

Cabbagetown Preservation Association  
Annual General Meeting  
May 30, 2023  
Riverdale Farm

**Present:**

**CPA Executive:** Daniel Bloch, Sarah Vagg, Gilles Huot, Mary Martin, Gale Moore (Chair), David Pretlove, George Rust-D'Eye, Virginia Van Vliet, Steven Yeates

**Present:** Jordan Allison, Jane Anderson, Linda Beatty, Max Beck, Steve Boddy, Adam Bunch Yuri Buborov, Judy Clarke, Helen Coltrinari, Linda Gail, Sally Gibson, Barbara Hall, Malcolm Jackson, Monica Kuhn, Gillian Marwick, Diana Massey, Allison Morehead, David Shephard. Rosie Shephard, Mary-Jo Stevenson, Nik Tumonus, Kate Walhout, Patricia, Kelsey

**1. Land Acknowledgement**

**2. Welcome and declaration of a quorum:** Gale Moore welcomed everyone to the 2022-2023 Annual General meeting. A quorum was declared.

**3. Agenda: Motion:** Moved by Gilles Huot, seconded by David Pretlove, that the Agenda be accepted as circulated. Carried.

**3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM: Motion:** Moved by Virginia Van Vliet, seconded by Mary Martin, that the Minutes of the 2021-2022 AGM held on May 26, 2022 be approved as circulated. Carried.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Mary Martin presented the annual Financial Report for May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023. With COVID restrictions lifted, we were again able to run the Garden Tour which made a net profit of \$8393. This year we also funded two Student Experience Programme Awards, each worth \$1500, to graduate students whose research was in some way relevant to Cabbagetown. As well, a grant of \$1320 was made to Gilles Huot and Gale Moore towards attendance at The National Trust of Canada's Conference entitled: *Heritage Reset*, designed to accelerate conversations on the changing values and purposes of heritage work. Along with the ongoing costs of running the organization – bank charges, honorariums, insurance, website etc. – Mary reported a net loss for the year of \$9,078; however, our balance remains at a healthy \$184,034, Motion: Moved by Mary Martin, seconded by David Pretlove, that the Financial Report to April 30, 2023 be received. Carried.

**5. Chair's Report:**

- **Board Membership Changes:** CJ Cogswell left as he returned to the US in the fall and Christina Jackson, who is active in the Tour of Homes Committee, joined the Board in October. If anyone knows of another young person who would be interested in serving on the CPA Board, please have them contact us.

- **Collaborative Advocacy:** during the last year the COA has pursued active collaboration and information sharing with local associations including the CRA and the BIA on topics of mutual interest. We have also supported some of the administrative expenses of the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Committee since this group plays a vital role in conservation through its relationship with the City but has no structure for funding..
- **Barbara Mercer Fund:** The fund from Barbara Mercer's generous bequest has now been set up and the money invested allowing us to further invest in our education and communications programmes.
- **Administrative Tasks:** Tasks this year included such things as the redesign and replacement of damaged banners and plaques; the creation of a Welcome Brochure and materials for the various tours. Our thanks to Steve Yeates for his excellent graphic design work.

## AWARDS

- **The Peggy Kurtin Award Programme for Excellence in Restoration:** The winner of the 2022 award was 237 Seaton Street for its thorough façade restoration. 385 Carlton Street won the Improved Façade award for its carefully researched replacement of the porch which unified the row of houses. Special thanks to Monica Kuhn who provided her professional expertise in helping with the judging.
- **CPA Recognition Award:** The 2022 award was presented to Gina Dineen....
- **Streetscapes in Bloom:** This year's winner was 310 Berkeley Street, a garden that has been well developed and cared for over a number of years with a nice arrangement of heights, textures, plant types, density and colours.
- **Student Experience Programme Award:** Barbara Mercer's endowment enabled the launch of a pilot project in 2022 to encourage graduate student research on topics of interest to Cabbagetown. Two grants of \$1500 were made to two University of Toronto students: :
  - **Sarah MacKinnon**, an M.Sc. in Planning Candidate, whose involvement in ten Saint Luke's United Church redevelopment Project was presented as a Cabbagetown Talk in April.
  - **Shalaine Sedres**, a MSc in Rehabilitation Candidate, whose All-Abilities Adventure experience for children was launched at the CRA's Forsythia Festival in May.

## EVENTS

- **Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces:** This tour returned for the first time since COVID attracting hundreds of gardening enthusiasts. Thanks to those who opened up their gardens for others to enjoy and to the volunteers and sponsors who made it all work.

- **Tour of Homes:** We look forward to the return of this tour on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> for the first time since 2019.

