

# NEWSLETTER

Cabbagetown Preservation Association

Preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

## Life in Old Cabbagetown

### David Georgieff Remembers

*David Georgieff's Cabbagetown Recorded for the CRP Museum by Carol Moore-Ede and Christopher Dew.*

David Georgieff was born on Ontario Street in 1932 and lived in the area until the mid-1950s.



*David Georgieff to-day*

My father came here from Macedonia when he was 15, and my mother came from Finland at about the same age. My father worked at General Steelworks and at that time you got \$6.00 a week for work there. My mother used to do housework and she'd get maybe \$2.00 or \$3.00. They were hard working people and they did what they

had to do to survive. The people my mother worked for had a bakery and they used to give her cakes that were left over and if they didn't sell that day she'd bring them home. That was a little bit of a treat.

Regent Park was like a community all of its own at that time, just like the original Cabbagetown was in the old days. Most of the homes were just like the homes in what's Cabbagetown today. I remember in the 50's you could buy these houses for \$3,000. During the Depression you could buy a house for \$200 but people couldn't afford to pay the taxes or the heating so they had to rent. In the wintertime we used to use orange crates and put them out the window and there was your icebox. There was no central heating in our home but we had an old potbelly stove and the pipe ran right through the house. We couldn't afford to buy coke [a heating fuel] so we'd go down to the coke yard



*City of Toronto Archives*

and collect loose coke, throw it into bags and bring it home. We had to do what we had to do, it was the Depression and times were hard. If I got sick, my mother used to blow smoke in my hair to cure an earache or she'd heat up whisky if we got a cold. Neighbours were friendlier then and we shared a lot. Their doors were not locked and you could go in and borrow from them and return it the next day. Even though no one had anything we still had a lot of fun.

They didn't have any unions when people were making \$6.00 a week and they told you to "pick that up off the floor" and if you didn't do it you were gone. So they brought in the



*Cabbagetown prepares to bloom. See Streetscapes in Bloom, page 5.*

unions and it was a tough time. I remember going down to the park with my dad, sitting on his shoulders when they had meetings and then the anti-union people came in and tried to break it up with their horses. Then my father would start running up the hill with me on his shoulders. It was like playing cowboys and Indians... unbelievable. It wouldn't be good to go back to the old days when they told people "either do this or we'll take your benefits away." I remember when you had to pay to have a child. I paid for my first daughter and it cost \$60.00 for each baby. There was no such thing as free health either. You paid.



*David Georgieff around 1942*

I think it was 25¢ for seniors and 15¢ or 10¢ for children. There was a hamburger place next door and you could get a hamburger for a quarter. Also there was the Bluebell, which was on Dundas and Parliament, and the Parliament, all in that one area. Then down Queen Street there were a number of shows. There was the Stage Theatre on Bay Street, and then when you went around the corner on Queen there was a cinema there and a casino, as well as a lot of pawnshops and little stores. As often as you could the big thing was going to a show or going to a casino and seeing all the acts. I saw the best in the world and I mean the best.

You can hear more of these stories at *Oak Street Reinvented*. See page 3 for details.



*1946 Outside the Eclipse*

[www.cabbagetownpa.ca](http://www.cabbagetownpa.ca)

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## Little Trinity- A Survivor in Tough Times

Elizabeth Nelson

The Parish of Trinity East – affectionately known as Little Trinity Anglican Church - is the oldest standing church building in the City of Toronto! The cornerstone was laid on July 20, 1843 and worship services began on February 14, 1844. Today, 400 individuals gather at 3 services on Sundays to worship, learn and support each other.

The congregation was started in 1842 to serve the needs of the working class Irish Protestants who lived in the east end of Toronto. At the time, Toronto's population was about 17,000 people. As the city grew, the building became too small. In 1889 a south extension enlarged the church, a split chancel was added and the choir and organ were installed. On Easter Sunday 1909, over one thousand people attended services. The Sunday School had over 900 children! More than 560 men of the parish volunteered to fight in World War I: 63 of those gave their lives.

Canon Hillyard Cameron Dixon was the rector from 1906 to 1927. During this time, the church provided a strong social service role providing much practical assistance to the neighbourhood. From World War I until the years following World War II, Little Trinity struggled to survive. It seemed forever troubled with deficit budgets, deteriorating buildings, and dwindling attendance. This culminated in 1950 with the Diocese of Toronto planning to close the church. But in the summer of 1950, there was a change in fortunes when the Rev'd Maurice Flint offered to be a supply minister. The parish came to life again with wise, caring preaching and pasturing. There was a concentrated effort to build up the parish community and engage in social outreach. The park around the church was created by converting the land to public use. And then disaster struck. On January 5, 1961, thieves broke into the church and ransacked the choir room and rector's desk and then set the building on fire. The chancel (the addition of 1889) was severely damaged, pews were destroyed, windows cracked, tapestries and the organ ruined. Church records were gone. The insurance covered only a small portion of the damage to the building and contents. However, the congregation backed by many people throughout Toronto, raised enough money to restore the church. The building was restored to its original 1844 proportions.

The next rector was the Rev'd Harry Robinson who served from 1963 to 1978. He inspired the congregation with wonderful preaching. The Sunday congregation doubled within two years of his arrival. Small home fellowship groups were formed to build fellowship and provide Christian social outreach.

Today, the congregation of Little Trinity continues to challenge and be challenged. The current rector is the Rev'd Canon Christopher King and the Rev'd Lyn Youll is the associate. Some of the activities now include Sunday School, a summer day camp, youth programming, English as a Second Language classes, meetings for mothers with pre-school aged children, adult education opportunities and more. Each year, the church participates in the Doors Open festival. At the present time, all the windows at the church are being restored. There are currently proposals for a redevelopment for ministry space of the buildings at 399-403 King Street. To celebrate the past, rejoice in the present and look ahead with excitement to the future, there will be a special day of celebration for the 165th anniversary which will be marked at 10 am on Sunday, June 10th.



