

Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighborhood



Follow CPA on:



Some of these locals helped build Canada

Hear all about them at
the CPA AGM
in a CPA Presentation in celebration of Canada 150:

Builders of Canada:
Tales of a Country in Two Cabbagetown Cemeteries

Monday May 29, 2017
7:00 pm
Dixon Hall (formerly St. Peter's Church)
at Carlton and Bleecker streets



CPA 2017 AGM

Followed by Builders of Canada
by Gilles Huot and Virginia Van Vliet

Agenda:

- Annual General Meeting (reports, election to the board, etc.)
- Announcement of the winner(s) of the Peggy Kurtin Award Program
- Our special guests: Gilles Huot and Virginia Van Vliet

Two of Toronto's most important historical cemeteries, the St. James Cemetery (Anglican) and the Necropolis (non-denominational), are in Cabbagetown. These two cemeteries are the resting place of many remarkable people who left their mark on the country, often contributing to its creation, its history, and its success.

The AGM will be followed by *Builders of Canada: Tales of a Country in Two Cabbagetown Cemeteries*, a CPA presentation to celebrate Canada 150, the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation.

Gilles and Virginia are both enthusiastic and knowledgeable amateur historians and walking tour guides who will use a lot of archival and current pictures to tell the story of many remarkable people buried in Cabbagetown. These people left their mark and helped build this country in various fields: exploration, politics, education, industries, immigration, philanthropy, transportation, war, sports, communications, etc. These are fascinating stories that are rarely heard.

This evening will likely whet your appetite to go and see these graves with your own eyes. Check our 2017 CPA Walking Tour Season listing elsewhere in this newsletter.

CPA Membership

The CPA is launching a long awaited improvement to its membership software which will allow us to track memberships by the date you join or renew, and to send annual reminders of the expiry date which will be May 1st each year. The membership fee will increase to \$20/year per household. This will support our ongoing work on heritage issues and education and help us continue to bring you events such as Cabbagetown Talks and Cabbagetown Walks which are free to members, and this newsletter which is distributed across community. For anyone who has taken out or renewed their membership since September 2016 the renewal date will be May 1, 2018. Thank you for your ongoing support.

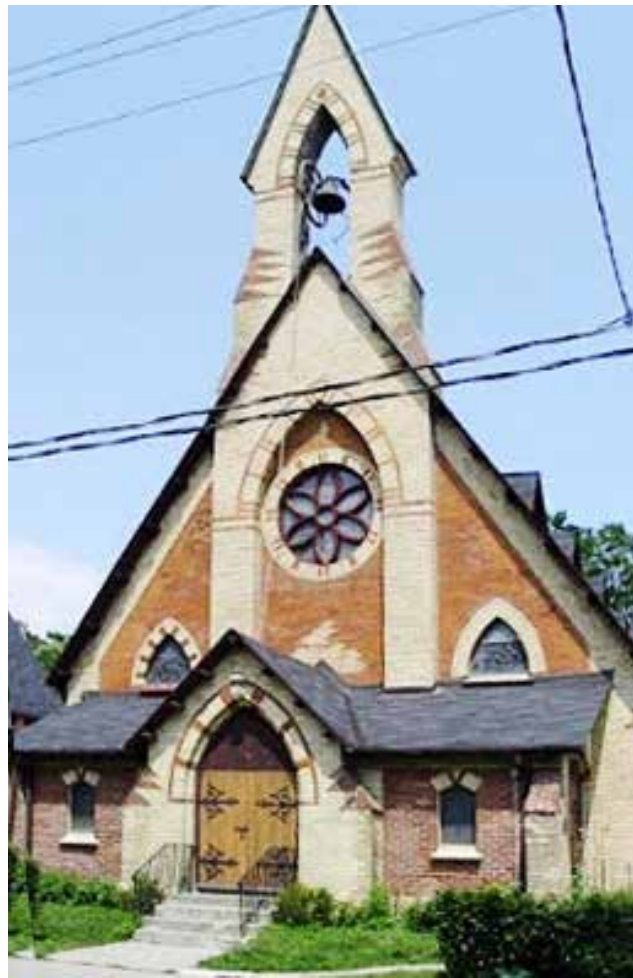
www.cabbagetownpa.ca

Cabbagetown Talks

Cabbagetown Talks is an initiative designed to support the CPA's goals of advocacy, education and community engagement. The Talks Committee includes CPA board members Gilles Huot, Marion Korn, Rick Merrill and Gale Moore. Going forward, in line with the CPA principle of collaborative advocacy, we hope to partner 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. (continued page 2)

Our New Home!

Over the years, the CPA has held its public meetings in several different venues in the neighbourhood. This year, with the advent of our Cabbagetown Talks series, we've increased the number of public meetings we organize and attendance has been higher than room capacity. Good news, but we needed a new home.



