Christopher Dew, at the Cabbagetown People orientation direction in Riverdale Park, leads an enthusiastic class of Grade 3/4 students from Nelson Mandela Park School on a walking tour of the area.

The walking tours are part of the Cabbagetown People program for schools, which includes a teaching manual containing the full biographies of all the people honoured. The contents of the manual may be downloaded from the CP website as a PDF at www.cabbagetownpeople.ca.

Thank you to the many people who are helping the C’town/Regent Park Museum expand!

• Connie Fenton, Kathleen Hontszny and Julie Stone for sharing their oral histories of growing up in Cabbagetown and for lending the CRP museum artifacts and photos.
• Diane McLean, Bethany Osborne, Corky Miller and Robert McCauley for sharing their stories and archival material.
• Howard Bortenstein, City Councillor Candidate for Ward 28 for finding generous storage space for the museum.
• The many volunteers typing transcripts for the hours of oral histories.
• Jamestown Steak & Chops, Mi Casa, Posterity, Sushi Today, Lamb House at 156 Winchester Street, and the spectacularly preserved original interiors of 308 Carlton Street. Visitors ... Victorian grande dame with an innovative Japanese kitchen. This year, the same six houses are featured on both days.

Once again, the CPA will be hosting the popular tea party during the Tour of Homes.

Loving our Trees

In the fall of 2005, the City of Toronto Culture Division approached the CPA’s Cabbagetown / Regent Park Museum Board about the possibility of a partnership exhibition to be displayed, originally, at Mackerel House in September 2006. The CRP Museum proposed an exhibition in which a single street, Oak Street, could be used to tell the story not only of the evolution of an area but also its role in the development of the City of Toronto. Over the years Oak Street has transformed from a sparsely inhabited area of early settlement to a neighbourhood in major transition, the outcome of which is being watched by many in North America and Europe.

The exhibition is a chance to witness how Oak Street has changed over the years. How it developed in the mid to late 1800s; survived during the First World War; coped through the Depression of the 1930s; became Regent Park in the 1950s as the first and one of the biggest, subsidized housing projects in Canada; why the experiment failed; and how it is evolving today in what may become a state-of-the-art neighbourhood in mixed housing.

Please see page 3

CPA Membership/Volunteer Application

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

Name__________________________Date__________________________
Address__________________________Telephone__________________________
Postal Code__Telephone__________________________E-mail__________________________
Interested in Volunteering?singlefamily
Special talents or skills?__________________________________________

September 2006 volume 16 issue 3

CPR Museum Silent Auction

Don’t miss your chance to bid on exciting items during the Tour of Homes. It will be held at 156 Winchester Street (The Lamb House). Any donations to the auction will be greatly appreciated. This is just a small selection of items ready for your bid, a signed copy by David Cronenberg of Andy Warhol Exhibition CD. More Than An Island, History of Toronto Islands by Sally Gibson, Garden fountain from Sheridan Nurseries, a 20 lb turkey from Jamestown Steak & Chops, Lunch for two from Sushi Today and a manicure/pedicure from Star Nails.

Cabbagetown Festival Sept 9-10…Join us!

Be sure to visit us at our booth at Winchester and Sumach during the Cabbagetown Festival, September 9 and 10. We will have a new edition of the CPA Festival T-shirt, featuring a vintage Cabbagetown photograph. And watch for us in the parade (we are looking for volunteers to march, who doesn’t want to be in a parade? Call Mary at 416-920-3882).

New conservation booklets

Herbord Village HCD has updated and greatly expanded their directory of restoration resources. Copies of the new directory are $5 and are available at the Cabbagetown Festival at the CPA booth or by phoning Steve Yeates (416-531-5757).
Cabbagetown Kid
Robert McCauley remembers...

Hard Times: I spent the ten lost years of the Depression as a child in Cabbagetown attending Winchester School. Being out of work then was a disgrace. I recall our neighbour who left home each morning with a briefcase (no doubt containing his lunch) to return at five in the afternoon. We all knew he spent the day in the public library. Our family out of pride refused the help of the city and my mother worked as a seamstress in a uncle Norman’s factory at minimum wage. Father worked temporary jobs and a system of winning small sums of money from the “pools” of “Sports Weekly”. My friend Gordon’s family went on relief; I know this since he offered food vouchers at the grocery store as payment. They were similar to food stamps and kept many a family from starvation. Gordon’s father, to his credit, soon opened a successful used clothing store in Cabbagetown south of Gerrard Street. We upper Cabbagetowners dubbed this part of the district as “the slums”. Streets south of this boundary inspired Hugh Garner in his book, “Cabbagetown” to call it “the largest Anglo-Saxon slum in North America”.

