



Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood



CPA is now on:

Tear Down... or Restore?

What do you do with a wreck like 24 Sussex?

CPA Night
with Scott Weir

Principal, ERA Architects Inc.

Wednesday November 25, 2015

Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club

101 Spruce Street

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The recent change of government has raised questions about whether to restore, alter, or demolish and replace (or not replace) 24 Sussex, the residence of Canada's Prime Minister. The result of years of deferred maintenance, inefficiency, and multiple renovations have rendered it in public discourse to be considered dangerous, unsustainable and dull. Scott Weir looks at the architecture of 24 Sussex, its context on the world stage, the relationship of this building to our cultural identity, and considers option for its future.



Photo, Steve Yeates

The Other Cabbagetown - Does This Sound Familiar?

We have a doppelganger in Atlanta, Georgia. The two communities share more than the name; we share some parallel history, current gentrification and more.

Atlanta's Cabbagetown was a mill town built in the 1880s when industries were relocating to the post-Reconstruction South in search of cheap labour: poor whites recruited from the Appalachian region of north Georgia. Surrounding the textile mills that produced cotton bags for agricultural products, a small community of one and two-story cottage-style and shotgun houses was built. Originally known as Factory Town or Fulton Mill Village, the streets remain extremely narrow with short blocks and frequent intersections.

One explanation as to how the neighbourhood received its current name is that the mostly transplanted poor Appalachian residents, largely of

Scots-Irish descent, who worked in the nearby Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill would grow cabbages in the front yards of their houses and that one could distinctly smell the odor of cooking cabbage coming from the neighbourhood. This term was used originally with derision by people outside the neighbourhood, but it soon became a label of pride for the people who lived there.

For over half a century Cabbagetown remained home to a tight-knit, homogenous, and semi-isolated community of people whose lives were anchored by the mill, until it closed in 1977. While the mill itself was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, the surrounding neighbourhood went into a steep decline following the mill closure.

In the early 1990s, Cabbagetown underwent tremendous growth. As with many other neighbourhoods, revitalization was sparked by an

Tales from the Crypt, page 4

influx of artists in the 1980s, including Panorama Ray, who operated a photo gallery on the main drag, Carroll Street. Since his death in 1997, Carroll Street has become the home popular restaurants and serves as a neighbourhood gathering spot.

Beginning in 1996, the mill itself has been renovated into the nation's largest residential loft community — the Fulton Cotton Mill Lofts — which houses everyone from artists and musicians to business professionals. Sadly, a tornado in March 2008 damaged parts of the loft complex and many of the historic homes and businesses in Cabbagetown.

Shotgun Houses

The shotgun house is often no more than 12 feet wide, with 3-5 rooms set in a row without a hallway. This lack of a hallway allows for excellent airflow and cross *please see "Shotgun homes..." p 3*

Remarkable Lives

This component of the Cabbagetown People program documents the lives, accomplishments, and contributions of Cabbagetown's many unique personalities and pioneers in numerous fields of endeavour, throughout Cabbagetown's various periods of development. These people have been inspirational, and have left legacies, the effects of which stretch well beyond the boundaries of the Cabbagetown neighbourhoods and the City of Toronto.

We draw from this documentation, material for our guided walking tours and publications, and post these biographies on our website.

From Remarkable Lives, we feature here a fine example of a remarkable life, Pioneer Canadian Lawyer, Margaret Paton Hyndman.

Margaret Paton Hyndman, Q.C.

1901 - 1991

Pioneer Canadian Lawyer

Margaret Paton Hyndman was born in Palmerston, Ontario. She attended high school in Listowel, Ontario and then moved to Toronto to enroll as a student at Osgoode Hall Law School. Called to the bar in 1926, she was granted in 1938 the honour King's Counsel (K.C.) (now called Queen's Counsel, Q.C.) the first Canadian woman to be so honoured and the second woman in the British Empire.

Margaret Hyndman's home in Cabbagetown was at 21 Winchester Street where she lived for many years. Another remarkable Cabbagetowner, the Venerable Archdeacon Samuel J. Boddy, once lived at the same address.

