



Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood

CPA AGM

Thursday, May 31, 7:00 PM
Meeting House at the Farm

With the bicentennial of the War of 1812, the Newsletter and the Cabbagetown Preservation Association's annual meeting take a look at the past military battles that have been fought in our otherwise peaceful city. Our history is anything but dull!

On page 6 Gilles Huot describes the 1837 Rebellion, some of whose main actors are buried in Cabbagetown's two beautiful cemeteries.

At our annual meeting we will hear from historian, Richard Gerrard, of the Fort York National Historic Site. His lecture, **199 Years Later: Looking back at the Battle of York, 27 April 1813** re-examines the American capture of the Town of York in 1813. Using historical accounts and archaeological evidence to tell the story, we'll look at the events of that momentous day in the City of Toronto's history. And explode a few myths we've picked up along the way.

Richard Gerrard's career spans over 30 years as an archaeologist, material historian, museum registrar and university lecturer. In 2010 he was appointed as Fort York National Historic Site's Historian for the bicentennial of the War of 1812. He is currently conducting research for exhibitions for the fort's new visitor centre, and is editing a volume of first person accounts about York during the war.

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

(enter by the side gate from Winchester,
follow the path east to the meeting house.)



Visit CPA's updated site! URL below...

War, Power and Rebellion



Reminders of the 1837 Rebellion in the Necropolis



Websites: Street Surveys Digitized, Online Soon

Your home's history just clicks away

In a few weeks the websites of both the CPA and the Cabbagetown Heritage District Advisory Committee (HDC) will enable you to view details of your home's origin. Since the late nineties, the Cabbagetown HCD, under the energetic leadership of the late Peggy Kurtin for most of that time, has been surveying the homes of the current HCD area and, recently, the proposed HCD area southwest of Carlton/Parliament.

For over a decade volunteers have photographed each home in the area and researched its history. The information includes the home's date of construction, date of occupation, who the

original and some later owners were, the home's architectural style and more. The information is required by the City as part of the process of establishing the area as heritage. Most of this material had been stored as paper documents and has been digitized so that all of the material can be presented online. Half of the \$3000 cost of organizing the information into a searchable data base has been covered by the CPA; the other major donor is local realtor Norman Hathaway (www.schickhathawayhomes.com), also one of this paper's sponsors and a donor is being sought to complete the sum.

Please see page 2 for a report of the February 22 community meeting on the proposed HCD.

www.cabbagetownpa.ca

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Proposed HCD: Cabbagetown Southwest

Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) are an important and powerful part of the heritage planning framework in Ontario and the City of Toronto. They serve to ensure that historically significant neighbourhoods, such as ours are protected and continue to reflect our cultural heritage values and characteristics. HCDs are maintained so that every Torontonians, present and future, can appreciate and take pride in the City's rich cultural heritage.

A community meeting, to learn about the proposed Heritage Conservation District for Cabbagetown Southwest, was held on February 22, 2012 at the Central Neighbourhood House. This meeting was organized to help property owners understand what an HCD could mean for the community, to define the Cabbagetown HCD Advisory Committee's role, to gather support and create interest to proceed with a formal HCD nomination for the area.

For those who were unable to attend the meeting, highlights of the material covered are set out below:

Who Is Administering The HCD

Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Advisory Committee in coordination with residents of Cabbagetown Southwest & the Cabbagetown South Association

Proposed District Boundaries

Cabbagetown Southwest – See Map (Residential Area from Dr. O'Lane to the North Side of Shuter, East Side Sherbourne to East Side of Berkeley). Does not include the Cabbagetown BIA District along Gerrard Street. Property Count = 736

Historical Value Of The Area

- Cabbagetown Southwest was one of the first suburban developments in Toronto; 503 of the buildings date pre-1900.
- Out of the entire Cabbagetown area, homes in Southwest have remained virtually intact for more than 125 years.
- The area predominantly features Victorian Bay and Gable architecture making up over 200 of the residential homes. Probably the most prevalent Cabbagetown style, most were built in the later 1880s during the strong economic and population boom.

- Second Empire architecture is strongly represented with close to 60 residential homes beautifully intact (this figure includes Gerrard Street). This builder's pattern was imported from France, was used and applied by the wealthy and workers' alike.
- Queen Anne architecture is also well represented with close to 20 intact. This style expresses the exuberance and inventiveness of industrial-age builders.
- 63 Heritage Designated homes already exist within this proposed district.
- The oldest designated property is 241 Sherbourne Street - cited by the city as 1856.
- There is a remarkable 30-35 homes still intact built Pre-Confederation (1867).
- Intense development is encroaching the neighbourhood, which threatens the community's historical streetscapes.