St. Peter's Church, at Bleecker and Carlton streets, was recently closed as a church and the congregation amalgamated with St. Simon's on Bloor Street. The building on Carlton Street is now being rented by Dixon Hall. Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services offers a diverse range of integrated services for residents of the neighbourhood, often to the most vulnerable and the most at-risk members in our community.

We are happy that Dixon Hall has agreed to lease us the former sanctuary from time to time so we can hold our events in a larger space. We held our first event under this new arrangement in February. We still need to iron out a few issues (e.g. audio) but we are delighted to be able to present our future events in this beautiful setting.

The parish of St. Peter's (Anglican) was established in 1863 and the church itself opened in 1866, with additions made in 1872 and 1880. It is in the Victorian Gothic Revival style and was designed by architect Henry Langley, the same architect who designed the Necropolis chapel and many other buildings around Toronto.

Imagining Cabbagetown: Our Place in the City. Part 1: TOcore

By Gale Moore & Gilles Huot

On Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, over 60 people turned out at Dixon Hall for a talk on TOcore. TOcore is a City of Toronto planning initiative that will set the stage for the next twenty-five years and "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" (www.tocore.ca). While the City has an extensive website and has been holding numerous consultations on this planning exercise, an informal poll of neighbours and friends suggested that few of us in Cabbagetown are aware of this long range planning exercise and how our area might be impacted. TOcore is ambitious and potentially transformative. As all of Cabbagetown falls within the boundaries of the TOcore-defined "Downtown" — the Don River on the east, Lake Ontario, including the Toronto Islands on the south, Bathurst Street on the west, and the Canadian Pacific Railway corridor and the Rosedale Valley Road on the north — we wanted to learn more.

We are fortunate that representatives from the CPA and some of the other local associations had been invited to talks and workshops on this topic over the past year, and that Rick Merrill, a CPA Board member and urban planner, agreed to help convene the panel and to moderate it.

It was a stellar panel with Andrew Farncombe, the manager responsible for TOcore; Leo DeSorcy, the manager of the TOcore Parks & Public Realm Master Plan, and Marc Ryan, principal and co-founder of PUBLIC WORK, a Toronto-based office for urban design and landscape architecture who has served as a consultant to the TOcore initiative.

Andrew Farncombe led off the evening with an overview of the initiative, noting the history of some of the dramatic changes that have taken place in the four decades since the 1976 Central Area Plan launched by then Mayor David Crombie. While Downtown comprises only 3% of the land area of the City, it has over 250,000 people — a number anticipated to grow to 475,000 by 2041 — and more than half a million jobs. While the growth plan for the City is set by the Province, it is time now to ask how future growth will be accommodated, and what physical infrastructure is needed to support this economic engine, while maintaining and enhancing the liveability of both old and new neighbourhoods and the commercial core which defines our quality of life in the Downtown. It is interesting to note that 76% of Downtown residents get to work without cars. Andrew's presentation was full of fascinating details, statistics, and maps showing how the city is changing. A visit to the TOcore website will get you the graphics.

Leo DeSorcy's urban design interests include the Garden City Movement and its local modern evolution. His work since 1988 has been focused on designing new neighbourhoods and transforming older ones to make dense but complete, walkable and liveable neighbourhoods. Many great cities are home to large parks — Chicago's Millennium Park at 24.5 acres is one example. While it's too late to amass this kind of parkland Downtown, our city is green. Approximately 15% of Downtown is parkland, augmented by the ravines and the recent greening of the waterfront. One vision is to find ways to link the existing green spaces — 127 parks and 2 civic squares in the Downtown alone — to create a 42 km green "halo" park around the City.

The final panelist was Marc Ryan who, for more than 15 years, has provided leadership in Canada, Europe and the U.S. on the design of the public realm that would be able to capture a dramatic new sense of place using landscape as a primary medium. Marc led us through a number of visionary ideas and

thoughts about the future of the Downtown and Cabbagetown, specifically Parliament Street. Marc suggested a number of ideas for increasing parkland in the city and integrating across existing green spaces. It was also fascinating to hear more about the Rail Deck Park where it is proposed to put a deck over the active rail corridor west of the Rogers Centre. This innovative proposal would increase parkland in an area that is increasingly dense and limited in terms of green space.

As Cabbagetowners, we are proud of our green spaces and the mix of large parks — Cabbagetown's Riverdale Park West alone is approximately 35 acres — and smaller parkettes and urban gardens. The designation of a large part of Cabbagetown as heritage conservation districts (HCD) provides some protection against high-density projects, and protection of our green space in the residential areas. Our main street — Parliament Street — and feeder commercial streets like Gerrard Street (between Sherbourne and Parliament streets), are less well protected. We certainly need to stay vigilant regarding future development proposals for these areas.

