



# Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood



## Join us for CPA's Fall Meeting

Thursday, December 2, 2021,  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
On Zoom

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### Letter from the Chair

Friends and neighbours,

Welcome to the Fall 2021 issue of the CPA Newsletter. And what a fall it's been – long and warm until it wasn't, and now it's warm again. I had planted almost all my bulbs before the first cold snap — what was I thinking when I ordered so many last summer? But it will be beautiful in the spring as long as squirrel landscaping doesn't move things around too much. And, maybe, just maybe, these will herald the end of the pandemic, and not the return of the skunk who dug up my garden all last summer!

We'll be meeting on Zoom for this meeting, and I hope you'll attend. Pull up a chair with the beverage of your choice. There's so much to celebrate. We're presenting two of our CPA awards; the CPA Recognition Award, and Streetscapes in Bloom and this will be followed by what promises to be an inspiring and informative talk.

The CPA Recognition Award acknowledges the inspiration, dedication and contributions an individual has made to making our community an even better place to live. This year we honour Helen Coltrinari, best known perhaps for her dedication the Cabbagetown gardeners and gardens, but her contributions go far beyond gardens. Read about Helen's contribution to Cabbagetown on page 5 .

Streetscapes in Bloom celebrates our local gardeners who make their front gardens beautiful for all of us to enjoy. This year's winner is 439 Wellesley Street E. You'll find the story of this winning garden as well as pictures on page 6. In June 2022, we hope to be back with Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces, and the chance to see what everyone has been up to in their back gardens or roof decks since 2018 when we last held this event. If you know of a special garden, please get in touch, and please consider being a volunteer for the 1-day event. You can contact us via our web site. We hope also to be back with Plant Sharing Day in the spring. Watch the website for details.

We'll close the fall meeting with a presentation by Scott Weir, of ERA Architects, a restoration architect who will speak on what he calls Opportunity in White Elephants: the Architectural Conservation and Adaptive Reuse of Buildings that Have Lost Their Way. You won't want to miss it.

I hope you enjoy this issue. As always, I'd love to hear what's on your mind.

Mark your calendar to join us on Thursday, Dec. 2 at 7:00 pm as we celebrate heritage in Cabbagetown.

Gale Moore, PhD  
Chair, Cabbagetown Preservation Association

p.s. If you're not on our mailing list and **need the Zoom address**, please join, subscribe or drop us a line.



# CPA Fall Meeting

## Agenda:

### Presentation of awards:

- the CPA Recognition Award
- the Streetscapes in Bloom Award
- presentation of the Peggy Kurtin Restoration Award painting

### A talk by Scott Weir:

#### **Opportunity in White Elephants:**

*the architectural conservation and adaptive reuse of buildings that have lost their way*

This talk will explore some of the principles that guide 21st century heritage conservation architects, and the strategies used to plan the adaptive reuse of purpose-built buildings.

From understanding the history, context, and opportunities of the site to determining how to repair and adapt the materials and archaic systems that were used, the work can require a broad collaborative effort of specialists. In many cases it also intersects with the interests of multiple stakeholders and intents, including the owner, municipal staff, community groups and sometimes conflicting ideas of how a site should be managed or changed. The talk will look at local examples including Casey House and Maple Leaf Gardens, to illustrate the application of these principles, the challenges raised by complex sites, and why we love our work.

Scott Weir OAA, RAIC, M.Arch, LEED AP, CAHP is a registered Architect and Principal at ERA Architects. He specializes in heritage conservation, adaptive reuse, new design and heritage planning. Scott's interest in cultural theory and North American urbanism has led to his work being published in a variety of architectural periodicals. He has been formally trained in Canada, Italy, and the U.K, and he regularly guest lectures for various programs at the University of Toronto, York, Ryerson, and Carleton Universities.

Thursday, December 2, 2021, 7:00 pm. On Zoom

Please contact us if you are not on our mailing list and need the Zoom Login  
For more information click [HERE](#)



Casey House

## Adaptive Reuse in Cabbagetown



St Enoch Presbyterian Church 1891.  
Now the Toronto Dance Theatre.



Trinity College Medical School 1875.  
Now residential



Gerrard Street Methodist Church 1924  
Now the Kiwanis K Club



Avion Hotel 1902. Now residential.

