



Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

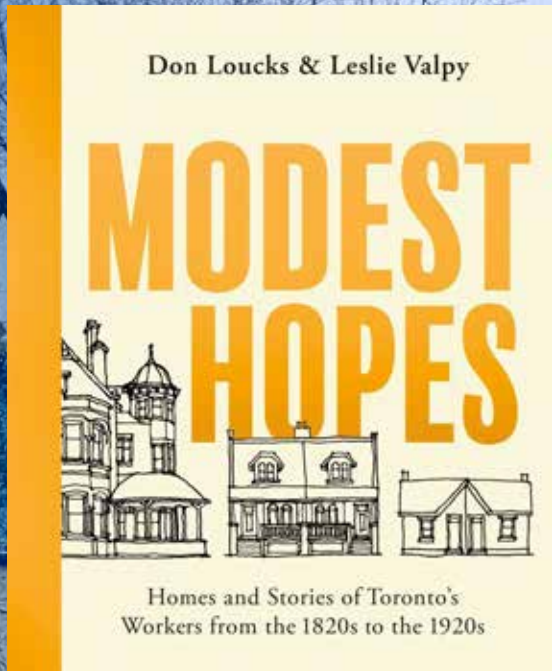


Hear
Don Loucks
and Leslie Volpy
on *Modest Hopes*
a CPA Heritage Talk

Wednesday, November 30 2022

7:00–8:30 pm, On **Zoom**

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CPA Heritage Talk:

Authors Don Loucks and Leslie Volpy discuss their book

Modest Hopes

Homes and Stories of Toronto's Workers
from the 1820s to the 1920s

Please join us, Wednesday, November 30 7:00-8:30 PM on Zoom

Details on Page 2

Celebrating Toronto's built heritage, this book looks at the type of workers' cottage found sprinkled throughout Cabbagetown. For immigrants who had been driven off their farms or had lived in crowded urban tenements, moving to one of these houses was a modest dream fulfilled. Join us to learn about this style of working class architecture and some of the people who inhabited these homes. To read an article on Loucks' and Volpy's book see the [last CPA Newsletter](#).

AND: Presentation of awards:

2022 Streetscapes in Bloom Award

and the CPA Recognition Award

Watch for a CPA eBlast with the zoom link in your email.



Riverdale Park West Brick Project Ending. Unless...

By Gale Moore



Based on an article by Randy Brown written for the CPA Newsletter 22 (1), Spring 2012

You've likely noticed the bricks near the farm gates in Riverdale Park West. Inscribed with the names of children to remember happy times in the park or the farm by parents and grandparents, celebrations of anniversaries of Cabbagetown residents — current and past, and reminders of much loved pets — here or gone, they are community memories. The 'named brick project' as it's often fondly called was started over a decade ago by Randy Brown who has been running it since. Until recently, Randy also chaired the Cabbagetown Arts & Crafts Sale in Riverdale Park West which he started over 30 years ago and which now takes place on the same week-end as the Cabbagetown Festival.

As the years passed, the Cabbagetown Arts & Crafts Committee noticed that the pathways on

which over 20,000 visitors walk through the park during the three days of the sale were deteriorating. After reading an article about a project in Toronto's Glen Cedar Park Randy wondered if this might work here. He approached then Parks Manager, Mark Hawkins, to see if the City would repair the pathways if funds were raised. They agreed, and offered to contribute as well. Cabbagetown Arts & Crafts contributed \$5000, flyers were distributed in the neighbourhood and bricks were offered for sale on the web. The Parks Department approved the selling of engraved bricks for \$100 & \$150 for ongoing support of the project — 4 x 8 inch bricks for \$100, and 8x8 inch bricks for \$150 with all funds to be used for renewal or restoration of Riverdale Park West.

The money raised from these engraved bricks has kept the project alive, and Parks places the new bricks each fall without charge to the community.

While the CPA does not have a direct involvement with the project we do get regular requests about how to order bricks on our CONTACT US web page. In fact, as I was writing this today, I had another enquiry. We pass these on to Randy who takes it

from there. Earlier this year, I learned that Randy is no longer able to carry out this work, and that the project would likely end if someone didn't volunteer to run it.

