



Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

The New Face of Regent Park ... at the CPA's May 29 Annual General Meeting

CPA Members attending this year's Annual General meeting will be treated to a Regent Park update from the Chief Development Officer for Toronto Housing. **Mark Guslits** will outline the progress of the new development and will describe the design vision for what will be part of our new urban environment.

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.

The meeting takes place at the Meeting House, Riverdale Farm, Thursday, May 29. Doors open at 6:30 for chomp and chat; the program starts at 7 PM.

Great Main Streets p6 Restoring? p4 Waste! p3



Forsythia Festival May 4

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.



Think Green, Think Organic The Farmer's Market starts May 13

Want to buy local, organically grown produce? Mark your calendars, The Farmer's Market is scheduled to open its 8th season starting May 13, 2008 and will run to the end of October. Located at the North West corner of Riverdale Farm, each Tuesday, from 3pm to 7pm, the Farmers Market offers a wide array of local, organically grown produce. There's no need to visit a grocery store, you can purchase what you need at the market. Produce ranges from fresh vegetables such as lettuce, salad greens, asparagus, wild leeks, and onions to staples such as sweet potatoes and corn. Fruit is in abundance with strawberries being the highlight of the season. You can even purchase your bread, cheese, milk eggs, olive oil right to your main course of organically produced meat and game, including organic elk and lamb!

While at the market, take a few minutes to stroll through the Riverdale Farm, modeled after a turn of the century working farm. Originally owned by John Scadding, the City of Toronto purchased the land in 1856 and opened the Riverdale Zoo in 1894. With the opening of the Toronto Zoo in 1974, the park was converted into the Farm that stands today, incorporating some of the historic landmark buildings including The Residence, the Donnybrook and the Island House. Today, you can wander back in time by touring the farm's scenic 7.5 acres along pathways through

wooded areas, around ponds and into butterfly-herb-flower-vegetable gardens. Along the way, you'll see cows, horses, donkey, sheep, goats, pig, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, rabbits, even farm cats. Admission to Riverdale Farm is free, and it is open 365 days a year.

The Farmer's Market is brought to you courtesy of the Friends of the Riverdale Farm, or FOF for short. Founded in 2001, the FOF was formed by a group of enthusiastic and energetic group of volunteers who saw an opportunity to enhance the City operated Riverdale Farm. In addition to the Farmer's Market, Friends of the Farm runs the Farm Kitchen, located in the Simpson House, a snack bar which serves hot and cold beverages as well as delicious home baked cookies, stove-fired pizza and bread and other tasty treats. Stroll down the hallway to the FOF operated The Shop at the Farm, a gift shop where you can purchase fine gifts, books on the history of Cabbagetown, decoration, handicrafts from local artists, greeting cards, preserves, paintings and many more keepsake items. You can support Friends of the Riverdale Farm with an annual membership of \$25.00. Your membership provides you with discounts on merchandise from The Shop at The Farm and an invitation to its annual summer dinner among other perks. Visit www.friendsofriverdalefarm.com for more information.

www.cabbagetownpa.ca

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Betty Oliphant

**1918-2004 (Plaque Located at 137 Amelia Street)
World-Renowned Innovator of Ballet Education**

Betty Oliphant was born into a prominent family in London, England. Sadly for her, she never knew her father, who died shortly after she was born. She had a passion for dance and fought her middle-class British family for ballet lessons.

In the late twenties and thirties she studied ballet along with stage, tap and ballroom dancing. When she was thirteen years old, she was teaching and dancing professionally, and at seventeen years of age she opened her own school above the Twinings Tea Emporium in London, England. At the age of twenty, she found that she was far too tall and large for classic dance.

During the Second World War she worked as an ambulance driver, as a choreographer of pantomimes, and also, for The Blue Pencils, a British Army touring group.

When the war was over, Betty came to Canada as a war bride with her Canadian husband (a soldier) and her two children. She began teaching, and doing choreography for the opera and pantomimes for Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster. She

then opened a school on Sherbourne Street, and helped found the Canadian Dance Teachers Association.

When Celia Franca established the National Ballet of Canada, Betty was the Ballet Mistress for eight years, and later Associate Artistic Director for the company. She was a fabulous teacher but had a reputation as being a very difficult task master. Central to her approach as a ballet teacher was the importance of mastering technique, with the sole purpose of achieving freedom of expression.

In 1959 "Miss O," as she was called, founded the National Ballet School. It was successful beyond her expectations, providing the best dance training and academic schooling combined. Among her early students were, Robert Desrosiers, Karen Kain, James Kudelka, Veronica Tennant, Rex Harrington, and John Aleyne, a choreographer.

Betty Oliphant's legacy is huge. All her work has been an uncompromising quest for excellence and insistence upon the highest standards. She put Canadian Ballet training on the world map and broadened its definition to include the education of the whole person. All her former students have spoken of the discipline that she instilled in all of them. She was a force with a clear vision and a sense of mission.

She challenged people to recognize that Canada needed the arts to feed the minds, hearts and spirits of its people.