# Barbara Elizabeth Mercer Bequest

Imagination - wonder - awe  
It is my Garden of Simple Delights  
My privilege - to be an observer  
To the world

## The Gift

A long-time Cabbagetowner, the late Barbara E. Mercer of Sackville Street named four organizations as beneficiaries of her estate: the Ontario Educational Communications Authority (TVO), the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and the Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA). The CPA is truly honoured and humbled by her generous gift.

## Who Was Elizabeth Mercer?

Barbara was born in Galt, Ontario. She studied art in New York, San Francisco, and Toronto. She worked at various times for CBC Television, TV Ontario, the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada, and other theatre groups. As an artist, Barbara drew inspiration from her surroundings, especially the Cabbagetown neighbourhood where she moved permanently in the early 1990's. She was also a poet and produced thirteen books of poetry. Cabbagetown figures prominently in many of Barbara's books. Barbara's poetry was often featured in the CPA newsletter. She died on November 18, 2019 of pancreatic cancer.

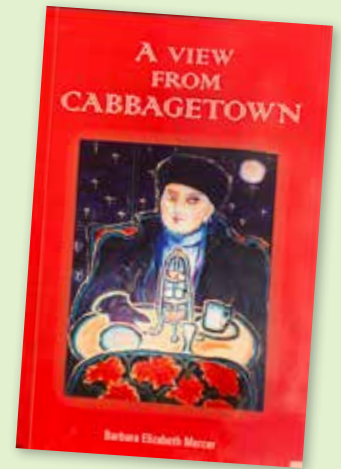
## What We Will Do

The CPA is a small, volunteer-based, not-for-profit community organization. For over 30 years it has run programs aimed at interpreting and understanding Cabbagetown's heritage while looking to its future.

## We will:

- Take some time to better understand Barbara's vision in making this gift to the CPA through conversations with those whose who knew her best.
- Invest the major portion of the gift to ensure the safe continuation of our programs in the context of a review and re-consideration of projects that have, over the years, been deferred due to lack of funds or resources.
- Consider if there is a special project or program that supports the goal of improved positioning of the CPA as a vibrant association in Cabbagetown community specifically and in the Toronto and Canadian heritage community more generally.

Toronto, September 2021



## Dawning

February 12, 2008

Sun rising  
Deep cadmium red  
Skyscrapers reflecting Red  
In sheer delighted  
Painted paneled glass Fading to  
Sky pink  
Candy floss  
As night departs  
Warming our hearts  
Bitter coldness  
Snow hard blocks  
Ice paved streets  
Warmed in colour  
Alizararin crimson  
It is the storm filled  
Blood red storm season Forest  
frosted windows Glistening frescoes  
On this  
Dawning  
February 12, 2008

*Barbara Elizabeth Mercer*



# Preserving Architectural Heritage



## Renovating?

What You Need to Know in an HCD



Owning a property in one of our four Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) gives you the advantage of living in a beautiful historic neighbourhood of leafy, human-scaled streets, Victorian era architecture and a tangible connection to Toronto's past. These characteristics that we find so attractive are protected by the Ontario Heritage Act and the Guidelines of each district's HCD Plan.

Most property owners in Cabbagetown know that when they make changes to parts of their homes that are visible from the street, a Heritage Permit needs to be obtained from the City of Toronto's Heritage Preservation Services. However, those who are new to the neighbourhood may not be aware of the protocol or may be confused about what approach to take, what to consider, or where to find help.

### A Heritage Permit Is Required For:

- Any renovations, alterations or additions that are visible from the street (this includes: windows, doors, porches, siding, and brick).
- Repairs using a material other than the original or the existing material.
- Renovations that have an impact on the building's heritage attributes. If a renovation involves demolition, property owners will need to submit an application to secure a permit.

Note that to secure a Building Permit in an HCD, even if the work does not have any heritage aspects, will require review and approval from the City's Heritage Preservation Services.

### Considerations:

- New additions, including items such as skylights, will need to be located to the rear and side, away from the main elevation.
- New garages and parking spaces will need to be located in unobtrusive areas, normally to the rear and side yards.
- Additions must be sensitive to the character of their neighbours in size and height.

### A Heritage Permit Is Not Required 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 as well as steps, entrances, windows, foundations, and decorative wood, metal, stone or terra cotta, provided that the same type of materials are used.

