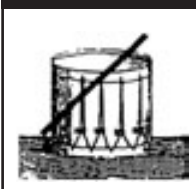


# *The Fife and Drum*

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v.8 No. 2 September 2004

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## *Three New Members Elected to Friends' Board*

At our annual meeting in June it was announced that four long-serving directors would be retiring from the Board: Jeannie Butler, Cathy Nasmith, Alan Vihant and Hank Young. All have been active in the organization, particularly Cathy who has been a member since our founding and has contributed significantly to our efforts to give Fort York accessibility, visibility and dignity. They leave with our respect and heartfelt thanks for their contributions. While they will no longer be present at our Board table, we expect to continue to draw upon them for advice and support. Jeannie will remain an active member of the Special Events Committee.

Taking their places as Directors will be Jane Burgess, Michael Gedz, Michael Manning and a fourth person yet to be named.

Jane Burgess is a partner in Stevens Burgess Architects (SBA), a firm that specializes in conservation work throughout Ontario and elsewhere. Toronto's old Don Jail, Whitney Block and Fort York Armoury are among the many buildings where SBA has undertaken assessments, feasibility studies or restoration / preservation projects. Jane has served as president of the Canadian Association of Professional Consultants and as vice-chair of the Toronto Preservation Board from 2000 to 2002.

Michael Gedz has had a distinguished career in the real estate industry with several companies, among them Cadillac Fairview and Walmart Canada. Currently he is a principal in Terrapulse Corp., which offers services and advice to land owners and retailers seeking to develop and lease commercial properties. As a member of the Fort York Management Board from 2000 to 2004, Michael became familiar with the fort's operations and the pressures on the Fort York National Historic Site from surrounding developments. This knowledge and his experience will serve us well as he takes his place on the Friends' board.

Michael Manning holds a senior position with Coss Systems, a company supplying software to manufacturers, having gained experience along the way in the business-forms industry and as a logistics analyst. Besides a Commerce degree from the U of T, he has a diploma in Information Technology and is working currently towards certification by the Project Management Institute (PMI). In his spare time he paints military miniatures and is a re-enactor in the King's Royal Regiment of New York, where he plays both the bagpipes and tin flute.

# Statement of Commemorative Integrity Approved

The process that began in mid-2002, when the FY staff, Management Board, Friends and Parks Canada met to develop a consensus on why Fort York was nationally-significant, was wound up in June, 2004, when government officials at the local and national levels signed a joint Statement of Commemorative Integrity (CIS) covering the site. While the Statement (available on the fort's website [www.fortyork.ca](http://www.fortyork.ca)) is a daunting read its purpose can be stated simply enough: it gives management a more precise tool for planning and managing the historic site by identifying the elements essential to its importance. Of the other 31 publicly- and privately-owned national historic sites in Toronto, Fort York is to date only the second to have developed a CIS.

## Our Committees Need Members!

The Friends are organized into committees to match more closely the interests of the members, and to get things done more efficiently. Besides our Board Committees—Executive, Audit and Nominations—there are currently three Standing Committees that are open to all members and oversee the Fort York Guard (currently our major initiative), Special Events (like the Georgian Dinner) and Membership. Shortly, we expect to have other committees up and running to guide our efforts in History & Archaeology and to raise money by operating our Parking concessions.

The next stage in securing better recognition for Fort York will come with its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, part of a new program from Parks Canada involving both standards for conservation plus financial incentives. The lead role in making the nomination will be taken by the FY staff and Management Board, with the Friends helping as needed. Currently, only privately-owned or leased Commercial Heritage properties on the Register enjoy priority in making grant applications for 'certified' conservation projects. An announcement by the Minister of Canadian Culture of the first group of grants is said to be imminent.

If you are a member of the Friends in good standing, why not become more involved in our work by joining one of these groups? Volunteering is as simple as phoning the chair(s): Peter Twist (519-942-3865) or Ross Flowers (416-769-5402) for the Fort York Guard, Richard Dodds (416-231-1693) for Special Events and Nancy Baines (416-488-4433) for Membership. You won't be expected to attend a lot of meetings. Contact is maintained mostly by phone and e-mail.

