Latin word for 'unconquered' or 'undefeated'.



Prince Harry poses with Canadian team co-captain Natacha Dupuis in front of the Blue Barracks on September 29 during the rain-soaked finals of the archery competition. Photo by Bob Kennedy

The Games affirmed the way that sport can contribute to rehabilitation and reintegration through the physical conditioning, goal-setting, and self-discipline required, the collaborative relationships created, and the joys of physical effort sport affords. Historically, the greatest advances in physical rehabilitation have been prompted by the colossal human suffering of war. It's no surprise that disciplines like physical therapy and major events like the Paralympics emerged from war.

What distinguishes the Invictus Games is that they focus on mental healing as much as physical healing, in a thoughtful research-based approach that seeks to build the personal relationships essential to successful healing. A significant number of the participants will not have experienced physical injury but will have suffered severe post-traumatic stress disorder which carries a stigma that creates an added layer of complexity to an already stressful situation. Healing from both psychological and physical trauma requires extraordinary social and personal supports. While professional counselling and services are part of the success strategy for patients and family, a strong familial and social foundation is critical to a favourable outcome.



Archers take aim during the elimination round. Both individual and team events in the archery program took place over three full days at Fort York, where the spectator bleachers were always full. Photo by Bob Kennedy

Preparation for and participation in the Games is thus planned and conducted as much as part of the healing process as it is to demonstrate athletic acuity. Athletes therefore are invited to bring at least one family member or supporter to partake in the Games journey. The Invictus Games were in large part conceived and designed as a means of strengthening such connections and bonds that have become lifelines for many of the athletes.

These moving narratives were all on display at the brilliant competition at Fort York.

Bruce Kidd, vice-president and principal, University of Toronto Scarborough, and professor, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, was a member of Canada's 1964 summer Olympics team.

In Review:

Always Ready: A History of the Royal Regiment of Canada

by Robert L. Fraser

Always Ready: A History of the Royal Regiment of Canada. Donald E. Graves. Toronto: The Royal Regiment of Canada Association, 2017.

Donald E. Graves' *Always Ready* is an impressive book. The technical details provide ample justification for such a bold pronouncement. It is 11 x 8 inches; hardbound with a handsome jacket and it contains 574 pages on gloss paper, with appendices, an index, and bibliography. There are 838 illustrations (177 in colour) and they range from photographs, to art, posters, schematics, cartoons, and images of badges, medals, uniforms, and weapons. In addition there are 49 fine maps (some in colour and most in sepia). Robin Brass, a long-time collaborator with Graves, designed the book and his work is superlative. In short, the size, the range of content, and the design together justify the conclusion of my first sentence.

Graves is a deservedly well-known military historian not only for the number of books published (over 20) but also, and more importantly, for their high quality. He has written widely on the War of 1812 but his interests run the gamut from the late 18th century to the 20th and to most of the combat arms. To my mind, he is at his best when handling the most difficult of tasks, what John Keegan famously called "the face of battle." To that challenge, he brings a relentless and imaginative investigative spirit with a broad interest in all facets of the experience of battle such as weapons and logistics. Some of the best of his previous work focuses on individual battles or campaigns. He has written an excellent history of an armoured regiment at war, *The South Albertas: A Canadian Regiment at War* (1997). It is one of the best unit histories written by a Canadian. With



Waiting to leave for Operation JUBILEE. Late in the morning of Tuesday, 18 August 1942, the Royals wait to board the trucks that will take them to their ports of embarkation, either Portsmouth or Southampton. The large weapon with the bipod on the ground is a Boys anti-tank rifle. Most of these men would not be coming back. RRC Museum

the Royals, Graves faced a daunting prospect, the history of a regiment with a long past, from 1861 to the present and one that saw active service in 1866, 1885, and in the two world wars.

Always Ready is the story of a Toronto reserve or militia regiment and Graves wisely provides the reader with some context of the city's history. It was no easy task given the growth of the city over the course of this period and especially since the Second World War; it serves the book well. In the First World War, with a population of almost 400,000, 50,000 Torontonians served and 10,000 did not return.

The book contains 23 chapters and the emphasis of those chapters tells the story: two on 1861-85 with the second handling the Fenians; one on the Northwest campaign of 1885; one on 1885 to 1914; five on the First World War; one on the interwar years; nine on the Second World War (with two devoted to the Dieppe Raid); one covering 1945 to 1964; one on 1964-95, one on

1995-2012 (including Afghanistan), and one on the 21st century.

The title page of the book contains a long, and appropriate, quote from Lord Wavell on infantry and battles/wars. It gives the reader an immediate and vivid appreciation of Graves's understanding of his task and what is important to it. Alan Earp, a Second War veteran with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and an academic, once described a battalion's war years as its "real history." He was, to be sure, mindful of the peacetime history of militia units and the continuous struggle of the officer and NCO cadres to hold them together given the vicissitudes of changes to government policy, the ebb and flow (mainly the ebb) of government funding, and the swings in popular attitudes to the military and the profession of arms. His comment stems from the reality of casualties and, hence, the chapters of a unit's history "written in blood" as another Argyll veteran aptly put it.

