



Cabbagetown Preservation Association NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood



Community voices will shape our city's heritage and its future.

Join us for CPA's Annual General Meeting

Meeting House at Riverdale Farm

Thursday May 29, 2025

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

(Enter from gate on Winchester, opposite Necropolis)

The meeting is open to all.
Voting for CPA members

This public meeting will provide updates on the CPA's activities and introduce nominations to the board. We'll also announce the Peggy Kurtin Award for Excellence in Restoration!

Plus! Don't miss our featured speaker Claire Jansen-Faught, author of *State of Heritage 2025* share her bold new vision for Toronto's future—one where Indigenous histories are central, cultural neighbourhoods thrive, and communities shape their own stories.



C'town past: St. Luke's, Carlton St and Sherbourne, 1906. TPL

Heritage Toronto just published the report entitled *State of Heritage 2025: From Community Voices to Action*. It aims to inform the public of issues and trends in the heritage sector and to advise decision-makers on opportunities for improvement.

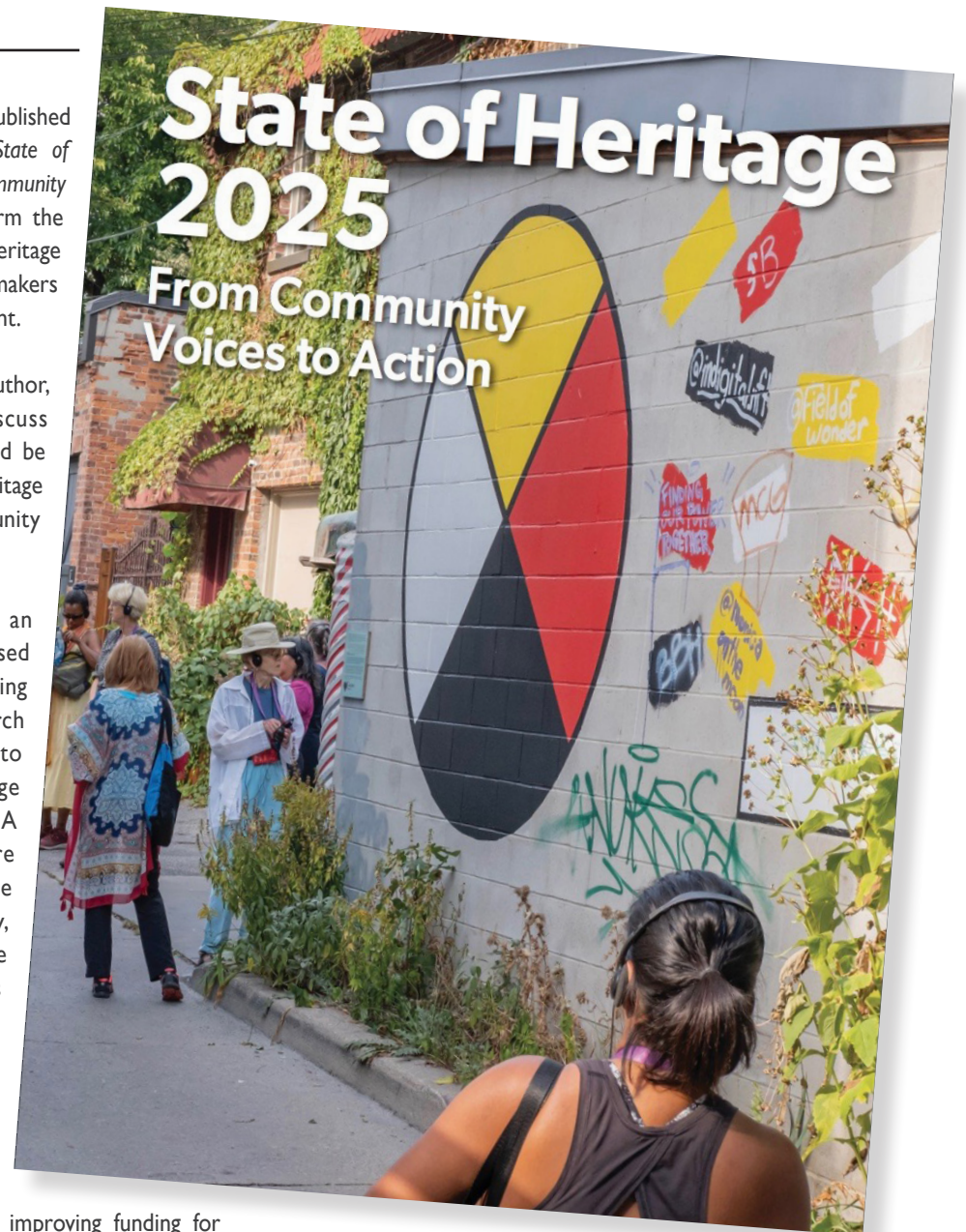
At our AGM the report's author, Claire Jansen-Faught, will discuss what kind of city Toronto could be five years from now if the heritage sector were to put community perspectives first.

