



Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood



CPA is now on:



Playing ball in Riverdale Park (the flats) in 1914, looking south east. Notice the Sheet Metal Products factory on Gerrard Street between River Street and the valley of the Don. It has since been replaced by apartment buildings.
Image: Toronto Archives

Imagining Our Main Street

On Tuesday October 25, 2016, the Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) launched its new series called Cabbagetown Talks. The first in the series was a moderated panel discussion entitled *Imagining our Main Street*.

As Cabbagetowners, we are proud of the walkability of our neighbourhood, the heritage homes, the extensive green spaces, our gardens, the tree canopy, and our 19th century farm. But does our main street — Parliament Street — get the same respect? What would it take to encourage us to stay closer to home more often, to meet serendipitously with neighbours, and to extend our relationships with local shop owners? We do much that's right, but we could do better.

Over the years, various attempts (mostly "one-offs") to improve Parliament Street have been tried: street lamps, seasonal decorations, hanging baskets, parkettes at Parliament and Amelia and at Parliament and Spruce, etc. but we have not had a coherent plan for moving forward. Most agree that Parliament Street is in need of major improvements. Other areas of the City had or have similar challenges and some have taken them up with very positive results. The Roncesvalles area in the 2000s comes to mind.

Cabbagetown Talks is a new initiative designed to support the CPA goals of advocacy, education and community engagement. Our current plan is to produce three to four talks over the fall of 2016 and the spring of 2017. The first in the series was *Imagining Our Main Street*; a review of which appears in this issue.

The Cabbagetown Talks committee includes CPA board members Marion Korn, Rick Merrill and Gale Moore. We hope to present, going forward, a variety of interesting topics and, in line with our principle of collaborative advocacy, to partner from time to time with other local associations on topics of mutual interest. Please contact cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca if you wish to discuss ideas for future talks with us.

The topic obviously struck a chord in the community as over 60 people showed up to listen to, discuss and explore the ideas presented by a panel of urban specialists, moderated by CPA board member and planner/architect Rick Merrill.

First to speak was Michael Sraga who for over 30 years has been involved in a vast array of urban design and landscape architecture projects, both public and private, providing oversight from concept to realization. He was involved, for example, in the rejuvenation of Fredericton, New Brunswick's main street. Michael spoke about the elements of the public realm that make great main streets and illustrated this with examples. (see *Cabbagetown Talks* page 3)

Hot on the heels of Cabbagetown Talks:
Vanished Cabbagetown
CPA Night
7 PM Nov 29
Meeting House, Riverdale Farm
CPA Awards and a slide presentation by Gilles Huot

Most people see Cabbagetown as a beautifully preserved and untouched area and, for a large extent, it is true. However, over time, many landmarks, buildings or other aspects of the area disappeared, having become obsolete, having burned down, or having been redeveloped.

Winchester Street used to continue down the valley, over a bridge and connected with Riverdale. In the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th, the Don River valley was Toronto's industrial area and Cabbagetown didn't escape this fate. Do you have any idea what stood at the corner of Spruce and Parliament before the No Frills was built? Come hear these stories and more and view archival pictures whenever possible.

You may have seen Gilles Huot leading groups of visitors through our area. Gilles is the CPA board member in charge of walking tours. He extensively researched and wrote about the history of Cabbagetown and Toronto.

In addition to Gilles' talk there will be:

- Presentation of a watercolour to the winner of the 2016 Peggy Kurtin Award for Excellence in Restoration
- Presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award
- 2016 Streetscapes in Bloom Award (garden competition): retrospective of past winners and presentation of the 2016 Award

www.cabbagetownpa.ca

From the Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum

Reliable Shoe Repair

Reliable Shoe Repair was located on the North West corner of Gerrard and Parliament street. Dmytro (Jim) Horiszny the youngest of five children was born November 7, 1903 in the farming village of Trudovach in Western Ukraine. Jim immigrated to Canada in 1928. He worked as a farm hand in Saskatchewan until 1933. He also worked as a labourer on the Trans Canada Highway west of Thunder Bay. Jim moved to Toronto in 1934 where he was employed at a shoe repair shop. Jim was trained in Western Ukraine in the craft of making and repairing shoes. Jim always made his own shoes.



Dmytro (Jim) Horiszny

Jim and his wife Mary rented a shoe repair store at 285 Gerrard Street East at Parliament Street from 1936 until 1941. They bought a building across the street at 294 Gerrard Street East. Reliable Shoe Repair operated there until 1966 when Jim and Mary retired.

