



# Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighborhood



CPA is now on:

## CPA AGM: Extraordinary Change

7 PM , Tuesday, May 19,  
Meeting House,  
Riverdale farm

Every Torontonian knows that this city is going through extraordinary change in its built and social environment. Although the Waterfront and the developing South Core are most prominent, the changes are widespread across Toronto and the GTA.

Cabbagetown is in the middle of much of this change. Although we are in a Conservation District, stabilized by preservation, the changes occurring beyond our borders provide new opportunities for residents.

At the CPA's Annual General Meeting in May, our speaker, Harold Madi MRAIC MCIP RPP, Director of Urban Design for the City of Toronto, will outline some of the changes happening in our backyard with his talk: *The Don River Basin: Restoration, Revitalization & Renaissance*.

Focussing on the areas around Cabbagetown, Harold will present an overview and update on past, recent and emerging plans, initiatives, improvements and developments along and near the Don River Basin - from the Bloor Street Viaduct to the Port Lands.



## CPA FAQ: What Exactly Does the CPA Do??

by Gilles Huot

### In a nutshell, what does the CPA do?

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) began informally in the late 1980s. At the beginning, it was involved in trying to "preserve" heritage architecture from renovations or demolition/construction that threatened the character of the neighbourhood. Some beautiful heritage homes had been lost and developers were lurking.

Many of you will remember a previous CPA Chair, the late Peggy Kurtin, showing up at the first sound of a hammer and asking owners tough questions about what they intended to do. Peggy,

and the CPA with her, was then affectionately known as the "Historical (some even said 'Hysterical') Police".

With battles won and lost, the mandate evolved over time. The CPA successfully worked at getting Cabbagetown designated by the City of Toronto as a heritage conservation district (HCD). This was achieved in the early 2000s, and most of Cabbagetown is now designated. HCD designation ensures that the significance and character of areas with cultural heritage value are protected. An important aspect of HCD designation is that owners who wish to alter their property or demolish a designated structure must obtain heritage permits.

With these activities under the purview of the City of Toronto the CPA could turn its attention to exploring and revealing the magic of Cabbagetown. Yes, what makes Cabbagetown special? Its social history? The people who lived here? Its architecture? Its evolution? Its location? Its bricks and trees? We'd say, all of the above and more.

Indeed, the CPA matured. It now has charitable status and is running several educational programs that aim at interpreting and better understanding Cabbagetown's heritage and the significant

*Please see CPA FAQ p2*

*C'town Not A Museum P2*



*CPA FAQ from page 1* achievements of Cabbagetown's past, present and future residents as well as the history of the area and its stock of buildings and landmarks. We believe that, as an added bonus, knowing and understanding what makes Cabbagetown special will encourage owners to follow the heritage conservation rules.

### Some of the CPA programs are:

- Cabbagetown People ([cabbagetownpeople.ca](http://cabbagetownpeople.ca))
- Cabbagetown Tour of Homes ([cabbagetowntourofhomes.ca](http://cabbagetowntourofhomes.ca))
- Cabbagetown Walking Tours ([cabbagetownpa.ca](http://cabbagetownpa.ca))
- Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces (back garden tour - [cabbagetownpa.ca](http://cabbagetownpa.ca))
- Streetscapes in Bloom (front garden competition - [cabbagetownpa.ca](http://cabbagetownpa.ca))
- Peggy Kurtin Award for Excellence in Restoration ([cabbagetownpa.ca](http://cabbagetownpa.ca))

The CPA also tries to reach out to and inform its community through various ways:

- CPA website
- CPA newsletter issued twice a year (spring and fall)
- CPA Facebook page
- CPA kiosks (e.g. corner of Sackville and Carlton and corner of Winchester and Sumach)
- at least 2 public meetings each year, including its AGM (see website and Facebook page for dates and details)
- booth at the Cabbagetown Festival (look for our tent at the southeast corner of Winchester and Sumach)

### My neighbour is doing renovations to his house and I think he is not respecting the rules that apply to HCDs. Should I contact the CPA?

Not really. Since the designation of most of Cabbagetown as an HCD, the City of Toronto Heritage Preservation Services are now responsible for these issues. An organization called the Cabbagetown HCD Committee ([info@cabbagetownHCD.ca](mailto:info@cabbagetownHCD.ca)) provides local support and assistance to Heritage Preservation Services and should be the first people you contact. If you wish to contact Heritage Preservation Services directly, email them at [heritagepreservation@toronto.ca](mailto:heritagepreservation@toronto.ca).

### I'm confused by all those organizations and acronyms: the CPA, the CRPCM, the CRA, the SCRA, the AARG, the BIA, the CCAC, the CYC, the TKB&GC, the Riverdale Farm, the Cabbagetown Festival, the Cabbagetown Arts and Crafts, Cabbagetown ReLEAF and more. Please help!

Cabbagetown is a vibrant community and it is demonstrated by the number of community organizations working hard to make life in this great community even better. Many of these organizations are not-for-profit and run by volunteers.

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association (**CPA** [cabbagetownpa.ca](http://cabbagetownpa.ca) and on Facebook) runs programs that aim at interpreting and better understanding Cabbagetown's built and human heritage. The Cabbagetown Regent Park Community Museum (**CRPCM** [crpmmuseum.com](http://crpmmuseum.com)) actively collects, preserves and displays the history of Cabbagetown and Regent Park. **Cabbagetown ReLEAF** (<http://cabbagetownreleaf.typepad.com>) does all sorts of things related to Cabbagetown's canopy (our trees!), our green heritage.

