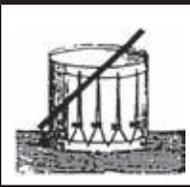


# The Fife and Drum

The Newsletter of the Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common

v. 9 No. 4 August 2005

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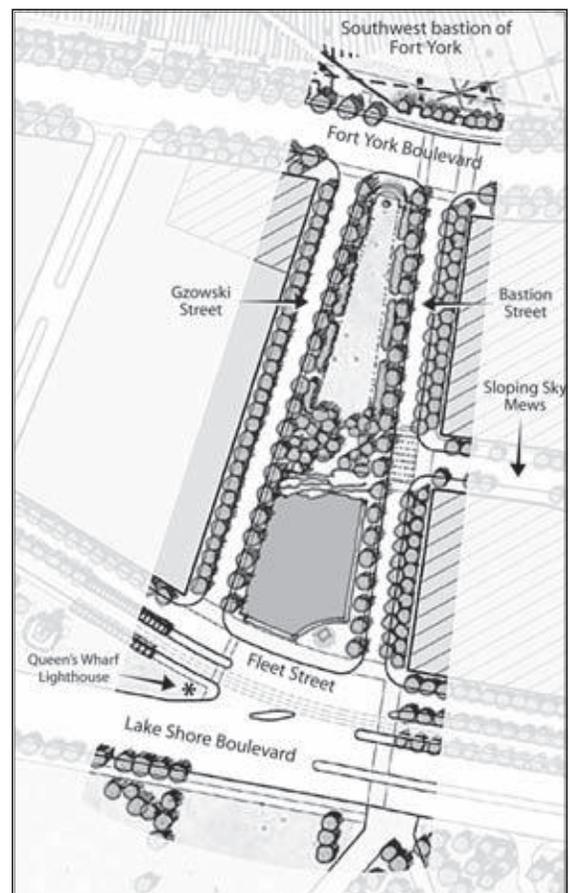
## June Callwood Park Is Dedicated

On July 19, Mayor David Miller and Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, aided by June Callwood herself, cut a ribbon in a symbolic opening of the City's newest park. Ms. Callwood, a journalist, broadcaster and social activist, is one of this country's most beloved figures, well-known for her intelligence, wit and compassion. Now 81, she is living with inoperable cancer for which she has refused chemotherapy. The many great causes she has taken up include Casey House, an AIDS hospice named for her youngest son who was killed in a motor vehicle accident, and Nellie's women's shelter.

While the park site extending from Fleet Street to Fort York Boulevard is still partly occupied by a former brewery and a busy cement-mixing plant, these uses will be gone within a year or two, opening up a view corridor to and from Fort York's southwest bastion. (See plan) This feature has been an important part of the vision offered by the Friends of Fort York for improving the fort's setting. But June Callwood Park will win its greatest accolades as the figurative lungs of the emerging, densely developed Fort York Neighbourhood.

"I want it to be for the old and the young," said Ms. Callwood, setting in motion the process for detailed planning of the park. This exercise will be carried forward by the City's parks planners in conjunction with the first residents in the new neighbourhood, adjacent landowners, and staff at Fort York and Heritage Toronto. The area of the park will be an acre (0.4 ha.) in extent, about the same size as Berczy Park bounded by the Gooderham 'Flat Iron' building, Front, Scott and Wellington streets. With Coronation Park and the Mustering Ground behind the Armouries being so near to June Callwood Park, there will be no need for it to accommodate activities that take a lot of space, like frisbee-throwing and touch football. Rather, it is expected to be laid out with play areas for small children and quiet places to sit in the sun with a sandwich or a book.

Many of the costs for improving June Callwood Park to the standards set at Victoria Memorial Square at Portland and Niagara streets (which also is part of the Fort York National Historic Site) will come from levies on new condominiums in the area under so-called Section 37 agreements with the City. But another source of support for special elements, such as a piece of sculpture, may be the June Callwood Park Fund established by the Friends of Fort York. Gifts to the fund sent in care of the Friends at P. O. Box 183, 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON., M5A 1N1, will be tax-receipted.