For more Cabbagetown People go to

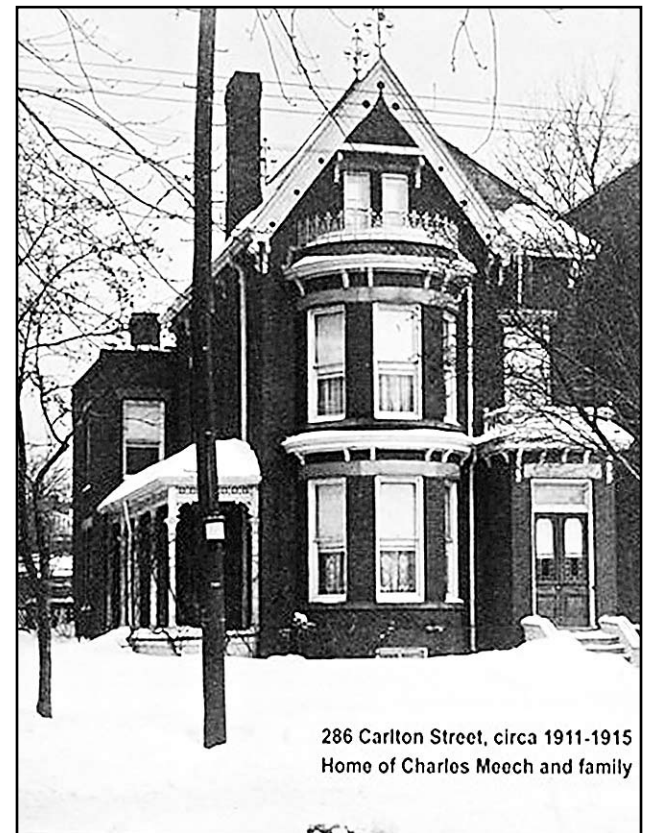
www.cabbagetownpeople.ca

The Cabbagetown Co-Operative Nursery School

For more than twenty-five years, a unique educational institution in the heart of Cabbagetown has offered neighbourhood preschoolers the opportunity to play, discover and socialize in a warm and caring environment. The Cabbagetown Co-Operative Nursery School provides children aged 2 1/2 to 5 years love, laughter and learning in a sunny facility and ensures parents a safe and convenient childcare option within our community. Tina Ruggiero, the nursery school's Early Childhood Education director, and her qualified staff allow children to build skills and self-confidence by exploring their world. Licensed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, this Cabbagetown institution is currently accepting new applications for morning or afternoons sessions beginning in the fall. To learn more, call Tina at 416-964-2984. www.cabbagetownnurseryschool.com

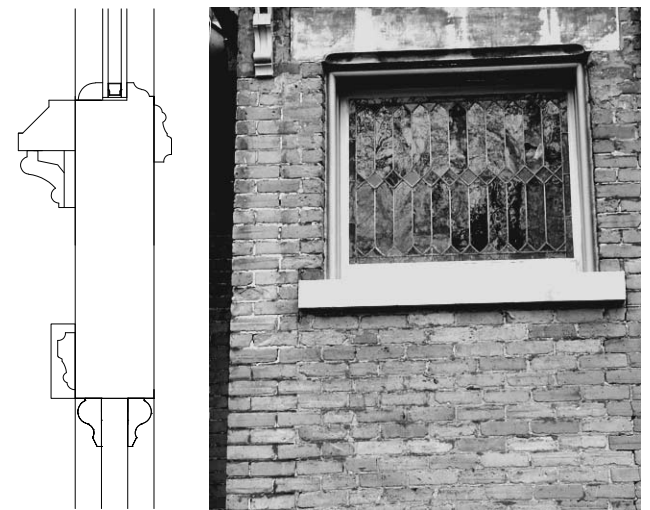


Family History Revealed by Construction



286 Carlton Street, circa 1911-1915
Home of Charles Meech and family

Older homes often hold secrets. The house at 286 Carlton Street is one of them. This large detached, three story, brick building is a prominent structure in the area. Photos, from the early 1910's, when the Meech family owned the house, shows an entry at the front of the house with double doors and a transom over-light. Subsequent photos after 1915 show that this opening had been partially bricked in with only a transom window remaining. The work has been done well, indicating that it was not a rash decision. But, why was this done?



The story, so it is told, is that the Whisker family, who bought the house in 1915 and resided there until 1984, had a daughter who was stricken with polio. It is probable that the main floor was set up as her living space to avoid the use of stairs. A kitchen on the second floor indicates that the rest of the family used the upper floors. The side porch was expanded to provide easy access from the driveway. The front door was bricked up to provide closet space using the existing vestibule doors.

In 1984, the Marshall family purchased the house. In the decades to follow, Marilyn Marshall has lovingly renovated and restored areas of the house, always respecting the detailing of the era. In 2008, a decision was made to replace the windows, and to address the bricked in front door.

Her contractor, Roger Armstrong introduced her to Jamie Smallwood of Windowcraft Industries. Windowcraft is a manufacturer of custom wood windows and doors and has been in business since 1981. They often deal with older homes, and have done a fair amount in the Cabbagetown area. Marilyn's architect David Craddock was responsible for obtaining heritage permits from city hall.

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The existing windows were vertically hung sashes. The interior trim was quite elaborate, so it was decided to retrofit new wood windows into the existing frames. Windowcraft's hung windows are designed to replicate period details, both inside and out. The sash profiles are a very close match to the existing, and have only been altered to accept thermal glass. They use no metal or plastic jamb liners. The existing lifts and locks were refurbished and reused.

The front door provided some challenges. The wood profiles were copied by either having new knives made, or by using ones from Windowcraft's selection. The original transom and doors had etched glass. Luckily, the interior vestibule doors and transom provided patterns for a match. The hardware consisted of hinges that closely matched the existing. They were able to use some existing locksets that Marilyn had squirreled away. The front entry now awaits new steps and a porch.

It is interesting to see history being reversed in such a proper way.

Windows/Doors, Windowcraft Industries Ltd, 416-535-4499
www.windowcraft.com
Installation Roger T. Armstrong Construction 416-922-0691
Architect David Craddock 416-963-9991

Fine Restoration and Painting Ltd wins PIPP Award for Little Trinity

(ST. LOUIS – March, 2008) The Painting and Decorating Contractors of America (PDCA) selected Fine Restoration and Painting as the recipient of its Picture It Painted Professionally Award (PIPP), which annually brings recognition to the outstanding projects of PDCA's professional painting and decorating contractors.

The 2008 award was bestowed earlier this year during the PDCA Awards Program at the association's Paint and Coatings Expo (PACE) mega convention and trade show in Los Angeles.

The award is for the restoration of Little Trinity Anglican Church under the category of Commercial Exterior Restoration.

