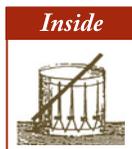


# The Fife and Drum

Newsletter of The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

Vol.23, No.3 Oct. 2019



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## A Mohawk warrior at Queenston Heights

"We then came in sight of the enemy at the other end of a field. We doubled our pace to come up with them. They fired and ran, and fired again.... The warriors returned the fire of the enemy with coolness and spirit; and although [the American] fire certainly made the greatest noise (from the number of muskets), yet I believe ours did the most execution." This is from an account of the Battle of Queenston Heights by the man who led Haudenosaunee warriors through many of the War of 1812's pivotal battles. A new edit by Carl Benn of the journals of John Norton is being published this fall; see p.3.

**Major John Norton, Teyoninhokarawen, the Mohawk Chief,**  
by Mary Ann Knight, 1805. Watercolour and gouache on ivory,  
2 7/8" x 3 5/8" (Library & Archives Canada 1988-119)

**Garrison Crossing is working.** The towers of the Ordnance Triangle are seen looking west from the Bathurst bridge, the trees of Garrison Common on the left. The two stainless-steel spans over the rail corridors are just visible on either side of the towers. Right, the north span is seen looking east from the edge of the brand-new Stanley Park extension, which so far is an unprogrammed meadow. See p.8. Photos by the F&D



# *A summer's day on the waterfront*

by Ewan Wardle

**T**itled "Entrance to the Port of Toronto," this delightful watercolour is one of more than 150 works created by Captain George Russell Dartnell (1799–1878) while stationed in Canada between 1835 and 1844. A British Army surgeon, Dartnell was attached to 2nd Battalion, 1st (Royal) Regiment and made this painting on the 20th of July, 1843. At the time he was serving with his regiment at the recently finished New Fort in Toronto (later renamed Stanley Barracks), about a kilometre west of his point of view here.

Dartnell's composition shows a signal gun firing atop the ramparts of the southwest bastion of the old fort. The building that is shown nearby is meant to depict either the Guard House or No.1 Blockhouse. Across the mouth of Garrison Creek, the Queen's Wharf projects into the channel – its whitewashed, one-story lighthouse dwarfed by the 82-foot-tall lighthouse out on the peninsula (which is still there, standing among the trees of Gibraltar Point).

Well outside the shoal that encompassed the west end of the peninsula – it did not become a set of islands until the 1850s – a steamer heads out into the lake in the direction of Port Hope, Coburg and Kingston.

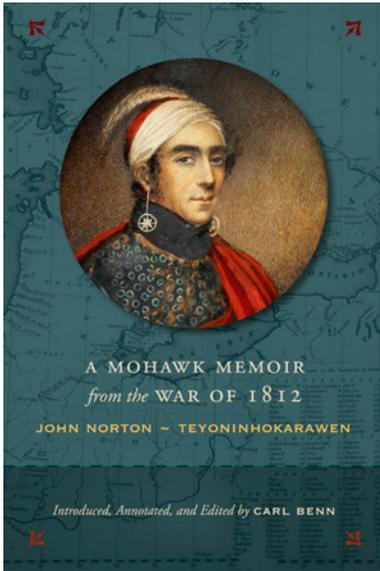
Given the painter's aesthetic concerns, it's a faithful view of the harbour's entrance. His bright afternoon sunshine, the waves breaking on the sandbar and an inviting composition all make it easy to imagine a fine summer's day on the water.

Dartnell is one in a long line of amateur military artists whose works provide an important visual record of Canada in an age before photography. This watercolour offers a charming view of a landscape that would soon begin vanishing under lakefill and the industry of the railroads.

*Ewan Wardle is a Program Development Officer at Fort York National Historic Site. For a survey of Dartnell's images of Canada, see Honor de Pencier, **Posted to Toronto: The Watercolours of George Russell Dartnell, 1835–1844** (Dundurn 1987). The aquarelle – of thin watercolour over pencil, and scraped – is about 9" x 6" and mounted on a slightly larger folio; the inscription is on the folio page, bottom left (Library & Archives Canada item 2962318).*

*Entrance to the Port of Toronto  
20 July 1843*





## PREVIEW

A Mohawk Memoir from the War of 1812: John Norton – Teyoninhokarawen, Introduced, Annotated, and Edited by Carl Benn (UTP 2019); 392 pp, 2 maps, 34 illustrations, bibliography, index

# *Leading the warriors on Queenston Heights: The account of Teyoninhokarawen*

by Carl Benn

**M**ohawk diplomatic and military leader John Norton – Teyoninhokarawen – wrote one of the most interesting and detailed accounts of the War of 1812 by any of the conflict’s veterans. I am pleased to share here an excerpt from a new edition of that autobiography, which I have just edited and annotated. Titled *A Mohawk Memoir from the War of 1812*, it is being published this autumn by the University of Toronto Press.

The chosen text explores part of the battle of Queenston Heights, in which Indigenous war parties kept the American army pinned down for several hours at a critical point in the fighting and thereby contributed greatly to the British victory on October 13, 1812.

## *Teyoninhokarawen*

Norton lived among the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois, north of Lake Erie on the Grand River Tract. This was a home that had been created in the 1780s for Six Nations refugees who chose to leave New York and Pennsylvania after the American Revolution to resettle on British territory. In addition to the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas and Tuscaroras who formed the Haudenosaunee confederacy, other people also lived on the tract. There were Delawares, Cherokees, Nanticokes and some Euro-Americans.

Norton had been born in Scotland in 1770 to a Cherokee father and a Scottish mother. He moved to the Great Lakes in the 1780s and became an adopted Mohawk in the 1790s. His complex origins represent some of the diversities within Indigenous societies in this part of North America at the time, which is something often overlooked in the history of the era.

When the War of 1812 broke out, Norton supported a military alliance between the Six Nations and the Crown. He believed the United States represented a profound threat to the First Nations, although he also had experienced tremendous frustration before the war in trying to affirm Haudenosaunee independence against the oppressive measures of Upper Canadian officials. Other people along the Grand chose neutrality, and some even preferred to ally with the United States. After the Americans lost Mackinac, Fort Dearborn and Detroit in the summer of 1812, however, the majority of people on the Grand aligned with Great Britain against the United States. A significant number of their warriors assembled on the Niagara Peninsula in anticipation of an American thrust into Upper Canada, which came on October 13.

The Americans crossed the Niagara River between Lewiston and Queenston, captured the heights, and drove the defenders out of the Canadian village below. A counterattack led by Major-General Isaac Brock up the northern slope of the heights failed

to dislodge the invaders. The effort ended in further tragedy with the death of Brock and the mortal wounding of his aide-de-camp, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell.

