

Appendix A
Strategy for the Proposed
City of Toronto Bicentennial Commemoration
of the War of 1812
The War of 1812 and the Transformation of Toronto

Background

On June 18, 1812, the United States declared war against Britain, thereby launching the struggle for control of northern North America. Great Britain successfully defended her North American colonies until the return of peace in 1815. As a result, the Canadian experiment of building a distinct North American society did not come to a premature and violent end through American conquest, but continued, as it does today. In the United States, the War of 1812 is often regarded as the second and definitive War of Independence. Therefore, the War of 1812 is a seminal chapter in the history of both Canada and the United States, and the years 2012 to 2015 significant, for they mark the war's bicentennial.

June 2012 is the logical start of a commemorative period to honour the participants of both sides, and to celebrate the two centuries of peaceful co-existence between Canada and the United States that have followed. For Toronto, it is also the time to celebrate the outcome of the war as the beginning of the transformation of a small provincial capital and garrison into a large, diverse and prosperous urban place.

In 2006, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism's Investment Development Office determined that a celebration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812 would be a solid economic opportunity for South-Central Ontario, in keeping with the observation that preferred tourism destinations have distinct heritage and cultural features that identify them as special. As such, six Ontario regions, including Toronto, will receive partial provincial funding to plan and execute bicentennial legacy projects and programming that will encourage the growth of new tourism products, particularly those that support downtown and waterfront renewal, and that will have long life beyond the bicentennial.

The City of Toronto possesses two of the most important icons associated with the war: Fort York, the only surviving authentic 1812 fort in Canada; and the site of the first Provincial Parliament building, a reminder of Toronto's role as the Provincial capital then and now. The city also has the greatest potential for partnership opportunities and the greatest number and highest quality of cultural resources.

While taking the Province's goals into consideration, Toronto sees the proposed commemoration as a catalyst to fulfill many of its own cultural and heritage goals for legacy projects set out in a series of reports and agendas produced since 2001, including the recently released report on the City of Toronto Premier-Ranked Tourist Destination Project.

In 2006, Council approved the recommendation of the General Manager, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, to form a steering committee to provide recommendations to Council on the planning of Bicentennial events and on the development and coordination of supporting infrastructure, and that the General Manager, in consultation with the Councillor for Ward 19, report back to Council on the composition of the Steering Committee.

Community consultations took place in July and August 2007 soliciting recommendations for the bicentennial program and composition of the steering committee. Staff reported back to Council through the Economic Development Committee at their meeting of September 17, 2007, and received approval for the composition of the steering committee.

The City of Toronto War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Steering Committee met for the first time on November 14, 2007, and with staff, share the mission to recommend and produce a program to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and a celebration of its outcome. They also share the vision that by building an overall awareness of the significance of this chapter in Canada's history through the bicentennial commemoration and celebration, by 2012, Toronto will be a city with greater pride in its distinctive cultural fabric and heritage. Furthermore, they believe that visitors and potential residents will find Toronto's unusual mix of its historic and modern sites makes the city a more attractive place. Throughout the bicentennial and beyond, residents and visitors will come to know Toronto as a place like no other.

The program recommended for Toronto's contribution to the province- and nation-wide commemoration of the war of 1812 is based on the theme of the war and its transformational effect on Toronto.

The Toronto Regional Theme: The War of 1812 and the Transformation of Toronto

The main thrust of The War of 1812 and the Transformation of Toronto will be comparisons between Toronto at the time of the war and today. A number of attributes of today's Toronto were also found in the Toronto (York) of 1812. The most obvious of these is the diverse origins of its residents. In 1812, 80 per cent of York's residents were neither born in Canada nor British. Today, approximately 50 per cent of Toronto's population was neither born in the city nor in Canada. Then and now, there is a powerful collection of stories about immigration, opportunities to be pursued and defended, and the perception of our city and country as a safe haven. Both the strength of the City's economy and its position as a transportation hub can be traced back to the War of 1812.

To achieve the vision, the program will have to fulfill a number of goals.

