



Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighborhood



CPA is now on:

Award Winners: CPA, Dachi... page 3

Widows, Weeds and Weepers: Victorian Mourning Customs at CPA Night

Presented by Virginia Van Vliet
Monday November 25, 2013 at 7:00 pm
Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club, 101 Spruce Street

Death was a daily possibility in Victorian times, lurking in every sip of untreated water or dose of patent medicine and hanging around every child birth. Parents were warned not to get too attached to their children as, on average, 25% of them would die before the age of 19. With loss a part of life, the Victorians developed an aesthetic of death involving elaborate funeral and mourning rituals. Come and learn about the Victorian mourning customs, from widow's weeds and jewelry to hair wreaths and spirit photography.

Although originally from Montreal, Virginia has been a resident of Cabbagetown for more than 35 years. A retired librarian, she leads historic walking tours throughout the city for the Royal Ontario Museum and in Cabbagetown for the Cabbagetown Preservation Association. Virginia is also a volunteer with the Toronto Cat Rescue. Her daughter says that Virginia's tombstone will read: "Tried to save the world one cat at a time."

Join us on November 25 for what promises to be a fascinating evening.

The Necropolis: City of the Dead

Virginia Van Vliet casts a light on Cabbagetown's Necropolis cemetery with this brief history of how it came to be and it's cast of historic characters.

Death was everywhere in Victorian Toronto. Immigrants brought waves of typhoid and cholera. Parents were warned not to become too fond of their children lest measles, chicken pox or tuberculosis carry them off. For women, child birth was a constant danger. As a Victorian adage warned: Those who marry late protect their fate. Those who early wed make a widower's bed. And then there were accidents – train wrecks, drowning, falling tree branches, runaway horses. Not much point in calling a doctor either; their prescriptions of turpentine, mercury or morphine being as likely to kill as cure.

So it was hardly surprising that by mid-century there was need for a new graveyard in Toronto. In 1850 18 acres of land were purchased from the Scadding family for \$16,000 to open a non-denominational cemetery at the end of Winchester Street. This site was seen as a good location – near enough to the city for people to reach it but in an area that was still largely undeveloped. Named The Necropolis, a Greek word meaning "city of the dead", the cemetery was laid out in the newly popularized "park style" with plantings of trees and winding paths to create a calm and peaceful setting.

In 1872 a chapel, gate and superintendent's lodge were added. Designed by Toronto architect Henry Langley in the Gothic Revival style, the chapel's tall spire, pointed arches and thin lancet windows are all designed to draw the eye upwards to heaven.



Over its more than 150 year history a number of famous – and many more not so famous – people have been buried in the Necropolis.

Best known perhaps is William Lyon MacKenize, Toronto's first mayor and instigator of the Rebellion of 1837. When the Rebellion failed he escaped across the Niagara River, living in New York City until he was pardoned in 1849. Not so lucky were two of the rebels, Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews, the only two men hanged for their part in the rebellion. Their graves are marked by a broken red granite column symbolizing lives cut short. This monument was erected in 1893, paid for by the grateful citizens of Toronto to mark the men's role in bringing responsible government.

Another well known figure is George Brown, Father of Confederation and founder of The Globe. Sadly it was his love of his newspaper that resulted in his death. Retiring from politics after Confederation, he returned to Toronto to edit The Globe. In March 1880 a disgruntled engine room worker, George Bennett, fired for drunkenness, stormed into Brown's office asking for a reference. When Brown told him he would need to speak to his foreman, Bennett drew a pistol and shot Brown in the thigh. The wound became infected and Brown died in early May. Bennett also died that year, hanged across the river from the Necropolis at the Don Jail.

Buried near Brown are two people declared persons of National Historic Significance by the federal government in 1999: Thornton and Lucie

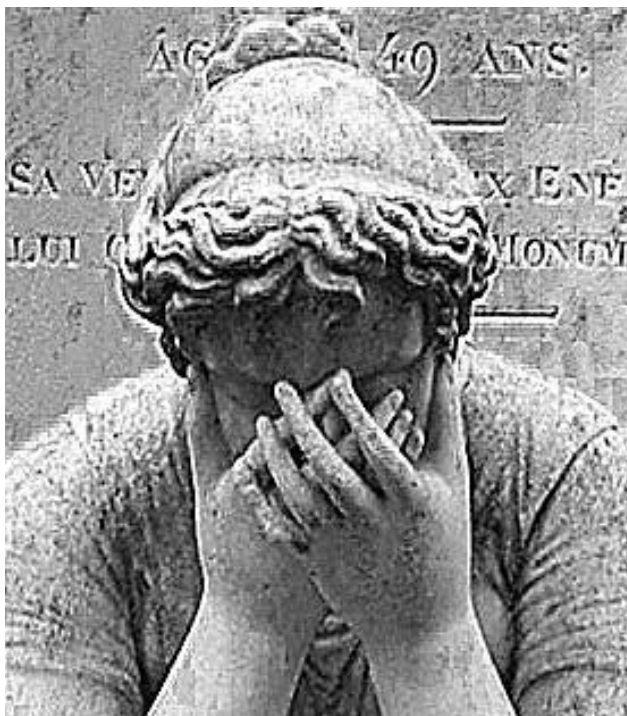


Dachi Co-op. Watercolour: Alan Waterhouse



Blackburn. Born into slavery in Virginia, they managed to escape, but were captured by bounty hunters in Detroit and jailed. A riot broke out in opposition to this seizure and both Lucie and Thornton were rescued in the confusion and fled across the river to settle in Toronto. Thornton built the city's first public transportation, a horse drawn hackney cab, called "the City". He became wealthy enough to own, at his death, a fleet of cabs, a house at Sackville and Eastern and an estate of \$17,000.