## CPA's AGM May 28

The CPA's **Annual General Meeting** will be held for members at the Meeting House in Riverdale Farm Monday, May 28. The meeting will feature a speaker on Cabbagetown history to be announced in our new eNewsletter. If you are not a member, please consider joining – you can do that at the meeting for \$20 a year or by filling out the form on this page. For a complete run-down of the CPA's many programs, please visit our website at [www.cabbagetownpa.ca](http://www.cabbagetownpa.ca).

**Board Nominations** As of 1 June, there will

be two vacancies on CPA's twelve-member Board of Directors. Nominations are invited from Members in good standing for election to the Board. If more than two nominations are received, election will be determined by a secret ballot at the AGM on 28 May. Nominations, accompanied by a resume, should be addressed to the Board Secretary, Sue McMurtry, and received no later than 24 May. You may drop them off at 317 Carlton St. attention Steve Yeates. In the event of a ballot, nominees will be invited to give a brief verbal presentation to the AGM.

## Renovating or Restoring? HCD Committee Can Help

When considering changes to the front of your house, talking to the Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Committee can save time and add value. Every Designated HCD has such a committee made up of local residents (Ours is affiliated with the CPA and its members are approved by the CPA). Their job is to advise homeowners on heritage issues relating to construction *that is visible from the street* and to help steer us through the permitting process (in HCDs, a heritage permit is needed for street-visible changes. The permit is much faster than a building permit).

A case in point, here is the experience of Karen Jull:

In the spring of 2005, we purchased a 100 year old home in Cabbagetown. The homeowners prided themselves in being energy efficient & had done very little to alter the 100 year old house. We know the age of our house because we consulted the Heritage Conservation District Committee, who led us to the City Archives where we found some information. As we ventured into renovating the house we chose not only to keep with the spirit of the previous owners eco intent, but also to look to the HCD for some guidance as to how to achieve a façade which had historical significance as well as offering a much needed porch/vestibule to enjoy the park in front. The previous owners led us to recovering an original doorway that leads into the lower level of the house. We did nothing to the original stonework, just merely put a new door on. The challenge from there was to recreate an appealing, historically agreeable vestibule and front porch. Here's how we did it:

- We decided to incorporate the history with our needs and visual appeal.
- An architect developed preliminary drawings of what we envisioned.
- We shared our plans with our neighbours and received support by incorporating their physical perspectives as part of the design.
- We presented our idea formally to HCD, along with representatives from city hall and our architect. The room was full of seasoned historians, architects and planners. Not more than an hour was spent "honing" our plan with many great ideas put forth. I thanked all those minds coming together to help my investment be a success!

We finalized the drawings, went about getting our permits and used many key resources offered in the manual provided by the CPA (Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District Directory for Conservors and restorers of Heritage properties) to find tradesman who specialize in restoration.

At last we have a beautiful front façade to our home, which had been neglected for years. We now are proud owners of one more beautiful home in Cabbagetown.. Thank you, HCD, we couldn't have done it without you!

Karen Jull

*The HCD Committee may be contacted through Peggy Kurtin at 416-967-6432.*

## Putting The Victorian Plan To Contemporary Use

Douglas McTaggart

Working from an inventory established in the late winter of 2006, the CPA Laneway Naming and Signing Initiative seeks to see 42 unnamed public laneways in an area of Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale, named, signed and mapped by The City of Toronto.

Naming and signing an otherwise unidentified thoroughfare in the neighborhood (an area bounded at the north by Bloor Street East, at the south by Shuter Street, at the west by Sherbourne Street and at the east by Bayview Avenue) puts an undervalued portion of the Victorian plan to contemporary use by better protecting life and property with timely, efficient and safe emergency responses. Other potential community benefits of naming and signing include such things as heritage resource identification and protection, the "greening of lanes" through municipal tree and volunteer wildflower planting projects, neighborhood watch/child-safe programs, bylaw enforcement, utility management and road maintenance.

The applications of March 22, 2006 have been reviewed and are supported by Toronto Police, Fire and EMS, Councillor Pam McConnell and have been formally acknowledged by the City of Toronto's Surveyor Mr. Wally Kowalenko who has undertaken to devote the required resources to complete the initiative.

A March 28, 2007 meeting hosted by Councillor McConnell yielded excellent results. With a considerable amount of photo documentation, survey, mapping, planning and legal work having been completed, several members of Mr. Kowalenko's Survey and Mapping team continue to devote approximately 30% of their working hours to advancing the effort. They

have proposed a 5-zoned approach for development and implementation. One zone will be phased in before the next begins. With name approval from Community Council, the first phase of signage (for approximately 13 lanes) should be installed sometime in October of this year.

Drawing from a variety of venerable public sources, all names suggested for lanes fall within the criteria of the City of Toronto's Street Naming Policy. Potential names honor the rich history of today's Cabbagetown from First Nation settlement through the pre-built environment, the Victorian and post-war eras and through to the present day.

The CPA Laneway Naming and Signing Initiative encourages civic engagement in general, CPA membership and the volunteer work of its members. Both project volunteers and/or potential lane name suggestions are welcomed while the process is underway.

For those who have an interest in contributing, all name suggestions should be in keeping with the City's street naming policy found online at [www.toronto.ca/mapping/street\\_naming](http://www.toronto.ca/mapping/street_naming). To ensure a name hasn't already been proposed, a general email inquiry should be made to the email address noted below. Newly proposed names should be accompanied by a detailed written description of the proposed name. At least two primary sources should be noted and each submission should be proofed and seconded by a fellow CPA member. All submissions will be reviewed on a weekly basis and included on a short list submitted to the City Surveyor for consideration. A written record of the entire exercise will be deposited at a number of public facilities upon the completion of the project.

Please forward any project volunteer inquires or name suggestions to Douglas McTaggart, Chair, CPA Laneway Naming and Signing Initiative at: [douglas.mctaggart@sympatico.ca](mailto:douglas.mctaggart@sympatico.ca)



## Canada's Sculptor at Vimy

What do a World Flyweight Champion, One of Canada's Greatest Musical Families of the 20th Century and a Monumental Sculptor have in common?

They are all Cabbagetown People.

As Canadians remember the events at Vimy 90 years ago, we feature, below, the story of Walter Seymour Allward, the sculptor of Vimy.