### Your Home's History

Many Cabbagetowners have tried out the Property Search that is available on the Cabbagetown Heritage District Advisory Committee (HDC) website. It enables you to view details of your home's origin. Since the late nineties, the Cabbagetown HCD has been surveying the homes of the current HCD areas 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, where it is available, the home's date of construction, date of occupation, the original and later owners, the home's architectural style and more. The information is required by the City as part of the process of establishing the area as a heritage district.

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 ([norman@bostokhathaway.com](mailto:norman@bostokhathaway.com)), also one of this paper's sponsors and a donor is being sought to complete the sum.

In the thousands of pages of hand written, typed and computer input material, there were inaccuracies and transpositions. If you find something when searching a property that you know to be in error, please contact the Cabbagetown HCD at [info@cabbagetownhcd.ca](mailto:info@cabbagetownhcd.ca)

## Getting Heritage on the Radar: A Gathering of the Heritage Sector



This fall has seen a wave of municipal elections across Canada. In response, heritage organizations have seized the opportunity to raise civic heritage profile.

Join in with a pan-Canadian panel of heritage leaders to discuss strategies used in recent elections, hear them unpack their takeaways on what worked and bring your own experiences and questions.

**Moderators:** Natalie Bull & Chris Wiebe

### Guests:

**Lianne Maitland**

(Executive Director, Yukon Historical and Museums Association, Whitehorse, YK)

**David Ridley**

(Executive Director, Edmonton Heritage Council, AB)

**Margo Sheppard**

(Councillor, City of Fredericton, NB)

Josh Traptow (Executive Director, Heritage Calgary, AB)

**Others TBA**





# Community Volunteering

## CPA Recognition Award

People are the heart of every community and Cabbagetown is no different. Annually, we honour a member of our community with the CPA Recognition Award; an award for their inspiration, dedication and contributions to making our community an even better place to live should change to a wonderful place to live.

This award was previously named the Volunteer of the Year Award, but in the fall of 2017, we decided that tying this to a specific year did not allow us to honour what are often the lifetime contributions of a Cabbagetown resident or friend of Cabbagetown, nor did it truly reflect the nature of the contributions. The award is now more appropriately called, the CPA Recognition Award.

Winners are announced at the Fall meeting of the association and receive a glass wine cooler engraved with their name and the name of the award.

## 2021 Winner: Helen Coltrinari

A resident of Cabbagetown since 1970, Helen Coltrinari is known by many in the community as the garden person – gardens are truly one of her passions. In 1997, Helen started Streetscapes in Bloom which annually gives an award to one of the front gardens in the neighbourhood; gardens that are available for everyone to enjoy year round. In a community of avid gardeners this has been a hit. In 2007, she designed and launched the first Hidden Gardens &



Private Spaces tour; another success, and now one of the CPA's main fundraisers. Then, in spring 2020 with the tour cancelled due to COVID-19, she and members of the Board launched Plant Sharing Day.

Helen has been Chair of the CPA, a major contributor to numerous committees, and a strong supporter of the Board renewal process in 2016. Helen has also been a leader in finding ways to attract new and younger members to this work. She is always one of the first to volunteer for any task, large or small, fun or not so much -- from editing and proofreading, to cleaning the storage locker, or delivering newsletters.

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## Recognising Volunteers in the Community

Each fall the CPA recognises a member of the Cabbagetown community. It's a wonderful award, and alerts the community to people who have generously volunteered their time and expertise to making this an even better place to live.

Recently, I have been reflecting on the many unsung heroes in our community — groups of friends and neighbours who work so hard with little recognition, and often very little awareness of their work on the part of those benefiting from their efforts.

First I would point to my Board whose ongoing activities support the community in many ways and, in particular, during the pandemic. Weekly we get requests related to individual residences, attempts to solve historical puzzles, or more practical questions, on issues such as insurance. We've created scavenger hunts to add pleasure to your walks, and hosted a Plant Sharing Day which promises to become an annual event.

While we can't answer every question, we do respond to every request with the information we have, and refer folks to others in the community who may be able to answer their queries. The CPA is now part of a rich network of organisations, and together with the Cabbagetown Heritage District Conservation Committee (CHCDC) we are responsible for heritage & preservation across the all the HCDs. I especially want to recognise the CHCDC,

For more than 15 years, Helen has had a major role in the Cabbagetown Tour of Homes, including acting as co-chair of the Organization committee.

