



Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

Cabbagetown Stained Glass — The Real McCausland



This window is typical of the many McCausland designs in Cabbagetown

Anyone strolling through Cabbagetown at night would be enchanted by the brightly coloured stained glass windows. But, how many people would realize that they are genuine McCausland windows?

Robert McCausland Limited, founded in 1850, is the oldest stain glass studio in North America and the oldest Canadian company with a continuous family ownership. President Andrew McCausland, great-great grandson of the founder, is the fifth generation to manage the family business. As few Canadian family firms survive beyond the third generation, the company is a legend in its own right.

The studio has produced more than 35,000 windows for churches and synagogues worldwide. The earliest authenticated window, created in 1856, can be seen at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Toronto. While most of the company's work is ecclesiastical, McCausland windows were a popular feature in Cabbagetown homes built in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Andrew says that one reason for the company's success is that they have never compromised on the quality of the glass. Unless a client specifically requests it, they never use "cathedral glass", a fancied term for modern, machine-made glass. They use only "antique glass", glass that is mouth-blown by skilled glass makers.

He explains that mouth-blown "antique" glass has a far greater range of colours and unique textural characteristics. "Antique glass" is about \$20/square foot, while

machine-made "cathedral glass" is less than \$1/square foot. The quality difference? Vast, in terms of how it enables the sunlight to dance through the glass.

The studio's inventory of hundreds of different hues of brightly coloured glass is like a painter's palette. It is the unusual range of colours that enables the artists and craftsmen to give "life" to the images in the windows. McCausland windows are especially well-known for remarkably realistic flesh tones.

Of the many projects that Andrew has worked on throughout the world, one experience is especially memorable to him. The company had been hired to restore the windows in every Anglican Church in Jamaica — a project that took 11 years. One day, when Andrew was up on a ladder inspecting a window, he heard a voice calling his name, and looked down to see an octogenarian in a wide-brimmed straw hat, brightly flowered dress and well-worn running shoes.

The woman, Louise, had walked 8 miles from her village to ask Andrew if he would repair the window in her church. Andrew took the badly deteriorated window back to Toronto. The next year, when he returned with the restored window, Louise was overcome with joy.

She said, "Of course, you know I can't pay you for the work", but she held out a little gift, wrapped in newspaper. Inside was a hand-embroidered handkerchief with the words "Both God and Louise Love You".

Somehow, that experience may explain why the business has remained in the McCausland family for so many generations. As Andrew said, "It's a rare business that can bring so much joy to other people."

Andrew McCausland is guest speaker at the CPA meeting on February 21st at the Winchester Pub. His slide presentation will cover the history of residential stained glass in Canada, various styles and types of glass, and how styles vary by geographic area. For more details, see Calendar on page 2.

CPA News

CPA Adopts Stylish New Logo

The CPA Board is proud to introduce this delightful logo for the CPA. Both the logo, and the new masthead for this newsletter, were created by Cabbagetown resident and graphic designer Steve Yeates. Steve has created graphic identities and communications materials for many notable clients. The Board is very grateful for his generous donation of time and talent.



Volunteer Appreciation Evening a Success

Nearly one hundred volunteers enjoyed an evening of good cheer on November 30th at Simpson House at Riverdale Farm. The association's roster of volunteers is healthy: about 30 newsletter distributors, a dozen walking tour leaders, several dedicated researchers, and a host of people who organize special events such as the Forsythia Festival and the Tour of Homes Tea. Our volunteers truly are the strength of our organization.

Restoration Awards Deadline April 1st

The CPA's annual Restoration Award program was launched in 1992 to recognize outstanding **exterior** restorations (residential or commercial) that enhance the historic streetscape of Cabbagetown. To be eligible, the restoration must have been completed and the nomination submitted by April 1, 2002. Contact Award Chair Alan Waterhouse: 416-925-0331 or alan.waterhouse@utoronto.ca.