This is a conceptual plan showing where Callwood Park will be located, and how it might be developed. (duToit Allsopp Hillier, Toronto)

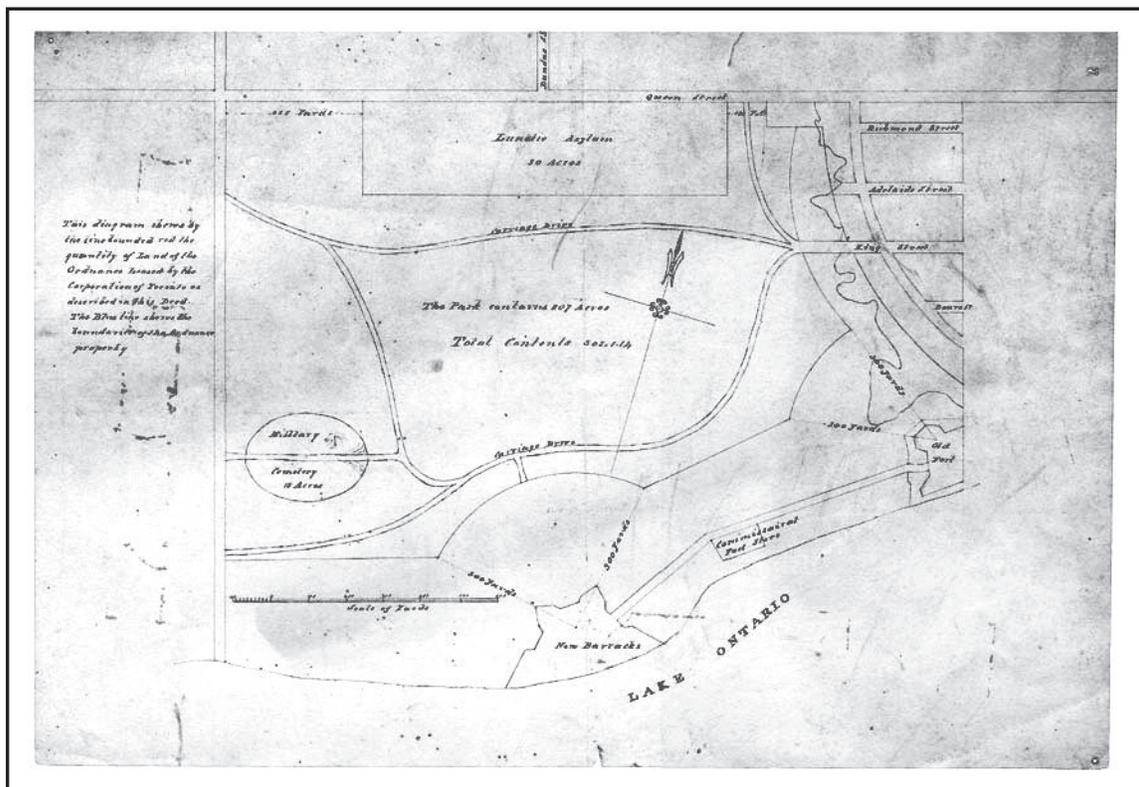
# Garrison Common History: The Western Park

Recently the city's archaeologist David Spittal turned up an old sketch plan of the area northwest of Fort York among some papers at the fort. Dr. Carl Benn, chief curator for the City's museums and authority on the work of John G. Howard, recognized it immediately for what it was: a proposal for laying out the Western Park, one of Toronto's early lost causes. Although unsigned, it was in Howard's hand, and on the reverse were some pencil sketches for the framing for a barn on Howard's High Park estate. The plan shows carriage drives winding their ways across the park, and an area of 15 acres near Dufferin Street set aside for a Military Cemetery to replace the burying ground in Victoria Square, although the latter was not yet full. The park's boundaries curve in arcs 300 yards distant from the guns of the old and new forts, leaving room for cannons to be fired. (See plan)

The story of the Western Park begins in March, 1848, when the Officers of H. M. Ordnance who had charge of the Garrison Reserve lands leased to the City of Toronto for 999 years a parcel 287 acres in size lying south of the Lunatic Asylum (Queen St. Mental Health Centre), north of the New Fort (Stanley Barracks), and from a line west of Garrison Creek to Dufferin Street. The lease was conditional on the city fencing and landscaping the area and building a stone bridge over Garrison Creek at the west end of King Street where the main entrance was to be located.