Marc raised the question of the future of Parliament Street as there are some who see Parliament as the Downtown's last main street. Historically, it runs from Castle Frank, named after the summer home of Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe, down to the site of the original Upper Canada Parliament buildings and along the western edge of the Distillery District to the waterfront. One idea being floated is to extend streetcar service from Castle Frank down to the waterfront, connecting it to Spadina Avenue through Queen's Quay. Others suggest more limited development. This conversation is probably the one that will have most impact on our neighbourhood as the TOcore planning exercise moves forward.

Following the presentations, there was a lively and engaged discussion. Thank you to all those who participated in the evening.

The Cabbagetown Talks Committee is currently developing Part II of the theme *Imagining Cabbagetown: Our Place in the City* which will focus on the impact on our neighbourhood of increased density as highrises march down Sherbourne Street and elsewhere nearby. We will also consider mobility into and out of Cabbagetown.

If you have ideas for future topics or speakers, or you just want to comment on this CPA initiative, please get in touch at cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca. Otherwise, stay tuned!



Cabbagetown Walks

by Gilles Huot

Get outside! And a very good reason to do so is to join a guided tour offered by the CPA. Below is the list of walking tours offered by the CPA in 2017. These walking tours are led by experienced and knowledgeable CPA guides (volunteers). They are offered free of charge; however, a "hat" will be passed around at the end of tour. Donations are strongly encouraged and are reinvested in the programs of the CPA and its partner organizations.

The Necropolis

Toronto Doors Open: May 27 and 28
at 10:00, 12:00 noon, 2:00 and 4:00

One of Cabbagetown's gems, the Necropolis cemetery at the east end of Winchester Street, is taking part in Toronto Doors Open (TDO) 2017. This year, TDO's theme is linked to Canada 150. We will be offering at 10:00, 12:00 noon, 2:00 and 4:00 during both days, tours of one of Toronto's oldest cemeteries where remarkable Canadians are buried: including politicians, explorers-discoverers, rebels, freedom fighters, soldiers and more. Check our website for details.

Cabbagetown By The Valley

July 6 at 6:30 pm and August 26 at 1:30 pm
Offered in partnership with Heritage Toronto

Starting Point: Wellesley Park, east end of Wellesley Street
The evolution of Cabbagetown is closely linked to the Don River Valley nearby. The bucolic nature of the valley had John Graves Simcoe, Upper Canada's first Lieutenant-Governor, choose our area for his summer home. The industrialization of the valley started in the mid-19th century, at about the same time Cabbagetown was getting populated. Industrialization lasted one hundred years and brought jobs, a sense of prosperity but also pollution and eventually urban blight. It is difficult to imagine Cabbagetown as being part of an industrial complex. Virtually no traces exist of this past, except some pictures. The area also played a role as a hub for city services (cemeteries, hospital, parks, etc.). Come discover an aspect of Cabbagetown you may not have known.

Cabbagetown et la vallée de la rivière Don

In French. July 2, 2017, at 2:00 pm
Offered in partnership with la Société d'histoire de Toronto
Starting Point: Wellesley Park, east end of Wellesley Street
Voir la description en anglais ci-dessus.



Lamb factory, post-fire City of Toronto Archives



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.

Update: Cabbagetown Southwest HCD

On February 3, 2015 City of Toronto Staff reviewed 16 nominated Heritage Conservation Districts (HCD's). Based on the prioritization analysis, staff identified three potential HCDs for study in 2015, and five for study in 2016. As a result of the prioritization process, it was recommended that the Cabbagetown Southwest HCD be studied starting in 2016 as a potential HCD.

Heritage Preservation Services is currently working towards the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to engage a heritage consulting team to work with the City for the new HCD Study. Once they establish a heritage consultant, the city will be rolling out a public consultation meeting. They are in receipt of the Cabbagetown HCD Advisory Committee's draft plan, character statements and historical research data on the inventory of building stock captured within this district. The boundaries of this planned HCD are under review by the City with modifications underway.

They are also looking to establish a temporary Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for the study this summer to advise them during the study phase.

For more information on the status of the Cabbagetown Southwest HCD study, please contact:
Tamara Anson-Cartwright CAHP
Program Manager, Heritage Preservation Services
City Planning, Urban Design, City of Toronto
t: 416 338-1083 e: Tamara.Anson-Cartwright@toronto.ca

Builders of Canada, Part 1

Date and Time July 23 at 1:30 pm
Starting Point: Gates of the St. James Cemetery, on Parliament just north of Wellesley Street

Builders of Canada, Part 2

Date and Time August 13 at 1:30
Starting Point: Gates of the Necropolis Cemetery at the east end of Winchester Street

The two-part walking tour Builders of Canada is the CPA's contribution to Canada 150, the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation.

Did you know that an organized group of soldiers tried to take Canada hostage? Who was the first person to find dinosaur fossils in Canada? Ever proudly stood on the grave of a Father of Confederation? Did you know that Canada hanged two rebels who are now regarded as heroes? Did you know that, during the First

World War, a Canadian was credited with killing the redoubtable German pilot nicknamed the Red Baron?