The Cabbagetown Residents Association (**CRA** [cabbagetowner.com](http://cabbagetowner.com) and on Facebook), the South Cabbagetown Residents Association (**SCRA** [cabbagetownsouth.ca](http://cabbagetownsouth.ca)) and the Aberdeen Avenue Residents' Group (**AARG**, find it on Facebook) are local associations of RESIDENTS and usually deal with local quality of life issues (policing/crime, schools, parks, etc.).

The Cabbagetown Community Arts Centre (**CCAC** [cabbagetownarts.com](http://cabbagetownarts.com)), the Cabbagetown Youth Centre (**CYC** [cabbagetownyouth.ca](http://cabbagetownyouth.ca)) and the Toronto Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club (**TKBGC** [believeinkids.ca](http://believeinkids.ca)) are resources for local kids and youth (arts, music, after school drop-in, sports, homework club, mentorship, etc.).

The Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area (**CBIA** [oldcabbagetown.com](http://oldcabbagetown.com)) is a cooperative of Cabbagetown merchants and service providers. The CBIA organizes the annual Cabbagetown Festival ([cabbagetownfestival.org](http://cabbagetownfestival.org)). The Cabbagetown Arts and

Crafts Sale ([cabbagetownartsandcrafts.org](http://cabbagetownartsandcrafts.org)) occurs in Riverdale Park West during the Cabbagetown Festival but is organized by a group separate from the CBIA.

### The CPA cancelled the 2014 Cabbagetown Tour of Homes. Is there going to be a Tour in 2015?

A Cabbagetown tradition for over 35 years, the CPA took over the organization of the Cabbagetown Tour of Homes six years ago. We feel that it fits well with the CPA mandate: it fosters appreciation of the area and is an opportunity for us to explain how this inner-city neighbourhood evolved to become what it is today. And people get to see fabulous homes!

But the Tour is a complex event to organize: finding suitable homes for the Tour (our main challenge), arranging paperwork (insurance, etc.), researching the homes, working with owners, publicity, program writing and printing, publicizing the event, setting assignments to over 70 volunteers on the day of the Tour, etc.). All this is done by a handful of volunteers. Over the years, it has become increasingly more challenging to organize. In 2014, we couldn't find enough homes and the decision was made to cancel the Tour. A decision was also made to make this a biennial event. Planning has started for the 2015 Tour and so far we think we will have a great Tour in September 2015.

### Where does the money raised during the Cabbagetown Tour of Homes go?

This is a question we are often asked, especially by residents who have been in Cabbagetown for a long time and remember the early years of the Tour.

The Tour was originally organized by realtors to showcase Cabbagetown's Victorian architecture and show the potential of this once run-down neighbourhood. In its early iterations, the Tour contributed to Cabbagetown's rejuvenation, from rags to riches. Proceeds from the early Tours became donations to various Toronto causes (e.g. burn treatment unit in a hospital, etc.).

The Tour was eventually passed on to a handful of local individuals and proceeds from the tour usually benefitted Cabbagetown community organizations, some of them mentioned above.

But 6 years ago, the Tour organizers decided it was time to pass on the torch and the CPA stepped in as the organizer of the Tour.

The timing was fortuitous as the CPA was just awarded its charitable status in recognition for its educational mandate. Organizing the Tour and reaping its benefits helped to strongly establish the CPA in its community and manage the programs mentioned above.

To help in the organization of this complex event, the CPA is working on a formula that would allow other Cabbagetown organizations to "help out" with the Tour and also reap some benefits from it. We will likely be piloting something for this year's Tour.

### Where does the money go?

As a volunteer-based not-for-profit organization with charitable status, the CPA has basic expenses that are unavoidable: bank charges, board of directors liability insurance, meeting room rentals, meeting expenses, membership in heritage and tourism organizations, volunteer appreciation events, etc.

Expenses will vary from year to year but major projects eat up a large part of the funding. For example, a couple of years ago we published the folder 'Welcome to Cabbagetown' and, in December 2014, we released our new book entitled *Adversity, Resilience, Prosperity*. Printing costs are high.

We are proud of the expertise available to the CPA: the writers and editors of these publications spent hundreds of volunteer hours putting these documents together. We only hired a research assistant for our Adversity book as he poured over 70 years of census and archival information. The writing, editing, photography and design, were all done on a volunteer basis.

The recently relaunched Cabbagetown People website ([cabbagetownpeople.ca](http://cabbagetownpeople.ca)) was transferred See *CPA FAQ page 6*

## C'town is Not A Museum

Sometimes the lives lived in a Heritage district conflict with the desire to preserve and maintain the architectural objects of our affection - in effect, to keep it as a museum. In April, a written and later, broadcast, exchange between an anonymous resident (writing) and CityNews television anchor and Cabbagetown resident Roger Petersen (broadcasting) revealed the tension that can happen between neighbours when we don't keep our OCD to our own yard.

Among other comments was a suggestion to Peterson that "It would be appreciated if your home could look a little more like it did in the 1800's [sic]. The basketball net might be better in the rear alley, the Christmas lights perhaps to Goodwill."