For all its foresight in securing the lands before they were sold off like those east of Garrison Creek, the City moved slowly on its leasehold obligations. The bridge was built in late 1850 but Council waited until Spring, 1851, before taking steps towards having the land leveled and to commission the City surveyor, architect John G. Howard, to design an entrance gate and fence. Howard's sketches and specifications for these features are among his papers in the Toronto Reference Library's Baldwin Room. Certainly the City's tardiness wasn't the main reason why in December, 1851, the Ordnance Officers demanded the surrender of the lease, as they were empowered to do. They cited military purposes, specifically the need to settle there British military pensioners who wanted to stay in Canada rather than return to Britain. And they had the powerful support of the Secretary at War. In a letter of July, 1851, one of his underlings wrote: "Considering the Reserve extends over nearly 250 acres, such a space is never likely to be required merely as a Park or pleasure ground for so small a town as Toronto; indeed it is doubtful whether the whole of London possesses so much."

In responding to the Ordnance Officers, our City fathers made a strategic mistake by negotiating to take a smaller parcel, particularly if the City would own it outright, and by submitting to insult and bad-faith bargaining. Ultimately, they lost everything, though this did not become clear until 1858,



Plan for the Western Park (Courtesy of Culture Division, City of Toronto)

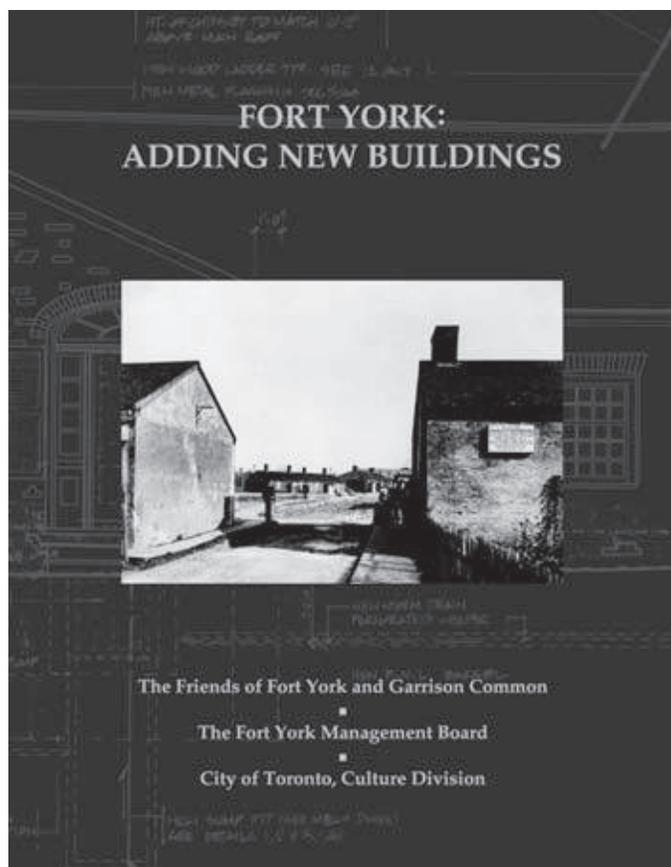
by which time the authority of the Ordnance Officers had been superseded by that of the Province of Canada.

Meanwhile, in October, 1851, Lady Elgin turned some sod on the lakeshore between John and Simcoe streets to mark the start of construction on the province's first railway, the Ontario, Simcoe & Huron Union Railroad. Its line was surveyed to run north from Toronto about four miles west of Yonge street through Aurora and Newmarket to Barrie, and later to Collingwood. Obviously, there was no way the railway could leave from the front of the city and take its line without bisecting Toronto's new park. In February, 1852, City Council objected strongly to the impending clash of uses, but to no avail. A month later Mayor John Bowes wrote

of inducing "the Northern, Western and Eastern Railroad companies to unite and enter the City by the Garrison Ravine." If this failed, however, because the Ordnance Officers believed they were powerless to stop the railways' running their tracks wherever they chose, he suggested the City receive in exchange lands down to the water, "so that the Park may be bounded on the front by the Lake, a great and important advantage."