Written by Kathleen Horiszny, the Shoe Maker's daughter.



Cabbagetown ReLEAF

ReLEAF's Citizen Forester Program Growing Trees from Seed

Toronto's trees aren't just beautiful – they clean the air, cool the city, provide a habitat for urban wildlife and even intercept rainfall to reduce strain on the city's sewer system. But a healthy urban canopy doesn't happen on its own – someone needs to plant new trees, save existing ones and protect against pests and disease. It's a lot of work for overwhelmed and budget-constrained municipal departments – and that's where Professor Sandy Smith's students step in.

Smith, Faculty of Forestry, U of T and David Grant, Cabbagetown ReLEAF teamed up after the ice storm to link students in the Master of Forest Conservation (MFC) program with community groups across Toronto to help keep their neighbourhood green. In Toronto Centre urban forest management plans (UFMP) have been developed for Cabbagetown, Regent Park and St. James Town. Below are two excerpts from these plans.

Native Tree Nursery (St. James Town UFMP)

With the help of Citizen Forester, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, and community groups native tree nurseries could be established across Toronto. Local residents, including school children could collect the tree seeds and these could be used as a source for the tree nursery. These seeds would be from native trees that have proven to be not only long lived, but able to flourish in the harsh conditions of the city. This is extremely important if the trees grown in the nursery are to stand any chance of surviving beyond the 7 years average life expectancy of existing Toronto City trees.

The issue of low tree survival is illustrated by this quotation: "In a forest the best mother trees are the healthiest and the more mature. These are the trees that have learned the tricks of the trade of living. These trees carry the best card for genetic deliverance in an adaptable light- and climate controlled enzyme system. Mother trees of the highest caliber produce offspring of a similar rating. Despite all of this, it is the mother trees that get the axe in the global garden. They do not receive the respect they deserve, ever." (Beresford-Kroeger 2010).

Community Engagement & Schools (Regent Park UFMP)

Schools form an important site for urban forestry programs for two reasons. They tend to have sufficient space for planting of trees and can provide suitable opportunities for children to learn about nature and urban forests through indoor and outdoor activities. Schools are supported by Tree Canada in its tree planting initiative as it has been found that trees provide shade and protect against radiation as well as add to aesthetics. Organizations that advocate for tree plantings in schools maintain that it helps connect students to the benefits of trees and develop stewardship values. When students plant trees they learn about the various aspects of that tree such as its appearance, suitable planting sites and conditions, and such learning helps develop tree care attitudes. Tree planting helps to relate to the abstract learning that happens in a classroom and links concepts between subjects like geography and biology.

To duplicate the success of ReLEAF across the city of Toronto and province of Ontario, Grant's vision to create the Citizen Forester program and to build awareness and educate people about trees has been realized. The Citizen Forester Program empowers individuals with the knowledge on how to care for and protect our mature trees, grow new native trees from locally sourced seeds and to lead tree planting and care activities within the community. This is a great opportunity to support our environment, promote urban greening, improve community health, and enhance the quality of life. In 2017 the Growing Trees from Seed Pilot and Become a Citizen Forester will be launched.

For more info go to <http://www.cabbagetownreleaf.org>

ReLEAF & U of T Forestry Launch Citizen Forester

"David Grant is passionate about Toronto's trees. He was particularly fond of the majestic silver maple that stood outside his Cabbagetown home." To read more about this story go to <http://www.citizenforester.ca> and follow the link to U of T Magazine, Autumn 2016.

On October 1, 2016 Cabbagetown ReLEAF and U of T Forestry launched the CITIZEN FORESTER program at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto. The morning started in class with Professor Sandy Smith on 'Forest Health' and the challenges our urban forest encounters with the emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, beech bark disease, and climate change.

Sandy was followed by Wayne Smith, R.P.F., WayDa Gro Forestry Services and his hands on class 'Seeds to Seedlings' in which tree lovers learned about and planted native seeds sourced locally and took home cedar and pine seedlings to plant in their own urban forests.

We continued in the afternoon starting at the Earth Sciences Centre with Professor Danijela Puric-Mladenovic and 'Neighbourwoods'. Back in the 1990's Neighbourwoods was developed by Danijela and her colleague Dr. Andy Kenney. The program enlists volunteers to measure and classify all the trees in their community and the develop a strategy for caring for, and eventually, replacing them. At the end you will never look at trees the same way again and develop an appreciation for the work trees do.