Community Vision

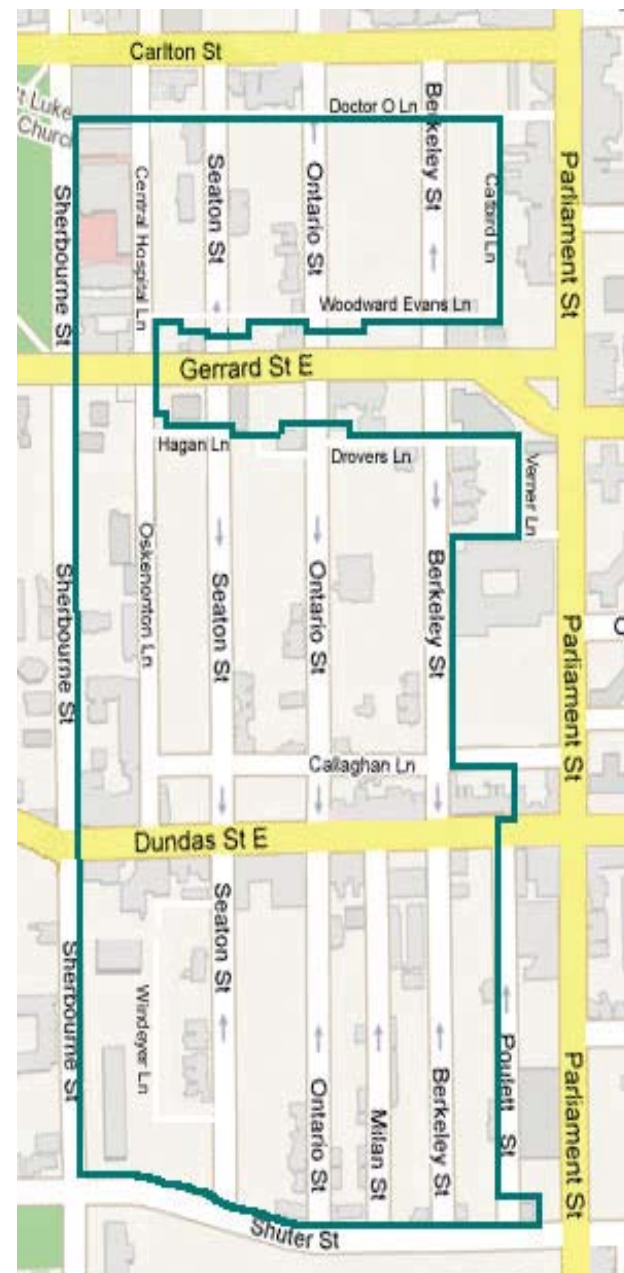
- To designate and protect this final residential piece of the 'Cabbagetown Family'.
- To restore unity to Cabbagetown and give residents a stronger and more official voice in decisions made on the future development of the area.
- To protect the area for future generations to enjoy.
- To increase both the economic and aesthetic value of the neighbourhood.

Business Improvement

- To raise the profile and attract new development, people, businesses and visitors to the district.
- To improve the means for preservation through provincial and municipal heritage grants, tax rebates and business incentives.
- To capitalize on the overall appeal of living and doing business in Cabbagetown; North America's largest continuous area of preserved 19th century housing.

Real Estate Impact

- A recent study, commissioned by the Toronto Heritage Preservation Services, indicates that HCD housing values are higher than housing values in adjacent districts;
- That HCD houses increased in value by a larger percentage than within adjacent houses;
- And that purchasing a house in an HCD will likely be more profitable than purchasing in non-heritage areas over time.



Status & Next Steps

- On March 6, 2012 Toronto City Council adopted a new document "Heritage Conservation Districts in Toronto: Procedures, Policies and Terms of Reference" for the nomination, studying and planning of HCDs in the City. The document is designed to create a consistent, transparent and fair approach to creating HCDs for neighbourhoods and areas all across the City.
- Working with Councillor Pam McConnell, the committee is currently preparing a formal nomination to submit to the City's Heritage Preservation Services (HPS) department.
- This nomination submission will help HPS staff understand what the district looks like, its history and why it should be protected as an HCD.
- If the nominated area is considered appropriate for an area study, HPS staff will set up a community meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive feedback from residents and property owners in the area and to answer general questions about HCDs, their implications and benefits.
- After the community meeting, HPS staff will prepare a report to City Council seeking authority to study the area. The area will be defined by a boundary that is informed by the nomination and additional analysis during neighbourhood visits and community meetings.
- If City Council determines that authorization to study should be granted, then the Cabbagetown HCD Advisory Committee will proceed to complete the study and write the HCD Plan, in accordance with the City's new Terms of Reference.

For more information on the proposed HCD, please feel free to contact the Cabbagetown HCD Advisory Committee:
 info@cabbagetownhcd.ca www.cabbagetownhcd.ca



Thank You...

...to our delivery volunteers!

There is an unsung group of volunteers in Cabbagetown who never receive any recognition or thanks for the work they do – the residents who deliver the CPA newsletter twice yearly. No matter what the weather, they deliver the paper on the route they have been assigned. The CPA has approximately forty people who deliver, with five captains who get the newsletters to them and check on delivery. The members of the CPA Board appreciate the work their neighbours do for the area – a BIG thank you!! to all who help.

For this newsletter, we are trying a different method of getting the newsletter to everyone in Cabbagetown east of Parliament and north of Carlton. For this once, we will not be using the services of our volunteers. For residents south of Carlton and west of Parliament, the newsletter delivery will remain the same. Many thanks to Susan Dineen for her organization of the delivery in that area and her continued assistance to the CPA in this regard.

Please let us know if you do not receive a newsletter, and we will get one to you. The newsletter is the CPA's primary means of communicating with the neighbourhood, so we want to make sure you get it.

Remember, you can also access the newsletters on the CPA's website: www.cabbagetownpa.ca.

If you do not get a newsletter and want a paper copy, call the Secretary, Sue McMurtry, at 416-964-8004, and she will deliver a copy to you.

Help, I'm Renovating!

Heritage Conservation District Help and Grant Applications

Owning a home in a heritage district gives us the advantages of living in a beautiful historic neighbourhood 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.
- the facade must remain the same or revert to the original.
- 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.

For more, please go to the HCD site www.cabbagetownhcd.ca or the CPA site at www.cabbagetownpa.ca.