Stephen Pearson of FR&P reports:

The Little Trinity Anglican Church was completed in 1844, making it Toronto's oldest serving church. In 1961 a major fire almost destroyed the church. After years of neglect the church had planned on replacing the windows. In 2006 Fine Restoration and Painting approached the church to enquire if there were any plans to restore the windows. After an inspection and a 48 page proposal, the church reversed its decision and contracted Fine Restoration and Painting.

All windows in the church received some degree of repair. The degree of deterioration was so advanced on some windows that the only way to retain some of the original fabric was to replace damaged parts. Approximately 150 feet of window sash and 100 feet of horizontal mouldings and 3 eye brows were custom made to make these repairs.

First, all of the old paint, caulking and putty glazing was stripped. The wood was probed to find all areas of rot and old filler. Once the stripping was completed the windows were deemed sound and ready for restoration. Liquid wood was applied by brush, injection and spray. Epoxy wood fillers were used to fill the holes and join the new sash mouldings to the old. The windows were then primed with Benjamin Moore Exterior oil primer because of its Linseed oil content. PDCA standards of preparation for finishes were completed and Benjamin Moore Toronto Heritage colours applied, restoration was now complete!

Founded in 1884, PDCA represents the interests of professional painting and decorating contractors nationwide. Among the most prominent objectives of PDCA are the enhancement and further development of the painting and decorating profession and industry. Today, PDCA represents the interests of over 5,000 owners and top-flight managers from more than 2,500 painting and decorating firms across the U.S. and Canada.

Big Bins Bring Bad Mood

Some Solutions at hand

In addition to the "not so raccoon proof" green compost bins, the huge new blue plastic Recycling bins, and coming soon, huge plastic garbage bins (in three convenient sizes to charge us by) – have been the talk of the neighbourhood.

The vision of present day Cabbagetown, an Historic Designated Area, where groups small and large wander the streets with a guide book or pamphlet, imagining the history and looking for the architectural features on the houses; is soured by these same people wondering (as do we as residents) what these plastic bins have to do with the 1800's!

Well not all is hopeless.

Public meetings have been held by our Councillor Pam McConnell, and further meetings with City Hall Waste Management, have given us as residents, options.

Below are quotations from the Donvale Cabbagetown Residents Association and from Councillor Pam McConnell.

Note: no one is required to sit on their front porch with plastic waste containers. As a Historic Designated Area, our streetscape makes this area special, and we are all encouraged not to degrade street frontage with inappropriate additions.

From the DVCRA:

"Due to widespread concerns with the new recycling bins being distributed this month by the City, representatives from the DVCRA and other local residents groups have been meeting with Pam McConnell and officials from Solid Waste recently to develop alternative solutions for downtown residents.

In summary, everyone will receive a new garbage bin in mid March. Residents can exchange the bin for a smaller one and **those that do not want the bin can phone the number provided with the bin and ask that it be picked up. These residents may then continue to put out recycling in clear bags and garbage in garbage bags. Residents that do not wish to use the bin will then be subject to an "inspection" by Solid Waste who will ascertain that there is no access to a backyard or side of the house to store the bin reasonably.**

Residents will no longer be allowed to use normal trash cans or recycling blue and gray boxes. All garbage and recycling must be in appropriate bags. **Officials from Solid Waste have agreed that you cannot be required to store the bin in your front yard and you cannot be required to drag it through your house. Storing a bin in your front yard will be actively discouraged.** For residents with no access to backyards except through the house, we believe this is workable solution to the problem. Many thanks to Pam McConnell and her office for all the work on this as well as to Rob Orpin and the Solid Waste office for their cooperative stance.

From Councillor Pam McConnell:

"I am writing today to keep you informed on recent developments in the introduction of the new blue bins for recycling.

A community steering group recently met with City Staff and me to continue discussion on the issues faced by portions of our community regarding the roll-out of the new recycling bins.

City Staff recognizes that the bin program may pose unique challenges for some residents in Ward 28. A previous meeting helped to identify these issues, recognizing that our neighbourhoods do not just face space and storage issues, but that there needs to be consideration for our heritage district. Every effort must be made to avoid spoiling the

jewel of our City's history with front yards filled with modern plastic bins. This is a distinct challenge faced in our ward, and everyone should have regard for this when considering one of the various options. At the most recent meeting, the group agreed to a process that would offer the following options:

1. Use The Recycling Bin as Ordered

Residents who do not have storage or handling issues can begin using their new recycling bin immediately after receiving it. An information package will be attached to the bin which will include tips on using the bin and a list of recyclable materials that can go into the bin.

2. Changing Sizes

Recognizing that some residents may find the size of cart delivered not suitable for their needs and would prefer a different sized bin, the City is offering a free one time bin exchange up until November 1, 2008. The City will start exchanging bins May 2008, and residents should call 416-392-BINS(2467) at that time to arrange for a bin exchange.

Additionally, some residents may not be able to store the size of bin required to handle the volume of recyclable material being generated. For those residents, two or more smaller bins are being offered. To receive multiple smaller bins, a Solid Waste representative will need to visit each resident. To arrange for a site visit, call 416-392-2467. The small bins are still in the process of being manufactured, and it is hoped that these will be available for distribution by late spring.

3. No Storage for New Recycling Bin

Recognizing that some residents have no storage space and cannot accommodate any size of bin, the City will send a Solid Waste representative to individual households, upon request. The representative will work with the resident to explore different options and agree upon the solution that will work for each resident. **In some extremely problematic situations, residents may require a bag system for collection.** For a visit, give the City a call at 416-392-2467 to arrange for a site visit.

In some cases, a collection of houses on the same street may face identical obstacles and may wish to meet Solid Waste representatives as a small group and have their situation addressed collectively. Neighbours should select a single contact to arrange a time to meet.



