

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

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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 **Mary Gallant**, Volunteer Director, at **(416) 920 3882** or by e-mail at secretary@cabbagetownpa.ca



Controversial New T-shirt to be unveiled at Cabbagetown Festival Sept 9-11

OK, it's not controversial but you looked! The CPA is offering a new Cabbagetown Festival T-shirt designed by internationally known graphic designer, Steve Yeates. Come to the festival and visit us at our booths on Parliament Street and in Riverdale Park, (at Sumach and Winchester). Take a Festival walking tour (at the Park booth), buy a shirt, learn more about what we are up to and, if you want some high-interest community involvement, find out how you can become part of our volunteer team. If you are new to Cabbagetown this is the best opportunity to learn about this unusual community that you have chosen.

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 _____



September 2005 volume 15 issue 3

NEWSLETTER

Preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

"Without our past, we have no future"

— Maureen Penno, Cabbagetown resident

Members of the Cabbagetown/Regent Park Community Museum are videotaping oral histories of Cabbagetown and Regent Park residents who have lived, or have been living in Cabbagetown for more than 30 years. Included among our illustrious residents are **Maureen Penno**, a resident of Carlton Street for 72 years and former teacher at Lord Dufferin School; "The People's Artist" **Bill Stapleton** whose heart and work has been touched by people in struggle; author **Sophie Stransman** who describes the Cabbagetown of the 1930s Depression in her delightful book, *Mama and her Mitzvahs*; and **Marge Taggart**, who was born in the living quarters above Nettleship's Hardware - one of the oldest family-run stores in the area - which she continues to help her son run today.

The Museum group plans to record many more oral histories. If you know of anyone who lives or has lived in the Cabbagetown/Regent Park area for over 30 years, please contact Carol Moore-Ede at 416-962-9139 or email: livinghistory@cabbagetownregentparkmuseum.com

PROFILE: Maureen Penno

From the roar of the Riverdale zoo's lions to the moo-ing of the Farm's cows, Maureen Penno has heard and seen it all. For 72 years she has been watching and experiencing the comings and goings of a neighbourhood alive with transitions. And as an observer she has walked the streets, lanes and parks with a succession of eight loyal canine companions.

At the age of five, Maureen's family moved to 276 Carlton Street where she has remained ever since. Known as one of the Painted Ladies of Carlton Street, the house sits on the north side, the middle one of three Terrace houses built in 1890. Little has changed to the exterior since that time, as Maureen scrupulously maintains the outside and interior as close to its original state as possible. "A lot of people say my house is cluttered," she comments "but it's home and I love it and my neighbours. And I love history. My mother taught me to appreciate good things."



I WANT YOU
FOR THE
CABBAGETOWN
REGENT PARK
MUSEUM

The house is fascinating. There is an original skylight from the 1890s, rich crimson glass doors, a large fan shaped stained glass window in the front room, antique lighting fixtures, original wallpaper, detailed cornices and baseboards - and a multitude of memorabilia. One has the feeling of stepping into another era until Maureen's TV and computer come into view along with an electronic keyboard she got for her 70th birthday.

Maureen has clear and fascinating memories of some of the surrounding homes and their residents past and present, and even a ghost or two. "Every good neighbourhood has a ghost and Cabbagetown is no exception. There's one in the front room at 308 Carlton Street in a mirror in the front room and every so often it comes out."

At 282 Carlton Street, long before the Weirs moved in, lived a Maestro Carboni. A strange little figure with a waxed moustache. He walked with a hollow cane filled with alcohol and his beloved Chihuahua tucked under his arm. Once, Maureen and her friends peaked in the window. "We saw the Chihuahua seated on a chair at the dining room table being treated to a birthday party!"

We Need Museum Volunteers!

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum.