We continued our walk on campus to Philosopher's Walk. As far back as the 1870s, Taddle Creek ravine, the meandering green space now known as Philosopher's Walk, has been a popular spot for students and professors to stroll and contemplate.

Richard Eaton of Cohen & Master Tree & Shrub Services, lead us on a talk about the history of Philosopher's Walk and 'Soil & Plant Health' and the challenges we face in today's urban environment.

Cabbagetown ReLEAF Tree Stewardship is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote a healthier, more resilient urban forest through research, education and community engagement. Coming Spring 2017 'Become a Citizen Forester' and 'Growing Trees from Seed'.

For more info go to <http://www.citizenforester.ca>



Cabbagetown Talks

(from page 1) Michael had some key observations about our main street, e.g. there are breaks in the continuity of the business streetscape along the street (e.g. south of the LCBO), parking is barely adequate, our sidewalks are narrow while the street parking spaces are wider than required by code. He also noticed that our "street trees" are small and missing in many areas. He stressed that the public elements of a successful main street include trees and new methods for planting these that do not use 'tree coffins'. On the positive side, while talking about having amenities needed by the community for daily life, he said that Cabbagetown appears to be well served by transit lines, a great butcher, several drugstores, etc. He also explained that it was important to identify the key elements that make the neighbourhood unique. In our case we have a rich visual and built heritage; the Riverdale Farm and a few fairly large parks. He noted that a gateway to the neighbourhood which seems to be the Carlton and Parliament intersection could be a focus of our early renewal efforts. He suggested to start with a healthy core and build outwards.

Then Eric Turcotte, an urban designer, planner and architect with over 20 years of experience and a resident of the Roncesvalles area, showed how public main street elements were integrated in the re-imagining of Roncesvalles. He highlighted some of the processes, challenges, as well as the impacts of the project. Eric stressed the importance of planning. The whole community (BIA, resident associations, local politicians) worked together for five years to create a plan, a plan that involved deep community engagement — e.g. public meetings, participatory design exercises, visualizations, etc. In the case of Roncesvalles, a major infrastructure project (streetcar tracks) was the catalyst that provided the opportunity to redevelop their main street and implement their plan. Their plan was ambitious and comprehensive but it became the blueprint for various improvements small and large that came, some early in the process, some later, but always linked to the plan/vision for the area and to the agreed-upon design. He also stressed that the final agree-upon design is often the result of compromises, but working together helped everyone buy into the final results.

Last to speak was Mike Major, a professional planner with the City for over 25 years and manager of the City of Toronto's BIA office. Mike talked about how Toronto's "main streets" have evolved over time, why main streets are important and what makes a great main street. He stressed that our streets are the new gathering places and for many our front yards, and that the quality of our public realm defines our quality of life and is critical to creating economic value. Just as a nice line and entrance way provide curb appeal when selling your house – our main streets reflect the quality of the neighbourhood. He stressed that neighbourhoods should remain authentic and build on their strengths. He also explained the mandate of Business Improvement Areas (BIAs).

Mike also briefly mentioned TOcore. TOcore is the 25-year horizon plan currently being developed by the City of Toronto for the downtown core. It is looking at how growth can positively contribute to Toronto's downtown as a great place to live, work, learn, play and invest. TOcore will determine how future growth will be accommodated, shaped and managed, and what physical and social infrastructure will be needed, where it should go and how it will be secured. This planning exercise will likely have an important impact on our area and the CPA hopes to make it the topic of a future public meeting.

Following the presentations by the panel members, there was an hour-long lively and engaged discussion of these ideas and how our community might apply some of what we'd heard about.

Here are some of these lessons, suggestions, and ideas:

- Engage with a variety of local stakeholders — e.g. resident associations, business improvement area (the local businesses), preservation/historical associations, etc.
- Work together to develop a plan.

see *Cabbagetown Talks*, p5

New Preservation Tools

The Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Committee has unveiled new preservation tools for property owners and developers of heritage buildings. The revamped website, www.cabbagetownhcd.ca, now offers a robust set of resources to assist in the conservation of Cabbagetown's architectural depth, richness and sense of time and place.

Cabbagetown is a treasure trove of Victorian architecture and is the largest continuous area of preserved Victorian housing in Canada. Visitors to the new site can access unique features to assist with the renovation or restoration of their historical property. A few of these tools include: an in-depth glossary of architectural terms, links to heritage restoration resources and trades, overview and Official Plan for each Heritage Conservation District in Cabbagetown, a heritage permit process guide, special events listing, Instagram feed @cabbagetownhcd and much more.

