

CPA: Who Are We?

Founded in 1988 to encourage the preservation of the architectural integrity and historic character of Cabbagetown, the CPA does that and more. Here's what we do:

Heritage Preservation

- Review applications to Committee of Adjustment and the Ontario Municipal Board,
- Make submissions to regulatory bodies

Heritage Promotion

- Produce quarterly newsletter
- Produce special heritage displays
- Organize "Speaker Series"
- 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
- "Cabbagetown People" plaque program
- Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum
- HCD street signs



Board Members

Stephen Yeates, Chair
Margaret Rutledge, Vice-Chair
Sandie Scott, Treasurer
Anne Keffer, Secretary
Alan Waterhouse, Past President
Christopher Dew
David Pretlove
Helen Coltrinari
Rick Merrill
Toby Schertzer
Sheila Schirmer
Carol Moore-Ede
Peggy Weir

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www.steveyeates.ca

Attention All Volunteers and Would-be Volunteers:

We are also always looking for more people to join in.

There are several volunteer committees that take responsibility for various interesting CPA projects including:

Heritage Walking Tours, Heritage Research, Cabbagetown Festival Booth, Forsythia Festival, Tour of Homes Afternoon Tea, Newsletter Delivery, etc.

Some committees are responsible for an annual event, some a few times each year, and some on a more frequent basis. We have a chair person for each of these committees, and this person connects with our Volunteer Director who is a member of the Board.

Being a volunteer on any of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association Volunteer Committees is a great way to become involved in our community and to get to know your neighbours.

To confirm your participation, and if you are interested in joining in as a new volunteer, please contact **Anne Keffer**, Volunteer Director, at **(416) 944-1864** or by e-mail at secretary@cabbagetownpa.ca

Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

On November 24, 557 volunteers were honoured with Ontario Volunteer Service Awards by the Ontario Government at a lavish affair at the Liberty Grand. The theme, "Volunteers Build Communities" was underscored by the numbers of recipients and the wide spectrum of organizations represented.

Congratulations to these CPA Volunteers who received awards:

Virginia Van Vliet, 10 Years; **Marijan Bayer**, 15 Years; **Stephen Boddy**, 10 Years; **Patricia Brathwaite**, 10 Years; **Ray Barton**, 5 Years and **Sheila Schirmer**, 5 Years.

CPA Membership/Volunteer Application

Please mail to Cabbagetown Preservation Association, P.O. Box 82512, Toronto, ON M5A 4N8
or e-mail www.cabbagetownpa.ca

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ 1 year (\$20) _____
Postal Code _____ Telephone _____ 3 years (\$50) _____
E-mail _____ 5 years (\$75) _____
Interested in Volunteering? _____ single _____
family _____



February 2005 volume 15 issue 1

Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

Keeping out the cattle

Learn more about this at our February presentation. See back for details

Defining and attractive, but often little noticed, feature of Cabbagetown is its metal fencing. As casual strollers this enhances our experience of Cabbagetown; for homeowners it is an element in restoration or a choice in designing a garden or defining the property. Whether cast or wrought iron or steel, metal contributes its own beauty while allowing a view of a garden, where privacy is not an issue. Back in the mid-nineteenth century when Osgoode Hall had its original wooden pickets replaced with the current cast iron fence, complete with gates to filter out wandering cattle, the use of cast and wrought iron were common. To-day we associate these materials with the Victorian period, although there is some beautiful modern work being produced by a few artisans.

Iron: Wrought and Cast

Until the mid-1700's iron production was simple: charcoal, limestone and iron ore were heated in a furnace, causing blooms (globs) of iron to emerge from the ore. The blooms were pulled off with tongs, hammered, or **wrought**, to sheet or bar, folded and rehammered. Silicate impurities gave it a fibrous appearance and made the iron corrosion resistant and more malleable. Some wrought iron has lasted for hundreds of years; for example, some railings at Westminster Abbey installed in the Thirteenth century. In those 700 years no Tremclad was ever imported from Canadian Tire to cover rust.

Later efficiencies allowed iron to be produced in greater quantity with less impurities by using much hotter ovens that rendered the ore molten. Machines to hammer and roll the material replaced hand tools and muscle. The old iron for hammering became unavailable in quantity. To-day, wrought ironwork is actually mild steel; only occasionally is it recycled wrought iron.

Cast iron is poured into a mould taken from carved wood. It can be produced with great detail but less delicacy than wrought iron and can be replicated quickly. It has a more solid appearance. Cast iron became popular in the 1800s along with other mass-produced architectural elements, which could be ordered from catalogues and installed.

Mild Steel: An alloy of iron and carbon, it is substituted to-day for iron and is smithed with fire and hammer. It is stronger and more consistent but it corrodes easily so it must be painted or galvanized. It's solidity protects its structure from rust penetration.

Tubular Steel: With its thin walls, rust can penetrate from inside, so maintenance is more critical and its life is shorter. It cannot be shaped easily but spear points can be added.