Aside from the helpful pointers in garden organization, Star columnist Edward Keenan picked up on the request that it look more like it did in the 19th century and came back with dose of reality. In his column he noted:

"...we cannot help but note that in apparent obliviousness to the 19th-century character of your own home, you and your family seem to enjoy the benefit of toilets inside the building that flush directly into the city sewage system. It also appears you have electric light and central heat. You could at least try to run your home a little more like it did in the 1800s!

"Wood-burning fireplaces, coal stoves, and gas lamps not only give off pleasing heat and an appropriately foreboding quality of light, but they provide a layer of legitimate heritage soot, and frequently ignite historically authentic blazing house fires — a festive treat for those on walking tours, who can be drafted into bucket brigades for a taste of early Cabbagetown firefighting. It will take everyone back to 1888, when the P.R. Lamb Glue and Blacking Manufactory on Amelia Street burnt to the ground, leaving the many life-long employees who lived in Lamb-owned houses in the neighbourhood unemployed and homeless! Ah, memories.

"Rather than the admittedly charming sculpted flower, lawn, and shrubbery gardens so common on properties like yours today, we might give our tourists a more legitimate taste of Victorian-era Cabbagetown if citizens like you made an effort to supply your property with barefoot, soot-covered children suffering from cholera while subsistence farming your front yard.

"Perhaps on breaks, the children might play a round of "sticks and rocks" in the middle of the road — not as fun or safe as basketball, of course, but noted as a popular pastime among youth in the historic community in George Rust-D'Eye's Cabbagetown Remembered. ("In those days," the author reminds us, "everyone who lived in Cabbagetown was poor." He also notes that hitching a ride on passing delivery wagons and playing hockey with horse turds were fads of the day — an idea to bear in mind come festival season!")"

So as we are making efforts to restore this neighbourhood, we know that we are preserving a rare and valuable assemblage of architecture and streetscape and a reminder of our history that happens to exist where people live modern lives. We aren't living in a museum.





## Cabbagetown's Past Life

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 this issue, the first part of Patricia Crofts-LaGree's story.

### Patricia Crofts-LaGree Recalls...

**Part One:** I guess I should clarify a few things. My family goes a way back to around 1914-1915 when my Grandfather & Grandmother Crofts lived at 17 Blevins Place, which was just south of Dundas Street and off Sumach Street, and then moved to Taylor Street, which was north of Dundas Street and off Sumach. It ran east from Sumach Street to River Street. They had eight children, a few born in England and the remainder here. The younger children went to Park School.

After being here for a while my Grandfather, at the age of 35, joined the forces to go back to England to fight in World War 1. Unfortunately, he came in contact with the mustard gas that they used then and it shortened his life. He died while my Grandmother was in her eighth pregnancy.

My father and mother were married in early 1927 and they lived on Taylor Street for a while near his parents home and then moved to the corner of Oak Street and River Street. I remember the house. It was a big place with three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, a kitchen, a dining area and livingroom downstairs. We didn't have much furniture. The kitchen had a table, chairs and a stove. The livingroom had no furniture at all, so we shut the door to it and never went in there. The dining area was very sparse, so we ate in the kitchen.

I remember the area being very quiet with lots of row houses and children to play with. There was a little girl that lived across the street from us and her name was Aida. My brother used to call her Aida, Potada, and she would laugh. There was a vacant lot next to our house and you could walk through to Taylor Street. Just up River Street was Riverdale Park with hills for tobogganing and sledding and an ice rink for skating.

Then we moved to 210 Sackville Street around 1935-36 and remained there until 1950. When I think back on the houses in Cabbagetown, there were some great old houses. Our house was in a row of 8 houses and had 3 bedrooms and a bathroom with a tank that was up above the toilet. Kitchen, diningroom, livingroom and a hallway from the front door to the kitchen with doors into the living and dining. We shared the house at first with my Aunt Gladys & Uncle Art. They lived upstairs in a couple of the rooms and my parents slept downstairs in the livingroom and my crib was in there also. My two brothers had a room upstairs. My Aunt & Uncle didn't stay long, so then we all moved upstairs to sleep.

Across the street were 6 row houses, three stories. When I think how houses are now gutted and remodeled, the houses we lived in would have been great townhouses.

In the summer time, my sister and I would walk to the Don Valley near the Don River with some of our other friends, and sometimes we would take potatoes, build a fire and put a stick through the potatoes to roast them. They never cooked right through, but they sure tasted good. We were always hungry. One day we were down by the Don River and hunting around near the banks when we came upon a bunch of old coins that I gathered up and took home. I told my father about what I had found and he told my Uncle Joe. My uncle Joe went back down there thinking that there might be a lot more, but he didn't find any. I still have those coins, a 1890 20 Cent piece with Queen Victoria, a 1911 Large One Cent, with King George V, an 1886 Large Penny, with Queen Victoria, and others too numerous to mention.

Across the street from us on Sackville Street was a family named Graham and Mr. Graham would have an auction sale every Saturday. Mr. Graham couldn't read or write and when he took his truck to pick up old furniture to auction off, one of his daughters would print the name of the street on a piece of paper (he knew Toronto very well) and he would drive to that area and match the name on the piece of paper to the street name. When he brought the furniture home, he would refinish it and auction it off. Loads of people came to the auctions.