Overall goals

- Use the commemoration of the War of 1812 as a catalyst to build legacy projects that are associated with the commemoration but have relevance beyond it;

- Inspire people who don't come through the "historical door" to feel passionate about the past and how it can inform the present and provide inspiration for the future. (A good model is Expo '67, a legacy project for Canada's centenary, which focused Canadians on our collective achievements and inspired great hope, optimism and ideas for the future).
- Emphasize legacy projects that will continue the awareness of the War of 1812 and the sentiments and emotions attached to the commemoration well beyond the commemorative period. Create an ongoing memory;
- Ensure a Canadian-centred understanding of the War is shared with residents and visitors to Toronto.

Toronto-General

- Create awareness and understanding of how the early history of York, its people, and the War in particular, laid the foundation for the future Toronto as a distinctly Canadian, prosperous and diverse urban place. The War of 1812 inspired community building that continued in the decades that followed, and its commemoration could inspire a similar sense of community building now;
- Concentrate legacy projects and associated arts, heritage, and community programs in locations between the first Parliament site and Fort York and along the waterfront while encouraging activity throughout the City so that everyone can be involved;
- Engage Torontonians in their local history so that they sense their place in the city and value how their own personal histories enrich our collective story. (The six-day occupation of Toronto by the U.S. military in 1813 would resonate with Canadians, as would the 200 years of peace between the U.S. and Canada since the War of 1812, a rare situation in a world that has experienced two world wars and many more regional wars over this period of time.)

Toronto-Fort York

- By raising its profile and improving its ability to explain the history of our city to residents and visitors, make Fort York a "must-see" destination as the only authentic 1812 fort still standing in Canada, founding site of Toronto, and emblematic of such important civic values as safe haven, and effective coalition of citizens from a diversity of backgrounds;
- Make Fort York the true focus and centre of the newly evolved Fort York residential neighbourhood, in fact and not just in name. Two hundred years ago, Fort York was indispensable as a strategic fortification protecting the Town of York. Today, the Fort in its 17.4 hectare (43-acre) National Heritage Site should be equally indispensable in the dual role of community resource in the heart of the new local residential community, and outstanding authentic historic city-wide destination within the city's emerging waterfront park system.

Toronto-Tourism

- Enhance the city's tourism potential in relation to the larger North American commemoration of the War with the long-term outcome of positioning Toronto as a heritage and cultural destination in league with Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Boston, and Philadelphia.;

- Inspire local residents to become tourism ambassadors, who are knowledgeable about the things that make the city tick, and make visitors feel like insiders by pointing them to the places that make our city distinct and special, and by engaging them in stories about our city's past and present;
- Inspire visitors from across Canada, the United States and abroad to come to Toronto as a heritage and cultural gateway to the province and the country.

Key messages to communicate about the War of 1812 for the bicentennial commemoration

- Multinational: The war was a milestone in the evolution of our country. We are commemorating the war and, specifically in Toronto, a hopeless situation during the Battle of York during which many died; but at the same time we are celebrating the alliances and spirit of co-operation among diverse groups—First Nations, Loyalists, American settlers, British, and others, who under good leadership helped Canada to prevail. The war united these groups in a common cause, and became a force for preparedness, and change that would spur the evolution of our nation.
- National: The most important outcome of the war was the victory that ensured the continuation of the Canadian experiment of building a unique North American society. This can be seen in such fundamentals as our currency, political cultures, social values, sense of community, civic engagement, ethnic and religious matrices, and now in our approaches to addressing the challenges of the twenty-first century.
- Toronto: The early history of York, its people, and the war in particular, laid the foundation for the future Toronto as a distinctly Canadian, prosperous, and diverse urban place. Toronto formed an effective coalition of citizens in 1812 and the same spirit should exist now. Toronto should be a place where we feel secure. It should be a safe haven for its citizens.
- Canada and the United States: It is a time to celebrate the two centuries of peaceful co-existence between Canada and the United States that have followed the war.

The Program

In order to achieve its goals and convey its messages, Toronto Culture staff worked together with Economic Development Culture and Tourism (EDCT) staff, staff from other divisions, the Steering Committee, and stakeholders in the community, to establish the concept for a program that will centre around four major legacy projects:

- the revitalization of Fort York (new visitors centre, coherent space plan for the full 43-acre site, full restoration and interpretation of the authentic fort buildings, and new exhibits and programs;
- nomination of Fort York for inscription in the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites;
- the construction of the Fort York pedestrian/cycling bridge over the rail lands to join Stanley Park to the north with the new June Callwood Park to the south;
- the creation of a heritage trail network, extending from about the Humber to the Don rivers and from Queen Street south to the lake, with each trail explaining a different theme related to the story of Toronto from early First Nations occupation to the present.