The work of any volunteer association relies on committed folks ready to do 'what needs to be done'. That's Helen. Happily, and with a sense of relief for the members of her committees and for the Board, she has generously agreed to advise the 2022 Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces Committee. Thank you Helen for your many years of service to the CPA and to the Cabbagetown community.

whose volunteer members, often professional architects, planners, real estate agents, etc., spend countless hours reviewing and participating in meetings and hearings regarding proposed changes in our community that potentially have an impact on heritage. Thank them for what you see around you every day.

Then there are the residents' associations. If you live in Cabbagetown, you are likely within the boundaries of one of the five [four plus one pending] Heritage Conservation Districts that make up Cabbagetown, and you are represented by one of the three residents' associations — Cabbagetown Residents' Association, Cabbagetown South Residents' Association and the Winchester Park Residents' Association that serve these areas. These associations, are all run by volunteers who work tirelessly on your behalf. A look at their websites will show you just how much you benefit from their dedication.

We all need your encouragement and support — whether it's through participating on one of our boards or committees, or by becoming a member of the appropriate association. Fees are minimal — the CPA, for example, is \$20/year for a household of up to four people. Clearly, it's not about the money, but membership is one small way to show your appreciation. Better yet, step up and volunteer.

So many Cabbagetowners don't know about the work that goes into keeping this a safe, vibrant and caring community, and it's part of our responsibility to help you stay informed. You might start by reviewing the [list](#) recently compiled by [The Winchester Park Residents' Association](#).

It has been a couple of tough years for heritage with examples at both the local and provincial level of politicians taking advantage of what they perhaps hoped was COVID blindness. Well, we're wide awake, and we need you to participate. With elections coming next year, it's the time to get heritage on the agenda (see page 4 for one upcoming discussion). Ask yourself — what can you contribute to our community?

Heritage preservation and liveable communities don't just happen ....

Gale Moore, Chair



# Streetscapes in Bloom (SSB) 2021 Award

“To plant a garden  
is to believe in tomorrow.”

*Audrey Hepburn*

*By Sarah Currie*

The Streetscapes in Bloom winner for 2021 is 439 Wellesley Street E. The homeowner is Tasha Kheiriddin and she lives there with her daughter Zara. I had a GREAT interaction with Tasha's mom Rita (the visionary behind the garden) when I went to drop off the letter and then a wonderful conversation with Tasha later that day (and over the weeks). Tasha purchased the home about 2 years ago and shared that one of the selling features was a front garden in need of a complete overhaul! Her mother is an avid gardener and this

was her vision. Upon receipt of our nomination letter - the family went into high gear because they wanted to 'win it for mom'.

I hadn't seen anybody in the garden all season but was lucky enough to bump into mom when I was dropping off the 'winning' letter. She was beyond thrilled - almost teared up. Tasha, the homeowner, was equally ecstatic. They provided lots of great before and after pictures for us and for Rosie. They are looking forward to the meeting, and will happily 'join' and say a few words in whatever fashion is appropriate.

Right from the first spring visit, the Award Committee found the garden to be a real show stopper. The plantings reflected a knowledge of

seasonal blooms and were always very colourful. And not just from blooms, but from bushes and grasses as well. The care and maintenance of the garden was also well noted.

There were ten gardens nominated for 2021.

They are:

- 45 Amelia Street
- 85 Amelia Street
- 300 Berkeley Street
- 295 Carlton Street
- 383 Ontario Street
- 418 Ontario Street
- 426 Ontario Street
- 369 Wellesley Street E
- 439 Wellesley Street E
- 150 Winchester Street

The stages in recreating a garden:





# WWI cookery

By Tory Gzebb

In 1918, Lady Hearst, the Premier's wife, presented a brand new Studebaker ambulance to the Military Base Hospital. The ambulance had a small plate in it, engraved with a list of the donors - members of the Ward 2 Ladies' Patriotic Association. These were the women of Cabbagetown and Rosedale who had banded together to raise funds and do their bit in a war that had consumed their sons, brothers and husbands.



One of the main ways these enterprising ladies had managed to fundraise was the publication of a cookbook: Aunt Hanna's War-time and Peace-time Recipes. The book sold for 50 cents and contained recipes collected from women in the community, including Lady Hearst and Lady Hendrie, wife of the Lieutenant Governor. It also provided advertising space, which was another useful source of funds.