Heritage Conservation District Progresses

After more than 5 years of extensive research spearheaded by Peggy Kurtin, the Heritage Conservation District project is nearing completion. It slated for review at Community Council on January 29th and at City Council in February. It will then, within 3 months, go to the Ontario Municipal Board for final approval. When approved, it will become the first HCD in Toronto to have been undertaken by a corps of volunteers.

CPA in the News

Board members Martha House and Victoria Hadden are producing a series of articles to promote the CPA in the *Toronto Voice*. In November, there was a story on the *Streetscapes in Bloom* award and, in December, on the *Festival of Lights*. This month, there will be an article on McCausland glass to promote the upcoming meeting in February.



CPA Calendar

Thursday, February 21st

Heritage Speaker
Winchester Pub, 537 Parliament Street
6:30: Munch & Mingle
7:30: Guest Speaker, Slide Presentation
"Stained Glass: Canada and Cabbagetown"
Andrew McCausland, President
Robert McCausland Glass Limited

Sunday, April 1st

Deadline: Restoration Awards nominations

Sunday, May 5th

Forsythia Festival

Thursday, May 23rd

Annual General Meeting and Election of Directors
Riverdale Farm, Meeting House
6:30 to 7:30: Munch and Mingle
7:30: Program (tba) begins

Friday, May 31st

Deadline: "Streetscapes in Bloom" nominations

CPA to Produce 2nd Cabbagetown Book

Under the leadership of Board member Alan Waterhouse, the CPA is beginning work on a major new book. While it will complement the existing *Touring Old Cabbagetown* booklet, it will be far broader in scope.

Geographically, it will include significant areas west of Parliament Street and south of Carlton Street that have always been integral to the neighborhood.

Typically, it will go beyond architectural heritage, and explore the many human, economic, and social forces that have influenced the evolution of this unique inner-city community.

While a small committee has been formed to coordinate and edit the book, Alan emphasizes that it is a "citizens' project". In order to capture the human stories behind the heritage, the committee needs anecdotal history and input from many sources. If you have any stories you'd like to share, contact Alan at 416-925-0331 or alan.waterhouse@utoronto.ca.

CPA Polishes up Heritage Displays

This year, under the leadership of Claudia Salzmann, our Heritage Display program is getting a major "make-over". A brand-new, professionally produced display will make its debut at the February meeting.

Festival Sheds Light on Cabbagetown Heritage

This season's *Festival of Lights* not only put Cabbagetown in lights. It also put a spotlight on Cabbagetown's architectural heritage. At the three homes that featured both exterior lighting and interior decor, CPA guides provided visitors with some illuminating historical comments and anecdotes.



This pair of semi-detached homes at #94 and #96 Winchester Street (circa 1898) was part of one of the earliest "subdivisions" in Cabbagetown. Decades before, in 1855, the entire block (bordered by Winchester, Metcalfe, Salisbury, and Sackville) had been only two lots, each with a single Georgian home. Even then, such large lots attracted developers and the homes were torn down to create a collective of smaller lots.

Yet, in 1898, "new builds" weren't exactly run-of-the-mill. The pair on Winchester was designed by Scottish architects James Smith and John Gemmel, notable for designing Toronto churches and Knox College. The style, "Hearth and Home" or "English Cottage", features the sweeping verandah roof that makes the homes seem so inviting.

The Winchester pair featured so many fine details that the builder, Bedford Brothers, spent four years in construction. At 94 Winchester, the front hall, living room and dining room still have the original oak trim. The house is heated by the original cast iron radiators, complete with a marble base and top for heat retention. And, the house has six working wood burning fireplaces, two on each floor!

The first owner of #94 was Robert Lowden, Secretary Treasurer of the Beaver Flint Company, a firm that manufactured glassware, including the now collectible canning sealers featuring an embossed beaver. Ironically, the present owners began to collect glassware shortly after they bought the home, yet did not know of the connection to the glass company until later.

The first owner of #96 was Francis Nelson, Sports Editor for the *Globe*. The Nelson family moved to the home from 406 Sackville Street. Although the interior of #96 has been extensively renovated, the owners of both properties have sought to ensure that the streetscape remains much as it was in 1898.