The Bluebell Theatre was our entertainment. We always felt safe walking home from the show. On the northeast corner of Parliament and Dundas was the #4 Police Station and next to that was the #7 Fire Station. On the southwest corner was the neighborhood's famous retail store called "Michaelson's" where we bought our lyle stockings before the war and other apparel. Next to that and south on Parliament, I think, was the Salvation Army. Next to the Bluebell on the southeast corner was a Service Station. Just next to the Bluebell going south on Parliament was a Fish & Chip Store. We used to get 5 cents worth of Chips in a cone shaped cup with a wooden stick with lots of malt vinegar and salt. They were so good!

Playing Hooky: My girlfriend, Mary, and I knew the boys that took care of the theatre, Frank & John Locicero, (I'm not sure of the spelling but they lived in Cabbagetown) One day in Grade Seven at Park School (Mr. Collins) gave me the strap in front of the class. I can't remember what I did. I was really upset, so we decided to play hooky and we spent the afternoon at the Bluebell Theatre. There were a few other people there besides Frank & John. So, everyone had to get on the stage and do something. Frank sang and we all laughed and clapped, John told jokes and my friend Mary and I tried to sing a few songs. I must admit that we had a good time laughing, but the next day when we went to school, we were called down to the Principal's Office. He (Mr. McKay) ranted and raved about our playing hooky and asked what we did. We said we went to the show. Instead of getting the strap again, he put us both back a grade and left us there for a week. I was mortified because I didn't want my parents to know and was truly embarrassed sitting in Grade 6. I never played hooky again. My parents never did find out and it is still fresh in my memory.

Incidentally, the strap was a long black, thick, leather strap, and you would get 4 or 5 hard slaps on the hands and your name put in the big black book that came with it. When he was going to punish you with the strap, you had to go down to the principal's office and get the book and strap yourself. I wonder if that book is in Park School Archives?



City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, s0372\_ss0041\_it0809

See our new site: [cabbagetownpeople.ca](http://cabbagetownpeople.ca)

# Cabbagetown People

The Social History of a Canadian Inner City Neighbourhood

## Hugh Garner

Author and Witness to Depression-Era Cabbagetown  
1913 - 1979

Plaque located at: 550 Ontario Street, Toronto, ON, Canada



In 1919, when he was six years old, Hugh Garner's parents emigrated to Canada from Yorkshire, England. He grew up in Cabbagetown and began working at the Toronto Star as a copy boy. Eventually, he realized that in order to succeed as a writer, he had to work at the task full time, so he quit his day job.

During the Depression he "rode the rails" across Canada and the United States, working at a number of different jobs. He also fought in the Spanish Civil War. When World War II broke out, he joined the Navy and served on Atlantic convoy duty until 1945.



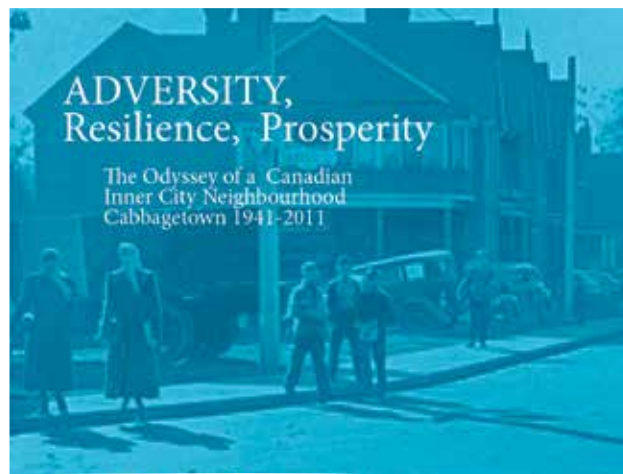
As a Canadian writer Hugh Garner's poor, urban, Protestant background is evident in his work. His focus was on working-class Ontario. The best known of his realistic novels is Cabbagetown (1950). His extensive literary output includes 100 short stories, 17 books, numerous articles, radio and T.V. scripts, and his autobiography,

One Damn Thing After Another. In 1963, Hugh Garner was awarded the Governor General's Literary Award for Hugh Garner's Best Stories, A Collection of His Short Stories.

Hugh Garner is known for his hard-living life style, which he lived to the end.

### News

The book produced by CPA's Cabbagetown People, *Adversity, Resilience, Prosperity*, outlining Cabbagetown's social growth through the last 60 years, is on sale now at Spruce, Kendall & Co. and London Calling.

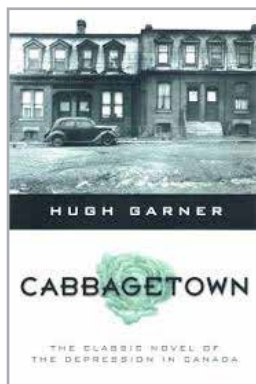


## Garner's Depression-era C'town

By Rosie Shephard

The Cabbagetown area, famed for its Victorian architecture, was the setting for a book called "Cabbagetown" written by Hugh Garner, an acclaimed writer from the early 1900's. His description and account of both the neighborhood and its inhabitants during the great depression gives a realistic picture of what life in Toronto was like during the 1930's.

The general appearance of Cabbagetown has changed slightly over the years. As stated by Garner, "A few houses on every street were as verminous and tumbledown as any in the city, but next door or across the street was the same type of house, clean and in good repair..." And, as is still apparent today, "This was a neighborhood almost without tenements, and the streets were lined with single-family houses, many of whose upper stories accommodated a second family". Although many of these historic houses remain standing today, most have been restored or at least repaired and have become generally single-family homes. Also, at that time, the Riverdale Farm was known as the Riverdale Zoo and housed many exotic animals such as monkeys and bears.