Supporting events and programs, from the City, the arts and educational sectors, local businesses, grassroots community and heritage organizations, will take their inspiration from the major legacy projects and the bicentennial theme to create public awareness and an atmosphere of celebration while advancing the goals of the bicentennial program. In addition to the major legacy projects proposed by the City, legacy projects, such as the commissions of original works of art, music, theatre, and literature by outside partners are also likely outcomes.

Description of the Central Legacy Projects

1. Revitalization of Fort York

Fort York National Historic Site is the birthplace of Toronto, and as such it is the city's most important historic place. It houses the largest collection of authentic War of 1812 buildings in Canada. An unusually rich archaeological resource, Fort York connects the founding decades of the City of Toronto with the battle of York, remnants of the original 18th and 19th century landscape, and Toronto's first military cemetery. While the primary role of the fort was to provide military defence, it played a strong civic role in the lives of Torontonians. In its early years, it was a centre of social life and the main economic driver.

The critical involvement of militia during the War of 1812 makes the fort a symbol of civic engagement and responsibility. While the fort was located more than two kilometres away from the small town of York in 1812, the success of Toronto in the ensuing years is evident today as the fort becomes the centre of a neighbourhood of more than 20,000 people. The fort has always been located by the most important transportation routes. While in its early years at the shore of Lake Ontario, the fort in later years found itself neighbouring rail lines and a highway, as landfill was used to accommodate the modes of transportation that replaced ships.

The revitalization of Fort York National Historic Site will help to tell an important part of the city's history and at the same time, become a vital resource to the local community as the full 43-acre heritage conservation district is restored. It will serve as a destination hub on the new north-south pedestrian/cycling route from Stanley Park to the Garrison Common at Fort York and the Waterfront, and the new east/west 1812 trail of the heritage trail network. The revitalized site will feature:

- a new visitors' centre located outside the ramparts;
- restored and reinterpreted authentic, historic buildings within the ramparts and new exhibits to be completed by the bicentennial;
- enhanced programming to broaden the site's audiences, including partnerships with Evergreen, the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (enhanced citizenship ceremonies), and Harbourfront Centre;
- a coherent open space plan for the entire 43-acre National Historic Site.

The walled Fort and the surrounding area will focus on historical interpretation and adaptation for new uses. The need for a Visitor Orientation/Interpretation Centre at Fort

York has been identified as a major missing component for well over 25 years. It is needed to

- provide a visible point-of-entry to the site;
- provide reception, retail sales, food service and other facilities to visitors;
- provide orientation to the site;
- increase and enhance interpretive programs at the site;
- provide exhibition space;
- attract increased travel trade to the site;
- provide a sustained community presence at the site (incorporate community uses);
- provide permanent space for curatorial offices and administrative functions that are currently housed in historic buildings in the site so that modern uses are moved out of historic structures;
- provide the possibilities for increased revenues for the site.

The parkland will have restored earthworks. It will provide an amenity to local residents, such as community gardens and space for community festivals. It will also be able to accommodate large-scale outdoor rental and fort-generated events, providing options for revenue generation.

2. Nomination of Fort York for Inscription in the World Heritage List of UNESCO

Fort York National Historic Site is the founding site of the City of Toronto, holder of the greatest number of authentic properties related to the War of 1812 in Canada, and perhaps in North America, and is an important national symbol of the conflict to control British North America. The conflict set Canada on the road to nationhood. As such, Fort York is also an important symbol of citizenship and resident engagement.

The Federal government passed ownership of Fort York to the City of Toronto in 1909 and the Fort York became a museum in 1934. It was designated a National Historic Site in 1923, and the City of Toronto created the Fort York Heritage Conservation District in 1985. The National Historic Site and the heritage conservation district were enlarged in 2003 and 2004.

While Fort York is both a National Historic Site and a heritage conservation district protected under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act, the UNESCO designation would guarantee further protection, as well as elevate the Fort's status as a heritage site. Furthermore, this would put the Fort in a much stronger position for funding from a variety of sources.