Hyndman served on numerous boards and became the first woman in Canada to sit on the board of a trust company (London and Western, which later merged to become Canada Trustco Mortgage Co.). During World War II, with the Government's help, she persuaded the Canadian Bar Association to provide free legal services to military personnel and their spouses. This was the beginning of legal aid in the Country. She often defended the less than fortunate. A most treasured award was the City of Paris Silver Medal with a citation from President Charles De Gaulle for her work with the Free France movement.

She was a Charter member of the Zonta Club, which was established in 1927 to advance the status of women. Throughout her career she fought for women's rights, advocating equal pay for equal work before the highest courts in Ontario and Canada. In 1952 she was named "Woman of the Year" for her work in getting equal pay legislation adopted in Ontario. Margaret fought and won the right for women to sit on juries, incorporated the Consumer's Association of Canada and represented aboriginal women at the Supreme Court in the question of individual and group rights.

Although she set precedents for women, and was an early activist of women's rights, she didn't consider herself a feminist nor consider herself different because she was a woman.

A true pioneer in the legal field, she has left a formidable legacy that has made a notable difference to the legal profession.

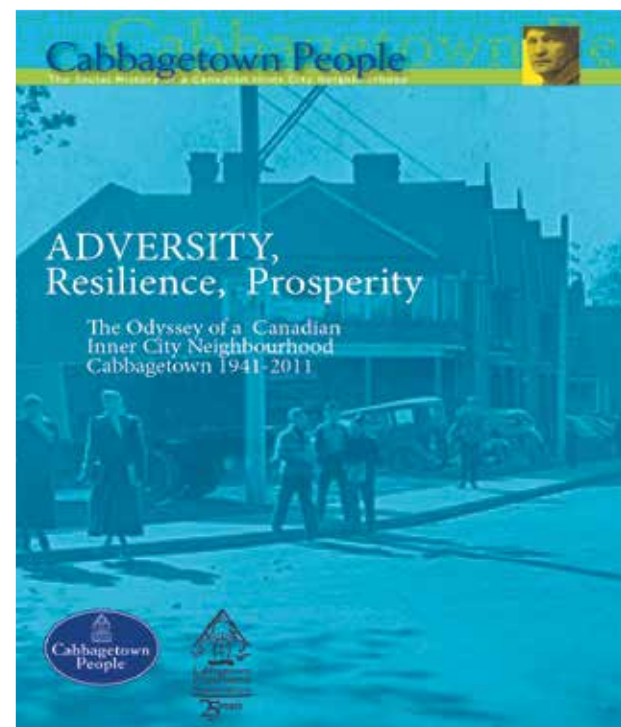


Awards and Honours:

- 1973: the Order of Canada for her distinguished service to the Canadian Bar
- 1976: Doctor of Common Law degree from Acadia University
- 1984: first honorary life member of the Advocates Society of Ontario
- 1986: first to receive the Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Upper Canada
- 1988: the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case

Adversity Resilience, Prosperity Now in its second printing!

The beautifully illustrated book produced by CPA's Cabbagetown People team, tracing Cabbagetown's social growth through the last 70 years, is for sale at Kendall & Co, Spruce Home Decor and UK Tuck Shop



Tales from the Crypt

Young Victorian girls were taught an adage that said:

Those who marry late, preserve their fate.

Those who early wed, make a widower's bed.

Hannah Ashall Horsman should have paid attention to that warning.

If you follow the main Necropolis Cemetery road down to the end, then keep right until a path branches left into the valley, you will see, on the right hand side, a pair of flat monuments in the shape of unrolled scrolls, one the miniature of the other. These are the grave markers for Hannah Horsman and two of her children.

Born in Bolton, Lancashire, England, Hannah was the daughter of William James Ashall and Mary Ann Lamb. Her mother, Mary Ann, was the sister of Peter Rothwell Lamb, the founder of the P.R. Lamb Glue and Blacking Manufactory that once stood at the eastern end of Amelia Street.

Hannah married Abraham Phillips Horsman in the 1860's and together they had four children. Their first child, Georgeina Phillips, was born in September 1870, only to die 17 months later on February 21, 1872. Looking at Georgeina's tiny tombstone you can see she was much loved. The grave marker is an unusually attractive one, a child sized recumbent slab in the form of a partially unrolled scroll bearing the notation, under her name, "Our Birdie". Her name also appears on the nearby Ashall family monument, along with that of Walter Ashall, an uncle she never knew, who died in 1858 aged 1 year and 1 month. Clearly Hannah's mother, Mary Ann, would have understood all too well her daughter's grief at the loss of her child.