British troops, Canadian militia and Indigenous warriors next moved toward the heights from points north and south to try to repel the Americans again. During the hours it took to concentrate these forces, warriors – led largely by Norton – arrived at Queenston from Fort George, ascended the heights inland of the area held by their opponents, and attacked them across relatively flat ground. They used the terrain and the bushes and trees for cover.

Although outnumbered at least ten-to-one, the warriors upset American efforts to create a proper defensive position, which they knew they would need to resist the inevitable counterattack. For several hours, Norton’s force wore down the Americans with assaults, sniping and intimidation. When they could see seemingly strong British and Canadian forces moving against them later in the day, the invaders were already tired, reduced and demoralized (and a growing number were heading back to the river, hoping for a boat to safety). Lastly, the triumphant warriors helped rout the invaders in the battle’s final phase.

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### **Diversity within Indigenous societies ... is something often overlooked in the history of the era**

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## *A new edition*

Norton completed his manuscript in 1816, hoping to have it published soon afterward. It was not until 1970, however, that it appeared in print as the *Journal of Major John Norton*, edited by Carl F. Klinck and James T. Talman for the Champlain Society (and reissued in 2011 with a new introduction that I wrote).

The book just produced for the University of Toronto Press differs from the Society’s in several ways. Mine presents only Norton’s War of 1812 memoir, leaving his extensive history of the Six Nations and other components to different scholars to analyse in the detail they deserve. I also edited Norton’s words: I did not change them, but regularized spelling, capitalization

and punctuation to make his text easier to read and to improve computer-assisted research.

More importantly, I annotated the text extensively, with a long introduction, section introductions, an epilogue, and extensive footnotes to describe Norton's life and work. The notes also explain the more difficult or obscure aspects of his text, so that this important document can serve historians and general readers better than it can by itself. That they are needed is clear from

what happened to the 1970 edition: it was given by scholars far less attention than it deserved, because it is so often hard to know exactly what Norton means. Some indication of this is the fact that in my book 19 footnotes accompany the passage below, and their word count is comparable to that of the excerpt itself. Those notes are not presented here but *F&D*'s editor has usefully added an Afterword to address many of the same themes.

**T**he warriors ascended the hill in three files, thus prepared for any sudden encounter. Near the road from Chippawa, we met a young gentleman who had narrowly escaped from a party of Americans by dismounting, jumping over a fence, and taking to the woods. He told us they were near at hand. We hastened on. At the road, we met one of our militia officers, well mounted. I entreated him to go with speed to meet the troops and militia from Chippawa to hurry them to our support, and to tell them that we would amuse the enemy in the meantime.

We then came in sight of the enemy at the other end of a field. We doubled our pace to come up with them. They fired and ran, and fired again. We hastened on without losing time, and met two women (whom they had taken by force from their homes) running towards us with tears in their eyes. We assured them in passing that the enemy should soon be repaid for their insolence. We came up with some of the fugitives in front of the main body, which was drawn up in line behind a fence on the skirt of a wood, which bounded the field we had entered.



**This impressionistic image** of the Battle of Queenston Heights offers several events at once. We see the Americans crossing the Niagara River, the initial fighting by the shore and the village, the death of Isaac Brock, and the final British victory up on the heights. We do not see any warriors, despite their importance to the American defeat. One might suggest – charitably – that they are concealed in the woods at the top of the heights; more likely, they were knowingly excluded by the artist (who was present at the battle) from his illustration of a critical day in the War of 1812. This print is ink and watercolour on paper, about 13" x 19½", by Thomas Sutherland after Major James Dennis, 1816; courtesy of the McCord Museum.

On our left, they advanced into the field. We inclined in that direction to attack them, thinking the flank the most advisable part to assail with our small party. The whole line opened fire on us, but without any effect at that time, a declivity in the ground favouring us. The warriors returned the fire of the enemy with coolness and spirit; and although their fire certainly made the greatest noise (from the number of muskets), yet I believe ours did the most execution. The enemy retired behind the fence, from whence they kept up a heavy fire. We inclined imperceptibly to the extremity on the mountain's brow. From thence, we rushed on with impetuosity, and some were stretched upon the ground. They rallied among sheds that had been erected there by the troops and militia formerly encamped on that ground.

At this time, we heard some report similar to that of platoons [firing musket volleys] proceeding from the shrapnel shells fired from a field piece under the direction of Captain Holcroft, Royal Artillery, and with which he continued to annoy the enemy with the greatest skill and gallantry. This led us to suppose that the troops were advancing in front of the enemy, which caused us to push with more forwardness than our small number should otherwise have authorized, in order to favour them by distracting the attention of the enemy in giving them a furious onset from our quarter at the same time.

Now undeceived, and seeing the enemy rally in great numbers, the warrior stands meditating how to range with greatest advantage his gallant band when an impatient Seneca warrior called out, "Why stand so mute? Now here is the foe before us." He then replied, "Come on. I never will fail to lead where any warrior can follow," and darting forward, and swiftly, they stand within a javelin's throw of the crowded ranks, when, levelling sure, they discharged the leaden deaths among them (the slight foliage of some slender oak concealed them from hostile view).

Those, who with more distant assault annoyed the enemy, attracted his attention until the fusil's flash and near report discovered the friends. Then the foe raged like a hive of bees disturbed. Volleys of bullets flew towards them [i.e., the warriors], but all passed harmless over. Viewing each other with a

smile, they acknowledged it rather too hot, and retired towards the more numerous body...

Having returned to those in the rear who lurked secure in a deep ravine, they thus endeavoured to arouse them: "Where are now those fierce spirits that at the village feast were wont to boast of their prowess? Why now so calm? Come forward whoever holds a manly heart!" Some Delaware warriors from the summit of the hill met the advancing enemy. The guns cracked, the bullets whistled through the air, the warriors rushed forward, closed, and drove back the foe.

At this time a heavy fire commenced on our right. Supposing it to proceed from those of our people [i.e., the warriors] who were bringing up the rear having fallen upon the centre of the enemy, we ran there to extricate them from the difficulty in which they might have got involved from the great superiority of the foe. We found them retiring, and carrying away some wounded men, with a party of the enemy following, which we compelled to retire upon the main body. There had been only about twenty of them

that had imprudently fallen upon the centre instead of joining us in a more advantageous position. They behaved with much gallantry, but were entirely put to flight with a severe loss: two chiefs and a warrior killed, and many wounded.

In regaining our position on the flank of the enemy, we found numbers [of warriors] gone to the rear to a place that had been named as a rendezvous. A message was immediately sent after them, expressing that no place of rendezvous was acknowledged for that day unless it should be within sight of the enemy, and that wherever the cracking of guns was greatest, there they might be assured of finding us. We came in time to repulse the enemy, who had again advanced as far as the bakehouse, from which we had driven them at the first onset.