In Graves's work, fifteen of twenty-three chapters cover the Royals in battle and part of an additional one explores the Regiment's first action in the Fenian raids of 1866. And Don Graves describing battle is Graves at his best. To get a sense of his abilities, a reader needs look no further than the two chapters on the Royals' part in the Dieppe Raid of 19 August 1942. Why is it so important? Dieppe has its own lore and is almost certainly one of the few Canadian battles ever featured in a television commercial. Moreover, it is a highly contested, and often contentious, battleground for veterans, journalists, and historians. It was, as he puts it, the "worst day in the [Royals'] history ... when it suffered just under 89 per cent casualties – including 224 killed in action and 274 captured..." This is a sobering statistic for about three hours of fighting on Blue Beach.

Graves devoted "considerable time and labour" to understanding what had happened. He quickly found that much of what was written used "the same limited number of sources"—a fair criticism that has never been levelled at Graves. He "ignored" most of them and concentrated instead on "period documents and wartime and postwar interviews, many of them from German sources." Such an approach is what readers, well, this reader anyhow, has come to expect from Graves and he has succeeded brilliantly. This is his forte, the ability to render the confusion and fog of battle comprehensibly and clearly by painstaking attention to the evidence and a clear appreciation of it. He notes favourably LCol D.E. Catto's assessment of the plan for Dieppe (at a conference on 14-15 August) as "fraught with difficulties" for the Royals; it is juxtaposed with LCol Churchill Mann's ("the officer most responsible for the detailed planning") retort: "If you want to keep your command, keep

**worst day in the [Royals'] history ...
when it suffered just under 89 per
cent casualties – including 224 killed
in action and 274 captured...**

your mouth shut." Catto ordered Bangalore torpedoes to blow up the wire on the beach and directed, with grim prescience, the officers left out of battle "in the event of tragic results, they must act quickly" to rebuild the battalion. Catto was, unfortunately, right and, Graves concludes that, it "quickly became apparent ... [to those] who did not go on the raid that JUBILEE had been an unmitigated disaster and that their regiment had virtually ceased to exist as a unit." The Royals' landing at Blue Beach was the subject of an almost immediate naval inquiry later used by one journalist in his book on Dieppe and subsequently by a professional historian who "cherry-picked" his evidence." In a masterful appendix, Graves eviscerates the journalist and the historian "who really should have known better." The Royals had never responded to the criticisms and "quite rightly" writes Graves. It is not, however, the case with him: "the record needs to be set straight because it is only justice to the men who died on Blue

Beach in August 1942 and cannot defend themselves." Graves has now done so in two superb chapters and a cogent appendix!

This review concentrates on Dieppe and, indeed, so has Graves. But it is not a distortion of the Royals' history. For this reviewer, it illustrates his balanced approach, the rigorous research, his deft unravelling of a notable battle, and his dexterity in prose and judgement in clearing away the fog for the reader. This approach—his eye for the telling details that emerge from extensive research and judicious assessment of the evidence—suffuses the book. Don Graves respects the poor bloody soldier whether in 1866, 1885, the First War, the Second, on peacekeeping deployments, or in Afghanistan. The reader finds out how they trained, how they were armed, how they were organized, how they were led or not, how they were fed, what they faced beyond death, wounding, and battle fatigue (which he distinguishes from PTSD) to poor food, poor hygiene, and disease. Camaraderie, esprit de corps, and morale, these great but powerful intangibles of military life, are ubiquitous as is the soldier's thirst for drink and female companionship. And leadership counts too; perhaps, most of all and the author portrays it throughout the Royals' history from the 1880s to the



A fine field of fire. This interesting photograph, shot in the 1950s from the cliffs east of the beach, shows the landing place at high tide, the western cliffs overlooking the beach. Round the headland in the distance lay the little port of Dieppe. RRC Museum



That we lie here, obedient to their wishes. A still from German wartime film shows the bodies of dead Royals in front of the seawall, in some places two deep. To the right can be seen the double set of stairs leading to the top of the seawall. Many men died trying to clear the wire from these stairs. Critical Past LLC

First War, to Catto and LCol Lendrum in the Second, and beyond to the present. He depicts the vagaries of funding and its often pernicious effect upon training and equipment, the shifts in the public's attitude towards the military, and the ongoing struggles of reserve units, like the Royals, simply to survive, whether it is the 1880s, the 1920s and 1930s, the 1960s and 1970s, or the 1990s. And, in the periods of "real history" (Alan Earp's phrase) the "survivors learn a bitter but important lesson – which was that war was not a great adventure but a brutal and pitiless struggle against a relentless and professional opponent." The "price of glory," he quotes the *Toronto World* in 1915, "is a heavy one."

