

“Magna Carta: Law, Liberty and Legacy” Toronto 2015  
Fort York National Historic Site

**Larry Ostola**

**Director, Museums and Heritage Services**

**Economic Development and Culture**

**September 18, 2015**

# Background on Museums and Heritage Services



- Responsible for the administration and operation of ten historical museums including Fort York National Historic Site on behalf of the City of Toronto.
- Welcomed over 225,000 visitors in 2014 to the sites and offered a wide variety of programs and special events.
- Museums and Heritage Services is also responsible for the conservation and maintenance of 100 City-owned heritage buildings located on 40 properties. These range from the John St. Roundhouse, Colborne Lodge and Casa Loma to cultural centres such as the Berkeley Street Theatre.
- Conservation and presentation of the City collection of 150,000 historic objects, 1.1 million archaeological specimens and 2,500 pieces of moveable fine art.









Experience  
History  
Re-imagined

Summer & Fall 2014

- Gibson House Museum
- Todmorden Mills Heritage Site
- Montgomery's Inn



ART

THEATRE

DANCE

events

courtesy of Kaaja d'Dance & Zhenya Cerneacov

Memories of the Future  
Words in Motion



**INTERLOVE**

Mackenzie House invites you to see **INTERLOVE**, a new project by Colin Boyd Shafer that explores how people together in love and shared respect. Shafer is best known as photographer of *Cosmopolis Toronto* and Mackenzie House premiere of his latest works.

**CITY OF TORONTO HISTORIC SITES** MACKENZIE HOUSE  
82 Bond Street, Toronto  
toronto.ca/mackenziehouse



**2014**

**TIME TRAVEL? JUNIOR CHEF? ACTING?**  
**We Have a Camp For That!**

**TORONTO HISTORIC SITES**  
**MARCH BREAK & SUMMER CAMPS**

Facebook.com/HistoricToronto  
@TorontoHistoricSites  
#Camp4That

March Break camp registration **NOW OPEN**  
Summer camp registration opens March 2

**toronto.ca/camps** Call 311

**CITY OF TORONTO HISTORIC SITES**

SPADINA MUSEUM presents

**GATSBY GARDEN PARTY**

Sunday, June 28, 2015  
Noon to 5PM

**TORONTO**



SPADINA MUSEUM presents

**Costumes from DOWNTON ABBEY**

WATCH VISIONTV FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO BRITAIN

**TEA • TOUR • EXHIBIT**

**March 11 – April 13**

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

[toronto.ca/spadina](http://toronto.ca/spadina)

**TORONTO** Call 311

**City of Toronto Historic Sites & Fort York Foundation** invite you and a guest to the **Opening Reception for**

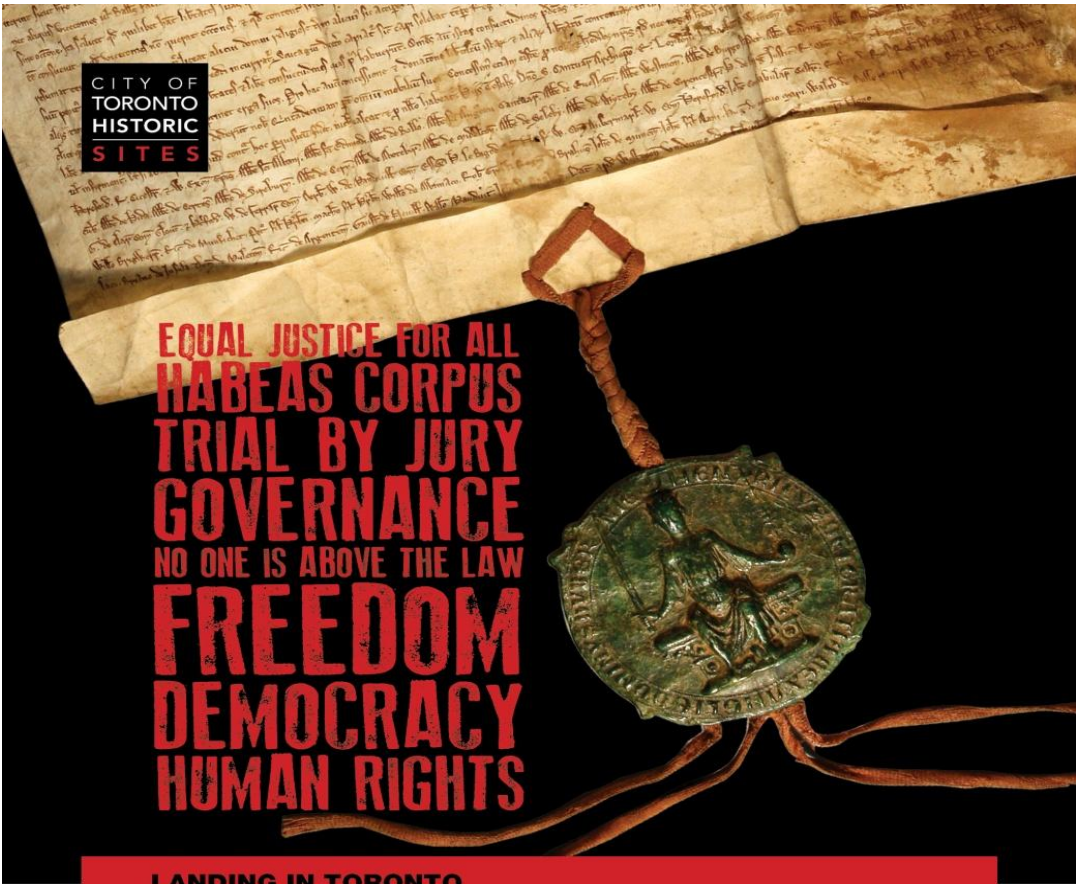
**GERTRUDE KEARNS THE ART OF COMMAND**

**Wednesday, March 4**  
**6 to 9 p.m.**

**Fort York Visitor Centre**  
250 Fort York Boulevard

RSVP to [fortyork@toronto.ca](mailto:fortyork@toronto.ca)