We now saw with joyful hearts the troops and militia passing obliquely through the fields at the foot of the mountain to ascend it by the path where we had passed. The enemy again sounded the charge, but they advanced towards us with reluctant pace. They stopped and fired their cannon, loaded with grape, which rattled around. We returned the fire with more effect. They soon retired; and now, although the enemy left the ground on which we first assailed them with many of their fallen friends lying around, we also had to lament the loss of some brave warriors, which served to whet the warriors' rage to renew the combat. We now awaited with impatience the arrival of the troops to fill the space on our right, that we might then push the enemy to the precipice without being enveloped.

The ground on which we had fought was well adapted to favour a small number against a stronger force. On our left, the steep descent of Queenston Mountain, along which, and [across] the meadows beneath, we had an uninterrupted view; on our right, an extensive field that reached to the Niagara River, which exposed to our sight any body of the enemy that might advance in that direction to pass our flank...

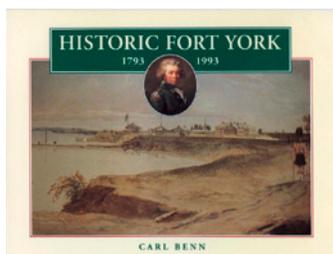
General Sheaffe and the troops having now ascended the hill,

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### I never will fail to lead where any warrior can follow

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Dr. Carl Benn is a history professor at Ryerson University and former chief curator of the City of Toronto Museums & Heritage Services. His many books include *The War of 1812*; *Native Memoirs from the War of 1812: Black Hawk and William Apess*; *Mohawks on the Nile*; *The Iroquois in the War of 1812*; and *Historic Fort York, 1793-1993* (still the fort's best history). On the portraits of Norton, see *Iroquoia* (Vol.4, Oct. 2018).



I sent [someone] to inform him of our position. (The advantage I expected to derive from it made me very tenacious of leaving it myself.) The general sent to me Lieutenant Kerr of the Glengarry [Light Infantry Fencibles] to enquire more particularly into our situation and the strength of the enemy. I told him that we were ready to rush on as soon as the troops should form on our right, so as to draw the attention of the enemy to that quarter and to be in readiness to support us. He said that the general awaited the arrival of the grenadiers and militia from Chippawa, who were expected every minute. As soon as he had rejoined the general, a reinforcement of light infantry of one hundred men under Lieutenant McIntyre of the 41st were sent to us. They were accompanied by Mr. Clench and Mr. Willcocks as volunteers. At the same time, we were also strengthened by a number of Cayuga warriors who had been detained at Niagara from the apprehension of its being also attacked. We were thus more than doubly strengthened.

We arranged ourselves on the extremity of the left, the light infantry taking post on our right, next to the main body. When we saw the right wing enter the field, we rushed forward. The enemy fired. We closed, and they ran. From the side of a hill where they lay, they fired again. We came in upon them swiftly. They left their cannon; and we raised the shout of victory. Whilst our cannon fired on the right, we were in rear of their centre (which lined the skirts of the field through which our right wing was advancing). It fell into confusion. They [i.e., the Americans] ran in disorder, many falling on the way. They then took post behind the bank from whence they fired, as well-covered as from behind a breastwork. We rushed forward, and saw the grenadiers led by Lieutenant Bullock coming from the right along the bank of the river. The enemy disappeared under the bank, many plunging into the river. The inconsiderate still continued to fire at them until checked by repeated commands of "Stop fire!" The white flag from the American general then met General Sheaffe, proposing to surrender at discretion the remainder of those who had invaded us.

### *Afterword*

There were about 80 warriors with Norton when they went into

action at about 11:00 a.m. In the village below, Captain William Holcroft's artillery – two 6-pounders and a 5.5" howitzer – with soldiers of the 41st Regiment began forcing the enemy out of Queenston itself. Up on the heights, Norton could not be sure of what was happening below.

Some episodes of Norton's account indicate there were several distinct war parties in the field. We see one group distracting the enemy while another approaches their line; the Delaware warriors, who may have been part of the Six Nations contingent; and the group of 20 or so that Norton's men ran forward to help. Each had their own leader but all were supporting one another and being generally directed by Norton.

The warrior challenged to lead by the impatient Seneca could only have been Norton himself. On an individual level, Indigenous societies tolerated decisions by men to leave a battle because of bad omens, ordinary fear, or their own individual assessments of the

risks and rewards involved. In his battle oration, Norton himself left open the possibility – even while a few warriors, discovered later, are mocked for making themselves

scarce: "Where are now those fierce spirits that at the village feast were wont to boast?" he asks.

In the early afternoon, the fighting on the heights ebbed and flowed. Years later, a Canadian militia officer recalled watching this phase of the battle. "It was most interesting," wrote James Crooks, "to see Norton, young Brant and [William Johnson] Kerr, with about 50 Indians, driving in the outposts of the enemy on the heights above us. They being reinforced, obliged the Indians to retire. This happened several times, and as there was a clear sky beyond, it became quite a picture to witness the evolutions." The "grape" that Norton mentions is an artillery round filled mostly with balls that functions like a shotgun blast.

The light infantry sent to reinforce Norton and to fill in the gap between the warriors and Sheaffe's main body were specialists in scouting, skirmishing, covering a formation's flanks and, in general, fighting with more independence than the companies formed up in line to volley. They fought, in short, much like warriors. Sheaffe's emissary Lieutenant Walter Kerr of the Glengarry light infantry – a unit raised in Canada – was a grandson of Sir

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## The enemy fired. We closed, and they ran.

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### *New fifes in the field*

Our fifes and drums, in the uniforms of the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry, have never sounded better. Led by Drum Major Stuart Murray and Fife Major Sarah O'Keefe, they began this season with a brand-new matching set of four Model F fifes. Tuned to B flat, they're of grenadilla wood with short brass ferrules. Obtained from the States, they cost about \$200 each (by way of the Friends) and are faithful to the instruments of the Georgian era. Guard photo by Sid Calzavara



William Johnson and Molly Brant. His brother, another officer of the Indian Department, was fighting alongside Norton.

