



CABBAGETOWN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

November 1992

Vol. 6, No. 4

C P A F A L L M E E T I N G

Wednesday, November 18

8:00 P.M. - Saint Martin's Elementary School

Several guest speakers will be at the CPA Fall meeting. *R. Scott James*, managing director of the Toronto Historical Board will talk about what designation or listing of a building or an area means and how it is accomplished. Also speaking at the meeting will be *Steven Magwood*, from the TORONTO 200 Committee. Steve will tell us about the plans that have been made to celebrate the landing by John Graves Simcoe on the shores of Toronto and to encourage Cabbagetown to participate in TORONTO 200.

At each of our meetings, a short slide talk is given about one of the streets in Cabbagetown. At the November meeting, local resident *Earl Vitalis* will be giving a slide tour of Spruce Street. We encourage all residents of Cabbagetown to attend this meeting. Cabbagetown is a wonderful neighbourhood and the CPA meeting is a great way to get involved in your community and meet your neighbours. Mark it in your book! We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, November 18th at 8 p.m.

T O U R I N G O L D C A B B A G E T O W N

As I'm sure most of you know, CPA has produced a book on Cabbagetown based on research completed for four years of walking tours conducted during the Cabbagetown Cultural Festivals. Do you get embarrassed when your visitors ask a question about Cabbagetown and you *Don't* know the answer? This book is just the right size to fit into your coat-pocket so that while you are walking around the area, or walking your dog(s), you can whip the book out and read about an interesting building that has caught your eye.

CPA has also produced a coffee mug, a t-shirt and a sweatshirt for sale. The mug has a pen-and-ink-illustration of the Wellesley Cottages wrapped around it. The sweatshirt and t-shirt have a drawing of the Victorian home at 119 and 121 Winchester on the front.

If you are not a member of CPA, you may buy a copy of the book, mug or t-shirt at One More Time Books on Parliament Street. If you are a member, you may buy them at the CPA meeting on Wednesday, November 18th, or by phoning 967-6432 and leaving a message.

Touring Old Cabbagetown is \$15 for non-members, \$10 for members, t-shirts are \$15 for non-members, \$12 for members with the mugs \$6 for non-members, \$5 for members.



In the August CPA Newsletter, a list of the CPA members who were on the book committee ended up somewhat jumbled. Our apologies! Hopefully this list is complete: Ann Ames, Lena Badhwar, Marijan Bayer, Nancy Conn, Peggy Kurtin, Pat Poulin-Brubaker, Dominique Prince, Ruth Wagner, Janishka Zurowski. The artists who lavishly illustrated TOURING OLD CABBAGETOWN are John Coburn, Bernie Harris, Dominique Prince, Bill Stapleton and Janishka Zurowski.

PEOPLE IN STRUGGLE

People In Struggle is the title of a new book which has been published documenting the life and work of one of Canada's senior artists, William (Bill) J. Stapelton. Bill, who lives on Sumach Street, is one of the artists who contributed sketches for the Cabbagetown Walking Tour book. To learn more about Bill and his work, copies of People in Struggle can be ordered from Penumbra Press, 435 Stillmeadow Circle, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 5M1.

Do's and Dont's

To maintain the historic and architectural character of Cabbagetown, it has been suggested by a CPA member that guidelines and standards be designed and shared to ensure that construction projects including both renovations to existing structures and new buildings are sympathetic to the historic streetscape.

The following five principles have been identified as being the five most important do's and dont's. What do you say? Let's hear your views.

- ◆ DO NOT introduce variation or deviance from the established roofline or streetscape
- ◆ DO Maintain existing setback
- ◆ DO NOT incorporate a street level or sloping garage access into house design on the streetscape
- ◆ DO respect the size, shape and rhythm of windows in houses on historic streets
- ◆ DO NOT deviate from established building materials (period or facsimile) of other houses on the street i.e. brick vs. synthetic stone, slate vs roof tile, clapboard vs. aluminum

WELLESLEY STREET APARTMENT PROPOSAL UPDATE

There have been a number of recent developments regarding the proposals to build a new apartment complex on Wellesley Street East. This involves one proposal for two large scale high rise towers by Meridian Developments and an alternative proposal by a local community group, the "Winchester Square Working Group". In the first two meetings held by the Ontario Municipal Board on September 8th and 16th, Meridian Developments failed to provide sufficient information for the City and the OMB officer. At the latter meeting, Meridian maintained that what they wanted were only some technical adjustments to the site specific zoning bylaw. The final OMB hearing which is scheduled for February 22, 1993, could last 10-15 days.