First, I'd like to offer a vote of thanks to Randy, to the Park Department, to all those who bought bricks over the years, and to the unnamed others whose efforts have made this project possible for so long.

Second, it doesn't have to end. But we do need a volunteer or an association to take this up and run with it. If this project appeals to you, please get in touch. There are still bricks, the information on the process is available, including information on the source of the bricks and the engravers, and there continue to be people asking to order them. Today, there is \$30,000 available in the fund which could be used to improve our beautiful park. Heritage lighting is one suggestion. I'm sure you, clever readers, will have others.

Things don't just happen... people make them happen. Who will step forward to continue this project to support our beautiful park?



New Thinking on Heritage

A rich infusion of new thinking on the meaning and practice of Heritage. has led CPA to fund attendance at two conferences:

The National Trust of Canada: *The Heritage Reset: Making Critical Choices*
Algonquin College, Perth, Ontario, *Heritage Planning for Professionals*

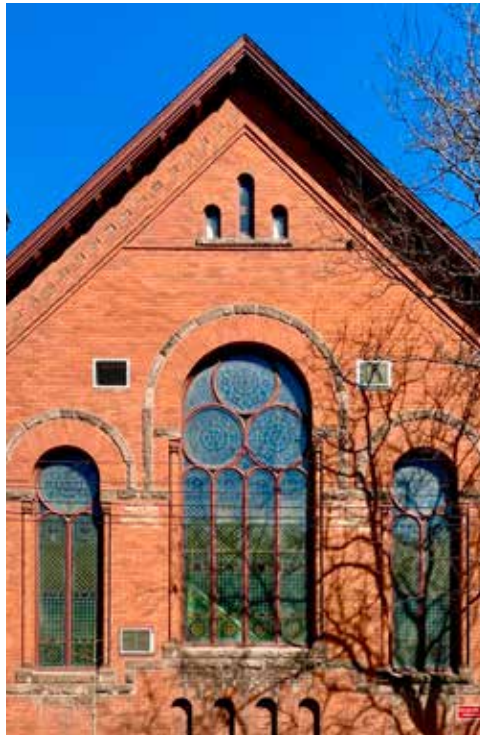
Heritage Reset - Where Do We Go from Here? National Trust of Canada Conference

by Gilles Huot and Gale Moore

Arguably, the COVID-19 pandemic that started in early 2020 has been the biggest societal disruption since WW2. As we slowly get back to “normal,” it is also becoming obvious that our idea of “normal” has changed deeply. Issues and crises like inflation, supply chain disruptions, homelessness, social inequities and poverty, war in Ukraine, and labour market shortages coupled with a climate crisis as a backdrop are piling up. Add to this societal movements to make our world more equitable - reconciliation, anti-racism, etc. We are facing a new landscape with many unknowns and the potential for missteps, but it is a landscape brimming with possibilities and opportunities

What does this mean for heritage preservation and conservation? From October 20 to 22, the National Trust of Canada, an independent national charity that empowers communities to save and renew heritage places, held an important conference in Toronto entitled *The Heritage Reset: Making Critical Choices*. Their Heritage Reset Project poses the question this way: How is heritage conservation serving as a positive, essential, progressive force for reconciliation, climate action, affordable housing, social justice and more? Two members of the CPA Board, Chair, Gale Moore and Board Member, Gilles Huot, attended the conference and came back with their heads full of new ideas and perspectives. A few of the big questions raised were:

- How can we better align heritage conservation to be useful and meaningful beyond just preserving old buildings?



- How do we recognize and respect the diversity of our communities? What are we “preserving” and for whom? With whom are we engaging?
- How can we better align the heritage movement with other societal issues like climate change, access to affordable housing, social justice, accessibility, economic resiliency, etc.?
- How do we reposition the economic value of heritage to speak to the current concerns of politicians and others who often don’t respond to the idea that heritage is by definition good or important?

