



Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

CPA's AGM: Heritage, Template for the Future

At the Cabbagetown Preservation Association's Annual General Meeting, Lloyd Alter, President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, will cast heritage buildings and districts in a new light as templates for a sustainable future.

Tuesday, May 31
7:00 pm, doors open at 6:30
Meeting House
Riverdale Farm

Cabbagetown's Medical Heritage



Rowena Hume, medical pioneer. See page 4

It is not unusual for people living on Gifford Street or Nasmith Avenue to hit blocks of stone or concrete while digging or gardening in their backyard. These are buried pieces of the foundations of the old Toronto General Hospital and are relics of the important role Cabbagetown played in the development of medical and health services in Toronto.

The Toronto General Hospital

Toronto's first civilian hospital (the city's first medical practitioners were military surgeons), the York General Hospital, was built in 1820 at King and John Streets, near where Metro Hall stands today. But it wasn't used as a hospital until 1829 since it was used as the temporary seat of the Upper Canada government after the original Parliament



Trinity Medical College, Spruce Street

Medical Heritage (continued)

burnt down in 1813 (at the hands of the Americans) at the foot of Parliament Street (at Front Street). It was renamed the Toronto General Hospital in 1834. The fledgling hospital always had financial difficulties and the Board of Trustees realized that the land on which the hospital was built was quickly increasing in value as the city was growing. The need for a larger building was also growing. In September 1853, the Trustees decided to build a new hospital on land they held in trust east of Parliament Street. In 1856 the new Toronto General Hospital was opened, its grounds defined by Gerrard, Sackville, Spruce and Sumach Streets.

At first, the new location of the hospital was controversial. The area was considered unhealthy because of the proximity of the marshy and sewage-filled Don River. Wandering livestock also caused concern. But at 80 feet above sea level, it was finally decided that the air would be clean enough and that there was a good supply of water. And at the time, it was "well out of town", which was good since infectious diseases were a frightening threat and it was believed that the further sick people and cemeteries were, the better it was for the community.

The new building was designed by William Hay (1818-1888), an architect born and trained in Scotland. He chose a classic Gothic style: a magnificent castle-like structure of yellow brick and stone trim which eventually became covered with ivy. The façade was wide with five imposing towers, one at each corner, and one impressive 100 foot high tower in the centre. With its mansard roof, the picket fenced structure was very grand.



Toronto School of Medicine. For more images see page 6

The new hospital was considered to be the most modern hospital in the Dominion. The operating theatre was in the centre and there were eighteen wards. It had 250 beds, a ventilation system "to clean the foul air" and running water (water hydrants in every hallway). It had 4 washrooms per floor, two with toilets.

Also associated with the hospital were a fever hospital, the Mercer Eye and Ear Infirmary, a dispensary for women, the Burnside Lying-In Hospital for maternity cases, a resort for convalescence patients, and a mortuary. Although not always in good financial health, the hospital kept expanding, thanks to generous donations by benefactors such as Gooderham and Worts (of Distillery District fame).

In the early 1900s, in order to stimulate medical research, a decision was made to move the hospital closer to the University of Toronto. The fate of Cabbagetown's most important building of the time was sealed. In 1913, the Toronto General Hospital moved to a new site at College Street and University Avenue (what is now the MaRS Building), then expanded south to become the Toronto General Hospital we know today.

During World War I, the now empty Cabbagetown building served as barracks for troops of 48th Highlanders in training. It was finally demolished in 1921-22.

The vacant lot created by the demolition of the hospital allowed for the establishment of 2 new streets: Gifford and Nasmith, with 66 lots. Because they came later, the houses on these streets are representative of Toronto's architecture of the 1920s and are fairly different from the predominantly Victorian styles present elsewhere in Cabbagetown. The style of most houses on Gifford and Nasmith is inspired by the Arts & Crafts movement. Another interesting feature of these streets is that many have driveways, an unmistakable sign of the increasing importance of the car in the 1920s.

In its heyday, Cabbagetown's Toronto General Hospital was not only a busy hospital, it also was a renowned teaching facility with a School of Nursing and three associated medical schools.

The School of Nursing

The Toronto General Hospital Training School for Nurses opened on the hospital premises in April 1881. It only had 30 positions but received over 600 applications every year. Over and above answers to a series of questions, applicants needed to provide a letter from a clergyman testifying to their "good moral character", and a letter from a physician stating that they were in good health.

Each nurse was to wear the dress prescribed by the institution and was provided with two dresses each year, with caps and aprons. Each nurse on day duty was allowed one hour in the afternoon for rest, besides meal time, also an afternoon each week, and one-half of Sunday, except in emergencies. A holiday of two weeks the first year, three weeks the second year, and four weeks the third year, was also allowed. The course of training was three years. The

of two buildings: the brick building that can still be seen from the street and a now gone single story building behind that contained dissecting rooms. A mattress company used the main building as a warehouse until the 1970s. In 1979, it was converted into four townhouses and seven infill houses were added behind to form a courtyard. The complex is now known as Trinity Mews in homage to the medical school.

