



# Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood



## CPA Speakers Night

**Adversity, Resilience, Prosperity  
The Odyssey Of A Canadian Inner City  
Neighbourhood: Cabbagetown 1941 – 2011**

Presented by Alan Waterhouse  
Monday, November 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.  
Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club, 101 Spruce Street

Come and learn more about the causes of social change and their effect on the lives of individual inhabitants of Cabbagetown, through the most recent periods of Cabbagetown's development.

Alan Waterhouse is Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning and Design, University of Toronto; long time Cabbagetown resident and former Chair of the CPA; currently a member of the Toronto Community Housing Design Review Panel, dealing, among other projects, with the Regent Park Revitalization.

The Cabbagetown People team is producing an illustrated book on the social tapestry of Cabbagetown neighbourhoods. The book will focus on the most volatile changes which occurred during the 70 years between the 1940s and the present in Cabbagetown – one of the most colourful and one of the most disparate places in the city of Toronto.

Employing data, charts and graphs, and enriched by images from the past and present, this forthcoming book takes you on an illuminating journey of life in this historic Canadian inner city neighbourhood. (see excerpt, page 3)

## Saving The Canopy

CPA is now on:  
*Fraser Mustard p4*



### CPA 25th Anniversary Tour: Preserving Our Heritage By Gilles Huot

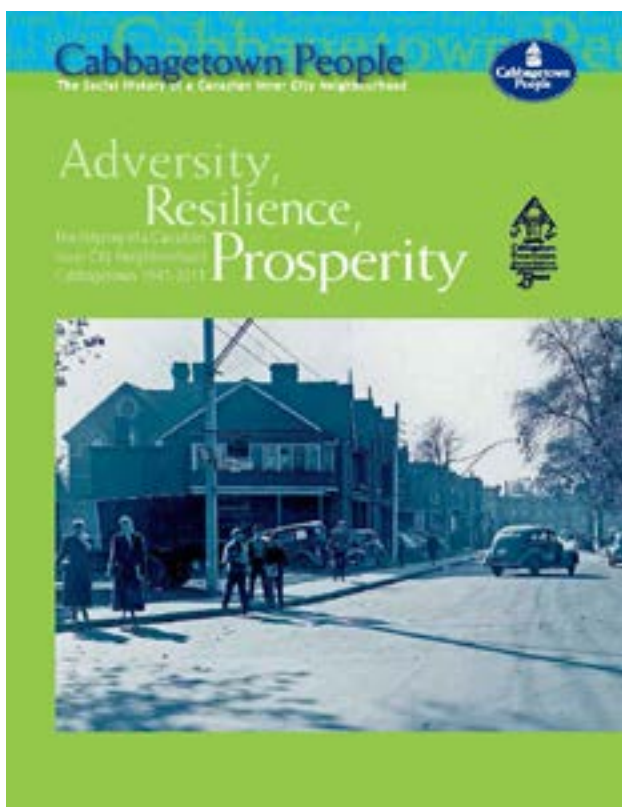
In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) led a walking tour of Cabbagetown on Sunday October 5, 2014. The theme of the tour was "heritage preservation". More than 20 enthusiastic people joined in this interactive walk and we discussed some of Cabbagetown built heritage successes and challenges. We also talked about the early days of the CPA. Here are some highlights of the tour (and some extras).

The tour started on Wellesley Street and our first stop was the beautiful Queen Anne style (there are only a handful of them in Cabbagetown) home at 314 Wellesley Street East. This house was built around 1889-1890. It has a number of impressive stone carvings, many having been redone through restoration. The window frames are unusually shaped (and no two windows are the same — a characteristic of the Queen Anne style). They were made by the original owner Thomas Harris, a stone-cutter. A serpent is carved into the top gable and the sunburst detail over the door is a common detail in

many Cabbagetown homes. This house was restored a few years ago and won the 2008 Cabbagetown Preservation Association's Restoration Award (now renamed the Peggy Kurtin Excellence in Restoration Award).

We then made our way to the hidden gem that are the Wellesley Cottages. Their architectural style is actually called "worker's cottage". The Wellesley Cottages were built by carpenter William Hooker around 1886-87. The style is based on award-winning design by Henry Roberts that was unveiled at the 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition in London (England). Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, felt that a housing reform was desperately needed and supported initiatives to better house the poor. The cottages are one and a half storey houses. They were built with running water, internal sanitation, and separate bedrooms for children; these were all innovations at the time.