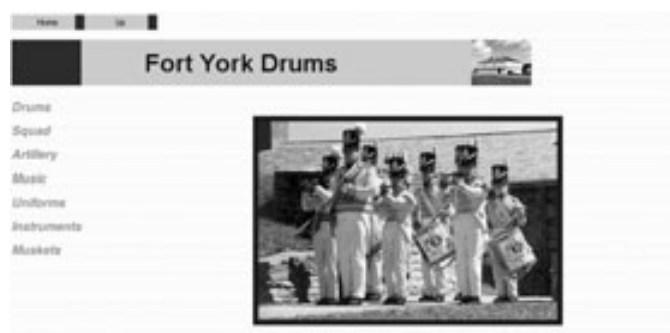
## Fortyork.ca – Bookmark this Site!



At last, after some false starts, the Friends of Fort York and the site staff now have a website where visitors and students can find a lot of helpful information. Initially created by member Mike Putnam, it is now in the hands of designer Ted Smolak, a partner and co-creative Director of the Tempest Design Group (*as well as a director of FOFY*). He has designed an attractive interface for those wanting to know the hours of opening, how to find Fort York, admission fees and what upcoming events are being planned.

Also found there is a description of the Fort York Guard—its subdivisions of Drums and Squad, their arms, uniforms, music and instruments—a section on the Friends and how to join, another where past issues of our newsletters can be read on-line, and even one entitled “History” that has links to longer articles by well-known historians on Fort York and the defence of early Toronto.

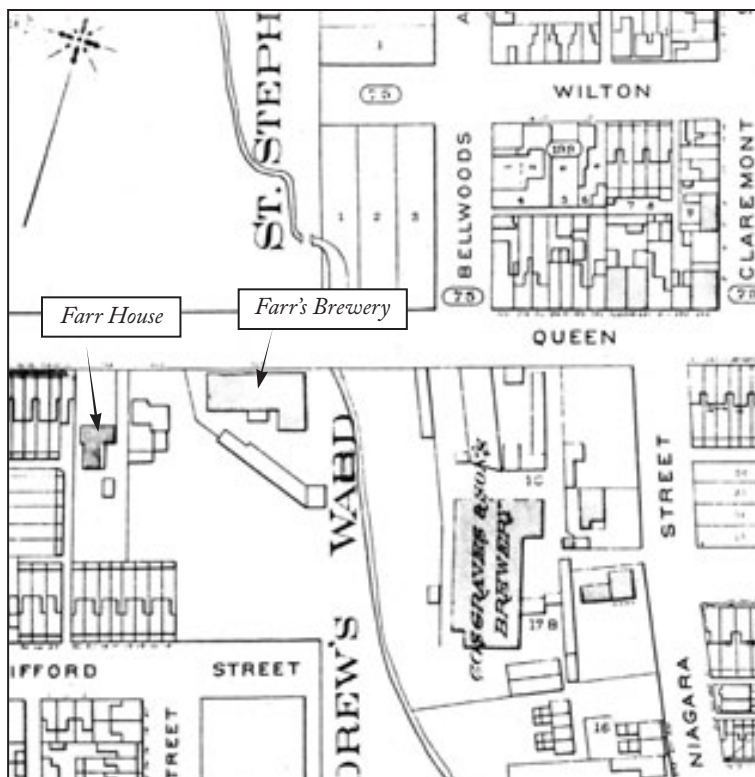
Check it out and send any comments to Ted through the link on the Website.



# Garrison Common History: The Breweries

The full name of our organization is The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common, and while looking out for the fort's well-being has consumed most of our energies for a long time, it has always been our aim to ensure that the history of the Garrison Common was better known too. This goal is an ambitious one, since the Common originally included all the land north of the lake bounded by Peter Street, Queen, and a line west of Macdonell Avenue, some 1200 acres in total. But everything has a beginning, hence we look here at the two breweries that once operated on the Common, both located on the south side of Queen Street where it crossed the Garrison Creek.