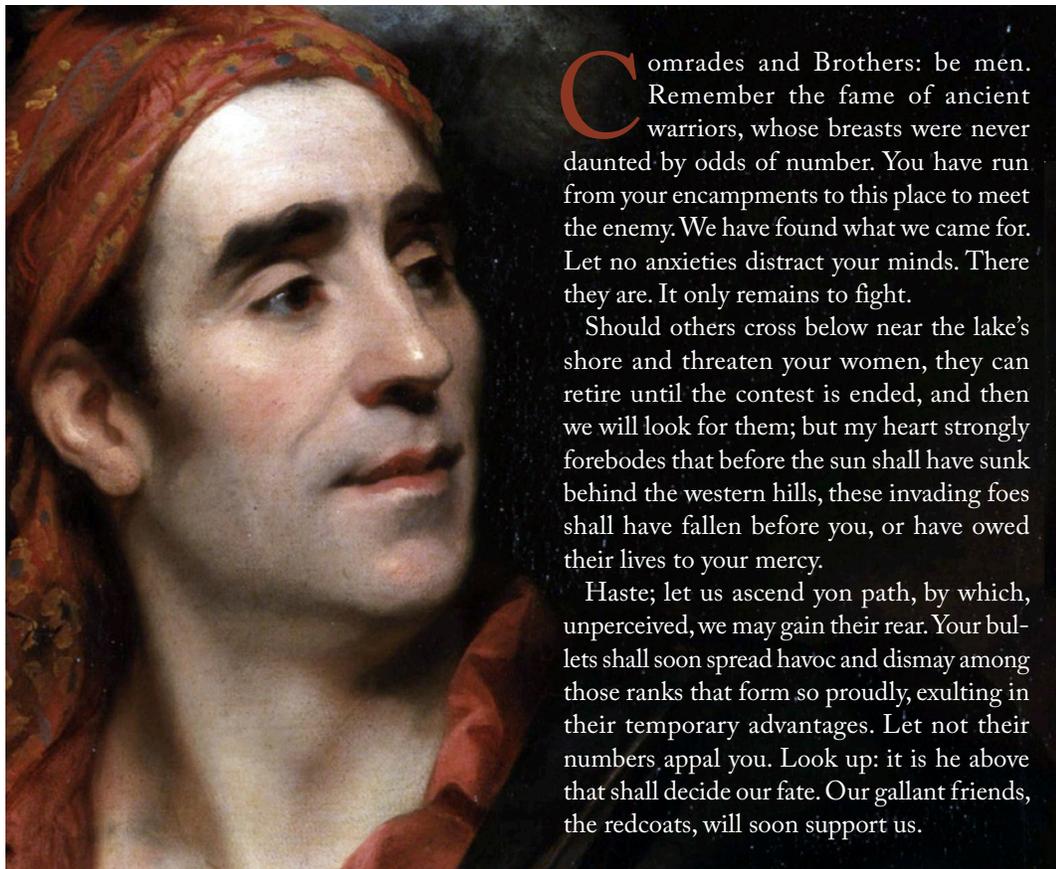
Sheaffe's main force of about 900 advanced shortly after 3:00 and the British and Americans exchanged volleys. The redcoats closed to fight face-to-face as the American line disintegrated – Norton's warriors were soon behind part of it – and many of its soldiers plunged over the edge and down to the Niagara River. When the British advanced, Norton writes elsewhere, "we rushed upon them and broke the flank, pursuing them with considerable slaughter till we raised the shout in the rear of the centre, which seemed to throw the whole into confusion."

Surrendering during the chaos of a battle's conclusion has always been a hazardous venture, and no less so on this occasion. A few warriors may have killed Americans trying to surrender; one did kill a Canadian militiaman mistaken for an enemy. Although conceding that "the inconsiderate" continued firing

after the general fighting had stopped, he asserts – speaking of the American prisoners – that "they had no reason to complain of cruelty this day."

They were, however, completely defeated. As many as 500 Americans were killed, drowned or wounded and 925 were taken prisoner. Among the defenders, 25 (including five warriors) were killed and more than 90 were wounded, including perhaps a dozen warriors – and Norton himself, although only slightly.

A week after the battle, Major-General Sheaffe wrote that the Haudenosaunee contingent "deserved the highest praise for their good order and spirit." And Sheaffe told his commander on the day of the fighting that his freedom to concentrate forces from beyond Queenston was "chiefly to be ascribed to the judicious position taken by Norton and the Indians with him on the woody brow of the high ground above Queenston." It was high praise for the leadership and tactical judgement of the Mohawk leader.



**C**omrades and Brothers: be men. Remember the fame of ancient warriors, whose breasts were never daunted by odds of number. You have run from your encampments to this place to meet the enemy. We have found what we came for. Let no anxieties distract your minds. There they are. It only remains to fight.

Should others cross below near the lake's shore and threaten your women, they can retire until the contest is ended, and then we will look for them; but my heart strongly forebodes that before the sun shall have sunk behind the western hills, these invading foes shall have fallen before you, or have owed their lives to your mercy.

Haste; let us ascend yon path, by which, unperceived, we may gain their rear. Your bullets shall soon spread havoc and dismay among those ranks that form so proudly, exulting in their temporary advantages. Let not their numbers appal you. Look up: it is he above that shall decide our fate. Our gallant friends, the redcoats, will soon support us.

*Major John Norton, by Thomas Phillips, is an oil on canvas (27" x 35") in the Collection of the Duke of Northumberland.*



he visited twice on behalf of the Six Nations, and which created the opportunities for the portraits. This one was done by Thomas Phillips in 1815 and shows a man ten years older (and

**T**his was Norton's address to his warriors immediately before they joined the battle (he attributes the oration to an anonymous warrior). The elevated diction is meant to reflect a variety of Mohawk more formal than everyday speech.

Some of his warriors had their families with them at Fort George – "near the lake's shore" – and he leaves the door open to their leaving to protect them if the enemy starts crossing the river farther downstream.

Norton's primary schooling was in Scotland and it seems he read widely. He was comfortable in the salons of London, which

with another war fought) than the man who sat for the miniature on the front page. Phillips also painted Lord Byron and William Blake, and his Romantic aesthetic is apparent here, too.

Another result of the first visit was agreeing to translate, for a new Bible society, the Gospel of Saint John into Mohawk. Norton supported the work of the Anglican church on the Grand River even as he also pursued aspects of Indigenous spirituality. And he translated Sir Walter Scott's poem "The Lady of the Lake," published in 1810, just because he could. It's easy to imagine that he knew his Shakespeare, too.

## Garrison Crossing open for travel

After at least a decade of wishing, discussing, planning, cancelling, reviving, designing and building, Garrison Crossing is open. On the last day of September, a note from the City simply invited reporters to a news conference the next morning at what turned out to be the spacious Garrison Common landing. A party for the neighbourhood was promised for later, but the City wanted this link open the minute it was ready – and just in time for *Nuit Blanche*. October 1 turned out to be the warmest October day ever recorded in Toronto. It was an especially good day for bicycles, baby carriages and walkers of all kinds. Photos by the *F&D*.