Quality and cost: Along with the lack of wrought iron, automation has contributed to a decline in craft standards. However, as we increasingly respect heritage values there has been more demand for these old forms and there has been a modest reappearance of the old skills. Quality varies widely and affects appearance: joins can be rough or finely cleaned; shapes can be delicate or less so depending on skill or speed of production. Hand forging can create limitless patterns. With mild steel, faster corrosion – especially in joins and water traps in the design – requires care to avoid rust staining of paintwork and pavement. Hand smithing from recycled wrought iron or mild steel is very much a custom product. Less expensive machine-bent railings are limited in design by the mechanized process and can be sloppy. Cast iron, with its own beauty and history, is more affordable because it is cast in quantity. For example, cost may be in the range of \$250 for an eight foot panel.

Selected sources:

Railings may be "off the rack" from components (stock castings and forgings such as panels, pickets or spear points) or custom designs (submitted by you, an architect or designer).

Steptoe and Wife. Sells and manufactures metal architectural and decorative components based on historical and sometimes modern designs. Its clients range from homes to public buildings, such as the the Pantages Theatre, Royal York Hotel, BCE Place, the Museum of Civilization as well as US clients. Steptoe's owner, Bernard Snitman, is a member of the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants.
www.steptoewife.com

Iron World in Picton Ontario has a range similar to Steptoe's and has a sales office in Toronto. <http://www.ironworld.ca>

Tony Moore, Live Iron Forge and Studio, Holstein, Ontario. 519-334-3264, e-mail tonypat@bmts.com. **Tony Moore**, is a blacksmith who makes custom hand-forged iron work. See his presentation at the CPA's next public meeting at the Winchester Hotel, February 24 at 7PM.



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Streetscapes in Bloom

What is Streetscapes in Bloom?

Gardening is becoming the number one hobby in Canada and we are all the beneficiaries as we stroll the streets of Cabbagetown. The gardens in our neighbourhood continue to display remarkable flora, and are a testament to the imagination and hard work of Cabbagetown gardeners. For the past 8 years the CPA has presented an award to a homeowner whose "garden of merit" has been nominated by a resident of Cabbagetown. The annual winner receives an original watercolour of their garden done by artist **Lisa Crouch**. A formal presentation takes place at the Fall Annual General Meeting of the CPA. Four runners-up are presented with certificates of honour.

When did this award begin?

In 1996, a competition was held throughout Toronto celebrating "Streetscapes in Bloom" and the gardens of 90-98 Winchester Street won a certificate of merit. This award started the whole Cabbagetown event.

Who is eligible for nomination?

Any garden in the catchment area served by the CPA may be nominated. (See the judging process as outlined below).

When does the judging happen?

The judges begin visiting the gardens shortly after nominations close in May. The visits take place monthly through September in order for the judging panel to evaluate the gardens throughout the entire growing season.

How do I nominate a garden?

As you wander along our beautiful streets and notice a particularly lovely botanical effort, hear the splash of a fountain or espy a fanciful fence, note the house number and forward it to the chair of the judging panel, Helen Coltrinari. The judging panel needs the exact address of the garden and, if possible, the owner's name.

Nominations are accepted until May 30th of the award year. You may use any of the following contact methods:

Phone: **416-923-6165** (leave a detailed message)
 e-mail: **helenc.hmc@sympatico.ca**
 mail: **94 Winchester Street, Toronto ON M4X 1B2**



How will I know that my garden has been nominated?

Early in June and before the first visit by the judges, nominees are informed by letter that they have been selected and that the panel will visit the garden four times, June through September. The winning garden is chosen by the end of September and the homeowner is notified shortly thereafter.

see next page...

...continued from last page

What is the judging process?

Each member of the committee uses an evaluation sheet which assigns a score in a number of garden categories from design, to accents, to maintenance. If a garden does not have a feature on the list (e.g. water, tall trees), it is not penalized but simply marked n/a. In September, scores are tallied to come up with a winner.

To be nominated, the following criteria are considered: the attraction of the garden must be clearly visible from the street (hence the name of the award: Streetscapes in Bloom). In addition to the flora, the judges look for other appealing features: water, path work, sculpture, perennials, shrubbery, including vines, plantings suitable for the sun exposure of the garden and of course, colour. In general, the garden should exhibit an aspect that would cause a passerby to pause and notice.

Who are some of the past winners?

Here is a list of the past winning gardens and the year of the award. Please take a moment to look at some of these impressive gardens:

1997 – 123 Winchester St.	1998 – 94 Amelia St.
1999 – 31 Spruce St.	2000 – 319 Wellesley St.
2001 – 331 Wellesley St.	2002 – 76 Amelia St.
2003 – 60 Spruce St.	2004 – 334 Carlton St.

Who are the judges?

The chair of the judging panel is Helen Coltrinari. The previous year's winner is invited to join the panel, so this year we

are delighted to have Paul Shearstone, 2004 winner. Standing members are Steve Poulin and Stephen Boddy.