Here, then, is the final element that makes this book impressive; it is the tale spun by a gifted military historian at his best, a tale enhanced by the pictures, art, illustrations, and maps. The Royals have been served superbly by this fine regimental history.

You may buy the book online (\$40 + shipping) at <http://the-royalregimentofcanada.org/>. You may also buy it in person (\$40) during any Thursday training night at the Fort York Armoury. To make an appointment, send an email via the website. It is a bargain!

Robert L. Fraser is executive officer, Dictionary of Canadian Biography, University of Toronto.

Canada Day at Reveley Lodge, 2017

by Katharine Whitaker

As you read this article you may be wondering why Reveley Lodge in Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, England, organized a Canada Day Garden Party and an exhibition about one of Toronto's esteemed families so far removed from the place where they made their mark.

The last owner of Reveley Lodge was Albert Ranney Chewett (1877-1965) who was born in Toronto and remained a Canadian citizen all his life. But more importantly he was the great grandson of William Chewett (1753-1849), surveyor, office holder, and commander of the 3rd York Militia in the War of 1812. His Orderly Book was recently donated to Fort York by a descendant (see *Fife and Drum* December 2011).

In 2003 the estate and Reveley Lodge was bequeathed to the Bushey Museum on the death of Albert's wife, Eila Chewett. A charitable trust was established to preserve the estate, including the artistic and cultural heritage of the Chewetts. The trustees thought it would be a good opportunity in this 150th anniversary year of Canadian Confederation to honour Albert's ancestors so

asked Katharine Whitaker, trustee and historian, to organize a small exhibition entitled "Canadian Pioneers, William Chewett and Son" which opened to the public on July 2nd.

Much is known and documented at Reveley Lodge about Albert Ranney Chewett's activities and artistic life but very little is



William Chewett (1753-1849) held many public offices in Simcoe's administration and later. As senior militia officer in York after the 1813 battle, he was a co-signatory to the town's Terms of Capitulation. This portrait of him late in life is said to be by Hoppner Meyer, active in Toronto in the 1840s. Credit: Reveley Lodge, Bushey, Herts. Patrick Forsyth photographer.



Reveley Lodge <http://www.reveleylodge.org/> on Elstree Road in Bushey, Hertfordshire was decorated with Canadian flags in honour of Canada's 150th birthday. Author's photo



A tipi was a children's craft area at Reveley's Canada Day Garden party. Author's photo.

known to the Bushey community about his Canadian ancestors. It seemed a fitting tribute in this anniversary year to highlight the role of William Chewett in the early days of Upper Canada and how he, his son James Grant Chewett (1793-1862), surveyor, architect, financier, and veteran of the Battle of York, and later his grandson William Cameron Chewett (1828-1897), publisher and businessman, became notable members of the Toronto community throughout the 1800s.

There were a number of highlights. Firstly, pride of place went to a miniature oil painting (portrait) of William Chewett which had only been found at the beginning of May in a cabinet at Reveley. A number of his journals and account books, his 1829 commission as acting surveyor general, patents (deeds of land), and artefacts were on display.

At the exhibition's private view on the evening of the July 1st, the chairman of the trust, Granville Taylor, greeted many members of the local community and Reveley volunteers on a very warm summer's evening. On July 4th when Katharine Whitaker gave a talk on the Chewetts the trustees were delighted to welcome Humphrey Gilbert, great, great grandson of William Chewett.

The Canada Day Garden Party was an outstanding success due to many individuals and groups who participated. Reveley Lodge was decorated with 100 knitted Canadian-themed little jumpers made by the Bushey Knitting Group, whilst other volunteers had prepared Canadian-themed bunting. The weather was perfect, warm and sunny, for more than 800 visitors, including a number of Canadians, who enjoyed a host of activities: live music all afternoon, traditional East Coast fiddlers, the Bushey All Stars Jazz Band, craft stalls, demonstrations by a local blacksmith, and a display of paintings by a Bushey artist of Canadian scenes painted during a recent visit to Canada. Children were

entertained by a bouncy castle, a treasure hunt in the garden, and on the main lawn, our recently acquired tipi which became a children's craft area.

Although our exhibition is closed at Reveley, Bushey Museum will host it in November till the end of the year. If you are visiting London then, do come to Bushey Museum and pop in to Reveley Lodge. All are welcome.

Katharine Whitaker is a trustee of and volunteer at the Reveley Lodge Museum in Bushey, Herts., in the UK. She curated its exhibits marking Canada Day, 2017.

Preserving the Robinson Cottages

by Daniel Dishaw

Fife and Drum subscribers may recall reading a January 2005 article ("[Garrison Common History: The Robinson Cottages](#)") observing the remarkable survival of fourteen small cottages built on the Garrison Common in the 1850s. Commissioned by a private investor during one of Toronto's early development booms, thirty-two semi-detached cottages and eight or nine single ones had been constructed on fairly spacious plots of land purchased from Trinity College in 1855. The fourteen surviving cottages (all semi-detached) are now among the oldest private residences in the City of Toronto.

