

Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

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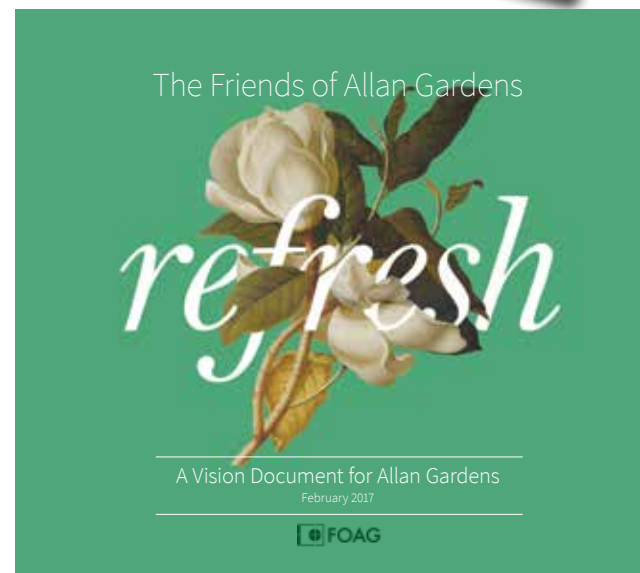
CPA 2018 AGM

Wednesday May 30, 2018 at 7:00 pm
Dixon Hall (formerly St Peter's Church at Carlton and Bleecker)
Followed by a presentation by the Friends of Allan Garden

Agenda:

- Annual General Meeting (reports, election to the board, etc.)
- Announcement of the winner(s) of the Peggy Kurtin Award Program
- Our special guests: David Winterton, Friends of Allan Gardens (FOAG)

David Winterton of Friends of Allan Gardens will join us to discuss the early history of Allan Gardens, one of Toronto's oldest landscaped public spaces and site of social interaction, as well as its current context. The Friends of Allan Gardens recently issued the refresh, a vision document for Allan Gardens Park and Conservatories. It suggests ideas about how to imagine a 21st century urban park, a horticultural collection under glass and a diverse community of park users, many vulnerable, in a densifying downtown neighbourhood.



Friends of Allan Gardens and the Refresh

By David Winterton

The Origins of the Park

Allan Gardens is one of Toronto's oldest public landscapes. It has served an array of social functions in a natural setting, while also offering horticultural displays that bring people together. Regardless of the vector, those functions have always mirrored the continuing social evolution of the neighbourhood. Set in the centre of Park Lot 5, what became known as Allan Gardens was once pine forest and meadow, undoubtedly traversed for ages by indigenous networks. The lot came to be owned by William Allan, a Scot who came to Upper Canada at age 17 and became ensconced within the legal and banking establishment of early Toronto. He developed the property shortly after acquiring it in 1819 and named it Moss Park. George Allan, William's son and heir was, happily, dually interested in horticulture and in improving the colonial city: the result of this marriage was his donation in 1858 of the five acre oval parcel of land to the nascent Toronto Horticultural Society, an early example of public realm philanthropy in Toronto. Not an entirely altruistic gift however, this botanical reserve was meant to serve as the manicured centrepiece of the lot's subdivision into villa estates: think Regent's Park in London or Gramercy Park in New York as models.

Through donations from the Horticultural Society the first, open-air, rustic pavilion was soon raised in the centre of the oval. It served as a venue for concerts, horticultural displays and other gatherings, inaugurating the long tradition of social mixing through the universal draw of horticulture.

The first pavilion was rustic indeed, rickety even, and was torn down in 1878 and replaced with a grand three-storey enclosed pavilion. It was designed as a revenue-generating concert hall primarily but worked for horticultural displays too when a conservatory was added. Next, a tall, cascading fountain was installed out front. All this grandiosity however, was expensive: the Horticultural Society found itself in debt, unable to recoup its expenditures by selling concert tickets, and in 1888 relinquished management of the park and pavilion to the City of Toronto.

In 1901 George Allan died. The park had by then been renamed Allan Gardens to honour his legacy. A year later the second



City of Toronto

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pavilion burned to the ground. In 1910 the new domed Edwardian conservatory was opened by the city. The function of this building was now exclusively for horticultural displays, as it remains today.