### Walter Seymour Allward, R.C.A. 1876 – 1955

Monumental Sculptor  
Plaque located at 43 Amelia Street

Walter Seymour Allward has been referred to as the Dean of Canadian sculptors, and no doubt one of the most important of this century. Born in Toronto in 1876, he attended Central Technical School. He studied under prominent Canadian sculptors William Cruikshank and Emmanuel Hahn, and later studied in London and Paris. This prepared him for his life-long career, that of monumental sculptor.

He first worked or apprenticed as a draftsman for the architectural firm Gibson and Simpson before working at the Don Valley Brickworks where he modelled terra cotta decorative panels.

His first commission at 19 years of age was the figure of "Peace" on the North-West Rebellion which is located in Queen's Park, Toronto (1895). His other early works included the "Old Soldier", commemorating the War of 1812 in Portland Square, Toronto (1903); and a life-sized figure of Dr. Oronhyatekha (chief ranger) commissioned by the Independent Order of Foresters (1899).

Now well established he received commissions to do busts of Lord Tennyson, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Wilfred Laurier and others.

On the grounds of Queen's Park are statues of General John Graves Simcoe (1903) and Sir Oliver Mowat (1905).

Allward was elected as associate of the Royal Canadian Academy in 1903. His diploma work, *The Storm* (c1920, bronze) is in the collection of the National Gallery Of Canada.

His heroic monuments include the South African War Memorial on University Avenue, the Baldwin-Lafontaine Monument on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and the King Edward V11 memorial in Ottawa.

Walter Allward's most important commission was the monument to Canadians killed in the First World War at Vimy, France (April 1917). Vimy Ridge's impressive location and vantage point as much as the battle's significance contributed to its selection. He began to sculpt the figures in clay in a studio in London, England. The clearing of the dangerous 100 hectare site of unexploded bombs, artillery shells, and grenades took two and a half years. It also took two years to find a suitable stone for the memorial. Eventually it was found in a quarry near Sarajevo, Yugoslavia where in 1914, the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife had precipitated the outbreak of the First World War.

It took fourteen years and \$1.5 million dollars to complete. Designed in the early 1920's, construction started in 1925 and was completed in 1936

Allward stated in a 1921 interview that his idea for the memorial was inspired by a wartime dream that he had never forgotten: "When things were at their blackest in France, I went to sleep one night after dwelling on all the muck and misery over there, my spirit was like a thing tormented. I dreamed I was in a great battlefield. I saw our men going in by the thousands and being mowed down by the sickles of death. Suffering beyond endurance at the sight, I turned my eyes and found myself looking down on an avenue of poplars. Suddenly through the avenue I saw thousands marching to the aid of our armies.



Veterans Affairs Canada

They were the dead. They rose in masses, filed silently by and entered the fight to aid the living. So vivid was this impression, that when I awoke it stayed with me for months. Without the dead we were helpless. So I have tried to show this in this monument to Canada's fallen, what we owed them and we will forever owe them."

Known as "Allward of Vimy" Walter Allward's greatest works have become a vibrant part of our national heritage.

Discover - even listen to - other fascinating stories at [www.cabbagetownpeople.ca](http://www.cabbagetownpeople.ca)

## Oak Street Reinvented opens May 3 at Mackenzie House

The **CRP Museum's** new exhibit presented by Toronto Culture in partnership with the Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum, will open on Thursday, May 3 and be on display until November 2007 at historic Mackenzie House.

The City of Toronto Culture Division approached the Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum about a partnership project. The "Oak Street" concept was put forward by the CRP Museum and the City enthusiastically accepted. The exhibit focuses primarily on the development of Regent Park North along Toronto's Oak Street during the late 1940s and 1950s. It explores the story of a single street that was part of Canada's earliest efforts at urban renewal and social improvement. More information can be found at [www.crpmuseum.com](http://www.crpmuseum.com)



This small street has undergone several important transformations over the past 200 years. It was initially built in the early 19th-century when the area was semi-rural. As the city matured, it became an architecturally mixed urban street of the Victorian middle-class. By the end of the First World War, the area was primarily a working-class neighbourhood that changed further into a 'garden-suburbs superblock' social housing community between the years of 1947 and 1957. Known as Regent Park, this development made Oak Street part of Canada's first large-scale social housing experiment.

Leaving its 1900s experience behind, Oak Street is once again being re-invented, this time with a 21st century sensibility. Toronto Community Housing Corporation is revitalizing the original 1947 Regent Park development, and between 2006 and 2018, it will be completely replaced with a mix of varied-income residences. The buildings of Phase 1 have been demolished and construction has begun on the first building at the northwest corner of Sackville and Dundas Streets. Daily progress can be viewed on the TCHC website at: <http://regentparkplan.ca/webcampage.htm>

From May 3 to November 25, visit Mackenzie House to 'take a stroll down Oak Street.' Examine photographs of the Victorian-era architecture and learn about the post-World War II public debate regarding social housing in Toronto. Listen to the voices of some former residents of the original Oak Street and of the Regent Park complex; and view a 3-D animation of the street's evolution. Examine lost, found and donated objects from the site and look at the exciting plans for Revitalization.

Mackenzie House, a Greek Revival rowhouse built in 1859, contains a recreated printshop and a gallery featuring changing exhibitions. The museum offers a range of programs exploring the history of the Mackenzie family's Toronto, including walking tours; storytelling; March Break and Summer children's activities; Scottish New Year's celebrations; a scotch tasting event; and Robbie Burns Day. For a complete listing of Mackenzie House events, go to [www.toronto.ca/museums](http://www.toronto.ca/museums).

The museum is located at 82 Bond Street, two streets east of Yonge Street, just south of Dundas Street. For more information, call 416-392-6915 or e-mail [machouse@toronto.ca](mailto:machouse@toronto.ca). Open hours are Monday to Friday: noon to 4 p.m., Saturday

and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The exhibit is included in museum admission: Adults: \$4; Seniors & Youths: \$2.75; Children: \$2.50.

If you are interested in attending the exhibit opening reception on Thursday May 3, please send an e-mail to [machouse@toronto.ca](mailto:machouse@toronto.ca) or call 416 392-6915.