As they stand now, the cottages have been extensively renovated and they have extensive rear additions - mostly done after the 1970s - that easily triple the square footage of their living space. Cottage 7 won the 2012 Peggy Kurtin Award for Excellence in Restoration. Bought from the estate of a recluse, it had internal sanitation (e.g. *Please see Tour. page 3*)



# Saving the Canopy

## Protecting Heritage Trees

By Peter Wynnyczuk, Executive Director  
Ontario Urban Forest Council (<http://oufuc.org>)

Cabbagetown is an area steeped in the history of Toronto. A community filled with unique and historical homes in a treed neighbourhood. Living in a district of the City with Cultural Heritage designation has many benefits which include the opportunity to retain, maintain and protect the mature trees. As was experienced this past winter, with the ice storm, there were many trees affected by this extreme weather event. Due to the care and previous maintenance that occurred on many of the trees, they were spared significant damage and continue to add to the quality of life in the area.

We are all stewards of the trees whether by getting involved in community tree planting events, sitting under the shade of the trees in Riverdale Park, strolling down the streets in the fall admiring the leaves various colours, calling 311 to advise them of a tree concern, and looking after your own mature trees by having them inspected every 3 to 5 years or as needed by qualified Arborists.

As Cabbagetown does have a Cultural Heritage designation, it does have an influence on the trees in the community. Trees that can be related to a home or property with cultural significance, such as owned by a current or previous important member of the community, or a tree planted in recognition of an important event such as a visiting dignitary from another country, are some examples can then be identified for potential designation by the City of Toronto and/or listed under the Ontario Heritage Act.

After identifying the trees cultural properties, some of the needs to help designate a tree under Heritage Designation is confirming the ownership of the tree within your property line, identifying the species or name of the type of tree, and it's size by taking measurement at 1.4m above ground level with a diameter tape or normal measuring tape to get the circumference and divide by 3.14 to get the diameter. The process of Heritage Designation for trees could take up to several years depending on what level of designation is sought.

If you, as a property owner have identified a tree with a significant cultural heritage, there are several opportunities to provide protection of the tree beyond your ownership of the property.

To read the complete article go online <http://cabbagetownreleaf.org>.

*A single mature tree can absorb 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, and release enough oxygen back into the atmosphere to support two human beings.*

*City streets lined with trees show a 60 per cent reduction in street-level particulate readings.*



SteveYeates.ca



### Coming January, 2015: U OF T Forestry's Cabbagetown Urban Forest Management Plan

By David Grant, Co-chair, Cabbagetown ReLEAF

Developing a deeper understanding of Cabbagetown's current tree community and its connection to the local ecosystem, four grad students from the University of Toronto have been assigned to Cabbagetown ReLEAF to develop the Cabbagetown Urban Forest Management Plan. Fai Udomkaewkanjana, Isabella Zhang, Emma Thurston, Master of Forest Conservation (MFC) Candidates; along with Rui Felix, Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) Candidate's mission is to provide long and short term goals along with action plans for protecting and caring for our Urban Forest. In addition the inventory and mapping of city and private trees is necessary to provide recommendations for planting, young tree establishment and care, mature tree care, and replacements.



U of T grad students with Gilles Huot

ReLEAF's, Michael Ormston-Holloway, The Planning Partnership, has developed the Replanting Cabbagetown project, to plant new trees in the community along with public education for tree protection and tree care. You will begin to hear Michael talk about Soil, the life supporting upper surface of earth.

Areas also to be included in the plan: Cabbagetown as a Heritage Conservation District (HCD), identifying Heritage Trees, maintaining Heritage Trees, protecting Heritage Trees, and a special focus on Riverdale Park, Riverdale Farm, and area schools.

Education, Advocacy, and Urban Forests abound! Cabbagetown ReLEAF Tree Stewardship <http://cabbagetownreleaf.org>

# Adversity, Resilience, Prosperity: excerpt

## From the Introduction

### Background

Mark Kingwell has written that Toronto can best be described as a "linked series of towns held loosely together by the gravitational force of its downtown core." He argues that Toronto has no "normative or mythic centre, no single narrative." While one might be inclined to agree with Kingwell's description – think, after all, of the diverse pattern of neighbourhoods that make up even the inner city – a recurring theme of the present document will lay emphasis on the various ways in which these communities are precisely what gives Toronto its identity and character. Broadly, our interest here is how this diversity has shaped Toronto at its regional scale. More directly, our interest lies in the ways in which this diversity is locally rooted and transcendent of the constantly changing nature of Toronto's neighbourhoods. To do so, we concentrate on Cabbagetown's most volatile changes to date, which have occurred during the seventy years between the 1940s and the present. While several excellent studies exist that describe the manifestations of Toronto's social history, it is our working prejudice that this story now needs to be told by examining the underlying causes of social change. Cabbagetown is one of the city's oldest communities and is situated in the eastern reaches of Toronto's downtown.