Over the past two years, an Advisory Task Force composed of members of equity-deserving communities undertook research and engaged communities to rethink the role of heritage in city-building. The result? A new vision for 2030, where Indigenous histories are embedded in our city's identity, cultural neighbourhoods are protected, and communities have the power to shape their own heritage stories.

With 15 key recommendations, this report challenges us to take action, whether through decolonizing heritage practices, improving funding for equity-deserving groups, or fostering deeper collaboration across sectors.

The Speaker:

Claire Jansen-Faught is a researcher with experience in academic institutions and cultural organizations. She researched and wrote Heritage Toronto's 2025 State of Heritage report. In her work, Claire investigates the ways that individuals and communities understand themselves and their histories, with a particular interest in the relationship between emotions, knowledge transmission, and systems of power. Also a fibre artist, Claire is interested in art's connection to well-being and social progress. She holds a Master of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Victoria.



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The Future of Parliament Street - An Update

by Gilles Huot



all images: City of Toronto Archives

The last two issues of this newsletter contained articles discussing the future of Parliament Street. Since then, some work has been done. But first a recap, then an update.

Looking at the number of cranes around the city, it is normal to expect that the “Walk of the High Rises” will eventually hit Cabbagetown.

However, there are a few safeguards in place. For example, there are building height restrictions imposed by the City. For Parliament Street, these are currently set at 3 storeys. However, the City is reviewing them and they could pass from 3 to 6 or even 14-15 storeys. But that story is for another day. Another safeguard is, of course, the fact that all of Cabbagetown - except for Parliament Street - is designated as a heritage conservation district (HCD).

Therefore, if or when redevelopment occurs in Cabbagetown, it will be on Parliament Street.

Parliament Street contains a number of beautiful late 19th century buildings that give a lot of character to the street. That character should be protected as it is in line with the rest of Cabbagetown: a vibrant and attractive “village” in the heart of a big city. By protected, we mean integrated into any possible redevelopment and not demolished.

We think that for Parliament Street to have a future acceptable to its surrounding communities, it should be looked at through three lenses or “pillars:”

1. the protection of our heritage buildings
2. the improvement of the streetscape
- 3 .the good management of its densification

At this point in time, the first pillar is our priority. Here's why.

In 2022, the Government of Ontario passed the More Homes Built Faster Act (Bill 23). This is a wide-ranging piece of legislation. A preoccupying aspect of it was the fact that it

asked Cities to designate listed properties by January 2026. In Toronto, this would have been an impossible task, considering that Toronto has a few thousands listed properties and very few resources to do this work. Pressures on the Province were successful as the deadline was pushed to January 2027. The City of Toronto is now scrambling to find ways to deal with this issue.

For almost a year now, some Board members of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) and members the Cabbagetown HCD Advisory Committee (CHCDAC) have worked together on a proposal that would help the City deal with Parliament Street's listed properties and, at the same time, protect many other remarkable heritage properties on our main street. Note that Parliament Street has a number of listed properties but none of them are in immediate danger. However, many properties with high heritage value currently have no protection at all. Our proposal wants to deal with this issue.

We first looked at the possibility of having our stretch of Parliament Street (between Gerrard and Wellesley streets) designated as an HCD. Unfortunately, we were told that this process could take up to 10 years. In the meantime, redevelopment could easily happen and make many buildings disappear.

We decided to take a fresh look at the heritage buildings lining up Parliament Street. We researched their history and looked at their style. We then looked at them through the lens of the provincial criteria for determining their cultural value or interest. We then grouped properties according to 3 levels of priority. We also took the heartbreaking decision to only push for the designation of the Priority 1 group of properties.

We invite the community to take a stroll on Parliament Street and check out the identified properties.

In early 2025, representatives of the CPA and the CHCDAC met with the Board of the Cabbagetown Business

Improvement Area (BIA) as we feel the the Cabbagetown business community should know that this is happening. The BIA is currently surveying its members on the plan that was submitted. We are hoping to get the support of the Cabbagetown BIA.