Garbage Bins and Fee System

The steering group and the City are currently working to resolve the recycling bin issue. This process will help identify the issues that may arise, and the houses and streets that will face challenges, with the introduction of the new garbage system, scheduled to begin later this year. Once the new recycling system is in place, the information gathered during this process will be used to find solutions for challenged areas.

Next Steps

- Site visits by Solid Waste representatives, upon request.
- Complete the recycling bin roll-out in Ward 28 (by the end of March).
- Continue to explore other options, such as a pilot project testing the use of a single bin for both recycling and garbage.
- Start roll-out information regarding garbage bin and program and fees (summer 2008).

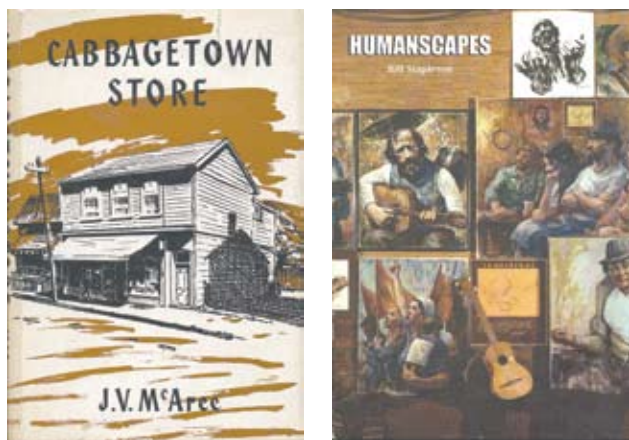
For Further Assistance Call 416-392-BINS (2467), or contact my office at 416-392-7916 or by e-mail at councillor_mcconnell@toronto.ca. I am continuing to work with our community and City Staff, to make sure that our ward is a full participant in the City's waste diversion program with a minimal impact to our community and its residents.



Museum on the Move

The Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum has been expanding at a brisk pace. It became obvious to both the CPA Board and the members of the CRPMuseum project that with so many exciting new developments, a more formal long-term structure was required. Therefore, on February 22nd 2008 the Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum became officially incorporated in order to accommodate the size and value of its collections and its rapid growth.

Recently the Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum Inc. has acquired the Internet rights to three books of historical interest to the combined neighbourhoods, and to Canadians as a whole. These include *Cabbagetown Store* by Vern McAree about Cabbagetown life in the late 1800s; *Mama and her Mitzvahs* by Sophie Stransman (see cover on back page), a story of a woman and of a neighbourhood that typifies working-class Toronto during the Great Depression of the 1930s; and the late Bill Stapleton's *Humanscapes*, stories



of his life compiled by his three daughters and illustrated with his art. Each book will be available in its entirety on a searchable pdf file. Additional material will be added such as photographs, documents, copies of artifacts of interest and footnotes. To this end, the CRPMuseum Inc. received a generous grant from a Montreal Foundation, which is enabling the museum to build a satellite website (www.cabbagetownstore-crpmuseum.com) that traces one family's history from Ireland in the early 1800s to Montreal and Toronto's Cabbagetown. It also chronicles the adventures of



family members that moved to the West; parts of the U.S. and to India. Family members included a Federal Minister of Finance, a former mayor of Toronto, shopkeepers, a member of the Fenian raids to name but a few. This will be enormously valuable to the many scholars, young and old, who regularly use the website for research.

Bill Stapleton passed away in February of this year, his sense of humour intact to the end. When concerned before leaving this world that he hadn't yet received his angel's wings, one of his daughters assured him that in the meantime his RCAF wings would work just as well. His last official activity was to attend the opening of The Bill Stapleton Exhibition, which filled both The Residence and the Meeting House buildings at Riverdale Farm. The exhibition gave him enormous pleasure and it was gratifying to know that the timing had been just right. As word spread of the exhibition, the attendance grew significantly and people came from all over Ontario. On the final Saturday of the exhibit, 95 people attended. There were also group visits from Regent Park's ArtHeart and students from Spruce Court School. The CRP Museum Board is grateful for the enthusiastic support



and assistance from Ruth Armitage and her staff at Riverdale Farm.

The CRP Museum features significantly in the first of four reports being done by Lord Cultural Resources for feasibility study for an Arts & Culture Centre to be situated in the New Regent Park. Several members of the Board attended a Workshop, chaired by Margaret May of Lord Cultural Resources, where members of the artistic community, the City of Toronto, Daniels Corporation, and TCHC all came together to brainstorm on the possibilities. Subsequent meetings with members of Park, Forestry and Recreation have also opened up dialogue for possible exhibition spaces, and individual meetings with various Regent Park media



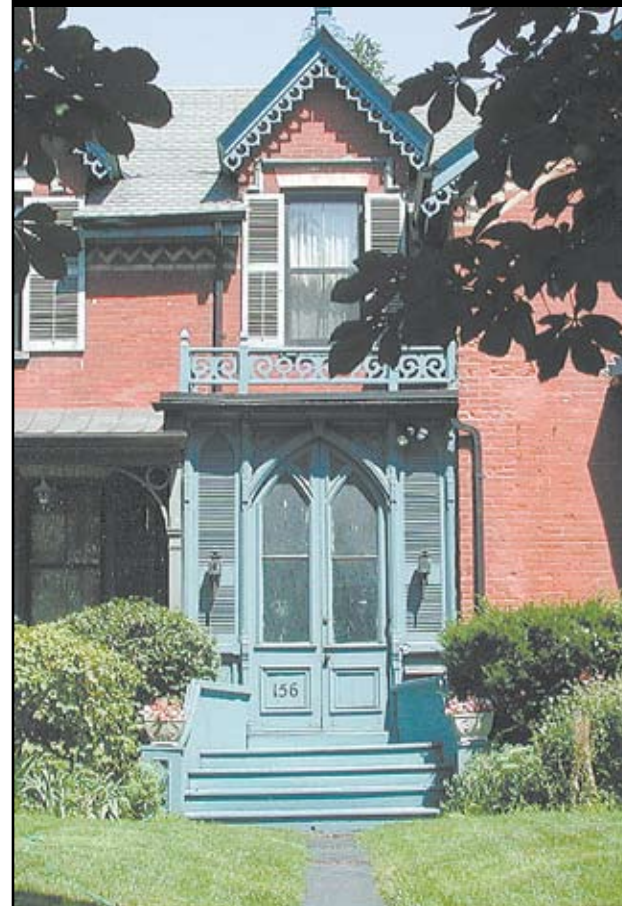
groups are also being arranged for the exchange of ideas and discussions of potential future partnerships. These are exhilarating times with lots of room for growth.