Perhaps Hannah and Albert were comforted a little when a son, Edgar Theodore, was born 3 months later, followed in 1874 by another daughter, Frances Lauretta. But happiness never lasted long for the Horsman family. In November 1876, Hannah gave birth to a second son, Albert Abraham, only to die herself a few days later - as the adage had warned would happen. Abraham had a large version of Georgeina's monument made for Hannah on which she is described as "my beloved wife" who is "gone but not forgotten".

But death hadn't finished with the Horsmans. On September 27, 1874 Albert Abraham too died, aged 10 months 21 days. Buried with his mother, the information about his death appears as a post script on her stone. "Also Albert Abraham...."

Enough misery? Not yet. Hannah and Abraham's remaining two children also died in childhood, Frances in 1879, aged 5, and Edgar Theodore in 1880, aged 9.



Community Engagement & Education

On November 5th and 6th, Cabbagetown ReLeaf had the opportunity to take part in and make a presentation to the Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC.org) Conference out of the Toronto Botanical Garden. What a time for the meeting of minds! Sharing ideas, solutions and knowledge amongst a like-minded group has never been so exciting.

One of the main themes to come out of these two days was a general consensus that community engagement and education are vital to achieving socioenvironmental change. By creating a climate of awareness, we can do a lot to move communities forward and attain common goals.



Events that engage community members tend to be interactive, simple and accessible to a variety of individuals. The message is clear and the audience leaves with a desire to do and learn more.

Cabbagetown ReLeaf is a registered non-profit organization with a mission to promote a larger, healthier urban forest. Through public outreach and events, this group of passionate tree stewards has worked tirelessly to promote education and activism in the community. This focus on supporting our green infrastructure through planting, tree protection, tree care, and advocacy is much needed. Current programs include Native Tree Giveaways, promotion of the City's free tree program, mulch workshops, tree tours and tree care, all vital to meeting our City's green canopy goals.

Cabbagetown ReLeaf's main areas of focus: Tree Protection, Natural Heritage, Community Forestry and Education. For more information and to make a donation or volunteer go to www.cabbagetownreleaf.org

Tree Care Tips (Spring & Fall) – It all starts with YOU

Almost everyone would agree that large city trees possess a certain splendour. That being said, most people don't understand how difficult it can be for a new tree to establish and thrive in the hostile, urban environment. There are many ways to support tree growth while fostering a better connection to the natural environment around you. Two of our favourite ways here at Cabbagetown ReLeaf are through the proper mulching and watering of both newly planted and well-established trees.

Proper mulching around the base of trees helps keep moisture in the soil while preventing the growth of weeds at the base of the trunk. The diagram shows the correct way to lay down mulch; never using too much and always leaving a space around the root ball to allow the roots to breathe.

SPRING - The rule of thumb is to remove winter mulch in the spring, when all danger of a hard frost is past. When the ground starts to thaw and the smell of mud is in the air, it's time to start raking and

Renovating? Here's What You Need to Know

Owning a property in one of our four Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) gives you the advantage of living in a beautiful historic neighbourhood of leafy, human-scaled streets, Victorian era architecture and a tangible connection to Toronto's past. These characteristics that we find so attractive are protected by the Ontario Heritage Act and the Guidelines of each district's HCD Plan.

Most property owners in Cabbagetown know that when they make changes to parts of their homes that are visible from the street, a Heritage Permit needs to be obtained from the City of Toronto's Heritage Preservation Services. However, those who are new to the neighbourhood may not be aware of the protocol or may be confused about what approach to take, what to consider or where to find help.

A Heritage Permit Is Required For:

- any renovations, alterations or additions that are visible from the street (this includes: windows, doors, porches, siding, and brick);
- repairs using a material other than the original or the existing material;
- renovations that have an impact on the building's heritage attributes; if a renovation involves demolition, property owners will need to submit an application to secure a permit;
- note that to secure a Building Permit in an HCD, even if the work does not have any heritage aspects, will require review and approval from the City's Heritage Preservation Services.

Considerations:

- New additions, including items such as skylights, will need to be located to the rear and side, away from the main elevation.

- New garages and parking spaces will need to be located in unobtrusive areas, normally to the rear and side yards.
- Additions must be sensitive to the character of their neighbours in size and height.