We feel that protecting the identified properties would be a great first step in beautifying and making Parliament Street a great commercial street. A heritage commercial area distinguishes itself from other commercial districts. Parliament Street has a concentration of heritage buildings as defined by their architectural styles and history, sites, and structures all linked by historical and socio-cultural contexts specific to a specific period, in our case, the late 19th century. These are part of an intangible heritage that contribute to the unique character of Cabbagetown.

Our vision for the future of Parliament Street (all 3 pillars mentioned above) would benefit businesses along Parliament Street as it would become a vibrant, welcoming and unique commercial street where Cabbagetown residents would want to shop and hang out. It would also become a destination for other Torontonians and tourists.

Our next step is to meet with Ward 13 City Councillor, Chris Moise, to inform him about this proposal and obtain his support. It would then be forwarded to the City of Toronto Planning Division.

We hope to be able to tackle the two other “pillars” in due course.

We certainly would like to receive your comments or suggestions through the Contact Us tab at cabbagetownpa.ca.





Parliament Street Update



Designated and Listed Properties:

Designated:
A property designated by a municipal by-law under the Ontario Heritage Act. A designated property is protected from demolition or unsympathetic alteration. It appears in the Heritage Register. Alterations and densification are possible but would need to be negotiated with the City.

Listed:
A listed property has been identified as culturally significant but has not yet been designated as further evaluation needs to take place.

Suggested Priority I Properties

- 411-415 Parliament
- 433-443 Parliament
- 473-491 Parliament
- 502-508 Parliament
- 542-552 Parliament
- 549-563 Parliament
- 450-460 Parliament
- 583-585 Parliament
- 562-588 Parliament

The alterations made to the property that housed the former Menagerie store complicate its possible designation.

Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

(per Ontario Regulation 9/06)

1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.
2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.
3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
4. The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.
5. The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.
6. The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.
8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.
9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.

Update on 505-509 Parliament Street

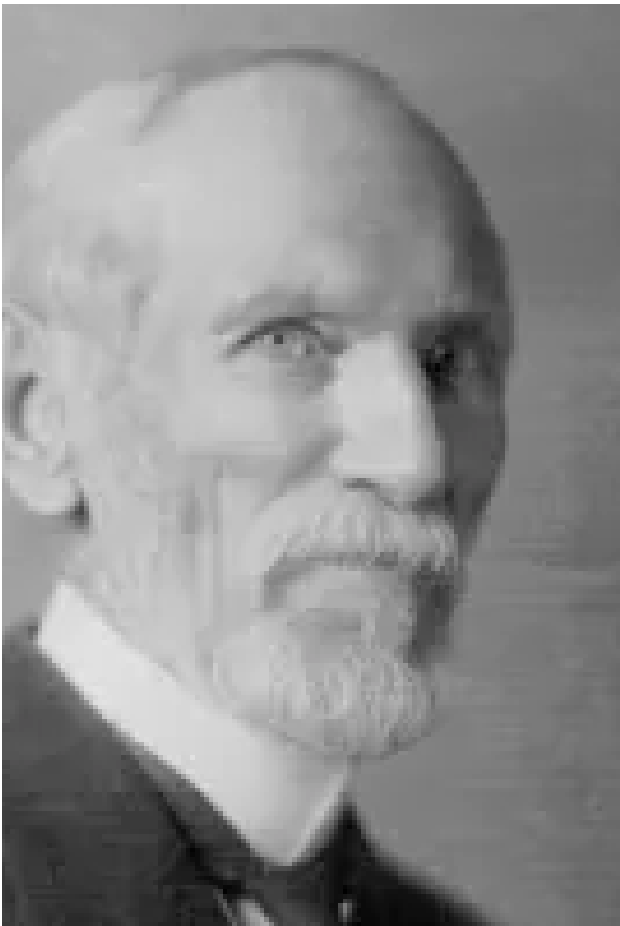
In 2023, Streetwise Capital Partners submitted a zoning By-law Amendment to permit the development of this site with a 10-storey (plus mechanical penthouse) mixed-use building with retail at-grade and 85 dwelling units. The original proposal would keep part of the façade of 509 Parliament and demolish the property at 505-507 Parliament.

In early 2024, the City of Toronto designated as heritage the building at 509 Parliament. This means that the developer needed to significantly amend its proposal. Unsurprisingly, the developer appealed the designation to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). The first hearing took place in June 2024 and another was scheduled for September 2024 but adjourned as it looks like the OLT wanted the parties (Streetwise Capital Partners and the City of Toronto) to negotiate and come to an agreement. At this point, progress on this issue is unknown. However, an OLT hearing on this case is scheduled for the end of June 2025.