The earlier of the pair was Farr's or the Queen Street Brewery on the west side of the creek, built in 1820 by John Farr. He had started brewing elsewhere in York [Toronto] in 1819, but moved the following year to a two-acre parcel on Garrison Creek that he occupied by license from H.M. Officers of The Ordnance. In 1838, while he was absent in England, his log-built brewery was entirely consumed by fire, but was soon re-erected in brick and back in operation. By 1847 Farr had prospered enough to be able to erect a substantial brick house near the brewery. Today his home survives at 905 Queen as part of a condominium development, having served until recently as a social centre for the city's Polish community. In 1858 Farr, who had retired shortly before, sold John Wallis the part of his property where the brewery stood. Wallis carried on the business in partnership, first with John Moss and then with John Cornnell. After Wallis died in 1872 and Cornnell in 1879, the latter's executors ran the brewery until it closed in 1886. Two years later the building was torn down and a block of stores erected there that is still standing today.



City of Toronto, Queen Street and Niagara Steet, circa 1884.

The second brewery, known as the West Toronto Brewery, was established in 1844 on the east side of Garrison Creek. The first brewers there, Thomas Baines and Isaac Thompson, were succeeded in 1863 by Patrick Cosgrave. Following a fire in 1878 that destroyed all the buildings on the site, new ones were put up to designs by Smith & Gemmell, at that time the city's leading architects for commercial and industrial buildings. By 1892, under the management of Cosgrave's son, production at the brewery exceeded 425,000 gallons of pale ale and porter a year, and gave employment to 55 men in winter and 45 in summer. The family remained in control of the business until 1934 when E. P. Taylor acquired and merged it with the Dominion Brewery. From 1945 until it closed the West Toronto Brewery operated first under the O'Keefe banner, then under Carlings'. The buildings, or at least some of them, were torn down in 1961/62.



Farr's Brewery, view from Queen Street. (Landmarks of Toronto)



# *End-of-Season Reports from the Fort York Guard*

*by Private Jason Cameron Hawkins, Canadian Fencibles,  
and Ewan K. Wardle, Drum Major*

The squad of the Fort York Guard completed another wonderful summer. Led by Lieutenant Keiko Twist and Sergeant Mike Ramsey, the squad performed daily at the fort to the delight of all present. It also made trips to Fort Erie and Presqu'ile Point Provincial Park to participate in reenactments, and received praise ad infinitum. The only blemish upon a perfect summer was the cancellation of the annual inter-fort drill competition due to the Parks Canada labour situation, which prevented the guard from capturing its unprecedented fourth-straight championship. However, thanks to the tireless work of its members, and the unending support from the Friends of Fort York, rest assured that next year's squad shall claim the championship again.

The Fort York Fife and Drum Corps also had a great season. Not only was the weather quite favourable for the men and women in uniform, but Soldaten Kameraden (soldiers comrades) has been cohesive. Three new musicians were added this summer: Kevin Hurley, our base drummer, and Ian Biggar and Steve Barabash, two of our fifers. As well, Ned Gallagher, who has spent four summers volunteering and working with the Corps was recognized as 'chosen-man'. Though not an official rank, the title recognized his exemplary and diligent service.



Unfortunately the Drums had only one opportunity over the summer to perform outside Fort York. However, our one trip to Black Creek Pioneer Village was a great success and the audience there most appreciative. Thanks go to the Black Creek staff and volunteers, especially Geri Smith, Special Events Coordinator, for facilitating our visit and providing such lovely accommodations and hospitality. We hope to return to Black Creek again in the future.

## *Congratulations to Our Friends in Parliament*

The recent federal election saw several people who have a special interest in Fort York elected or re-elected to Parliament. We offer congratulations to Tony Ianno, returned as MP for Trinity-Spadina, to John Godfrey who will continue to represent Don Valley West, and to Jack Layton who enters the House as MP for Toronto-Danforth.

Fort York is located within Trinity-Spadina, and its MP, Tony Ianno, has always shown interest in the fort, particularly the applications made by the Friends for grants in support of the Fort York Guard. Also, for several years he has attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Strachan Avenue Cemetery. Besides continuing to represent his constituents, he will now sit in Cabinet as Minister of State for Families and Caregivers.