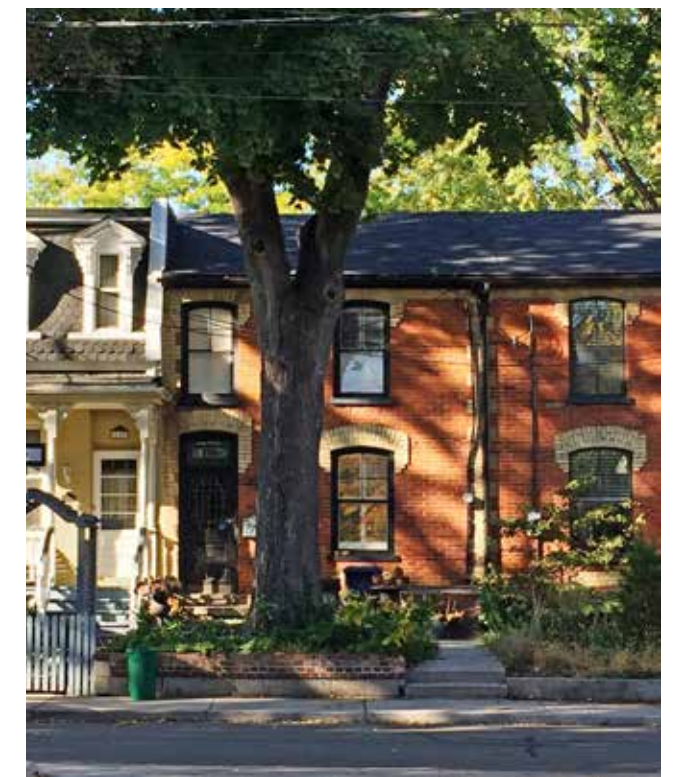
The most significant feature of the site is the Compendium - a comprehensive database of historical facts on properties in Cabbagetown. Such facts include; the original occupancy date, original builder, architectural style and more. The Compendium functionality has been designed as a wiki so that owners can contribute to capturing the evolution of their property with an upload of a photo tagged with their comments.

"The new website is a dynamic and exciting place to explore and represents countless hours of volunteer time by our committee members.", shares Jamie Bechard, Chair, Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Committee. "This website could not have been possible without our sponsor - Beckard Associates, who graciously extended the services of their senior web developer to design and develop this new site."

The primary purpose of the Cabbagetown Heritage Advisory Committee is to assist and advise Cabbagetown residents, of the current four Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation Districts, on the guidelines and procedures for alterations to the exteriors of their properties. The development of this online resource is to provide the community with the tools needed to ensure the integrity and sustainability of the area's unique sense of visual coherence. This extensive website presents the expertise and rich knowledge of the committee's archives within a user-friendly, online platform designed to empower homeowners during their renovation planning process.

About The Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Committee

As a significant resource to the community, the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Committee advises Cabbagetown property owners and developers on the policies and guidelines of their HCD Plan for exterior alterations and restoration. The committee is the conduit for community-based feedback to the City as they recognize the interest and knowledge of our committee as a source of valuable input during the heritage permit application process. The Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Committee was formed in 2000 to provide local support and assistance 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 and is currently exploring the designation review of two additional districts along Parliament Street and within Southwest Cabbagetown. The Committee is made up of 12 members, all of whom are Cabbagetown property owners, represent a cross-section of HCD areas and serve in a voluntary capacity. www.cabbagetownhcd.ca



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.

Sir Charles G.D. Roberts
1860 - 1943
Canada's Knight of Literature

"For both are in my blood and bone
And will be till I die.
Along my veins their argument
Goes on incessantly."

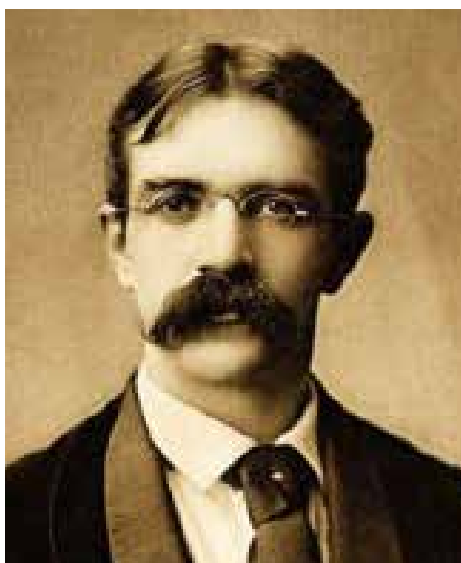
Known as the Father of Canadian Poetry, Charles George Douglas Roberts was born in Douglas, New Brunswick, in 1860. As a child he was surrounded by lovely landscapes and this beauty inspired his work throughout his life.