Cabbagetown People

 **Hugh Neilson 1844 - 1938**
Telephone Pioneer



Cabbagetown People

Hugh Neilson was born in Alloa (same hometown as George Brown), Scotland, and came to Canada in 1851. The sailing took 53 days. Neilson settled first in southwestern Ontario. That's where he learned telegraphy with his father and and at 17 he became an operator. He moved to Toronto in 1869.

Neilson was one of the four founders of the Telephone Despatch Company and its first Manager. It was the first company to provide pioneer telephone services in Toronto.

He had one of the first four telephones installed in his beautiful Gothic Revival house (built in 1877) on Carlton Street. It was only three years after Alexander Graham Bell had invented the telephone and only one year after the first (Brantford-Paris) long distance phone call.

The Telephone Despatch Company's first List of Subscribers (a very thin "phonebook") was published in 1879. It counted 56 customers, including the four founders. The List didn't give phone numbers. To make a call, you had to contact the operator who would relay the call to another customer who needed to be clearly identified. It was quite the operation. Customers were also connected via party lines with six to eight customers per line.

The sketchy quality of the technology and users' unfamiliarity with the new device were acknowledged in the new phone books with specific instructions:

Speak slowly and distinctly, with some force, but not in a high tone.

Let the telephone rest against the lower lip. While listening press the telephone firmly against the ear.

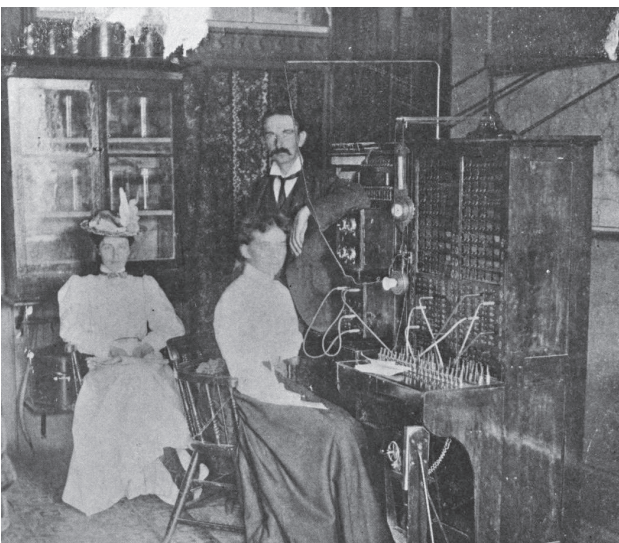


Steve Yeates

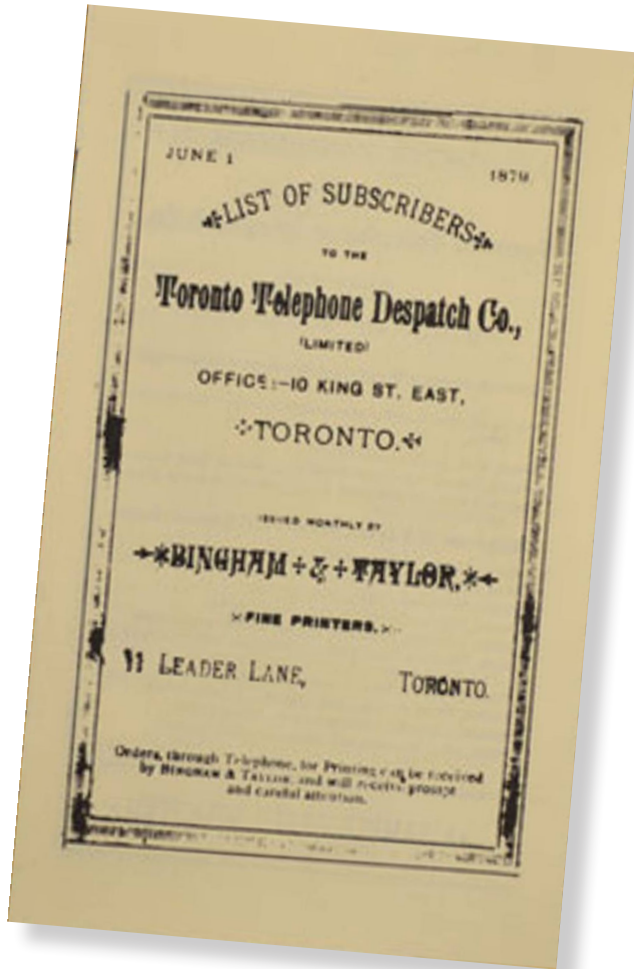
At all times give your hearers ample time to transfer the telephone to their ear before you speak, and be certain a sentence is finished before you reply.