## Message from the Chair

We hope you enjoy the new format of the CPA Newsletter. The move to a larger newsprint publication is a result of new directions our Association has been taking to support our fundamental aims. Our old activities continue, the most important being the establishment of the Heritage Conservation District, which continues to develop west of Parliament. CPA Awards for architectural restoration and Streetscapes in Bloom support the restoration of these old houses and help to create suitable and creative settings for the architecture. Our tour program and CPA Speakers Nights give us Cabbagetowners and our visitors a deeper appreciation for what we have in this neighbourhood.

In recent years, our core value of "working to preserve the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood" has been supported in new ways. We have been putting increasing emphasis on valuing our historic character through programs that record and display our history – the Museum – or honour those who created it – Cabbagetown People. To shift resources to these new initiatives, the cost of the old Newsletter has been eliminated by switching to this newspaper format. This newsletter is paid for by sponsors, most of which are involved in renovation or restoration and provide a resource for us.

The larger capacity of this format also allows us to increase our news and to give space to other groups in the community, such as the BIA, the Donvale / Cabbagetown Residents Association, the Farm and more.

This paper will appear twice a year. For members there will be a more frequent eNewsletter. (A membership form is on the back). Have a good read!

Steve Yeates





## Quick Pace at Regent Park

Carol Moore-Ede

Despite the freezing weather and swirling snowstorms of the past month, The Daniel's Corporation employees have steadily continued constructing the first building of Phase One of the Revitalization project – the 22-storey and 8-storey apartment building at the corner of Dundas and Sackville Streets. With the excavation almost complete – and six storeys deep to accommodate the new central energy system that will heat and cool all of the new buildings at Regent Park– the building of the foundation is about to commence. The new building will contain 159 apartments for seniors and 65 homes for families.

Our intrepid videographer, Christopher Dew has been out documenting the progress on video on behalf of the CRP Museum despite the freezing of fingers and limbs. Carol Moore-Ede skidded across ice-covered rooftops to photograph the overview, accompanied by the chaplain of the Toronto Christian Resource Centre made this documenting adventure possible. It's always handy to have the right people close by!

Phase 1 of Regent Park will create more than 800 new homes that will include rent-geared-to-income (RGI) units, as well as rental and ownership units having a range of prices. It will also include a large supermarket, a bank and a daycare. Current relocated residents should be moving into the new dwellings early in 2009, as Phase Two commences.

There are a number of interesting initiatives relating to the Phase 1 development. Local residents - those on Social Assistance, as well as those who are not – are being offered employment opportunities. One of the residents took part in the George Brown carpentry training program and assisted in the Phase 1 demolition. A group of young residents who are part of Regent Park FOCUS have also been taking part in documenting the process with wonderful results.

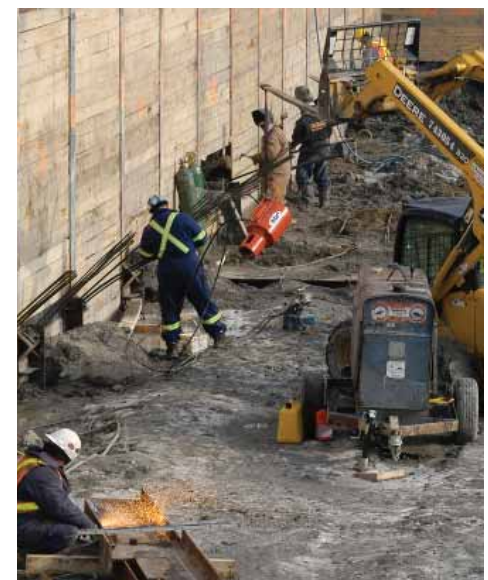
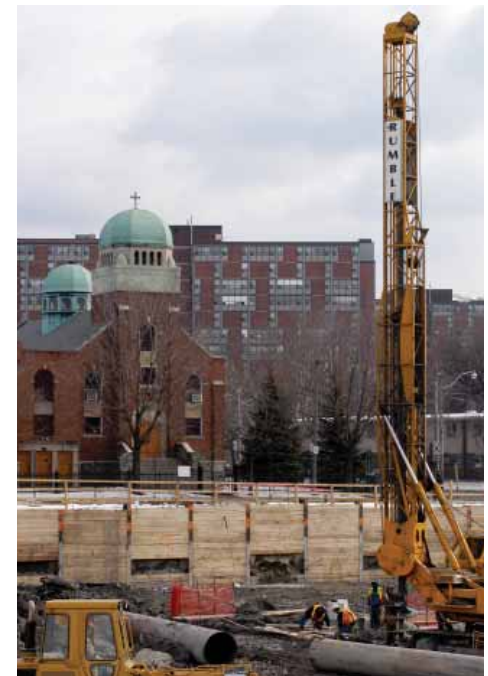
The Youth initiatives are truly extraordinary and unfortunately one of the best-kept secrets from the surrounding communities. *Catch da Flava* is Regent Park's community-based newspaper, written and published by local youth. It offers a wealth of informative articles that are well written and illustrated. In addition to the paper, RPTV (Regent Park TV) is an on-line video broadcast about the Regent Park neighbourhood produced by the Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre. This is truly a pro-active area.

There are still some decisions being made that may alter the original Phase plan. The City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and

Recreation Division, has approached Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) about building a new 28,000 square foot indoor swimming pool in the community. It will have year-round swimming, as well as classes and programs for both children and adults. Construction is planned to start in 2008. It has been suggested that the ideal location for the new facility would be at the corner of Sumach and Dundas, at the corner of the future 'central park' and will be a City facility open to anyone. The 'central park' was originally scheduled

for Phase Five, beginning in 2014, however plans are now to begin building it in 2009. There will be community consultations with residents and community stakeholders about this new facility. TCHC is committed to keeping all residents and organizations informed about Revitalization and any changes to the plan.

Special thanks to Laurie Stephens, TCHC for assistance in updating us on the progress of the Regent Park Revitalization project.



Carol Moore-Ede

## CRP Museum Update

Carol Moore-Ede

The Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum (CRP Museum) is a partnership project between the CPA and RPNI (Regent Park Neighbourhood Initiative.) This is the first partnership between Regent Park and any of its surrounding neighbourhoods.