But neither event came to pass. Thus, Toronto lost what might have been a magnificent park, on the water or back from it, and was left with great handicaps to the circulation of local traffic that still exist. As well, very few pensioners chose in the end to settle here.

## *Fort York: Adding New Buildings is Published!*



In mid-June, just in time for the annual meeting of the Friends of Fort York, *Fort York: Adding New Buildings*, a long-awaited report recommending a long-term plan for the capital expansion at the fort, was published by the City's Culture Division, the Fort York Management Board and the Friends. The product of a large Working Group that began meeting in June, 2000, the report proposes new buildings be constructed to meet the fort's space needs as visitation increases. It differs from some earlier studies, however, by suggesting several buildings be built, rather than only one or two, and that many of these new buildings be within the ramparts as replicas of those that once stood there. The Working Group advocated this course after it recognized that the new space required was nearly equal in size to the total area of all existing buildings at the fort. If it were provided in only one or two structures, they would overwhelm the fort's ensemble of small-scale early 19th century buildings.

The report laid out a four-phased implementation plan driven by the goal of giving the public full access to all the fort's War of 1812 buildings by removing all administrative, curatorial, visitor-service and behind-the-scenes functions there today, and by putting the displaced activities in new buildings scattered around the site.

But *Adding New Buildings* was also far-reaching in the range of related issues it explored. It follows on from two previous benchmark reports, *Fort York: Setting It Right* (2000) and the *Fort York and Garrison Common Parks and Open Space Design and Implementation Plan* (2001). Both earlier documents were

endorsed by City Council, so it is hoped when this latest report is presented to Council in the early Fall, it too will be looked on with favour.

The graphic design of *Adding New Buildings* was entrusted to Tempest Design, with which Friends' board member Ted Smolak has an affiliation, and we are delighted with the result. Copies have been mailed to all members of the Friends of Fort York, but additional ones may be had *gratis* by dropping by the fort and asking at The Canteen.

# The Friends Say Farewell to Rob Roy

When you carry the name of a famous Scottish hero, and the Earl of Lauderdale is a distant cousin, chances are that interests in the military and in history come easily to you. Robert Maitland Roy was born in Hamilton, where his family had settled before the middle of the 19th century. After graduating from Hillfield College there and starting studies at McMaster, he interrupted his education in 1943 to go to England where he joined the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm. Returning home at the war's end, he married four years later, moved to Toronto and began a career in the investment and insurance business.

In Hamilton he had been a Lieutenant in the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. In Toronto he joined the Toronto Scottish and rose to the rank of Major. But the Argyles claimed him as their own again in the early 1990s, making him their Honorary Lieut.-Colonel and later Honorary Colonel. Rob was active in the Royal Canadian Military

Institute and Warriors' Day Council at the CNE. He was also a member of Toronto's Royal Naval Association, Naval Club, and Fort York Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

At the Fort York National Historic Site, however, Rob Roy is remembered as a member of the Toronto Historical Board from 1978, and its chairman in 1986-87. At that time the fort was run by the Board, and he was very proud of this connection. During his term as chairman, the Board investigated the feasibility of a Museum of Toronto, an idea that has never quite been forgotten and may yet be realized. When the Friends of Fort York was formed in April, 1994, Rob was a founding member.

He died in June, 2005, aged 79, having spent his last years in Sunnybrook Hospital following a stroke. He leaves his wife, Mary, four children and a host of friends who remember him warmly.

## Any Old Pictures of The Fort or Victoria Square?

The Friends of Fort York and site staff have formed a committee on History & Archaeology to support fort-related research either for publication or to aid the reconstruction of buildings and restoration of the landscape as proposed in *Fort York: Adding New Buildings*. To this end, we ask anyone who has old photographs or sketches of the fort or of Victoria Square to allow us to copy them. We would also want any information on their history and provenance. They may be amateur watercolours, photos mounted in old albums to recall a Victorian afternoon, or stereo views sold by a local photographer. Whatever the image, we want to recognize its importance by including it in the fort's collections. It may be possible to publish some of new pictures in *Fife & Drum*. Contact Andrew Stewart (416-968-1013) if you have something to offer.