**Looking north** toward the span that crosses the Kitchener rail corridor, which lands on an extension of South Stanley Park. Right on time, a new crosswalk has been added across Wellington to protect the link going north to the rest of the park. The empty green space on the right will be a new park; its completion depends on the developers (Bentall Green Oak) of the growing towers.



**A bench at the northern end of the Crossing.** The bridge – uniquely stainless steel – was designed by Pedalta, landscaped by DTAH and built by Dufferin. The project was overseen by CreateTO, the City's new real-estate agency.



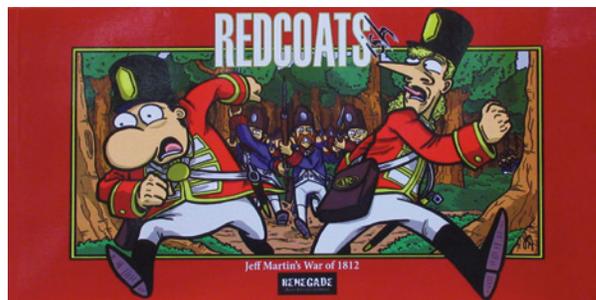
**The shady staircase down to Garrison Common.** On the left is the ramp, while the span over the Lakeshore rail corridor aligns with the staircase. The ramp, staircase and both spans have smooth wooden railings.

### Beleaguered teachers!

*Have you brought your class down to Fort York?*

You can for as little per pupil as \$5 in primary grades and \$10 in middle school. On offer is a unique, hands-on set of programs in Canadian social and military history. There are modules on pioneers, the fur trade, the Rebellion of 1837, the Canadian soldier in the First World War, and Simcoe and the birth of modern Toronto. The packages are inexpensive and they're aligned with the Ontario curriculum for Grades 3, 5, 7 and 10.

**To book a class trip, contact the museum directly at [fortyork@toronto.ca](mailto:fortyork@toronto.ca) or (416) 392-7742.**



*Redcoats-ish* by Jeff Martin is available in the Canteen.

# “What do you want, Private ... a medal?”

by Kevin Hebib

In a word, yes – and one like this in particular! Fort York has acquired through purchase a rare early nineteenth-century service medal presented to a soldier of the 8th (King’s) Regiment of Foot. The silver medal, which appears to show some evidence of gilding, is hallmarked to a London maker c.1801.

It is an example of the type given to soldiers at the regimental level in the era before the British Army issued general service medals. In fact, it was not until 1847 that the British Army instituted its own Military General Service Medal and backdated it to actions as long ago as 1801. Medals of this lesser known type recognized myriad individual qualities and deeds like years of service, marksmanship, temperance and general esteem. Because they were issued by individual units, their designs varied widely depending on available metals and the proficiency of the engraver.

Service in North America of the 8th (King’s) Regiment of Foot spans many decades and includes the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Two companies of the 8th Regiment were present on April 27, 1813, at the Battle of York, where they sustained substantial losses.

The obverse of the medal features iconic British Army elements: the White Horse of Hanover (King George III); the Arabic numeral 8; the Crown of St. Edward (King George III); and a laurel wreath with ribband reading OR KING’S REGT. The whole is surrounded by the Order of The Garter reading HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE, which loosely translated means *evil to him who evil thinks*.

The reverse features a laurel wreath with a ribband across the top inscribed MILITARY MERIT. Inside the wreath is the inscription “In Token of Fourteen Years Faithful Service.” The medal has a plain suspension loop for wear. The type of ribbon associated with this medal is not yet known, but it likely would have been quite plain.

Historically, British Army soldiers in the Georgian era served seven-year periods of enlistment, and so this medal marks two terms of service. Further research is required to determine the original recipient or recipient group who qualified for this award and to narrow down the place of engraving and issue. The hallmark date of 1801 places it tantalizingly close to the period of service associated with Fort York and the Battle of York.

Acquisition of the medal was made possible through the generous support of the Fort York Foundation and The Friends



of Fort York through The Stephen Andrew Otto Fort York Fund.

*Kevin Hebib is Program Development Officer – Curatorial at Fort York NHS. He is a noted specialist in military material culture and a part-time professor at Centennial College in the Museum & Cultural Management Program. Photographs of the medal are courtesy of Richard Gerrard, Museums & Heritage Services.*

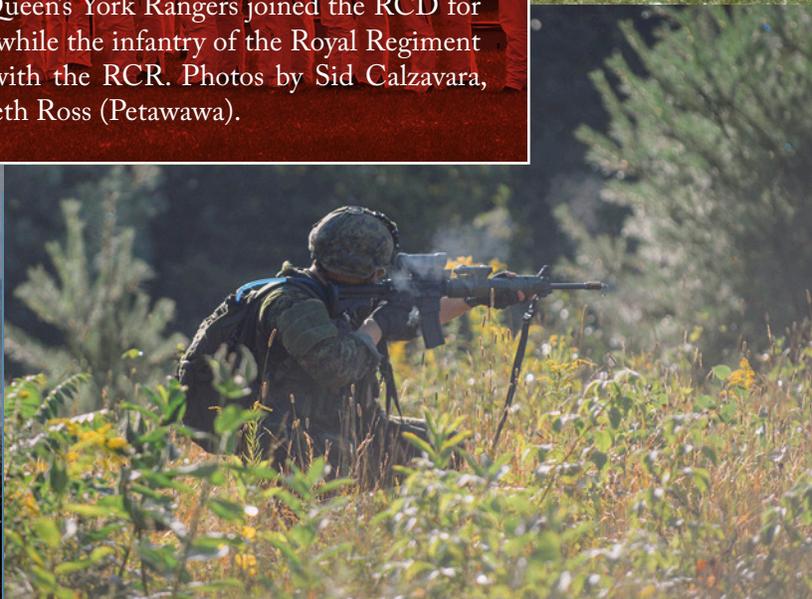
**A private’s coatee** from the grenadier company of the 8th (King’s) Regiment of Foot in the style worn during the War of 1812. This is an accurate reproduction made for the Fort York collection. It is made from a dull, madder-red woolen broadcloth with royal blue cuffs, collar and shoulder straps, the whole trimmed with regimental lace shot through with a yellow and dark blue stripe. It has 32 pewter buttons, which helps explain why buttons are found so often in archaeological excavations of military sites. Photo by Matt Blackett





## *Fort York's soldiers, then and now*

Soldiers built the garrison in 1793, defended it during the War of 1812 and, as the old fort became a museum in 1934, occupied the new armoury next door. Elements of the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the Royal Canadian Regiment (both now in Petawawa) were based at Stanley Barracks. This year on Simcoe Day, the Fort York Guard was reinforced for demonstrations of how Toronto's first soldiers fought. Later in August, the Reserve combat units of Fort York Armoury deployed for annual manoeuvres. The Queen's York Rangers joined the RCD for mounted exercises near Meaford, Ont., while the infantry of the Royal Regiment of Canada was in Petawawa training with the RCR. Photos by Sid Calzavara, Justin Dreimanis (Meaford) and Elizabeth Ross (Petawawa).