The building that housed the Woman's Medical College also still exists at 289 Sumach Street. In Victorian times, women were not allowed to attend medical school. It was considered too difficult for them and there were concerns it might "spoil their modesty, cause mental collapse or even render them infertile". The idea of men and women dissecting cadavers together was considered totally immoral.

The prevailing attitude is succinctly stated by the then University of Toronto President: "So go home, young women, and do your duty in that state of life unto which it has pleased God to call you. Our universities have never yet admitted a woman, and they are not going to do so. Ever!" That was without counting on Dr. Emily Stowe, born in Canada but who studied medicine in the U.S., and who was the founder of the Woman's Suffrage Club of Toronto. In 1883, Dr. Stowe and her supporters tabled a resolution stating "that medical education for women is a recognized necessity, and consequently facilities for such instruction should be provided".

Later that year, the Woman's Medical College - the precursor to Toronto Women's College Hospital - was established. The school started with 3 students in a small rented cottage near the Trinity Medical College. It struggled over the years to get enough students to pay expenses. Teachers often received only gratitude as payment. It moved into the building on Sumach Street in April 1890, having the best medical equipment of the day. In 1895 the College amalgamated with its sister institution in Kingston, Ont., and changed its name to the Ontario Medical College for Women.

The style of the building on Sumach is Richardson Romanesque, named after the American architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Other examples of this style are the Legislative Buildings at Queens Park and Old City Hall. In 1984, the building was converted to 10 condominium apartments.

The building that housed the Toronto School of Medicine no longer exists. It was across the street from the hospital on the southwest corner of Sackville and Gerrard. An ornate brick structure in the Tuscan-Italianate style, it was built in 1872. As they were moving to the new location of the amalgamated medical school, the medical Class of 1903 wrote in their yearbook that that the building would not be missed: "the ancient pile looked dingy, smelled horribly and was ventilated like a tomb". The building was demolished in the 1940s.

Many notable physicians associated with the hospital or the medical schools elected to live in Cabbagetown. For example, Dr Edward Mulberry Hodder (1810-1878) is considered to be the Father of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Ontario. He was an early advocate of the use of antiseptics. One of the founders of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, as a teenager, he enlisted in the Royal Navy and never lost his love of the sea. He once owned the Georgian style home at 35 Spruce. A plaque from the Cabbagetown Preservation Association's Cabbagetown People Program honours his legacy and is affixed to the building where the Trinity Medical College once stood at 41 Spruce and where he was Dean for a few years.

Dr. Rowena Hume (1877-1966) also lived in Cabbagetown. Her career was exceptional, having lectured in Pathology and Bacteriology. From 1902 to 1906, she was Assistant in Anatomy at the Ontario Medical College for Women. In 1911 she became a founder of Women's College Hospital and its first Chief of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, a position she held for twenty years. For more on Dr. Hume see the article on page 6.

In partnership with Heritage Toronto, the CPA will be offering a walking tour of Cabbagetown's Medical Heritage on Saturday July 23, 2011. The tour starts at 1:30 p.m. at the northeast corner of Parliament and Winchester Streets.

Three Medical Schools

The University of Toronto originally opened its medical school in 1843, providing instruction in medicine and medical sciences. In 1853, it suspended the school's teaching program and transferred teaching duties to the city's three proprietary schools that were all situated around the Toronto General Hospital in Cabbagetown: the Trinity Medical College (41 Spruce Street), the Woman's Medical College (289 Sumach) and the Toronto School of Medicine (southwest corner of Sackville and Gerrard). Because proprietary schools could not grant degrees, the university's medical school retained the responsibility of holding examinations and conferring medical degrees. In 1887, the university resumed medical teaching in its Faculty of Medicine and all medical teaching merged and moved into one building on the University of Toronto's campus in 1904.

The building that housed the Trinity Medical College still exists (41 Spruce Street). Originally located on Queen Street, it moved to be closer to the Toronto General Hospital. The school consisted



figure in the donated family photograph. Posing in full uniform - with "on duty" stripes on his sleeve, whistle chain on his chest, and bobby-style helmet in hand - "Uncle Ned" towered above a family friend on the left and brother-in-law John on the right. They were probably standing in front of the store on River Street, Uncle Ned's neighbourhood base for about a decade.

To learn more about cops on the beat, as well as women in the police service and the Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit, be sure to visit the Museum's exhibition, on display at 51 Division (at Parliament & King) throughout the summer.

This exhibit was co-curated by Cabbagetowners, Sally Gibson and Carol Moore-Ede; with primary research and writing by Sally.