The Museum was asked by Mackenzie House to re-mount last year's successful exhibition "Oak Street Reinvented" in May of this year. The City of Toronto, Culture Division, supplied the CRP Museum with an additional set of panels from the exhibit, which are now mounted on one of the lobby walls at 51 Division. An exhibition of some of the history of the police in this area is planned for installation in time for the 9th Annual Door Open Toronto on May 24th and 25th. This will be a partnership project with the Toronto Police Museum and Discovery Centre. Other partnerships are also underway with a number of educational institutions.

We are very grateful to Catharine McKenty, Ruth Wagner, Lord Dufferin School, the Old Boys' and Girls' Association of Lord Dufferin and many former & current Cabbagetowners for our latest acquisitions. The museum's website is updating its site on a daily basis so for further news check out www.crpmuseum.com

The Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum Inc. is looking forward to continuing and growing its relationship with the Cabbagetown Preservation Association, which shares our common goals of historical preservation, knowledge and education.

Restoring Your Home?



Get City help with a Grant

The Toronto Heritage Grant Program is administered by the Heritage Preservation Services Unit of the City Planning Division to encourage the conservation of designated heritage properties in the City of Toronto.

The Toronto Heritage Grant Program provides grant funds of up to 50% of the estimated cost of eligible heritage conservation work to designated heritage properties. Owners of a property designated under Parts IV or V of the Ontario Heritage Act may qualify to receive a grant for eligible conservation work in either of the two project categories:

Residential house form buildings - Up to a maximum grant of \$10,000.00 for individual properties.

Commercial, institutional, multi-residential and industrial form buildings.

The Toronto Heritage Grant Program is part of the City of Toronto's Community Partnership Investment Program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Friday, June 13, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

www.toronto.ca/heritage-preservation/grants/index.htm

CPA Walking Tours

Saturday, May 10, 1:30 pm
Winchester Street and the Necropolis Cemetery.
Starting point : NE corner of Parliament and Winchester Streets.

Doors Open Toronto, Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25
St. James-the-Less Cemetery, 635 Parliament Street, north of Wellesley Street. Rotating tours between the hours of 11:00 am - 3:00 pm., both days.

Saturday, June 21, 2008 - 1:30 pm
Cabbagetown People: Discoveries of Remarkable Lives.
Starting point : NE corner of Parliament and Winchester Streets.

Saturday, August 16, 2008 - 1:30 pm
Cabbagetown People: Discoveries of Remarkable Lives.
Starting point : NE corner of Parliament and Winchester Streets.



Back by popular demand

Hidden Gardens and Private Spaces Garden Tour in Cabbagetown

Sunday June 8th, 2008 11:00 – 4:00 Tickets \$10:00

Last year's tour sold out, so plan to get your tickets early.
Tickets will go on sale at the following outlets in early May:

Mi Casa 238 Carlton Street 416-929-1913
Jay's Garden Centre, 360 Gerrard Street East at Sackville 416-927-9949

Proceeds from this event support CPA projects such as
"Streetscapes in Bloom" and "Cabbagetown People"

Visit private backyard gardens and unusual Cabbagetown lanes .
Come out and support your local community association's efforts.

Streetscapes In Bloom – nominate a garden!

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association recognizes the efforts of local gardeners and their continuing work at beautifying the streets of our unique neighbourhood.

Consider nominating the garden of your neighbour or any front garden in the area that you think is particularly appealing – a garden that catches your eye, makes you stop to look, or takes your breath away!

Please submit nominations by May 30 to the CPA c/o Helen Coltrianari 416-923-6165 or email helenc.hmc@sympatico.ca

When nominating, please include

1. address of garden e.g. 510 Winchester Street
2. name of owner, if possible
3. contact information of nominee: phone, address, email
4. contact information of nominator: phone, email

The judging committee includes Stephen Boddy, Steve Poulin, Ruth Wagner, Paul Shearstone, Ken McKenzie, Lou Riches, Sandy Riches; chair of the committee for the CPA is Helen Coltrianari.

Past Winners:
1997 – 123 Winchester St.
1998 – 94 Amelia St.
1999 – 31 Spruce St.
2000 – 319 Wellesley St.
2001 – 331 Wellesley St.
2002 – 76 Amelia St.
2003 – 60 Spruce St.
2004 – 334 Carlton St.
2005 – 2 Geneva Avenue
2006 – 28 Amelia Street
2007 – 262 Carlton St.

30th
year!