Cabbagetown's two historical cemeteries, St. James Cemetery and the Necropolis, are open-sky history books, full of these stories. Both cemeteries opened in the middle of the 19th century and served a growing city that needed more space to house its deceased.

Many people who left their mark and helped build this country are buried in either cemetery. Come hear their rarely-heard stories.

These people distinguished themselves in fields like exploration, politics, education, industries, immigration, philanthropy, transportation, war, sports, communications, etc.

These walking tours are linked to the presentation on the Builders of Canada that will follow the CPA annual general meeting on May 29, 2017 (see details on the front page of this newsletter).

Remarkable Lives

Pat Cole was born in Toronto and schooled by the Carmelite Nuns. She was a long-time resident and avid volunteer of Regent Park, a neighbourhood located in downtown Toronto.

Being a single mother living in Regent Park, she sought the help of agencies to assist her and her five children. She was so thankful to receive the support that she decided to help others in order to instill dignity in each person who was struggling to feed their children. There were times when people came to her home leaving with bags of food.

While living in Regent Park, Pat Cole made significant and much needed changes within the community, many of which still exist today. She was a founder and volunteer with the Regent Park Resident Association (RPRA), which was a resident-driven organization that played a role as the key voice of the community. The association was strong, and active people organized social and cultural events, as well as initiated innovative programs and services from the 1970's -1990's. Issues such as inadequate housing, income and food security, the needs for a community centre and for youth community workers were addressed.

Pat was also involved with "The Teen Association" – an offshoot from the RPRA. It brought youth from diverse backgrounds together in a safe and

welcoming drop-in space.

She was also involved with The "Community Worker Training Program" which focused on unemployed youth and the "Sole Support Mom's Nutrition Project" which evolved to support single mothers who were raising children alone. This was a very creative group of women who also lobbied to increase Family Allowance.

Pat Cole's contributions are endless. She started the first Organic Community Garden in 1984 on land donated by Metropolitan Toronto Housing. She organized "pick your own" trips to farms throughout the Summer and Fall and community potluck dinners. Pat acquired donations of produce from the St. Lawrence Market which were distributed within the community twice a week.

For twenty years, Pat Cole was an inspiring community leader and a true advocate for Regent Park. "Cole Street" had been named in her honour and is the first new street to be established since Regent Park was first built.



Peggy Kurtin has been referred to as the "engine of heritage" in the historical neighbourhood of Cabbagetown. She lived on Winchester Street near Sackville.

She was a founding member of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association and was a member of the Ontario Heritage Board. She also served on the board of the Toronto Historical Association.

Peggy led an extraordinary volunteer effort to establish the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation Districts. Now consisting of more than 1,500 properties, the districts continue to expand.

For her many years of community and heritage work, she received several awards including the Lieutenant Governor's Award and the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Each year the Peggy Kurtin Award for Excellence in Restoration is awarded in her honour to a Cabbagetown home owner.

The legacy of Peggy Kurtin is evident when one walks the streets of Cabbagetown.

More? Go to cabbagetownpeople.ca

Streetscapes in Bloom



Spring is in the air and gardeners are busy removing winter mulch, re-arranging pots, and splitting perennials! A walk through our charming neighbourhood is enhanced by beautiful and diverse front gardens. Even city boulevards (and some back lanes) are being transformed into garden plots with fragrant flowers, decorative planters, and even a few broken pots bursting with flora!

So, it is time to nominate a front garden for the CPA's annual **STREETSCAPES IN BLOOM** award (SSB).

To nominate a garden, please send the following information to: cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca

- Address of the front garden
- Name and contact information of nominator
- Name of home owner (if possible)

To view past winners of the SSB award as well as the criteria used by the judging committee, please visit the CPA web site: www.cabbagetownpa.ca

Deadline for submissions: **MAY 27, 2017**



Providence Healthcare: An Iconic Toronto Institution

As avid historians with a passion for Toronto, and, in particular, the Cabbagetown neighbourhood, you may be familiar with the former property of the House of Providence on Power Street. Now commemorated with two Heritage Toronto plaques, the House of Providence played an important role in the rich, early history of our city.

A trip down the Memory Lane hallway within Providence Healthcare at our new site at Warden and St. Clair Avenues weaves a fascinating story of a legacy that spans 160 years. We invite you to visit us and immerse yourself in our beautifully curated displays and archives.

Essential Care for the Most Vulnerable

The Providence story began in 1851, when Sister Delphine Fontbonne arrived in Toronto from Philadelphia, along with three other Sisters of St. Joseph, at the request of Toronto's Bishop de Charbonnel, to help alleviate the social needs of the time.