Among the first businesses "connected" by phone were merchants like the Robert Walker's Golden Lion Store (dry goods) on King Street, a druggist at Yonge and Queen, the Telegram and the Globe newspapers, a restaurant on Yonge Street, the Grand Trunk Railway office, the Queen's Hotel (predecessor of the Royal York Hotel), and a few more.

In 1881, the Telephone Despatch Company was taken over by the Bell Telephone Company. By that time, the company had 200 subscribers. Neilson was kept as the Manager. When he retired in 1896, he became the first pensioner at Bell.



Bell Telephone Company's Bowmanville office in 1898
Toronto Public Library



Toronto Public Library

Neilson also had other interests. He lived a very active life and loved the outdoors and photography. He was a founding member of the Toronto Canoe Club and of the Toronto Camera Club. Neilson was also the first secretary of the Muskoka Lakes Association. He also travelled the world extensively, even in his old age.

Hugh Neilson died at age 93 in 1938. At the time of his death, he was the longest continuous telephone subscriber in the world. He was buried in the Toronto Necropolis. His daughter, pioneering Toronto Public Health Nurse Janet Neilson, grew up in the Carlton Street house. The story doesn't say how much time she spent on the phone.

From Wikipedia:

Before the invention of electromagnetic telephones, mechanical acoustic devices existed for transmitting speech and music over a greater distance. The acoustic tin can telephone, or "lovers' phone", has been known for centuries. It connects two diaphragms with a taut string or wire, which transmits sound by mechanical vibrations from one to the other along the wire. An early version was also found in use by the Chimu in Peru. The gourd and stretched-hide version resides in the Smithsonian Museum collection and dates back to around the 7th century AD.



Wikipedia



The Lost Corner Stores of Cabbagetown

Steve Yeates

When Cabbagetown was being built up in the late 1800s, most shopping was done locally – very locally.

Cabbagetown was a streetcar suburb. As the city grew outward and streetcar lines were established, people working downtown were able to live in the relatively fresh air of communities such as Cabbagetown. Although the St Lawrence Market had existed for decades and transportation by streetcar was available, domestic shopping was usually done on foot on the main streets or at the nearest corner store.

Corner stores weren't the convenience stores we know now. They were complete small grocery stores, including meat butchered on the spot, milk from dairies as close as Parliament Street, and baked goods from local bakeries.

The stores pictured became convenience stores as shopping transferred to malls and supermarkets. In the last few decades almost all corner stores in Cabbagetown have been converted to homes.

The top image is a fairly large grocery and butcher at Amelia and Sackville Streets. Not pictured on the opposite corner is where an Apothecary existed.

The friendly Corner at Sumach and Spruce, pictured in the 1980s was eventually purchased and converted to a home, taking advantage of its corner lot.

At Wellesley and Sackville, one of the last to be converted was the Oakleaf Market having been converted into two homes in 2009.



All images, City of Toronto Archives



CPA Student Experience Program Awards

Gilles Huot / Steve Yeates

Two CPA Student Experience Awards have been given for 2024. With work completed over the Summer, Bracha Stettin, a Master of Landscape Architecture candidate, University of Toronto, presented her project at the CPA's November public meeting. Her work, entitled *Trees & Time*, presented a well-researched and lively booklet in a zine format, focusing on historical ecology.

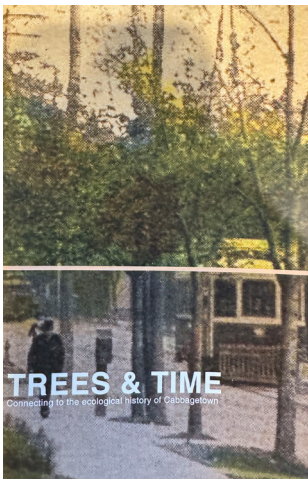
In the rush to urbanize, develop, and “civilize”, early settlers cleared forests, drained marshes, and gridded the land into rows of rectangular streets, which changed Cabbagetown's ecology irreversibly.

Using the tools of the “landscape observer” Bracha examined present day Cabbagetown for ecological clues that form a trail back to its not-so-distant past.