A Heritage Permit Is Not Required For:

- Painting of wood, existing stucco or metal finishes.
- Repair of existing features, including roofs, wall cladding, dormers, cresting, cupolas, cornices, brackets, columns, balustrades, porches as well as steps, entrances, windows, foundations, and decorative wood, metal, stone or terra cotta, provided that the same type of materials are used.



Photo, Wallace Immen

removing the mulch so that the ground can warm and new growth won't be inhibited

Watering your tree is another way to make sure it stays healthy, especially in the summer months. Small trees need to be watered for at least 20 minutes, while larger trees could require as long as an hour! Drip irrigation systems are a good alternative to traditional hose watering for this very reason. Make sure to spread the water evenly underneath the canopy to maximize root absorption. Deeply saturating the soil discourages shallow rooting and strengthens your tree, providing future resistance to drought and poor conditions. Newly planted trees need some extra help getting established, so aim to water them twice a week for the first three years.

FALL - At this time of year, when the leaves are changing colors it is important to properly water trees and shrubs to help prevent damage in the winter.

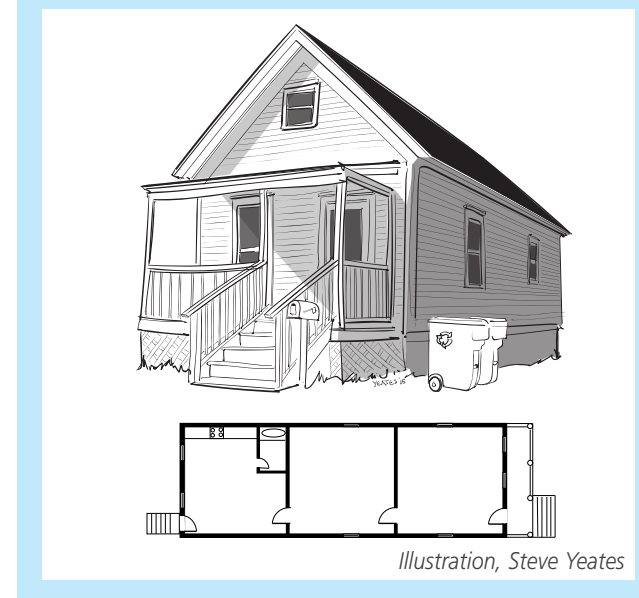
For more information on Volunteering & our Mulch Workshops feat. The Bucket Brigade go to www.cabbagetownreleaf.org



Shotgun Homes continued from p1 ventilation throughout the home, which is a must for the hot southern summers, particularly before the invention of air conditioning. Shotgun homes were built close or even flush with the sidewalk. There is a single door and window at the front of the home and a side door towards the back that leads to the final room. More elaborate houses have more rooms and Victorian detail. Often, several would be built in a row by the same builder, which lent to their similar appearance. On historic Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, you'll see the preserved row of Double Shotgun homes or two shotgun homes joined together, sharing a central wall.

The style gets its name from the convenience of being able to shoot a gun from the front door and through the back door. This was true of the original design but most of these houses are more complex than the basic plan shown below.

summarized from wikipedia.org and sweetpeachblog.com



Illustration, Steve Yeates





People, Places and Events



The CRP Museum is more than four walls and a set of display cases. It is actively recording the social and cultural history of the original Cabbagetown (where Regent Park now sits), Regent Park, and "new" Cabbagetown; continuously probing and uncovering new information which is so important not only to the area, but to Toronto as a whole. Its consultants, such as historian/archivist/author Sally Gibson interprets the material in a meaningful way that helps describe the present. In addition, it looks into the future by having representatives sit on development committees and document future plans and programs in the making.



If you are visiting Daniels Spectrum, up on the second floor you will find a CRP Museum display case dedicated to the artist, the late Bill Stapleton who so generously donated hundreds of documents, sketches, watercolours and oil portraits to the museum. Visitors continue to visit the museum located in the Simpson House, Riverdale Farm in large numbers. From March 2014 to February 2015 we had 4,291 visitors. They come from far and wide to learn more about our unique Cabbagetown history. Kay Horisznay, "the shoemaker's daughter grew up in the area and is a terrific storyteller. There is a case dedicated to her father in the Simpson House. If you are lucky, she might be there to tell you her history firsthand. She's an awesome storyteller and a dedicated volunteer of many years. When asked why she likes to volunteer she said, "I like meeting new people and hearing their stories and telling mine. Many of the visitors to the CRP Museum are new Canadians. They can relate to the stories of my family and me. And in my way, I am saying that earlier generations have walked this new path in Canada and have not only survived but have done well and are proud."