Bishop de Charbonnel articulated his vision for the House of Providence in 1855:

"Might we not shelter for a few days poor emigrants, particularly destitute widows, mothers and daughters, refresh a little their mind, heart and body...giving them all possible information, directions about land, employment and work? Who has not seen these poor emigrants...on our boats, wharves and streets without heart-rending feelings at the sight of fellow [human beings] reduced to so pitiable a condition?"

From the outset, the House of Providence, 'entrusted to the zeal of the Sisters of St. Joseph', was open to serve the needs of everyone, regardless of race, religion or creed.

Heritage Tree + Tree Tour 'Honour a unique tree in your community'

Celebrate our heritage and Canada 150 by nominating a Heritage Tree!

What is a HeritageTree? Learn how you can 'honour a unique tree in your community' with the Heritage Tree Program. This event is in partnership with Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC) and Cabbagetown ReLEAF Tree Stewardship.

Join our Team for a morning of talks on Heathy Roots, Heritage Trees, the Heritage Tree Program, and an afternoon Tree Tour in the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District.

The morning will start with Emma Gleisner and Sven Gleisner, Cabbagetown ReLEAF, talking about Healthy Roots. 'For trees to thrive they need healthy roots, but standard pots deform roots which seriously compromises the plant. The Air-Pot system does the opposite, actively enhancing the plant, by making it develop a mass of healthy fibrous roots. This maximizes its ability to absorb nutrients and water, leading to a healthier, faster growing tree.' Sven is just back from a trip to Scotland where he learned about Air-Pot containers at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and manufacturer, The Caledonian Tree Co.

The Air-Pot system, the experts' choice, is used in countries around the world for over 25 years. ReLEAF is developing a city-wide program 'Growing Trees from Seed' using the propagation Air-Pot

container for communities to grow native tree seedlings and our future Legacy Trees.

Then we will continue with Edith George, champion for the protection of Heritage Trees. Edith tells the story of a red oak tree (250+ years old) found in her neighbour's back yard and demonstrates how to assess heritage value. Edith is quick to admit her passion for heritage trees and travels the province of Ontario answering the questions, 'What is a Heritage Tree?' and 'Why should they be protected?'

We will complete our morning talks with the keynote presentation by Peter Wynnychuk, Executive Director, Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC), on the Heritage Tree Program, 'honour a unique tree in your community'.

The Heritage Tree Program collects and tells the stories of Ontario's diverse and unique trees and brings awareness to the social, cultural, historical and ecological value of trees. Heritage Trees can be associated with a historic person or event, or may be growing on land that is historically significant. Candidate Heritage Trees are also assessed for size, form, shape, beauty, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution or other distinctive features and/or as a prominent community landmark.

Identification of these trees enables communities to locate potential native seed sources. Collecting these seeds will ensure the succession planting of legacy trees for future generations to enjoy.

Before we start the afternoon agenda we will take a 30-minute break. The afternoon Tree Tour with Peter Wynnychuk will start at the corner of Sumach and Spruce Streets. Showcasing the neighbourhoods trees to the community is the first step to nominating a potential Heritage Tree. On our tour, we pass by Victorian houses dating back to the 1830's and through Riverdale Park West, Riverdale Farm, and The Necropolis.

Invasive Norway maples, majestic but threatened ash trees, horse-chestnuts and a large copper beech all combine to create an informative, perfectly shaded walk beneath a mature urban canopy. Most of the stops on the tour highlight living trees, but one stop focuses on a dead tree. It isn't just any dead tree though, and it certainly isn't one that would be hauled away and chipped. This tree has been carved into a sculpture of barred owls by Jim Menken

The neighbourhood of Cabbagetown has many stories to be told and its urban forest is no exception. 'Cabbagetown People with its focus on the stories of people provides a very nice balance to the built heritage of the neighbourhood.'

To read more and to register for HERITAGE TREE+TREE TOUR, June 10, 2017, go to <http://www.heritagetree.eventbrite.com>. Free Tickets, Limited Seating, Registration Required.

More information is available online:

<http://www.oufc.org>, <http://www.cabbagetownreleaf.org>



Like Cabbagetown, the early years in the House of Providence were largely shaped by the wave of Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine. Many of Toronto's Irish poor arrived at the House of Providence for food and lodging, as work was hard to find.

Within the first eight years, the House of Providence was caring for 450 residents, a number that would grow to more than 700 over time (the building also expanded to support this growth).

When the residence was full, the Sisters would open an 'outdoor relief line' – an early soup kitchen – to feed those most in need. In 1924, the Sisters served 80 to 90 meals a day, and in 1939 – the conclusion of the Great Depression - the Sisters' records indicate that 400 people waited in line every day for a sandwich, or with baskets to be filled.

The Sisters were fortunate beneficiaries of generous patrons, including Toronto-born actress Mary Pickford, who donated 186 coats for the residents, and J.G. Worts and W. Gooderham, whose names are familiar to us today.