The CRP Museum celebrates the combined area as an historically preferred destination of migration by people from every corner of the world, its multicultural makeup, its vital link to Toronto's ethnic and immigrant past as well as Toronto's growth, its experiments in low-income housing solutions, and its preservation of outstanding architectural examples of a Victorian neighbourhood. Through extensive recording of oral histories and digitizing of private collections of photographs and artifacts related to the area, the CRP Museum has been preserving and protecting the area's on-going history.

A permanent home will be established in the revitalized Regent Park development as well as having a virtual Museum. It will also consist of satellite and virtual displays making full use of leading-edge technology.

May 26 & 27, 2007 at the Toronto Police Service, 51 Division, the current display will be replaced with an

exhibit, THE INSIDE STORY in time for Doors Open. Based on archival and contemporary documentary photographs, The Inside Story will investigate the interior places where local residents and visitors lived, worked, shopped, played, and worshipped. It will also look at the provision of such services as education, health, public transit, policing, and fire-fighting. The interior images will be complemented by a few exterior images to provide context, and appropriate artifacts, such as a police officer's uniform, firefighter's helmet, primary school reader, kitchen utensils, and objects discovered during the demolition of Regent Park, and items on loan from the Toronto Police Museum.

In Fall, 2007 Shirley Hartt, curator of the Enoch Turner School is partnering with the CRP Museum to put together an exhibit to be showcased at the historic school. Other exhibitions are in development, which include an art exhibition of the donated works of artist, Bill Stapleton; and an educational interactive exhibition at an educational facility to which other schools can be bussed.

The Cabbagetown/Regent Park museum has been amassing a number of different collections. Each of these reflects a different aspect of our local and national history. Our collection of artifacts echoes the daily life of the inhabitants and workers of this area. They include items of domestic life, working life, service to our country in both World Wars, architectural materials, recreation and play.

Our photograph collection is growing almost daily. Photographs over the decades of classrooms of eager-faced children; local past residents at work and at play; early streetscapes; fascinating glimpses behind closed doors; celebrations in spaces where entertaining continues today; marches down Parliament Street; and the joys of Riverdale Park in all seasons. One generous donation was that of artist Bill Stapleton, a long-time resident of Cabbagetown until 2006 when he moved to Bracebridge to live with one of his daughters. He donated over 2,000 canvases, watercolours, drawings and sketchbooks of his work pertaining to the Cabbagetown/Regent Park area. He also gave a number of his personal papers and a sketchbook from World War II in which he served. These are an invaluable record of his life and social views, and of life in Cabbagetown/Regent Park.

During his decades in Cabbagetown he sketched and painted the subjects he loved such as the multi-cultural people of Regent Park. He captured the innocence and curiosity of children, and both the despairing and the rejoicing souls of the patrons of the Winchester Hotel and former Paramount Tavern. He sketched the animals in Riverdale Farm with whimsy and humour. All his subjects are approached with enormous vigour and vibrancy, capturing a wide range of human – and animal - emotions.

If you have a collection or an oral history that you would like to share and have preserved, please let us know. For further information, go to our website at: [crpmuseum.com](http://crpmuseum.com)





## Walking Tours Start May 5

Please join us for walking tours featuring Cabbagetown's rich Victorian architecture - from workmen's cottages to villas - and the stories of the people who lived here.

**1 Saturday, May 5** - 1:30 PM - Cabbagetown North.  
**Also in french** with leaders from La Société d'histoire de Toronto  
**Start:** NE corner of Wellesley St E and Parliament St.  
**Finish:** Winchester and Parliament Streets. 1 1/2 hours

**2. Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27** - Doors Open  
**Necropolis Cemetery**, 200 Winchester Street. Guided Tours from 11:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
**St. James Cemetery**, 635 Parliament Street. Guided Tours from 1:00 - 4:00 PM

*below: Wellesley Cottages as seen on the North tour.*



Steve Yeates

## Thanks, Museum Contributors

Thanks to the many people who have made Donations to the Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum, which continues to receive a wealth of material. The most recent were photographs and artifacts relating to "Aunt Polly" of The Cabbagetown Store (J.V. McAree, The Ryerson Press, 1953.). Her half-brother R. J. Fleming, was general manager of the Toronto Railway Company, City of Toronto Mayor in 1896-97, and father of Catherine Fleming McKenty.

In a recent interview Catherine Fleming McKenty recounted the adventures of her great "Aunt Polly," Mary Ann Noble. With great energy and enthusiasm she vividly described her great aunt's early life in rural Ireland;



Catherine McKenty with photo of Aunt Polly and her veil. Carol Moore-Ede

the Atlantic crossing on the Sesostris in 1847 at age 9; her survival of other family members who succumbed to cholera and diphtheria; her move to Toronto; and her life in Cabbagetown running the Cabbagetown Store. Along with the stories Catherine brought documents, photographs and artifacts, many of which she donated to the CRP Museum. These included a framed daguerreotype photograph; an antique family brooch; and Aunt Polly's Irish lace veil.

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**3. Saturday, June 23 - 1:30 PM** - Winchester Street and the Necropolis. One of Toronto's oldest cemeteries, the Necropolis is the final resting place for several famous Canadians, ranging from politicians George Brown and William Lyon Mackenzie to Thornton Blackburn, a former slave who started the first cab company in Toronto. We'll also hear about the architecture of the area and those who farmed the land before it became a 19th century suburb.