For City restoration grant applications:
www.toronto.ca/heritage-preservation/grants/



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CRP Museum www.crpmuseum.com

Each year, the Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum has been fortunate to receive funding from the Young Canada Works Program, Canadian Heritage Internships.

The museum, the community, and Canadian Heritage at large have benefited from the results from these internships. Here is one of our success stories.

2011-2012 Young Canada Works Internship with the CRP Museum:

Digitizing the John Campey "7 News" collection
Kelli Babcock, April 17 2012

From October 2011 to March 2012 I was given the opportunity to work with the Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum (CRPM) through a Young Canada Works internship. The internship involved the coordination of a digitization project for the John Campey "7 News" collection - an archival collection of newspapers and other memorabilia. "7 News" was a popular community newspaper known throughout its publication span as "Seven News", "7 News" and the "Cabbagetown-Riverdale News". John Campey was a former editor of the paper and its eventual owner until it ceased publication in the mid '90s. The collection was donated to the CRPM in 2009. The goal of the internship was to digitize the collection and upload it to the Artefacts Canada website.



courtesy of UTSC Archives

With the recent completion of my Master of Library and Information Studies and previous experience with the National Gallery of Canada Library and Archives, the McGill University Archives, and the University of Toronto Scarborough Library, I was excited to bring my knowledge of digitization standards and archival theory to the CRPM. I was also eager to work in a museum/archives environment within a not-for-profit institution that served a dedicated community. While working at the CRPM I witnessed the strong support that the museum

Special Place, Special Architecture

And a Special Contribution Too by David Weenen

Cabbagetown's really got something special. Walk along any street and you can feast your eyes on some of the city's most architecturally fascinating homes and buildings. Created during the Victorian era when details in brickwork and woodwork were the rule not the exception, they boast an airy feel and give the neighbourhood a rich ambience and warmth, a kind of year-round gingerbread house coziness.

The special homes and other neighbourhood buildings have withstood numerous onslaughts, narrowly missing being wiped out for redevelopment and an expressway. A stroll through Cabbagetown, with its village feel, is in sharp, or maybe soft focus contrast to striding along many other less fortunate, plainer Toronto neighbourhoods.

And it's still important to treasure and maintain the beauty we are lucky enough to enjoy. One person who clearly felt strongly about keeping Victoriana Victorian was David Weenen, founder of Weenen General Contracting. David, sadly, passed away last year but his own homes and the many his firm worked on in the area are outstanding examples of restoration and recreation that display his passion for

receives from volunteers and other enthusiastic individuals from the Cabbagetown/Regent Park area.

Over the course of the internship, I digitized newspapers from the collection and created corresponding records for the newspapers within the CRPM's database. I created a cataloguing guide, based on guidelines set out in the Artefacts Canada Data Dictionary, for future volunteers and interns to reference during forthcoming digitization projects. There are over 370 newspapers in the collection that span the years of about 1970 to 1993. I recruited two wonderful volunteers, EV and Oriana Dunker, to help me with the scanning and image editing. After the newspaper images were edited, they were uploaded to the Artefacts Canada website along with their textual records which contain descriptions about the stories within each newspaper issue.



I also created a web finding aid for the collection to provide access to the newspapers through the CRPM's website. I encourage you to take a look, it can be viewed at: www.crpmuseum.com/index.php?article=215. Unfortunately, the duration of the internship was too short to scan through all of the newspapers and some still remain to be put online. I hope that future volunteers and interns will contribute to the completion of this fantastic project and, one day, the John Campey "Seven News" collection will be available in its entirety on the web.

Working on the John Campey "7 News" collection was a great experience. The newspapers contribute new narratives to the history of Cabbagetown and Regent Park. They are unique online resources for students, researchers and those with a general interest. I hope that the digitization of the "7 News" collection will promote access to these archival records and CRPM patrons will browse through the fascinating news stories contained within their pages.

Victoriana. Does anyone remember that at Parliament and Amelia there once was an actual Victorian gas station, built by Texaco, when faced with his persistence and fierce determination? It may not have been a genuine period piece, but it did feature the patterned brickwork that enabled it to blend with its Cabbagetown neighbours.

Important to Preserve the Neighbourhood Architecture

Joe Rozman, who now heads Weenen General Contracting, points out that restoring the façade of a Victorian home can require some special products and skills. "We import brick from Europe," he notes. "We have to find something that resembles the old Ontario brick. A lot of people replace windows and need a historically correct product that looks authentic. Gingerbread is done by a couple of specialists who replace rotting wood with longer lasting products that still give the proper look. In some areas of the city you will see replicas of Victoriana that somehow just don't look right. That's because the details are not correct. It's really important to a neighbourhood like Cabbagetown to get the work as close as possible to what was there originally. Everything depends on the accessibility of materials and skilled people and of course, budgets. But if you walk around Cabbagetown, with its splendid architecture the value of this work becomes obvious."

Of course, it's not just the homes and other buildings that make Cabbagetown a wonderful neighbourhood. There is an abundance of trees, gardens and amazing parks for residents and visitors alike to enjoy. The (please see page 5...) shopping

Cabbagetown People

The Social History of a Canadian Inner City Neighbourhood



Sir Ernest MacMillan

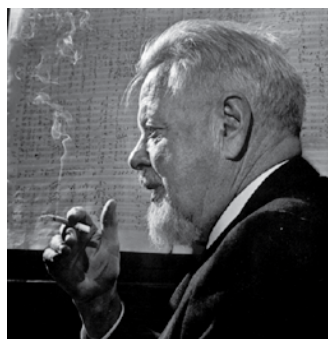
Composer, Conductor, Organist 1893 – 1973
 Plaque location: 152 Winchester Street



Born in Mimico, Ontario, of musical parents, Ernest was recognized as a child prodigy. He played the piano from age two and the pipe organ at his father's church, St. Enoch's on Winchester Street, from age seven.

