FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort York Foundation Announces Lead Gift to ‘Fort York Invigorated’ Capital Campaign As Part of War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration

TORONTO (June 14, 2012) The Fort York Foundation announced today that The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has made a lead gift of $1 million to the Fort York Invigorated Capital Campaign. The Foundation’s gift will be directed toward the rehabilitation of Garrison Common, which is part of the ongoing revitalization of Fort York National Historic Site. This historic green space and archaeological site is part of the battlefield where the Battle of York was fought in 1813. It is an integral part of the War of 1812-era defensive works of Fort York.

Andy Pringle, the Chair of the Fort York Foundation Campaign Cabinet, in announcing the gift said, “The very generous W. Garfield Weston Foundation gift represents a strong vision for the future of our city that will make Fort York National Historic Site more accessible and relevant for future generations of Canadians. We are truly grateful.” The objective of this Campaign is to raise $7 million from the private sector for the construction of the Fort York Visitor Centre, essential to a renewed interpretation of the 43-acre national historic site and additional funds for the restoration of the surrounding landscape.

At a press conference announcing the gift, Board Chair Andrew Stewart said, “Today, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has shown tremendous support for the city’s public realm, specifically for Fort York National Historic Site. Over the years, there have been many victories and setbacks for the broader public interest in making sure this historic property, where urban Toronto was founded in 1793, remains a vital part of Toronto’s story. The donation will also enable the restoration of some of Lake Ontario’s original shoreline, which will form part of the public interpretation plan for this site. The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has stepped up with great foresight and generosity of spirit.”