At first blush, the topic may have sounded dry but Bracha's presentation captivated the full house.

A second award's production has been delayed but we are anticipating *Parliament Street Chronicles: A Culinary and Urban Exploration*, a 20-minute short film that delves into the rich tapestry of culinary diversity and urban design along Parliament Street in Cabbagetown. The author is Shivangi Chauhan, a Masters of Urban Design candidate in the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture and Design, University of Toronto.

We are pleased to announce that Noor Latif is our 2025 SEP Award winner. Noor is working on her Master of Science in Planning at the University of Toronto. She will be researching government management of the Don Valley ravine and how it affects Cabbagetown and other stakeholders.



Renovating? What You Need to Know in an HCD

Cabbagetown's leafy, human-scaled Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) 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.



From Our Newsletters of the past: Oak Street – as seen from 2007

From our Fall 2007 Newsletter: The new Regent Park project's demolition had started and it was a time to look back on the pre-war Cabbagetown. Oak Street, in particular, had been buried in the 1940s plan and was about to be reopened as a through street, reintegrating again with the rest of the city. This article was written by Carol Moore-Ede.

What remains of Oak Street sits north of Dundas and east of Parliament. Over the years it has undergone several significant transformations that form an important part of Toronto's history. In the 1790s, the government of Upper Canada selected 99-acres east of Parliament Street for residential and commercial use. The area was referred to as 'The Park', and by the early 1800s a number of small houses were strewn about it. Then during the 1840s and 50s there was a significant population growth when workers – many of them immigrants – were lured to Toronto by the coming of the railway and industrial expansion. Cabbagetown attracted people in part because it was close to several factories and workplaces.

Oak Street and surrounding streets were in reality a vibrant and healthy mix of income levels and cultures despite the mid to late 1800s' perception of poor living standards. Oak Street embraced many middle-class architectural styles, such as Georgian, Queen Anne, and Bay N' Gable in addition to the workers' cottages. The homes had been maintained with pride but many families found it increasingly difficult to keep up their properties during the Great Depression of 1929–39. For example, some widows from the First World War were forced to convert their homes into boarding houses for transient people. However, on the upside the Depression and the Second World War created a very strong sense of community and mutual support among residents.

In the 1930s and 40s a growing interest in social welfare began in Toronto. It was decided to examine housing conditions in poor neighbourhoods and in 1934 a municipal committee was appointed. The subsequent Bruce Report identified the area as a so-called 'Bad Area'. Authorities recommended that it become the city's first official 'clearance site', although plans were delayed.

Support for urban reform in Toronto from 1942-1946 increased substantially. The public felt that the government should take responsibility for families living in poor conditions. They subsequently united to call for City Council to proceed with its former plans for publicly financed, low-rental housing. Some residents welcomed this while others argued that it was not the best choice for their neighbourhood. In 1947, the latter formed the Regent Park Ratepayers' Association (RPRA), which tried to get fair compensation for the sale of their houses slated for demolition; and an active role in the development process, such as representation on the Toronto Housing Authority board.

The Housing Authority of Toronto, established in 1947, eventually decided on a 'garden-suburbs superblock model' that had been used in parts of the United States. The existing mix of architectural styles would be replaced by 74-acres of new uniform housing and green space. Oak Street was first street chosen for demolition. The federal and provincial governments contributed a total of \$2.7 million, with a final cost to the city of about \$16 million. This funding was the first evidence of support from higher-level governments for public housing projects.



Architect J.E. Hoare's design included 1,056 low-level apartments and row houses to accommodate a mix of families and senior citizens. The Regent Park North development promised its new residents a family-centered open space filled with modern housing, pleasant landscapes, and limited vehicle access. Rent was to be established on a sliding scale, averaging 20% of monthly family income.

The first families moved in during March 1949. There was a sense of optimism and civic pride about Toronto's first large-scale public housing project and many local residents looked forward to their new life in Regent Park. However, Regent Park rapidly failed to deliver the promises so enthusiastically offered by politicians and some residents in the 1940s and 50s. It would have been more successful if mixed-use and mixed-income spaces had been used to link Regent Park with the surrounding neighbourhoods. Other problems were caused by a lack of road networks, community facilities, and commercial spaces, which affected security, safety, and effective crime prevention.

Despite promises of priority re-housing only half of the new units were occupied by eligible local families. They were either refused state-assisted housing, or they were denied it due to what government officials judged to be 'moral unfitness'. Also rates were far above the original proposals and promises of low rent. An undercurrent of mistrust developed, which continues today.