There are no easy answers to these questions, but the conversations started in the sessions moved the dialogue forward. One thing is clear: heritage preservation and conservation is no longer only about saving and restoring old buildings. While this remains important we need a shift in our thinking and in our actions if this activity is to grow and to attract our younger colleagues and friends. Going forward, if we want to be taken seriously when talking about heritage, we need to connect it to broader issues such as climate change, affordable housing, diversity, etc. And we need people from across our diverse communities and academic disciplines to engage in this conversation together.

Whether new to the conversation or already engaged, we need a broad range of interests to reset the heritage conversation to the benefit of all. The last couple of years (yes, COVID, we’re looking at you!) already started to challenge our answer to the question: what does preservation mean in an area like Cabbagetown? And what are we doing? Our previous answers might have been: to preserve and restore our historic buildings, to protect our streetscapes, parks and tree canopy, and to connect to our historic location by the Don River. We have worked to engage the community in the stories and histories of this place through our walks and talks, social media and newsletter, as well as our events ranging from a tour of homes and a garden tour to our awards program celebrating both people and projects in the community. Today, while we still value our mandate, we are asking — is it enough? Maybe looking at the



New Thinking on Heritage continued...

past will help us think about what the future should be.

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) was created during a crisis. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, developers set their sights on Cabbagetown as an area with a tremendous potential for growth. Little by little, developers were targeting our mostly Victorian houses, hoping to demolish them and replace them with larger buildings to increase density and profits. The plan was to make our area an extended St. James Town, demolishing the stock of houses and replacing them with tall apartment towers.

All this was stopped by a handful of concerned and visionary local residents who were able to “save” the first few buildings. It led to the establishment of the CPA in the late 1980s. Its work culminated in the early 2000s with the designation of five residential areas of Cabbagetown as Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs). Most of Cabbagetown (except for Cabbagetown Southwest where the progress through Council was delayed by COVID, and Parliament Street), is designated as an HCD. The HCD designation sets in motion new processes and rules managed by the City (for example, through heritage permits) and the establishment of the Cabbagetown Heritage Conversation District Committee which works directly with the City.

Following the designations, the CPA has served primarily as the historical society for Cabbagetown. A few years ago, following an internal review of our mandate, we added collaborative advocacy to our mandate, as we continued to see that our neighbourhood and downtown were increasingly under new threats from various levels of government and other social pressures. The new context created by the pandemic coupled with a shift in public priorities and perceptions may reinforce collaborative advocacy as a critical aspect of the CPA mandate. The Heritage Reset conference certainly gave us some fuel to consider new directions and strategies.

Some topics for discussion emerging from the conference:

Main Street

A group of conference participants were taken on a tour of a few blocks of Toronto’s main main street: Yonge Street. Successes and failures around planning for a main street were pointed out. A

primary focus was the impact of COVID on the city’s main core. Our main street, Parliament Street, lived through similar challenges: closure of businesses, homelessness and mental health/addiction issues, decay of infrastructures. As these lines are being written, our main street, Parliament Street, is a construction site where the water main is being replaced - which we view as a missed opportunity for coordination to improve the street in other ways. Our main streets need to be rethought and various

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and community centres, retail businesses, housing, public space and other cultural and historic assets have been identified as elements needed to support resilience and recovery of main streets. A few years ago, the CPA led two Cabbagetown Talks on the future of Parliament Street. It is time to move this issue forward with our various partners through collaborative advocacy.

Densification and Housing Shortages

Our cities are changing. Many empty nesters are fleeing their suburban bungalows to the easy care of downtown condos, walkability to restaurants and cultural activities. While many of us have been adverse, allergic even, to any idea of taller condo towers appearing in the Cabbagetown sky and changing the make-up and the “feel” of our streetscape, perhaps we have to ask whether increasing density is necessarily a bad thing? A higher density might help many of our businesses thrive as opposed to barely survive. More use of our infrastructures like parks, libraries, etc. could also mean more chances of seeing them grow and improve rather than stagnate. Of course, there are risks like improvements not appearing, increased traffic and possible unsightly or unsuitable architecture, etc. The key is to ensure effective planning and transparency which



organizations are here to help. For example, the Canadian Urban Institute and its Bring Back Main Street initiative, Main Street Canada are leading discussions and offering tools to help improve our main streets. Civic assets, such as libraries

means we need to be part of the discussion about what our neighbourhood densification could or should look like.