The Necropolis is also the burial place of the man called Canada's first sporting hero, rower Ned Hanlan. Born in 1855, the son of a fisherman and boat builder on Toronto Island, Ned spent his childhood on the water. At 18 he began to race competitively and at the age of 25 he became world champion. When he returned to Toronto after this win he was greeted by a flotilla of boats three miles long. When he retired in 1897 he had won more than 300 races, losing less than a dozen. In fact, he won so easily that sometimes he would slow down to make a better race.



But it is not just the famous who are buried in the Necropolis. One of the saddest grave stone is that marking the burial of five young girls from the Ward family, all under the age of twelve. Their father was a fisherman on the island that now bears his name. On May 12, 1862 the girls were out sailing in the harbour with their brother William when a heavy gust of wind capsized the boat. William managed to pull three of the girls into the boat only to have it capsize again. As *The Globe* wrote at the time, William's sisters "sunk before his eyes to rise no more in this life". Perhaps as a result of this traumatic experience, William became involved in water rescue, saving some 160 people. His most famous rescue occurred on December 7, 1868 when a schooner from Port Hope ran aground on the island. Despite freezing temperatures and high winds, William and with his friend the black boxing champion Robert Berry, rowed out to the ship seven times saving all the crew. For his bravery Ward received the British Royal Humane Society's silver medal, the first time it was presented in Canada.

Another ordinary person buried here is Hannah Horsman. Her tomb, a flat stone in the form of partly unrolled scroll, matches a miniature version that lies next to it dedicated to her daughter Georgeina Phillips Horsman, "Our Birdie", who died at 17 months. If that was not sad enough for the family, Hannah herself died five years later from complications after giving birth to a son, Albert Abraham. He in turn died before his first birthday and was buried with his mother. And what of Mr. Horsman, who described Hannah as "his beloved wife"? He moved to Winnipeg, remarried and settled in Calgary where he lived a long life.

Of course, not all burials in the Necropolis are old. Jack Layton, Toronto city councilor and leader of the NDP was buried here in 2011, his grave marked by a bust sculpted by his wife Olivia Chow.

Interested in finding out more about this topic? Attend the November 25th CPA Meeting to hear about *Widow's Weeds and Weepers*: Victorian burial customs.

Toronto's Bohemia: Cabbagetown's Musicians, Artists, and Writers

By Gilles Huot

At their height, Queen Street West and Yorkville were coined Toronto's "bohemia". But another quirky Toronto neighbourhood, Cabbagetown, has been - for many years - a magnet for artists, musicians, and writers.

Why did they end up in Cabbagetown? Although rough and grubby at times, the enchanting character of this victorian enclave has surely something to do with it. Indeed, Cabbagetown hasn't always been the real estate agent's dream it is now. Two world wars, the Great Depression, the rise of the suburbs - and the decline that followed - saw Cabbagetown abandoned by city planners and, in the words of the author of *Cabbagetown*, Hugh Garner, become "the largest Anglo-Saxon slum in North America". Artists and writers rarely strike it rich, especially during their lifetime... Before and at the beginning of Cabbagetown's "gentrification" - in the 1970s and 1980s - Cabbagetown's sturdy houses sold for a fraction of what they're worth today, and this appealed to many. These faded beauties were awaiting their reawakening and many professors and teachers, artists, and writers snapped up these homes and started re-energizing the area.

Many of Cabbagetown writers and artists have left an important imprint on their field: many earned Governor General Awards, Order of Canada, Lifetime Achievement Awards, Toronto Arts Awards for Literature, Arts Medals, etc. Cabbagetown was even once the home of an actor who started a movie dynasty and earned an Academy Award.

The stories below are only a sampling of the many writers, artists, and musicians who called Cabbagetown home.

Dancers

Today's Cabbagetown is home to several dance organizations: the Toronto Dance Theatre (on Winchester), the Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre/Canadian Children's Dance Theatre (on Parliament), the Dance Umbrella of Ontario (on Parliament), a handful of private dance studios, etc. This abundance of dance organizations may not be an accident but simply the continuation of a tradition.