The museum continues to document the revitalization of Regent Park with photography and video, as well as its openings, performances, community meetings and parades. [photo of native dancer at the opening of the Regent Park Park, also known by local residents as the Park-Park.] Toronto Community Housing has requested that we continue to document the old buildings as they come down. Many of the images are very moving.



One of the most active volunteers in recording history and editing video into oral histories, is new Board Member Jim Keffer. He has been a consultant to the Board for several years, but we are pleased to now welcome him as an official Board member. "The Museum has many facets. The presentation of exhibits is what most people think of as its primary purpose. However, just as important is the virtual side - social media, videos, & documentaries. I joined the Museum

some three years ago because of my interest in cinematography. The Museum has a rich store of oral histories that have been captured over its ten years of existence. Mining this trove of material and making it accessible through the internet, appealed to me. From these sources, we have recently produced a number of videos, in our People, Places, and Events series ranging from the early beginnings of Cabbagetown to interviews with people who have played an important part in the region's history. I find the work fascinating. There is so much material, old and new. Moreover, there are many current events that need to be documented. It is truly enjoyable to be able to play a part in helping make our community aware of just how special it is through this media.
Jim Keffer, CRPM Board



The Museum is happy to have David Blackmore on-board. David is well known to Cabbagetown. He has been Chair of the BIA. He is presently involved in Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services. He is an accomplished videographer and plays a mean jazz flute. He has recently joined the Museum as a strategic consultant where his varied skills will be much appreciated. Presently he is managing the Museum's Social Media activities. In addition, he is chairing a Task Force – The Future of History, a business plan for the establishment of a permanent home for the Museum, and plans for raising the necessary funding for on-going sustainability of the many and varied activities of the Museum.



We also want to welcome Victoria Hadden as a consultant to the Board. With her enthusiasm, knowledge, and creativity – not to mention a wonderful smile that lights up a room – she is an excellent addition to the Board. In addition, our long-time Volunteer Coordinator, Conrad Jozwik is also joining the museum as a Volunteer and Youth Consultant to the Board. [photo of Conrad Jozwik] He says, "I was first attracted to the CRP Museum when I first read about it and had the opportunity to help to inform others about the extensive and rich history of the area. What I enjoy most about my role as Volunteer Coordinator is having the opportunity to share the history of Cabbagetown with new volunteers who in turn share their knowledge with visitors. It essentially creates a chain from which volunteers, visitors, and the museum all benefit."



We welcome new volunteers to become docents, record oral histories, conduct research, or participate in any way that interests you most. crpmuseum.volunteer@gmail.com

Photo of Sally Gibson by Snapd, Jim Keffer by David Blackmore, David Blackmore courtesy of himself. All of the other photos by Carol Moore-Ede.

C'town Remembered

The CRP Museum website is a trove of stories from Cabbagetown's past. This recollection from the section "Punchy's Chronicals" gives some of the flavour of the life that animated our streets during the last century. In the last issue we read the first part of Patricia Crofts-LaGree's recollection; this is the conclusion.

Patricia Crofts-LaGree Recalls...

Part Two: My family lived in Cabbagetown from 1936-1950 at 210 Sackville Street. We all went to Park School from Grade 1 through Grade 8, myself Pat, my two brothers John & Ken and my younger sister Barbara. The last name was Crofts.

We were very poor because of the great depression, as was everyone else. It was difficult for my father to get work, but he finally did and worked at Schraders for years. He was a skilled machinist. He finally got a better job at Massey Harris and continued to work there until his death.

My sister and I have been e-mailing messages to each other about our life in "Cabbagetown". We remember pushing an old carriage down to the Coal house, along with my brother Ken, to get a bag of coal that came out of a shute and also to pick coal out of the ashes. We had an ice box and the ice man came often with a large pick and carried a block of ice right into our kitchen and put it in the top of our ice box. We also had coal delivery and my father would stand outside and count the coal bags to make sure we got the right amount that we ordered. The Shute was at the bottom front of the house and lead into the basement to a bin that the coal fell into. The coal man was always covered in black soot.