In other related actions, City Planning recommended that their request for rezoning of the vacant Winchester Square sites, which would allow development similar to the community proposal, be processed quickly so that it could be approved by City Council by May 1993. City Council approved this

recommendation in August. This is now being fast tracked so that it is complete or at least as far along in the process as possible, by the February OMB hearing.

The CPA supports the Winchester Square Working Group proposal and has provided a financial bequest to help the Group defer their legal costs associated with the OMB hearing. The Group has now learned that due to the extended OMB hearing in February, their legal costs will increase. Many local residents and other visitors who attended the Cabbagetown Festival signed a petition at the CPA booth opposing the Meridian plan. If you wish to indicate your further support for the Winchester Square Working Group proposal, by making a financial contribution please contact Graham Mudge, Chair of the Working Committee at 511 Ontario Street (corner of Winchester), M4X 1M8,

LESLIE STREET EXTENSION

The Municipality of Metropolitan has proposed an extension of Leslie Street south of Eglinton Avenue to Bayview Avenue and the widening of Bayview Avenue southerly to Bloor/Danforth Avenue. Metro has also prepared an environmental assessment of the proposal as required by the Environmental Assessment Act. These proposals were to be considered by a Joint Board Hearing comprised of the Ontario Municipal Board and the Environmental Assessment Board sitting together. The City of Toronto has indicated that it is strongly opposed to this proposal. The CPA also has serious concerns regarding the impact of increased traffic through our neighbourhood created by this

proposal. In light of these concerns, the CPA notified the Joint Board that it wished to participate in the hearing. A CPA representative attended the preliminary hearing held on September 21, 1992. At this preliminary hearing, it was agreed to defer the meeting until November 5th, due to the Province of Ontario's announcement that it was not going to contribute financially to this project. In light of this announcement, it appears that this project may be on hold indefinitely. Stay tuned for any new developments.

A TRIBUTE TO BERNIE HARRIS

Bernie Harris died, October 26, 1992. Bernie was one of the artists whose beautiful illustrations of Cabbagetown homes helped put the finishing touches to our new book, *Touring Old Cabbagetown*.

Bernie and his wife Beth have made their home on the corner of Spruce and Sword Streets.

Bernie was a commercial artist in France as well as in Canada. His love of Cabbagetown is evident in the many drawings he produced including the front cover of *Touring Old Cabbagetown*.

Bernie will be missed by his many friends and the artistic community in Cabbagetown.

BOARD OF CPA

If you have concerns about the integrity and historical character of our neighbourhood, please feel free to call one of the CPA executive.

<i>President</i>	Peggy Kurtin	967-6432
<i>Vice-President</i>	Lene Badhwar	921-4601
<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Ross Fraser	920-5202
<i>Past-President</i>	Pat Poulin	923-6934
Nancy Allin	Sue Langton	Earl Vitalis
Doug Johnson	Janice Hall-Harris	John Durnan

TORONTO CIRCA 1837

Interested in what the City of Toronto looked like in 1837. Beginning November 9th, a carefully researched and crafted model of the city circa 1837 will be on permanent display, in the North Room of "Toronto's First Post Office", located at 260 Adelaide Street East. Toronto's First Post Office is open from 9 to 4 Monday to Friday and 10 to 4 on Saturday and Sunday. Their telephone number is 865-1833.

35 SPRUCE STREET

A few of the neighbours of 35 Spruce have contacted CPA to express their concern over the condition and long term future of the 1860 Georgian, storey-and-half brick home. It has been rumoured, and we all know how rumours spread in Cabbagetown, that it may be torn down. 35 Spruce is "listed" by the Toronto Historical Board (THB). CPA has requested that the THB "designate" this house. This would not stop the owner from tearing the house down, but it would mean that it would take a number of years of negotiations with the city before it could happen. In the meanwhile, this would allow THB, CPA and the neighbours time to plan for an alternative. The THB are now doing research to help them decide whether 35 Spruce should be designated. Come to the CPA's November 18th meeting to hear how and why the THB lists or designates a building or an area and what it means.