**Start point:** NE corner of Parliament and Winchester Streets.  
**Finish point:** the necropolis Cemetery, Winchester and Sumach Streets. 1 1/2 hours

**4. Sunday, July 8 - 1:30 PM** - Cabbagetown - South  
**Start:** NE corner of Winchester and Parliament Streets.  
**Finish** Carlton and Parliament Streets. 1 1/2 hours

We would also like to gratefully acknowledge donations, loans and significant volunteer time from the following:

Adams, Gwen  
AGO  
Allan, Andrew TCRC  
ArtHeart, Regent Park  
Barrie, Mary  
Biggs, Dinny  
Bortenstein, Howard  
Chadwick, the late Fran & Family  
Churchill, Janice CIBC  
Clark, David & Michael  
Coltrinari, Helen  
Crewe, Tom  
Dew, Christopher  
Dobson, Dave  
Elise  
Epicure  
Fenton, Connie  
Fortier, the late Pierre  
Frank, Larry  
Georgieff, David  
Gibson, Sally  
Hair Spa  
Home Front  
Horiszny, Kathleen "Kay"  
Hughes, Ellen Ragen  
Indoors and Out  
Jones, Elaine Bennett  
Kepic, Pamela  
Kurtin, Peggy  
MacLean, Diane  
McCauley, Robert  
McDermott, Gerald  
McKenty, Catherine  
Mercer, Barbara  
Mi Casa  
Miller, John "Corky"

Moore-Ede, Carol  
Mose, Peter  
Myers, Amelia  
Myers, Rollo  
Patterson, Marguerite  
Penno, Maureen  
REC Demolition  
Santilli, Gladys  
Schertzer, Toby  
Schirmer, Claus & Sheila  
Schuy-Smith, Barbara  
Sheridan Nurseries  
Smith, Rolande  
St. Cyril's Church  
St. Jamestown Steak And Chops  
Stapleton, Bill & Family  
Star Nails  
Steam Whistle Breweries  
Stephens, Laurie TCHC  
Stoklos, John  
Stone, Julie  
Stransman, Sophie  
Sushi Today  
Taggart, Marge  
Telfer, Jennifer  
The Daniels Corporation  
Toronto Catholic District School Board  
Toronto Police Service: 51 Division  
Via Verde  
Ward, Gail  
Watson, John  
Williams-Sonoma  
Winchester Street School  
Yeates, Stephen

## Streetscapes Blooming: Creating a Setting for our Venerable Architecture

**Streetscapes in Bloom Nominations are due May 25.**

The fine weather, along with robin sightings, reminds us that spring is around the corner. As you wander through our historic neighbourhood, please take note of any charming gardens. Look for colour, design, and general appeal visible from the street. Big or small, any garden may be nominated.

Gardens are judged in the following categories:

**Plant material:** annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees

**Hard landscaping:** sculptures, rocks, walls, water feature

**Landscape design:** overall layout, path, winter interest, containers

**Execution:** weeded, manicured, signs of care

**Overall impression:** streetscape appeal, historical context

If any features are missing, there is no deduction from the final score; gardens are judged on what is present, not what is missing.

**Nominations** should be sent to Helen Coltrinari at 416-923-6165 - leave a message if necessary or email [helenc.hmc@sympatico.ca](mailto:helenc.hmc@sympatico.ca). Be sure to give the name of garden owner, if possible and the exact address of the nominated garden. Please leave your name, address, and phone number as the person nominating the garden.

Previous years' winners are listed below and cannot be nominated again unless the owner/garden has changed. The winners receive a water-colour of their garden, and a glass medallion with a shepherd's crook to place in the garden, an outward sign of having won the award.

Nominees will be notified after nominations close and judging will begin with the first visit before the end of May. Subsequent visits will be made once a month into September. The winner will be notified in early October for the presentation at the CPA Night in November. Up to five runners-up receive CPA Streetscapes in Bloom certificates.

This year, 2007, marks the 10th anniversary of the Streetscapes in Bloom Awards. Why not take a moment to visit the past winning gardens:

2006 - 28 Amelia Street  
2005 - 2 Geneva Avenue  
2004 - 334 Carlton Street  
2003 - 60 Spruce Street  
2002 - 76 Amelia Street  
2001 - 331 Wellesley Street  
2000 - 419 Wellesley Street  
1999 - 31 Spruce Street  
1998 - 94 Amelia Street  
1997 - 123 Winchester Street

In 1996, the gardens of 90, 92, 94, 96 and 98 Winchester won an award in the National Communities in Bloom competition. This national event was the catalyst for our local project.

In the past few years, there have been some honourable mentions for outstanding gardens:

- lower Metcalfe Street, below Winchester
- 12 Bowman Street for a remarkable spring-blooming white clematis

A gentle reminder to past winners: please remember to hang your glass medallion so that passers-by can easily identify a winning garden.

By May 30 you can view a slide show of past winners and current nominees on our web site. Hit the link to award programs.

## CPA gains Charitable Status

As a result of the schools program component of Cabbagetown People and The CRP Museum, the CPA now has charitable status. Donations to the







## Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association

*the best place to live in Downtown Toronto*

Dear Neighbour

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) has invited the Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association (DVCRA) to report regularly in its newly formatted Newsletter. We are delighted to have this opportunity. In addition, we will continue our usual forms of communication with our membership, that is, web broadcasting, e-mails and flyers.

Some of you may be uncertain of the roles of the two organizations, the CPA and the DVCRA. In simple terms, the CPA may be thought of as proactive, dealing with the architecture of the district, heritage issues and the like. The DVCRA is more reactive, concerned with the quality of life in the district such as policing and crime, traffic, property taxation, schools and recreation. The two organizations are complementary but play substantially different roles. Nevertheless, we work together, along with the Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area (BIA), to coordinate our activities for the betterment of our community. For more on the DVCRA I refer you to our web site at [www.donvalecra.ca](http://www.donvalecra.ca). If you are not already a member, we invite you to join and participate in this important neighbourhood association.

This second year of our operation has been busy. Here are a few of the things we have been working on:

### All Candidates Meeting

Last fall, together with the (BIA) and sister residential organizations, we held an interesting and lively All Candidates Meeting for the city elections at the Parkway Restaurant. Important issues were discussed and we learned much from our candidates.

### Tax Coalition Meeting

In January, we were fortunate to have Mr. Paul Hazell, President of the Canadian National Taxpayers Coalition, speak to us at a general meeting. In spite of the poor weather, the turnout was excellent and we learned much about the failings and limitations of the present MPAC procedures. As a result, we will be posting information on our web site to help those who wish to go through an appeal procedure. In addition, your Board is investigating the possibility of creating a data base of residential tax information for our area. More on that later.

### Streets and Traffic Survey

Most, if not all of you will have received the Streets and Traffic Committee Survey. We received over 110 responses. The highest priority items turned out to be car vandalism and availability of guest parking. A more complete report will be available at the AGM but in the meantime we have had ongoing discussions with 51 Division about the vandalism. Please do not leave anything in your car while it is unattended. Procedures for obtaining guest permits will be posted on our web site.