Anyone interested in:

- **Visual research**
- **Historical research**
- **Transcribing audio tapes**
- **Viewing and itemizing videotaped interviews**

Please contact Carol Moore-Ede at 416-962-9139
Or email:
livinghistory@cabbagetownregentparkmuseum.com



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288 Carlton Street had a beautiful side verandah, which was replaced with a garage by the current owners. The home was originally owned by the Angell family and was a well-run boarding house. "My friends and I used to use the verandah as a stage where we would put on plays, dance and sing. We had a captive, built-in audience as all the residents would come down to watch us."

The back lanes of Cabbagetown were very different from the lanes of today. They were the children's playgrounds full of the sounds of laughter and chatter, the clatter of the horse and carriages on delivery, the heavy sighs of the horses kept in what are garages today, and the smells of pickles or smoked fish from the various neighbourhood factories. Here Maureen played Hide and Seek, Cowboys and Indians – she played a cowboy, as she had real cowboy boots; and she was always the teacher when they played "school" as she was the proud owner of a blackboard. "We had nothing to entertain us so we entertained ourselves. It was a wonderful time and a simpler time. I think today people practice oneness – watching TV, or on their computers. We practiced togetherness. We grew together as a community."



Maureen had wanted to be a teacher since the age of 10. She attended Winchester Public School and Jarvis Collegiate, and then went to Victoria College at U of T. She taught at Lord Dufferin and at Spruce Court and her pupils became her life. "I never married but I had many children. They left me at 5 years old, they left me at 12 years old, but I've been very happy." Many still keep in touch.

Cabbagetown was not a sought after address in the 1960s despite the many fine hard-working people that lived in the area. It looked as if the developers that had spawned St. Jamestown had their eyes to the east, dreaming of yet more highrises. In 1967 the Don Vale Property Owners' was established and Maureen was part of that group, which successfully won the battle to keep the highrises out. "Norm Macdonald of 54 Spruce street was the first to realize the importance of district historic designation. I served as a Director and President of the Association." Still active in the Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents' Association Maureen is vocal about her opinions. "My wish is to be able to walk safely with my dog, day or night, without fear, as I did in my younger years. Now I would never leave my door unlocked as I did in the 50s."

Constantly learning new things and meeting new people, Maureen doesn't appear to be slowing down. She plans to take piano lessons from Cabbagetown pianist, Peter Mose whom she met recently as part of the Cabbagetown/Regent Park Community Museum oral history project. During the interview she said, "If I drop dead this day I love my surroundings, I love my home, my life – and I couldn't ask for more." What a wonderful tribute to her spirit and the spirit she helps to bring to this area daily.



2005 Tour of Homes Saturday September 17th Sunday September 18th.

The CPA is pleased to continue our tradition of participating in the Tour of Homes. This year, for the first time, we are collaborating with Friends of the Farm to organize the CIBC Imperial Service Soiree as part of Saturday's Candlelight Tour. Tour goers will visit Simpson House; enjoy fruit and "Cabbagetown" punch while enjoying the Latin rhythms of Nuno Miller's Band.

Our long standing collaboration with the Carlton Street Second Mile Club continues on the Sunday Tour. Tour visitors will visit Howard House to attend the CIBC Imperial Service Tea, where they will enjoy tea and tea cakes provided by Tim Horton's. Their tired feet will be reenergized by the toe tapping Jim Heineman and the Jazz Cats.

Musicians at both events are raising funds for the Cabbagetown Community Arts Center.

The CPA would like to thank all of our partners at these events and especially Tim Hortons and CIBC Imperial Service for their generous sponsorship.

Coming soon! The CPA and the Cabbagetown Tour of Homes will be conducting private, in-depth, guided "Art and Architecture Tours". Small groups, no line ups, and homes never before seen will be offered on these by reservation only tours. For more information please visit www.Cabbagetowntour.org

Regent Park Design Review

As you may know, the first phase of the revitalization of Regent Park is scheduled to begin next Spring. Those of you who have attended the many public meetings held in the area will also know that the plans have met with considerable approval from many sections of the community. We feel that the CPA's involvement from the beginning on several Regent Park committees has been fruitful to this end.