As well, we intend to appeal for pictures through military associations in the U.K. connected to regiments who saw service in Toronto in the 19th century before 1870, when our defences were handed over to the Government of Canada.

Research on Quebec City has shown that British sources can be particularly rich because of the training in drawing officers received to enable them to record strategic information, and because they brought cameras to take pictures as souvenirs of their tours of duty.



Visitors to the fort were sketched by A. M. Ross for *The Mail* newspaper in 1892. (*The Mail*, Oct. 1, 1892)

## Parking at Fort York We Need Volunteers

The Friends of Fort York will operate the parking facilities at Fort York during the CNE (*August 20-September 5*). This is a very important fundraising activity in support of the Fort York Guard. We need volunteers particularly on Labour Day Weekend, but they are also welcome during the week. We can also use high school students who wish to earn some extra money. Call Joe Gill at 416-860-6493 either to volunteer or give us a lead on students. Thanks.

*News From*

# *The Birthplace of Toronto*

*Contributions from the Staff at the Fort*

## Once More unto the Beach: The Secret Lives of Toronto's Guns

by Ken Purvis

Part of the iconography of military historic sites, along with blockhouses, muskets and red-coats, is the heavy guns that loom over or poke through their fortified walls. These heavy iron and bronze artefacts are a quintessential symbol of Canada's colonial past. Napoleon once said "with artillery, war is made" and considered it to be the "Queen of the battlefield". The motto of Britain's Royal Artillery is ubiquitous, and indeed even today these hoary relics are all around us – not just at our museums – if one knows where to look.

Cannons fulfilled the opposing roles of defending fortifications or, knocking them down. They were horse-drawn or "man-handled" into the field, or brought into action on shipboard during naval engagements. Often however, active service was only the first stage in the life of a cannon. Once it has outlived its usefulness, or once the wear and tear from years of action had reduced the thickness of the barrel making it potentially dangerous to its gun crew, it was either melted down, used for ship's ballast or, as was the case for two of Fort York's guns, used as traffic bollards (see Fig.1).



Fig. 1. Simcoe Guns as traffic bollards, Library and Archives Canada / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, PA 86600.

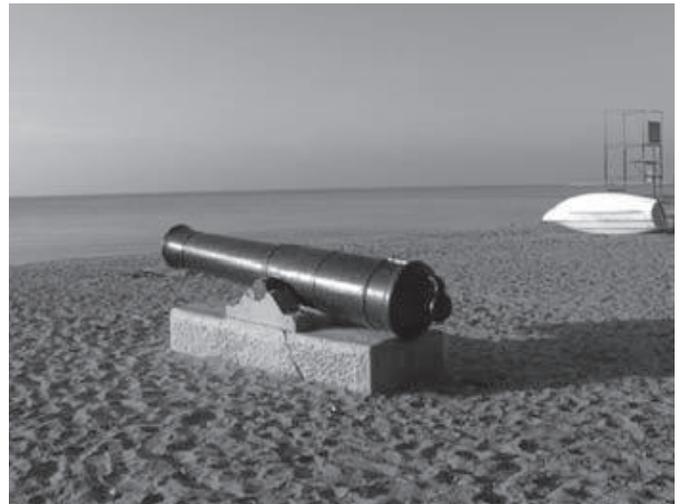


Fig. 2. 32 pounder long gun mounted on a concrete plinth at Marie-Curtis Park in Etobicoke.