One of the National Ballet of Canada pillars, Betty Oliphant (1918-2004), lived in Cabbagetown (Amelia Street). She came to Canada from England as a war bride. Classical ballet was her passion but it turns out that she was too tall to have a career as a dancer. She channeled her passion into teaching ballet. She co-founded the National Ballet School with Celia Franca. She was a great but demanding teacher, always stressing the importance of mastering technique, with the sole purpose of achieving freedom of expression. The National Ballet School is celebrated worldwide and provides the best dance training combined with actual academic schooling. Karen Kain, one of Ms. Oliphant's early students, also lived in Cabbagetown on Winchester Street. Celia Franca lived on Carlton Street, just east of Sherbourne Street, almost Cabbagetown...

Musicians

Just a few years ago, it would have been possible to bump into Avril Lavigne running errands on Parliament Street, just a bloc away from where she lived. In the early 1980s, Carole Pope shackled up for a few months with Dusty Springfield on Geneva Street.

In the 1970s, the folk music band Perth County Conspiracy jammed away in an old victorian home on Winchester Street. Had they been contemporaries, the folk band members would have been neighbours to two giants of another type of music. Lotfi Mansouri (1929-2013), the Canadian Opera Company General Director from 1976 to 1988, lived across the street on Winchester. Just down the street, but many years before, lived a little boy who was to become Sir Ernest Macmillan. Ernest was born in 1893. His parents soon

realized that he was a child prodigy. At age 2, his little fingers already knew their way around a piano. And from age 7, he played the pipe organ at his father's church, St. Enoch (now the home of the Toronto Dance Theatre at Winchester and Metcalfe). Ernest was in Germany pursuing his musical studies when the First World War broke out. He was imprisoned but was able to continue his studies while a prisoner of war. He returned to Canada in 1918. A brilliant career awaited him as a musician and teacher: renowned organist, head of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, dean of Music at the University of Toronto, etc. He's mostly known for his long tenure as conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (1931-1956). He also left many memorable compositions. Macmillan died in 1973.

Luigi von Kunitz (1870-1931), a classically trained musician and music teacher, also lived in Cabbagetown (Ontario Street). He came to Toronto from Vienna in 1912 and was an inspiration to many of his students. He eventually founded the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and was its first conductor.

Three brothers - Harry, Murray, and John Adaskin - were all brilliant musicians, conductors, and music teachers. These Cabbagetowners (Sherbourne Street) were all students of Luigi von Kunitz and left their mark on the Canadian music scene. For example, John encouraged the use of Canadian music in the teaching of music. The John Adaskin Project continues to this day.

Writers

Hugh Garner immortalized the area where he grew up - Cabbagetown - in his novel *Cabbagetown*. It's a sobering story of working class Toronto around the Depression. His work received many accolades, including the Governor General's Literary Award.

Al Purdy (1918-2000) is probably one of the best known Canadian poets. In his writings, he made the ordinary extraordinary. *Cabbagetown* - he lived on Sackville Street - was an early influence on him. The then Riverdale Zoo (now the location of the Riverdale Park West and Riverdale Farm) also inspired him and is at the heart of his beautiful poem entitled *In Cabbagetown*.

Sarah Anne Curzon (1833-1898) was a pioneer of women's rights and a prolific writer, playwright, and journalist. She lived on Carlton Street near Metcalfe. As a journalist, she wrote about women's suffrage. She also pushed for the novel ideal that property rights for women should be equal to men's, and that women should also have access to higher education. She supported the establishment of the Women's Medical College that eventually opened on Sumach Street. She thought that the moral lessons of Canadian history could be thought using novels, poetry, and plays. One of the characters she admired, Laura Secord, became the heroine of one of her plays. That play made Laura Secord a household name. Interestingly, the house where Curzon lived on Carlton Street was rented out by the renowned soprano Joan Sutherland while singing *Tosca* in Toronto.

It is still not unusual to bump into some famous writers (Ondaatje, Gwyn, etc.) walking their dog in one of Cabbagetown's streets or parks, or running errands on Parliament Street.

Painters/Visual Artists

Some local artists take part in the annual Cabbagetown Festival of the Arts in September. They're the continuation of proud tradition. Many painters have lived in Cabbagetown but the stories of a few of them bubble up to the surface. Although they were exceptional and acclaimed artists, they often quietly started or lived their lives here, often unnoticed.

Jack Nichols (1921-2009) was a talented draftsman and an accomplished painter. He was a quiet neighbour, living on Sackville Street near Carlton. As a young man, he worked as a deckhand on cargo boats working the Great Lakes. He enlisted in the Merchant

Navy during WWII and was appointed "official war artist". Of this time emerged fascinating and haunting pieces. He soon became a world-renowned painter. But he was a quiet man and his fame was unbeknownst to his neighbours.

A few blocks east, on Sumach Street, lived Bill Stapleton (1916-2008) who could often be seen from the street sitting in front of his easel on the second floor of his home. Stapleton would hang out, often sketching, at old Cabbagetown haunts: the rowdy Winchester Hotel, the Paramount Tavern and Trojan Coffee House. He had deep seated political opinions, supported labour, and pushed for social justice. He travelled to the Soviet Union, Nicaragua, etc. He painted in vibrant colours and broad strokes. As part of the ArtHeart after-school children's art program, he would sketch the children playing and painting. The following week he'd bring a painting of what he sketched, with students elated when they recognized themselves. He offered them a direct and tangible link to art.