Old Cabbagetown Tour of Homes

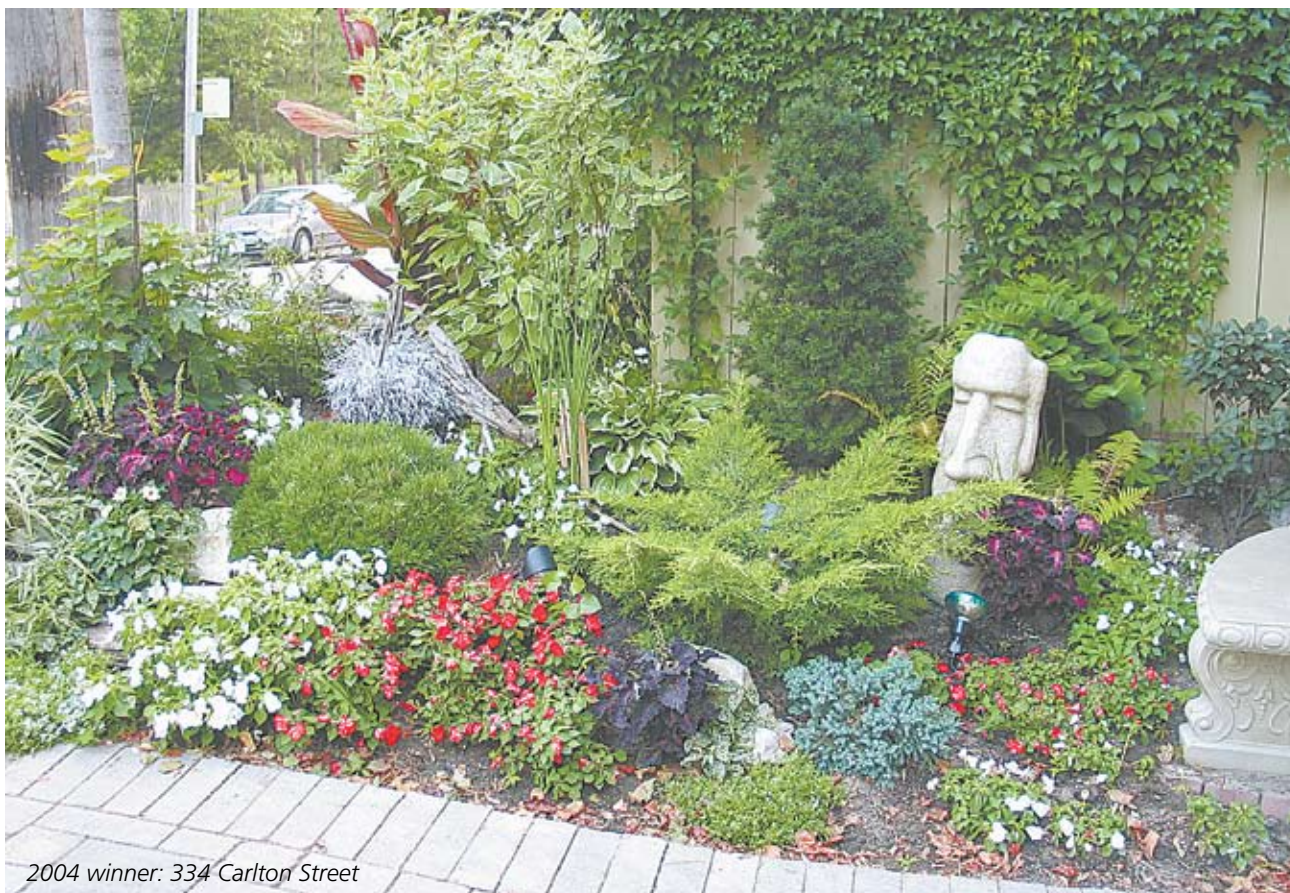
Saturday Sept, 13 – evening candlelight tour
Sunday, Sept, 14 – afternoon tour with refreshment stops

This charitable fund-raising event, now under the auspices of the CPA, supports many local community organizations and groups.

Volunteers work tirelessly for months to make this event a success.

Home owners generously volunteer their homes with the small reward of a house plaque and a Cabbagetown flag.

Consider supporting this community event by volunteering to help out, by selling tickets. or by simply buying tickets for the event.



2004 winner: 334 Carlton Street



What Makes a Great Main Street?

Continuing the discussion on Parliament Street

The past CPA nights at the Stone Grill have focused on Parliament Street as Cabbagetown's main street. The first such discussion looked at the importance of preserving the historic context that has always been connected with the rest of Cabbagetown and the second was dedicated to a review of what makes main streets successful and how these lessons can be applied to Parliament Street.

Historically Main Streets have been an important component of highly prized communities. Two comparative locations were developed in the 1930's, Bloor Street West and the Kingsway. They were developed as streetcar focused streets. Bloor Street West removed the streetcars for the subway while the Kingsway was redesigned for the car and the sidewalks were reduced to make way for on-street parking. The resulting streets reflect the results of those decisions. Bloor Street West illustrates the characteristics that are common to successful main streets. The Kingsway demonstrates the errors that can be made.

Typical Main Streets that we admire often reflect the following qualities:

- wide sidewalks with sufficient space for people to walk together, push baby carriages and pass each other with ease.
- generous landscaping that allows for the full growth of the trees and space between the landscape and the buildings to provide wide walkable areas.
- many successful main streets incorporate on-street parking to provide easy parking for the retail users. This also results in more comfortable sidewalk areas as a result of a line of stationary cars between the pedestrian and the moving traffic.
- the width of the street between the face of the buildings in combination with their height, the scale of the street, is important to the sense of comfort.
- consistent signage and high quality facades.
- a variety of retail stores that are distinct.

Parliament Street has all of the components to function as a successful main street. The scale of the street is appropriate. The distance between buildings facing each other on the street and the height of the building is exactly what is needed for in a main street. There is a great variety of stores including drug stores, a

hardware store, butcher shop and good restaurants. In addition, Parliament Street has an abundance of historic buildings in a historic neighbourhood.

