



Cabbagetown Preservation Association Recognition Award

The 2023 Cabbagetown Preservation Association Recognition Award is awarded to
Doug Fisher

Doug moved to Sackville Street in Cabbagetown in 1986 and in 1991, he bought his current house on Wellesley Street. He's been there ever since. He and his wife, Irene DeClute, love their home and greatly appreciate the time they spend with their neighbours and friends in the Wellesley Cottages and nearby Alpha Avenue and Laurier Avenue.

From 2005 to 2012, Doug managed the Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area. He organized the annual Cabbagetown Festival, handled members' issues, lobbied the City of Toronto, and created an innovative series of special events. During his time at the BIA, he learned how to write and publish an online blog.

Since 2012, Doug has written a weekly blog, the Cabbagetown Neighbourhood Review. Today, it serves our area and the neighbourhoods south to Lake Ontario with news about local events, controversies, stores, clubs and pubs. It gets over 2,000 views each week and during its eleven-year history, it has attracted over two million views. It is well-received and many readers look forward to its publication each Thursday.

Before any of this happened, Doug operated his own small business from 1975 to 2005 which eventually became a nation-wide distributor selling Canadian books to schools and libraries.

He also had an active political career. In 1980, he won the federal election in Mississauga North. Over the next four years as a Member of Parliament, he chaired the Toronto Liberal Caucus, served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and chaired a subcommittee on the taxation of artists.

From 1967 to 1979, Doug worked as a part-time political organizer; managing campaigns at each government level for leading figures in the Liberal Party.

He and Irene have family memberships in the Cabbagetown Preservation Association, the Cabbagetown Residents Association, the Nature Conservancy, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. They're also members of the Art Gallery of Ontario and the McMichael Gallery. Irene is a painter and Doug is an amateur stargazer. A Golden Retriever, Ticket, and their two cats, Smudge and Tina, complete their family.

On behalf of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association, we acknowledge and thank Doug for his many lasting contributions to the Cabbagetown community.

Stephen Yeates, Chair
November 2023