Since its inception in the late 1840s, when Irish immigrants flocked to Toronto in order to escape the Potato Famine and other epidemics, Cabbagetown has always been one of the most colourful as well as one of the most disparate places in the city. For much of its history, its boundaries have shifted northward, while witnessing periods of volatile redevelopment, stagnation, official neglect, and deprivation. Although once famously described by Canadian writer Hugh Garner in his novel *Cabbagetown* as "North America's largest Anglo-Saxon slum" (a misnomer, given the presence of many residents of Celtic, Francophone, and other origins), since the early 1970s, much of Cabbagetown has been changed in fundamental ways by gentrification and redevelopment into affluent enclaves populated by professionals and artists alike. On the other hand, other sections, including Regent Park and St. James Town, continue to experience entrenched deprivation. Now, however, public initiatives promoting both stability and "deghettoizing" proposals hold promise for the future. The disparity and shifting

boundaries of this community lie behind the lack of consensus on where the core and edges of Cabbagetown might be located; nor do we intend to address this. Rather, because many of our sources are derived from the Canada Census, we prefer to cast a wide net determined by census tract definitions.

It is important, while dealing with the underlying causes of social change, to illustrate them by referring to their effects on the lives of individual inhabitants of Cabbagetown. We do so to emphasize the sheer complexity of the social tapestry, one that cannot be reduced to mere data.

Specifically, this research project examines data/facts related to Cabbagetown's population over time: size, density, language, birthplace, religion, ethnicity, household size, composition, income and longevity — supported by maps and graphs. In addition, it also looks at changes in the local economy, public regulations, policy initiatives, and private decisions. These characteristics are enhanced by illustrating their efficacy through descriptive biographies of some remarkable individuals who have lived through Cabbagetown's volatile evolution. This report of necessity depends largely upon broadly-drawn pictures that are derived from aggregate historical data. We concede, however, that much of the subtlety, detail, and colour of social events can be lost by the exclusive dependency upon large numbers. For this reason, the report is enriched by weaving a set of brief biographies of Cabbagetown individuals into the text.

The biographies are derived from the Cabbagetown People Program(CPP)'s ongoing investigation of the lives of inspiring individuals who lived in Cabbagetown, who made significant contributions, and who eventually achieved prominence. Many have excelled despite enduring many of the hardships that we record as a continuing partial legacy of Cabbagetown's history. Including these stories is intended to reveal some of the complexities that underlie the data such as, for instance, the predominance of an artistic sub-community that flourished intermittently as a "bohemian" circle in the midst of deprivation. They are stories of people for whom Cabbagetown didn't impede success, maybe grounding them with a strong value system and life skills.

*The book is scheduled to be available in November.*



Detail, 169-71-73 Oak Street, July 12, 1948. Toronto Archives, Fonds 200, Series 372, Subseries 33b, Item 84

*(Tour from page 1)*

toilet that flushed — it was originally in the basement along with a very small tub, both probably installed in the 1940s or early 1950s) and 1960s newspaper scraps used as insulation, but little else from 20th century "luxuries". Forty per cent of the original 1887 structure, however derelict, was preserved: brick foundation, studs, joists and beams.

Just south of the Wellesley Cottages, our next stop was at 357 Wellesley Street East where the former owner (and restorer), David Swain, explained that this house actually used to be twin houses built around 1882. The only clue that these used to be separate homes is the old arched front door opening that was converted into a main floor window after the addition moved the entrance to the west side of the "new" house. The middle window on the second storey — once a fake because of the wall dividing the house in two — looks like it has always been there (it consisted only of shutters).

The neighbouring house to the east (359-361 Wellesley Street East) is a strong argument for preservation. The CPA actually began by reaction to the threat of (and ultimately the actual) demolition in 1988 of a unique mid-19th century two-storey Second Empire house, particularly striking because of its French mansard roof. A small group of people, living on Wellesley Street organized to fight the demolition. Barbara Hall, then 'Alderman' for the neighbourhood (and fellow Cabbagetowner), joined the group early on in support. The group grew as it spread the news and appeared at the relevant committee meetings, the Committee of Adjustment, and the Ontario Municipal Board. In the end the decision went against the group and the building was destroyed. Soon after, the same people became aware of the threat to the cottages on Amelia Street (at the top of Metcalfe), which we are going to discuss later.