The 1940s enthusiasm for social welfare planning waned. The housing model used in Regent Park was questioned and in the 1950s City planners discussed different approaches to deal with the worsening crisis of poor Toronto neighbourhoods in general.

Several community and political groups were organized in the 1950s and 60s. The Regent Park Ratepayers Association worked to publicize important issues, such as fair housing prices and

rental rates although they were unsuccessful in stopping the demolition of their area. The community's activism reached its height in the late 1960s. Residents protested against imposed government programs they considered inappropriate for their neighbourhood. Large portions of the activist groups were made up of women, as they were most often affected by high rental rates and unfair policies.

Regent Park women continue to take strong leadership roles in various safety initiatives and community events, such as Storytelling in the Park and The Sole Support Mom's Group. Although the area has faced many challenges, most believe it is a vibrant and healthy community full of kinship and a fierce pride of place.

Regent Park is a community of communities, rich in diversity. Once again Oak Street and the surrounding streets are being re-invented, this time with a Jane Jacob's sensibility. Toronto Community Housing Corporation is revitalizing the area and between 2006 and 2018, it will be completely replaced with a mix of varied-income residences. The buildings of Phase I have been demolished and construction has begun on the first building at the northwest corner of Sackville and Dundas Streets. The demolition is a move forward for some, but for others it's a loss of identity and a place they call home. It remains to be seen how successful this second attempt will be.

*Images, older, 1936, 1937 : City of Toronto Archives
Opposite bottom image: Abridged, C. Moore-Ede, detail, demolition, 2006. © Dagda*



Oak Street - 2007



50 Years in Cabbagetown

Virginia Van Viet

When I was asked recently how long I had lived in Cabbagetown, I was shocked to realize I have lived here for 50 years. “You must have seen a lot of changes,” they said. I started to say “Not really...” and then I started to remember.

In 1976 we could still afford to buy a house here on our middle class salaries – even though the bank would only credit half my income “because, after all, you will stop work to raise a family”. My in-laws were horrified we were moving into a “slum”; however, while the area was still officially called Don Vale, the real estate agents were selling it as Cabbagetown and the “white painters” were moving in.



Our house was subdivided into two apartments in the 1960s and had had six different owners in seven years, including a numbered company who owned it for one month. Our real estate agent assured us it was a good buy. At 17 feet wide, it was on the larger size, was built of solid brick and could accommodate a third floor. “All it needs now is a coat of paint.” And a new furnace and new wiring and updated plumbing and...but we still loved it.

Our neighbours to the north were an older couple from Macedonia. Nancy used to sit on the porch spinning wool with a drop spindle while Peter kept racing pigeons under the back steps. The other half of our semi was still apartments and the tenants used to sit on the porch and drink beer, throwing the empties onto the ground for people to pick up during the night for the deposits.

We started out doing our own renovations. Stripping wall paper, painting, panelling the bathroom and, I am ashamed to admit, carpeting it. (It was the 70's and yes, it was brown, shag polyester carpe.!) We would often find ourselves in a panic on a Sunday when we didn't have enough paint or the right size screws or a spare saw blade and all the stores were closed. I remember thinking when Home Hardware opened on Sunday how much easier renovators' lives would be.

People and buildings and restaurants have come and gone of course. I had my first Mexican food at The Peasant's Larder and celebrated a number of birthdays at Parkes. Poor William's, later The Pear Tree, was my coffee and dessert escape place with other young mothers and where our daughter had a her first “real” restaurant meals. Summer was marked by ice cream from Jeremiah's by Riverdale Park, famous for the bullfrog in the window.

When our daughter, Victoria, was born in 1985, people said “Oh, you'll want to move to the suburbs now.” No, we didn't. We just called Weenan Construction and had a third floor nanny's room added. Our Cabbagetown lives changed, of course. We became part of the Spruce Court Co-op Nursery and the Little League baseball team and Tory became a Junior Farmer at Riverdale Farm. When a university friend commented that it must have been hard growing up in the anonymity of a big city like Toronto, Tory said: “I didn't grow up in Toronto. I grew up in Cabbagetown where everyone knew everyone. I could never do anything wrong, because, if I did, someone would phone my parents.”