More than 160 years later, a frenzied Toronto real estate market has threatened the survival of these remaining structures. Within the last few months, two have been sold and another two have hit the market, all with the intention to demolish and redevelop. Hoping to protect as many as possible, a few dedicated Toronto residents have been working to secure a heritage listing for all of the cottages on Richmond Street West and Mitchell Avenue (excluding the four that are already listed). In getting the properties listed on the Toronto Heritage Register, the group would be taking the first step towards

protecting the cottages from demolition, perhaps with individual heritage designations under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

At the forefront of this initiative is Dolores Borkowski, who has started a Facebook page ([Save the Garrison Common Cottages](#)) to try and rally support for the cause. Visit them on Facebook and show your support for the preservation of these historic homes on the Garrison Common.

The fourteen Garrison Common cottages that survive have all been photographed over a period of several years by Patrick Cummins, a skilled recorder of Toronto's streetscapes for more than two decades. We provide his pictures here for comparison, and to contribute to the ongoing discussion of how these old and special small houses might be conserved.



703-705 Richmond St. W., Mar. 2010.



719-721 Richmond St. W., Feb. 2014.



735-737 Richmond St. W., Feb. 2014.



753-755 Richmond St. W., Feb. 2014.



18-22 Mitchell Ave., formerly Garrison St., Mar. 2002. Demolition permit issued 26 Sept. 2017.



40-44 Mitchell Ave., formerly Garrison St., Sept. 2017.



71-75 Mitchell Ave., formerly Garrison St., Mar. 2002.

Fort York and The Telegram's Photographic Archives

by Michael Moir

The inquiry that led to the image on the cover of July's *The Fife and Drum* began with a newspaper clipping glued into a Toronto Historical Board scrapbook more than 50 years ago. The photograph of Guardsman David Rapson rubbing his aching foot appeared in *The Telegram* on 18 August 1967, but it had yellowed with age and lost much of its clarity. The search for the original negative resulted not only in the crisp scan used in the last issue, but also to a cache of 25 envelopes containing almost 480 negatives taken by staff photographers between 1964 and 1971 that have remained virtually untouched since they were donated to York University by John W.H. Bassett in 1974. *The Telegram's* massive photographic library—approximately 466,000 prints and 833,500 negatives held by the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections of York University Libraries—offers ample opportunities to shed new light on the people and places of mid-twentieth-century Toronto, including Fort York.

The original purpose for photographic journalism was not to support historical interpretation, but to sell newspapers. This objective influenced the way that photographs of Fort York were created and used by the editors. In the case of an assignment on 24 April 1969, the photo order directed the photographer “to pick a pretty girl in costume who is involved in preparing a luncheon that day. Get a selection of attractive, animated shots of her in front of the hearth on which the food is being prepared – stirring, tasting or adding something to the food, or taking bread

or other food from the hearth oven.” Only “one good pic” was needed, but none of the eleven exposures taken that day was used in the newspaper. This was a fairly frequent occurrence—out of the twenty-five assignments devoted to Fort York, eight of the envelopes are marked, “Not used,” and illustrated articles were found for only twelve of the assignments. Photographers took between three and eighty negatives per assignment, but usually only a single image was selected for publication, the exception

being coverage of “The 1812 War Comes Alive” on 19 August 1965, when four images of the teenaged Guard were chosen. The editor's influence continued with use of the grease pen to highlight certain features, and in the case of Guardsman David Rapson, flipping the image so that his bandaged foot drew the reader's attention to the centre

of the page despite the irregularity of Rapson's rank insignia appearing on his left sleeve.

The results of editorial decisions mean that the photographic negatives offer more comprehensive visual coverage of Fort York between 1964 and 1971 than can be found in the printed pages of *The Telegram*. The photographs are particularly useful for developing an understanding of the relationship between the site, the Guard, and the many people who visited the annual Festival of the Fort, re-enactments of the 1813 invasion, the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition, and summer's final Retreat ceremony. Special events often drew photographers to the fort, such as an exhibit of paintings by artist Tom McNeely on Canada's

The Telegram's massive photographic library—approximately 466,000 prints and 833,500 negatives held by the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections of York University Libraries