Among the assortment of guns that Simcoe brought to Toronto in 1793 were some condemned 18 pounders. Due to a paucity of artillery in the North American theatre brought on by the war in Europe, these guns were pressed into service despite their poor condition. One of these guns was an antique when it was acquired by Simcoe. It was cast during the period when Oliver Cromwell was Lord Protector and England had its brief dalliance with Republicanism (1649 – 1660). When the Monarchy was restored in 1660, the markings on the piece were altered to reflect the change in regime, which is how the gun was identified – quite recently – as a Commonwealth artefact. This piece and another that was also condemned were later buried vertically in the ground, with their muzzles and part of their barrels protruding, in order to protect Fort York's north and south brick soldiers' barracks from damage from wagons and other vehicles. They were removed from the soil and turned into display pieces when Fort York opened as a museum, and are now a part of the artillery section of the Soldiers' Trade exhibit housed in Blockhouse Number Two.

Several of the guns that Simcoe brought to Toronto saw action on April 27th 1813 when the United States attacked and captured the town of York during the War of 1812. Most of Toronto's batteries were made use of during the attack, with the exception of the "marsh gun". This particular piece was located on the west side of the Don Valley, about one hundred metres north of the harbour, and was positioned

to cover the southern-most Don bridge and roadway that provided access to the peninsula. The U.S. commander, Major-General Henry Dearborn, opted to land in force to the west only and so the battle was confined to areas west of the garrison.

Simcoe also brought several 18 pounder carronades to Toronto. Carronades were short guns developed by and named after the Carron Company of Falkirk Scotland. The Carron Iron Works produced long guns as well (see Fig. 3) but are perhaps most famous for their innovative carronade. They were manufactured for the Royal Navy and quickly gained popularity because they were half the weight of an equivalent long gun but could propel a heavy projectile over a short distance. Rather than neatly piercing a ship's hull like its longer counterpart, the carronade was very effective at smashing ships with very large low velocity projectiles. These smaller, lighter, highly maneuverable guns also found favour as garrison artillery where a small crew could use them to sweep ditches, curtain walls and other defensive works during an enemy assault. By 1814 Fort York's defences included several of Simcoe's 18 pounders plus two 24 pounder carronades at the western battery (located near the present day Princes' Gates), the Government House Battery (Historic Fort York's circular battery) and the ravine battery at the mouth of Garrison creek.

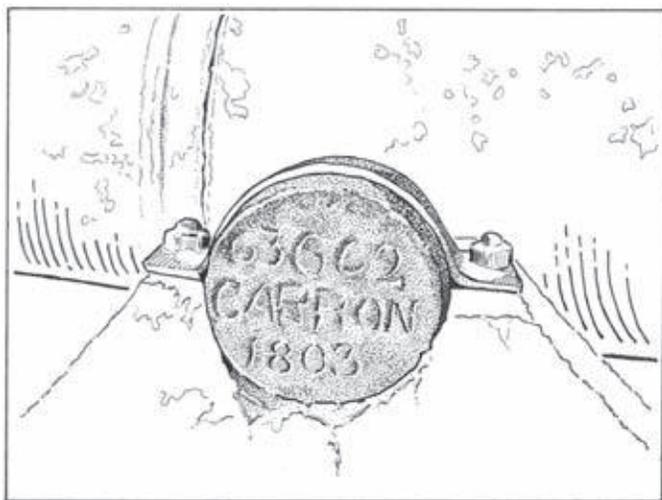


Fig. 3. Left-hand trunnion of Marie-Curtis park gun. 63662 Carron 1803 travelled from Quebec in 1881 to decorate Riverdale Park. (Sketch by Kathy Mills)

Sadly, many of Fort York's current collection of guns have been languishing without carriages for several years. One of the challenges in carriage replacement has been sourcing large enough pieces of naturally dried timber. One solution to this problem involves mounting guns on iron carriages, which is precisely what the British Army did historically. Used during peacetime, these carriages would allow for the storage of their wooden counterparts in order to protect

them from the elements. Fort York has acquired three such carriages that eventually will allow for a 32 pounder to be displayed at the corner of Bathurst St. and Fort York Blvd., plus another 32 pounder and a 24 pounder in the Fort's circular battery next to the flagpole.