In 1879, he graduated from the University of New Brunswick. He then moved to Chatham, N.B. to become head master of the grammar school. At the age of 20 he published his first volume of poetry, *Orion and Other Poems* (1860).

He was an inspiration to Bliss Carman (his cousin), Archibald Lampman, and Duncan Campbell Scott. The four poets became known as the "Confederation poets".

Roberts biographers have pointed out that, although he was a prolific writer with an international reputation, his financial circumstances were very difficult. It is said that he was knighted in absentia since he was unable to pay for the trip. He also was unable to pay for his own Letters Patent. He was also very modest, often citing other poets as better than himself.

Two of his best collections of verse are *In Divers Tones* (1886) and *Songs of the Common Day* and *Ave! An Ode for the Shelley Centenary* (1893) written while Sir Charles worked as a teacher, professor, and editor.



Wellesley looking east from Sherbourne, 1948. The Ernestcliffe is on the right. Toronto Archives, Fonds 200, Series 372, Sub 58, Item 1767

In 1897, he moved to New York leaving his wife Mary Isabel Feny and his four children in New Brunswick. For financial reasons, he turned to prose-writing and along with Ernest Thompson Seton, Sir Charles Roberts was acknowledged for inventing the modern animal story. Teddy Roosevelt invited him to the White House to discuss his wilderness fiction.

On moving to Europe in 1907, he travelled and eventually made London, England, his home. He served in the British Army as a commissioned officer during World War I. While freelancing, he worked as an editor, gave lectures, published and toured Europe, Britain and the United States.

In 1925, he settled in Toronto and lived for 18 years in Cabbagetown at the Ernestcliffe apartments at Sherbourne and Wellesley. Here he continued to write poetry. *The Vagrant of Time* and *The Iceberg and Other Poems* were written at this time. In his poem "Two Rivers", he tries to explain the contradictions in his character. He speaks of his wayward spirit and his temperate side. He struggled with the opposing forces throughout his life.

For more biographies of remarkable Cabbagetowners, go to www.cabbagetownpeople.ca

In 1935, when he was honoured by King George V and given the title of Knight Bachelor, some twenty volumes of poetry, forty novels and nature stories, four history and travel books and many articles, addresses, and book introductions had been published.

The following is an excerpt from a 1940 *Globe and Mail* article entitled, "Canada's Knight of Literature" by Fred Williams:

"Primarily a pioneer, his literary triumphs have not resulted in any swollen fortune. His cozy but quite small flat at the Ernestcliffe is overflowing with books, photographs and other souvenirs of a busy artistic life. He does not, like Edgar Guest, drive a Packard, but in these simple and appropriate surroundings the once-remote Dr. Roberts has become contemporary with a later generation and, to many of them, is "Charles". A title must fit so easily upon him that it is conceivable some will forget the Sir. For he is a great man. Besides his fine mind, and beyond analysis is a quality of personality that clothes him and his work with dignity and incalculable significance. During more than half a century he has not only led Canadian literature, but has impressed it with truly national characteristics, the debt a country owes such a man cannot be paid, but all who understand the value to Canada of his career will rejoice in the official acknowledgment of his priceless services."

From the Necropolis

*Our next stop features a real live
— or dead — mystery.*



Dr. Henry Head Gray (Plot N:64)

Born in Dundas, Ontario in 1865
Died, March 29, 1891 in Hamilton, Montana of accidental poisoning
Buried April 7, 1891 – only 9 days later!

His father, John, also buried here, was a brewer in Dundas but by 1871 he had moved to Yorkville where he was "a merchant". His company "Gray Brothers" was on the west side of Yonge Street in Yorkville. His family consisted of at least 6 children of whom Henry was the youngest.

John died in 1871 and the family later moved to a house on Wellesley at Rose Avenue where Henry would have been living when he completed his medical degree.

Why did Henry move to Montana? Perhaps because it was seen as the exciting new frontier? Montana only became a state in 1889 and the city of Hamilton was only founded in 1890 by a copper mine owner Marcus Daly as a company town for his lumber mill.

But the mystery here is not why, or even how, he dies in Montana, the mystery is whether he died?