The people of Cabbagetown "believed in God, the Royal Family, the Conservative Party and private enterprise". Many were suspicious of foreign peoples and religion, higher education, and some social reforms. Most children left school around age 16 because they could not afford to continue education and needed to earn money for their family. They took up jobs in factories and shops and worked towards marrying and starting a family. Garner described the adults as "generally unskilled working people, among whom were scattered, like raisins in a ten-cent cake, representatives of the State" such as civic employees, policemen, and public transit conductors. Many "Cabbagetowners" came from England, Ireland, and Scotland or European countries seeking the promise of a better life.

Numerous gangs and groups existed within the diverse neighborhood.

Garner mentions a group of young men called "the River Rats" who disturbed and upset a street party in his book. Also, young men and women often took part in religious, ethnic, or political groups such as Catholic, Italian, or anti-Communist organizations.

When the stock market crash occurred in 1929, Garner observed that "Of all the city's neighborhoods Cabbagetown probably took the news most quietly" and that "such things [as the stock market crash] being as far away and as alien to Cabbagetown as an airplane crash in Peru".

It was not until later that the effects of the oncoming depression really hit Cabbagetowners through decreased paychecks and inflation. Many referred to the depression as "a leveler of the population".

As the effects of the great depression escalated, the number of people signing up for relief services increased. Garner describes typical weekly food rations in detail; many received a "weekly ration of bread and milk tickets, and an order for coke" as well as "packages of beans, rolled oats, potatoes" and other food items. Although no relief camps existed in Toronto, many unemployed young people found themselves in camps across the country. Some Cabbagetowners worked in the camps far away from Toronto, but sent their earnings back to their desperate families. To deal with the depression, Garner stated that "the poor took care of the poor, and of themselves. They ran block parties and rent parties and they formed vigilante committees to prevent the bailiffs from evicting their neighbors".

Like many other Toronto neighborhoods, Cabbagetown had its own way of dealing with poverty and the great depression. The area's rich history has helped to make Cabbagetown the respected and distinctive neighborhood that it is today. As a side note, a co-operative housing building in Cabbagetown was named after Hugh Garner in commemoration of his contributions to the community.

Like many other Toronto neighborhoods, Cabbagetown had its own way of dealing with poverty and the great depression. The area's rich history has helped to make Cabbagetown the respected and distinctive neighborhood that it is today. As a side note, a co-operative housing building in Cabbagetown was named after Hugh Garner in commemoration of his contributions to the community.

Rosie Shephard is a grade 10 student at Monarch Park Collegiate

## Gardens

### Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces

Cabbagetown's Annual Garden Tour.

Sunday June 7, 2015, 10:00am – 3:00pm

The event of early summer! This self-guided tour brings visitors along the charming tree-lined streets of Cabbagetown's Heritage Conservation District and through quiet back lanes to hidden alcoves of greenery.

Visit unique urban gardens to explore the creative use of small spaces. Some gardens can only be entered from pleasant back lanes, which, at the turn of the last century, were used by horse-drawn carts to deliver ice, coal, bread or milk. Many lanes demonstrate "guerilla gardening" and have intriguing names: Yen, Magic, Gordon Sinclair, Chipping Sparrow.

Gardeners will be on site to answer questions about their challenges: towering shade trees, visits from urban wildlife (raccoons, skunks, squirrels, opossums) and their choices of plants and other materials. This year, Toronto Master Gardeners will be present in some gardens.

The ticket contains a map that locates the gardens on this year's tour. Park and walk. Start and finish anywhere along the route as there is no "official" circuit. Balloon bouquets and volunteers will help guide you. In addition, enjoy special offers to ticket holders from local shops and eateries.

Tickets cost \$15.00 and are sold at various outlets in Cabbagetown and several garden centres in the city. For their locations and more information or to buy a ticket online with PayPal, go to [www.cabbagetownpa.ca](http://www.cabbagetownpa.ca)

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association, a not-for-profit association of volunteers, works diligently to support Cabbagetown's architectural integrity and historic awareness. This event supports these efforts. The CPA is a registered charity #85053 6160 (RR0001)

## Streetscapes in Bloom (SSB) 2015

The beautiful and diverse front gardens of Cabbagetown contribute to the charm of our neighbourhood. 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! And, a trend toward guerilla gardening in back laneways has recently sprung up.

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

To nominate a garden you believe deserves this award, please send the following information to [cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca](mailto:cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca) Deadline is May 29, 2015:

- address of the garden
- name and contact information of the nominator
- name of home owner (if possible)

To view past winners of the SSB award please visit [www.cabbagetownpa.ca](http://www.cabbagetownpa.ca) and follow the link from the home page AWARDS header.



# ReLeaf: Tree Protection and Diversifying Species with Native Trees

## Duty to Protect Trees During Construction

Arthur Beauregard  
Manager, Urban Forestry Tree Protection and Plan Review  
City of Toronto

The City of Toronto has Tree By-laws to protect City-owned trees, trees measuring 30 cm or greater (at 1.4 above ground level) on private property and trees of all sizes located within areas designated as Ravine and Natural Feature areas. Permits are required to injure or destroy protected trees. In order to obtain a permit an application must be submitted to Urban Forestry.