### Future All Candidates Meetings

This looks to be an interesting political year. We can expect certainly to have an All Candidates Meeting in the fall for the provincial election and perhaps even a Federal counterpart, this spring. As before, we will be coordinating this with the BIA.

### Police and Crime

We have had on-going discussions with 51 Division to keep track of crime in our area. Basically, our relations are excellent with the police and they have responded with increased patrols. It is extremely important that we, the neighbourhood, report any crimes or vandalism to the police. They need statistics to support their requests for additional resources. Our web site has all the necessary phone numbers and procedures for crime reporting.

### Parliament Street Survey

An issue that many of you identified at the last AGM was a desire to improve the streetscape and shopping on Parliament Street. We approached the BIA on this and together we have created a detailed survey, to be distributed to the entire Cabbagetown area within



the next few weeks. I urge you to read this carefully and to respond. The quality of life on Parliament Street will be directly affected by your reaction.

### Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2nd. It will be held at the Riverdale Farm Meeting House, starting at 7:00 pm. The normal order of business will be followed, including the annual report, election of directors and our featured guest speaker will be Margaret MacMillan, a noted historian and author as well as a former resident of Cabbagetown. Representatives from the local police 51 Division will also be on hand. I would remind those of you who have not yet renewed your membership or who wish to join, that now would be a good time. The AGM will be a good chance to meet your neighbours and I urge you all to attend.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual General Meeting,

Sincerely,

Jim Keffer, President  
Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association

Visit us on the Web at [www.donvalecra.ca](http://www.donvalecra.ca)



## Forsythia Festival Sunday, May 6.

Celebrate this Cabbagetown rite of spring with this CPA supported event. The festivities begin at Riverdale Park on Winchester Street. Families and friends are encouraged to meet there at 10:00 to prepare for the parade. Faces will be painted, bicycles, strollers and wagons will be decorated, twizzlers will be twizzled.

At 10:30 the crowd will assemble into a parade, which will wind through the Streets of Cabbagetown to Wellesley Park, where there will be games and family entertainment from 11-1:00 PM. This event is unlike any other. It's a great way to meet neighbours, enjoy an early May Sunday and be part of a unique "village" event.



## Riverdale Farm

### Our Culinary Heritage at the Farm

Looking to the future: The Friends of Riverdale Farm in partnership with the Recreation Department will be developing the front north - west room as a culinary demonstration room where we are hoping to preserve the fruits and vegetables as they come into season as well as cooking and baking with groups. Dan Gallagher, a master cabinet maker will be donating his workmanship and time to build a 19th century style wall unit with input from food historians Dorothy Duncan and Liz Driver for the design of the room. The room was stripped of its ragged wallpaper by volunteer Myrna Moore and painted by John Murtaugh. Murtaugh and Smith Insurance supplied the paint. The room already has a 14' harvest table which makes it possible for visitors to watch the bread and pizza making.

### Participate in Our Website

Amy Low who designed and maintains our website, [www.friendsofriverdalefarm.com](http://www.friendsofriverdalefarm.com) is planning a revamping this year which will include links for neighbourhood service announcements and advertising which will generate much needed income. If you are interested, Please contact Amy through the website [www.friendsofriverdalefarm.com](http://www.friendsofriverdalefarm.com). Amy has also added a children's drawing competition to the website and we are looking forward to receiving entries.

### Volunteer at the Farm

Join the Farm Volunteer Involvement Program (VIP).  
• Assist with camps, events, guided tours, plantings, presentations, programs  
• Join advisory council, council committees, garden club, ponds stewardship program  
• Join Counsellor-In-Training (CITs 13-15 yrs) program during summer months  
• Orientation sessions are held the first Wednesday of February, April, August, and October for youth (15-18 yrs), adults (19 yrs+), and older adults (60 yrs+).

Sorry, the Farm does not have opportunities for youth or adult volunteers to work with the animals-poultry-waterfowl or work in the barns.

For more information please contact the farm (below).

### Coming Attractions

The Farm has an extensive list of activities. Many Saturdays feature programs that involve seasonal farm activities and crafts. Too numerous to list here, check the website below. Notable events:

**Riverdale Farmers Market.** Organic market in the Park. May 8- Oct. 30, Tuesdays 3:00- 7:00PM

**Forsythia Festival Parade & Games**  
Sunday May 6, 10:00 am - 1:30 pm

**Fall Harvest Festival** Sept. 8 and 9.

**Riverdale Farm**  
**Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation**  
201 Winchester St, 416-392-6794  
email: [farm@toronto.ca](mailto:farm@toronto.ca)  
[www.toronto.ca/parks/riverdalefarm.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/parks/riverdalefarm.htm)  
[www.friendsofriverdalefarm.com](http://www.friendsofriverdalefarm.com)



The CPA thanks our sponsors for supporting the Newsletter.



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## 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" program
- Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum
- HCD street signs

## Board Members

Stephen Yeates, Chair  
 Helen Coltrinari, Vice-Chair  
 Michael Leland, Treasurer  
 Sue McMurtry, Secretary  
 David Harland  
 David Pretlove  
 Rick Merrill  
 Sheila Schirmer  
 Carol Moore-Ede  
 Peggy Weir  
 Peter Lovering