The Toronto Community Housing Corporation, who are in charge of the whole program, have now set up a Design Review committee to advise on the architectural and urban design qualities of the developer's submissions, the first of which will affect the block on the northeast corner of Parliament and Dundas. CPA Board member Alan Waterhouse has been appointed to this committee to represent the communities surrounding Regent Park. Any thoughts and ideas you may have about the project should be communicated to him, at alan.waterhouse@sympatico.ca or at 416 925 0331.

Cabbagetown People Donor Appreciation Event

On June 23rd Cabbagetown People held an event to thank Program donors. The celebration began in Riverdale Park with Frank Clarke, representing the Honourable Bill Graham, Minister of National Defence, and MP for Toronto Centre, assisted by the Corporate sponsors, officially unveiling the Cabbagetown People Orientation Directory.



From left to right: Frank Clarke, Manager of the Constituency Office of the Honourable Bill Graham; Janice Churchill CFP, General Manager, CIBC Imperial Service; Richard Silver; Sheila Schirmer, Program Chair; Raheema Reis CFP, Financial Adviser, CIBC Imperial Service and Paul Dineen, Chair, Old Cabbagetown BIA.

Sheila Schirmer, Program Chair, read a congratulatory message sent by Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, praising the Cabbagetown People initiative. Following the ceremony at Riverdale Park, guests were led by CPA tour guides on walking tours of some of the plaque locations, and were later entertained at a reception in one of Cabbagetown's lovely homes.

During the Festival, take a walking tour, and note the new Cabbagetown People plaque installations:

Luigi von Kunits, first conductor, Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Mr. von Kunits' home formerly stood on the site of Rose Avenue Public School. The plaque is located on the south-west corner of Rose Avenue Public School, 675 Ontario St. (north of Wellesley)

Betty Oliphant, world-renowned innovator of ballet education is honoured with a plaque at 137 Amelia Street

With these recent installations, there are now a total of 34 plaques placed throughout Cabbagetown saluting our "heritage heroes".

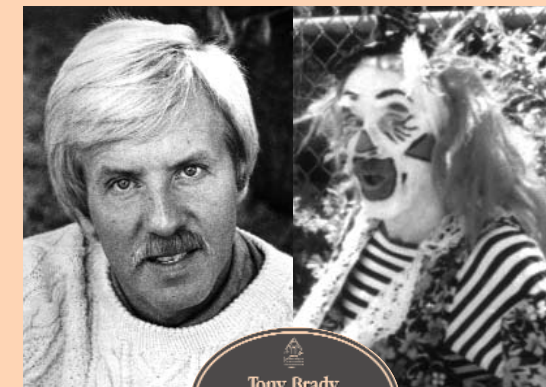
Cabbagetown People off to schools!

After much planning and research, the Cabbagetown People Committee has produced a book for schools containing biographies of these remarkable people, and has, as the first phase of the continuing project, made presentations to principals of eight local elementary schools. The resource is intended as an educational tool to engage youth in their local and national history through its focus on the contributions of those individuals who have made that history. We anticipate that the stories of these "heritage heroes" will inspire the student reader and facilitate discussions on many important issues and themes.

Cabbagetown People - Tony Brady

Performer, Children's Entertainer, Author, and
Founder of the Forsythia Festival 1935-1991
Plaque located at 443 Wellesley Street)

A Torontonians by adoption, Tony Brady was born in Drummondville, Quebec. He was a writer, actor, magician, hairdresser, animal breeder and traveller, as well as a clown. As most clowns are male, and he wanted to be different, he created Briget The Clown.



He loved animals and at one time had 30 parrots and macaws in his house.

It has been said that Tony had Canada's first Bengal cat and that actress Elizabeth Taylor visited his home to see the famous animal.



The children's stories he wrote were very popular, appearing in books and in the Toronto Star newspaper.

After being so impressed with the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C., he founded Cabbagetown's Forsythia Festival. It was his pride and joy and it has become a popular annual event in Cabbagetown. He had a tremendous sense of community spirit and loved entertaining young people.

Tony died in Toronto General Hospital at the age of 56 following a heart attack.