### What is a tree injury?

Injury is considered any activity within the minimum protection zone of a tree, as outlined in the City of Toronto Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees. Tree protection zones are based on the diameter of the tree, so not every tree will require the same sized protection zone. Typically associated with construction or landscaping, including building an addition or installation or replacement of a walkway or driveway, injury can include excavation (root cutting), re-grading, soil compaction (movement or storage of equipment and vehicles), damage to trunks and branches and disposal of chemicals or other substances harmful to trees (i.e. concrete sluice). Tree roots are typically located within the first 2 feet of soil, so even small amounts of compaction, or excavation can significantly injure a tree.

### When should I submit an application?

Due to the high volume of applications submitted to Urban Forestry and the time it takes to review an application, property owners are encouraged to submit their applications to injure trees as soon as possible when planning a project in order to avoid delays. It typically takes at least 6-8 weeks from date of submission before staff will begin their review. In many cases clearance is required from Urban Forestry before a building permit can be released.

### How should I begin?

Prior to starting any work that may injure a protected tree, you are required to submit a completed Application to Injure or Destroy Trees form along with the application fee and supporting documentation.

If you are planning any work around a tree that may cause an injury you should consult with a qualified private arborist. An arborist is a great resource when planning a project around trees to ensure your tree is protected and continues to provide benefits to your property for years to come. The arborist will assess the tree and confirm species, diameter and condition. This basic information must be documented in an arborist report. The arborist should also have access to plans describing the proposed construction or landscaping and prepare a Tree Protection Plan. The Tree Protection Plan outlines the methodology to be used during the construction to mitigate or minimize injury to the tree. Examples of tree protection can include, installation of tree protection fencing (hoarding), hydro-vac excavation or proper root pruning. Locations of existing trees, tree protection fencing and tree protection notes should be included on a version of the site plan. All submitted plans must be at a useable scale. A detailed and accurate arborist report and tree preservation plan is important in ensuring your application is reviewed as efficiently as possible.

### What happens once my application has been submitted?

Once the arborist report and tree protection plan have been prepared they should be submitted along with the application form, fee and site plan with tree protection details. The application will be assigned to an Assistant Planner who will



Native



Non-Native

## Think Big:

### What Can Cabbagetown become?

Eric Davies PhD Candidate, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto Advisor, Cabbagetown ReLEAF Tree Stewardship:

### Big Questions

1. What is the ecological context of Cabbagetown in the GTA region?
2. What is the ecological character of Cabbagetown?
3. What native biodiversity - trees, shrubs, wildflowers - still exist in Cabbagetown?
4. What is missing?
5. Where are the closest locations of missing species in the GTA?
6. How can Cabbagetown integrate into these larger scales: ecological character and function of Cabbagetown, and the GTA; trading tree seeds with other neighbourhoods?
7. Where can we start building native tree nurseries?

### What can Cabbagetown become?

- a refuge for native biodiversity?
- production of valuable ecosystem services?
- the largest collection of native trees in a neighbourhood?
- the first confirmed breeding of a missing warbler? a native food forest?
- the finest hickory ice cream in the city?

### Whatever you want...

This generation has the luxury to help define the future character of Cabbagetown.

### Growing a Healthy Environment with Native Trees

Less than half of all tree species now growing in urban areas around the world are native to the local environment. While imported tree species (non-native) are chosen for aesthetic reasons, it has a huge impact on wildlife.

**"Through Mitacs-Accelerate I joined Ontario-based arborist firm Treefeed.ca to determine exactly how native versus non-native trees can benefit local ecosystems and wildlife. During the project, I analyzed the number of insects and birds living in native trees and found there to be 25 times more wildlife activity than in non-natives."**

The most important thing that trees provide is a habitat for insects and birds which promotes a healthier environment and ecosystem. These insects are extremely important to the health of the overall ecosystem. They act as pollinators and biological control agents, helping to manage pests while providing a food source for birds and other wildlife.  
*1 Excerpt forestry.utoronto.ca*

**To get involved and volunteer** for our new program, launching Fall 2015, "The Seed Exchange & Native Tree Nursery" contact [david@cabbagetownreleaf.org](mailto:david@cabbagetownreleaf.org). Please visit us online <http://cabbagetownreleaf.org>

the tree to decline, die or become unstable.

review the submitted documents and inspect the site. TPPR will only issue injury permits when (based on the technical merits of the application) the proposed injury will be minor and the tree will survive the injury well. When the injury is considered significant TPPR will recommend that changes be made to the proposal to minimize injury to an acceptable level or suggest additional tree protection. Significant injuries are likely to cause

### What if I undertake work around a tree without a permit?

Tree injury without a permit, or work that is not consistent with the conditions of an injury permit would be considered a contravention of the by-law and may result in issuance of a stop work order or order to comply or charges being laid. Individuals found guilty of an offence are liable for fines to a maximum of \$100,000 per tree. If you suspect a tree is being injured please call 311.

## Come Tour With Us!



TGH, City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, Item 3056

This summer, the CPA will be offering 2 walking tours in partnership with Heritage Toronto. These tours are very informative, fun and are offered by CPA-trained volunteer tour guides. They are free of charge. At the end of the tours, Heritage Toronto will be asking participants to fill in a quick evaluation and will be collecting voluntary donations.

### Cabbagetown Medical Heritage Tour

Saturday, July 18, 2015 – 1:30 pm

Many have requested a repeat of our Cabbagetown Medical Heritage tour that was offered a few years ago. We are happy to offer it again (modified slightly). This tour features Cabbagetown's past as a hub for health services in early Toronto.