Most logically, the Fort would fit as an additional part of the Rideau Canal system's World Heritage designation, assigned in 2007. The Fort holds iconic as well as historic value as a defensive works from the War of 1812, and shares with the Rideau the fact that it was "built at a time when Great Britain and the United States of America vied for control of the northern portion of the North American continent." The association of the Rideau's construction with the War of 1812 was one of the principal factors in determining its eligibility as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As stated in the Rideau

UNESCO nomination, “The Rideau Canada is an outstanding example of a technological ensemble which illustrates a significant state in human history.”

This would be the first UNESCO world heritage site for Toronto, Canada’s largest and most international city, and only the second for Ontario. (There are fourteen UNESCO World Heritage sites in Canada. Six are cultural and of these only three are urban: L’Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland; Historic Quebec City, and Old Town Lunenburg, Nova Scotia).

The designation would be a major contribution to the shared goal of the Province, the City, and Tourism Toronto to make the city a gateway to cultural and heritage tourism in Ontario and to position Toronto as a distinctive premier tourist destination.

Economic Development committee (May 14, 2008) and City Council (May 26, 27, 2008) adopted a staff report, supporting in principle, the declaration of Fort York National Historic Site as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

3. Toronto Heritage Trail System

Heritage trails are increasingly popular for both residents and visitors. They provide a logical and enjoyable wayfinding system for visiting a series of sites—old and new. They encourage the upgrading of heritage attractions and services along their routes and the creation of new amenities. And, users of trails generally enjoy exploring beyond the set routes to learn more about the environment around them. Therefore, shops, restaurants, and other attractions that are not directly on the routes are also likely to benefit. The initiation of a Toronto heritage trail network to launch the commemoration in June 2012 is timely, for the War of 1812 truly sparked the transformation of Toronto into an urban place.

In the city today, plaques mark and offer some explanation of important historic sites, and Discovery Walks cover a particular part of the City by guiding participants to several significant sites related primarily by their proximity. The heritage trail system will provide a new approach as it would guide participants on trails that extend from approximately the Humber to the Don rivers and from Queen Street south, to connect places that tell stories about events in our history in a thematic way. Set against the backdrop of the waterfront and the modern city, the trails will begin with stories about the early occupation of the area by the First Nations and continue up to the present.

One trail will be themed on the War of 1812. It will position the war as a transformational period in the cultural history of Toronto and as a seminal event on the path to Confederation in 1867.

The heritage trail system relates to overall heritage and tourism objectives of the City as it will

- fulfill objectives of the City of Toronto Premier-Ranked Tourist Destination Project and the Prosperity Agenda;
- encourage Torontonians to know their city better and to introduce visitors to its

- fascinating cultural layers as “Tourism Ambassadors”;
- engage Torontonians of all backgrounds in their City’s story and encourage them to understand how their own stories can be woven into our collective story;
- inspire community arts and history projects for all ages, and local school projects;
- provide an enjoyable recreational activity by foot, bicycle, or motor vehicle
- create a greater awareness of Toronto’s iconic buildings —both new and old — and of its most significant historic locations;
- make the City more legible through a storied way-finding system;
- fulfill objectives of “*Canada’s Urban Waterfront: The Waterfront Culture and Heritage Infrastructure Plan*, ” (the cultural corridors plan) of 2001 by helping to connect the cultural corridors and enhancing the cultural assets of the corridors, as well as the *Agenda for Prosperity* and the *Premier-Ranked Tourist Destination Project*;
- provide opportunities for public art commissions, such as “Watertable” by Steele and Tomczak, and for performing arts and literature inspired by the trails’ stories, thereby fulfilling objectives of the *Culture Plan for the Creative City* .

In future, the heritage trail system could serve as an external component of the proposed Toronto Museum by telling stories in the places where they happened, and by explaining the city’s history against the backdrop of our modern metropolis.

The heritage trail system relates to overall heritage and tourism objectives of the Province for it will contribute to the goal of making Toronto a cultural and heritage gateway to Ontario, and a tourist destination in league with Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Philadelphia, and Boston.

4. Fort York Pedestrian Cycling Bridge

Currently under environmental assessment, the proposed bridge would extend from Stanley Park over the rail lands to Fort York’s Garrison Common. From there pedestrians and cyclists can easily continue south to the waterfront. This project is led by the Waterfront Secretariat and has an anticipated completion date of 2012.