Letter's Long Journey

**News of Attendant's death at the paws of Flossie the bear
With thanks to The York Pioneer and Historical Society
and Stephen Davidson.**

On September 30, 1912, Thirza Seymour wrote to one of her sisters in England of the death of her husband, Charles. Charles Seymour was an attendant at the Riverdale Zoo, and he and his family lived at 36 Geneva Avenue. In 1912 he was badly bitten by one of the monkeys and required stitches. Later the same year, he was even less fortunate when he was mauled by Flossie, the Russian bear, and did not survive the attack.

Thirza's letter bearing the news of his death was later mailed to Isaac Seymour, a brother who lived in India. After 30 years, following World War Two, it returned to England in the hands of Isaac's son and daughter-in-law. In the 1970s it traveled to King City, Ontario with Isaac's daughter-in-law, who subsequently passed it on to Isaac's grandson, Les Seymour, in the 1980s, where he was living in Nova Scotia.

In 2008, Les became reacquainted with the letter while sorting through family memorabilia and turned to his son-in-law Stephen Davidson, a Nova Scotia elementary teacher and an author with a particular interest in Loyalist history, to seek his advice about tracking down the family. Stephen's extensive research resulted in an excellent article published in the York Pioneer and Historical Society Annual Publication, 2011, Volume 106. It also reunited family descendants of the unfortunate Charles Seymour, some of whom lived within miles of each other but had been unaware of their family connection.



On May 1, members of the York Pioneer and Historical Society celebrated the publication of their latest issue at the Daniel Lamb home; a suitable location given that Daniel Lamb was the founder of the Riverdale Zoo and served as President of the York Pioneer Society from 1909-1914. Sixteen of Charles Seymour's direct descendants attended the occasion and were photographed on the steps of the Residence, the former Zookeeper's Cottage.

Walking the Beat ... 1910

**Cabbagetown Regent Park Community Museum
By Sally Gibson**

The Cabbagetown Regent Park Community Museum's new exhibition, Historic Divisions: Policing in 51 Division from Victorian to Modern Times, began with one small photograph donated to the Museum by Ellen Hughes. It showed her "Uncle Ned" in a police uniform. Little was known about Uncle Ned, except that he had emigrated to Toronto from Northern Ireland and probably stayed for some time with his sister and brother-in-law, who operated a store at Oak and River Streets. When did he arrive? Was he a constable with the Toronto Police Service? If he was with the Toronto police, did he serve in our own area? After combing through years of Police Duty Books, Chief Constable's Annual Reports, and Nominal Rolls, we found Uncle Ned - formally known as Adam McCullough - and pieced together his story.

On June 25, 1910, Police Constable Adam McCullough walked his first beat, a night patrol from our local Station No. 4 near the corner of Parliament and Dundas, about where One Cole now rises. Like fellow constables, he was inspected and marched to his beat by the patrol sergeant. According to regulations, he was to walk his beat at a uniform 2 1/2 miles per hour, not loiter or gossip ... and certainly not be seen in uniform at any place of refreshment.

His assignment, Beat 8, took him along Parliament Street, past Carlton, all the way up to Wellesley, along Winchester and down Sumach. This was his patch until midnight. After he and his memo book were inspected and found "all correct" by fellow-Irishman, Sergeant James Roe, he returned home by dark. Thereafter, Uncle Ned walked night beats, day beats, and sometimes beats past the Regan store on River Street.

According to family legend, Uncle Ned was seven feet tall ... or at least much taller than other family members. (The police roll pegged him at 6' 1 5/8" in his stocking feet, only slightly taller than fellow policemen.) Whatever his true height, he cut a dashing



cabbagetownhcd.ca

I'm Renovating! What do I do??

Owning a home in a heritage district gives us the advantages of living in a beautiful historic district of leafy, human-scaled streets, a large variety of architectural styles and a tangible connection to Toronto's past. These characteristics that we find so attractive and the rarity of finding such a preserved gem intact are protected by Cabbagetown's designation as a Heritage Conservation District.

Most homeowners in Cabbagetown know that when they make changes to the parts of their homes that are visible from the street, they have to conform to HCD rules. But many people are confused about what the rules are, how to approach renovation or where to get help. Here is how to get the answers you need:

The Rules in a Capsule:

- The rules apply only to what can be seen from the street.
- Changes must revert to the original building.
- Design, technical and referee help is available from the HCD Committee. They will walk you through the Heritage Permit process with the City (it's quick), if you need a permit.
- A heritage permit is needed for windows, doors, siding, any facade changes.
- The CPA does not enforce heritage; that is a City and provincial function. All HCDs have an HCD Committee of neighbours that have an advisory function.

Once you have decided that you want to make changes, an initial call to Rick Hall (416-967-6773) will get you started.