Other fundraising activities supported their efforts, such as a Grand Concert at St. Lawrence Hall in 1862, and annual 'collection tours' to rural areas to collect flour, meat, butter, wool and clothing from farmers.

One man in particular had a lasting impact on our history. In 1897,

Thomas O'Connor bequeathed his 42-acre farm at Queen and Bay to the Sisters, to provide food for those cared for and accommodated in the House of Providence. The Sisters sold the property for \$110,000 in 1910.

Using the proceeds, the Sisters purchased our current land from a Mr. Herron. Our acreage became known as the House of Providence Farm, and continued to provide essential resources for the residents.

"The Fastest Move in History"

By the late 1950s, the House of Providence was in disrepair and a feeder lane of the new Don Valley Parkway was slated to be built through the property. The journey to the east end began, with building plans and a \$7 million fundraising campaign launched in 1958.

One of the most memorable days in our history was January 28, 1962, when 500 residents were moved from the House of Providence to the new Providence Villa and Hospital in a "Caravan of Kindness," paid for by an anonymous donor.

Starting at 9 a.m., 25 ambulances transported the most vulnerable and sick people, while the remaining residents were transported by taxis directed by the Toronto Police.

Photos from the time show almost 100 taxis lined up and residents waiting for their taxis with shopping bags filled with personal belongings in their

arms. This stage of the move took place in less than two hours, prompting Sister Jane MacDonald to declare it "the fastest move in history!"

By 1 p.m. that day, the House of Providence, which had been such a centre of activity for the past century, was empty.

Providence was a model of innovation for its day as it was the first facility in North America for residential care for the elderly to have an infirmary attached. One of the unique features was the provision of eight suites for married couples. These apartments included outside balconies and access to their own lounge, kitchenette, and laundry.

Even celebrities caught wind of our great work! In 1965, at the height of his popularity, TV star Ed Sullivan visited Providence during a trip to Toronto, and he graciously toured the building, meeting and chatting with residents and staff along the way.

Building for the Future in the East End

Providence has continually evolved its programs and services over the years, re-naming itself twice to better reflect the type of care provided (Providence Centre in 1989 and Providence Healthcare in 2004).

Although the Sisters of St. Joseph no longer sponsor the institution, their legacy lives on in the women and the men who work here. Providence looks to its founders with pride and gratitude, and cherishes the values they instilled in our staff and volunteers.

We are privileged to be celebrating our 160th anniversary in 2017.

Today's Providence Healthcare is a leader in providing rehabilitation, palliative care, long-term care and community programs in Toronto.

You can learn more about us and our history at www.providence.on.ca and follow us on Twitter (@providence3276), Facebook (ProvidenceHealthcareTO) and Instagram (@peopleofprovidenceTO) to share in our 160th anniversary celebrations.

From the Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum

Punchy's Chronicles is a section of the museum website composed of recollections of an earlier Cabbagetown. Here is a selection of some of the sketchier venues of the 1950s. With the exception of the Avion, whose original structure still stands at Gerrard and Sumach, these were all on Parliament Street. In Punchy's words:

The Winchester Hotel

The Winchester Hotel still stands at the corner of Winchester and Parliament Streets. It was one of the toughest drinking spots in the Cabbagetown area. So tough that its nickname was "The Bucket of Blood".

Avion House

The Avion, stood at the N.E. corner of Sumach and Gerrard Streets. Although the building remains and has been turned into condominiums, the tavern is long gone. It was a typically run-down Cabbagetown drinking spot. Although fights could erupt at any minute, it was never considered as wild as most other neighborhood drinkeries.

The Eclipse Theatre



The Eclipse Theatre stood on the east side of Parliament just south of Gerrard Street East. It was torn down to make way for apartment buildings in North Regent Park in the mid 50's. Ted Plantos informs me the the tiny restaurant next door was called the Eclipse Grill.

I have since discovered that this picture was taken on July 27, 1949 at 10:10 AM, according to the clock in the sign. The movie being advertised, "Riders of the Deadline" starring William Boyd as Hopalong Cassidy was released in 1944. It was quite normal for Cabbagetown theatres to show out of date films.

The Bluebell Theatre (later the Gay)

(Next to the theatre) would be French's Fish and Chips, known locally as Frenchie's, and a variety store, then beyond that were some row houses with no front yards. All these buildings have been torn down.

The Bluebell, stood at Parliament and Dundas right next to Cross's Esso service station. Even though it had been renovated, it didn't take long to once again become a dump. The floor was coated with gallons of spilled soda pop making it quite a challenge to walk between the seats without losing a shoe to the sticky floor.

The Saturday afternoon matinees could get so rowdy that there was actually a bouncer to throw out any kids that got out of hand.

But it was still very dear to my heart because this was my favorite neighborhood theatre. I spent many hours in this building watching monsters and cowboy heroes like John Wayne parade across the torn silver screen.