Both the City and the Province have recently



New Thinking on Heritage continued...



announced housing plans to be implemented over the next 10 years. What does this mean for Cabbagetown? How do we see densification happening in our neighbourhood? We already have intensification in private homes and this can be successfully carried out within the guidelines of the HCD. The bigger question is “How do we marry heritage protection and the city’s housing future?” We can’t sit back and say “not for us, we’re protected...” As the old saying goes, if you are not part of the solution, you may be part of the problem or if you’re not at the table you’re probably on the menu.

Indigenous Issues

Indigenous issues were front and centre at the

conference. How do we connect to and open spaces for this heritage? From the perspective of the CPA, it likely means that we have to stop telling Cabbagetown’s story only from a colonial or settler’s perspective. Our area didn’t “start” with the construction of a few buildings in the 1850s and the Cabbagetown housing boom of the 1880s and 1890s. The land that we call Cabbagetown today and the surrounding areas, especially the valley of the Don River, have been used by many Indigenous people for millennia. Human settlement in our area can be traced back at least as far as 7,000 years ago. Various slate tools and a cemetery left behind by the Indigenous peoples were discovered in the late 19th century during road building near

Riverdale Park East. We need to be reminded of this and to better connect with our current Indigenous neighbours. More commemoration and celebration of that heritage needs to occur. It is their story to tell, but how can we assure their voices are heard?

Climate Change

The link between climate change and heritage is not immediately clear. However, a few workshops at the conference furthered our understanding.

Building reuse and retrofit as an alternative to new construction is now recognized as the single most effective tool to meet global climate goals. Indeed, building reuse/retrofitting and helping heritage places adapt to changing climates could help decarbonize the economy. This sounds like a strong argument for the preservation of a neighbourhood like Cabbagetown, and could be a goal for our main street. That is, to build on what is there and not put more carbon back into the atmosphere through demolition.

Visionary and creative thinking is required — the professionals and activists are responding. How do we get the City to listen, and developers to champion the innovative thinking that we now see here, and emerging as built form in other cities around the world?

There are challenges. For example, cyclical interior renovations have a strong carbon impact over and above producing a large amount of waste. Questions such as how far to accommodate the reuse of heritage buildings and how to densify mature neighbourhoods like ours keep popping up. How can heritage protection, housing intensification, and climate change come together positively? Our response can help shape the future of the community we love.

We need to be at the appropriate tables and advocating for our community in light of new and important understanding of the role of heritage. Cabbagetown is worth this effort. How are you contributing?

Next Steps

We’d love to hear your thoughts about the above. Let us know. Go to our website (cabbagetownpa.ca) and click on Contact Us (this helps control the amount of junk mail and phishing we receive).



New Thinking on Heritage continued...

Heritage Planning Algonquin College, Perth

By Monica Kuhn

At the end of September, I had the good fortune to take part in a four-day course held at the Algonquin College Campus in Perth, Ontario. It was titled *Heritage Planning for Professionals*, and taught by Marcus Letourneau, managing principal of LHC / Heritage Planning and Archeology. I was sponsored to participate through a generous honorarium provided by the Cabbagetown Preservation Association.

As an Architect who lives and works in Cabbagetown, and who is a member of the Cabbagetown HCD Advisory Committee to the City of Toronto's Heritage Department, I deal with Heritage related issues on an almost daily basis. I was looking forward to a week away from the office, meeting new people, getting to

Heritage is not History. Heritage is what we have chosen to remember, protect and save. It is also what has survived.

know a part of Ontario that I had never visited before, and increasing my understanding of the Heritage that I love and practice.

What I ended up learning about were aspects of Heritage that were much larger

and all-encompassing than I had expected. The following is a list of some of the highlights that speak to the complexities and contradictions of Heritage Planning today:

Heritage is not History. Heritage is what we have chosen to remember, protect and save. It is also what has survived.

