



Cabbagetown Preservation Association Recognition Award

The 2013 Cabbagetown Preservation Association Recognition Award is awarded to
Randy Brown

Randy was born in 1944, and grew up in Cobourg, Ontario. His father was a high school teacher and his mother a secretary of the local Anglican Church. He was a Rover Scout and attended a Jamboree in Colorado. He travelled extensively during the 1960s and still claims to be the first person to hitchhike across Canada for pleasure and adventure. He prospected for copper in northern British Columbia and taught English in Heidelberg, Germany. He moved to Toronto at age 27 when he attended the University of Toronto, where he wrote and directed one play a year, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in English. He worked as a freelance writer/photographer, notably as a theatre critic for ten years.

Randy moved to Cabbagetown in 1981 and lived on Spruce Street with his then wife and daughter. They owned and operated a graphic design studio. It was at this time that the idea for an Arts & Crafts show in Riverdale Park West was born.

For more than thirty years Randy served as the Executive Director of the Cabbagetown Arts & Crafts Show, a not-for-profit venture that runs during the annual Cabbagetown Festival and has attracted the best craftspeople and artists from Ontario and Quebec. The jury for the show is made up of artists from Cabbagetown and the show operates with 25 volunteers from the community.

Randy also founded BarnyardArts, providing classes for adults ranging from jewelry to photography that ran after hours at Riverdale Farm for eight years. He served on the Farm Committee for five years.

Randy also created the Brick program, soliciting donations via engraved bricks to raise funds to improve the infrastructure in Riverdale Park West, successfully getting all of the pathways rebuilt in concrete with a patio area in front of Riverdale Farm.

Randy and his wife Meg Best live on Sumach St. at the corner of Wellesley St.

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

David Pretlove, Chair
November 2013