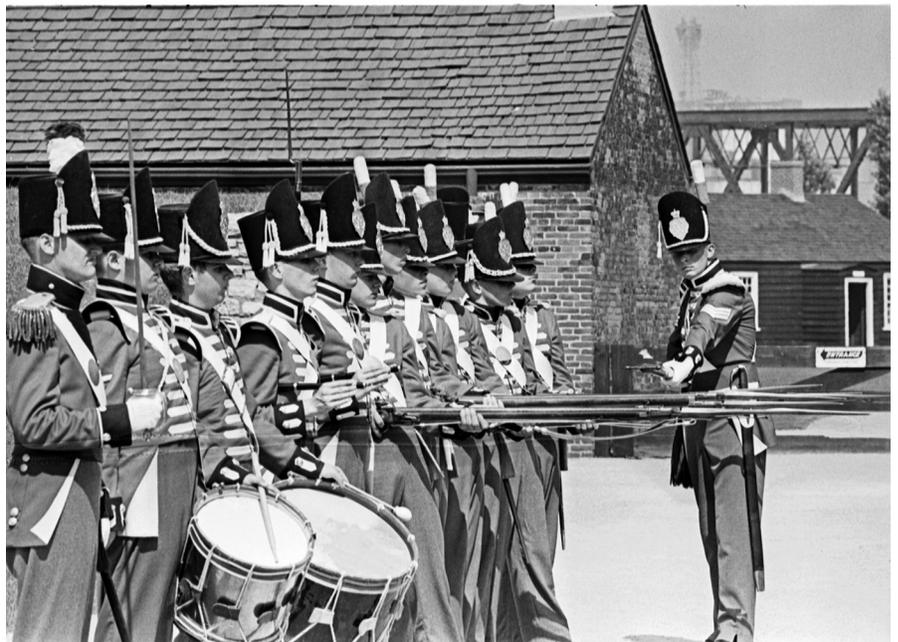
Paul Hellyer opens an exhibit of paintings by Tom McNeely, 1 May 1966. ASC41270



Lt.-Col. M.C. Parks plays the role of Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe during the Festival of the Fort, 25 May 1965. Photo by Sean Browne. ASC41263



Interpreter and visitors at an outdoor cauldron, 18 May 1964. ASC41264



Sgt. Michael Kake checks for level muskets during a re-enactment of the 1813 invasion, 15 August 1985. Photo by Peter Ward. ASC41262

military heritage that was opened by Paul Hellyer, Minister of National Defence, in May 1966. Helen Gagen's article on "Past and Present Tips for a Patriotic Holiday" on 19 May 1971 not only offered a recipe for Fort York whole wheat bread, but also showed interpreters stirring soup and checking on shortbread in the fort's kitchen. The Guard's 80-mile march from Fort George to Fort York in August 1967—the focus of William Stewart's recent reminiscences—was particularly well documented, with more than 100 negatives created over the course of several days. Only three images made their way into print.

John Sharp was the last staff photographer assigned to cover the Festival of the Fort on Victoria Day, 1971, and his image of the Guard marching off with a young girl in pursuit appeared under the headline, "In Step with the Times." The same could not be said for *The Telegram*; declining circulation led to its closure after publishing its last issue on 30 October 1971. Its photographs live on at the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, where they are consulted almost every day to provide images for articles, blogs, books, exhibits, and films. Readers are invited to visit the reading room on the third floor of York University's Scott Library between 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, and explore the relationship between Fort York and its community during the turbulent 1960s through the archival legacy of the newspaper locally known as the *Tely*. For information about the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, please visit: <https://www.library.yorku.ca/web/archives/>. An inventory of the Toronto *Telegram* fonds can be found at: <http://archives.library.yorku.ca/atom/index.php/toronto-telegram-fonds>.

The images illustrated here all come courtesy of the York University Libraries, Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, Toronto Telegram fonds.

Michael Moir is university archivist and head, Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections, York University Libraries. He has served on the board of The Friends of Fort York.



Sarah McGregor follows the Guard during the Festival of the Fort, 23 May 1971. Photo by John Sharp. ASC41272

News From

The Birthplace of Toronto

Contributions from the Staff at the Fort

Manager's Report

by David O'Hara, Site Manager

After kicking off the first half of 2017 with an extremely busy calendar of events and programs, including Vimy 100 Toronto, the Indigenous Arts Festival, and much more, we moved into our lively summer season. Throughout the summer we hosted many third-party events, including the Rose Picnic (<https://www.rosepicnic.com/>), All Day I Dream of Sunshine Divine music festival (<https://www.alldayidream.com>), CitySTRONG (<http://citystrong.com/>), Vegan Fest (<https://www.vegandrinkfest.com/>), the closing gala for the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education and more.

Our own events included a celebration of Caribbean steel pan music featuring GTA youth steel bands and the award winning ensembles Pan Fantasy and Afropan performing outdoors on Garrison Common. Held on August 6 as a lead-up to Simcoe Day, this was presented in partnership with the Pan Arts Network and The Bentway, with funding from Canadian Heritage as part of our Canada 150 TO Canada with Love program. On Simcoe Day itself, the Guards from Fort George National Historic Site and Old Fort Erie joined the Fort York Guard in our annual event.