Modern Times, Social Changes

Around this time the neighbourhood's settlement was shifting, as many patrician families who had dwelt in the now old-fashioned Victorian mansions around Allan Gardens had empty-nested and passed away, or decamped for leafier, more fashionable enclaves like Rosedale or the Davenport Hill. Thus was triggered the first apartment neighbourhood in Toronto, as many of the old and ample houses were torn down and replaced with the city's first generation of apartment buildings. Sometimes too, the mansions were converted into rooming houses, or benevolent societies, functions that have remained to this day. By the end of the second World War the neighbourhood had "declined" and had become a rich mix of the urbanite poor, the single, the marginalized, the vulnerable, the addicted, the young, the old and the homosexual. Allan Gardens was, and in many respects still is, their common ground.

Because of its 'marginalized' location and users (in the post-war anti-urban narrative), Allan Gardens was to some in the city-building class therefore a blank slate, ripe for full scale renewal, a gaze it has never fully escaped from. A series of overhauls and master plans befell the park from the 50's on.

Fast forward to the late 90's, with the support of Kyle Rae, the Ward councillor at the time, and ERA Architects founding partner Michael McClelland, David Winterton formed a 'friends' group and sought support (led by enthusiastic city staff) for improvements, repairs and renewed attention by the city.

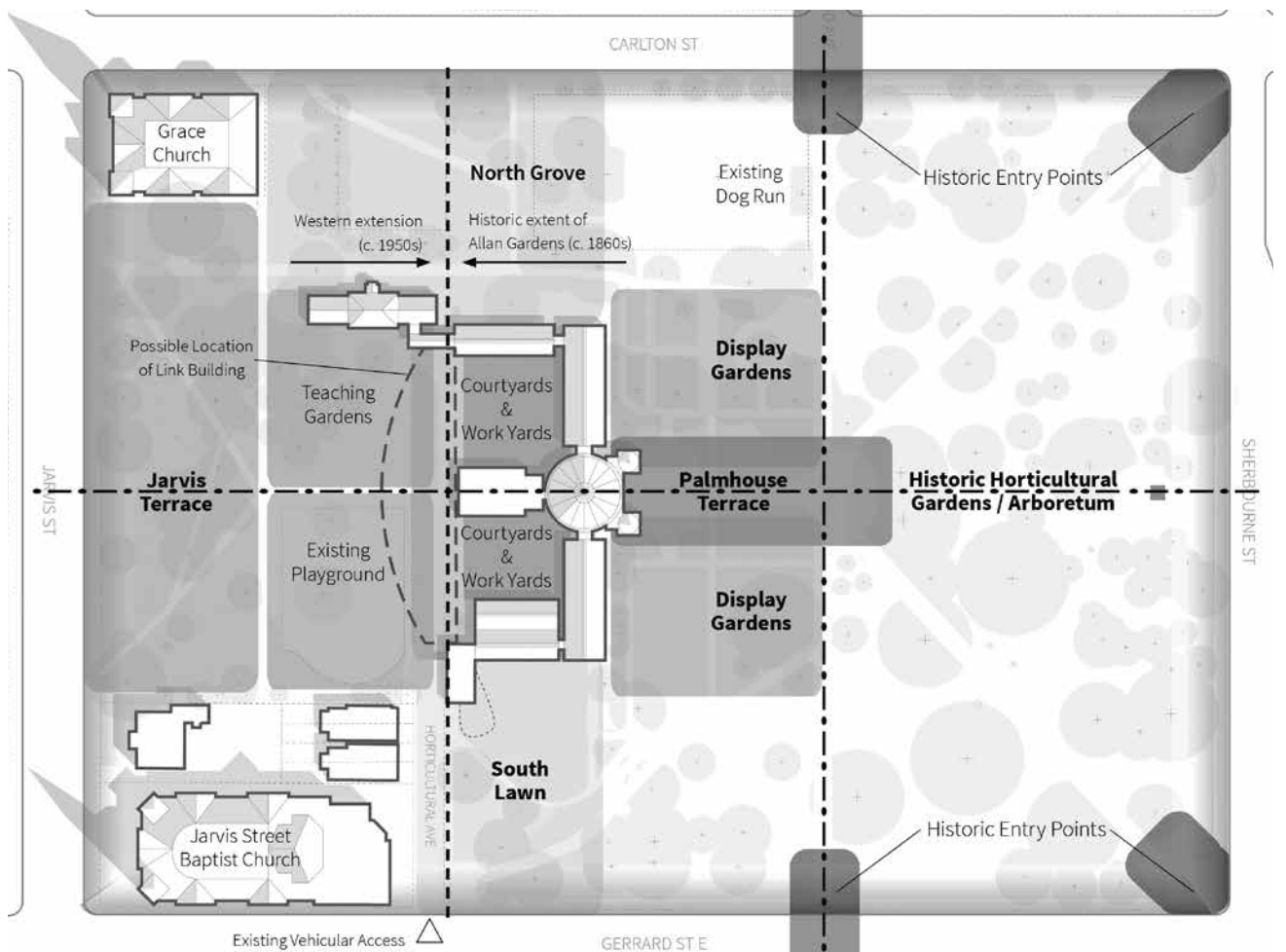
The refresh

By the late aughts the Friends of Allan Gardens had re-formed and expanded as a group of urbanists, parks advocates, architects, landscape architects, neighbours, educators and city staff, and organized themselves into a not-for-profit board of directors. They co-hosted events with Parks Forestry & Recreation, organized workshops on site and met with park users and neighbourhood support services to talk and learn about the rhythms of the place. Momentum for a kick-off art installation picked up - then was deflated by a fiasco of communication and understanding with a city department. It was a classic case of innovative steps forward being countered by bureaucratic inertia. But new thinking about how to build and maintain a quality public realm was dislodging that inertia, as simple and successful formulas from abroad (focussed on governance and placemaking) were discreetly piloted in Toronto. In this context, the city's Manager of Horticulture and Greenhouses Garth Amour, in a gesture of support of the place, moved his office from City Hall to Allan Gardens and became an ex-officio board member