The group then went east on Wellesley. The intersections of Sackville Street with other Cabbagetown streets were often used for business purposes, the reason being that gas lamps were installed only at major intersections before, over the years, electrical street lighting replaced them and were more ubiquitous. Although it is now a residence, it is still quite evident that 369 Wellesley Street East used to be a store. In fact it was once McCormick's Grocery Store. In recent years, the building housed a convenience store. A few years ago, the building got a major makeover. New windows replicate the long-vanished originals; the front has been rebuilt with restored detail and large plate-glass windows appropriate to the period. The paint was removed and the brick restored. This beautiful restoration earned the 2010 Peggy Kurtin Award for Excellence in Restoration. The back of the house was divided into a semi, thus creating a new address on Sackville.

Going south on Sackville and then west on Amelia, you will find the Amelia Cottages (36-49 Amelia Street) at the top of Metcalfe Street. They look "Victorian" but they're not. The cottages that were here were the same age and style as those at 62 and 66 Metcalfe (1863 or 1873). In 1988, a developer wanted to demolish them to make way for 14 new townhouses, which would have considerably changed the streetscape. "Negotiations" took place with a group of citizens that was to become the Cabbagetown Preservation Association. Actually, this threat is what led to the formalizing of the group previously involved with the 359-361 Wellesley East property mentioned earlier into a structured organization. The compromise included the demolition of the original cottages (which were in very bad shape) in 1991 and the construction of 3 cottages facing the street and consistent with the 19th century streetscape. More housing was allowed to fill the space in the back of the new cottages. The compromise helped protect one of the most beautiful vistas of the neighbourhood: looking north on Metcalfe Street. *(Please see Tour, page 6)*

# Cabbagetown People

The Social History of a Canadian Inner City Neighbourhood

## Fraser Mustard M.D.

Medical Pioneer and Champion of Early Learning  
1927 – 2011  
Plaque located at 422 Sumach Street



Most doctors heal you when you are sick. Doctor Mustard could foretell your future.

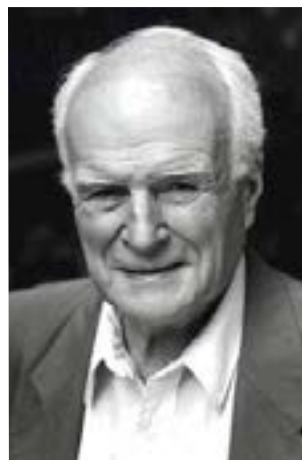
A most unconventional man!!

Dr. Fraser Mustard, a Canadian physician and scientist, was born in Toronto, Ontario. He attended Whitney Public School and in 1953 he earned a medical degree from the University of Toronto. During his varsity football days he was known as "Moose".

In the 1950s and 60s his heart research focused on blood platelets, arterial disease and, believe it or not, the effects of Aspirin.

In 1966 he criticized the Canadian government for their research funding practices. Many medical doctors graduating from Canadian universities were going to the United States due to the lack of research funding. As such, there was a need for many more doctors to graduate in order to maintain the standard of research and Canadian healthcare. It was at this time that he became a founding member of the McMaster University Faculty of Medicine in Hamilton, Ontario. This huge network, built at this time, linked researchers in social health, education, economics and high tech fields like robotics – a model that has been copied all over the world.

Dr. Mustard's interests shifted to early childhood education research where he influenced decision-makers all over the world. His early years' studies report emphasized the promotion of early child development centres for young children and parents. He recommended that the government boost spending on early education and that programs should be available to all income levels in order to develop healthy, confident children and adults. His message was to convey the incredible importance of a child's experiences in the first six years of life. Interventions in these early years can set-up a child for life. He said, "These years last a lifetime. The challenge for all societies is to close the gap between what we know about the determinants of early child development and what we do."



Fraser Mustard said, "That's all education is. It's just getting the architecture and the function of the brain set."

In 1982 he became the founding president of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) where he spent fourteen years doing research. In 1993 he was awarded the Royal Bank Outstanding Service to Canada award for setting up CIFAR, which is considered one of the best think-tanks and research centres in Canada.

Dr. Fraser Mustard has left a legacy. About four months before his death, his followers came to his home to further

discuss his works. While working in his living room, the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development was designed. The University of Toronto has officially launched the institute.