The third house on the tour, 297 Carlton Street, is a "restoration miracle". Bought by the City of Toronto in the 1950s and used as a halfway house for many years, it deteriorated to such a bad state that it became condemned by the City and slated for demolition.

Fortunately, the present owner bought the dilapidated property in 1975 and has spent the past 27 years restoring it to its current splendor. In fact, he is still continuing with even further restoration.



The front foyer is a treasure trove of intricately carved oak paneling, spindles, and a hand-carved staircase -- all of which had been covered by layers of paint. The living room features a restored ceiling that replicates the original plaster medallions and shimmering metallic finish. As well, the house is exquisitely decorated in a mix of period furnishings and objects d'art.

Built in 1892, the house is "Queen Anne" -- an eclectic style known for covered porches, mansard roofs, carved stone and wooden shinglework. While the large picture window on the main floor may look modern, both it and the oversized attic gable were introduced as architectural 'innovations' by the builder and original owner, Alexander J. Brown. The Carlton house, like many homes in Cabbagetown, acquired a peculiar nickname years ago. It became known as the "Pickle House" because, at one time, the coachhouse in the rear was headquarters for the Lounsbury Sauce Company and it was thought that the owners made pickles in the basement.

All in all, the Cabbagetown *Festival of Lights*, with the support of CPA guides, helped to shed much light on Cabbagetown's colourful heritage.

CPA Goes "Low Tech"

Although we're not yet "high tech", we are moving forward. You may have noticed that we now send out e-mail notices of meetings. If you haven't been receiving them, we may not have your e-mail address.

As well, we now accept Visa or Mastercard — making it easier for people to purchase memberships without the hassle of sending a cheque. And, memberships can be processed by mail. Just send the information requested on the membership form to Treasurer Ted Gzebb at: "CabbagetownPreservationAssn@rogers.com". **NB:** This is a personal e-mail address, not a secure Web site.

Who knows, one of these days, we may even have our own Web site!

CPA Board Members

Kathy Farrell, President
Sheila Schirmer, Vice President
Ted Gzebb, Treasurer
Kym Morton, Secretary

Ray Barton, Director Meetings and Events
Marijan Bayer, Director Walking Tours
Christopher Dew, Director Fundraising
Victoria Hadden, Director Writing
Martha House, Director Marketing and Promotion
Peggy Kurtin, Past-President
Claudia Salzmann, Director Heritage Interpretations
Alan Waterhouse, Director Architectural Preservation

The CPA newsletter is produced by Kathy Farrell, and distributed by Ray Barton and his team of volunteers

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CPA: Who are We?

Founded in 1988 "to preserve the architectural integrity and historic character" of Cabbagetown, the CPA does all that and more. Here are some highlights.

Heritage Preservation

- Review applications to Committee of Adjustment
- Make submissions to regulatory bodies
- Represent community at Toronto Historical Board

Heritage Promotion

- Produce quarterly newsletter
- Produce special heritage displays
- Organize "Speaker Series" program
- Manage "Walking Tour" program

Awards Programs

- "Restoration Awards"
- "Streetscapes in Bloom"

Community Events

- Forsythia Festival
- Cabbagetown Cabaret
- "Tour of Homes" Tea

Special Long-term Projects

- Heritage Conservation District
- Books on Cabbagetown Heritage
- Heritage Plaque program (new)

The CPA's activities benefit the entire community, so please support us by becoming a member. If you have the time and the interest, we would also welcome you as a volunteer — mini-jobs available!

CPA Membership/Volunteer Application

Mail to Ted Gzebb, 292 Sackville Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3G2
Or, send by e-mail to CabbagetownPreservationAssn@rogers.com

Date _____ Name _____

1 Year (\$10) _____ Address _____

3 Years (\$30) _____

5 Years (\$50) _____ Postal Code: - _____ Telephone: _____

Single _____ E-Mail: _____ Interested in volunteer opportunities? _____

Family _____

Pay by cheque or credit card: Visa _____ Expiration date _____

Mastercard _____ Expiration date _____