Living in a changing urban environment also taught Tory some lessons she wouldn't get in the suburbs. I remember when she was about 7 walking her to school with my mother when Tory noticed a green condom in the gutter and remarked. “That's interesting. I've never seen a green one before!” (I doubt my mother had seen any!) I also remember walking Tory home from ballet class when a couple passed us dressed in studded black leather, the man wearing a collar and leash. When Tory's friend asked why they were dressed like that and I was trying to formulate an explanation of S and M suitable for an eight year old Tory said “I expect she always wanted a pet so the man is just being a puppy for her.” My daughter has travelled easily all over Europe because, as she says, “If you grew up in Cabbagetown, nothing throws you.”

So yes, I have seen changes in 50 years. And I hope that my daughter, Cabbagetown born and bred, will see more changes as she lives here for another fifty years.



The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes

The Cabbagetown Tour of Homes Returns! Sunday, September 21

This self-guided tour celebrates the charm, history, and design of our incredible neighbourhood.

This year's **"Greatest Hits" edition** features a curated collection of standout homes from tours past.

To showcase your home or get involved visit cabbagetownpa.ca. **Tickets will be available soon online.**



Most Unwanted in your Garden

Trisse Loxley and Jannette Porter

Siberian Squill, aka Scilla

Easily identified by its striking blue flowers, this early spring bloomer not only takes over the garden, it easily spreads into natural areas from neighbourhood parks to ravines. Plus, it can be toxic to pets if consumed.

Distinguishing marks: Blue, bell-shaped, six-petal flowers with grass-like leaves.

Arrest its development: Remove these plants now before they seed by digging out the bulbs (and avoid planting it in your garden too).

Garlic Mustard

A common sight in yards, down alleys or along fences, this culprit out-competes garden plants as well as native species in natural areas by releasing chemicals into the soil that prevent the growth of other species, including those at risk like the Drooping Trillium.

Distinguishing marks: Coarsely-toothed, heart-shaped leaves that release a distinct garlic smell when crushed.

Arrest its development: Pull out plants before or when white flowers appear in May/June by removing the entire root.

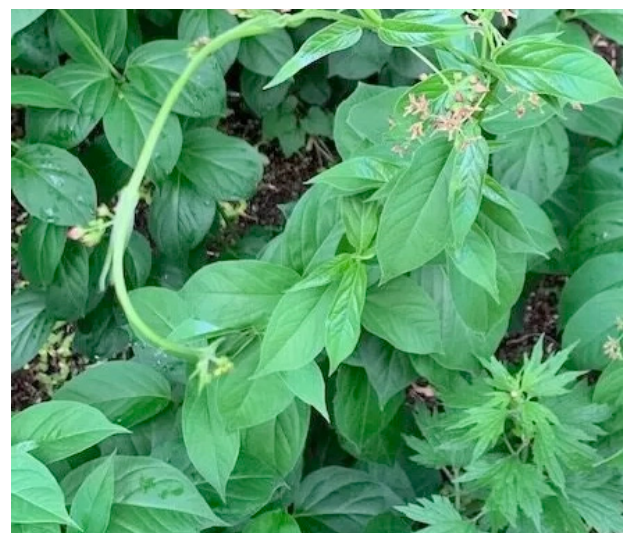
Dog-strangling Vine

Spreading through neighbourhoods and natural areas, this vine gets a stranglehold by crowding out native plants and trees. It also poses a threat to monarch butterflies, which unwittingly lay eggs on this plant – mistaking it for milkweed – however, its larvae cannot survive on the vine. **Distinguishing marks:** Oval, pointed leaves that grow oppositely on the stem, with pink star-shaped flowers appearing late May.

Arrest its development: Use a trowel to dig it out, taking care to remove the entire root.

Do Not Compost. Place any plant materials in black plastic bags or yard waste bags. Seal the bags tightly and leave them in direct sunlight for about a week before you dispose of them.

Trisse Loxley and Jannette Porter are gardeners and advocates for pollinator gardens and planting of domestic species. Presently, they are working on Amelia's garden at Parliament and Amelia Streets.



The CPA Board 2025-2026

Stephen Yeates – Chair
Sarah McCarten – Vice Chair
Mary Martin – Treasurer
Virginia Van Vliet - Secretary
Joanne Dolan
Maude Greisman
Gilles Huot
Christina Jackson
Donald MacMillan
Matt Mintzer
David Pretlove



Comments?
[CONTACT US](#)

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

Cabbagetown Walks

Scheduled and on-demand walking tours.

Cabbagetown Talks

Lively discussions about anything Cabbagetown

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 CPA Recognition Award
The CPA Student Experience Program



Riverdale Park West's new entry lamps at night