The appeal of the book, aside from its patriotic purpose and celebrity contributors, was its inclusion of recipes adapted to cooking in the face of wartime scarcity. Unlike in WW2, Canada had no rationing system during the war. Instead, as the conflict dragged on and demand increased, staple

food items became scarcer and more expensive and people's diets were forced to change.

Canada was at the forefront in the fight for food. Our wheat, pork, beef, eggs and butter were all desperately needed to feed the troops and the civilians of England. The Government actively campaigned to bolster agricultural production, but it still was not enough to meet demand. Those in urban areas were encouraged to grow produce in their gardens or wasteland to free up commercially grown fruits and vegetables for the war. Substitution was also encouraged, such as using oats or cornmeal in place of flour. These changes were promoted as not only practical, but, given the sharply rising price of staples, an act of thrift, with savings able to be contributed to wartime causes.

In 1917, the government appointed a Food Controller for Canada, William J. Hanna, whose name would inspire the ladies of Ward 2. Hanna began a campaign of waste elimination, food substitution, and greater production. He created a food service pledge in order to reduce consumption of beef, bacon and wheat - the core of soldiers' rations - by 25%, and over 1 million homes signed up. Millers were forced to keep more of the whole grain in their flour, and the ban on margarine was lifted to free-up more butter to send overseas.

But Canadians were not used to cooking with these wartime alternatives, so the government also provided advice. Hanna distributed 630,000 copies of the booklet War Meals, newspapers began publishing daily "War Menus", and the Ontario Department of Agriculture published recipes for "War Breads" using non-traditional grains such as barley, rye, and buckwheat, as well as mashed potatoes and rice. Pamphlets such as Fish and How to Cook It, and Eat More Fish were released to tackle the reluctance of Canadians to consume fish.

Sweet treats were particularly hard-hit by the wartime shortages, and bakers had to become increasingly creative in a way that may be familiar

to any modern cook who has attempted keto/vegan/gluten-free recipes. White sugar was almost impossible to find, with molasses, corn syrup and honey often used instead. Eggs were reduced, or cut out entirely by using applesauce or buttermilk. Restrictions on baking became so severe that in 1918 it was made illegal for home bakers to make candies, ice cakes and pastries, or to have more than 15 days worth of sugar or flour. The penalty? A substantial fine or even jail time, which is definitely what I want to go down for if I had to be found guilty of a crime: "What you in for?" "Murder. You?" "Frosting."

It was these new wartime recipes that made books like Aunt Hanna's so useful, mining the skills and experience of the women of Rosedale and Cabbagetown to provide treats to brighten the day or send to loved ones overseas, even in the face of shortages and restrictions. They made these recipes not only functional, but delicious. One of my favourite wartime cake recipes actually comes from an American wartime cookbook, Everyday Foods in Wartime by Mary Swartz Rose, who was an assistant professor in the department of nutrition at Columbia University. Having exhaustively sampled various wartime cake recipes with my fellow WW1 re-enactors, this one proved the hands-down winner, especially when paired with a hot cup of coffee or strong tea. As one nursing sister put it, in reference to a boiled (and extremely sturdy) cake popularly sent overseas: "why, it's even better than Trench Cake!"

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tbsp room temperature butter
- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 2 cups flour, 1 tbsp reserved for dusting fruit
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp cloves
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp nutmeg
- ⅔ cup raisins

Preheat your oven to 350 F. Cream the butter and the sugar, add the applesauce, and beat them until smooth. In a separate bowl, mix the spices and baking soda with the flour, then stir them into the wet ingredients. Toss the raisins in 1 TBSP reserved flour, then fold them into the batter. Pour batter into a greased 8x8 pan and bake for 30-35 minutes. Remove from the oven, cool for 15 minutes, slice and serve.



# Cabbagetown People

The Social History of a Canadian Inner City Neighbourhood

## Eden Smith

Prolific Early Toronto Designer and Architect  
Plaque location: 34 Salisbury Street



Born in Birmingham, England, Eden Smith was one of the youngest in a large Victorian family.

He studied drawing and architecture throughout Europe. With his wife, Annie, he moved to Toronto in 1888 and he began his architectural practice in 1892. In 1890 they lived at 34 Salisbury Avenue.

