

able redoubts, which with an amended Fort Henry would keep an enemy from 2,300 to 2,700 yards distant from the Naval Dockyard and the entrance to the canal. During the War of 1812 experience indicated that a hostile force would move against Kingston from the land side and the forts should be designed to resist seige from that direction. Defence of the harbor in the event of a naval attack would be taken care of by a system of martello towers constructed at half-mile intervals.

In October 1829, a Committee of the Board of Ordinance in England gave general approval to the recommendations of the committee of 1828 but differed upon one important point. They were of the opinion that great expense would be encountered while excavating in solid rock and therefore, proposed altering the work from a bastioned Fort to a large casemated redoubt defended by reverse fire. This would command the ridge in front, so that with a small garrison, the Naval Dockyard could be defended from a Coup de Main on the land side.

The recommendations of the committee received governmental approval, together with their plans for a new Fort Henry, the five other redoubts, and the martello towers. Of these, the present Fort Henry with its advanced battery, four of the martello towers and a sea battery were the only units of the system ever constructed. As relations with the United States improved, opposition to the increased cost of Colonial Defences led the British House of Commons to refuse the funds necessary to complete the fortifications of Kingston.

In 1832, following the completion of the Rideau Canal, Lieutenant-Colonel Wright was authorized to proceed with the demolition of the existing Fort Henry and the construction of the new fort. A considerable amount of stone had already been prepared. The stone was limestone, quarried on both sides of the road leading from Kingston to Gananoque. Materials for mortar and cement were

secured from the ground north of the fort. Much of the work upon the new Fort Henry was performed by contract whereas the first fort had been erected by military labor. Construction of the main body of the redoubt involved an expenditure of approximately £70,000. (The average laborer received about 70 cents in Halifax currency.) Lieutenant-Colonel Wright and his assistant, Capt. R. B. Bonnycastle, prosecuted the work vigorously and by 1836 the main portion of the present fort was completed and two batteries of the Royal Garrison Artillery and one regiment of the line took possession.

Although never attacked by an enemy, the history of Fort Henry is not lacking in colorful incidents. The Fort was the centre of military life for almost eight decades. Imperial and Canadian troops were stationed there from 1813 to 1890. The old walls could tell of gay dances in the officers' quarters, and of sadder days when victims of Kingston's small-



WORKING  
WITH  
CANADIANS  
IN EVERY  
WALK  
OF LIFE  
SINCE  
1817



**BANK OF  
MONTREAL**

*Canada's First Bank*