For the whole story, please go to the HCD site (URL above) or the CPA site at <http://www.cabbagetownpa.ca>.

Lane Naming Results.

Due to the City's recent attention to lanes and the organizational ease that lane naming has provided, a number of benefits have recently been brought to the laneways. For example, one lane (a full City block in length) was rebuilt from the road bed up. Lighting was added, regular street cleaning occurs, snow removal is regular, a collapsed structure was removed, a collapsed concrete wall was replaced, a municipal tree planting was created and a small butterfly habitat is in the works - all work referenced by lane name. Police, Fire, Ambulance and Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards Division records also demonstrate the use of lane names in their work to protect life and property. Several lanes have been added as part of walking tours and television and feature film productions have used some lanes during on location shoots. Given the civic mindedness and good work of many individuals, the future of public lanes such as "Woodward Evans Lane" looks bright. Moreover, the justice system seems to support a basic standard for the City's lanes. A Divisional Court ruling of Friday September 24, 2010 upheld a December 2008 ruling of three Divisional Court justices that was built around the issue of liability and it stated that laneways "...should receive the same standard of maintenance as a sidewalk".



Ernest Thompson Seton, Walter Seymour Allward, Betty Oliphant, Benjamin Brick, J. L. (Allan) Yen Ph. D., Sarah Anne-Cuzco, Arthur Goss, F. J. J., Ben Wicks, ...

Cabbagetown People

The Social History of a Canadian Inner City Neighbourhood



Celebrating Ten Years!

This is Year 10 for Cabbagetown People, and we unveil our new wordmark, seen above. We've also recently published a new full-colour brochure. Pick up a copy at the CPA's next event, The Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces Tour on Sunday, June 5th.

Following up on the brochure, we are currently in the process of re-designing a colourful and "image rich" Orientation Directory to replace the existing one, located just inside the main gates of Riverdale Park West.



On a walk through the neighbourhood, you'll see three new plaques which have been installed in honour of the following persons:

- Canada's pre-eminent World War II artist, Jack Nichols 1921 - 2009. The plaque is located at his former residence at 395A Sackville Street.
- Political cartoonist, Global Literacy Advocate, Humanitarian, Ben Wicks 1926 - 2000. The plaque is installed at "The Ben Wicks Pub", 424 Parliament Street.
- Pioneer ecologist, Charles Sauriol 1904-1995. This plaque is installed in Riverdale Park West at the end of Carlton Street.

This Spring, in our Program for Schools, we'll be adding those stories to the scripts of a new walking tour route, as we lead students on tours (conducted in both English and French) throughout Cabbagetown.

For more information on the Program, or to book a Cabbagetown People private or corporate guided tour, please visit our website www.cabbagetownpeople.ca



Charles Sauriol

Pioneer Ecologist 1904-1995 Plaque Location – Riverdale Park

Charles Sauriol was born in Toronto, Ontario, and was the youngest of seven children. In 1882, his father had moved to Toronto to work as an engineer on the dredging of the Don River.

Once in Toronto, the Sauriols lived on Gerrard Street where it intersects with Sumach Street. Charles went to Sacre Coeur School. As a young boy he camped out in the Don Valley with the 45th East Toronto Troop of the Boy Scouts. It was at this time that he fell in love with the Don Valley, which at the time was woods, some farms, and in its natural state.

In 1927, Charles Sauriol purchased his own piece of the Don – a piece of railway land on 40 hectares at the forks of the river. He used it as a cottage. For years he spent his summers there with his family. Only four trees stood on site in 1927. Sauriol began an ambitious project of reforestation, planting shrubs, native hard woods and conifers on the slope surrounding the cottage.

As Ancestors of his had emigrated to New France from Brittany in 1705, Charles was 8th generation Canadian, and completely bilingual. He spent 30 years working as a marketing director for French publishing houses like Porier Bessette in Montreal. He penned and published a Weekly dedicated to stories of the Don Valley, called "Le Samedi."

In 1949, Charles Sauriol co-founded the Don Valley Conservation Association. The mission was to preserve the Don Valley as a natural forest. Sauriol organized trips by steam locomotive to raise money. These trips began at the Don River station near Queen Street and attracted up to a thousand passengers, who traveled to such places as Cobourg, Lindsay, and Niagara Falls.

In 1954, he joined forces with the Don Valley Conservation Authority. It became the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority in 1957. During the 1950s, the MTCA purchased most of the valleys and ravines that today make up Toronto's green belt. Much of this was a direct consequence of Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Widespread damage gave new urgency to flood control measures, the MTCA wanted to remove houses from risky floodplain areas.

In 1958 plans for the Don Valley Parkway bisected the Sauriol cottage property and they were forced to vacate their beloved cottage. It was demolished the same year.