A relatively recent arrival from the site of the former Marine Museum is a pair of 8 inch shell guns that are also awaiting carriages. These heavy guns were part of the Trent Affair Battery along the south wall of the fort. Shell guns were designed to fire shells that would lodge in a ship's side, or penetrate between decks, where it could explode with devastating effect. Although the application of exploding shells dates back many centuries, they were used primarily on land fired on an angled trajectory from either mortars or howitzers. The Royal Navy resisted the adoption of exploding shells due to fears of the shells disintegrating or bursting in the barrel of the gun. There was also a naval prejudice against having exploding shells at sea because of the danger they posed to the ship and crew. However, technological advancements in the 19th century allowed for the safe application of long shell guns on board naval vessels and in sea batteries, like Fort York's 1862 battery, that fired on straight trajectory.

The final phase of a cannon's life is the retirement phase. The lucky ones get to entertain visitors at historic site museums like Fort York; the others get scattered across our public parks where they provide space for graffiti or habitat for squirrels and birds. When the Hon. A.P. Caron, Minister of Militia and Defence, made a visit to Toronto in 1881, a local Alderman asked him for cannons with which to decorate Riverdale Park. Some months later five cannons on carriages arrived from Quebec City at the Yonge St. wharf, and were hauled by dray to Riverdale, where they were set up on a wooden platform in battery-like formation. All five were said to be 32-pounders, and to have been spiked – which doesn't seem to have stopped them from being fired to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday for several years. One of these guns was moved in 1886 to the Broadview side of Riverdale Park, where it still resides today. Yet another was moved to Marie-Curtis Park at the mouth of the Etobicoke Creek (Fig. 2) right at the point where Hurricane Hazel swept a cottage community out into Lake Ontario in 1954. The remaining three guns presumably are eking out their twilight years in other Toronto area parks.

# Recipe for Negus Ice

by Bridget Wranich

Here from the kitchens at Fort York is a perfect ice treat for the hot weather. It comes originally from Mistress Margaret Dods, *The Cook and Housewife's Manual*, (Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd; London: Simpkin and Marshall, 5th edition, 1833), pp. 348-349, but has been adapted to modern ingredients and measures:

1 L	port	4 cups
2 ml	nutmeg, grated	1/2 tsp
1	lemon, zested	1
500 ml	syrup*	2 cups

\*Dissolve 2 cups of sugar in 4 cups of water and stir over heat until the sugar is dissolved and the syrup is clear. Allow to cool. Mix port, nutmeg, lemon zest and syrup. Pour into a decorative mould or small cups (1.5 oz /45 ml). Freeze until firm. Serve as dessert, a palate cleanser or simply as a refreshment.

This ice recipe derives its name from a drink, Negus, created by Colonel Francis Negus, who was Commissioner for Executing the Office of Master of the Horse from 1717 to 1727, and then became Master of the Buckhounds. The ice includes the same ingredients as the drink except burgundy wine and brandy were added to the latter, which was heated and served warm.

Water ices and ice cream first arrived in Europe in the second half of the 17th century. They became popular in the

1760's because Italian and French confectioners opened shops in London and other cities. There were many varieties available to choose from. These ices could be eaten in the shops or in larger quantities at home served with special meals or after a ball. In England it became popular to flavour ices with alcoholic liqueurs and to freeze punches.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries ice was easily available in York. It was harvested from Lake Ontario and other small lakes and ponds and stored in ice houses. Elizabeth Simcoe, wife of Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, while in Montreal in 1792 remarked that "Ice houses are very general here but seldom for the purpose of furnishing Ice for a dessert. They use the Ice to cool Liquors & butter & the ice houses are used for Larders to keep meat." At Fort York likely the officers used ice in a similar manner. In the 1820's they requested their own ice house to be built with government funds, but their request was denied.

No. 20.—WHEATSHEAF.



Wheatsheaf, an elaborate mould from A.B. Marshall's *Book of Ices*, 1885.

## Upcoming Events **2005** Historic Fort York

Compiled by Melanie Garrison

### TO Live with Culture Launch

Sat. Sept. 17th

Stay tuned for details.

### ICOMOS Canada - Ryerson University, Architecture

Student Charrette. Sept. 22nd -24th

See notice next page for information only. Sessions closed.

### Dance and Dance-ability

Fri. Sept. 30th 7:30 p.m.