John Godfrey's interest in the fort can be traced to 1994 when, in the midst of the controversy surrounding City Council's adoption of a Part II plan for the area, John pulled up at the main gate on his bicycle to tour the site and get a better understand things for himself. He will hold down the important portfolio in the Martin Cabinet of Minister of State for Communities and Infrastructure.

Jack Layton, as a former Toronto City Councillor, always supported the Friends' positions in Council, notably in urging reductions in the impact of new development south of Fort York Boulevard. Although his duties as Leader of the NDP will not allow him to be involved as much with local issues in future, we will count on the depth of his understanding of fort-related matters if the opportunity arises for him to speak out in Parliament on behalf of the site.



*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

## Items of Interest

*by David Spittal, Fort York Archaeologist*

Thanks to the efforts of JoAnn Pynn and the co-operation of Wittington Properties Ltd. and Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan Ltd., a tall railway 'dangler' or 'tell-tale' has been salvaged from next to the Loblaws building east of Bathurst Street (the north end of the Loblaws building was partly demolished in June to make way for the eastern extension of Fort York Boulevard). The tell-tale was a pole erected beside the railway track; metal rods hanging from an arm over the tracks brushed over brake men working on the tops of freight trains and alerted them that there was an approaching bridge. This tell-tale will be stored at Fort York and will survive with its partner that still stands on City property west of the Bathurst Street Bridge. There are two more flanking the Strachan Avenue Bridge south of the Garrison Common. These railway fixtures have all but disappeared from the landscape.

Recent research has located two on-line images of the CPR Wharf Lead railway line that show land south of the fort just before the construction of the Gardiner Expressway in 1959-60. These images will help to develop and commemorate these historic railway lands. This property was formerly excluded from the Fort York and Garrison Common Heritage Conservation District and the Fort York National Historic Site but the railway land is now officially included in both. High resolution images have been supplied by Mr. R. Kennedy who has posted interesting information on railways near Fort York at [www.trainweb.org/oldtimetrains](http://www.trainweb.org/oldtimetrains).

A copy of the 1862 survey map of the Ordnance Lands in Toronto by J. Stoughton Dennis has been acquired by the

fort. This plan is one of the best maps to detail the early railway lines that entered the city beginning in the 1850s and which surrounded Fort York. Also shown are Farr's Brewery and the Provincial Lunatic Asylum on Queen Street, the Crystal Palace (a cavalry barracks in the 1860s), King Street before it was extended west, the New Fort and lands of the Exhibition Park. This is a useful map with details of land surveys that help to show how the original Ordnance Reserve was divided and developed. This copy was supplied to the fort from the Canadian Military Institute via the good offices of Richard Dodds.

Phase One of the renovation of Victoria Memorial Park is proceeding. Victoria Memorial Park, located east of Bathurst Street and between Niagara and Wellington Streets, is the city's oldest European graveyard and part of the Fort York National Historic Site. Envision - The Hough Group is the multi-disciplinary consultant who is designing the park project. A public meeting was held on May 29 when designs for the park were discussed. The removal of trees and the location of a playground, walkways and an interpretive program are important issues which are being dealt with now. Archaeological Services Inc. has been retained to investigate the park to determine the extent of the cemetery there and to see how deep the graves are located. The nature of almost all future development designs will depend on the information gathered by Archaeological Services. Remote sensing supplemented by shallow excavations to locate grave shafts is occurring in September. Signage, a media release and other information is being made available now to inform the public and stakeholders about the project. More information on this project can be obtained by contacting David O'Hara, Parks Planner, at 416-392-8874.