Soon after, in 1966, Charles Sauriol helped establish The Nature Conservancy of Canada. During this period he was its primary fundraiser. He helped the Conservancy acquire parkland across Canada. In Ontario alone, he purchased 500 properties. Over the course of his career, he led fundraising campaigns that netted more than 200 million dollars dedicated to the preservation of green space.

Charles Sauriol's work as an ecologist was well recognized. He was known as "Mr. Conservation." And in 1989 he received the Order of Canada. He earned 40 other awards and citations. Today four green spaces, a park and a Conservation Area carry his name.

He died of natural causes in 1995 at the age of 91. He truly lived in harmony with nature.

"As years go on and the population increases, there will be a need of these lands and more, and in life where so much appears futile, this one thing will remain. In essence, those who continue to support the work of conservation can say, I have lived here, I have done something positive to ensure that its natural beauty and natural values continue."

Rowena Hume M.D.

A Founder of Women's College Hospital 1877-1966 Plaque location: 226 Carlton Street

Rowena Grace Douglas Hume was born in Galt, Ontario, the youngest of 12 children. She was a graduate of Galt Collegiate Institute, and University of Trinity College. She took post-graduate studies in England and the United States before returning to Canada to take a position at the Ontario Medical College for Women.

Her career was exceptional, having lectured in Pathology and Bacteriology, she was Assistant in Anatomy, Ontario Medical College for Women, from 1902 - 1906. In 1911 she was part of the committee responsible for founding the original Woman's college hospital, serving as its first president. Hume was also its first Chief of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, a position she held for twenty years.

A pioneer of planned parenthood programs, she formed the Birth Control Clinic, the first in Canada, in Hamilton, Ontario. It opened March 3, 1932, and Doctor Rowena Hume was the first doctor in attendance.

She was also actively involved in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Salvation Army's Harbour Light Centre, and the Fred Victor Mission. After retiring, she ran a private practice in Toronto.

Dr. Hume was in the habit of hiring the unemployed to do odd jobs around her home, and at the age of 89 she was attacked and murdered by a transient worker. Some reports of the event suggest that she died at the hand of a man at whose birth she had officiated 28 years earlier.

Dr Hume is also recognized in Cabbagetown by the naming of Hume Lane, off Ontario Street, north of Carlton.

The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes



Circle **Sunday September 18**
on your smartphone calendar for the
Cabbagetown Tour of Homes
Watch for the posters and keep an
eye on cabbagetownpa.ca

Walking Tours

Tours on Demand

In addition to the free tours we give in Spring and Summer, the CPA is now offering private tours of Cabbagetown. A tour of Cabbagetown's architecture and history or a Cabbagetown People tour, focusing on its social history, may be arranged. There will be a charge for these, similar to tours given in other cities and in parts of Toronto. The cost is \$10 per person to a maximum of \$100 for the group. Up to 15 people can be accommodated on a tour with one guide. If you have guests from out of town or want to take a tour with a few friends just email us with your request and we will get in touch with you to make arrangements.

Schedule of Tours for 2011

Saturday and Sunday May 28 and 29 – 1:00 to 4:00 (continuous) - Doors Open Toronto 2010 – Tours of the Necropolis Cemetery. See this early common burial ground in a new and historical light.

The meeting spot for the following three Heritage Toronto tours is the North East corner of Winchester and Parliament Streets.

Saturday June 4, 1:30 PM - Cabbagetown People , a new walk.

Saturday, July 23, 1:30PM. - Cabbagetown's Medical Heritage,

Sunday, August 7, 1:30 PM – Winchester Street and the Necropolis

Saturday, October 29th – 7:00 PM – 4th Annual Cabbagetown Ghost Tour. Depart from the North East corner of Parliament and Winchester Streets.

Winchester PS Fun Fair

A wonderful family and community event with a Jumpy Castle, Dunk Tank, Garage Sale, Cake Auction, delicious food and so much more! **Sat. May 28th from 11-3.** 15 Prospect St. Just west of Parliament.

Spring 2011 volume 21 issue 1



The Cabbagetown Preservation Association presents

Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces Tour

Stroll picturesque streets past historic architecture and winning front gardens in the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District of Toronto's oldest neighbourhood while touring ten charming, creative gardens.

Rain or shine, this self-guided tour takes visitors along main streets and through back lanes to quaint and quirky private oases where proud owners and a celebrity gardener are on site to discuss all things gardening.

Simply park your car, design your own route, then follow balloon bouquets and the map. Begin and end at any garden, stopping to shop, snack, or enjoy lunch along the way and take advantage of special offers from local merchants.

Liz Primeau, host of Canadian Gardening Television on HGTV and first editor of Canadian Gardening, this year's garden guru, will be present to sign copies of her books and to answer your gardening questions.