Heritage deals with both the tangible and the intangible. It is not just about buildings or the built environment. But it is definitely "people centric".

The Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) has three criteria for considering whether a property is of cultural heritage value or interest. These criteria are used to determine if a property is worthy of designation (ie. saving).

- a property can have design or physical value (which relates to style, craftsmanship, or technical skill);
- a property can have historical or associative value (which relates to cultural themes, events, beliefs, or people that are significant to a community); and / or
- a property can have contextual value (which relates to defining or supporting the character of its surroundings).

It is interesting to note that the Act does not talk about buildings at all – it talks strictly about properties. A property deemed to be of Heritage significance may never have had a building on it. (Note: there is no such thing as a "Heritage Building" under Ontario law. The building is just part of the property)

Heritage properties are not just records of a positive past. Many are reminders of division, conflict, and hardship – political, cultural, economic, and identity based. Internment camps and prisons, factories, battle fields, and residential schools are what today are termed as "sites of conscience", of historical importance to both their survivors and their instigators alike.

Heritage is impacted by emotions, ethnicity, cultural interpretation, and bias. What is important to one culture may not be known, recognized, or understood by another. Heritage is becoming increasingly about human rights and ethics. It is important – and necessary - to consider all of these factors when assessing a site for Heritage value.

The Truth & Reconciliation Act, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (which has been accepted by Canada), have the protection of Indigenous heritage properties imbedded within them. This legislation has required the engagement of Indigenous peoples in the process of assessing a property for Heritage significance. This is recognized as the "duty to consult". (Note: current Heritage policies do not yet reflect the diversity that is Canada)



Ironically, the OHA only has the power to designate a property of provincial significance. However, the Act also enables Municipalities to designate individual properties and districts within their jurisdiction. This means that it is up to local municipalities to set up their own regulations, guidelines, and regulatory bodies within the framework of the Act. Final decisions are made by City Councils. (Note: there is separate Federal legislation for protecting National Historic Sites – but there is no such thing as a "Federal Heritage Act")

If a property is assessed as having Heritage value, it can be either "listed" or "designated". Being "listed" means that it is protected from demolition for 60 days, that no Heritage permits are required for work to the property, and that it is basically on "hold" – in other words its status is recorded and monitored, allowing it to be recommended for designation in the future should it become endangered. Being "designated" means that demolition is denied outright, and that Heritage permits (oversight) are automatically required for any work. Municipalities are required to keep an inventory of their listed and designated properties. Designation is also registered on title. Designation can be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal.



New Thinking on Heritage continued...

Heritage protection is very much about semantics. In Canada, we talk about “Heritage Conservation”. Within conservation, there is “restoration”, which refers to returning a property back to one of its past conditions; “preservation”, which refers to maintaining a property in its present condition; and “rehabilitation”, which refers to developing a property to a new / future condition. However, it is interesting to note that the OHA cannot legislate the “use” of a heritage property. That falls under the Planning Act and local Zoning By-laws.

Heritage properties are also impacted by the Building Code Act, the Environmental Assessment Act, the Fire Code, the Accessibilities Act, and the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, among others. The jurisdiction of these regulations must all be assessed and prioritized in relation to proposed conservation measures.

Heritage Planning in its current form is about managing change, not prohibiting change. It is a profession that teaches its members how to interpret and translate both the known and the potential significance of a property, and how to work with multiple stakeholders. Heritage Planners are taught to assess the current condition of the property, understand the applicable regulatory framework, and recommend an appropriate conservation approach. They work between value and law, and hopefully they can be both flexible and pragmatic.

Heritage Planning involves understanding the social, cultural, environmental, and economic value of a property. It does not preclude development

and adaptive reuse of a heritage property, nor should it deny public access. By its very nature it is about community, and it requires community involvement to be successful.

A protected property must also be maintained and improved on an on-going basis. Advising on maintenance plans specific to heritage properties are part of a Heritage Planner’s scope of work.

Heritage Planning also deals with disaster and risk management. The worst thing that can happen to a property must be assessed and then planned for it. What, for example, are the mitigation strategies in the event of flooding, fire, or acts of terrorism? Does insurance cover the damage? Is the Heritage inventory part of a Municipality’s emergency plan?