Montana death records and newspaper coverage for the time is very spotty. But Jane MacNamara, a member of the Ontario Genealogical Society, did find an obituary for a Dr. Henry Head Gray – from 1914!!!

This obituary says that Dr. Henry Head Gray, aged 46, who graduated from Trinity Medical School in Toronto in 1890, was found dead in his room in the Blossom House, Kansas City, March 10, 1914 "from the effects of poison, self-administered, it is believed, with suicidal intent".

So, here we have two doctors named Henry Head Gray, born within 2 or 3 years of each other, both of whom went to Medical School in Toronto, both died in March and both were poisoned.

Did someone take the diploma off his wall in Hamilton when his body was shipped back to Toronto and take over his identity?

Or did he live on, unknown to his family, for another 23 years? If so, who is buried here?

This year's winner is 112 Winchester Street Street, Louise and Greg Aspin. Congratulations to the proud gardener who turned the front garden into a show-stopper!

The glass tree, seating area, creeping thyme pathway, soft gurgling water feature and recently the little library box all added to the jurors choice of this year's winner.

Their award will be presented at CPA Night on November 29. See front page for details of the meeting.

Pictures courtesy of Gale Moore and Ruth Wagner



Cabbagetown Talks from page 3



City of Toronto Archives, series 372, s0372_s0033_it0450

- Engage the political actors in the area — e.g. the city councillor.
- Be ambitious. Although the plan for the area may be comprehensive and expensive, having an overall vision allows you to take gradual steps to implement it. It may take years to implement the full plan but benefits will start appearing as progress is made. Try to avoid "one-offs" (i.e. initiatives not linked to the plan).
- Look for a catalyst. Take advantage of opportunities such as already planned infrastructure improvements such as replacement of streetcar tracks, resurfacing of roads, etc.
- Keep the community

involved and informed. Throughout the renewal process, keep all stakeholders informed on a regular basis through meetings, newsletters, social media, etc.

Stay tuned! The Cabbagetown Talks Committee is working on the next phase and will be in touch with members of the neighbourhood organizations shortly.

Gilles Huot and Gale Moore



Cabbagetown Atlanta part 3

In the last two issues of the CPA Newsletter, Kyle Bidlack gave an account of *his* Cabbagetown, our community's doppelganger in Atlanta, Georgia. The history of Atlanta's Cabbagetown remarkably similar to our own 'hood's and our neighbourhoods have many parallels. If you want to read the rest of the series, the previous three Newsletters are available online at cabbagetownpa.ca.

Recently, we learned that one of our long-time neighbors (Bertha Wise Jr.) was struggling to maintain her home. It needed repairs and painting. We banded together, and over the course of three weekends, repaired and painted her home. More than thirty "Cabbageheads" took part. While we were painting, I asked one of the organisers (Greg Sifford) why he and his wife (Duwan Dunn) decided to organise the effort. Greg said, "Well, Bertha needed a hand. Besides, I like to give folks an opportunity to be the people they really want to be." I thought that was pretty profound.

We've got too many strengths to list, but I'll try. Today our strength comes in the form of people like Katherine Dirga, Ashley McCartney, Lyn Dearthoff, John Dirga, Barb Keeney, Tova Baruch, Lynne Splinter, Michael McPherson, John Aderhold, Ed Lindahl, Jared Serwer, Matt Wise, Alicia Forsee, Jeanne Dufour, Jim Prible, Julie Stephens, and Karen Russian. I know there are many more... ask me another day and I will probably give you a list twice as long.

Nothing stays the same. People come and go and pass away. Back in the early 2000s you could still see neighbors that had some Appalachian DNA (a huge population of Appalachians came here in search of jobs at the cotton mill). You could see it in their faces, in their gait, in their voices and aura. Those folks had deep roots and memories connected to the old cotton mill. They were once a proud and omnipresent majority but they are now a very small minority.

As late as the early 1990s, Cabbagetown was still regarded as a roughneck neighborhood. We had a lot of decrepit houses. The old mill was creeping towards a date with the wrecking ball – while shady characters, prostitutes, the homeless, and kids looking for a place to party – took residence in the fallen industrial giant. Young neighborhood kids would sit on their bikes at the top of Carroll Street and dare each other to ride down the street. Few took the dare because they were convinced that rocks, bottles and threats would rain down upon them from the hooligans that inhabited the place.