## PROGRAMMES

- **Cabbagetown Walks:** Still recovering from COVID distancing we had a limited programme in the summer of 2022, simply inviting people to show up on three Sunday mornings. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and there were only a handful of participants. . For 2023 we are again working with Heritage Toronto to plan a stronger programme
- **Cabbagetown Talks:** This programme returned in person on April 13<sup>th</sup> with a panel talk entitled *Re-Imagining Planning: The Saint Luke's United Church Redevelopment Project* based on the work of Sarah MacKinnon one of the Student experience Award winners. .
- **Cabbagetown People:** Two new biographies were added to the cabbagetownpeople.ca website, for WWI soldier Copt. William Arthur Durie and his moving corpse; and our indomitable City Councillor the late Pam McConnell. Several missing or damaged blue plaques were replaced and five new ones were installed for:
  - **Richard Gwyn**, journalist, author and historian
  - **Murray Laufer**, innovative stage designer and artist
  - **June Rowlands**, first woman to be elected mayor of Toronto
  - **Frederick Varley**, artist and member of the Group of Seven
  - **J. Norman Emerson**, writer of the Canadian west
 Our thanks to Weenan General Contracting for installing the plaques for free.

## MEDIA

- **CPA Newsletter:** Steve Yeates continues as editor and designer of the newsletter which, because of COVID, again appeared only in an electronic format. We now have a complete archive going back more than 30 years on the CPA website.
- **Social media:** Our Social Media Committee continues to use a variety of social media to reach our members. Our Facebook page, run by Gilles Huot, has 840 followers while the CPA's Instagram site, curated by Steve has 550 subscribers. We also have a few YouTube videos and plan for more.
- **Administrative activities:**
  - **Welcome Package:** We have created a welcome letter, accompanied by a beautifully designed tri-fold brochure highlighting the CPA programmes and awards, for distribution to all new residents. Recipients are encouraged to viist our website to learn more. .

- **Membership:** We continue to work to attract new members. Over the next year the Membership Committee will be rethinking our traditional membership approach and considering alternatives.

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Gale thanked the Board for all their hard work during the past year. The complete Chair's Report is posted on the CPA website.

Motion: Moved by Gale Moore, seconded by Gilles Huot, that the Chair's Report be received. Carried.

## **6. Approval of the Slate of Officers**

For anyone interested in joining the Board the revised constitution clearly outlines the nominating process and the number of directors.

Motion: Moved by Mary Martin, seconded by Steve Yates, that the following slate of officers be elected for the 2023-2024 Board for the appropriate terms:

- Three years (ending 2026): Gilles Huot, Stephen Yeates, Sarah McCarten Don MacMillan
- Two years (ending 2025) Mary Martin, Virginia Van Vliet, Daniel Bloch,
- One year (ending 2024): David Pretlove, Gale Moore, George Rust-D'Eye

Carried.

**7. Adjournment:** Motion: Moved by Gale Moore, seconded by Mary Martin, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

## **9. Presentations:**

### **Peggy Kurtin Awards for Excellence in Restoration**

Begun in 1991 and named to honour of Peggy Kurtin, a former CPA Chair who was a early advocate for architectural preservation in Cabbagetown, the aims of the awards are:

- To recognize efforts to maintain the historic context of Cabbagetown
- To encourage individual homeowners to support the quality of our community's streetscapes
- To bring public awareness to the efforts of homeowners and architects to enhance the architectural integrity of Cabbagetown

### **Nominees:**

Steve Yeates congratulated all the winners and thanked Monica Kuhn for her help with judging.

## Presentation:

Dr. Gillian Elizabeth holds degrees from Queen's University and Harvard Business School and received her PhD from McGill University. She taught Canadian history at the University of Waterloo and the University of Toronto and has written a number of books including Riverdale of the Don, which was short listed for The Heritage Toronto Book Award. Dr. Moore's presentation looked at the misunderstood role of women in Victorian Toronto as shown in her recent book, *An Unrecognized Contribution; woman and their work in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Toronto*,

The image people too often have of women in Victorian Toronto is that they cooked, cleaned, cared for their families, had babies and died. Some of the poorer, unmarried women or widows might have been servants, washerwomen or worked at other low level jobs, but, in general, the woman in 19<sup>th</sup> century Toronto were not seen as integral to public life. In her talk, Dr. Moore pointed out that Toronto was shaped by women, starting with Mrs. Simcoe and the hard working wives of settlers to professional women including doctors, teachers and librarians. Women ran boarding houses, taverns and hotels. Other women owned successful businesses, working as seamstresses, milliners and hairdressers, while others owned shops, selling confectionery, groceries, fruit, fish or fancy goods. In the 1880s, with the growth of industry, women began to work in factories and as saleswomen in larger stores.

Women played a role in the history of Cabbagetown too. For example Emily Stowe opened the Women's Medical School on Sumach Street in 1883, employing women doctors and running clinics for women. After the death of Peter Rothwell Lamb, founder of Lamb's Blacking and Glue Factory in what is now Wellesley Park, the company was run by his son Daniel and his widowed mother.

Did nothing? I don't think so!