# *At the Birthplace of Toronto* **Notes from the Staff**

## Manager's Report

by Richard Haynes, Acting Site Manager

It has been another busy summer at Fort York. July kicked off as usual with Canada Day when the Fort York Summer Guard traditionally begin their demonstration season. What some of my friends still call Dominion Day was a huge success, with good weather and crowds to match. Considering the relatively tight turnaround for the new recruits, the Guard was up and running thanks to their NCOs and the efforts of our staff. All in all this made for a successful and safe demonstration season. The highlight of the summer was Simcoe Day, when members of the Fort George Guard joined us to put on a spectacular show. The great weather helped to ensure record attendance. Well done to all the staff and volunteers! In particular, the careful and constant supervision by Kevin Hebib, Ewan Wardle, Colin Sedgwick-Pinn and Sam Horne was much appreciated.

Throughout the summer, the fort hosted many programs and activities – some familiar and some new. In particular, we offered the new Staycation Sunday events, free to the public with their admission. All of our people were involved in creating neighbourhood walking tours, an evening of campaign cooking, an entire day of historic music, the Great War Picnic event, and heritage garden and honey-making tours. Thanks to everyone here for making these happen; they introduced new people to the fort and gave us many ideas to work with. Summerlicious was also on the menu here this summer when Bridget Wranich and Melissa Beynon staged their Cool Tastings ice-cream workshop. Nothing tastes

more like summer than the ginger ice cream made by the fort's culinary historians!

Fort York and the open space of Garrison Common also hosted a series of third-party events: there was Vegandale, SOCA Brainwash, the Plantain festival, the musical happening called All Day I Dream, and the Caribbean-themed day called Flare. These events all diversify our audience and generate valuable revenue that helps sustain National Historic Site work.

The fort was also thoroughly involved with some Bentway initiatives this summer, notably the annual Block Party and their regular Sunday Socials. These were all well attended and brought many new faces down to the area. The highlight of the Bentway's season came in mid-September: the Museum of the Moon, a spectacular installation that brought some 20,000 visitors down to the Strachan Gate.

And September was an usually busy month: even as the school year got underway, our staff was working hard on a butter-tart workshop, an entire weekend of expanded displays and events on the mobilization of the city in 1939, and on the final weekend, the new concept of The Big Draw – an international festival of *en plein air* artistry. The last grand event of the season was the experience of *Nuit Blanche*, on October 5 involving our entire 43-acre site.

As the days lengthen in October, here at the fort we begin looking forward to the coming seasons. Our popular and totally spooky Fort York After Dark lantern tours resume on October 28 – you need a ticket, so do make a reservation (see Upcoming Events for details). Our culinary historians, meanwhile, are planning their new series for children in December: there's going to be gingerbread galore for the cook's apprentice!



*Troops and Drums of the Canadian Regiment of Fencible Infantry (that is, the Fort York Squad) celebrate their victory at Fort George on August 18, 2019. They emerged overall winners of the 20th anniversary Drum's Muster & Soldiers' Field Day. Tested were the skills of drilling, marching and firing – including an execution of "the perfect volley." Also competing were two companies of the 41st Regiment from Fort George; elements of DeWattville's Regiment from Old Fort Erie; and elements of the 100th Regiment of Foot, based in Ottawa. The indomitable 10th Royal Veteran Battalion (alumni of the Fencibles, curmudgeons among them) provided experienced judges and what Parks Canada calls "demonstration programmers," assigned to amuse a fickle public. Off duty, the veterans visited Niagara-on-the-Lake for refreshments. Photo by Lance Corporal Holly Benison*



*The Reverend Dr. John D. Hartley (1942-2019) in the midst of the reception following the fort's Remembrance Day service in 2014. After a lifetime of service to the United Church, Dr. Hartley "drifted peacefully into the next life" (as his family put it) on February 3. He led the annual remembrance on Garrison Common for more than 20 years. Photo by Jean-Marc Robin*

Finally, as we approach another Remembrance Day, it would be remiss of me not to mention a very sad event. The Reverend Dr. John D. Hartley passed away in February. Many of you may know Dr. Hartley as the minister who presided over our Remembrance Day services, virtually uninterrupted, from 1992 until only recently. We had no idea he had been suffering from pancreatic cancer when he had to bow out of last year's event. The last time I talked with him was a week before November 11 when he assured me that, if I could not find a replacement, he would not let me down. Dr. Hartley was a great servant of Fort York, a fine person and a perfect gentleman. He will be missed.



*The Museum of the Moon hovered under the Gardiner for six days, drawing thousands toward her in a nightly tide that climaxed in the harvest moon of Saturday, September 14 (the moon can be seen in the photo rising over the armoury a few days before). The near illuminated sphere is a seven-metre sculpture by U.K. artist Luke Jerram. The Bentway buzzed with food, drink and glowing millennial headphones while films and lectures in astronomy – including on our own Captain Henry Lefroy, of magnetical fame – happened in the Fort York Visitor Centre. Under the full moon on Saturday, Laurie Brown (of Pondercast) and the electronic Julian Van Tassel assembled a podcast live with Bernice, Choir! Choir! Choir! and the Halifax innovator Rich Aucoin. Photo by Andrew Stewart*



*David O'Hara has a new job. Site Manager at Fort York NHS since the beginning of 2005, David has been at the centre of every big development since, including the restoration of Garrison Common's landscape and the creation of the extraordinary Fort York Visitor Centre. His new role (still with the City) is overseeing the possibilities for Rail Deck Park. Above, he's chatting with author Mike Filey on the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge; right, he and Richard Haynes – who took over as Acting Site Manager right after Labour Day – anticipate the arrival of Prince Harry for the Invictus Games in September, 2017. Look for an appreciation of David's lasting contribution to Fort York in the next Fife and Drum. Photos by (left) Kathy Mills and Bob Kennedy*

## Rental towers growing around Fort York

No fewer than four rental towers are rising at the west end of Garrison Common while a fifth, built as a 1,200-unit condo at the northeast corner of Fort York, has been rebranded for rent. A year from now, more than 2,600 new rental units will be a five-minute walk from the fort's Canteen.

Minto has rebranded its huge Westside building – which fills the east side of Bathurst from Front to Niagara – as 39 Niagara West. It's right across the street from the Stackt container market but there's still no sign of a promised grocery store. People are moving in now even as work on the building's envelope, landscaping, retail fittings and internal amenities continues at a glacial pace.