of the Friends. He asked the Friends to re-focus their attention and review the reports, memos and shelved master plans of the previous decades to glean the best ideas and reject the worst, and generally take a fresh look at upping the potential of the park and its conservatories, integrating on site observation and real feedback from park users and local stakeholders. The ensuing document, the refresh was issued by the Friends of Allan Gardens in March of 2017 [<https://bit.ly/2wE4Z3d>]. It is, at its core, a vision document filled with ideas of potential, and not another master plan. It offers a vision of revitalization through the principles of:

1. promoting horticultural excellence,
2. respecting the place's natural, architectural and social heritage and
3. providing new and inclusive opportunities for everybody within its diverse community.

The refresh identifies eight themes for engagement and further analysis (such as: art and culture; park functionality; and stewardship), and within those themes are identified specific opportunities that have proven successful elsewhere, or which would create a more meaningful experience, or interpret the uniqueness of the place. Common to all the opportunities is an idea of how urbanites can engage with nature and experience the park in unexpected and informative ways.

City Council passed a motion in February accepting the refresh document as the guiding framework for the revitalization



of Allan Gardens. Building on this progress, at a meeting on April 9, the City's Parks and Environment Committee accepted a related report from the general manager of the Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division. This report responds to Council's directive to consider possible governance, programming, place-making projects, and funding models that will help to realize the refresh.

Volunteer programs and their home

As part of the refresh's momentum last Fall the Friends received an Ontario Trillium Fund Grant (through our charitable partner the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation) to hire its first staff member to organize, outreach and run a volunteer program. The response has been tremendous and speaks to the pent-up demand to participate in the wonder that is Allan Gardens and for citizens to feel like they have a tangible attachment in this ever-changing city. One of the Friends' main goals is to continue to partner and build volunteer programs, train docents and outreach ambassadors, offer educational programs for all ages, host puttering parties and seasonal floral show launches and simply advocate to keep Allan Gardens a special, inclusive and natural place for all to enjoy.