"Fraser Mustard will be remembered as the great renaissance man of Canadian intellectual life. He was an absolute giant, who had a huge impact on his country, and a man of unflagging curiosity and great generosity of spirit". (University of Toronto President David Naylor).

Dr. Mustard's findings paved the way to create a province-wide full-day kindergarten program. He will always be remembered for his medical and educational achievements.

### Awards

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1976

In 1985 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and in 1993 he was promoted to Companion of the Order of Canada

In 1988 University of Toronto awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws

Order of Ontario in 1992

Inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 2003  
Recipient of fifteen honorary degrees

A biography of his life written by Marian Packham, entitled J. Fraser Mustard: Connections and Careers, was published in 2010.



CRP Museum www.crpmuseum.com

## Harry Rosen's Start in Cabbagetown

The Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum, continuing its popular documentary series, *People, Places and Events*, is releasing a new video, *Harry Rosen: Memories of Cabbagetown*. It is the story of Harry Rosen's beginnings as a tailor in Cabbagetown. Dennis Caplice, who interviews Harry, grew up in Cabbagetown during this period and was a customer. Sports, politics, friends and neighbours are all remembered in this very intimate portrayal of how Cabbagetown influenced Harry who went on to found one of the most successful clothing store chains in Canada.

Harry Rosen was raised at the corner of Parliament and Queen where his grandfather had a tailor shop. He began his own tailoring career, running the Slack Shop on Parliament,

near Gerrard in the early 1950's. When this closed after a few years, he opened a store at the corner of Gerrard and Parliament. Harry was seven years on Parliament Street. During that period, a number of interesting and important people became clients.

His first customer was Carl Orbach, in eminent lawyer in Cabbagetown whom many of us remember as the perennial leader of the Parade during Cabbagetown Festivals. Soon after opening his own shop he met Ron O'Dory, who sold advertising space for Maclean's magazine. Ron eventually bought a suit and ultimately, Harry became the go-to tailor for the entire Maclean-Hunter organization. One afternoon he noticed a young man standing outside his store, peering longingly in the window. Harry (Please see Rosen, page 7)



The Rosen Family



Strides



Harry, himself.

## Monoliths of Bay Street

Monoliths of Bay Street  
Fire of sunrise  
Reflecting  
Projecting  
Their presence  
Deep red through golden pink  
Glisten  
Standing out  
Above roof tops  
Piled high with snow  
Pink clouds softly float by  
In frost filled  
Soft blue sky  
While little birds  
Sing an anthem  
To those who would listen to  
Monoliths of Bay Street

Barbara Mercer  
from *Rooted in Cabbagetown*

## Streetscapes in Bloom (SSB) 2014

Gardening continues to be an extremely popular pastime in Cabbagetown not only in our front and back gardens but also in our laneways. Many Cabbagetowners are embracing the 'Guerrilla' gardening philosophy utilizing any small space in our neighbourhood to plant in! Avid gardeners are borrowing areas to expand their green spaces by using laneways, boulevards and anywhere else that they may find a small patch of earth to plant an indigenous perennial, shrub, or even patches of perennial herbs in.

The judges wish to make a special mention of the front gardens of Riverdale Acres, 231 River Street. Lovingly tended by Nina Rouzoubaeva, a resident, turned this once barren dry grassland into a perennial and shrub oasis admired by the pedestrians and drivers traveling on foot, or car along River Street. Thank you Nina for your efforts in beautify our neighbourhood.

The Streetscapes in Bloom committee members once again had a difficult time narrowing down the 2014 S.S.I.B. Winner. The committee would like to congratulate all our nominated Streetscapes in Bloom gardeners. In the end, our nominees didn't disappoint the judges. After considerable discussion and deliberation the committee selected 62 Amelia Street as this years winner.

The owner is certainly a passionate and caring gardening that considered not only the selection of the hard landscaping material, use of planters but also the use of and the selection of the appropriate plant material.

Work has begun our June 2015 Hidden Gardens and Private Spaces tour, please check out the CPA website in the New Year for additional information about our garden tour.

### From Toronto Gardens blogger, Helen Battersby

As I rarely need an excuse reason, I began celebrating last Sunday at the Hidden Gardens of Cabbagetown, a wonderful garden tour that always seems to sell out quickly. Here are some photos from the tour gardens, more than we usually show in a single post. But that's because they fit so well with the words of Toronto's Garden Day proclamation, which highlight "the importance of public and private gardens, the value of home gardening, the health, well-being and aesthetic benefits of gardens and the promotion of environmental stewardship." A two-fer, for you!