He performed at Massey Hall when he was only eleven years old. A year later he was sent to Scotland to study with the best organist in the world and at age sixteen he graduated from Oxford University. At seventeen he received a Bachelor of Music, and also became a prize-winning Fellow of the Royal College of Organists – the youngest ever.

In 1914, he went to Germany to continue his musical studies but with the outbreak of World War I he was imprisoned and spent four years in Ruhleben prison camp. He continued to study music in prison, and at twenty-five (and still a prisoner) he became an Oxford Doctor of Music. He was released in 1918 and returned to Canada. A year later he married Elsie and over the next 10 years had four boys, two of whom died at birth.



From 1918 until 1926 he was organist of the new Timothy Eaton Memorial Church in Toronto. In 1926 he became head of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, and in the following year, Dean of Music at the University of Toronto.

He devoted his life to the musical well-being of his country, and spent from 1931 – 1956 as conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He was an accomplished composer, a brilliant organist and an Olympian educator. On September 26, 1935, he was conferred a knighthood in recognition of his musical accomplishments.

On May 3, 1956, the elegant Sir Ernest conducted his beloved Toronto Symphony for the last time as its musical director. It was an emotional end to a great career. The orchestra played their hearts out for him.

Give a Tour!

Calling former teachers, parents, and those interested in sharing the fascinating social history of our Cabbagetown neighbourhood with young minds!

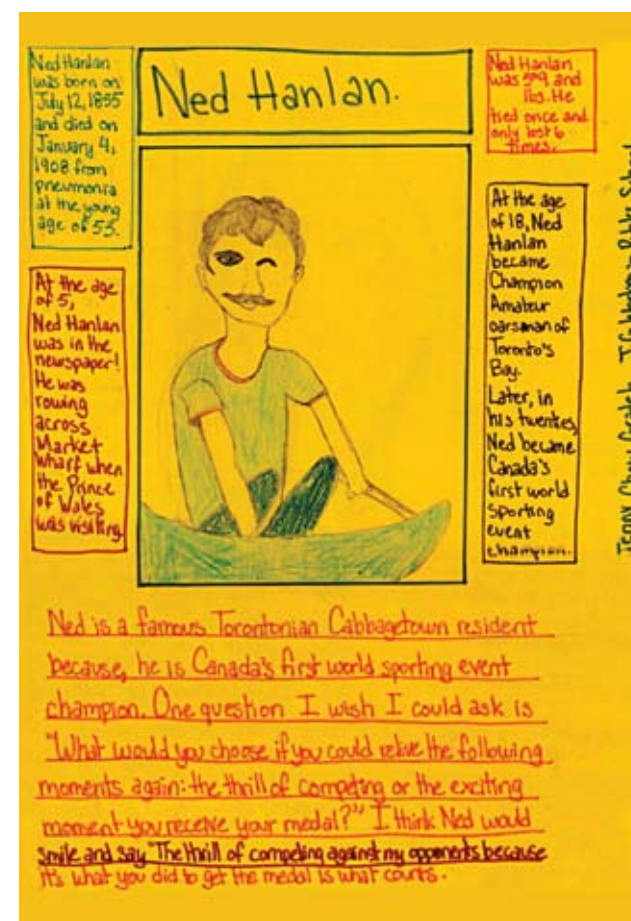


Join our cadre of tour guides who lead students of nearby schools on walking tours as part of the Cabbagetown People's Program for Schools.

Our Spring tours take place late May to the end of June, Monday through Friday, mid-morning and early afternoon. Classes are

divided into two tour groups with at least one accompanying staff member per tour group, and tours range in time from approximately 40 minutes (Primary grades) to an hour and 15 minutes.

Training, scripts and supporting materials provided. Please contact us at: people@cabbagetownpa.ca



A sample of follow-up student work by Jenny Chow of J G Workman Public School, 2011.

Who put the Bricks in the Park?

Over the last year and a half the Riverdale Park West Landscape Revitalization Plan has been developed by an impressive variety of community groups, including the CPA. Even before the plan was under way, Randy Brown, the organizer of the The Cabbagetown Art & Crafts Sale in Riverdale Park, had planned an improvement to the park that we are now enjoying:

by Randy Brown

Last fall in Riverdale Park the city did some construction work. The pathway across the top was paved and a large brick patio was created outside the farm gates. On the edge of the semi-circle are a couple of rows of bricks with names and dedications etched into them. How did all this come to pass?

I have been running The Cabbagetown Art & Crafts Sale in Riverdale Park on the weekend after Labour Day for the last 24 years. Over that time, the pathways in our park have deteriorated. Parts of those pathways have become so degraded that they are a hazard to Cabbagetowners and our visitors.

The Cabbagetown Art & Crafts depends on those pathways and I felt I owed it to this community to help fix this problem. I read about the Glen Cedar Park project where the locals managed to raise enough money to completely refurbish their tiny park by selling bricks. Great idea!

I personally approached Mark Hawkins, General Supervisor (Wards 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32), Parks - Toronto & East York District, to ask if I could encourage Parks to repair our pathways if I raised the money by selling bricks. Mark believes that the community should improve their park and he steered my request through Parks and assigned minor capital funds to the repairs made by City staff. Mark has been instrumental in making this project happen.