Heritage and heritage conservation regulations have often been accused of being used as a weapon, wielded by activists, to block development. Recently, Provincial priorities to facilitate development have begun to erode the power of these regulations, allowing Ministerial interventions in Municipal authority. Bill 108 has reduced the timelines for getting Heritage reports to Council, among other things. Bill 23 proposes increasing the number of heritage criteria for designation from one to two and imposing a two-year limit on the time that a property can remain listed without being designated. Once it has been de-listed, it will ensure that it cannot be re-listed again for another five years. It also proposes to limit the ability for third parties (ie the community) to appeal decisions. The potential impact on Ontario’s heritage registry is devastating.

Ironically, it is false to assume that Heritage cannot be combined with housing – there are many successful developments that merge the protection of a heritage property with the adaptive reuse of a heritage building. It is also important to note that most of the heritage properties that will be affected under the proposed legislative changes are not ones that can ever be developed for the type of housing the government is trying to encourage.

It is well documented that the “alteration of existing buildings” is one of the biggest industries in Canada. On a yearly basis, 98% of profits generated by construction involves existing buildings, whereas only 2% involves new buildings. However, since the 1940’s, government policies and tax laws have been set up to encourage the planned obsolescence of existing buildings. If government could acknowledge the economic value of maintaining existing building stock, they would remove the disincentives created by the way land is assessed and taxed, and start to provide tax credits, compensation for heritage designation, and new insurance standards. All this to say that perhaps we should be holding policy responsible for the lack of interest in and respect for heritage properties, not developers.

But Heritage Planning also has a role to play in creating a heritage culture. Maybe “Heritage” needs to be re-branded as a sustainable industry, focusing on its potentials, rather than its restrictions. This would help to instill a pride of place, and allow heritage properties to be seen as a living resource.

Save the Date!

The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes

Sunday September 17, 2023

We are looking for people to;

- join our organizing committee
- volunteer your home
- volunteer for morning/afternoon shift

Please email the CPA today for more information
<https://cabbagetownpa.ca/contact-us/>.

Streetscapes In Bloom Award

Congratulations to
Halim Haddad of
310 Berkeley Street,
winner of the 2022
SSB Award for this
stunning garden



CPA's Student Experience Program

The CPA is launching a new Program

Gale Moore, Chair

The Student Experience Programme is a new initiative of the CPA in which we will award a grant of approximately \$1500, to two to three graduate students in Toronto whose research is relevant to Cabbagetown and Cabbagetowners. The program is an opportunity for the students to showcase their work in the public realm and to enrich the community and inform public debate. For the CPA this is an opportunity to engage with future community leaders and entrepreneurs, and to support our educational mandate. As you have seen in other articles in this issue of the Newsletter, there is renewed interest in the heritage sector and an opportunity to rethink and reset our heritage agenda. Who better than our current graduate students to help us with this challenge?

Students from across the academic disciplines will be encouraged to apply. Research that is collaborative, and cross-disciplinary is of particular interest. While our awards are modest, it has been reported in the national press, that today's graduate students are increasingly falling behind in terms of funding (See: Lautens, Mark. *Globe & Mail*, Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022), and this is one way that we can support this generation of graduate students.

The first year of the program is being run as a pilot so we can determine the best way to design, manage and promote the program and to explore the nature of the deliverables. The 2023-2024 award will be included on the CPA website as part of our awards program. We intend as well to reach out to local universities and colleges to ask them to promote this to their graduate students. This year, with the support of the University of Toronto School of Cities, we tested this approach which was successful. The program will require a committee to develop criteria to evaluate the proposals received and to select the winners. So if you are an academic, planner, consultant, or have experience with grants and contracts — active or retired — we would be grateful for your assistance. It will involve a minimum amount of engaging work. We also hope that one or more of the students who have received a grant will also serve on the selection committee each year.