Capacity

On busy weekends the greenhouses are often at capacity, and accessibility and circulation flow is problematic. FOAG is developing a list of new public programs we hope to launch soon, and our partners are eager to start projects they've identified in the refresh. It goes without saying that the downtown is densifying rapidly, and social media has helped spread the word about Allan Gardens to new Torontonians who are flocking to the place. Ryerson University's remarkable growth has added a large and enthusiastic student population to the area, eager to test ideas about public space. With this influx of more people comes new pressures on green space and park infrastructure, including the conservatories. More durable, flexible and inclusive solutions are needed to address this growing capacity issue. With a view to FOAG taking leadership in expanding the educational and interpretive capacity of Allan Gardens, the city commissioned several studies to provide useable background information for potential improvements and growth.

FOAG is looking forward to sharing the results of these studies and receiving input on next steps, as we continue to grow programs and expand public stewardship of the park.





Albert (Frenchy) Bélanger 1906 - 1969

1927 Flyweight Boxing Champion of the World

Plaque located at: 2 Lancaster Avenue, Toronto, ON, Canada

Albert (Frenchy) Bélanger, the son of Adolphe and Louise Bélanger was born in Toronto. He was the second eldest of seven children. All the children in the family had nicknames and Albert's was "Bear." The family originally lived on Sackville Street.

Being one of the toughest boys to come out of Cabbagetown, he was simply known as "The Champ." Because of his professional boxing skills he became a sports icon in the Roaring 20s. On December 19, 1927, at the young age of 21, he won the National Boxing Association's World Flyweight title at Toronto's CNE Coliseum, beating England's Ernie Jarvis. Albert won the title by a decision and he became the toast of Hogtown. The day after the fight, newspapers described it as an epic battle. The match drew 9,500 people, including many politicians and businessmen. Frenchy retired in 1930 after 61 bouts, which include 13 knockouts, 24 decisions, seven draws, and 17 losses. He also won the Canadian title and defended it several times.

The same year he married Ivy Bertha Bracewell, and they had two children. They lived on Winchester Street, and at the same time Frenchy worked as a waiter/bouncer at the Winchester Hotel on Parliament Street.

Frenchy was known as a kind, funny and loving father. He was a "real gentleman," and a role model for the many children with whom he came in contact. He started a boxing club at a church and it was

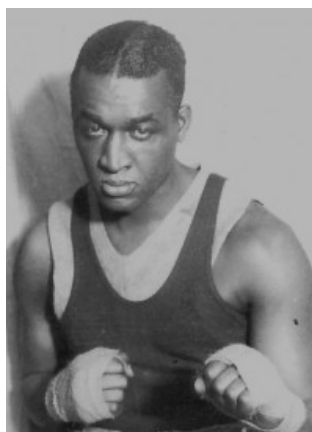


discovered only by accident that he was a world champion boxer. Such was his humility. On any night of the week, Frenchy could draw 10,000 fans into the coliseum to watch him fight. He fought at a time that boxing historians refer to as the "Golden Age of Flyweights."

Lawrence Samuel "Larry" Gains 1900 - 1983

Heavyweight Boxer Champion of the Dominion of Canada and the British Empire

Plaque located inside the new Regent Park Community Centre at Shuter and Sackville



He could have been a contender for World Champion?

Lawrence Samuel "Larry" Gains was born on Sumach Street in the Cabbagetown area of Toronto. As a young twenty year old he boxed out of Toronto's Praestamus Athletic Club, an organization for Black boxers. His amateur career was highly successful and in 1923 he went to England to pursue a professional career.

He was considered an excellent heavyweight at a time when there were many good heavyweight boxers. It has been written that he took London by storm. Before long he was the Canadian Heavyweight Champion.

The new fistic idol of Europe won every major title and knocked out heavyweight champion Max Schmeling. The historians now announce that he scored a two-round knockout over Max Schmeling. This would have made Larry Gains champion of the world by historic proxy.

Due to the times, he was not allowed to fight for the British Championship and the World Championship. There was a bar on black boxers and they could only compete for the "Coloured Heavyweight Champion of the World", which he won in 1928 and 1935.

"For me, the world title was always the impossible dream, the unreachable star", Gains said shortly before his death. "The politics of the day was against it. But I have no bitterness or regrets".

In 1974 Larry Gains was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame.

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.

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) websites. It enables you to view details of your home's origin. Since the late nineties, the Cabbagetown HCD, under the energetic leadership of the late Peggy Kurtin for most of that time, has been surveying the homes of the current HCD area and, recently, the proposed HCD area southwest of Carlton/Parliament.