Long before those hooligans ruled the streets, The Fulton Cotton Mill had their own brand of tough guys. They had their own "police" who would snuff out labor strike threats, and strong-arm folks who had radical thoughts. They'd forcefully evict folks who had been fired at the mill or who hadn't paid their rent in the company housing, or had a long-standing debt at the company store. Back in those days we had moonshiners too. And sadly we had Ku Klux Klan members among us.

Today's Cabbageheads drive modified mopeds, antique autos and cars with more mileage than a space shuttle. We prefer to walk to Little's Food Store rather than drive to Publix. We build benches where young and old can kick back, relax and enjoy Cabbagetown. We prefer porches over balconies and sidewalk cafés over chain restaurants. We greet strangers with an open hand and a smile, not a closed fist and a frown.

Cabbagetown Georgia is where folks take an active stance against crime. We believe there is a huge difference between thoughtful public art and mindless graffiti. We like good beer...but PBR is ok too. We consider our entire neighborhood to be our home. We believe we can fix any problem. We believe in you. And we are happy when you visit us and we hope you come back real soon.

We have pink houses, purple houses, and hen houses. We have giant bushes shaped like a Pac-Man. We have a park reclaimed from urban rubble. And Carroll Street is a vibrant place to see friends, do business and ride your bike... but it IS prone to brutal traffic jams. We host major Hollywood movie shoots. And musicians from all over the world have played, worked and lived here. And we have a Krog tunnel that serves as a mystical entrance into our neighborhood, but also doubles as one of Atlanta's premiere public street art galleries.

But one thing has never changed, Cabbageheads are proud of their home. We are strong-minded and generous. We love to work hard and



we throw great parties and celebrations. We still invite friends to spend time on our porches. We still have a few roughnecks, but if you look real hard, you'll find those souls have damn good hearts.

One of our biggest challenges over the next few decades is going to be growth all around us. For a great many years, Cabbagetown Georgia has been a relatively tranquil oasis just two miles from the heart of one of America's biggest cities (Atlanta). We were insulated by a rail line to the North, and a cemetery to the West. But with the growing development and popularity of the Krog Street Market and Atlanta's BeltLine, coupled with big development plans on Memorial Drive, there is no doubt we will begin to feel a bit squeezed. We will begin to see an increase in traffic. If commercial development leans too heavily towards entertainment, we could witness some of the growing pains felt by Buckhead (a near-by trendy neighborhood) in the 1990s and the Virginia Highlands (ditto) in the early 2000s. We are taking an active role and are working with our local government and elected leaders and representatives to influence and realize the type of growth we hope to see.

Looking further down the road, if CSX ever decides to pull out of the Hulsey train yard (it was only long been a rumour), that will severely change the landscape. What will become of the land? Will it be commercial, residential, park land, or waste land? Today, the train yard is a neighbor that has been here longer than all of us. We were aware of them when we moved in, and although they can be loud and smog inducing neighbors, they are a part of us. And they do try to work with us where they can.

The future of Hulsey Yard is my biggest concern. It stretches from Cabbagetown all the way into neighboring Reynoldstown and acts as the Northern border to our neighborhood. If that land were to change hands and change character, it would surely affect Cabbagetown. But change isn't always bad. If we work hard, use our brains and our voices, we can

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

help influence the world around us and hold onto all we hold so dear and all that is precious to us.

Since 2012, I have served as the managing editor of the Cabbagetown Neighbor (our local monthly newspaper). The Cabbagetown Neighbor is one of the many needles that stitch us together. And since 2011, I have served as the editor of "Stacks News" (an e-newsletter for The Stacks and Fulton Cotton Mills). I do these things because I like doing them. I believe information is vital. I believe that how information is shared is equally vital. Cabbageheads need to know about the good AND the bad. Though I do lean towards illuminating the good. We all need to know what is going on around us, and I am honoured to play a part in making sure folks are aware and engaged.

I attend monthly Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association (CNIA) meetings, and Stacks Homeowners Association meetings. And I am not shy in voicing my opinions. I am the Chair for the Stacks Architectural Controls Committee. I organize occasional golf tournaments, volunteer for community efforts like Chomp and Stomp, and try to take part in nearly everything we do as a neighborhood.

There are so many folks you could talk to in your effort to better understand Cabbagetown Georgia. Katherine Dirga is the current President of CNIA. She would be a great person to talk to. Her husband, John Dirga is a wealth of Cabbagetown history, and together they care deeply about Cabbagetown. Ashley McCartney is a positive, powerful force among us. Barb Keeney (owner of Milltown Tavern) might have one of the biggest hearts in Cabbagetown. Michael McPherson could give you an excellent historical and governmental perspective. Ronnie and Marshall Edwards live on Gaskill and they have been a part of Cabbagetown for many decades. they even worked in the mill. Lynne Splinter can give you a growth, character and real estate perspective. You should talk to all those folks and many more. **2199**

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), 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.