Description of the Programming and Events

Programs and events will fall into the categories of special events (fireworks, parades, parties, etc. at Nathan Philip Square, Old Town, the Fort and the waterfront, etc), visual and literary arts, museum exhibitions, performing arts, heritage/communities-generated, and educational (Toronto District School Board, Dominion Institute, Historica, etc.).

In addition to its work at Fort York, the City Museums will swing into full gear with related exhibits about Toronto’s history, including an exhibit about the people of Toronto at the Market Gallery. This will be enhanced by an interactive website, which will have as one of its features, the history of the War from the perspective of the people of York.

The City will co-ordinate and publicize all programs under an 1812 umbrella, however, most events and programs will likely originate from and be funded by outside partners.

Interest has been expressed by the downtown Business Improvement Areas, Luminato, Harbourfront Centre, and the Tall Ships Alliance, which is scheduled to bring 40 to 50 ships to Toronto in June 2013. The Art Gallery of Ontario, Royal Ontario Museum, and Toronto Symphony also wish to participate. Smaller arts organizations have also expressed interest. Re-enactor associations will determine the events they wish to recreate. Suggestions have already been made for a 2012 symphony and a battle of the bands.

2012 to 2013: The Bicentennial Commemoration and Celebration

The launch of Toronto's bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812 will be on the weekend of Friday, June 15, 2012 to Sunday June 17. This will likely coincide with the last weekend of Luminato and with the launch of the province-wide commemoration, thereby creating a critical mass of high-profile activity. (War was declared by the United States on June 18, 1812. The first invasion of Canada, which was launched from Detroit, took place on July 12, 1812.)

The City's focus of the commemoration will be the legacy projects. We will encourage public art, programming, exhibitions, festivals, and events to be referential to Fort York and the heritage trail network and the key messages we wish to convey about the War of 1812 and its legacy for Toronto.

Old Town, which is currently under restoration, will be an important destination, with emphasis through exhibits, festivals and other events, on the people who lived in York at the time of the War. There is quite a bit of material available about the individuals who lived in the town, and who experienced the fire, the looting, the imprisonment of their husbands, fathers, and sons without food and water, and the six-day occupation under the American flag that followed the defeat of the British at York on April 27, 1813.

The scale of all programming and events will depend upon available funding and partnerships.

The Provincial government is responsible for the acquisition of the remaining two lots of land associated with the first Parliament buildings site (one is already owned). The buildings were burned after the Fort during the Battle of York. There are archaeological remains of the buildings, and the three sites could provide a provocative and engaging heritage site that is highly relevant to the bicentennial and beyond.

1. Lead-up to Launch

Starting in January 2012, with the expectation that restaurants may include some period dishes as part of their menus for Winterlicious, and continuing into Black History month in February and Doors Open in May, we anticipate references to the War of 1812. From approximately mid-May until launch, there should be some previews of what is to come to excite the local audience and to create a buzz that should build to a crescendo by the launch weekend to bring in a broader audience.

2. Launch Weekend June 15 to 17, 2012

While still at the conceptual stage, the launch weekend could include:

- Friday night/Saturday night--special events at Nathan Philip Square, Harbourfront/Luminato Waterfront, Old Town, Fort York (fundraiser parties, entertainment, etc.)
- Saturday night, launch of arts programs
- Sunday, parade, fireworks, etc.
- Unveiling of new Visitors' Centre at Fort York and restored fort buildings with activity program—launch Friday night with activities and visiting beginning on Saturday
- Launch of Heritage Trail network with a series of walking and cycling tours and events on the Saturday and Sunday
- It is assumed that the Province will also organize activities in Toronto and the other regions on that weekend.

3. Throughout summer and fall, 2012

- Arts and community programs/events, anticipated associations with National Aboriginal Day June 21, Caribana/ Simcoe Day weekend, Toronto International Film Festival, Nuit Blanche, Festival of Lights (lighting of Fort, buildings and fixtures along Heritage Trails, etc.)