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

is required by the City as part of the process of establishing the area as heritage.

Most of this material had been stored as paper documents and has been digitized so that all of the material can be presented online. Half of the \$3000 cost of organizing the information into a searchable data base has been covered by the CPA; the other major donor is local realtor Norman Hathaway (www.schickhathawayhomes.com), 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 is a charge for these, \$10 per person to a maximum of \$100 for 15 people. For information email cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca

See page 6 of this newsletter for upcoming tours being offered this Spring and Summer.

Time on Your Hands?

CPA is always looking for volunteers. Some of our committees and events: **Cabbagetown Talks; People and Ghost Walking Tours; Cabbagetown People; Cabbagetown Festival Booth; Tour of Homes; Newsletter Delivery and Garden tours**

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



Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum

It takes a community to build a museum

By Carol Moore-Ede

An idea is only as good as the people who make it a reality. Such was the case with the Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum (CRPM), an initiative which came out of a career cut short (after 42-years) at CBC-TV as a result of my husband's stroke and a car accident.

The first person to pick up the torch was Alan Waterhouse, then President of the CPA. He continued to be a major supporter of the CRPM both during and after its CPA life. Claus Schirmer quickly followed and introduced me to the Regent Park community. Diane MacLean, Regent Park mover and shaker, supported the idea of a combined museum and has continued to be a part of it since its inception. Her knowledge of the community has been a tremendous asset.

Many people came on board as things progressed. Gwen Adams was influential in getting us the display cases from the AGO and ROM, and also played a major part in the Bill Stapleton exhibition and fundraising. Steve Yeates designed the posters for the Stapleton display, and when the City of Toronto requested a partnership exhibition to be shown at Mackenzie House, Steve created the magnificent series of panels that were on display there for two years. Ironically, the generous donation of art from Bill Stapleton spelled the end of the museum being a part of the CPA, as it was too big a

responsibility for the association to take on at that time. So with the support of Alan and Christopher Dew, the CRPM set out on its own.

The lobby of 51 Division Police Station has held several exhibitions. The first one was on the history of Toys. Toby Schertzer helped move in the huge display cases, and people such as Helen Coltrinari rallied round to help with the exhibits and fundraising. The last exhibit on the history of policing in this area remains as a permanent presentation and was curated by longtime supporter and historian, Sally Gibson. Her knowledge has been invaluable.

Christopher played a major role in the development of the CRPM as a videographer in addition to other roles. Former residents, Kay 'the shoemaker's daughter' Horiszny and Connie Fenton were always available to lend a hand and to volunteer when the museum was housed first at the Residence and then Simpson House in Riverdale Farm.

There are so many people that have helped in so many different ways. Steve Brearton whose research and ideas were the foundation of the big exhibit held at the Daniel's Spectrum; Gina Dineen who organized the lively talk on the history of hats and is our Vice-Chair; and Chair, Jim Keffer who has been adding to the oral histories and editing the videos. The list goes on.

As authors often say at the beginning of their works, "any omissions or mistakes are entirely those of the author". And so say I. Everyone's input has been and continues to be appreciated even though there is not enough space to list you all. Thank you for making an idea a reality.

Images:

1. CRPM videographers Carol Moore-Ede and Christopher Dew on location in Regent Park.
2. 2016 Nov 15 Saying goodbye to Simpson House. L-R Connie Fenton, Alan Waterhouse, Carol Moore-Ede, Kay Horiszny, Gina Dineen.
3. Exhibition designer Don Adams and McGill student Maddie Bongers at the Residence Riverdale Farm.
4. Founder Carol Moore-Ede and historian-curator Sally Gibson at the opening of the Close To Home Exhibit. Photo courtesy of Snapd.
5. Jim Keffer editing Kiki's oral history (The Hairlift Group).
6. Volunteer appreciation party.
7. Toby Schertzer and a helper moving the cases into 51 Division.
8. The CRPM auction and supporters



Cabbagetown Gardens

Remember to nominate a front garden for the **Streetscapes In Bloom Award**.
Nominations close May 25, 2018.
cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca

Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces Tour

Sunday June 3, 2018,
10:00am – 3:00pm

This unique tour continues to draw people from across Toronto and beyond. June 3 will be the 11th time to have the privilege of peeking into some hidden gardens. A self-guided tour of

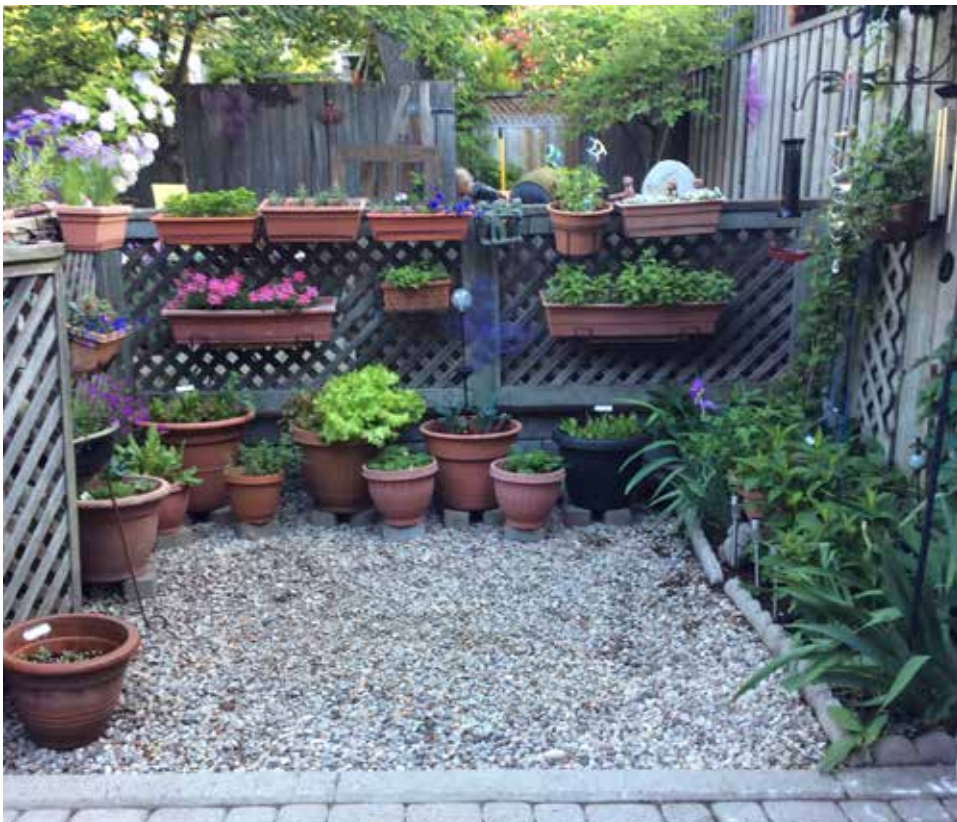
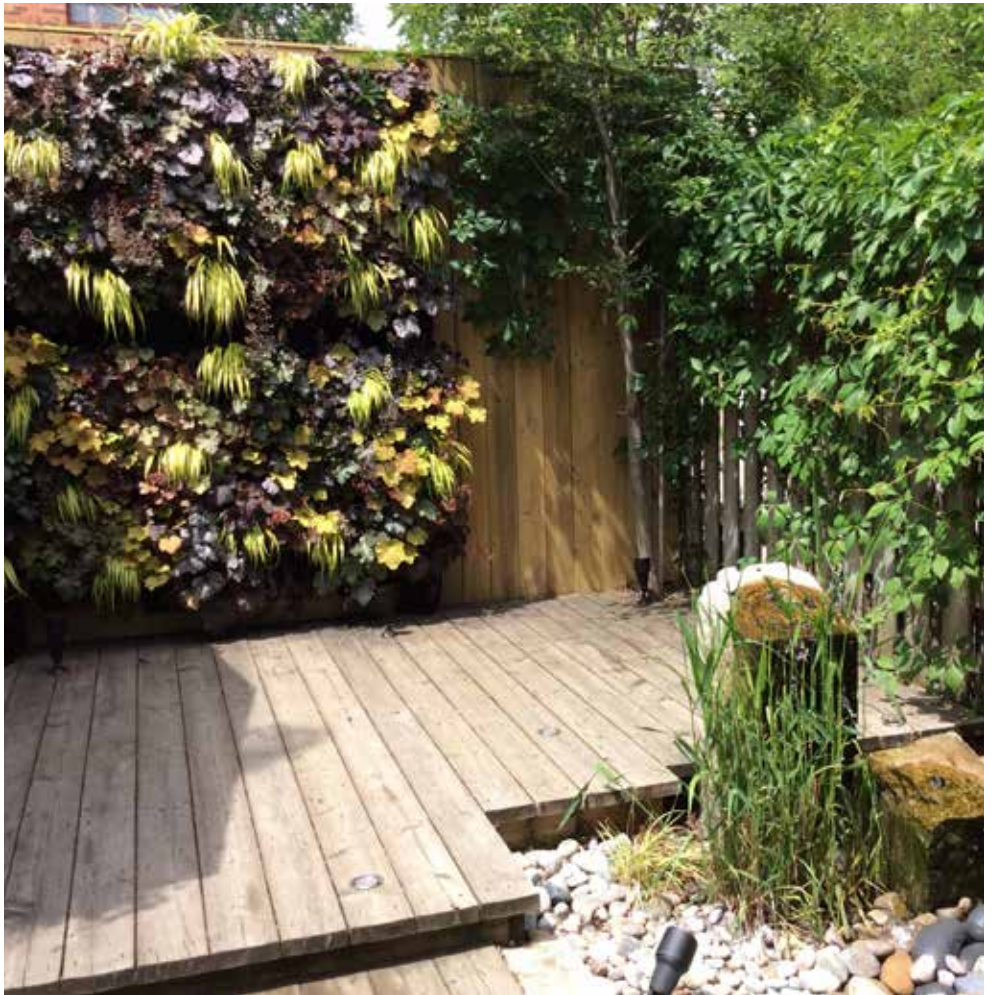
these private spaces will have limited ticket sales with proceeds supporting the work of the CPA.