CABBAGETOWN

Congratulations Cabbagetown. This Festival was the most successful fall celebration to date. Our neighbourhood was filled with local residents and visitors from across Toronto, Ontario, Canada and foreign destinations. The mood was festive and most importantly the weather was fantastic. The CPA Walking Tours were attended by about 250 people. A number of tours were particularly treated to the sight of a "real live witch" peeking out from behind the curtained window of her gingerbread house on Sumach Street. The observant participants also noted that on the same house, the carved front keystone had been magically transfigured into the royal rubber visage of His Royal Highness Prince Charles.

Copies of the Cabbagetown Walking Tour Book, sold like hotcakes. Have you purchased your copy yet? The newest Cabbagetown T shirts, sweatshirts and mugs were also hot sellers. The CPA extends its appreciation to all volunteers who participated in our contribution to this year's fabulous Festival.

RYERSON STUDENTS

If you see some young people photographing or measuring the exterior of your house, don't rush off and call the police. First speak to them, they are probably Ryerson Architectural students working on a project. This year, some students who are studying Architectural History have chosen to do projects based on a dozen or more Cabbagetown houses. During the preparation of their project papers they will do historic research, comparative architectural views, measurements and drawings of the buildings. Mark McBurney, their professor, has promised that a copy of each project will be given to CPA so that they can be placed in our archives in preparation for the next book.

REUZE BUILDING CENTRE

One of our members has asked where he might find a front door appropriate for a Victorian period home. One place you could try is the **Reuze Building Centre** located at 380 Birchmount Road, Unit 3 in Scarborough. They stock a supply of salvaged building materials including doors, baseboards, cupboards etc. Their telephone number is 699 - 6000.

HERITAGE SHOWCASE

The CPA will participate in the Metro Region Heritage Showcase on the weekend of February 18 to 20, 1993 at the Sherwood Gardens Shopping Centre. We will be one of over two dozen heritage or historical associations who will be promoting the historic roots of their areas. Besides showing CPA's Cabbagetown display, we will be selling our new book, t-shirts and mugs. Would you like to help out at the booth? If so, call 967-6432 and leave a message.

TORONTO'S THEATRE BLOCK

A Sunday afternoon lecture is being presented on November 15th by the Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy on "Toronto's Theatre Block Reconsidered: An Update". Two heritage planners, Alec McGillivray and Paul Dilse, will speak at the Hydro Auditorium, 700 University at College at 3:00 p.m..

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Gerrard Street Bridge is 70 years old.

WANTED:

FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL 1993 VOLUNTEERS

Already dreaming about Spring. Help Spring come faster by volunteering to help with the 1993 Forsythia Festival to be held on May 2, 1993. Organize the parade, help hand out prizes, help judge the dog parade or childrens' decorated bicycles. Planning meetings will be held in January. Come and see the 1992 Forsythia Festival video and decide how you would like to help. For details or to volunteer contact:

Nancy Allin
515-7082
Co-Chairperson

Sue Langton
921-6758
Co-Chairperson

THE CPA NEEDS YOU!

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) was established to "preserve the integrity and historical character of our neighbourhood", and in order to do this the CPA needs those gardeners, dog walkers, proud home owners, and community boosters as members. Most importantly, we need *you*.

The annual membership fee is \$10. What could you possibly get for such a small sum you ask? Well, not only do you get the opportunity to help the integrity and historical character of our neighbourhood but you are also entitled to buy those great CPA t-shirts and mugs at special discount prices. The newly published *Touring Old Cabbagetown* is also a great buy at \$10 instead of the regular \$15 price.

If you haven't got the time to help us this year, perhaps next year, however, join the CPA to-day.

To join, fill in the form below and either return it to CPA, 93 Winchester Street, Toronto, M4X 1B1 or to the Fall CPA Meeting on November 18th.

*I would like to be a member of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association.
I may be interested in contributing time to one of the following Committees:*

- Writing Walking Tours Negotiations I can't help this year, perhaps next year

Name _____ Phone () _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____