We also had bread deliver from Westons. The breadman came with a delivery wagon pulled by a horse and we would always ask for stale buns, but he never had any. When he left we would hitch a ride on the back of the wagon that had a step for the breadman to get up into the wagon. We always yelled "hooky on behind." If the horse left any droppings, someone on the street would throw it on their front lawn for fertilizer.

We also remember Regent Park which was right next to our house. There was a wadding pool and in the Summer the Park Attendant would fill it with water and the smaller children would swim around. It wasn't very deep. After a short while, he would empty it, because we all peed in it, and then fill it again. In the Winter there was the lighted ice rink and all of the kids would skate there. You knew everybody. We also went to Riverdale Park with out sleds and toboggans that we got for Christmas and have a great time sledding. There was a run called the Icies. They were ice covered chutes to toboggan down. They were really fast. There was a huge ice rink and it was always packed with people, so we had great fun in the Winter months.

Things were not so terrible then. Most of us were on the Pogeys and at Christmas time we received a basketful of goodies with a Turkey and the trimmings for Christmas. We had a closer family tie then. Our Grandmother lived just a few blocks away on Taylor Street and our Aunts and Uncles used to come visit often.

We went to St. Bartholomews Anglican Church on Sunday mornings and also for Sunday School. Father Pashler was there at the time. I really liked him. Whenever he saw you he would say, "Bless you my child."

Went to the Bluebell Show quite often for matinees and evenings. You would see a lot of people that you knew there. It was the only theatre around, except the one on Parliament Street, but that was uptown then.

There was a Bath House down the street from us, on the corner of Sackville and St. David. There was an apartment on the top of the Bath House that the people who ran the Bath House lived in.

Gardens

Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces

It rained on Saturday and on Monday, but on Sunday June 7, the sun shone brightly on gardeners and visitors, making for a beautiful early spring day in Cabbagetown.

For a few gardens, the tour started at 8:45 with the arrival of the "Garden Bloggers Fling". All 70 of them - from Great Britain, the USA and all parts of Canada - came with specific requests: to see a backyard converted into garden space, guerilla gardens in laneways, a modern garden contrasted against Victorian architecture, and the acclaimed roof top garden of the Hugh Garner Coop. All wishes were granted. Cameras clicked away at favourite plantings, a hidden accent, or a unique container arrangement to illustrate the bloggers' "blogs". (See: <http://gardenbloggersfling.blogspot.ca>)

For more than 700 visitors and volunteers the day was a delight. All of the spring gardens were at their prime with clematis, roses, freshly planted herbs, and irises in shades of pink, mauve, white, yellow, and blue charming visitors. The living wall in one garden was a huge hit as well as a painted mural in another. Visitors wanted information on differing approaches to plantings, fencing, stonework, and garden accents, all provided by knowledgeable gardeners, informed volunteers, as well as the Toronto Master Gardeners.

The Organizing Committee for the HGPS tour wish to thank the many local businesses that provided special deals for visitors who stopped to shop or enjoy lunch. The Committee also thanks the many friendly volunteers and, of course, the 10 gardeners who so graciously opened their private garden spaces to the public.

It is hard to believe that June 2016 will be the TENTH anniversary of the tour. For its date, time, and additional information, please visit www.cabbagetownpa.ca in the new year when details and special events will be revealed. DO plan to attend.

Helen Coltrinari, Chair, HGPS Organizing Committee with Ruth Wagner, Stephen Boddy, Ken McKenzie, Kim Ezeard, Judy Carpenter



Streetscapes in Bloom 2015

Our beautiful Cabbagetown is a fine mixture of Victorian, Arts and Crafts and Modern architecture. The area blossomed during the Victorian era (1850-1890), exhibited its Eastern European influence later, lapsed into oblivion for a few years and then rose to its current status where diverse front gardens contribute to the charm of our neighbourhood.

The Victorians loved their flowers and today's front yards abound with plots and pots of colour. The ever-changing streetscapes provide inspiration and novel ideas to visitors and residents alike for their own planters, pots, or garden accents.



Residents have also begun planting up the boulevards in front of their homes creating a delightful variety of vegetation small and tall – even vegetables such as kale and colourful chards! And, a trend toward guerilla gardening in back laneways has recently sprung up.