Frederick Hagan (1918-2003) is another artist who lived in Cabbagetown (Ontario Street). He studied at what is now known as the Ontario College of Art and Design. OCAD later hired him to teach drawing, painting, composition and printmaking. His teaching career there lasted 37 years.

Kosso Eloul was a sculptor born in Russia in 1920 and who eventually emigrated to Toronto where he lived just outside of Cabbagetown, on Sherbourne Street. There are at least 44 of his sculptures all over Toronto. One of his most visible sculptures is likely the huge stainless steel rectangles hanging precariously on the north east corner of Bloor and Church. His most important work may well be the bronze sculpture surrounding the eternal flame at Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial) in Jerusalem. His smaller sculpture called "Onward" is the central feature for urn spaces at Cabbagetown's Necropolis Cemetery. The artist's ashes are also there. He died in 1995.

Walter Seymour Allward (1876-1955) is described as a "monumental" sculptor. Did the term apply to his work or the man himself? He started by working on architectural terracotta ornaments at the Don Valley Brick Works and quickly moved to large sculptures. Many of his representation of famous Canadians can be seen on the grounds of Queen's Park and down University Avenue. But he will always be remembered for the masterpiece he took 11 years to build: the memorial for Canadians killed during the First World War located Vimy Ridge in France. The construction of the Vimy Ridge Memorial is at the centre of the story in Jane Urquhart's novel *The Stone Carvers*. Allward - although fictionalized - appears in the novel.

Actors

Many actors have also lived in Cabbagetown. It is said that Paul Gross bought Karen Kain's small house on Winchester Street when she moved to a larger home across the street. Another Cabbagetowner, Walter Huston (1884-1950) left in mark on the silver screen. He lived on Wellesley Street East and went to Winchester Public School. He became successful in vaudeville here in Toronto and eventually moved to New York where he also met success. Hollywood came calling and he appeared in over 50 movies. For one of them, *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948), he earned the Oscar for best supporting actor. He started a screen dynasty that includes his son John Huston, and his grand-daughter Anjelica Huston.

Many of the personalities mentioned above have been documented by the Cabbagetown People Project (associated with the Cabbagetown Preservation Association). The Cabbagetown People Project documents the lives of this area's remarkable former residents. Plaques have been affixed to the homes where these people once lived. You can read more about them at www.cabbagetownpeople.ca.

In August 2013, the CPA inaugurated a new walking tour focusing on writers and artists who once lived in Cabbagetown, many of them mentioned above. This tour proved to be very popular and will be repeated. Information on the CPA walking tours is posted on our website and/or our Facebook page.

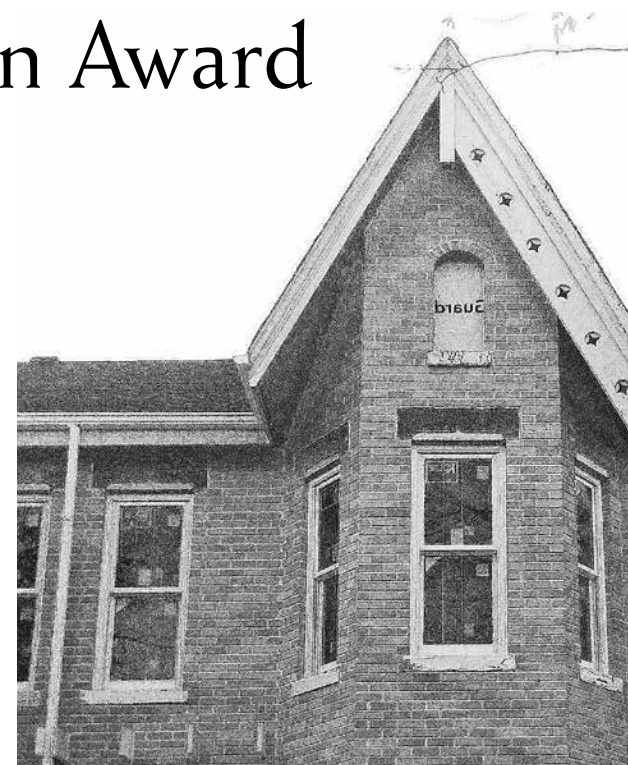
Dachi wins Kurtin Award

At CPA Night on Monday November 25, DACHI Co-op will be honoured with the Peggy Kurtin Excellence in Restoration award for the restoration of two semis.

The masonry had been extensively damaged through previous heavy sandblasting. It had subsequently been painted (possibly in an effort to hide the damage). Due to the extreme deterioration of the brickwork the property owner replaced all of the brick on the front elevation with new brick, sourced to match.

Other elements were replaced to maintain the homes' heritage value. New windows were installed that were the correct style for the 1870s Bay and Gable houses. Wood trim was rebuilt to match the original. The effect on the houses and on the street is dramatic and welcome.

In the image to the right, windows have been replaced, sills are being restored and trim is being replicated.