## *In Memorium*

*It is with great sadness that we note the passing of former Fort York staffer Tom Arnold. Tom was killed in a car accident in May that also claimed the life of his mother, Vera Arnold, and left his daughter Lauren injured. Working many years at Fort York, he was Program Co-ordinator from 1979 until 1983 and then Operations Manager and Assistant Curator from 1984 until 1988. During those years Tom made many friends amongst his co-workers. One of the lasting effects of Tom's work at the fort is the very popular Living History (or Overnight) Program. Tom developed this program as a way to increase the fort's revenues and keep part time interpreters employed year round. Tom went on to become Executive Director of Security, Parking and Transportation Services at York University, where his colleagues remember him with great affection for his good humor, compassion and outstanding ability to bring out the best in other people.*

# Officers' Kitchen Garden Update

by Richard Haynes

Anyone looking for the Officers' Kitchen Garden at Fort York will notice a distinct absence of plants and flowers. But don't worry the historic garden project is still going forward. It has just been delayed until this autumn when, hopefully, digging can start. We are looking forward to an inspiring 2005 garden season. Many thanks to volunteer Mark Feltoe for hanging in there over the summer and

continuing to offer his enthusiasm and expertise to the proceedings. We would also like to thank Janet Davis, garden writer and photographer, who secured the donation of garden tools from Loblaw's through Peter Cantley, vice-president, Floral and Garden Centres. We very much appreciate the input from all our volunteers.



## Upcoming Events **2004** Historic Fort York

### Tecumseh Arts Festival

- An Annual celebration of Native Art and Culture  
Sat. Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 11 am to 6 pm; Sun. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> Noon to 5 pm

Opening weekend for the visual art exhibition, on display until October 17th. Organized by the Tecumseh Collective of Aboriginal visual artists, the Arts Festival is a celebration to honour Tecumseh, warrior, patriot and visionary leader of the Shawnee, who was killed in battle during the War of 1812. The Tecumseh Arts Festival features a visual art exhibition entitled "Witness" showcasing recent artwork by the Collective and invited guests. This exhibition will be on display until October 17. The artists will be in attendance and available to talk to visitors about their work. During the weekend First Nations drummers, dancers, and singers will perform. Storytellers will share stories, teachings and interpretations of the history of Toronto and the First Peoples. Saturday's festivities will include a Traditional Pow Wow and feast hosted by the Native Men's Residence and Tumivut Youth Shelter. Visitors may shop at First Nations vendors and also purchase traditional food such as buffalo and venison.

Special Admission to the Festival is \$3.

### Dance and Dance-ability

- English Country Dance workshop

Sat. Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.

If you like to dance and enjoy the social history of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, you will find a unique opportunity to explore these interests at this 9<sup>th</sup> annual English Country Dance workshop. No previous experience is necessary, as participants will be taught fun and simple dances from 1812-era dance manuals. If you can walk to the beat of a lively tune this evening offers you a delightful chance to enjoy socializing as was done in the early days of York and Upper Canada. An evening of lively music and great fun straight off the pages of Austen, O'Brian and Thackeray.

Beginners welcome. No partners required.

Pre-registration Required \$10.

Call 416-392-6907 to register.

### Ghosts of the Garrison

Fri. Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thurs. Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, Fri. Oct 29<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Family event with lantern tours of the fort and ghost stories from the past. Suitable for ages 5 and up.

Pre-registration Required. \$10, Children \$5. Call 416-392-6907 to register.

### Remembrance Day

November 11<sup>th</sup> 10:45 a.m.

Strachan Avenue Cemetery

Tours of the fort following the ceremony.

Free Admission until 12:00 p.m.

*Closed December 18th, 2004*

*Re-opening Sunday, January 2nd, 2005*

### Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball

Sat. Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> 2005

Entertaining in the Canadas in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries always included a ball in January to celebrate the Queen's birthday. Join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual symposium on Georgian Entertaining. This year, Queen Charlotte Looks East! Learn authentic country dances in afternoon workshops. Learn about Britain's early 19<sup>th</sup> century tea trade and enjoy a tea tasting. Feast on a sumptuous period style buffet supper, with appropriate Georgian curries and delicacies. This impressive day concludes with an elegant evening ball, with live musicians playing authentic instruments. Costumes are encouraged, though not required. Beginners welcome.

Pre-registration required. Cost for the day is \$95.

Register before December 31<sup>st</sup> and save \$10!

Call 416-392-6907 to register.

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