You can have a bachelor here for \$1,944 a month, a two-bedroom apartment for \$3,164 or a three-bedroom townhouse for \$4,799. That, says the web site, is "renting redefined in Toronto's King West!" (All of these new units are in addition to the thriving rental market in the area's several dozen condominium buildings, some of which are less than half owner-occupied. Their rental space is being eroded by the likes of Airbnb.)

At the west end of Garrison Common, five Hariri-Pontarini towers are in various stages of completion on the Ordnance Triangle. The two with the diagonals are the condominiums; they are adjacent to the still-unseen park by Claude Cormier (to their right, meaning east, in the photo) and will begin greeting residents early in 2020. The other three towers going up on what the developers call Garrison Point are rental buildings of 25, 35 and 39 storeys. They'll have a total of 1,012 units among them.

Across Strachan Avenue, 39 East Liberty Street will be a rental, a bulky 25-storey IBI design with 440 units. On the fourth corner of East Liberty and Strachan will be another tall condominium, and it will complete the eastern wall of Liberty Village.



*Towers rising on the Ordnance Triangle (top) are seen from Garrison Common on Sept. 18, 2019. The completed tower (extreme left) is on East Liberty Street, while Garrison Crossing touches down just off the photo's right edge. Above, 39 Niagara West is framed by trees and some timbers of the old Queen's Wharf. Photos by the F&D (top) and Andrew Stewart*

# Ginger snaps!

One pound of butter, one of sugar, one pint of molasses, one teacup of ginger, three teaspoons of pearlsh, flour enough to make a stiff dough, spice to your taste.

This is the recipe for Hard Gingerbread in *The Cook Not Mad; Or, Rational Cookery*, an American cookbook reprinted in Kingston, Upper Canada, in 1831. Although essentially stolen – and the author remains a mystery – it’s widely regarded as Canada’s first cookbook.

When Fort York’s cooks began working on a modern version of this recipe, they first tried it, as directed, with a teacup (¾ cup or 185 mL) of ground ginger. To this they added other spices that were historically accurate – cinnamon, nutmeg, Jamaica pepper (allspice), mace, cloves, anise, caraway and black pepper.

That gingerbread was snappy indeed! The simpler blend of spices in this modern version, which has been sampled by thousands of visitors to the fort, involves less ginger as well. Its finer balance has proven to be a lasting crowd-pleaser.

Our modern version will make about 90 two-inch cookies. But the original recipe makes twice as much dough, and that’s an ideal amount for bigger projects like gingerbread houses, Christmas decorations and manic cookie parties. To make that much gingerbread, double the amount of each modern ingredient.

- 1 cup (250 mL) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup (250 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 cup (250 mL) fancy molasses
- 4 cups (1 L) all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp (30 mL) ground ginger
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground allspice
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp (5 ml) grated nutmeg
- 1 tsp (5 ml) baking soda (replaces pearlsh)

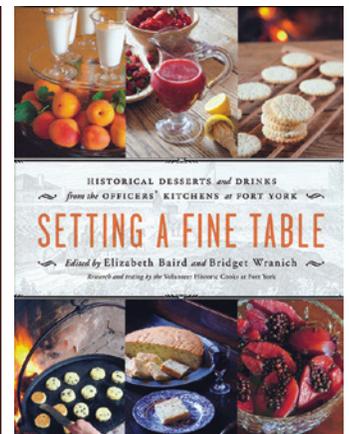
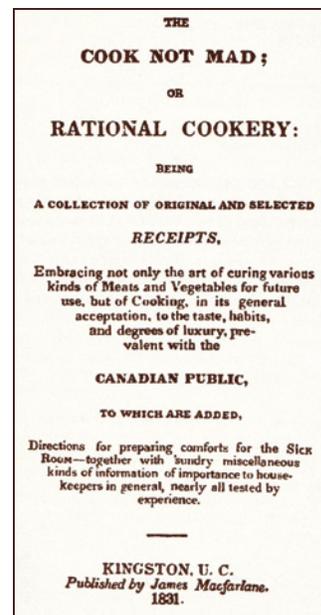


- Line two rimless baking sheets with parchment paper, or lightly grease.
- In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the molasses until smooth.
- In a separate large bowl, whisk together the flour, ginger, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg and baking soda.
- Stir into the molasses mixture one cup at a time. Press the dough together, kneading gently a few times until smooth. Divide in half.
- (Make-ahead: Form each half of the dough into a disc, wrap separately and chill until firm, about an hour. Later, let it soften slightly at room temperature before rolling.)
- Roll out the dough, one disc at a time, on a well-floured work surface to a thickness of only 1/8 of an inch (3 mm).



These cookies cut into modern maple leaves are a proven crowd-pleaser. Photo by Melissa Beynon

- Cut into shapes and arrange about an inch apart on the prepared baking sheets. Form the scraps into a disc and reroll for more cookies.
- Bake in the centre of a 350°F (180°C) oven until slightly darkened on the bottom and firm to a light touch (that is, about 10 to 12 minutes.)
- Let them firm up on the baking sheets for 3 minutes, then transfer to racks to cool completely.



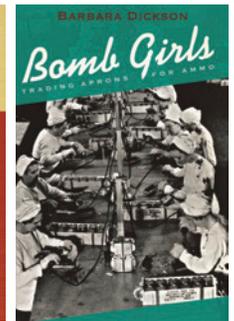
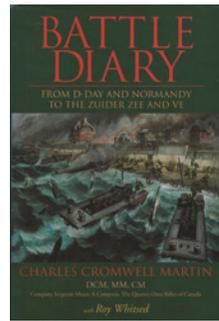
From *Setting a Fine Table: Historical Desserts and Drinks from the Officers' Kitchens at Fort York* (Whitecap 2013), available in the Canteen or wherever fine cookbooks are sold.

## What did we do in the war?

The final campaign for the liberation of Europe was underway 75 years ago this autumn – do you know how Toronto was involved? These three books, now in the Canteen, vividly describe three very different contributions.

**Charles Cromwell Martin**, *Battle Diary: From D-Day and Normandy to the Zuider Zee and V.E.* (Dundurn 1994). Charlie Martin was a company sergeant major in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, the Toronto regiment that hit the beaches in the first waves of D-Day. This is the best mud-level Canadian account of the fighting in Europe that we're ever likely to see.

**Ellin Bessner**, *Double Threat: Canadian Jews, the Military, and World War II* (New Jewish Press, 2018). Toronto's diverse Jewish community figures prominently in this comprehensive new account of how Canadian Jewry responded to the mortal threat of Nazi Germany abroad – and to the persistent blight of anti-Semitism at home.