Since 1996, the CPA has presented an award to the homeowner whose front garden meets the criteria and receives the most votes from the panel of judges who visit the nominated gardens monthly from June to September.

This year's nominated gardens generated a lively debate among the judges. But, finally, a winner was decided and the Streetscapes in Bloom Committee is pleased to declare the 2015 winner: 19 Amelia Street. This attractive front garden deserves a lingering look as its many accents deliver intriguing surprises. The copper downspout, the charming fountain, the unexpected statuary, and the evolving seasonal changes have caused many a passerby to stop and admire.

Kim Ezeard, the responsible gardener, receives the unique art glass medallion from Kitras Glass and a garden crook to display it. A water colour portrait of the garden will be rendered this year by a young, local artist, Rosie Shephard.

The award will be presented to Ms. Ezeard on November ??? at the CPA meeting in the Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club - Spruce Street at Sumach - starting at 7:00pm

To view past winners of the SSB award and this year's nominees, please visit www.cabbagetownpa.ca and follow the link from the home page.

Floral pictures and florid prose by Helen Coltrinari.



Cabbagetown Tour of Homes, 2015

What a glorious day it was! Yes, Mother Nature was on our side. Several hundred visitors took to the sunny streets of Cabbagetown on September 20 for the 2015 Cabbagetown Tour of Homes.

Some say it was a banner year for the Tour.

Indeed, ticketholders once again had the chance to see the interiors of some of the most amazing homes in Toronto. All the homes this year had a strong personality and the styles varied from quirky to classic and, in some cases, a mix of both.

Visitors had the chance to see a large iconic Cabbagetown home on Sackville Street. This has been one of the most neglected houses remaining in Cabbagetown. Owned by the same family for close to a century, it was allowed to decay over the last few decades. The extensive restoration of the property took over 2 years and was done in a manner sympathetic to the original character of the house. And the interior was also stunning.

This year's Tour included a beautiful loft, so large and quirky that it is often used as a TV or movie set. There were other homes, some with breathtaking (modern, Canadian, asian, etc.) art collections, some with a great collection of chandeliers delighted visitors.

The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes is made possible by the generous contribution of homeowners who open their homes to ticketholders and receive no compensation for doing so. We wholeheartedly want to thank them. We also thank everyone who bought a ticket for this important event.

Organizing this event is a complex and lengthy affair. We wish to thank the hard-working organizing committee: Helen Coltrinari, Karen Hersey, Gilles Huot, David Pretlove, and Ron Reaman.

Close to one hundred volunteers were also deployed throughout the day. We want to thank them for their efforts and dedication. And a special thank you to Weenen General Contracting for sponsoring the volunteer thank you event at the end of the day.

We also extend our thanks to the various local businesses that either sold tickets for the Tour or made special offers to ticketholders on the day of the Tour.

A big thank you to the Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area (BIA) for partnering up with us. Not only did they help us gather special offers from local businesses but they also helped defray some of our costs.

The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes is the CPA's main fundraising event. The proceeds are reinvested in the CPA programs: the Cabbagetown People program (blue plaques, website, brochures, free tours for schools, social history research projects, etc.), the Peggy Kurtin Award for Excellence in Restoration, the CPA newsletters, the CPA website and Facebook page, the CPA free walking tours in partnership with Heritage Toronto, the Streetscapes in Bloom garden competition, the Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces garden tour, our public meetings/lecture series on heritage issues, our information package for new Cabbagetown residents, and other important contributions to the community and the city. And there is more to come. The CPA has also been supporting various local community organizations: the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Committee, the Riverdale Farm, and Cabbagetown ReLEAF among others.

This year, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to local community youth organizations. This year's recipients will be announced at the CPA public meeting at the end of November 2015.

We made the decision to make the Cabbagetown Tour of Homes a biennial event. So the next Tour will take place in September 2017. If you would like to offer your home or know of a home that would be great for the Tour, let us know at cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca. If you are interested in helping organize it or would like to volunteer for the Tour, let us know as well at the same email address.



Your Home's History

Many Cabbagetowners have tried out the Compendium that is available on both the CPA and the Cabbagetown Heritage District Advisory Committee (HDC). It enables you to view details of your home's origin. Since the late nineties, the Cabbagetown HCD, under the energetic leadership of the late Peggy Kurtin for most of that time, has been surveying the homes of the current HCD area and, recently, the proposed HCD area southwest of Carlton/Parliament.