Although this fund raiser was my personal project, I persuaded Cabbagetown Art & Crafts to donate \$5,000 to new pathways and to put a notice on the website. I handed out flyers throughout the neighborhood, ignoring those "No flyers, please" signs because I thought you would want to know). The 4x8" bricks were \$100; the 8x8" bricks were \$150.

Over about a year and half the orders trickled in. By last spring we had raised a total of about \$20,000. The work went ahead in the fall of 2011.

At the same time, community groups were organizing into the Riverdale Park West Improvement Planning Committee, which was responsible for surveying the Cabbagetown community and reflecting their feedback in a compelling case for change that they presented to City staff and Councillor McConnel, who supported the work. A parks designer was assigned and a public meeting held. The revitalization plan now in existence is a guide

for future redevelopment of the park. The patio in front of the Farm was part of that plan.

Riverdale Park is in dire need of many more improvements. Over the next few years we expect to get the pool removed and a waterplay area created. New lighting will also be installed. At the same time, in the centre of the park where the pathways intersect, another large patio will be created with permanent benches. Our engraved bricks will eventually be placed in this central patio. According to Parks, this whole area will have to be done at the same time and we have to wait for this uncertain future project to fix our pathways.

I am pleased to have provided a spark to start on these improvements. Having managed to get one pathway done, I am hopeful that it will hurry the rest of this project. I am still looking for ways to raise money to make it happen so if you have any ideas, call me. In the meantime, we still have more than 50 bricks for sale, to be placed in front of the farm until the creation of this central patio. Just download the form from the website "cabbagetownartandcrafts.org". Thanks to all the Cabbagetowners who have invested in their park.



Sixth Annual CPA Garden Tour

Hidden Gardens and Private Spaces Ten gardens on view, Sunday, June 3 10:00am - 3:00pm

This self-guided tour through the streets of the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District of downtown Toronto brings visitors along quiet back lanes or tree-lined streets to hidden alcoves of greenery. Visit unique urban gardens from the quaint to the quirky. Proud gardeners will be on site to answer questions about the creative use of small spaces, the challenges of urban wildlife, and choices of plants and other materials. Use the map on your ticket as well as balloon bouquets at garden entrances as guides as you stroll through our charming neighbourhood. Some gardens can only be entered from back lanes with intriguing names: Yen, Magic, Gordon Sinclair or Nuthatch. Let your imagination take you back to the turn of the last century when these lanes were used by delivery carts filled with ice, coal, bread or milk. Along the way, also note some community gardens such as at Prospect and Parliament, Winchester and Parliament and Sword Street - the boulevard gardens.

Tickets go on sale April 30th for \$15:00. Get your ticket early; this tour sells out. For ticket vendors and further information visit www.cabbagetownpa.ca

Attention all gardeners

Every year the HG&PS Tour Committee, known simply as the Garden Tour, pokes about back lanes, peeks over fences, opens gates, always in search of that elusive beautiful back garden that owners are shy to present as part of the tour.

Be shy no longer! Just let us know that you are willing and we will do the rest. If you are the neighbour of a charming backyard space, convince that gardener to share the beauty and be a part of the tour. Gardeners are a special breed and the day of the tour is always fun and educational. Who knew purslane would be the new arugula! AND it grows everywhere!

To put your garden on the tour, visit our web site and sent us an email.

Nominate a Garden

Walking your dog? Visiting the Riverdale Farm? Just strolling the streets? If you pass by a particularly alluring front garden, consider nominating it for the annual **Streetscapes in Bloom** Award. Nominations close on Sunday, May 27, 2012.

For more information, visit the CPA website and click on Streetscapes Award.

(from page 3) is unique too, and getting better all the time as established grocery chains open up nearby while our amazing delis and specialty food places are the toast of all Toronto.