The question is what conditions exist on Parliament Street that prevents it from functioning as a successful main street. The most important component of the classic main street is a strong pedestrian realm, the area between the curb and the face of the building. This is where pedestrian and shopping activity takes place. The sections compare the width of the sidewalk in Bloor West Village and Parliament Street. One can see that the pedestrian realm along Parliament Street substantially less than that of Bloor Street. That reduced width results in the following conditions:

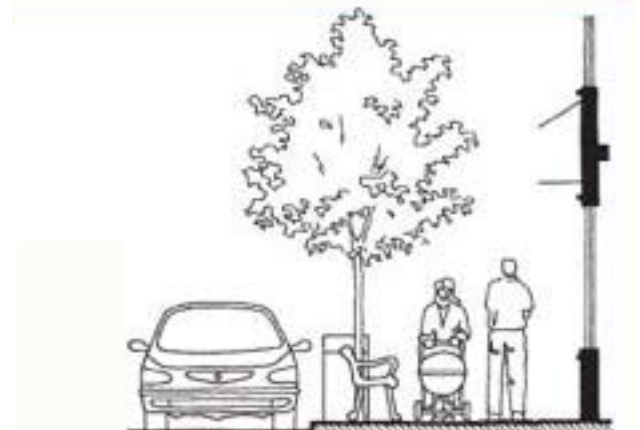
- the landscaped area is much too narrow to support healthy trees. The City of Toronto is planning landscape areas adjacent to the curb with a minimum width of 2 ½-3 metres. That is more than the total width of the pedestrian realm along Parliament Street.
- with the trees at the curb, the sidewalk is reduced to 1.5 metres, which is not wide enough for people to pass on the street let alone the width for strollers.
- the reduced pedestrian realm increases the dimension between the curbs making the crossing of the street at Carlton Street, for example, difficult. As a result, there is a tendency for shoppers to keep to one side of the street or the other. Successful main streets need to have both sides of the street be healthy.
- there is no consistent signage or lighting, resulting in a streetscape that looks cluttered. The use of freestanding signs and "sandwich boards" further reduces the walking area.

Cabbagetowners need to work together to create a successful main street. There is a real need for the BIA, the CPA and the DVCRA to band together and produce a common vision for what Parliament Street can become. Solutions such as reduced travel lane widths can be explored allow for wider sidewalks and to allow for reasonable planting areas for trees. The sidewalk can be widened at the corners to reduce the width of the cross walks.

The vision should be combined with a strategy for its implementation. Other areas within the City have done this with success. Finally, the vision needs to be a result of consultation with the residents and shop owners and it needs to be finished in a form that can be approved by the City and be included in its capital budgeting process.



Des Moines, Iowa



Cabbagetown
Preservation
Association

Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association

Dear Cabbagetown Neighbour,

Spring has finally arrived and we're all looking forward to another wonderful season of Cabbagetown events including the Forsythia Festival and the Cabbagetown Festival. This year, the Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association (DVCRA) will be holding the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 4, 7PM in the usual location at the Meeting House on Riverdale Farm – so save the date!

As many of you know, the board of the DVCRA has been active on many fronts. We continue to work closely with the CPA and the Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area (BIA), to coordinate our activities for the betterment of our community. If you are not familiar with the DVCRA, please visit our web site at www.donvalecra.ca. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join and participate in this important neighbourhood association.

In addition to planning the upcoming AGM, we're in the process of rebuilding our website to better serve the membership with real-time information and resources. We can always use volunteer help and also have some openings for new Board Members in June. If you are interested or wish to nominate someone, please see the Call for Nominations on the website at www.donvalecra.ca. The Association has continued to grow over the last 5 years and our combined voices are working effectively together to improve the quality of life in Cabbagetown.

Federal By-Election Candidates Meeting

On March 2, together with the Old Cabbagetown BIA and a number of our local residential organizations, we held an interesting and lively Candidates Meeting at the CYC for the Toronto Centre riding By-Election. There was a great turnout with lots of excellent questions from the floor to challenge the candidates on a range of issues that impact our area such as housing, crime and the environment.

Media Awareness

Many of you may have seen the Globe & Mail article by Dave LeBlanc on March 21 (Real Estate section) entitled "Rebirth of the ratepayer's association". Together with recent interviews on CBC and City TV, we're now seen as a significant group of members active on issues such as municipal taxes and the blue bin recycling programs that effect residents all over the city.

Cabbagetown Festival Arts & Craft Show

Once again this year, we'll be organizing spaces on Sumach Street between Winchester and Amelia for additional Arts & Crafts show vendors that were not able to get booths in the main part of the Park. For more information or to get an application for booth space, see our website at www.donvalecra.ca.

Parliament Street Survey

Many residents are interested in the results of the Parliament Street Survey we conducted last year with the BIA so I've included Doug Rowland's comprehensive summary below. Many thanks to everyone that participated. We'll be working with other organizations over the coming months to discuss the results and explore initiatives to address the main concerns. Feel free to drop us a line with your feedback by emailing us at info@donvalecra.ca.

Sincerely,

Lee Garrison, President
Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association