CPA wins at Heritage Awards



Sheila Schirmer, head of Cabbagetown People, second from right

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association was honoured at the Heritage Toronto Awards with two wins.

The annual Heritage Toronto Awards ceremony took place on October 15, 2013 at Koerner Hall (Royal Conservatory of Music). In the words of Alexandria Pike, Chair, Heritage Toronto Board, the Awards celebrate "the people who have enriched our city through their inspiring efforts to preserve and commemorate its past for the sake of a better future".

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) received the Heritage Toronto Award in the Community Heritage category for its Cabbagetown People program.

In giving this award, Heritage Toronto recognizes and celebrates the rich local history programming that was developed by the Cabbagetown People program. This program has documented the lives of more than forty influential personalities who once called Cabbagetown home. That research has been developed into a comprehensive series of plaques that recognize each individual at the site of their former residence, as well as walking tours, teacher and student resources integrated into the curriculum (in English and French), etc.

The CPA also received the Heritage Toronto Members Choice Award. All current members and participants in Heritage Toronto Heritage Partners Program were given the opportunity to vote for a community heritage organization they feel is worthy of special recognition.

The CPA is humbled by and grateful for the recognition it received on this special evening.

For more information on Heritage Toronto and the Heritage Toronto Awards, go to www.heritagetoronto.org.

Three More Cabbagetowners Honoured



The Cabbagetown People program recently added three more names to its pantheon of remarkable Cabbagetowners. The plaques honouring these individuals have just been installed. On Wellesley Street East, a plaque now honours Richard Bradshaw (1944-2007), Canadian Opera Company conductor and visionary who left us too soon (a detailed biography of Richard Bradshaw appears on page

4); on Sumach Street, a plaque now honours Dr. Fraser Mustard (1927-2011), medical pioneer and champion of early learning and whose work touched so many. On Sackville Street, a plaque also indicates the Toronto home of Josef Skvorecky (1924-2012), a Czech-Canadian literary giant who fled to Canada after the Soviet invasion that crushed the Prague Spring of 1968.

For over 10 years, the Cabbagetown People program has contributed greatly to a better understanding of Cabbagetown human heritage. Indeed, Cabbagetown has been home to an amazing and diverse group of personalities who possessed a remarkable ability to endure, to relish and to contribute to life, people who, despite the odds, have realized their remarkable potential. Many of them have been active in the arts and sciences, in politics, business, architecture and social movements. Through their contributions, these people have left a distinct imprint, not only on this community, but on the City, the Province, across Canada and abroad as well.



Ernest Thompson Seton, Walter Seymour Allward, Betty Oliphant, Benjamin Brick, J. L. (Allan) Yen Ph., D. Sarah Anne Curzon, Arthur Goss, F. ps. Ja... Williams, Ben W... C... P... A... T... A...

Cabbagetown People

The Social History of a Canadian Inner City Neighbourhood



Richard Bradshaw
Canadian Opera Company Conductor
and Visionary



1944--2007

Plaque located at 397 Wellesley Street East

The driving force behind Canada's first purpose-built opera house. On its opening night he received a standing ovation even before he picked up his baton.

Richard Bradshaw was born in Rugby, England. Encouraged by his father, an amateur musician, he began piano lessons at age eight and by twelve he was organist in the local church; he played the flute with the National Youth Orchestra.

In 1965, he graduated from the University of London. His conducting teacher was Sir Adrian Boult, and a scholarship allowed him to work with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Sir Charles Groves. From 1975 to 1988, he worked as Chorus Director at the Glyndebourne Festival and then Chorus Director and Resident Conductor at San Francisco Opera before coming to the Canadian Opera Company as Chief Conductor. He was named Artistic Director in 1994 and General Director in 1998, attracting distinguished Canadian artists Robert Lepage and Atom Egoyan as collaborators, and working with authors Margaret Atwood and Robertson Davies to create new operas.

"We are a great and rich country and getting richer, but we have third-world investment in the arts," he said. With determination and resolve, helped by a supportive board and hundreds of others, he embarked on the campaign to build an opera house -- he enjoyed describing it as the "Thirty Years' War."

The architect Jack Diamond said, "Without him we wouldn't have had an opera house. He was a visionary but had the energy and capability to get it done. He will be remembered as a builder --