To read Helen Battersby's comments, please go to <http://torontogardens.blogspot.ca/2014/06/celebrate-canadas-garden-days-often-and.html>



## Hidden Gardens and Private Spaces 2014



FROM Helen Battersby's blog (see p4): "I spent the morning volunteering in the charming garden of Ronica Sajani, and learned the true meaning of divan, which Ronica explained is like a Hindu salon, where good food (her own) and good discussion (her guests' and speakers') come together. Love her pond and tiny tea house, which sometimes feature in Ronica's divan evenings."

Below: From KENDALL & Company.





### Renovating? Here's your local guide:

Home owners in a Heritage Conservation District (HCD), such as Cabbagetown, have to be aware of rules that affect renovations visible to the street scape. For those who aren't familiar with Cabbagetown's HCD Committee and need a guide, here's an introduction from the committee's website (cabbagetownhcd.ca).

The Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation Districts Advisory Committee (districts because there are actually four defined areas) was formed in 2000 to provide local support and assistance to Heritage Preservation Services of the City of Toronto in preserving Cabbagetown's heritage resources and to promote the establishment of Heritage Conservation Districts for Cabbagetown. The Committee is responsible for four Heritage Conservation Districts, which include 1,721 properties.

The founding chairperson of the Committee was Peggy Kurtin, who, with a team of volunteers, actively researched and documented Cabbagetown's historically and architecturally significant homes, buildings and landscapes from 1995 until her passing in 2009. The Committee initially consisted of six people but now has 10 members, all of whom are Cabbagetown residents and serve in a voluntary capacity. In addition, the Committee has recruited four

prominent Toronto architects to provide expert guidance to the Committee and to be a resource for the community.

The primary purpose of the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation Districts Advisory Committee is to advise and assist Cabbagetown residents on the heritage guidelines and procedures for renovations and changes to the exteriors of their properties. The Committee also encourages interest in, and appreciation for, conservation of residential and institutional heritage buildings and streetscapes of the four Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation Districts, and promotes respect of, and compliance with, the Heritage Conservation Districts' guidelines and procedures among Cabbagetown residents.

The Committee meets approximately once a month to review proposals from Cabbagetown residents who are planning to do renovations and/or make changes to their property, and to discuss recent developments and issues in the community that affect the conservation and preservation of Cabbagetown's heritage resources and character.

If you are launching into an exterior renovation that may require a City of Toronto heritage permit, you can contact the Cabbagetown HCD Committee at info@cabbagetownHCD.ca

#### (Tour from page 1)

Going west and across Parliament Street, the tour was an opportunity to discuss the sad state of the house at 38 Prospect Street. This Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) property is one of many in the area. A fire nearly destroyed it in February 2007. Incredibly, it has been sitting empty ever since. This house dates from circa-1878 and is the only remaining example in Cabbagetown of a so-called "double-fronted" house. This house and many in the area were in the news a couple of years ago. Indeed, citing city data gleaned from freedom of information requests, the Cabbagetown Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Committee was able to find out that there are 50 TCHC properties within a few blocks of Prospect Street, with a total assessment value over \$30-million. In 2008, it says, the city spent \$11,925 on capital maintenance for them, which works out to roughly \$238 per house. The Cabbagetown HCD Committee helped bring the issue of decaying heritage homes to the forefront. Since then, the TCHC has apparently developed some "plan" to take care of them. But action is slow to come.

Just down the street, a couple of TCHC homes on Winchester Street (across from Winchester School Garden) are also in pretty bad shape. The Cabbagetown HCD Committee estimates that one of these once-grand home needs an estimated \$30,000 to \$80,000 in roofing alone. Even the layers of paint that cover many of the TCHC homes is doing serious damage to the soft brick and should be removed.

A little known fact is that many Carlton Street mansions east of Metcalfe Street, especially those on the south side, were slated for demolition in the 1970s to make way to a DVP offramp. Some pre-work for this project explains the way Spruce and River streets fit (or not) together... Thankfully, the city abandoned this project.