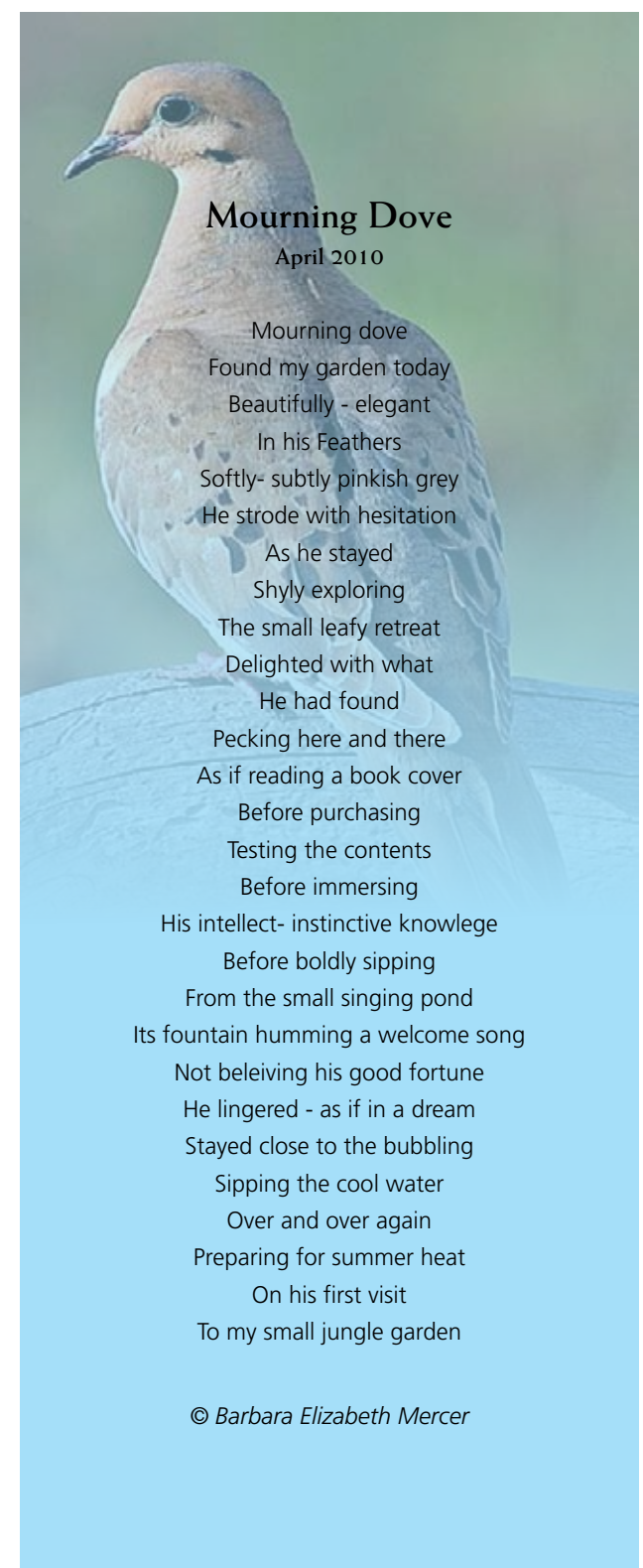
However, it's the homes that shine most of all. They come in all sizes and shapes, including tiny cottages that would hardly hold two people when they were built but have now been cunningly renovated to make gracious homes. The frequent groups of row houses number only four or five at a time (not hundreds) and they are joined by what were and still are mansions, resplendent outside and in. Joe notes that for Cabbagetowners, passion for their homes is something that is unabated. "People lavish attention on their homes here," he notes. "We have a team of people who are experts in this work and it's a good thing we do. Some of our suppliers have been in business since the buildings themselves were built and they have the kind of knowledge Cabbagetown homeowners need. David Weenen had a great love for this area and we are proud to continue his traditions."



Entering the garden at 40 Gifford Street.



The garden on Wellesley Avenue.



Mourning Dove

April 2010

Mourning dove
Found my garden today
Beautifully - elegant
In his Feathers
Softly- subtly pinkish grey
He strode with hesitation
As he stayed
Shyly exploring
The small leafy retreat
Delighted with what
He had found
Pecking here and there
As if reading a book cover
Before purchasing
Testing the contents
Before immersing
His intellect- instinctive knowlege
Before boldly sipping
From the small singing pond
Its fountain humming a welcome song
Not believing his good fortune
He lingered - as if in a dream
Stayed close to the bubbling
Sipping the cool water
Over and over again
Preparing for summer heat
On his first visit
To my small jungle garden

© Barbara Elizabeth Mercer

(from page 6) St. James was created as an Anglican cemetery. Many prominent members of the Family Compact are buried there: Chief Justice Robertson, Samuel Jarvis, Sheriff William Jarvis, etc. Although he leaned more on the side of the reformers, Robert Baldwin is also buried at St. James.

After their execution, the bodies of Lount and Matthews made their way to Potter's Field. It was a cemetery at Yonge and Bloor used to bury indigents and criminals. When Potter's Field closed in the early 1850s, Lount and Matthews were reinterred in a singlegrave at the Necropolis. The Necropolis is also the final resting place of the most famous rebel: William Lyon Mackenzie.

In partnership with Heritage Toronto, the Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) will lead a free walking tour to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Rebellion of 1837. The tour will take visitors to both the St. James Cemetery and the Necropolis and to the graves of famous rebels and Family Compact members. We will tell their stories. The tour is scheduled for **Saturday August 11, 2012 at 1:30 pm**. It starts inside the gates of the St. James Cemetery on Parliament Street, just north of Wellesley Street East. For more information, visit the CPA (www.cabbagetownpa.ca) or Heritage Toronto (www.heritagetoronto.org).



War, Power and Rebellion

War, Power and Rebellion: Two important anniversaries in 2012

By Gilles Huot

Bicentennial of the War of 1812

It hasn't always been about fighting traffic and cross-border shopping. Hard to believe that we were once at war with our American neighbours. Indeed, the British Empire (part of which was Upper Canada/Ontario) was at war with the United States. In 1812-13, Upper Canada (Ontario) - mainly the Niagara peninsula - and parts of Lower Canada (Quebec) became one of the battlegrounds for this war between old and emerging superpowers. Some of the fighting even came all the way up to York (that was to become Toronto). As far as we know, Cabbagetown didn't play a role in this war. But Cabbagetown's main street, Parliament Street, is named after the Upper Canada parliament buildings that stood near the corner of Parliament Street and Front Street. The Upper Canada parliament buildings were destroyed by fire in April 1813 as a result of an attack by the Americans. This year, many events will commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812. There are many resources and sources of information but www.visit1812.com and www.toronto.ca/1812/events.htm are a good place to start.

175th Anniversary of the Rebellion of 1837

Cabbagetown is the resting place of many of the main actors of the Rebellion of 1837.

Friendships and alliances forged during the War of 1812 marked the immediate future of the young British colony of the Province of Upper Canada. In fact, a ruling elite emerged. Their values were likely shaped in reaction to American-inspired republicanism, another legacy of the War of 1812.

In the years following the War of 1812, the elite, British-born and Anglican, ruled Upper Canada with a tight fist. They got to be known as the "Family Compact". They greatly influenced government, the justice system, education and religion. Positions of power were occupied by Family Compact members and their supporters. Important decisions such as the attribution of land and property - extremely important for a young developing colony - favoured them as well. The Constitutional Act of 1791 established a government structure where the elite had a place of choice and where the Anglican clergy got ownership of and revenues from great land reserves.