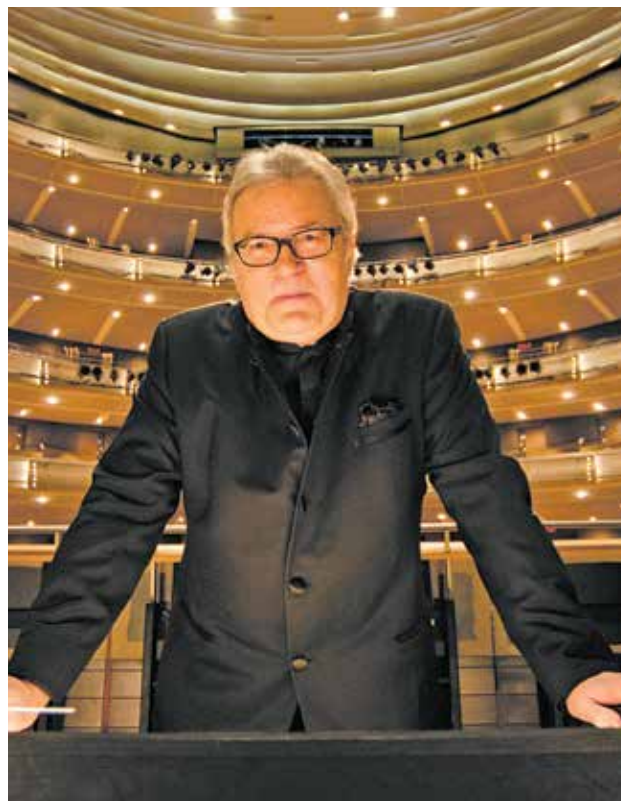


Photo: Fred Lum/The Globe and Mail

not just of the building -- but of the company itself." The COC's recordings and tours earned the company widespread recognition and numerous awards.

The Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts opened to international acclaim in 2006. To launch its first season, Richard Bradshaw led the COC orchestra and chorus in performing Wagner's epic The Ring of the Nibelung, becoming the first conductor since Wagner himself to open an opera house with a complete Ring Cycle.

The opera house and the more than fifty opera productions he conducted in Toronto are only part of his legacy. To Andrew Porter,



Photo: Michael Cooper

his friend and a world renowned music critic, he was "a practical visionary, an inspired champion with a high vision" for opera and the arts.

Awards

- Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters of France
- Governor General's Performing Arts Award
- Senior Fellow of Massey College
- Honorary Doctorate from the University of Toronto
- Honorary Fellow of the Royal Conservatory of Music
- Juno and Dora Mavor Moore Awards
- Member of the Order of Ontario

Streetscapes in Bloom 2013

The beautiful and diverse front gardens of Cabbagetown contribute to the charm of our neighbourhood. The ever-changing streetscapes provide inspiration and novel ideas to visitors and residents alike for their own planters, pots, or garden accents.

Residents have also begun planting up the boulevards in front of their homes creating a delightful variety of vegetation small and tall! And, a trend toward guerilla gardening in back laneways has recently sprung up.

Since 1996, the CPA has presented an award to the homeowner whose front garden meets the criteria and receives the most votes from the panel of judges who visit the nominated gardens monthly from June to September.

This year, the nominated gardens generated a lively debate among the judges. But, finally, a winner was decided and the Streetscapes in Bloom Committee is pleased to declare the 2013 winner: 403 Sackville Street. This attractive front garden deserves a lingering look as its many alcoves deliver intriguing surprises. The copper watering feature is particularly interesting as well as the well-appointed window boxes, the unexpected statuary, and the evolving seasonal changes.



Anne Cumming, the responsible gardener, will receive an art glass medallion from Kitras Glass in Elora, a garden crook to hang it on, and a water-colour portrait of the garden commissioned to local artist Marion Wilson of the Withrow Park Artists' Group.

The award will be presented to Ms. Cumming on November 25th at the CPA Night, November 25 (see page 1 for details)

For past winners please visit cabbagetownpa.ca and follow the link



Museum Docs on YouTube

An important part of the Museum's mandate over these last 10 years has been to record oral histories of people who have grown up in the greater Cabbagetown area and have memories to share. As well, the Museum has been documenting important social and cultural changes that have taken place in the neighbourhood, and special events marking historic occasions; and in general, recording how the district has adjusted and transformed to external forces, thus shaping our collective identity.

The Museum has just completed two new documentaries in their People, Places, and Events series, which can be viewed on our YouTube web site: http://www.youtube.com/user/CRPMuseumToronto/feed?view_as=public

The first, Central Neighbourhood House: 100 Years in the Making documents the history of a Settlement House, which has been very important to the early Cabbagetown and Regent Park neighbourhoods, and the east end of Toronto generally. It traces the evolution of CNH over its 100-year history from its earliest days serving the impoverished, largely immigrant residents of 'The Ward' in downtown Toronto, to its current activities in the heart of our very diverse community.

The second, Dennis Caplice: Growing Up in Cabbagetown is a delightful, witty memoir of a typical Irish, Cabbagetown kid, growing up in the '30s and '40s. Many of you will relate to his adventures.

More documentaries, either ready for release, or being edited include: Kay Horiszny: The Shoemaker's Daughter, A Walking Tour Through Riverdale Farm, A History of the Riverdale Zoo, Harry Rosen's Early Days in Cabbagetown, The Influence of the Macedonian Community in Cabbagetown.

Keep tuned for the release dates of these documentaries. DVD copies of the published videos may be obtained at the Riverdale Farm Residence building, where the Museum is presently housed. It is open weekends from 11:00 to 4:00.