4. Winter/Spring, 2013

- The commemoration of the Battle of York on the weekend of April 27, 2013. Saturday April 27 is the official anniversary. In the morning there will be the proper commemoration beginning at Fort York with a procession to St. James Cathedral where the militia colours were hidden and subsequently kept until their donation to Fort York last year. Sackets Harbor (the port from which the Americans sailed into battle) has offered to bring a delegation to the commemoration to honour the dead from both sides of the conflict. (We could send a delegation to Sackets in May when they commemorate their victory over the British. There are British and Americans buried at both sites).
- Public events would begin on the Saturday afternoon, Both the commemoration and any public events will target primarily a GTA audience, especially if they take place in April. The commemoration is likely to draw school groups.
- Build up to commemoration should start by March.
- Programs and events will complement the commemoration and can continue well into May and June (National Aboriginal Day and lead-up to Canada Day).

5. Summer 2013

- 40 to 50 tall ships will be coming to the City in June. While this is not related specifically to the War of 1812 commemoration, activities can take place that once again promote the Fort and the heritage trails. Activities will take place throughout the waterfront, the Fort, and Old Town. Suggestions have been made for a military parade along the waterfront.
- Toronto programming related to the War of 1812 will likely end by early Fall.

6. Closing December 2014

The Province may organize a province-wide ceremony to commemorate the signing of the Peace Treaty on December 24, 1814. (During 2014, Toronto will switch focus to the commemoration of the outbreak of the Great War)

Next Steps: The Implementation Strategy

To achieve the entire scope of the project on time and within budget, the project will have to be phased as follows:

2008

- Fundamentals in place:
 - a. program, budget, marketing plan, communications and marketing framework, strategies and critical paths for each project;
 - b. Identification of all possible funding sources and partnership opportunities for each project from the City, other levels of government, funding agencies and private-sector donors, tourism industry partners, and partners from other sectors;
 - c. Council approval for overall bicentennial program.
- Begin awareness campaign to validate project: publicize outcome of committee meeting, launch of Douglas Coupland sculpture at Fleet and Bathurst streets, announcement of plans to nominate Fort York for UNESCO and why, announcement of acquisition of York militia colours, publicize Fort York design competition, partnerships, etc. to generate excitement as fundraising, grants requests, sponsorships, etc. are solicited, get unlikely ambassadors starting to spread the word
- Develop branding: logo, slogan, 1812 letterhead, build City website
- Education sector begins plans for focus on the War of 1812—in-school and travel programs

2009

- 1812 staff expanded to include the following:
 - 1812 historian (responsible for content of heritage trail network, monitors case for support for the Fort York UNESCO nomination, content for Fort York exhibits, community outreach and public spokesperson on the history of the war)
 - two 1812 Program Development officers to develop 1812 specific programs and partnerships/sponsorships to take place city wide and at the Fort
 - Administrative assistant (to help with steering committee, marketing and communications, and general administration)
- Funding announced for major legacy projects
- UNESCO nomination prepared (January to December)
- Designs for Fort York and heritage trail systems commissioned and designs executed
- Funding commitments announced by the provincial and federal governments for arts, education, heritage/community events

2010

- 1812 staff team further expanded to include the following:
 - Project coordinator for the heritage trail network

- Program coordinator—Marketing and public relations communications
- Volunteer coordinator (for overall 1812 project, including Fort York)
- Two Program coordinators (liaising with internal and external partners to identify the total City and Fort York 1812 heritage, arts, educational, etc. projects for 2012 and 2013)
- Construction begins for visitors centre and other components of Fort York revitalization
- Submission of UNESCO nomination (January)
- Requests for proposals for visual arts commissions, performing and literary arts, education, heritage/community events
- Successful candidates announced
- Identification of volunteer resources
- Funding begins to flow for major legacy projects
- Tourism travel trade marketing (travel trade and web development) begins in earnest and communications intensify

2011

- Construction on Fort York continues with landscaping
- Heritage Trail Network built
- Funding flows for proposals for visual arts commissions, performing and literary arts, education, heritage/community events production in progress
- Tourism consumerism marketing and communications in full gear
- Additional City staff in place to co-ordinate volunteers, events and programs, communications and overall administration

June 2012— Fall 2013 (2014 Provincial finale)

- Launch of the bicentennial program in partnership with Harbourfront, Luminato, Old Town, BIAs on the weekend of June 15, 16, 17 2012; activities to take place throughout the summer.
- Launch of part two of the bicentennial program with Battle of York weekend on April 26, 27, 2013; activities to take place until the summer
- Possible Provincial ceremony in December 2014 to mark the signing of the peace treaty by Britain in 1814.