For the second half of the 19th century, the Toronto General Hospital proudly stood on Gerrard Street, between Sumach and Sackville streets. With it came a nursing school and 3 medical schools including one dedicated to teaching medicine to women. This medical school was the seed from which the Women's College Hospital grew. Many doctors and other health practitioners of the era also elected to live in Cabbagetown to be close to the hospital. We will walk around the neighbourhood, pointing out where these institutions once stood (some buildings still exist), explain their evolution, etc. as well as tell the story of some remarkable health professionals. We will end the tour in the Necropolis by visiting the grave of some pioneers who had an impact on the early days of Toronto's health services.

The Cabbagetown Medical Heritage Tour starts at the north-east corner of Parliament and Spruce streets (by the No Frills) and will end at the gates of the Necropolis.

### St. James Cemetery Tour

Sunday, August 16, 2015 – 1:30 pm

The St. James Cemetery is Toronto's oldest still operating cemetery (opened in 1844). It replaced the burying ground around the St. James Anglican Cathedral on King Street. It quickly became the final resting place of the early Toronto elite such as the Robinsons, the Jarvises, the Gooderhams, and the Austins. Famous Canadians such as John Robarts, former Premier of Ontario and Peter Gzowski, CBC radio host, are also buried there. One hundred years ago, Canadians were fighting with allies during the First World War; we will also be visiting some military graves.

This cemetery is a great example of the "picturesque cemeteries" which, throughout the 19th century, replaced the 'warehousing' of graves that previously occurred around churches.

The St. James-the-Less chapel is a wonderful example of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture. It was designed by Frederick Cumberland who is also buried in the cemetery.

The tour will start and end inside the main gate of the St. James Cemetery, on Parliament Street just north of Wellesley Street East.

### CPA FAQ from page 2

from an obsolete platform to a more modern and useful one. It was also totally revamped and edited. We paid for the IT work but all the writing and editing as well as some text transfer were done by volunteers. We can now easily update the site, which was not possible previously.

Over the last few years, we also added a few plaques as part of our Cabbagetown People program. A few years ago, we replaced the obsolete Cabbagetown People Directory Board in the northwest corner of Riverdale Park. We do pay for the making of the board and plaques. The previous directory board was donated to the Winchester Street School and is now on display on the east side of its heritage building.

One of the main information tools at the CPA's disposal is its newsletter, currently published twice a year. The writers and graphic designer for the newsletter are volunteers. But we have printing costs. The distribution of the newsletter is usually done by volunteers but some years we've had to enhance this process by hiring a distribution company.

In the coming year, some significant expenses in the works are: the preparation of three Cabbagetown People plaques in 2015 as well as the reprinting of its paper brochure used for self-guided walking tours (the text is being enhanced and edited by volunteers but printing costs are unavoidable).

### Volunteers at Work

The CPA also has other volunteers at work. Over and above the 100+ volunteers needed for both the Tour of Homes, the tour of back gardens, or the distribution of the newsletter, we have a group of volunteers who every year enthusiastically take school groups and groups of adults on walking tours of our neighbourhood. These adult group tours are organized in partnership with Heritage Toronto while the school group tours are organized by the volunteers of the Cabbagetown People program.

We also appreciate that volunteers also help the CPA board staff the CPA booth at the Cabbagetown Festival.

### Now It's Your Turn

If you have any questions or comments, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at [cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca](mailto:cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca)



[Cabbagetownhcd.ca](http://Cabbagetownhcd.ca)

## Renovating? Here's your local guide:

Home owners in a Heritage Conservation District (HCD), such as Cabbagetown, have to be aware of rules that affect renovations visible to the street scape. For those who aren't familiar with Cabbagetown's HCD Committee and need a guide, here's an introduction from the committee's website ([cabbagetownhcd.ca](http://cabbagetownhcd.ca)).

The Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation Districts Advisory Committee (districts because there are actually four defined areas) was formed in 2000 to provide local support and assistance to Heritage Preservation Services of the City of Toronto in preserving Cabbagetown's heritage resources and to promote the establishment of Heritage Conservation Districts for Cabbagetown. The Committee is responsible for four Heritage Conservation Districts, which include 1,721 properties.

The founding chairperson of the Committee was Peggy Kurtin, who, with a team of volunteers, actively researched and documented Cabbagetown's historically and architecturally significant homes, buildings and landscapes from 1995 until her passing in 2009. The Committee initially consisted of six people but now has 10 members, all of whom are Cabbagetown residents and serve in a voluntary capacity. In addition, the Committee has recruited four prominent Toronto architects to

provide expert guidance to the Committee and to be a resource for the community.

The primary purpose of the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation Districts Advisory Committee is to advise and assist Cabbagetown residents on the heritage guidelines and procedures for renovations and changes to the exteriors of their properties. The Committee also encourages interest in, and appreciation for, conservation of residential and institutional heritage buildings and streetscapes of the four Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation Districts, and promotes respect of, and compliance with, the Heritage Conservation Districts' guidelines and procedures among Cabbagetown residents.

The Committee meets approximately once a month to review proposals from Cabbagetown residents who are planning to do renovations and/or make changes to their property, and to discuss recent developments and issues in the community that affect the conservation and preservation of Cabbagetown's heritage resources and character.