Dennis Caplice being interviewed



Elizabeth Simcoe

Elizabeth Gwillim Simcoe was an artist and a diarist in early Colonial Canada. As the wife of John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Upper Canada, Elizabeth and her family moved to the 'new world' in 1791, where she documented her experiences through watercolor paintings, letters sent home to England, and frequent diary entries.

Elizabeth was born in England in 1762. Because her father died before her birth and her mother shortly afterwards, she was given the middle name of 'Posthuma'. She was raised by family, eventually coming to live at the estate of Samuel Graves, godfather of John Graves Simcoe, in 1769. John and Elizabeth were married in 1782.

Elizabeth and John had eleven children – eight daughters and three sons. The eldest children remained in England while the two youngest, Sophia and Francis, accompanied their parents. Katherine, Elizabeth's only child to be born in Upper Canada, died at 15 months and was buried "among the trees and mosquitoes".

Francis, Elizabeth's oldest son, was the focus of much of her attention, as noted in her diary entries. The Simcoe's Canadian summer residence was even named after him; Castle Frank. The house overlooked the Don River and was the subject of one of Elizabeth's watercolor paintings.

Elizabeth was not overly interested in politics, and instead, left a rich account of her personal adventures and social activities. She wrote of dinner parties, game playing, picnics, teas, the weather, as well as numerous walks, canoe trips and horse rides. She recorded everything, from what she and her children had done each day to her adventures in the wilderness; "We dined in the woods and ate part of a raccoon; it was very fat and tasted like lamb if eaten with mint sauce."

Elizabeth Simcoe died in England in 1806, long after the death of her husband. Her diaries and her letters provide a great deal of insight into the settlement of what is now known as Toronto.

By Rosie Shephard, a grade 9 student who has volunteered to write a series of articles for the Newsletter.



Arrival of immigrants at Union Station ca 1910 Pringle & Booth - Library & Archives Canada C-047042.jpg

Golden Morning

The streets are paved with gold
This morning
Golden yellow leaves
Have lined the pathways
And falling on a misty morning
Glowing this city
With their beauty

Shining - burnished - polished
By yesterday's rain
On roof tops
Floating in my little pond
Sailing to their destiny
On
This Golden Morning

Barbara Mercer
from her book of poetry,
Concerto for Cabbagetown

New to the Neighbourhood?

Did you know that Cabbagetown is currently made up of 4 Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) and each have special policies or guidelines to ensure their conservation and careful management?

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 heritage designation.

Each of the 4 "HCD Plans" have unique aspects balanced with a set of standards of heritage conservation that are consistent across the City of Toronto. Your property may fall into one of these districts so it is important to get to know your HCD Plan and the valuable content within.

The Cabbagetown HCD Districts Include: Cabbagetown-Metcalf Area HCD, Cabbagetown North HCD, Cabbagetown South HCD, Cabbagetown Northwest HCD.

Which district do I fall into?

A visit to www.CabbagetownHCD.ca is an ideal place to consult, as this website has been designed as an incredible resource for Cabbagetown property owners. Simply click on "The Cabbagetown HCDs" and review each of the 4 maps to determine where your property is situated. The corresponding HCD Plan is presented and available to download and review as a PDF document and to save for future reference.

What do the hcd plans contain?

An HCD Plan provides the framework and requirements for the conservation and management of the HCD. It contains policies, guidelines and procedures for ensuring that the cultural heritage values, character and integrity of the district are conserved in the long term.

When do I need to consult the HCD plan?

HCDs ensure that the significance and character of areas with cultural heritage value are protected and conserved in the long term by managing change to the properties and resources within it. Property owners, within an HCD, who wish to alter the exterior of their property visible from the street or demolish a designated structure must obtain heritage permits. Proposed changes to



City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Spruce St East at Rolston St Cabbagetown South HCD

the district are subject to this permit process under the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA). The appropriateness of proposed changes will be weighed against the HCD Plan. City staff will review permits in relation to the District Plan and may work with the Cabbagetown HCD Advisory Committee to ensure that alterations and new construction comply with the plan, fit in and support the character of the HCD.

For more information on your HCD Plan, please contact us: Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Advisory Committee email: info@cabbagetownhcd.ca | web: www.cabbagetownhcd.ca

A heritage permit is required for:

- Any renovations, alterations or additions that are visible from the street.
- This includes: windows, doors, porches, siding/brick.
- Repairs using a different material than the original or the existing material.
- Renovations that have an impact on the building's heritage attributes, or involve demolition.
- Property owners will need to submit an application to demolish a building.

- Homeowners will be required to locate new additions such as skylights to the rear and side, away from the main elevation.
- Locate new garages and parking spaces in unobtrusive areas, normally to the rear and side yards.
- Additions must be sensitive to the character of their neighbours in size and height.
- As with any property, a Building Permit from the City is required if you intend to construct a new building, make structural alterations or additions, or change your signage.