We children did not feel deprived. We let the adults worry about obtaining the necessities of life. I recall a large shanty town in the Don Valley just north of the Bloor viaduct, which consisted of shelters thrown together of scrap corrugated iron and inhabited by unemployed homeless men. At the bottom of Hillcrest Street a common sight was hoboes riding in freight cars.

School Days: We walked to school usually with chums. The adults were in charge and pupils were relatively well behaved apart from the occasional act of mischief. One stunts the Senior Fourth boys would pull would be to shake the windows of our classroom by synchronously shaking their legs on the floor to find the resonating frequency of the windows. The ultimate punishment for misbehaviour, of course, was the strap.

The Board of Education dentist had a dreadful chairside manner and would slap the children around when they expressed pain. He also had bad breath. This childhood experience meant that I avoided dentists until I found that you got more compassionate treatment when you paid for the service.

from page 1
Veronica Owens is a recent graduate from the post-graduate certificate Museum Management & Curatorship Program at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterborough. She has been working in an intern program with the City of Toronto Culture Division to help develop the exhibition alongside Carol Moore-Ede, Museum Chair of the CPA’s Board, and Nancy Reynolds, Fiona Lucas, and Elisabeth Joy from the City of Toronto Cultural Division. Our own CPA President, Steve West, is designing the exhibit.

A lot of work has gone into creating the exhibition. Numerous oral histories have been recorded, which include tales of whirrersy, joy, laughter and loss. Attics and basements have been rummaged through to discover hidden artifacts, maps and photographs; and lost personal objects have been found behind old radiators and in the rubble of demolition. It’s been an adventure, the results from which will reside in the future archives of the Cabbagetown / Regent Park Museum’s permanent home.

A Walk Down Oak Street: Faces, Places & Stories will open to the public in April 2007 at Mackenzie House, Toronto. The CPA will keep you posted.

Who Said Money Doesn’t Grow on Trees?
Cabbagetowners are cooler and richer than thanks to the many mature trees of our neighborhood. Besides just standing there looking good, our trees are working nonstop. What have the trees done for us lately?
• Improve Air Quality: Leaves absorb and filter sulphur dioxide, nitrates oxide, carbon dioxide, ozone and dust particles.
• Block UV Rays: Mature trees protect us from harmful UV rays.
• Increase property values: Residential properties with substantial tree cover sell for between 5% to 25% more than similar properties without trees. Likewise, homes in well-treed communities tend to sell more quickly.
• Cool our streets and houses in summer: Trees are natural air conditioners. They cool the air by providing shade, reducing the solar energy absorbed by hard surfaces.
• Provide shelter for our houses and streets in winter: Well-placed trees reduce energy loss from buildings and lower heating bills in winter.
• Contain storm-water: Trees help soils absorb and conserve moisture by slowing rainfall and moderating surface runoff. They reduce soil erosion and intercept harmful pollutants from hard surfaces before they enter the storm sewer system. Along stream banks, trees and shrubs trap nutrients, reduce erosion and improve fish habitat. Tree roots serve as natural water purification systems.
• Protect Wildlife: Trees and shrubs along streets, in parks and in our yards provide crucial habitat for resident wildlife and bird populations, as well as stopovers for migratory birds.
• Slow Traffic: Trees as street bumps. Lining streets with trees is a known technique for the voluntary slowing of traffic in residential neighbourhoods. Our urban forest is facing the multiple challenges of an aging tree population, changing climate and loss of habitat. Sound management built on evidence-based arboriculture can significantly prolong the lives and vitality of our mature trees. Choosing hardy native species when planting for the next generation preserves habitat for the many species that evolved with them, as well as ensuring the success of the future forest. The effects of climate change are hurting our trees, forcing them to deal with increased disease, infestations and drought. We need to reduce our CO2 emissions now and reign in climate change.

If you have any questions about this article or would like more information on any of the topics mentioned here, you can contact Masha at SoundGardens at 416-972-0447, masha@kazyahoo.com. We specialize in arboriculture urban habitat restoration. We are also currently expanding our business to include greenroofs and solar water heating installation. Certified arborist and biologist on staff.