**TORONTO** [toronto.ca/ArtofCommand](http://toronto.ca/ArtofCommand)



**LANDING IN TORONTO**  
**Magna Carta: Law, Liberty & Legacy**  
**OCTOBER 4 TO NOVEMBER 7, 2015**

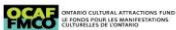
Explore the medieval foundations of rights and justice  
 @ Fort York National Historic Site

250 Fort York Boulevard • FortYork @FortYork

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE: [toronto.ca/magnacarta](http://toronto.ca/magnacarta)



Magna Carta 2015  
 Canada



# Magna Carta: Toronto 2015

- In collaboration with Magna Carta Canada, both the Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest from Durham Cathedral will be exhibited at the new Fort York National Historic Site Visitor Centre.
- Exhibit will run from October 4-November 7, 2015. Toronto is one of four Canadian stops.
- Other tour stops are at the Canadian Museum of History (Gatineau), Legislative Assembly of Alberta (Edmonton) and the Canadian Museum of Human Rights (Winnipeg).
- Basic travelling exhibit tells the story of Magna Carta and its meaning. Toronto specific content related to “Rights, Justice and Democracy: Toronto Perspectives” has been developed.



# Magna Carta: Toronto 2015

- The Magna Carta and its companion document, the Charter of the Forest, set the groundwork for many concepts that continue to define democratic life today. As symbols of justice, they also act as powerful reminders that those who govern do so only by the consent of the people.

## **Key principles:**

- *Nobody is above the law of the land:* The basis of equal justice at all levels of society.
- *Habeas Corpus:* Freedom from unlawful detention without cause or evidence.
- *Trial by jury:* Rules to settle disputes between barons and the Crown established trial by a jury of one's peers.
- *Women's rights:* A widow could not be forced to marry and give up her property – a major first step in women's rights.



# Magna Carta: Toronto 2015

## The Charter of the Forest

- The “Charter of the Forest” a companion document to Magna Carta established the foundation for the idea of common stewardship of resources.
- It provided a right of common access to (Royal) private lands and the use of resources on the land.

## **Magna Carta Toronto: 2015**

### ***Rights, Justice and Democracy: Toronto perspectives***

A number of personalities are highlighted in the Toronto component of the exhibit to reflect the theme and serve to start a conversation:

- **John Graves Simcoe**  
First Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (1791-1796); First Act against slavery in the British Empire (1793)
- **George Brown**  
Father of Confederation; Publisher of *The Globe* newspaper; helped found Anti-Slavery Society of Canada
- **Dr. Emily Stowe**  
First female doctor to practice in Canada; Canadian Women's Suffrage Association
- **John Sewell**  
Mayor of Toronto; Led Citizens for Local Democracy in the late 1990's
- **Reverend Brent Hawkes**  
Minister at Metropolitan Community Church; Performed the first same-sex marriage in Canada





...peu ou pas d'argent, et devaient donner une partie de leurs récoltes à leur seigneur et à l'église. Les serfs du Moyen Âge ne pouvaient quitter sans autorisation la terre sur laquelle ils travaillaient.

La signature de la Magna Carta en 1215 contribua fort peu à améliorer l'existence de la majorité de la population d'Angleterre, composée de paysans et de « hommes libres » de la justice. Toutefois, la reconnaissance de la justice par les « hommes libres » devait toutefois permettre aux générations suivantes de réinterpréter le document et d'adopter les changements nécessaires pour garantir à chacun la justice.

# Magna Carta Toronto: 2015

- The exhibit is being staged with the support of a variety of partners including the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, Magna Carta Canada, Pattison, Via Rail and the Toronto Star.
- An online ticketing system has been set up and reservations are also being accepted for group tours and school group tours as well as for other special events.
- The Toronto component of the exhibit is being complemented by a speakers' series featuring Dr. Carolyn Harris (author, historian and recognized authority on Magna Carta) and others including Sukanya Pillay, Executive Director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Dr. Peter Russell and Roy McMurtry.



JUSTICE

TRIAL  
BY JURY

HUMAN  
RIGHTS

RESERVE YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY

October 4 – November 7

 TORONTO

NO ONE IS ABOVE  
THE LAW  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS  
TRIAL BY JURY  
GOVERNANCE  
FREEDOM  
DEMOCRACY  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
HABEAS CORPUS  
EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

student film contest  
Take the Magna Carta Challenge!

Submit your :30-3:00 any genre film

Deadline September 15, 2015

|           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1st prize | 2nd prize | 3rd prize |
| \$5000    | \$2000    | \$500     |

+ Masterclass workshops with DGC/ACTRA for top 10 filmmakers

+ Gala screening at Bloor Hot Docs Cinema September 28, 2015

+ Top films will be part of the Magna Carta Exhibit at Fort York National Historic Site October 4 - November 7, 2015

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SITES

For more information see your department head or visit  
[toronto.ca/magnacartafilm](http://toronto.ca/magnacartafilm)

BLOOR  
HOT DOCS CINEMA

ACTRA  
TORONTO

DGC