Although Fort York was to host the Change of Command for Canadian Army's 32 Brigade in July, the event unfortunately had to be moved indoors to the Fort York Armoury due to bad weather. Another event of note was a reception hosted earlier in the summer (June 24) at the Fort York Visitor Centre by Mayor Tory for the Toronto Consular Corps Association of Toronto. Guests enjoyed visiting Fort York and the opportunity to hear remarks from both Mayor Tory and Chief Laforme of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

In addition to our own Canada Day programming, we were also very pleased to be able to partner with our neighbours at City Place, Concord Adex, on an event and a ten-day pop-up exhibit at their Canada Place presentation centre from June 30 to July 10. This was part of an ongoing partnership which began in 2015, when Concord Adex arranged for a buried 19th-century schooner to be lifted from lakefill and moved to Fort York. The exhibit enabled Museums and Heritage Services to display small archaeological finds related to the vessel, along with a scale model commissioned by Concord Adex and subsequently donated to Fort York. As part of the Canada Place development, Concord Adex has commissioned Canadian author and artist Douglas Coupland to complete a public art



The Fort York Guard participated in exercises at Fort Erie in mid-August. This picture provides evidence that 'the fog of war' is more than a figure of speech. Photo courtesy of Virginia Hurley

installation for the site. <http://dailyhive.com/toronto/toronto-concord-canada-house-150-contest>

The Fort York Guard performed their last day of music and black powder demonstrations on August 28. The recreated Grenadier Company of the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry and the Corps of Drums had both a busy and successful summer. The three major heritage presentations (Simcoe Day at Fort York NHS, The Siege of Fort Erie at Old Fort Erie, and The Soldiers' Field Day and Drums Muster Weekend at Fort George) were all great successes. The Fort York Guard also co-operated to a greater degree this season with the military animation staffs from Fort George, Fort Malden, and Fort Erie. A huge thank you to all who participated in the 'Guard Committee'—advising and working with the Guard throughout the year.

Moving into September, the OneWalk to Conquer Cancer saw over 3000 move through Fort York as part of a fundraising event for Princess Margaret Hospital. Sofar Sounds Toronto popped up at the Visitor Centre with a surprise performance by artists Torero, Luyos MC, and T. Dot Bangerz Brass. Sofar Sounds operates in 371 cities worldwide bringing small, intimate concerts to unique and unusual locales. This event was presented jointly by Fort York and The Bentway.

The highlight of our September calendar, which was also part of the City's TO Canada with Love program, was our On Com-

mon Ground Festival. Working with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, 39 new citizens were sworn in on the afternoon of September 15 to launch a weekend full of programming. A huge thank you to the ICC's Fort York Volunteer Committee, and Nancy Fung in particular, for all of their efforts in bringing these wonderful ceremonies to Fort York.

On Common Ground also featured the world premiere of *Miigis* by Red Sky Performance. Melding contemporary Indigenous dance and live music, *Miigis* explores the catalysts, trade routes, and stories of a journey from the Atlantic Coast to the Great Lakes, and the seven prophecies marked by *Miigis*. The production was made possible by the federal government's Canada 150 funding and was developed on site at Fort York over the summer. It was an honour and a pleasure for us at Fort York to be able to assist in bringing this wonderful production to life—congratulations to Sandra Laronde and everyone at Red Sky Performance. <http://www.redskyperformance.com/index.php/miigis/>

On Common Ground also included two citizenship reaffirmation ceremonies that were presided over by Satish Kanwar, vice president of product at Shopify, and Don Cranston, chair of The Friends of Fort York and Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. Other programming included live music performances by NEFE, Pan Fantasy, The Monkey Bunch, Tich Meredza & Ruben Esguerra, Baque de Bama, Amadou Kienou, Ritmo Flamenco, and T. DotBangerz Brass.

Congratulations to our acting supervisor of special events, Kristine Williamson, and the entire team involved in making On Common Ground such a success. As quoted in the media release by Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, "Activities like the On Common Ground festival, organized as part of Canada 150 and TO Canada with Love, provide exciting activities for the whole family to engage with the rich cultural diversity that

is at the heart of who we are as Canadians."

September came to a close with the Invictus Games; details can be found in the lead article by Bruce Kidd in this same issue. We're also hoping everyone comes down to see the "Vimy Foundation's First World War in Colour" (www.vimyfoundation.ca), a unique and innovative project colourizing 150 images from the First World War. The exhibit will be on display in the Visitor Centre until the end of October.

On the construction front, an update on The Bentway is located on page 10, and information on Garrison Crossing is available at <http://fortyorkbridge.mmm.ca/updates/August2017GarrisonCrossingUpdate.html>



Jill Patterson (Canada 150 Project Manager, City of Toronto) and Don Cranston (Chair of the Friends of Fort York and Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry) flank Kim Wheatley (Anishinaabe Cultural Consultant) at the reaffirmation ceremonies that were part of the On Common Ground Festival. Photo courtesy of David O'Hara

Fort York's Apiary Alive and Well

by Bob Kennedy



The beehives are buzzing on the grounds of Fort York once more. They've been fully restored from the damage they suffered last winter. While still subtle, the security of the apiary has been tightened.