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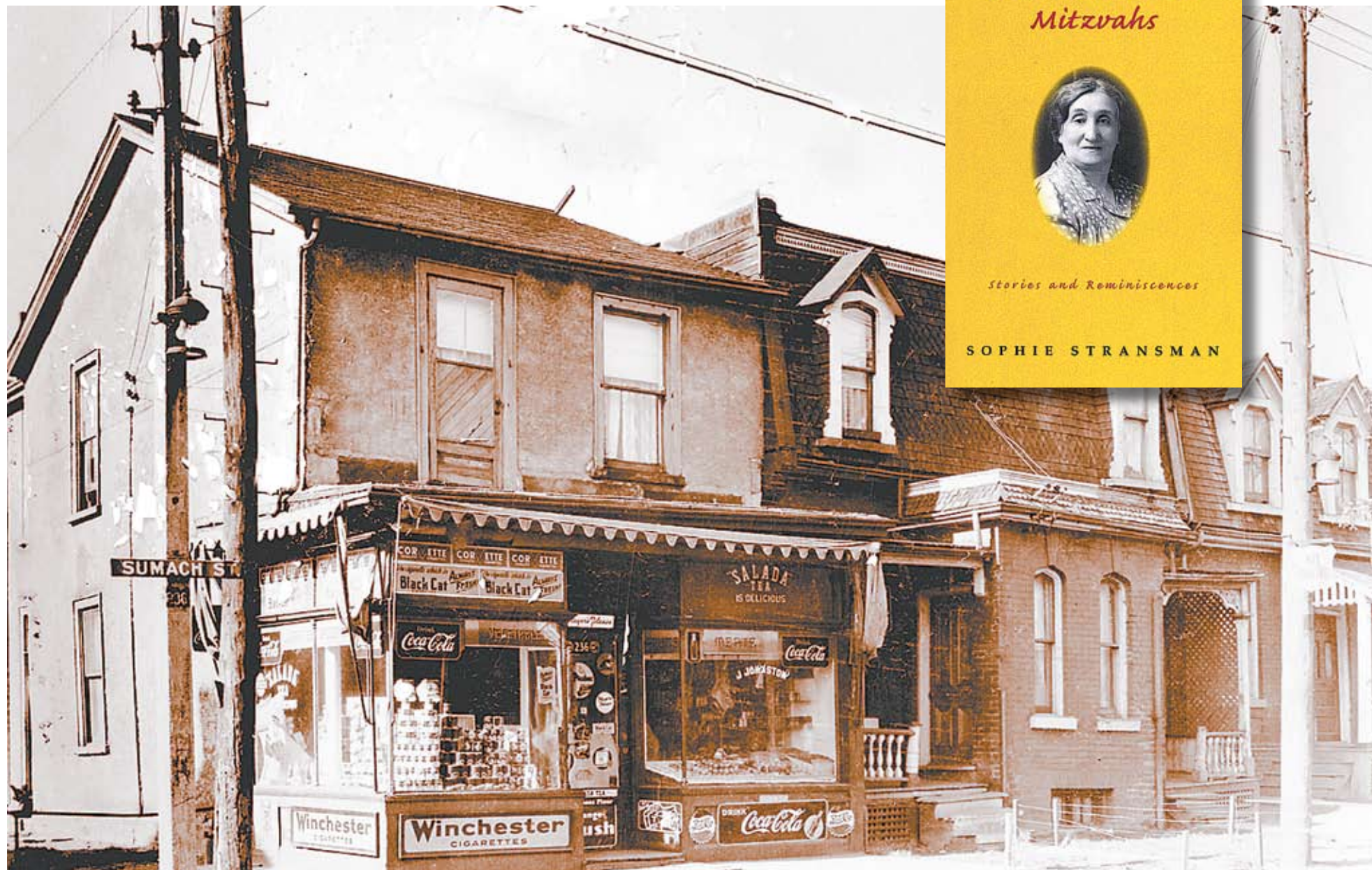



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A Tale of two Groceterias part 2 of 2

This issue: Seigel's Groceteria, 1930s



As part of its research, volunteers for the Cabbagetown/Regent Park Museum have been collecting oral histories. This is the second of a two-part series comparing two related histories.

Sophie Stransman was the daughter of Russian and Lithuanian immigrants Rachel and Elia Siegel, who owned Siegel's Groceteria from 1925 until it went bankrupt in the 40s. It was located at the corner of Sumach and Oak Streets. Like most groceterias, it offered a wide and eclectic mix of goods. The letters on the plate glass window read: Siegel's Groceteria. Fresh Fruits & Vegetables, Dry Goods, Hardware, also Crockery and Shoes. The business was quite an undertaking for her parents, as Sophie recounts, "Neither one of them could read or write. Many of the canned goods they put out were upside-down. They had no idea of how to run a business but they had no choice. Most of the customers were on government relief, which was referred to in slang as "the pogey" and people received certificates with what they were to eat written on the back."

Rachel Siegel was the backbone of the family but she was also filled with compassion. Sophie says, "It was her goal in life to help others.

She was a wonderful hostess so the coffee was always on the stove and beside it a pot of chicken soup. In Jewish, kindness is the word "mitzvah". I called my book *Mama And Her Mitzvahs* because she performed countless mitzvahs in her day. She lived to almost 97 so she had plenty of time to do a lot!" "My family kept all the Jewish holidays and kept by their laws, and had two sets of dishes although they weren't strictly orthodox. And if someone came in and wanted to buy some ham she couldn't afford to lose the profit and she'd say that the Almighty would forgive her because He was very broad-minded.

"My dad didn't need that much. He was always saving. The day my dad passed away he was wearing his old sweater with the new sweater the children had given him still hanging on the nail on the wall. That was the story of his life. He never even put it on. There's a lesson to be learned somewhere there I think."

"Even though my parents were illiterate they dabbled in real estate. They bought up 11 homes at an average price of \$1,500 each, with an average rental of \$15 a month. Sometimes they got paid but very often they didn't. Many people shared one home - often two or three

families. They weren't fussy; they were just trying to eat. And yet they were good people, honest people. Then when the slum clearance came in the 40s my mother only got \$28,000 in total for all 11 houses plus the store with living quarters."

The local grocery stores were wonderful gathering places. As often as not customers and delivery personnel would drop in for a cup of tea or a mug of coffee, or just to chat about the latest community gossip. In some cases, the stores housed the only telephone or radio on the street, which was another draw. Everyone knew each other and for the most part shared what they had. It was a difficult time but a gentler time and those strong-willed and persevering women - Aunt Polly and Rachel Siegel, set an example of honesty, integrity, hard work and tough love. It was their determination and relentless labour that enabled their stores to run longer than seemed humanly possible given the circumstances of the times; and their remarkable stories each inspired a book, which following generations continue to learn from and enjoy.

by C Moore-Ede, CRP Museum



CPA Membership/Volunteer Application

Please mail to Cabbagetown Preservation Association,
P.O. Box 82512, Toronto, ON M5A 4N8

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____ Telephone _____
E-mail _____

There are many volunteer opportunities in the CPA. If you are interested check this line and we will contact you. _____

- 1 year \$ 20
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- TOTAL \$ _____

Get to know your neighbours

We are 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, Garden tours.

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