Tickets: are \$15. You may use Pay Pal online at www.cabbagetownpa.ca OR buy tickets at the following locations:

- **Mi Casa**,
238 Carlton St., 416-929-1913
- **JAY'S Garden Centre**,
360 Gerrard St., 416-927-9949
- **Sheridan Nurseries**,
2827 Yonge St., 416-481-6429
- **Fairway Garden Centre**,
520 Parliament St., 416-921-0624
- **Bill's Garden & Design**,
903 Pape Ave., 416-466-8283
- **Kendall & CO Interior Design**,
438 Parliament St., 416-363-9914
- **Cabbagetown BIA**,
237 Carlton St., 416-921-0857

Get your tickets early; this tour sells out.

A limited number of tickets may be available on the day of the tour at the ticket seller outlets or at each of the featured gardens. Tickets go on sale April 30th.

**Sunday June 5, 2011,
10 AM to 3PM, \$15**

Nominate a Garden! Streetscapes in Bloom Nominations 2011

If you have been admiring a special garden or you feel especially good about yours, submit a nomination! Nominations for the 2011 Streetscapes in Bloom award will be accepted until Friday May 27th. Please send to Helen Coltrinari by email, helenc.hmc@sympatico.ca or by phone 416-923-6165.

Past Gardens Of Merit Winners

In 1996, a cross-Canada competition called "Communities in Bloom" took place. 90-98 Winchester won honours. This event marked the beginning of the CPA sponsored annual Streetscapes in Bloom award.

1997 123 Winchester St.	
1998 94 Amelia St.	
1999 31 Spruce St.	2005 2 Geneva Street
2000 419 Wellesley St.	2006 28 Amelia Street
2001 331 Wellesley St.	2007 5-7 Geneva Avenue
2002 76 Amelia St.	2008 308 Carlton Street
2003 60 Spruce St.	2009 118 Winchester Street
2004 334 Carlton St.	2009 368 Wellesley Street
	2010 18 Metcalfe St.

For more information go to www.cabbagetown.ca and hit the Awards Programs link at the top.

Purple Iris

May delight
Purple Iris
Called out to me
Amidst bouquets
Of various spring flowers
At the flower stall
Enchanting me
Casting a spell over me
Vibrant
Exotic
Royal purple gems
On tall stems
Just enough in my wallet
To buy two bunches
Carry them home - carefully
Wrapped in cellophane
Place them in a tall crystal vase
To spread their magic
In my life
In my home
On the round - white marble throne
Of my kitchen table

*by Barbara Mercer
from her book Concerto for Cabbagetown*



The French in Cabbagetown - part 2

by Danièle Colez of the Francophone Société d'histoire de Toronto

In Part 1, printed in the last Newsletter, Danièle Colez traced the growth of the Francophone community from their arrival, along with the Irish, in the 1840s.

Up to WWI, a whole community of Francophones had moved into the neighborhood, north and south of Queen Street. That's where you'd find:

William Sirois boot and shoemaker, Arthur Dionne, who rolled cigars for Andrew Wilson, Joseph Saint-Denis, who was a pole climber for Bell, Monsieur Godin, who climbed poles for Canadien-National, Monsieur Marchand, a manager at Canada West Indies Imported Fruit, Monsieur Robitaille who was a shipboard engineer, Monsieur Hébert worked for Wrigley's, Albert Sirois, who had a retail store at 295 Queen East. Madame Marchand inspected tea bags at Dalton's.

From 1914 to 1918, during The Great War, a new wave of French Canadians hit Toronto. From Montréal, Québec, Ottawa and Cornwall, they came to work in munitions factories and shipyards. That is because some Toronto manufacturers were recruiting skilled workers from Quebec. The Dominion Bridge Company for example brought 60 veteran construction workers in from Montréal. There was also a great demand for bilingual stenographers and typists and the United Typewriter Company was offering good pay

There were also Francophone soldiers in town, in barracks and hospitals. They were visited by parish priests, who were more often than not shocked by what they saw. In just one hospital there were 800 soldiers, 240 of them suffering from venereal disease, says a priest in a letter to his superiors! Not all of them Francophones of course!

All of these immigrants and French-speaking soldiers showed up at the Sacré Coeur, which became far more than just a church. By 1917, there were 1200 worshippers at Sunday service. At the end of the war many of them returned home.

In the 1930s, it was decided that the corner of King and Sackville was no longer a suitable neighborhood for the church. So everyone moved north to the new church, on the Sherbourne streetcar! In 1947, a new Sacré Coeur School was built nearby. Until 1952, there was also a residence for Francophone nuns next to the church, at 417 Sherbourne, north of Carlton.

From the 1940s on, Francophones began to make noise as a community. In June 1940, the Survivance canadienne-française of Toronto was founded, a patriotic society dedicated to advocating for the language and traditions of French Canadians in Toronto.