NEW this year: the CPA is working on creating an outdoor "identifier" to acknowledge the award. These identifiers will be highlighted by walking tour guides and the Cabbagetown Tour of Homes.

Congratulations to the Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association

The CPA congratulates the members of the revitalized 219-strong Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association (DVCRA). First organized in 1971, the Don Vale Association was incorporated in 1975. After a decade of inactivity it has been renamed and re-established into a strong and enthusiastic group. An overwhelming attendance of 130 members turned out for the first Public Meeting on November 17th. The next Public Meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday, March 30th at the Riverdale Farm Meeting House.



Correction:

Marcellina Mian and **Sebastian Rousseau** won Honorable Mention for the 2004 Restoration Award for their adjoining houses at **21 and 23 Salisbury Avenue**. A photo of a very nice, but different house, was shown in the last Newsletter. Our apologies to Marcellina and Sebastian. Good help is so hard to find...

The last piece of the puzzle

Now that Cabbagetown-Metcalf and Cabbagetown North Heritage Conservation Districts have been established, the South area is under study. This is a synopsis of the city staff report on the proposed heritage designation of the south portion of Cabbagetown:

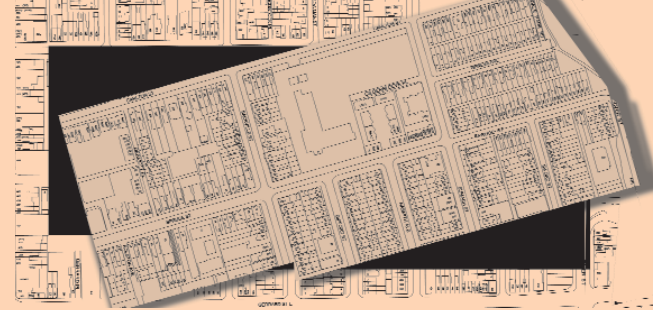
"The CPA wrote to the City in August requesting that the HCD study be initiated for the south portion of the District. In response, on November 24, City staff held a community meeting to discuss the proposal. A flyer advising of the meeting was distributed to all properties in the proposed HCD study area. Based on that meeting, staff confirm that there is community support to undertake a study with the intent of designating it under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. A team of the residents is completing the necessary inventory work.

The proposed study area, lies immediately south of the existing Cabbagetown-Metcalf and Cabbagetown North HCDs. The boundaries consist of Carlton Street

and the Riverdale Park on the north, Bayview Avenue on the east, Gerrard Street East on the south and the rear of properties fronting on Parliament Street on the west.

City staff, with assistance of a local study advisory committee, will adapt the existing Cabbagetown-Metcalf and Cabbagetown North HCDs District Plans for the proposed HCD. The community review process will determine the extent of modification required.

In accordance with the new Official Plan for the City, Heritage Conservation Districts provide an additional tool for communities to protect the stability of their area. There is interest and merit in the Cabbagetown South area as a heritage conservation district study area."



Cabbagetown People - Arthur L. Schawlow Ph.D.



See plaque at 436 Sackville Street

With this issue of the newsletter, we will begin a regular feature which profiles one of the honorees of the Cabbagetown People Plaque Program. Here we profile Arthur L. Schawlow Ph.D.

Born in Mount Vernon, New York, Arthur, at the age of three years old, moved to Toronto with his family to the neighbourhood of Cabbagetown, later attending Winchester Public School.

As a youngster, Arthur was always interested in, and read everything he could find on, things scientific, electrical, mechanical or astronomical. His intent was to study radio engineering, but at that point in the 1930s, the economic depression was at its height, very few families could afford to send their children to university, and there were no scholarships in engineering. However, he and his sister, Rosemary, both won scholarships in the faculty of Arts at the University of Toronto. Rosemary's was for English literature; Arthur's was for mathematics and physics, and it was physics that he pursued, earning a Ph.D from the University in 1949. (While at University, he was very involved in the Toronto amateur jazz scene and played clarinet. Listening

to traditional jazz from his large record collection continued to stimulate and interest him throughout his life)

While on a postdoctoral fellowship to Columbia University, he met Charles H. Townes, a leader in research on microwave spectroscopy, and their long collaboration began. In 1951, he married Aurelia, Charles Townes, youngest sister.

Over the ten years that followed, Arthur Schawlow worked as a physicist at Bell Telephone Laboratories, working with his brother-in-law in his spare time. They co-authored a book, published in 1955 entitled, *Microwave Spectroscopy*, and continued to work together on the principles of a device – the laser – that could operate at shorter wavelengths than the maser.

Arthur Schawlow then went on to become a professor of physics at Stanford University, and was chairman of the department of physics from 1966 to 1970. In 1981 he won the Nobel Prize for physics for his contribution to the development of laser spectroscopy. Dr. Schawlow retired from teaching and became Professor Emeritus in 1991.