For over a decade volunteers have photographed each home in the area and researched its history. The information includes the home's date of construction, date of occupation, who the original and some later owners were, the home's architectural style and more. The information is required by the City as part of the process of establishing the area as heritage.

in the thousands of pages of hand written, typed and computer input material, there were inaccuracies and transpositions. If you find something in the Compendium that you know to be in error, please contact the Cabbagetown HCD: info@cabbagetownhcd.ca.

Tours on Demand

In addition to the free tours we give in Spring and Summer, the CPA offers private tours of Cabbagetown. A tour of Cabbagetown's architecture and history or a Cabbagetown People tour, focusing on its social history, may be arranged. There will be a charge for these, \$10 per person to a maximum of \$100 for 15 people. For information email cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca.

The CPA thanks our sponsors for supporting the Newsletter.

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Toronto's First Zoo

A Brief History of the Riverdale Zoo

The Riverdale Farm is one of Cabbagetown's treasured sites, where local kids, such as myself, have spent hours looking at the animals and learning about farm life. The farm has been through a great deal, ranging from architectural additions to near closure by the city's previous mayor. What some don't know about the farm is that nearly 40 years ago, a zoo was located on that site.

It all began when Henry Scadding, a landowner on the Don River, sold a section of his property to the City of Toronto. The property was made into a new park and an industrial farm which was to be maintained by inmates from the Don Jail. The first animals came to the area in 1888 when Daniel Lamb, the zoo's founder, helped the city of Toronto acquire two wolves and a herd of deer for the public to see. The Riverdale Zoo opened in 1894 and the collection of animals grew rapidly. By 1902, the zoo had sixteen pheasants, a Bactrian camel, a Dromedary camel, a buffalo, two ocelots, a Siberian bear, six pens of monkeys, a crane, a hippopotamus and a couple of lions. Later that year, 'Princess Rita', the zoo's first elephant, arrived. Relying heavily on private donations, the zoo was later offered rattlesnakes, porcupines, Rocky Mountain badgers, a tiger, polar bears and sea lions.

The animals were kept in concrete enclosures very different from those in zoos today. The pens were far too small and restrictive for the animals and the zoo later ran into trouble with the Toronto Humane Society regarding its treatment of animals. For example, the Society protested about the elephants being 'shackled by one leg' in their tiny pens. A number of bizarre and sometimes dangerous

events occurred at the zoo while it was open. Once, a bull buffalo who was trying to protect its cow and calf charged a group of zoo employees, sending them climbing up trees in the enclosure. They ended up trapped for an hour and a half before the buffaloes could be calmed and distracted. The animals were also constantly teased and tormented by the public. On one occasion, an aggravated elk mortally wounded its mate due to a visit from a group of taunting boys.

There are many remarkable relics from the zoo that remain on the Riverdale Farm Property. One of the most memorable being the 'Donnybrook Ruin' which is the tower standing beside the cow paddock. It was said to have once been part of a sprawling two-storey building used for both animals and storage. Another remaining building would be the 'Island House' located down by the valley pond. It housed a number of different animals during the zoo's time, but it was most famously known as 'the monkey house'. The final relic is the Resident Zookeeper's House which stands beside the meetinghouse and the duck pond. It was originally built in 1902 by prisoners from the Don Jail and has been used as a staff building, a zoo hospital, a residence and even a temporary morgue for the Necropolis Chapel.

The Riverdale Zoo was formally closed near the opening of the Toronto Metro Zoo in 1974 and became a working farm which aimed to show city kids how a farm functions. Only ruins, photos, and stories leave hints and clues about what was once Toronto's first zoo

By Rosie Shephard

Ms. Shephard is a grade eleven student at Monarch Park Collegiate



Golden Morning

*The streets are paved with gold
This morning
Golden yellow leaves
Have lined the pathways
Are falling on a misty morning
Glowing this city
With their beauty
Shining – burnished – polished
By yesterday's rain
On roof tops
Floating in my little pond
Sailing to their destiny
On
This Golden morning*

Barbara Mercer
from Concerto for Cabbagetown



Photos, Steve Yeates

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PO Box 82808, RPO Cabbagetown, 467 Parliament Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3Y2

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