Another Cabbagetown gem is the Georgian style house at 35 Spruce Street (see photo on page 1). It was built in 1861 for Charles B. Mackay, Clerk at Customs House on Front Street. Dr. Edward Hodder, professor at and Dean of the Trinity College Medical School just a few doors east on Spruce also lived in this house for 6-7 years, likely in the 1870s (we have no record

as to whether he owned or rented the house). The Georgian "farmhouse" style of the house was brought to Toronto by its early British settlers and was the city's first real architectural style. Often 2-storey buildings (like the one at 85 Winchester Street), this one is a 1.5-storey dwelling. The characteristics of the Georgian style are proportioned windows and door, brick quoins on the corners, rectangular box-like shape, with a symmetrical façade, and centre hall plan with a central doorway under a peaked roof. But note that the front door is off-set to the east slightly and the explanation may be the large tree just in front of the house (which wouldn't have been very large in 1861...).

In the 1890s, four houses were built on the front lawn, but they have long since disappeared. A hundred years later, in the 1990s, the house at 35 Spruce Street presented a dilemma to developers. The house was relatively small for its outsized lot in central Toronto, where land was becoming more valuable each year. A number of developers wanted to tear it down. Many community leaders (Peggy Kurtin, George Rust d'Eye, Rollo Myers, the CPA, etc.) wanted to find a way to save the 1861 house while allowing developers to build on a section of the property. The result of discussions was a row of townhouses set behind the original house. Christopher Dew (who also restored 7 Wellesley Cottages) became the owner and undertook a laborious renovation. The derelict property needed an overhaul from top to bottom; it was a beat-up shell (top floor inhabited by racoons, etc.). During the renovation, every piece that could be salvaged was, including wide-plank floors and baseboards. Items that couldn't be saved for their original use were often buffed up and reused elsewhere. Some portions of wainscoting, for example, were taken from the old summer kitchen and used in the new kitchen and bathroom.

This tour was the last of the 2014 season. Please join us next year For more information on walking tours offered by the CPA, see www.cabbagetownpa.ca or www.heritagetoronto.org. We also publicize our tours on our Facebook page.

(with notes from Michael Roman, Christopher Dew, Patricia Brubaker and the CPA tour scripts)

## Our Readers Write:

### The Jarvis Family:

Dear Rosie: I much enjoyed your history of the Stephen Jarvis (Mr. Secretary Jarvis) family and it's connections to Cabbagetown and wish to add to your research. Hazelburn was in fact located at Jarvis and Shuter but you are indeed correct in that Jarvis Street split the estate in two. There were two Jarvis families located in Toronto. They were headed by cousins: William Jarvis (Mr. Secretary Jarvis of your article) and Col. Stephen Jarvis of the Queens Rangers. William Jarvis was granted the land you describe. Stephen's son, William Botsford Jarvis, purchased a 100 acre lot known as Rosedale.

Vivien Martin

### CPA's 25 years:

Congratulations on your excellent newsletter, and the continuing success of the CPA.

Your valuable article on the history of the organization begins by pointing to the difficulty of tracing the history of volunteer organizations, and there are two points in it that I can help with. The organization actually began by a reaction to the threat of (and ultimately the actual) demolition of a unique mid-19th century two-story house, particularly striking because of its French mansard roof, located on what is now 359-361 Wellesley Street East. A small group of people, living opposite and on the north side of Wellesley east of Sackville, organized to fight the demolition (I would list their names if I knew them all). Barbara Hall, then 'Alderman' for the neighbourhood, joined the group early on in support, as did my wife Timmie and I, newly arrived from the U.S. and shocked that such a downtown neighbourhood (so rare south of the border) could be lost. The group grew as it spread the news and appeared at the relevant committee meetings, the Committee of Adjustment, and the OMB. In the end the decision went against us and the building was destroyed. It was soon after that we became aware of the threat to the cottages on Amelia. That threat is what led to the formalizing of the group into a structured organization, as you describe. The second point, to give the architects fair credit, is that their plan for the Amelia street site was 'in keeping' with the architecture of the neighbourhood, in that their first plans showed late 20th century interpretations of late 19th century 3-story townhouses--that is, thoughtfully designed, near-replicas. The issue was that they were replicas and not the real thing, and that Metcalfe Street, such an important one to the streetscape of the neighbourhood would lose the view of those simple, authentic cottages at its head.

The success of that fight, and vigilance afterward, protected the neighbourhood for the remainder of the overheated development market of the late 80s. While it was certainly a team effort from the very start, special mention should be made of Pat and Steve Poulin, original members of the Board, who argued from the very start (unphased by the lack of my active support, who by then had become the first President of the Association) for the heritage designation that eventually led to the permanent preservation of the neighbourhood. Hats off to them and everyone who has kept the spirit and energy of the organization alive.