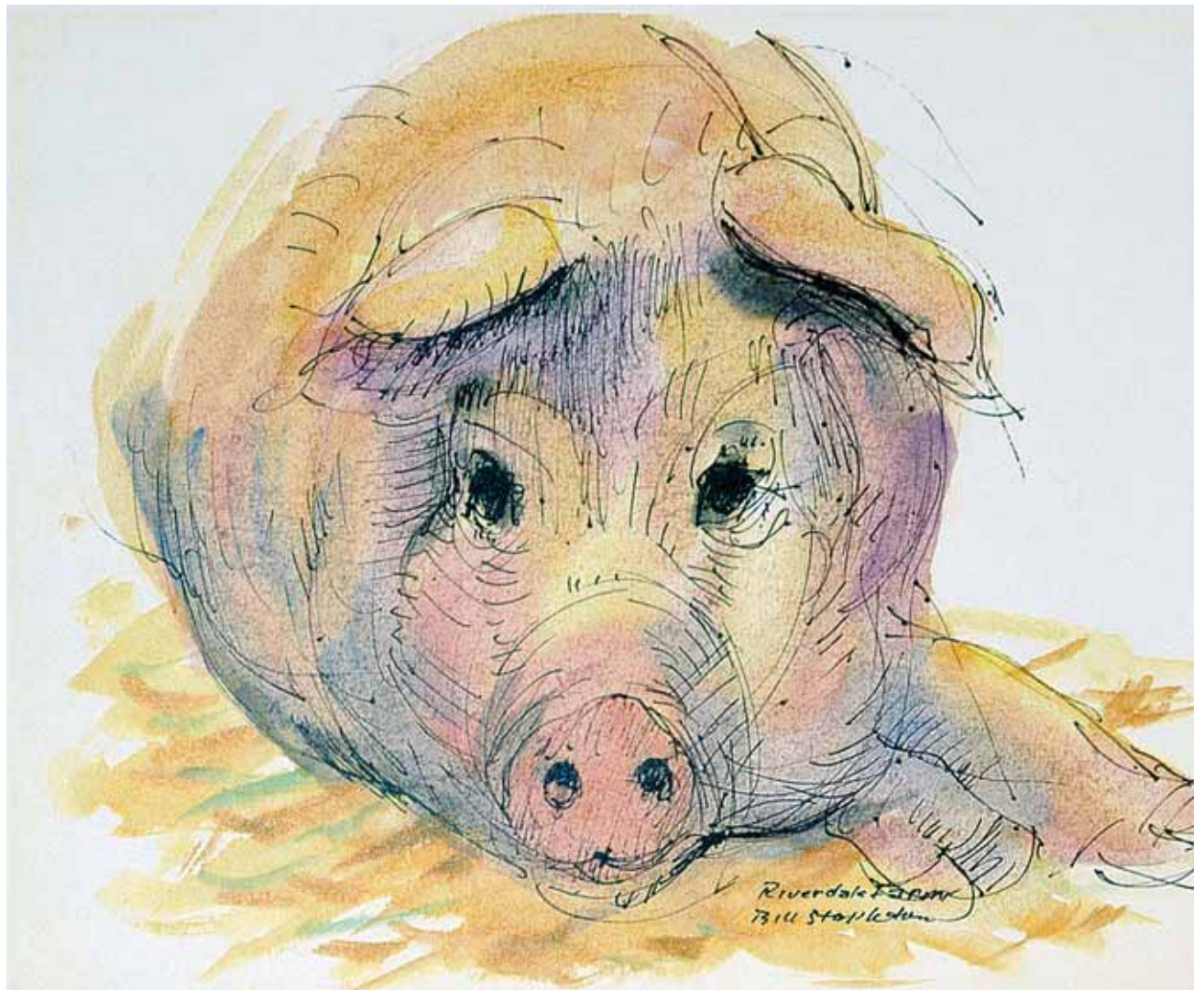
Cabbagetown Preservation Association  
 422 Parliament Street  
 P.O. Box 82512  
 Toronto, On M5A 4N8  
 Tel: 416-410-4259  
 cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca  
 www.cabbagetownpa.ca



Newsletter design and illustration by Steve Yeates 416-531-5757

[www.steveyeates.ca](http://www.steveyeates.ca)

Comments or feedback about this newsletter are welcome at [cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca](mailto:cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca)



## Buy This Pig! ...or at least the print!

And, while you're at it,  
Bring us your old books!

There will be a **Giant Spring Book Sale** to raise money for the CRP Museum. If you have any books to donate, please drop them off at 156 Winchester Street by mid-May.

Sketch of pig by **Bill Stapleton**: \$30.00 8" x 10" unframed.

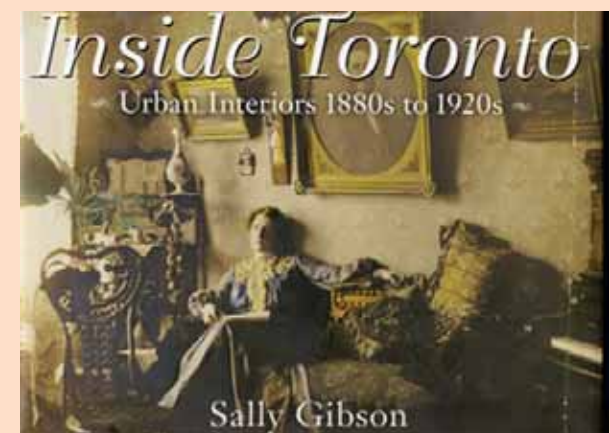
**Also available:** Photo of victorian child with toys: \$20.00 8" x 10" unframed. Detail shown at left.

## Living west of Parliament?

**City of Toronto** Preservation Services will hold a Public Meeting on the Heritage Conservation District study for the area west of Parliament Street at the auditorium of Winchester School on Thursday, April 19th at 7:00PM.

## A Sally Gibson Reading

**Sally Gibson** is scheduled to give a reading from *Inside Toronto: Urban Interiors 1880s - 1920s* at the Harbourfront International Readings series on May 30th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be ordered through the Harbourfront Box Office closer to the event.



## CPA Membership/Volunteer Application

Please clip and mail to:

Cabbagetown Preservation Association, 422 Parliament St. P.O. Box 82512, Toronto, ON M5A 4N8  
 or e-mail [cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca](mailto:cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca)

Name _____	Date _____
Address _____	1 year (\$20) _____
Postal Code _____ Telephone _____	3 years (\$50) _____
E-mail _____	single _____
Interested in Volunteering? _____	family _____
Special talents or skills? _____	
Would you care to make a tax-deductable donation? \$ _____	

## Get to know your neighbours

We are also always looking for more CPA volunteers to join us in working on such committees as:

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

Duties may be for one event or ongoing. If you are interested, please contact:

[secretary@cabbagetownpa.ca](mailto:secretary@cabbagetownpa.ca)