It was in early January when fort staff discovered that three of the seven hives had been badly vandalized, leaving many thousands of bees to die of exposure. Honey was stolen. "We're heartbroken" tweeted the staff, which had come to know the industrious little critters from their frequent visits to the fort's community gardens and especially from the delicious honey they'd been supplying to the kitchen.

Productive beehives have been on the fort's grounds since

2013, when arrangements were made with Toronto Honeys. Not exactly a business, Toronto Honeys is (according to its web site) "a love story between two beekeepers, thousands of bees, and millions of flowers." The beekeepers are Shawn Caza and Melissa Berney; Shawn calls the project a "passion" that some day "might break even." Donations from friends of the project—notably the fort's culinary historians—helped rebuild the hives.

The apiary can produce as much as 250 kg of honey per year and in late summer might house an astonishing 400,000 bees. Provided their hive is not threatened, these bees will ignore admiring humans and forage as far as five kilometres from the hive. Fort York's bees don't have to go that far. Within easy range are the abundant wildflowers of the fort's north slope, flowering trees like basswood, sumac, and especially apple trees—including remnants of orchards in the Niagara neighbourhood—as well as the waterfront Music Garden, where there's always something blooming.

Shawn and Melissa offer spring, summer, and autumn harvests of honey. Each batch reveals the distinctive floral flavour of the

season. All of the batches are raw and unfiltered, “straight from comb to jar with beneficial enzymes, traces of pollen and all the other natural goodness of honey intact.”

One who knows the honey well is Bridget Wranich, program officer at the fort and a founder of the Culinary Historians of Canada. “We love using the honey,” she says. Like the produce of the fort’s own gardens, “it’s really a taste of local food.”

Curiously, by Georgian times—the days of Toronto’s earliest settlement and the War of 1812—“the use of honey as a sweetener disappears,” she says. “It had been replaced by cane

sugar” of the sort that still arrives here by the boat load. Long before the industrialization of sweetness, though, innovative cooks valued their honey. “We’re working on some medieval recipes that used honey,” Bridget reports, “recipes from the time of the Magna Carta.”

While we look forward to those, Toronto Honeys will be harvesting the autumn labours of Fort York’s congenial honey bees. Jars of their golden fluid are always available for sale in the fort’s well-stocked Canteen.

Recipe for a ‘Crustade’

by Bridget Wranich

This historical recipe for small sweet pies was chosen by Volunteer Historic Cook, Mya Sangster, from her cookbook collection and then tested in the kitchen at Fort York in preparation for the Magna Carta exhibition in 2015. It was especially nice to make these using our own Fort York honey (courtesy of Toronto Honeys) from hives on site.

Original Source:

Cocatrice and Lampray Hay, edition of Corpus Christi College, Oxford MS F 291 which contains ninety-nine original fifteenth-century recipes written in English.

Our Modern Equivalent:

3 apples, about 1 lb (500 g) (any type of apple is fine)

3 pears, about 1 lb (500 g) (any type of pear is fine)

1 ½ cups (375 mL) dates

1 ½ cups (375 mL) currants

1 cup (250 mL) honey

½ tsp (2 mL) black pepper

½ tsp (2 mL) saffron

½ tsp (2 mL) cinnamon

Pinch of red sandalwood, steeped in 1 tbsp. of boiling water (can be omitted)

¼ cup (60 mL) grated bread crumbs

Pare, core, and chop apples and pears. Finely dice dates. Plump currants in warm water, remove stems and drain. Place all of the fruit in a saucepan and add honey. Strain red sandalwood and add liquid only, as well as black pepper, saffron, and cinnamon to the fruit. Add the breadcrumbs. Simmer mixture until fruit is tender, about 20 minutes. Let cool. Make your favourite pastry. Roll out pastry making bottoms and lids for your crustades. (We use standard muffin tins, but any small sized tin will do.) Fill and cover with lids. Crimp edges and pierce the lids. Bake at 375°F (190°C) for 25–30 minutes or until pastry is golden brown. Remove from tins and cool. Yield: approximately 12 small pies

Ancient Human-Powered Transportation Coming to The Bentway

by Kasia Gladki

If you’ve been to the fort recently, you will have seen perimeter fencing, trailers, cement pourers, and other construction machinery. This is the foundation of what will become The Bentway and is the work of The Bentway’s construction manager, Peter Keiwiit Sons ULC—who are on site every weekday, with over 130 skilled labourers and more than 50 subcontractors, turning our vision into a reality.

There are many things happening on the site each and every day. Substantial excavation work has already taken place and more than 1420 metres of utility piping has been installed, which is the equivalent of ten football fields. Above and below ground electrical conduits are in place that will power lighting fixtures throughout the site. The roof deck of the Gardiner has actually helped to keep things on track, offering a shelter from the wet weather.