The Renovation That Love Built

Cabbagetown native Kimberley Ezeard, presents her experiences in selling and buying heritage designate real estate in Cabbagetown, through a special column in this issue.



I spent almost a year with these clients looking for their dream home. They were specific about location and description. They wanted a "classic Cabbagetown house". Essentially, a historic Victorian fixer upper to restore/renovate. The idea was to buy for the best price, invest what was needed to do the work, and create something special, while not over-spending and maintaining equity... wow!

One partner had been in the area for years and knew exactly where and what to look for, the other partner loved the architecture, neighbourhood culture and downtown convenience so followed the lead.

This type of project is not for the faint of heart, as it is a massive undertaking, and you must have the vision to see the potential of each property as well as the resources to complete the project. Also, it requires the trust and hard work of an experienced contractor who knows the area well.

Knowledge of Cabbagetown is helpful because of the Heritage District designation for this area and the special requirements under the designation for building, restoring and renovating.

Success! After unsuccessful multiple offer attempts, they acquired their dream "dump" on Metcalfe St. and started the process of turning it into a family love nest.

And love nest it is, because the love between this couple, their children and this extraordinary neighbourhood is what drove this project from start to finish.

The process started with plans, permits and demolition. The house was completely gutted and taken back to the studs, foundation to roof joists. The entire project, except for finishing decorative touches, took 10 months through 2015/2016.

Everything was rebuilt from the foundation up, and in the process, 1 of the 2 original fireplaces was found behind a wall. Those 2 fireplaces now have gas inserts, and with their mantles, grace the open concept ground floor to create a large family space with a deacon's bench, and mirror that is perfect for the daughter's dance studio, music practice and entertaining. Tucked away in the bay window is a comfy sectional sofa for

more intimate gatherings and family time. The dark hardwood floors and chandeliers complete the warm energy that infuses this home.

The kitchen is large, bright, and modern with stainless steel appliances designed for a family's day to day living in white, with punches of fuchsia



to accentuate the details of the light coloured furnishings. The dark flooring and chandelier lighting tie the room beautifully to the entire ground floor.

On the second level there are three bedrooms. A large room for each of the two children, complete with double closets and generous windows, as well as a well-thought out 4-piece bathroom. The small room is a dedicated space for the guy of the house, it's "the man cave" full of tech toys and a comfortable couch to lounge on while indulging in the always vague "guy stuff"...

The third floor is the couples private retreat, complete with a large walk-out deck, spa bath, massive walk in closet and coffee/breakfast area, so running to the ground floor isn't required on quiet mornings. This peaceful space with its chaise longue and fireplace could embrace you for the entire day.

The house is filled with family photos, framed copies of the plans for the renovation, and contributions of furniture from extended family members. They "shopped frequently in a sister's basement in exchange for design consulting on her renovation". One of their Dads, helped extensively as a "labour of love" with the exterior and basement, in exchange for "good cooking and love".

The basement area of the house has been lowered to create the

necessary clearance for good workout space and possibly an additional family room as the children mature. It also houses the laundry area, HVAC systems and storage. (continued next page)

The couple were extremely involved in the process of the renovation but attribute their success with the project to the knowledge and experience of their contractor. Their trust was based on previous success with the company.

Throughout the course of the renovation, the couple touched base with me to confirm property values in the neighbourhood and to stay on track financially so as not to "over build". There can be no doubt that their planning and investment was successful, as they have likely doubled the value of the property since completing the work, especially with our current market values in this location.

Indeed, this is the renovation that love built.
Kimberley Ezeard



The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes

Sunday, September 17, 2017, 12 Noon-4 PM
\$30 per ticket. Info: cabbagetownpa.ca

Please join us for the 37th Cabbagetown Tour of Homes.

Tour the interiors of some of Cabbagetown's beautiful and historical homes. Watch the Cabbagetown Preservation Association website at www.cabbagetownpa.ca for tickets to go on sale at local retailers and on-line in mid August.

Do you have a home or know of a home that could be a wonderful addition for this year's tour? The Tour organizers are currently hard at work organizing this year's tour and would love to hear from you at cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca.

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Dr. Oronhyatekha: The Man and the Myths

This Fall a new book on Dr. O will be published: *Dr. Oronhyatekha: The Man and the Myths*. It's Author, Michelle Hamilton, outlines here some of the new information of Dr. O's life that adds colour and dispels some old assumptions.