Much of his early work in Toronto was ecclesiastical and sponsored by the Anglican Church. He designed several churches, among them the church of St. Cyprian in Seaton village, St. John the Evangelist on Portland Street and the church of St. Thomas on Huron Street.

After 1888, domestic architecture monopolized his prolific output. He designed 11 houses in Wychwood Park and others in Rosedale, The Annex and Forest Hill, many of which embodied the contemporary design principles found in the Arts and Crafts Movement, of which Smith was a leading exponent. His style was called English Cottage, which had steep-pitched roofs, tall chimneys, and bands of small-paned casement windows.

In the Introduction to [Arts and Crafts Toronto](#) author W. Douglas Brown writes:

Eden Smith was undoubtedly the most consistent Arts and Crafts architect in Toronto during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There were other Toronto firms, such as Chadwick and Becket, who were influenced by Arts and Crafts mannerisms for a time, but Eden Smith was the only one who not only adhered to the principles throughout his career but defended them vigorously in public debate.

Smith's uniqueness lies in the way he adapted English Arts and Crafts principles to Toronto's climatic and social conditions. Cold winters demanded deep footings and provision for central heating; and hot summers open verandas, sleeping porches and open plans for cross ventilation.

Confined city sites demanded much ingenuity when designing according to the fundamental Arts and Crafts principle "plan from the inside out"; while the absence of a large

servant class called for layouts that allowed efficient management.

Thus necessity forced Eden Smith to develop an original Arts and Crafts house appropriate for Toronto and southern Ontario - a process that influenced domestic architecture in Ontario over the next quarter century and helped provide the groundwork for twentieth century housing design.

In his 33 years of practice he designed over 2,500 houses in the city. He was also on-site and supervised the construction.

Another outstanding achievement was the design of the co-op housing complex at the corner of Spruce and Sumach Streets in Cabbagetown. It was begun in 1913 and flourishes to this day as a model of successful co-operative housing.

Mr. Smith was also one of the founding members of the Arts and Letters Club. Eden Smith died on October 10, 1949, and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Guelph, Ontario





Eden Smith buildings in Toronto. Centre, the studio built for the Group of Seven on Rosedale Valley Road. .



Ontarioarchitecture.com



Torontoist



Torontoist

## CRP Museum



### Letter's Long Journey

**News of Attendant's death  
at the paws of Flossie the bear**

With thanks to The York Pioneer and Historical Society and Stephen Davidson.

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

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

grandson, Les Seymour, in the 1980s, where he was living in Nova Scotia.

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



# Cabbagetown Architecture Scavenger Hunt



## The Workers Cottage

This design was created in the middle of the 19th century as an answer to the need to house the “working poor” in newly industrialized England. It’s a simple design, symmetrical, pleasing, small and quick to build.

**Clue:** Most workers cottages are in the northern part of Cabbagetown (e.g. Amelia Street and north of Wellesley Street).

**Addresses:**

We invite you to walk around the streets of Cabbagetown and discover its beautiful architecture.

Some say that it offers “the largest continuous area of preserved Victorian housing in all of North America.” And since most of Cabbagetown is in a Heritage Conservation District, it is hoped that these beautiful buildings will be preserved for generations to come.

But “Victorian architecture” is not a style. Victorian architects loved to play “architectural dress-up,” using designs from other times, seeking inspiration from styles going sometimes as far back as the Middle Ages. Some styles were popular, some others were connected to the reality of the time.

Try to find the various styles of Victorian architecture. Walk around the neighbourhood using the information below. Find at least one (preferably more) example of that style and write the address.

**Note:** Keep in mind that homes and front yards are private properties. Please remain on the sidewalk.

## Some Answers:

**Workers Cottage** — Wellesley Cottages north of Wellesley, Amelia Street  
**Gothic Revival** — 255 Carlton, Rose Avenue.  
**Romanesque Revival** — 93-99 Winchester Street, Toronto Dance Theatre at Winchester and Metcalfe  
**Georgian Revival** — 35 Spruce, 85 Winchester, 185 Carlton.  
**Second Empire** — 314 Carlton, 288 Carlton and 309-311 Carlton, Alpha and Geneva streets.  
**Bay & Gable** — All over; Metcalfe and Winchester Streets east of Sackville, north side.  
**Queen Anne** — 297 Carlton and 314 Wellesley.  
**Arts & Craft** — Winchester Street between Metcalfe and Sackville on the north side. Check also Nasmith Avenue and Gifford Streets



## Second Empire

The main characteristic of this French-inspired style is its roof. The Mansard roof is actually a top floor with dormer windows. Its sides slope inwards and it’s usually clad in tiles (originally slate).