Currently pipes for making ice are being installed to create a skating trail for The Bentway under the Gardiner and in front of the Fort York Visitor Centre. Credit: Sean Galbraith

With winter skate season coming up, we are especially excited to see the fantastic progress on the skate trail and icehouse. Ice skating has been called the oldest human-powered means of transportation; skate artefacts have been found in Scandinavia and Russia going back 5000 years. Our skating trail is a bit more modern than that. The 220-metre skating trail uses a refrigeration system: 13,746 metres of embedded piping, which is connected to the refrigeration system in the skating shed, carries coolant throughout the trail. When activated the coolant travels through the pipes to take the heat from the surface and distribute it to the refrigeration equipment. This means that ice production is less weather-dependant and visitors will be able to enjoy the trail throughout the winter. The foundation and walls of the icehouse are underway and surface concrete for the trail is being poured right now. If all goes well, we'll be skating this December!

For more construction updates and to learn about upcoming events and opportunities please sign up for our email newsletter. You can visit our website at <http://www.thebentway.ca/get-involved/#join-us> or send an email to hello@thebentway.ca to subscribe.

Kasia Gladki is manager of communications, The Bentway Conservancy.



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The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

2017 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

Compiled by Richard Haynes

OCTOBER

Historic Cooking Workshop: The Iconic Canadian Butter Tart Thurs. October 5, 6:30 to 9:30 pm

Join us to explore the sweet history of this iconic Canadian treat. Using First World War recipes, participants will learn how to make the perfect pastry and filling for delicious tarts every time. Light refreshments, recipe package, and tarts to take home.

\$50 plus tax

Pre-registration is required 416-392-7484

Fort York after Dark: Lantern Tours Wed. Thurs. Fri. October 25, 26, 27, 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 visit two military cemeteries. This event is not recommended for children under 8 yrs. Complimentary refreshments.

\$13.27 plus tax

Pre-registration is required 416-392-7484

NOVEMBER

Canada Cooks, Toronto Eats! – Free admission Sat. and Sun. November 4 and 5, noon to 5 pm

Food connects all cultures. The food we eat tells compelling stories about who we are, and it is these stories the program is interested in sharing. Canada Cooks, Toronto Eats! invites visitors to experience the history of Toronto and to discuss the present and future of Canada through family recipes. You can share your recipes and food memories through www.torontoeats150.tumblr.com and our eCookbook. The City of Toronto Historic Sites invites everyone to taste food samples that illustrate the development of a Canadian cuisine, listen to historic talks on cultural identity and food, and participate in conversations at our free weekend event.

This project is presented as part of TO Canada with Love, the City of Toronto's year-long program of celebrations, commemorations, and exhibitions honouring Canada's 150th birthday.

Remembrance Day Commemoration Sat. November 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 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.

Historic Cooking Classes in the 1826 Officers' Mess Kitchen: Mince Pies

Sun. November 26, 10 am to 3:30 pm

Learn how to make the pastry and rich filling for these traditional fruit and meat-based pies. Recipe package and mince pies to take home.

\$75 plus tax

Pre-registration and payment required 416-392-7484

DECEMBER

The Cook's Apprentice (historical cooking for kids 8 to 12) Sat. December 2, 1 to 3:30 pm

Learn to bake traditional cakes, biscuits and confections in the Officers' historic kitchen. Recipes include iced Queen Cakes, Gingerbread, Peppermint Drops, and a delicious breakfast griddle cake for the holidays. Recipe package and tastes to take home.

\$30 plus tax

Pre-registration and payment required 416-392-7484

Frost Fair

Sat. and Sun. December 9 and 10, 10 am to 5 pm

Celebrate the festive season at Fort York. Stroll through War of 1812 buildings where you can shop for unique gifts made by local artisans, including jewellery, heritage inspired reproductions, and holiday greenery. There is much to do for the whole family including children's drill workshops, dress-up, games, crafts, and military and music demonstrations. You can also print your own Frost Fair souvenir on the Mackenzie House proof press and visit with the Volunteer Historic Cooks in our Officers' Mess Kitchen to sample late 18th and early 19th century recipes. Or, stop by our Heritage Café to buy lunch!

Regular admission

Gingerbread Make and Bake (extra fun for kids ages 4 and up) Wed. to Sat. December 27 to 31, 11 am and 2 pm

While you enjoy a tour of Fort York your kids can join the cooks in the Officers' Mess Kitchen to create traditional gingerbread cookies. In this hands-on workshop they will use period cooking utensils and tools to sift flour, crush cinnamon, cloves or allspice, pound sugar and grate nutmeg and ginger as they prepare an 1800's gingerbread recipe. Samples can be taken home - if they last that long! Workshop is limited to 15 participants.

Included with regular admission; sign up in the Museum Store when you arrive

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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