Around this period it was "discovered" that the Sacré Coeur School was not truly francophone, not even truly bilingual! This

was a consequence of Ontario's notorious Regulation 17 that banned the teaching of French after the fourth grade. Regulation 17 was repealed in 1927, but it took a long time to repair the damage.

So in 1940, Berthe Castonguay, a teacher in Penetanguishene, was invited to inaugurate the very first all-French class at the Sacré Coeur School in Toronto. She also offered adult French Language classes for 50 cents.

In 1943, the sisters of the Notre Dame Congregation - who were more Francophone than the sisters of St-Joseph - took over teaching. They remained in charge until 1976.

During the Second World War, there was another new influx of French Canadians into Toronto. These were soldiers and blue-collar workers. The Francophone soldiers were quartered on the Exhibition grounds and were very homesick. They bumped into local Francophones on the streetcar and got themselves invited back to the Sacré Coeur. The parish hall came alive again with nightly dances and sing-along. It's no surprise that at least 15 new weddings can be traced back to these events!

A group of parish ladies went out to give comfort to soldiers at the Christie Street Veterans Hospital. They also visited the Sunnybrook Memorial Veterans Hospital.

A witness who wants to remain anonymous says that during the war years, there was a major rift in the Francophone community. The community split; one group supported maréchal Pétain and his government under the Nazis and the other De Gaulle and the Free French. By the end of the war, there was still so much conflict, that in 1947, De Gaulle himself made a quick undercover visit to diffuse the tension. And guess where he slept: at the Sacré Coeur! The source is still lamenting the fact that they gave him a bed that was too short.

Right up until the 1970s, most Francophone social activities took place in the church basement. Some of the groups and activities were:

The Cercle pour les jeunes in 1951, The French Ciné-club in 1952, The Cercle familial scolaire in 1952, The Club Richelieu in 1954, The Centre de loisirs Lamarche in 1955, exhibitions of French books and magazines, The Sainte-Catherine Toffee pull. Centre Island picnics, The Choir, where Albert Bélanger sang. Religious activities included the first Friday of the month, rosaries, missions, funeral choir, pilgrimages to Mary Lake, etc. The Petit Théâtre, the precursor of the Théâtre du P'tit Bonheur, founded in 1967, on Confederation Day. It is now the Théâtre français de Toronto. In 1963, a credit union was founded, which became La Caisse populaire Desjardins. The Cercle Acadien de Toronto started in 1953 as well as the Orchestre du Club Acadien. There was also a strong Francophone immigration from the Maritimes to Toronto that took place all along the years.

But no library! The church frowned on libraries for a long time...

In 1956 another member of the Francophone elite who lived in Rosedale - Omer Labonté - bought an old abandoned school on Ontario Street, south of Gerrard. It became the French Canadian Recreation Centre. There were dances, hockey, baseball, and bowling. The house was known as the Communist House after the former owners. Albert Bélanger and his friends were regulars there. The Centre didn't stay open long... there was just too much dancing... at least according to the parish priest.

The story of Labonté is a success story. He was from the North of Ontario. He became sick as a youth and during his convalescence he noticed that some seed grains rolled differently than others. That prompted him to invent a small machine that separated these seeds. He became very rich in the seed business, moved to Toronto and we can still see one of the buildings he had on Ontario street north of Adelaide. He had a house in Rosedale, where he invited lots of soldiers and other youth on Sunday afternoons.

From the 1950s to the 1960s, another new wave of Francophone youth came to Toronto; they came here to study law, economics, science, and medicine or to go to Teachers College. They arrived alongside other middle class immigrants, who didn't want to affiliate themselves with the blue collar Sacré Coeur parish. They moved to the north end of the city, and started their own parish, the Parish of St-Louis de France in 1967-70 on Don Mills Road.

And as the Francophone community scattered across the city, the cultural role of the church diminished. The maintenance of French language and culture fell to new secular schools and ethnic associations:

In 1968, The Chasse-Galerie, which started out at the Sacré-Coeur and moved out. It offered music, sewing, and visual arts at the school and the parish hall. In 1976, Gabrielle-Roy Public School, on Sackville Street. In September 1977, it moved to 14, Pembroke Street. In 1981 started the Chevaliers de Colomb still at the Sacré-Coeur. In 1983 started the Centre Francophone, now on College Street.

Today, the Sacré Coeur's parish and school are still just as busy, but mostly with newer immigrants, many of Asian or African origins. Some of them live in Cabbagetown and their children go to the schools there.

So, for many French-speaking people in this city, Cabbagetown was, and still is, a place of passage on the way to that better life they dreamed of before making that decision to make the "jump" to Toronto.