Early 19th century English Country Dance workshop. Lively music and easy to learn dances. Beginners welcome. No partners required.

Pre-registration Required. \$10

### Ghosts of the Garrison

Fri. Oct. 21st , Thurs. Oct. 27th , Fri. Oct 28th

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

After dark family event with lantern tours and ghost stories from the past.

Pre-registration Required.

Adults, Seniors & Youth \$10, Children \$5.

### Remembrance Day, November 11th 10:45 a.m.

Strachan Avenue Cemetery

Tours of the fort following the ceremony.

Free Admission until 12:00 p.m.

### Holiday Closure

Fort York will be closed to the public from Sat. Dec. 17th thru Mon. Jan 2nd, reopening Tues. Jan. 3rd, 2006..



## ***Significance of Setting: Historic Fort York and Garrison Common***

**ICOMOS Canada - Ryerson University  
Architecture Student Charrette  
Sept. 22-24, 2005 TORONTO, CANADA**

### ***"Find out about Historic Fort York – Visitor Interpretation Center"***

The "Ryerson/ICOMOS Charrette: *Find out about Historic Fort York – Visitor Interpretation Center*" will address the site selection and schematic design for a Visitor / Interpretation Center for the Historic Fort York that will be placed outside ramparts of the Fort.

The Visitor/Interpretation Center to Historic Fort York will:

- link the City with the Fort
- enhance Fort York
- improve awareness, access and connections to surrounding neighbourhoods
- address the parking for the entrance to Fort York,
- reinforce pedestrian paths from TTC
- respect the Fort's National Historic Site's *Commemorative Integrity Statement*
- use the *Ontario Heritage Act* and *Planning Act* to conserve this Heritage Conservation District
- Incorporate a valued-based using the Fort's *Statement of Significances* (SOS) from the *Canadian Register of Historic Places* and ICOMOS Charters.

All students from Ryerson and guest post-secondary training centers (total 24-30) participating in the *Charrette* will be offered to join one of three Design/Research Teams with 8-10 participants; each team will select one ICOMOS Charter that is to be analyzed and applied within their design proposal. Teams will have assigned Team Leaders /Coordinators (e.g. Ryerson Faculty, ICOMOS Expert, and Heritage Professionals).

Each of three Design/Research teams will receive a package/kit of selected documentation that will include the following: Goals of the *Charrette* from ICOMOS Canada and Ryerson's learning objectives; Design and Heritage Parameters, the Programmatic Requirements of the Fort within the context of the Toronto Waterfront Development and the City of Toronto's Beautiful City and urban design initiative.

**TEAM CANADA -** ICOMOS Canada Appleton Charter & Standards & Guidelines for Historic Places in Canada (Red team)

**TEAM AUSTRALIA -** Burra Charter, ICOMOS Australia, (Yellow team)

**TEAM USA -** U.S. Department of Interior Standards & Guidelines (Blue team)

The *Charrette* will take place at the Historic Fort York, the birthplace of Toronto, supervised and equipped work/stay overnight area. Students will **arrive on site on Fri Sept. 22nd at 1PM**; they will be introduced to the working area limitation and conditions, and will have access to the work area during the entire time. **Charrette will be completed by 4PM on Sunday, Sept. 24th.**

**Presentation requirements:** panels to be prepared for display according to the ICOMOS General Assembly Xi'an China (Oct 17 -21) submission requirements. Students will exhibit the Team panels at Ryerson University, Architecture Building during the ICOMOS Canada congress (Sept 29<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**Final presentation** of the *Charrette* team (20 minutes per team) will take place during the ICOMOS Canada Congress at the **Historic Places Initiative – Ontario Pre-Congress Workshop, on Thursday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>** at the Historic Fort York, Toronto. The *Charrette Jury* will evaluate the team presentations and provide feedback followed by a Question Period from workshop participants.

*For more details, visit the ICOMOS Canada website - [www.icomos.org](http://www.icomos.org),  
For Charrette, or ICOMOS Congress registration information,  
contact Conference Coordinator - [icomos2005@rogers.com](mailto:icomos2005@rogers.com)*