The attraction for many is not only the charming gardens but also the historic streets, quirky laneways, and Victorian architecture. Master gardeners will be in some of the spaces to answer questions and offer advice.

Attending this tour is not only an inspiration for your personal

garden but also a chance to meet with friends, stop at shops and restaurants offering tour specials, chat with Master Gardeners and explore the historic Cabbagetown neighbourhood.

For more up-to-date information please visit www.cabbagetownpa.ca. Tickets are available at this web site using PayPal, from selected Cabbagetown merchants or other locations listed.



Cabbagetown Walks 2018



Wedding at the Lamb House 1895

Join us for one of our guided tours offered by the CPA, led by experienced and knowledgeable CPA volunteer guides. Tours are offered free of charge (however, a "hat" will be passed around at the end of tour - proceeds are reinvested into the CPA programs).

Discover Cabbagetown

A new series we're calling Discover Cabbagetown will take place throughout the summer of 2018; one Sunday per month, starting at 10:30 am.

Sunday May 27 at 10:30 am
 Sunday June 24 at 10:30 am
 Sunday July 22 at 10:30 am
 Sunday August 19 at 10:30 am
 Sunday September 16 at 10:30 am

Meeting point: the CPA kiosk, south-east corner of Sumach and Winchester streets, just by the gates to Riverdale Park West. A CPA tour guide will meet you there for a Cabbagetown adventure. Come often as tours will vary from month to month and guide to guide.

Cabbagetown: Tales Of Winchester Street

(In partnership with Heritage Toronto)

Sunday June 10, 2018 at 10:30 am
 Sunday August 26, 2018 at 10:30 am

Meeting Point: east end of Winchester Street (200 Winchester Street).

Winchester Street is the quintessential Cabbagetown street: quaint, tree-lined, with most Victorian architectural styles represented, including a beautifully restored hotel and the only remaining Victorian school building in the area. Winchester Street, throughout its history, connected people and institutions. Before the opening of the Prince of Wales Viaduct (aka Bloor Street Viaduct), it was an important link between Riverdale and the downtown. It was also the end of and the destination for an important streetcar line bringing people to the Riverdale Zoo, the Necropolis cemetery or Riverdale Park. Many remarkable people also called Winchester Street home: the magician Doug Henning, composer, musician, and TSO conductor Sir Ernest MacMillan, and many more.