Many Cabbagetown residents will recognize the name Dr. Oronhyatekha. Allan Gardens hosts a plaque erected by the Toronto Historical Board in 1995. There is a laneway named after Dr. O in the heritage conservation district, his former rental home still stands on Carlton Street, and a short bio is listed on the CPA's website Cabbagetown People. He is known for many things: presenting an address to the Prince of Wales during the 1860 royal visit to his home in the Grand River territory; attending Oxford University; being an Indigenous pioneer in medicine; a friend of the first Prime Minister John A. MacDonald; and a "joiner" of many fraternal organizations, including being the first non-white member of the Independent Order of Foresters (IOF), and because of a fractious secession in the ranks, by serendipity its Supreme Chief Ranger. Now, 150 years after he graduated with his M.D., he is the subject of a new full-length biography, *Dr. Oronhyatekha: Security, Justice and Equality*. In researching this book, my co-author and I discovered a number of myths about his life.



were exchanged at the station. The prince and his entourage did lunch at a Brantford hotel, but it is questionable how well the two young men knew each other after this visit. Instead, Dr. Henry Acland, the prince's personal physician and Oxford University professor, became Oronhyatekha's life-long friend, mentor, even father figure. It was Acland

that invited and arranged for a grant for Oronhyatekha to attend Oxford in 1862. Yet Oronhyatekha was only enrolled at Oxford for about one month. Abraham Nelles' claims made their way overseas and Oronhyatekha felt he had to return home to defend his name. Nevertheless, some biographers award him an Oxford degree and certainly Dr. Oronhyatekha advertised himself as "Oxford trained."

After returning to Canada, Acland arranged for a grant to assist Oronhyatekha in attending the Toronto School of Medicine (affiliated with Toronto University). He graduated with his M.B. in 1866 and his M.D. in 1867. Yet, he was not the first Indigenous doctor in Canada as he has been commemorated by Parks Canada. Instead, he was narrowly beat out by Dr. Peter Edmund Jones, his classmate, and in fact a neighbor at home, as Jones was from the New Credit community on the edge of the Grand River territory. Still to be an Indigenous physician in 1867 was an exceptional accomplishment.

Early biographies noted that after attending Wesleyan Academy (Massachusetts), a young Oronhyatekha completed a four-year degree at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, in two years. After a stint in the Kenyon archives, I uncovered the real story. Oronhyatekha attended the Kenyon prep school Milnor Hall for one year, then entered Kenyon proper in 1858. He intended to graduate with the class of 1862 but instead he left after the spring semester of 1860, never to return. His grant had been revoked by the Grand River missionary Abraham Nelles who accused him of impregnating and abandoning a young woman, a charge that dogged Oronhyatekha for over a decade but seemingly has no proof.

Legend says that the Prince of Wales, only a few months younger than Oronhyatekha, invited him to study medicine at Oxford when they met during the royal visit in 1860. However, the prince, short on time, never visited the Grand River territory. Instead, his train made a number of whistle stops between Sarnia and Niagara, including the Brantford train station. Rather than verbal addresses, written statements

His relationship with royalty was a common feature of his biographies both during his life and after his death. He helped plan the Toronto celebrations for the royal visit of 1901, and was invited to the coronation of Edward VII in 1903. Whether he had an open invitation to visit the queen at any time is another matter. A witty man, his biographers may have confused Oronhyatekha's humorous tales with reality. For instance, consider the story of how he obtained a replica of the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey. Apparently, while admiring the chair, the queen told him she had another in the basement and she would gift it to him. In reality, British companies sold replicas of royal items such as the Coronation Chair and making a replica chair collection became a fad in the early 1900s. Dr. Oronhyatekha commissioned his chair in 1903 and it arrived in Toronto in 1904.

Other stories are equally humorous but impossible to investigate. A known practical joker, we heard the story of Dr. Oronhyatekha leaving a baby elephant on a fellow Mason's porch, ringing the doorbell, and then hiding around the corner to see the reaction of the individual who

opened the front door. Indeed, Dr. Oronhyatekha had a small zoo – including a monkey and a tame moose! – on his property on Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, but whether this story is true is unclear.

In 1888, Dr. Oronhyatekha decided to relocate the Independent Order of Foresters' headquarters from London to Toronto. Despite rumours that he would run for a Conservative seat in Toronto, he believed that as head of the IOF, he should not be partisan. Instead he focused on the expansion of the Foresters, transforming it from a small and internally conflicted group into an international business over the next seventeen years. He built the tallest building in the British Empire (at 12 stories!) known as the Temple at the corner of Bay and Richmond, expanded the IOF throughout North America, Europe, Australia and the Middle East, multiplied the takings of the Foresters' insurance plans by the millions, waged a decade war of words in local newspapers about the validity of fraternal insurance versus commercial insurance, built a museum collection open to the public at the Temple, held grand galas with thousands in attendance, and hosted visitors at the grand IOF tent at the yearly Exhibition. By the time of his death from the ravages of heart disease and diabetes in 1907, Dr. Oronhyatekha was a household name in Toronto.

Michelle Hamilton is Associate Professor and Director of Public History at the University of Western Ontario, and with Keith Jamieson, the co-author of Dr. Oronhyatekha: Security, Justice and Equality (2016).

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Bathe my soul

*Barbara Mercer
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