The political and judicial structures also leaned in favour of the Family Compact. Leaders of the Family Compact such as Chief Justice John Beverley Robinson and Bishop John Strachan saw this way of governing as ideal, especially in light of the despicable "democracy" that had emerged south of the border.

Of course, not everyone saw things this way. Several attempts were made to dislodge the Family Compact or at least to share in the power and decision-making. But they failed.

A strange firebrand soon became the voice of opposition. In 1824, William Lyon Mackenzie started publishing his own one-sheet newspaper with the Family Compact in his cross hairs. His editorials were very critical. It didn't go unpunished. For example, one day while Mackenzie was out, a group of youths led by Samuel Peters Jarvis (yes, Jarvis Street is named after him) entered his print shop, destroyed the printing press and threw the types in Lake Ontario. Unsurprisingly, justice was kind to Jarvis and he just got a slap on the wrist. But Mackenzie sued, won, and was able to buy - with the fine raised from Family Compact members donations - new equipment and was able to continue publishing his newspaper.

He ran for political office several times and was finally successful in 1834. He became the first Mayor of the newly incorporated and renamed City of Toronto. Mackenzie's stint as Mayor was short and ineffectual. The city was marred in debt and debates

at council went nowhere. After leaving office, he continued to push for constitutional reform.

Life was hard for most in the early days of the colony. Upper Canada's population was a mixed bag: newly arrived British aristocrats but also many immigrants coming to Upper Canada seeking a better life. Many also were Loyalists, and their descendants, who had left the United States in the wake of the War of Independence.

Mackenzie was getting support from the population but there were no signs that change was on the way. Frustration and despair were running high. In late 1837, conditions were ripe for action. Most of Toronto's British garrison had been dispatched to Lower Canada to deal with tensions that would evolve into the Lower Canada Rebellion. Over a few weeks, Mackenzie and his colleagues rallied as many supporters as possible to the cause since they now thought that overthrowing the government was the only option to get constitutional reform. His main lieutenants, Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews, were also busy drumming up support.

And so came the day when the Upper Canada Rebellion began. In early December 1837, rebels gathered at the Montgomery Tavern, on Yonge Street, north of Eglinton. After a few days of indecision, they walked down Yonge Street where they were met, near College Street, by a militia led by Toronto's Sheriff William Bostford Jarvis. His cousin, Samuel Peters Jarvis - the one who had earlier destroyed Mackenzie's press - was part of the volunteer militia. A few shots were exchanged but the ill-prepared rebels quickly dispersed. They regrouped at the Montgomery Tavern. On December 7, troops recruited by the authorities from loyal areas of the province marched on the Tavern. With little fighting, the rebels surrendered or dispersed. The Montgomery Tavern was torched and burned to the ground.

Mackenzie was able to flee to the United States and spent the next few years of his life in exile. He eventually was pardoned and returned. Many including his lieutenants Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews were less fortunate. They were captured and their fate was to take another bad turn.

Samuel Lount was born in the United States but had settled near the Newmarket area where he was a blacksmith and also ran a tavern. He was known for his generosity. His stature in the community was growing. He started dabbling into politics and Mackenzie's reform politics resonated with him. Many of the rebels came from north of Toronto following Lount's lead.

Peter Matthews was born in the Bay of Quinte area and eventually settled near Pickering. He had a bit of military experience, having fought in the War of 1812. He was a farmer who yearned for change and better living conditions. He also joined Mackenzie's movement.

Following the "failed" Rebellion, over 900 were arrested. Most of the captured rebels were released. Less than 40 were tried and sentenced. Among them were Lount and Matthews who were thrown in the Toronto Gaol (Jail) which at the time was near the corner of Toronto Street and King Street. Adjacent to the Jail was the Courthouse on Adelaide Street. Both buildings shared a courtyard. The rebels' trial was presided over by Chief Justice - and also Family Compact leader - John Beverley Robinson.

A young lawyer named Robert Baldwin defended most of the rebels, including Lount and Matthews. Baldwin was a moderate supporter of reform but had been opposed to the Rebellion. He had unsuccessfully tried to negotiate a truce with the insurgents on December 5, 1837. Later, he went on to play an important role in the post-Rebellion years leading with his political partner Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine the first "responsible" Canadian government.

Baldwin's defense of Lount and Matthews was ineffective as both of the accused had pleaded guilty to high treason.

Most rebels found guilty of treason were condemned to be taken to the penal colony that was Australia at the time. Some who were sentenced to death saw their penalty commuted to the long trip to Australia. However, Chief Justice Robinson and Lieutenant-Governor Arthur thought that some "examples" should be made. Lount and Matthews were to be those examples. They were sentenced to death by hanging.

The gallows were built in the courtyard linking the Courthouse and the Jail, within view and earshot of Lount and Matthews' cells. Despite petitions signed by thousands of people calling for clemency and commutation of their death sentences, their fate was sealed.

On April 12, 1838, Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews were led up the steps of the gallows by Sheriff William Bostford Jarvis. Hundreds witnessed the execution. At the time, public hangings were a festive occasion with families often bringing food for a picnic while watching the "entertainment".

A plaque at 1 Toronto Street reminds the passerby of the events of April 1838.