This tour will also be offered in French. La visite guidée Cabbagetown : la rue Winchester sera aussi offerte en français (en partenariat avec la Société d'histoire de Toronto) dimanche le 26 août 2018 à 14h. Départ de l'extrémité est de la rue Winchester (200 Winchester Street).



2400 Winchester west to Sackville July 27, 1923.

City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 16, Series 71, Item 2400





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Steve Yeates
steve@steveyeates.ca
www.steveyeates.ca



Driftscape: Finding Hidden Historical Gems

Driftscape is a free app that lets you learn about where you are, on your own schedule, from diverse local experts.

Imagine you're walking down Front Street... as you approach St. Lawrence Market you get a notification letting you know you're near the site of William Davies Company's St. Lawrence Market Stall, one of Spacing's 50 Objects that Define Toronto. Read about its historical significance, and then keep looking to discover that you're at the spot where Canada's First Electric Telegraph was sent from in 1846 by the mayor of Toronto to the mayor of Hamilton. Listen to guides from First Story tell how Jarvis Street got its name: Samuel Jarvis was once the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, who sold land in this area in order to repay money he had taken from the Indigenous communities he was meant to serve. For this, he was given the honour of having a street named after him.

The city is dense with incredible stories - just waiting to be discovered - but they're not always easy to find. There are lots of great tools to help us find a restaurant or shops nearby, but our shared culture and history is often more difficult to uncover. Driftscape enables you to seamlessly encounter these hidden gems in the places where they're most meaningful. You can see all this content in one place and can choose to tailor what you see to suit your own interests. You can opt to view content from individual organizations, or select categories like history, curiosities, music, urbanism and more.

There are over 20 organizations sharing places of interest, events and tours on Driftscape. Learn about Toronto's indigenous history from First Story, read poetry about the city from Toronto Public Library, discover historical tidbits from the Toronto Historical Association or curiosities from NOW Magazine, Spacing and many more. There are currently over 900 entries on Driftscape, and that number continues to grow.

The team behind Driftscape believes that creating a platform where diverse stories can be shared, will inspire a greater understanding of the spaces we inhabit, and the people we share them with. It'll also make exploring your surroundings a lot of fun!

Driftscape is available to download for free, from iOS and Android. Visit www.driftscape.com.

First Parliament Project Online Survey



After years of hosting a car wash, the site that was once the location of Upper Canada's first Parliament, the beginnings of a united Canada, and the growth of the City into an industrial and diverse region is slowly getting the respect it deserves.

The City of Toronto is studying the future of the First Parliament site and has invited citizens to participate in a survey to learn what aspects of history are most important to us.

You can find the survey here: <http://bit.ly/FPPsurvey>. It will take 5-7 minutes to complete. Throughout the spring, the project team will finalize the Heritage Interpretation Strategy. In the fall, phase two of the project — the site Master Plan — will begin, and another round of public engagement events will take place.

To learn more about the First Parliament history and project, go to <https://bit.ly/2jOrEjH>.



HCD Study in Progress

The process has begun again to study Cabbagetown South for Heritage Designation. A neighbourhood walk was completed on March 27, 2018 with members of Cabbagetown South Residents Association, Sharon Hong from the City of Toronto, Heritage Preservation Services and consultants.

This is just a beginning of a minimum 2 year process.

The role of the HCD Advisory Committee is to advise and assist Cabbagetown residents with renovations and changes to the exterior of their properties. Our objective is not to hinder development, but to ensure alterations are executed in a sensible and responsible way that does not detract from the district as a whole.



CPA Membership/Volunteer Application

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

Name _____
Date _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____ Telephone _____
E-mail _____

There are many volunteer opportunities in the CPA. Interested? Please check this line and we will contact you. _____

CPA charitable number 85053 6160 (RR0001)

1 year / household \$ 20

Would you like to make a tax-deductible donation? \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

A tax receipt is issued for \$20+

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 is now \$20/year per household. This supports 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. Renewals are dated May 1. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Newsletter designed by:



Steve Yeates illustration & graphic design
steve@steveyeates.ca
www.steveyeates.ca