Michael Roman  
421 Wellesley Street East

## The CPA thanks our sponsors for supporting the Newsletter.

(From Rosen, page 7) went out and introduced himself and so began a long time friendship with Bobby Baun of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Bob and his defense line mate, Carl Brewer could not afford Harry Rosen suits at first, but eventually they became clients and through them, the Leaf organization ordered blazers for their successful Stanley Cup teams of 1962 to 64. Over time, as his fame spread, his business widened to include many players on other NHL teams.

Although Harry Rosen's principal business was manufacturing high quality suits, an interesting side line developed during the mid 50's, the fabrication of "strides" for the fashion conscious young men of that era. This was an exaggerated pant design, tight cuffs, ballooned knees, high rise at the waist, triple out seams

and gun flap pockets, usually in outlandish colours. It is hard today, to understand what the appeal might have been. Harry reminisces about his experiences on Parliament - in particular his immediate neighbour on the corner, Bedali's grocery shop, which is now located in an upscale section of Leaside on Bayview Avenue. With his customary entrepreneurial spirit he made his first Vicuña coat for the son of the owner. These and many more stories enrich our appreciation of those early Cabbagetown days and how they exerted an influence on Harry. The store eventually moved from Cabbagetown - to Richmond Street in the late 50's. As his business had expanded, he needed more space and it seemed good business sense to be more centrally located.

Over the years, many important figures became clients of Harry Rosen. A friendship with Keith Davy resulted in many clients from Parliament Hill. Sports, politics, friends and neighbours, such as Solly Cantor, Little Arthur King, Foster Hewitt, Arthur Downs and more, are all remembered in this documentary. But, as he states:

"Parliament Street was my origins. Good things happened to me on Parliament Street. Parliament Street was my good fortune".

The documentary will be published on the Museum's web site and its Facebook page. A DVD copy of the documentary will also be for sale at the Museum site in the Simpson House, at the Riverdale Farm.

Dear Neighbour,

We are your Cabbagetown Residents Association (CRA), and we are writing this to tell you about our work in the neighbourhood and to encourage you to join or renew your membership with the CRA.

### Who Are We?

We are YOUR Residents Association – a volunteer organization that was established in 1967 for residents north of Gerrard St. and east of Parliament St. The organization consists of 10 volunteer board members and numerous volunteers involved in various CRA activities and events in the community.

### What Does the CRA Do?

The CRA is committed to improving the general quality of life in Cabbagetown. We build community by:

- hosting great events like the Forsythia Festival and the Pumpkin Walk,
- promoting safety & security, a healthy tree canopy, good schools,
- disseminating information, news and activities about Cabbagetown
- communicating community concerns and advocating for you with City Council, Toronto Police and District School Boards.

### What Have We Done for Cabbagetown Lately?

We have had a very active and successful 18 months. We:

- conducted an insightful neighbourhood-wide survey
- launched a new monthly email newsletter,

- assumed responsibility for the annual Forsythia Festival,
- launched Cabbagetown's own Pumpkin Walk event,
- partnered with the City of Toronto to design a new splash pad in Wellesley Park,
- rolled out a brand new mobile friendly website, and;
- implemented laneway clean-ups.

### What Does the CRA Need From You?

We would like you to join or renew your membership with us. It's \$20 per household per calendar year, regardless of how many adult members there are in your household. The money goes towards supporting the activities of the CRA. We are accountable to YOU every year.

We would like you to register all adults in your household as members. We do this because we would like to:

- understand everyone's individual needs and potential contributions,
- communicate to everyone directly,
- ensure we're working on the most pressing issues for the majority, and
- have maximum clout when working with community partners.

If you are unsure whether your membership is current, or to confirm you have already paid, please email us at [info@cabbagetowner.com](mailto:info@cabbagetowner.com). If you'd like to join, please visit our website and follow the "Join" link.

On behalf of the Board,

Steven de Blois, President

## 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](http://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](mailto:info@cabbagetownhcd.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@cabbagetownpa.ca](mailto:cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca).

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## Time on Your Hands?

CPA is always looking for volunteers. Some of our committees and events:

- Walking Tours: Heritage, People and Ghost
- Cabbagetown People,
- Cabbagetown Festival Booth,
- Tour of Homes,
- Newsletter Delivery,
- Garden tours.

Duties may be for one event or ongoing. If you are interested, please contact: [cpa@cabbagetownpa.ca](mailto: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.** \_\_\_\_\_

CPA charitable number 85053 6160 (RR0001)

• 1 year	\$ <u>10</u>
• Would you like to make a tax-deductible donation?	\$ _____
• TOTAL	\$ _____