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

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Director, Museums and Heritage Services
Economic Development and Culture
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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

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

toronto.ca/ArtofCommand
CITY OF TORONTO HISTORIC SITES

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

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 • ℹ️ FortYork • @FortYork
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE: toronto.ca/magnacarta
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.
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.
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
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

student film contest
Take the Magna Carta Challenge!
Submit your :30-3:00 any genre film
Deadline September 15, 2015
1st prize $5000 2nd prize $2000 3rd prize $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

For more information see your department head or visit toronto.ca/magnacartafilm