If you are launching into an exterior renovation that may require a City of Toronto heritage permit, you can contact the Cabbagetown HCD Committee at [info@cabbagetownHCD.ca](mailto:info@cabbagetownHCD.ca)

## Lilacs

Spring perfumes

In Cabbagetown

As I walk along – Carlton Street

Heavenly – healing scents

Fill the cosmos of blossoms

Heavily hanging low

In deep violet mystery

I wander from thoughts

Of long ago

Arms laden with lilacs

Plucked from sand dunes road

Now another world

I am a bee

Flying to each new blossom tree

Burying my body

Into each blossom's

Intoxications

Transported – levitating – floating

Lover's cloud of passion

*Barbara Mercer  
from Echos from Cabbagetown*

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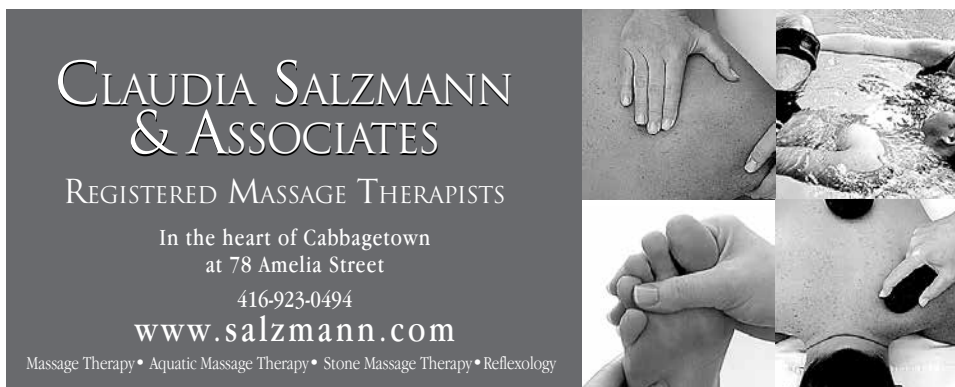
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## Dear Neighbour,

We are your Cabbagetown Residents Association (CRA), and we are writing this to tell you about our work in the neighbourhood and to encourage you to join or renew your membership with the CRA.

### Who Are We?

We are YOUR Residents Association – a volunteer organization that was established in 1967 for residents north of Gerrard St. and east of Parliament St. The organization consists of 10 volunteer board members and numerous volunteers involved in various CRA activities and events in the community.

### What Does the CRA Do?

The CRA is committed to improving the general quality of life in Cabbagetown. We build community by:

- hosting great events like the Forsythia Festival and the Pumpkin Walk,
- promoting safety & security, a healthy tree canopy, good schools,
- disseminating information, news and activities about Cabbagetown
- communicating community concerns and advocating for you with City Council, Toronto Police and District School Boards.

### What Have We Done for Cabbagetown Lately?

We have had a very active and successful 18 months. We have:

- conducted an insightful neighbourhood-wide survey
- launched a new monthly email newsletter,
- assumed responsibility for the annual Forsythia Festival,
- launched Cabbagetown's own Pumpkin Walk event,
- partnered with the City of Toronto to design a new splash pad in Wellesley Park,
- rolled out a brand new mobile friendly website, and;
- implemented laneway clean-ups.

### What Does the CRA Need From You?

We would like you to join or renew your membership with us. It's \$20 per household per calendar year, regardless of how many adult members there are in your household. The money goes towards supporting the activities of the CRA. We are accountable to YOU every year.

We would like you to register all adults in your household as members. We do this because we would like to:

- understand everyone's individual needs and potential contributions,
- communicate to everyone directly,
- ensure we're working on the most pressing issues for the majority,
- have maximum clout when working with community partners.

If you are unsure whether your membership is current, or to confirm you have already paid, please email us at [info@cabbagetowner.com](mailto:info@cabbagetowner.com). If you'd like to join, please visit our website and follow the "Join" link.

On behalf of the Board,  
Steven de Blois, President



## Issue on the Horizon:

Watch for citizen action on Canada Post's new super mailboxes scheduled to appear in the next few years. Aside from the loss of delivery, placing these structures on limited real estate in front of heritage buildings in a Conservation District will be problematic. Keep your eye on the media...

## 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.

Most of this material had been stored as paper documents and has been digitized so that all of the material can be presented online. Half of the \$3000 cost of organizing the information into a searchable data base has been covered by the CPA; the other major donor is local realtor Norman Hathaway ([www.schickhathawayhomes.com](http://www.schickhathawayhomes.com)), also one of this paper's sponsors and a donor is being sought to complete the sum.

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](mailto: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](mailto:cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca).

Newsletter designed by:



**Steve Yeates**  
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[www.steveyeates.ca](http://www.steveyeates.ca)

## Time on Your Hands?

CPA is always looking for volunteers. Some of our committees and events:

**Walking Tours: Heritage, People and Ghost  
Cabbagetown People,  
Cabbagetown Festival Booth,  
Tour of Homes,  
Newsletter Delivery,  
Garden tours.**

Duties may be for one event or ongoing. If you are interested, please contact: [cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca](mailto:cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca)



# CPA Membership/Volunteer Application

Please mail to the Cabbagetown Preservation Association,  
PO Box 82808, RPO Cabbagetown, 467 Parliament Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3Y2

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

***There are many volunteer opportunities in the CPA. If you are interested check this line and we will contact you.*** \_\_\_\_\_

CPA charitable number 85053 6160 (RR0001)

- 1 year \$ 10
- Would you like to make a tax-deductible donation? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_