And there are still many Francophones who remember the school on Sackville and Sherbourne, the late night dances at Sacré Coeur, the plays and school trips. Many met their husbands there, sang along with the choir, baptized their children and had words with the parish priest. Many will still tell you: "That was the good life, life at the Sacré Coeur!"

More images of the Toronto General Hospital



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CPA's Annual General Meeting
Monday, May 31
7:00 pm, doors open at 6:30
the Meeting House at Riverdale Farm



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Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association

The Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association is pleased to announce that it will be hosting an event at the Toronto Dance Theatre at their building at 80 Winchester Street on May 24th. The guest speaker will be the world-renowned modern dance choreographer, Christopher House. Christopher will be speaking about the Toronto Dance Theatre, its history, current planned productions and the future of the dance company. The Toronto Dance Theatre has been a fixture in Cabbagetown for many years and we hope it will be for many more. This is a great opportunity for Cabbagetown residents, and especially DVCRA members, to become more familiar with this important cultural icon located in our beautiful neighbourhood. The event will commence at 7:00 p.m. on May 24th.

The Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association will conduct its Annual General Meeting just prior to the presentation by Christopher House. Members and guests will be provided a quick review of its various activities over the past year, and a short report from each of the Treasurer and President. The election of a new board of directors for the next 12 months will also be held.

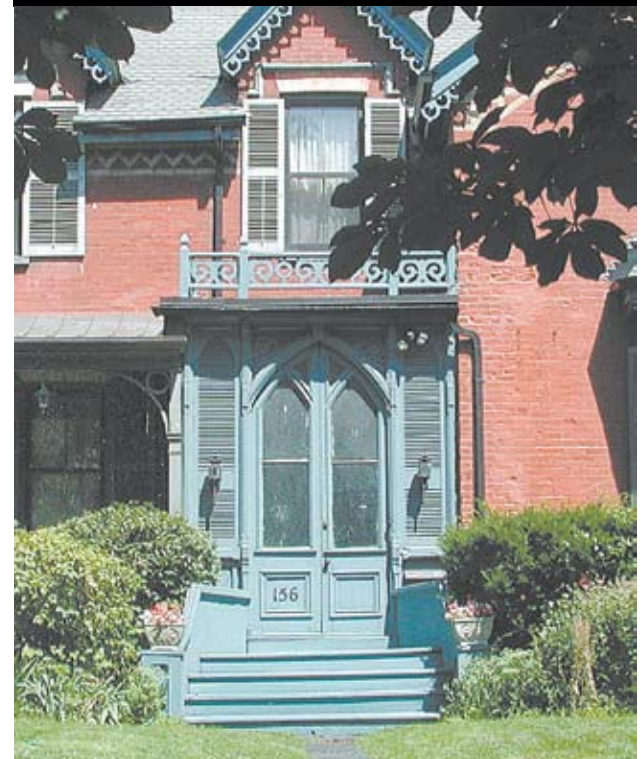
Members are particularly encouraged to attend and memberships in the Association will be available for purchase by non-members who wish to join. Individual memberships start at \$10 per year and three-year household memberships can be purchased for \$30.

The price of admission for the evening events will be \$5.00 for non-members. The event will be free for members and those who become members at the door.

For more information please visit our new website at www.cabbagetowner.ca

DVCRA AGM
with Christopher House
Toronto Dance Theatre
80 Winchester Street
Tuesday May 24
7PM

Restoring Your Home?



Get Restoration Help With a City Grant

If you are planning restoration work in 2012, keep this for reference: The Toronto Heritage Grant Program, administered by the Heritage Preservation Services Unit of the City Planning Division, encourages the conservation of designated heritage properties in the City of Toronto.

In 2011 the Program provided 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 could qualify to receive a grant for eligible conservation work in either of the two project categories:

1. Residential house form buildings - Up to a maximum grant of \$10,000.00 for individual properties.
2. 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.

If you are interested, check this url for updated information: <http://www.toronto.ca/heritage-preservation/grants/>

Get to know your neighbours; become a volunteer

What is a volunteer and why do we need them?

A volunteer is someone who serves in a community primarily because he/she chooses to do so.

Many serve through non-profit organizations but a significant number also serve formally, individually, or as part of a group....

Not-for-profit organizations survive because of the many volunteers who so willingly give of their time to support them.

The CPA and other Cabbagetown community organizations are constantly seeking people to help out in many capacities.

Get in touch with the organization of your choice and consider donating a few hours a month to help out with these worthy causes.

CPA is always looking...

Some of our committees:

**Walking Tours: Heritage, People and Ghost
Cabbagetown People,
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:

cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca



CPA Membership/Volunteer Application

Please mail to the Cabbagetown Preservation Association,
PO Box 82808, RPO Cabbagetown, 467 Parliament Street, Toronto, ON M5A 3Y2

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. _____

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