**Barbara Dickson**, *Bomb Girls: Trading Aprons for Ammo* (Dundurn 2015). From July 1941 to the end of the war, in a complex of buildings in the rolling farmland of what they called Scarborough, 20,000 workers – most of them women – did the dangerous work of filling millions of explosive fuses for the bombs and shells that British and Canadian forces needed overseas.



This model Hurricane, finely cast and enamelled, has just been added to the inventory of the Canteen – joining a selection of Georgian cookbooks, candlesticks, Blue Willow china and calligraphy instruments that is second to none.

## July / Errata

Well informed readers of our summer issue will have noticed two (at least) errors of the editor worth correcting. Doing so led to a few fond memories.

The Armoured Machine-Gun Carrier on p.13 was, like Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, conceived in Canada but born in the States. Designed by Lt.-Col. Raymond Brutinel, loosely of the Canadian Army, these unique vehicles were assembled at the Autocar Company factory in Ardmore, Penn.

The cars were based on the Autocar two-ton truck. They had solid rubber tires, a 22 hp gasoline engine and road speeds of up to 40 km/hr (but they were not cross-country vehicles). Custom alloy plate 3 and 5 mm thick came from nearby Bethlehem Steel, while Colt Model 1895 machine guns (later replaced with Vickers .303s) were mounted on the bed.

All the vehicles for the first two batteries – eight armoured cars plus 16 soft-skin trucks for stores, ammunition, fuel, recovery, medics and officers – were in Ottawa by the end of September 1914. Brutinel's mobile machine-gun units grew into a brigade and fought through to the end of the war.

There's an excellent account in *Canadian Military History*,



Vol.10, No.1 (Winter 2001). Also, *The Royal Canadian Armoured Corps: An Illustrated History*, by Marteinsson and McNorgan (Robin Brass Studio 2000) has an excellent line drawing by Chris Johnson. It also reproduces the photo (LAC PA3016) of car 5784 that was a source of Greg

Legge's insightful drawing. The car here – 5796, the only survivor – is at the Canadian War Museum.

It was suggested, meanwhile, that the old Butler's Barracks in Niagara-on-the-Lake had been the base of the famous Loyalist unit during the American Revolution. No, it was not. The wooden buildings now on the edge of the Common were begun soon after the War of 1812. They housed the British headquarters for Niagara and eventually became the supporting structures of the post-Confederation Niagara Camp.

Butler's original barracks (of 1778, and long gone) were on the bank of the river within sight of Fort Niagara, due north across the water. Today, the ground is adjacent to the dock of the whirlpool jet boats – and where an inexpensive inn has been established and named for King George. A short walk from the Festival Theatre, it's your editor's favourite place to stay in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

# 2019 | Upcoming Events Historic Fort York

## OCTOBER

### Canada's Table: A Celebration of Our Cookbooks Saturday, October 19, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Fort York National Historic Site celebrates the history, influence and importance of cookbooks and great Canadian authors, past and present. Planned is a full day of panel discussion, demonstrations and workshops. Price includes morning refreshments, a Long Table Lunch and a one-hour workshop. Each workshop participant will receive a signed copy of the workshop leader's cookbook. The cost is \$125 plus HST.

Advance tickets required; get them [here](#).

### Fort York After Dark: Lantern Tours October 28 to 31, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Hear chilling and eerie tales on a lantern tour of Fort York and its historic surroundings. Learn about a haunted lighthouse and the bloody Battle of York. Explore the military burial ground. Tour the creepy shadows and 200-year-old buildings of Fort York at night and learn of the fort's history and its many paranormal mysteries. (This event is part of Toronto History Museums' Halloween programming.) The cost is \$13.27 plus HST.

Advance tickets required; get them [here](#).

## NOVEMBER

### In Flanders Fields: A Multicultural Poetry Event

Saturday, November 9, 5 pm to 8 pm

Poets and readers will present "In Flanders Fields" in a multitude of languages. The event is hosted by the *EtCetera – Arts and Science Club* and will include food and live music. The translations of John McCrae's iconic poem of remembrance and urging can be found on the *EtCetera* website [here](#).

FREE

### Remembrance Day Service Monday, November 11, 10:45 am

Fort York National Historic Site and the Toronto Municipal Chapter IODE are proud to present one of the city's most evocative Remembrance Day services. It unfolds at the Strachan Avenue Military Burial Ground on Garrison Common. At 10:45 from the west gate of the fort, a procession led by period-uniformed staff and standard bearers of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire will make its way to the old cemetery (at the west end of the Common) where the public will gather. There, at the eleventh hour, all soldiers of the Toronto Garrison who fell in the defence of Canada, here and around the world, from 1812 to the present, will be remembered and honoured.

FREE

### Mince Pies: An Historical Cooking Workshop Sunday, November 24, 11 am to 3 pm

Learn how to make the pastry and rich filling of these traditional fruit- and meat-based pies. A recipe package and mince pies to take home are included. Recommended for those aged 13 years and older. The cost is \$75 plus HST.

Advance tickets required; get them [here](#).

## DECEMBER

### The Cook's Apprentice: A Baking Workshop for Children Saturday, December 7, 1 pm to 3:30 pm

Cakes, biscuits and confections! Just in time for the holidays, kids ages 8 to 12 learn to bake traditional recipes including iced queen cakes, gingerbread, peppermint drops and a delicious breakfast griddle cake – all in the Officers' Mess historic kitchen.

Participants receive a recipe package and samples to take home. (This workshop on sweet treats is Part 1 of our children's series; join us the following Saturday for the fun of cooking savoury delights!) The cost is \$30 plus HST.

Advance tickets required; get them [here](#).

### The Cook's Apprentice: A Savoury Cooking Workshop for Children Saturday, December 14, 1 pm to 3:30 pm

Dine like an officer in this hands-on workshop where children get to make their own meal. Kids ages 8 to 12 learn to make and taste traditional recipes including macaroni (and cheese), pancakes, chicken curry and a seasonal soup – all in the Officers' Mess historic kitchen. Participants will receive a recipe package to take home. The cost is \$30 plus HST.

Advance tickets required; get them [here](#).

### Gingerbread Make & Bake December 27 to 31, 11 am and 2 pm

In this hands-on workshop, kids ages 4 and up 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 1800s gingerbread recipe. Samples can be taken home – if they last that long! Each workshop is limited to 15 participants. Sign up in the Museum Store (the Canteen) when you arrive. *Regular admission*



## JANUARY

### Frost Fair January 17, 18, 19, 2020

Note the date in January! We're developing a new program for the weekend, so stay tuned to the Facebook site of Fort York National Historic Site.

*The illustration is from Empire Fashions, by Tom Tierney (Dover), among the many no-batteries-needed toys available in the fort's Canteen.*

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