**Clue:** You can find a few of these beautiful homes on Carlton Street and a beautiful one on Sackville. A smaller version of this style can be see just off the top of Sackville Street.

**Addresses:**



## Arts & Crafts

These houses, inspired by the late 19th-early 20th century Arts & Crafts movement, are a departure from the ornate Victorian styles. Most prevalent in Cabbagetown is the largely unornamented “Tuscan” style

**Clue:** There are a few big ones on Winchester and Carlton but if you find where the Toronto General Hospital used to be in Cabbagetown, you will discover that it has been replaced by two streets full of Arts & Crafts-inspired homes in the 1920s.

**Addresses:**



## Gothic Revival

Dating from the Middle Ages (think Notre-Dame-de-Paris), this style is notable for the pointed arch of the windows, a token spire above a gable or trefoil cutouts in gable trim. The Necropolis chapel is a great example of Gothic Revival style.

**Clue:** There are only a few Gothic Revival homes in Cabbagetown. There are a couple on Carlton Street east of Metcalfe. If you find homes with pointy windows, that will do... Where are the chapels mentioned above?

**Addresses:**

Continued page 11







Join the CPA  
on Instagram

Continued from page 10



## Queen Anne

The most elaborate and eccentric of all Victorian styles. This style is asymmetrical, usually very decorated and often has terracotta ornamentation.

*Clue:* There are only a handful of Queen Anne homes in Cabbagetown. One (illustration at left) is across from Riverdale Park. Another is on Carlton. Another is on Wellesley near Parliament.

*Addresses:*



## Romanesque Revival

Derived from Roman architecture, the Romanesque style's main characteristic is the rounded windows. The exteriors of those homes is often made of red brick or red sandstone (from the Credit Valley area).

*Clue:* Look around Sackville and Winchester. A few "institutional" buildings also are of this style: a church that is now a dance theatre and a condo building that used to be a medical school for women.

*Addresses:*



## Georgian Revival

One of the earlier styles of architecture in Cabbagetown, this style is sparsely ornamented and has a very symmetrical facade.

*Clue:* There are only a handful of Georgian Revival buildings in the neighbourhood. There is one on Spruce and one on Winchester. Can you find them?

*Addresses:*



## Bay & Gable

Probably the most prevalent style in Cabbagetown. Often narrow with strong vertical emphasis, it has a bay window going up to a pointed gable with decorative bargeboard, often in typical red brick with yellow brick decorations.

*Clue:* Most Cabbagetown streets have Bay & Gable homes. Those in the lower part of Metcalfe are likely the most photographed.

*Addresses:*



## The CPA Board 2021-2022

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Comments? Contact us at [info@cabbagetownpa.ca](mailto:info@cabbagetownpa.ca)

## CPA: Who We Are

Founded in 1988 to encourage the preservation of the architectural integrity and historic character of Cabbagetown, the CPA does that and more:

### Cabbagetown Walks

Scheduled historical and architectural walking tours.  
Tours on demand.

### Cabbagetown Talks

Lively discussions about Cabbagetown's past, present and future

### Cabbagetown People

Celebrating the lives of remarkable people.

### Garden and Home Tours

The Hidden Gardens & Private Spaces Tour  
The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes

### Award Programs

The Peggy Kurtin Awards Program  
The Streetscapes in Bloom Award  
The CPA Recognition Award

For more information go to [cabbagetownpa.ca](http://cabbagetownpa.ca)

Join us! Become a member of the CPA.



Registration Opens next  
Saturday, November 13th, 9:00am

Is there any group of people more connected to the earth than gardeners? We happily live with dirty fingernails and sore backs to create gardens that are both beneficial and beautiful. But, have you ever wondered if there's more to it than just planting a few purple coneflowers?

Join our three learned speakers - Sheila Colla, Cole Burrell and Rebecca McMakin - for inspiring and pragmatic insights on the creation of an ecologically beautiful garden.



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