

Cabbagetown Preservation Association
Annual General Meeting
June 14, 2024
Riverdale Farm

Present:

CPA Executive: Gilles Huot, Don MacMillan, Mary Martin, Matt Mintzer, Gale Moore, David Pretlove, Virginia Van Vliet, Steven Yeates (Chair)

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Welcome and declaration of a quorum: Steven Yeates welcomed everyone to the 2023-2024 Annual General meeting. A quorum was declared.

3. Agenda: Motion: Moved by Matthew Mintzer, seconded by Helen Coltrinari, that the Agenda be accepted as circulated. Carried.

3. Minutes of the 2022-2023 AGM: Motion: Moved by Christopher Body, seconded by Gilles Huot, that the Minutes of the 2022-2023 AGM held on May 30, 2023 be approved as circulated. Carried.

4. Treasurer's Report: Mary Martin presented the annual Financial Report for May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024. With money raised from the Tour of Homes, inventory, sales and memberships, the organization showed a net income of \$18,667. Including the Barbara Mercer Endowment Fund we have assets of \$202,687. Motion: Moved by Mary Martin, seconded by Virginia Van Vliet, that the Financial Report to April 30, 2024 be received. Carried.

5. Chair's Report:

- **Events:** Held in September, this was the biggest tour yet, with 8 homes and 800 visitors. As well, this spring there was a successful Hidden Gardens and Private Spaces Tour and, in partnership with Heritage Toronto, tours of the Necropolis entitled *Black History Unburied*.
- **Awards:** the Peggy Kurtin Award for Excellence in Restoration was given to 274 Carlton Street for its thorough and faithful façade restoration. The annual CPA Recognition Award went to Doug Fisher for his many contributions to Cabbagetown. The Streetscapes in Bloom Award went to the spectacular garden at 7 Winchester Street.
- **Student Experience Programme Award:** Thanks to the energy and creative imagination of former chair Gale Moore, funds from the Barbara Mercer's Endowment Fund were used to give two grants of \$1500 to two University of Toronto students doing research on topics of interest to Cabbagetown :
 - **Sarah MacKinnon**, an M.SC. in Planning Candidate, whose involvement in the 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. For 2023-2024, projects being looked at include a study of Cabbagetown trees and the integrating the historic buildings and modern usage on Parliament Street
- **Core Programmes:** Two biographies were added to the Cabbagetown People website: Barbara Mercer, author, poet and visual artist; and Alex and Agnew Burley, brothers who left their mark on the boxing world. 100 copies of the Welcome Package were distributed to new residents, Social media communications continued briskly, including the creation of a few YouTube videos, Now that Covid has passed, we are returning to printing and distributing a paper copy of the newsletter to all households in the area.
- **Advocacy:** Much of our attention this year was focused on two Cabbagetown Talks sessions triggered by the sale of 509 Parliament Street, the old CBC studio and fears about what might happen to the space in the future and the resulting impact on Parliament. In response, the CPA held a meeting at the Farm House in November on the history of Parliament Street, which almost filled the space to capacity. In February, we arranged a follow-up panel discussion at the Winchester Street theatre with over 200 attendees.

A painting by Rosie was presented by the CPA to Gale Moore who was retiring after 20 years on the Board, including serving as Chair for several years. Her energy, hard work and enthusiasm helped the CPA continue to move forward.

Motion: Moved by Mary Martin, 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 Virginia Van Vliet, seconded by Gilles Huot, that the following slate of officers be elected for the 2024-2025 Board for the appropriate terms:

- Three year (ending 2027): Daniel Bloch. Joanne Dolan, Matt Mintzer
- Two year (ending 2026): Gilles Huot, Stephen Yeates, Sara McCarten, Don MacMillan
- One year (ending 2025): Mary Martin, Virginia Van Vliet, David Pretlove

Carried.

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

8. 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

The emphasis is on restoration, not renovation, encouraging residents to adhere to restoration principles.

Winner: L'Avenue Restaurant. 584 Parliament Street, Owner and contractor: Mike Diles

Built in 1891 in the Queen Anne style, the building was once the site of Barr's Dairy, the name being preserved in brass lettering on the threshold. The structure was badly deteriorated. The award was given for the owner's thorough and faithful restoration of the façade, including the replacement, cleaning and repairing of all the brick and stone elements. He sees the building as an entrance to Cabbagetown and wanted to save the building to prevent chains moving in.

Panel discussion: *What It Means to Live in a Heritage District*

The panelists looked at the history of the local Heritage Districts, going back to the work started by Peggy Kirton. The HCD is designed to protect the character of the community by encouraging the upkeep and preservation of the streetscape. This in turn raises property values as people want to live in an area with a unique appeal.

The area has four components: NE, SE, NW and, as of May 2024, SW. The only area not covered by the HCD is Parliament Street. Living in an HCD does not restrict use of the property or internal changes. What it restricts is changes that are visible from the sidewalk, including windows and doors. For this work a heritage permit is required, as well as a building permit. For information go to Toronto Preservation Services website <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/heritage-preservation>. The permit is free and the HCD Committee is happy to answer questions and provide assistance. The website also provides information about grants for up to 50% of work up to \$15,000.