A year later, William Lyon Mackenzie described the execution of his colleagues in the "Caroline Almanac" for 1840 (Rochester, 1839):

April 12. 1838, Messrs. LOUNT and MATTHEWS, two of the bravest of the Canada patriots, were executed this day, by order of Sir George Arthur, and at the urgent request of Chief Justice Robinson; Hagerman the Attorney General; and Sullivan, Baldwin, Elmsley, Allan and Draper, the Executive Council. Petitions to Arthur, signed by upwards of 30,000 persons were presented, asking him to spare their lives, but in vain. Capt. Matthews left a widow and fifteen children, and Colonel Lount a widow and seven children. He was upwards of six feet in height, very good looking, and in his 47th year. Arthur was earnest to know of Lount who the leaders were, but, except that he told him that Dr. Rolph was the Executive, he answered him not a word. They behaved with great resolution at the gallows; they would not have spoken to the people, had they desired it. The spectacle of Lount after the execution was the most shocking sight that can be imagined. He was covered over with his blood; the head being nearly severed from his body, owing to the depth of the fall. More horrible to relate, when he was cut down, two ruffians seized the end of the rope and dragged the mangled corpse along the ground into the jail yard, some one exclaiming "this is the way every damned rebel deserves to be used".

But the story doesn't end here. Becoming a purely Canadian paradox, the "failure" of the Rebellions of both Upper and Lower Canada sowed the seeds of a new era. It made the far-away King and government in London notice that there were troubles in the colonies. Lord Durham was dispatched to analyze the situation. He came up with recommendations that made French Canadians revile him. But he also recommended the unification of Upper and Lower Canada and the establishment of responsible government, with a legislative assembly elected by the people. This was at the heart of the demands of Mackenzie and the rebels. A responsible government was eventually established. In the end, the Rebellion had paved the way for the evolution of the British colony of North America and for what was going to happen on July 1, 1867 and beyond.

So, who said that Canadian history is boring?

Many of the actors on both sides of the Rebellion of 1837 are buried in two of Toronto's most beautiful cemeteries: St. James Cemetery and the Necropolis. Both are in Cabbagetown and only a few blocks away from each other. *(please see page 5)*

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Don Vale Cabbagetown Residents Association

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 29th, 2012
at the Winchester Kitchen
51 Winchester Street - 7:00 p.m.

Immediately Followed By:
A Wine Tasting Event
Co-Hosted by
Lifford Wine Agency

Members and non-members alike
are welcome to attend both events!
Wine tasting is free for members
and \$5 for non-members
Please R.S.V.P. to
info@cabbagetowner.com
by Friday May 25th, 2012



Rosie Shephard, a Young Painter in Cabbagetown.



My name is Rosie Shephard and I am a 12 year old girl living in Cabbagetown. Ever since I was very small I have loved to draw, paint, and sketch everything around me. I have illustrated and written my own books since the age of 4 and I have been designing fashions since a young age. I live with my Mom, Dad and little Brother. My brother and I are the 5th generation in our Cabbagetown house and are the 6th generation in Cabbagetown. My mom is a successful architect in Toronto. She also is good at drawing and painting and has taught me a lot. In the summer or on trips, my mom and I often sketch and paint together. Together as a family, we have visited many art galleries in our travels in Europe. They have inspired me in my drawing and painting.

Most recently, I painted some houses and buildings of Cabbagetown, such as 'the Necropolis Chapel' and my own house, '14 Sackville Place' in an effort to try and capture the uniqueness of the Cabbagetown houses. I was inspired to do these paintings because of my family's Cabbagetown history, my heritage house, and our amazing neighborhood. I sold prints of my watercolour paintings at the Cabbagetown Festival in 2011, at a stand in front of my house. I have been a participant in the Cabbagetown Festival since a baby and have always wanted to sell something too. Since September, I have received several commissions from local residents to draw and paint their homes. I often personalize my paintings by adding details such as a family pet or a person peeking through a window, or a bird perched on a branch. I think that my paintings are made unique by the immense detail and creativity I put into them.

Design Global, Act Local

Cabbagetown's home décor shop of KENDALL & Co Interior Design is the official point of sale for the CPA tea towels, designed by graphic designer and long-time Cabbagetowner, Steve Yeates (<http://www.steveyeates.ca>). This popular memorabilia continues to generate funds back to the CPA while marketing the efforts of the CPA to the local community and beyond.

Now, in cooperation with the Riverdale Farm Advisory Council, KENDALL & Co launches The Riverdale Farm Collection, an assortment of charming home accents and gifts, inspired by our Riverdale Farm. Some items are named after the beloved animals that give the farm its character.

Priced from \$12 to \$72, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this select merchandise will be donated to the Farm through your purchase. Browse the current series and watch for new items or purchase CPA tea towels at KENDALL & Co's new boutique at 227 Carlton Street (416.363.9914 - shop@kendallandco.ca) or online at <http://kendallandco.ca/fyi/retail/riverdale-farm-collection/>.

To learn more about the Riverdale Farm Advisory Council and get involved in our SAVE THE FARM campaign, visit www.riverdalefarm.ca

Tours on Demand

In addition to the free tours we give in Spring and Summer, the CPA offers 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, \$10 per person to a maximum of \$100 for 15 people. For information email cpa@cabbagetownpeople.ca

Time on your hands?

How about stepping up and volunteering for our fund-raising events: Hidden Gardens and Private Spaces Tour or the annual Tour of Homes. Both events are always seeking enthusiastic volunteers to give a few hours of time to our worthy causes. Funds raised support the Cabbagetown People Program, the awards given, the Heritage signage banners, and walking tour brochures....among other projects. Come out and support the work of the CPA to keep our neighbourhood beautiful.

Newsletter designed by:



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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