This year we are working two graduate students who have submitted proposals and are helping to critique and inform the design of this program for Year 2. Sarah MacKinnon is a Master of Science in Planning student at the University of Toronto and her project is entitled: Rethinking Heritage Planning: A Discussion on the St. Luke's United Church Redevelopment Proposal and its Contributions to City Heritage Planning. Shalaine Sedres is a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science student at the University of Toronto and her project is entitled: Fun for All: Inclusive Play Installation.

Stay tuned for more details about the talk and the installation — and please contact us if you are interested in serving on the Selection Committee in 2023-2024.

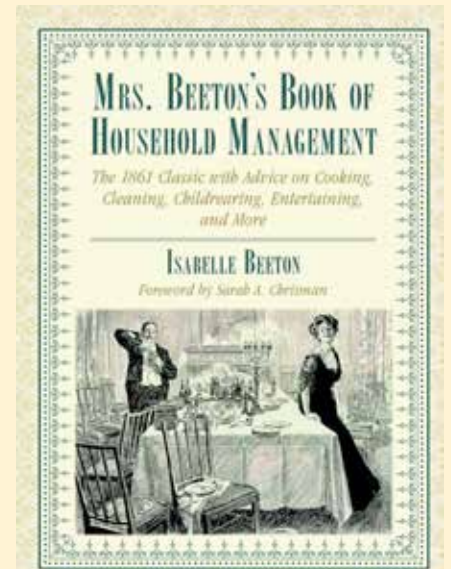


St Lukes proposal. Cabbagetown Blogspot



Mrs. Beeton's Cayenne Cheese Biscuits

from Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management c. 1859



1/2 lb. of butter, 1/2 lb. of flour, 1/2 lb. of grated cheese (a good cheddar is best), 1/4 teaspoonful of cayenne, 1/4 teaspoonful of salt; water.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Rub the butter in the flour; add the grated cheese, cayenne, and salt. Mix these ingredients well together and, if needed, add enough water to bring dough together. Roll out 1/4 inch thick, and cut into rounds, or fingers about 4 inches in length. Bake until lightly toasted, about 15-20 min. Best served warm.

Average cost, 1s. 4d.
Sufficient for 6 or 7 persons.
Seasonable at any time.

Cabbagetown People

Ben Wicks 1926 - 2000

Political Cartoonist, Global Literacy Advocate, Humanitarian

Plaque located at: 424 Parliament Street, Toronto, ON, Canada



Ben Wicks was an acclaimed cartoonist with an incredible sense of humour. He was born in London, England in 1926, the son of a poor, working class Cockney family. During wartime the family evacuated to the country. When Ben was 14 years of age they returned to the city and at that time he left school, and he got his first job as a shipping clerk. "I was bloody hopeless at school," he recalled. "Left at 14 and they were pleased to see me go as I was."

He took evening classes at an art school. "They told me I should take up something else, so I quit. "They were right, I still can't draw," he said, years after becoming a highly successful cartoonist.

He did learn to play the saxophone in the British Army and toured Europe with a band.

In 1957 with just twenty five dollars in his pocket, he and his wife Doreen emigrated to Canada. While in Calgary, he worked as a milkman and then joined the Canadian Army as a musician. It was at this time that he began studying cartooning for books. His first major success was being published by the Saturday Evening Post.

In 1963, he visited Toronto and met feature cartoonist Norman Drew who advised him to move to Toronto. Before long he began work at the Toronto Telegram and his cartoon "The Outcasts" was soon syndicated in over 50 newspapers. In 1971 when the Telegram was no longer in operation, his cartoons were picked up by the Toronto Star. Now called "Wicks," it was carried by 84 Canadian and more than 100 American newspapers.