No heritage permit is needed for:

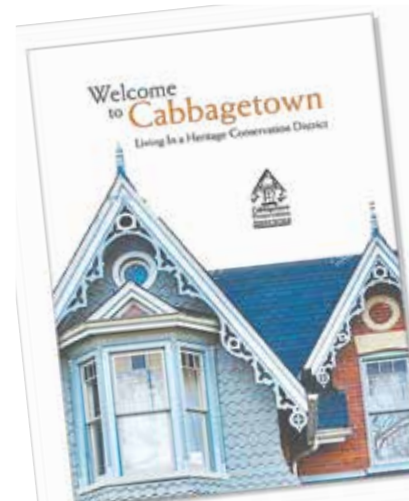
- Painting of wood, existing stucco or metal finishes.
- Repair of existing features, including roofs, wall cladding, dormers, cresting, cupolas, cornices, brackets, columns, balustrades, porches and steps, entrances, windows, foundations, and decorative wood, metal, stone or terra cotta, provided that the same type of materials are used.
- Installation of eavestroughs.
- Weatherproofing; includes installation of removable storm windows and doors, caulking, and weatherstripping.
- Installation of exterior lights.
- An alteration that is not visible from the street.



Did you know...

over \$150,000 of grant funding has streamed through our Cabbagetown HCD's in the last 3 year?

For Heritage Preservation Grant Applications and Info, visit:
www.toronto.ca/heritage-preservation/grants/



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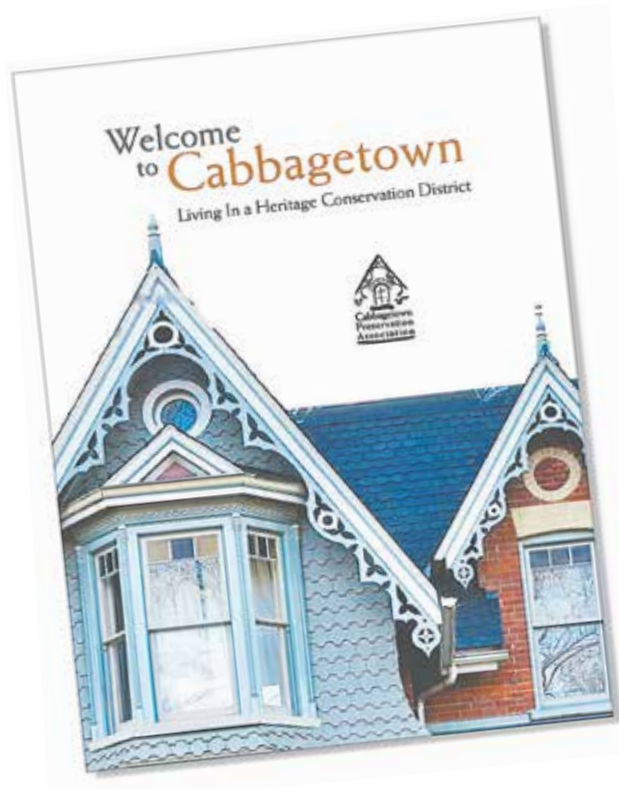
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Welcome to Cabbagetown



Get this!

A long planned project of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association has come to fruition. A beautifully designed and illustrated folder entitled Welcome to Cabbagetown! Living in a Heritage Conservation District is hot off the press.

It contains all sorts of information, especially aimed at new Cabbagetowners but interesting to all. It covers such topics as a short history of Cabbagetown, a list of some of our landmarks and resources, descriptions of the various styles of architecture one can find in Cabbagetown, how to find historical information about your Cabbagetown house, things to think about if you are considering renovating your home (wording for that section was provided by our friends at the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District Committee) and much more.

Welcome to Cabbagetown! will be on sale for \$10 at various public events held by the CPA over the year. With your \$10 you'll also receive a one-year CPA membership. See our story about membership elsewhere in this newsletter.

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@cabbagetownpa.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.

Your Home's History

Many Cabbagetowners have tried out the Compendium that is available on both the CPA and the Cabbagetown Heritage District Advisory Committee (HDC) It enables 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.

The Compendium was launched in late Spring. Technical work was done by Wackywave Labs (<http://www.wackywavelabs.com>). Most streets are covered, some have yet to be completed.

in the thousands of pages of hand written, typed and computer input material, there were inaccuracies and transpositions. If you find something in the Compendium that you know to be in error, please contact the Cabbagetown HCD: info@cabbagetownhcd.ca.

CPA Membership

Are you a member of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association? You may think you are; but chances are you're not, or no longer are. We haven't been very good at keeping our lists up to date over the last couple of years but this is about to change. This fall, the CPA is launching its new membership drive.

Why should you become a member? First, it would be a tangible way to support the Cabbagetown Preservation Association and its programs (Cabbagetown People, the newsletter you are reading right now, walking tours, our website, our Facebook page, our public meetings/lectures, etc.). We're also working on member-only resources like a dedicated section on our website and many more. Furthermore, with your paid membership, you will receive a copy of the Welcome to Cabbagetown! folder.

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

Newsletter designed by:



Steve Yeates
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steve@steveyeates.ca
www.steveyeates.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. _____

CPA charitable number 85053 6160 (RR0001)

- 1 year \$ 10
- Would you like to make a tax-deductible donation? \$ _____
- TOTAL \$ _____