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.



The Worker's Cottage

By Rosie Shephard

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

The word 'cottage' typically refers to a small house that is modest, cozy, and possibly old-fashioned. First originating in early English architecture, these houses were built with a ground-floor living space and an upper floor with one to two bedrooms tucked under the eaves. In the middle ages, cottages housed farm workers and their families, often tenants of larger land owners.

Over the years, the meaning of 'cottage' has changed. In the Elizabethan times, a cottage was built with four acres of land. In present day North America, cottages are seen as summer retreats. Traditionally, these types of cottages were small and rustic – no plumbing or electricity - located in forested areas near lakes, rivers, or oceans. Currently however, some cottage owners have transformed the original idea of their summer dwellings to luxurious and fully serviced 'home away from home's. Whatever the style, they are places where urban dwellers can escape the bustle of the city and spend time out in the outdoors.

One of Cabbagetown's most iconic style of house is the worker's cottage. Sprinkled around downtown Toronto, many of us have seen these one-storey, steeply gabled, simply decorated houses, and wondered just how much space is inside? How many rooms? Why do they all look the same? When were they built? Who came up with the design?

In 1851, the Crystal Palace industrial exhibition was held in London. As part of the festivities, Prince Albert (the husband of Queen Victoria) held a contest for architects to design an affordable and simple housing style, as he had taken a very keen interest in affordable housing for the poor of the Commonwealth. William Hooker won the contest with his worker's cottages which contained four 3 meter by 3 meter rooms and basic Victorian accents. They soon gained popularity and began to appear in books and magazines such as the Canadian Farmer.

Developers, politicians, and often factory owners at the time wanted to change the crowded and unsanitary living conditions for the working class. Designed to be efficient, economical, beautiful, and sanitary, many contained running water, drafty corridors for fresh air, internal sanitation, and segregated living spaces. The developers also focused on creating ornate Gothic details on the front façade, including gingerbread, shutters, and bay windows. An 1864 article in the Canadian Farmer stated, "we are persuaded that a little more regard for what many consider trifles unworthy of notice, would yield large return of real enjoyment and satisfaction". Many were

made entirely out of wood, however some Cabbagetown examples boast brick fronts. Examples of worker's or labourer's cottages can be seen throughout North America, Australia, some parts of the United Kingdom and Europe – perhaps slightly different in appearance, they all have the same basic structure and histories.

Our own worker's cottages, scattered throughout Cabbagetown, all have their unique stories and origins. Perhaps the most famous, the Wellesley Cottages, were built around 1886-87. Originally, they were said to be inhabited by employees of a close-by rendering plant – probably the P.R. Lamb Glue and Blacking Manufactory in which horses were turned into glue. The row of seven almost identical houses were originally 400 square feet on the ground floor. Now however, most have undergone some kind of renovation or addition, increasing their sizes to as large as 2,400 square feet. Many have expanded their spaces by going below grade because the heritage laws in Cabbagetown do not allow alterations to the existing facades or above the roof line.



Workers Cottage

Steve Yeates

Aside from the examples on Wellesley Street, there are worker's cottages of many different styles on Amelia Street, Bowman Street, Sackville Place, and Sumach Street to name a few. Go out and see them for yourself!

Sources:

<http://torontolife.com/real-estate/houses/house-of-the-week-6-wellesley-cottage-lane/>

<http://www.cabbagetownpa.ca/styles/workers-cottage>

<http://www.cabbagetowninfo.com/the-homes-of-wellesley-cottages>

<http://ilovetoronto.com/victorian-architecture-cabbagetown/types-of-victorian-homes>

<http://www.ontarioarchitecture.com/cottage.htm#workerscottage>

Cabbagetown Remembered by George H. Rust-D'Eye

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

Perfectly Golden Autumn

Early morning sun
 Framed by golden maple leaves
 Through my studio
 Arch topped window
 As though greeting me
 A perfect maple branch
 Lay on my window sill
 Gold leaves
 Happily smiling – at me
 Lokk at me
 Feel me
 Singing my autumn song
 Clinging to the warmth
 Your – face at the window
 Your guardian tree
 Gift – your autumn bouquet

Barbara Mercer
 from *Seasoned in Cabbagetown*



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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. _____

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