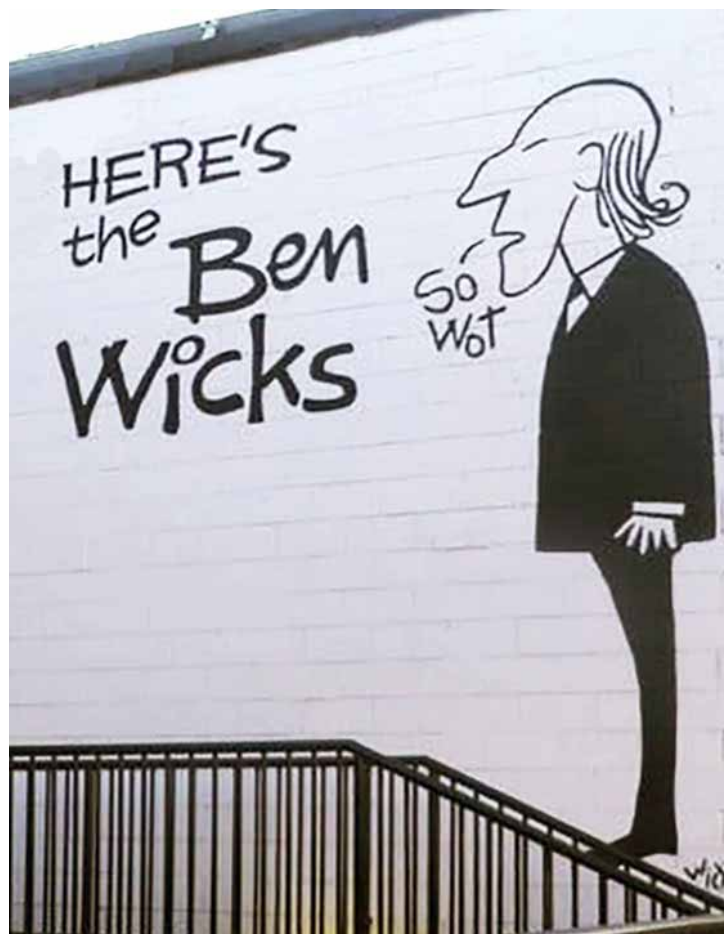
"Ben Wicks' cartoons provide important insights on 20th century events and Canadian culture. His work features keen insights into the human condition and a sense of humour that add depth and texture to our understanding of historical events, particularly during the Trudeau era. The cartoons will be particularly useful for research into Canadian studies, political science and communications, says Michael Moir, University archivist and Head of the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections. "I had admired the single-panel Ben Wicks cartoons for years", his friend and standup comic Dave Broadfoot said. "Those cartoons worked like what is called a "blackout' on stage – a comic idea that lasts 30 seconds with

one strong, self-explanatory punch line. Not easy to do. That's what Ben's cartoons were: funny, political and brief."

In 1980, he opened a restaurant on Parliament Street in Cabbagetown called The Ben Wicks. He sold it just three years later, after losing his shirt. He was apparently a clever creative man but a very poor administrator. The restaurant kept his name for a while, then became The Local Gest, then The Tilted Dog. It is now the Golden Pigeon BeerHall.

Ben Wicks was also a TV personality and on his own show, The World of Wicks, he interviewed personalities such as Michael Caine, Ingrid Bergman and Sir Edmund Hilary.

He also wrote and illustrated books, and established the I.Can Foundation, which provided education and literacy programs, such as Born to Read, for children.



A cartoon by Ben Wicks announced his restaurant. It remains to this day.



Preserving Architectural Heritage



Renovating?

What You Need to Know in an HCD



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 Property Search that is available on the Cabbagetown Heritage District Advisory Committee (HDC) website. It enables you to view details of your home's origin. Since the late nineties, the Cabbagetown HCD has been surveying the homes of the current HCD areas 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, where it is available, the home's date of construction, date of occupation, the original and later owners, the home's architectural style and more. The information is required by the City as part of the process of establishing the area as a heritage district.

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 (norman@bostokhathaway.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 when searching a property that you know to be in error, please contact the Cabbagetown HCD at info@cabbagetownhcd.ca



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CPA: Who We Are

Founded in 1988 to encourage the preservation of the architectural integrity and historic character of Cabbagetown, the CPA does that and more:

Cabbagetown Walks

Scheduled historical and architectural walking tours.
Tours on demand.

Cabbagetown Talks

Lively discussions about Cabbagetown's past, present and future

Cabbagetown People

Celebrating the lives of remarkable people.

Garden and Home Tours

The Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces Tour
The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes

Award Programs

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