

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



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www.steveyeates.ca

Get to know your neighbours

We are also always looking for more people to join us in working on such committees as. **Heritage Walking Tours, Heritage Research, Cabbagetown Festival Booth, Forsythia Festival, Tour of Homes Afternoon Tea, Newsletter Delivery, etc.**

Duties may be for one event or ongoing. If you are interested, please contact **Mary Gallant**, Volunteer Director, at **(416) 920 3882** or secretary@cabbagetownpa.ca

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 _____	1 year (\$20) _____
Postal Code _____ Telephone _____	3 years (\$50) _____
E-mail _____	5 years (\$75) _____
Interested in Volunteering? _____	single _____
Special talents or skills? _____	family _____



Christopher Dew, at the Cabbagetown People orientation directory 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 Horiszny 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, Epicure, & Star Nails for donations to the Museum Silent Auction to be held at 156 Winchester Street during the Tour of Homes.
- and to all the many supporters of the project.

Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

A Walk Down Oak Street *Loving our Trees* page 3



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 Mackenzie 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*

Tour some Homes, Buy a treasure...28th Annual Tour of Homes Sept 30-Oct 1

For preservation buffs, this year's edition features the landmark Lamb House at 156 Winchester Street, and the spectacularly preserved original interiors of 308 Carlton Street. Visitors will also see an Edwardian restored as a family home after years of abuse as apartments, a dreary worker's cottage exploded into a light and bright contemporary home, a 1960's modernist interior, and a two-staircased 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 on Sunday afternoon at the Second Mile Club. Tea volunteers are sought, and are requested to Email Peggy Weir at wreir@promotivation.net.

Proceeds from the \$30 tickets benefit the CPA and other community organizations and charities. Tickets go on sale September 1, 2006, at the Cabbagetown BIA, St. Jamestown Steak and Chop, Sheridan Nurseries in Toronto, North York, and Scarborough, and, for an extra fee, at Ticketmaster on-line or by phone. For more information, visit www.cabbagetowntour.org.

CRP 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**

Cabbagetowntown 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

Harbord 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).



Toys in a Police station?

Yes, even policemen were children once! Nearly everybody has had a special toy as a child. Toys unlock the imagination in a world of play, adventure and delight. They imitate day-to-day living in miniature, and enable children to fantasize about being grown up and in control.

But why toys in a museum? Toys are symbols of our present and our past, and they connect us with our ancestors spanning thousands of years. They are objects of play and reflections of culture that express human attitudes, influences and technology.

The Toys Were Us: Fads & Favourites exhibition is currently on display in the lobby of 51 Division at Parliament and Front Streets. It's open 24/7 and you'll discover many interesting objects and facts.

For example: Toys can be the result of *accident* – the Slinky; *observation* – Erector Sets were a product of Dr. Alfred Carlton Gilbert in 1912 after observing railway workers at work; *inspiration* – John Lloyd Wright, the son of the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright, inspired by his father's Imperial Hotel in Tokyo in 1916 created Lincoln Logs; *publicity* - in 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt is reputed to have refused to shoot a trapped bear cub. Soon stuffed "Teddy" (Steff) bears became all the rage in North America and around the world.



There are toys that reflect shifts in cultural attitudes over many decades. Enid Blyton's Golliwogs and the stories of Little Black Sambo were very popular; however, attitudes changed and by the 1960s the exaggerated characterisations were considered offensive. By the 1980s there were more black dolls, but made with "white" moulds so the features remained Caucasian. Today there are a variety of coloured dolls to reflect our multi-cultural diversity, finally with faces of their own.

Creating fads and favourites are: popular movie stars such as Shirley Temple; favourite movies, such as Toy Story with Slinky Dog; storybook characters, such as Raggedy Ann and Winnie the Pooh; TV characters – Howdy Doody and Barney; and comic book heroes. Many popular toys and games are centuries old: marbles since 3000 BC; ice skates since 600 AD and chess since the 1200s.

Please drop in and take a look.



Robert McCauley in the classroom in the 30s

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 my uncle Norman's factory at minimum wage. Father worked at 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 stunt the Senior Fourth boys would pull would be to shake the windows of their 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.

How we Played: We had to make our own fun. We spent most of our free time out of doors. There were informal games of hockey, hide-and-seek,

from page 1 Veronica Owens is a recent graduate from the post-graduate certificate Museum Management & Curatorship Program at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough. She has been working in an internship 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 Yeates, is designing the exhibit.

A lot of work has gone into creating the exhibition. Numerous oral histories have been recorded, which include tales of whimsy, 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.

relievo, kick the can, etc. We also ranged freely exploring nearby Rosedale Ravine. We were aware, however, of child molesters and avoided them.

I recall receiving for Christmas a kit of miniature logs, which could be assembled into a cabin, a solid metal monoplane, a pocket microscope, which you held up to your eye, and a Meccano construction set. We made things. A favourite street vehicle was a wooden scooter consisting of a two by four on which a wooden orange crate on the bottom were attached to rollerskates. This crate served as a resonator and the scooter when propelled produced a thunderous sound on the road.

Inspired by the gift of a compact chemistry set, I acquired extra chemicals and set up my own chemical laboratory. You could then buy chemicals from the local drugstore to stock your laboratory. My present day pharmacist was horrified when I told her of the ease of obtaining dangerous substances and what we did with them

Robert McCauley is professor emeritus of Wilfrid Laurier University who lives with his family in Kitchener, Ontario. Because he was one of the few children wearing eye glasses his schoolmates nicknamed him "professor" and he chose his future career following their suggestion.



Robert McCauley in the classroom in June 2006.

Who Said Money Doesn't Grow on Trees?

Cabbagetowners are cooler and richer thanks to the many mature trees of our neighbourhood. 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, nitrous 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_kaz@yahoo.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.

