



# Cabbagetown Preservation Association

May 1996

NEWSLETTER

Vol.8, No.7

## CPA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 8:00 PM

ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL GYMNASIUM WINCHESTER NEAR SUMACH ST.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Forsythia Festival. To celebrate this occasion, George Rust-D'Eye, noted author, historian and long-time Cabbagetown resident will give a talk and slideshow on past Forsythia Festivals.

CPA's annual Cabbagetown Renovation Award will be presented, as well as the annual volunteer awards. You will also want to attend to vote in the election for the new board.

## BOARD NOMINATIONS

If you would like to submit a nomination for CPA's board, please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Kevin McEvenue, 324-9676 by Thursday, May 22 or deliver it to 15 Dermott Place. We are looking for people willing to be part of this community effort. Each member heads a busy sub-committee.

### 1995-96 CPA Board

President: **Lene Badhwar** - *Day to day operations, planning development and heritage matters 921-4601*

Vice-president: **Paul Dollak** - *Legal and legislative matters 944-1559*

Treasurer: **Peggy Kurtin** - *Financial, newsletter, 200 Years Yonge co-chair 967-6432*

Secretary: **Chris Howard** - *Recording, 200 Years Yonge co-chair 962-7398*

**Janice Hall-Harris** *Cabbagetown walking tour co-chair and Renovation Award*

**Mary Harlan** *Forsythia Festival co-chair*

**Donalda Hilton** *Cabbagetown walking tour co-chair,*

**Stephanie Wylie** *Newsletter distribution and delivery*

**Paddy Hanlon** *Membership secretary and Forsythia Festival co-chair*

**Kevin McEvenue** *Nominations and constitution chair*

Cabbagetown Preservation Association  
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - MAY 1995 - MAY 1996

It is time again to look in my rear view mirror and reflect on some of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association's efforts over the past year. I see a successful Forsythia Festival and interesting walking tours. These events reflect the community spirit of Cabbagetown and as always our enjoyment is due to the tireless efforts of our volunteers. Hats off to these special people and a warm thank you on the community's behalf.

The Forsythia Festival is 25 years old. As part of a special celebration to mark this milestone, George Rust-D'Eye will present a slide show retrospective of this local community event at our annual general meeting on May 30.

The CPA works continuously with the wider heritage community, most particularly with the Toronto Historical Board, to preserve the past and retain the irreplaceable streetscape unique to Cabbagetown. Restoration work is being undertaken at the Avion Hotel on the corner of Sumach and Gerrard Streets. Built in the 1890s and abandoned for years, the building's historical details are being brought back to life with the diligent respect to historical architectural details. A stone mason has restored the stone work on the original building. The window rhythm of the old building has been carried through to the new addition on Sumach St. Work is also underway to list the cottage built in 1879 at 298 Sumach St.

This year the board has focused on improving the streetscape of Parliament Street. Parliament Street dates back to 1793 when it was a rough trail cut through the woods to Castle Frank, the log cabin summer home of Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe and his family. In 1796 the path became a proper road and the Parliament Buildings, two plain brick

buildings, were built near the south end. By 1834 Parliament St. formed the eastern boundary of the newly formed city of Toronto.

Commercial enterprises were flourishing on Parliament St. in the late 1800s. 593 Parliament St, constructed in 1890, was a butchers shop and a later a dairy. Part of the Winchester Hotel dates back to 1866.

As our first step, CPA and the old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Association turned their attention to the improvement of the Victorian and post-Victorian facades of the stores in our area. With a \$6000 grant, generously donated by the Ontario Film Development Corporation and the Don Vale Property Owners Association, we are able to provide an incentive for the store owners to participate in this improvement project.

The process began with an eight hour *Storefront Charette*. Professors and students from Ryerson considered concepts and ideas for small scale low cost store front facade improvements. At the end of this cold March day some 120 persons: judges, merchants, politicians and residents trudged through the snow to the Winchester Hotel to view the results and promote creative and constructive partnerships for renewing our downtown main street.

The second stage is the *Storefront Improvement Contest*. The contest, rules further in this newsletter, encourages the participants to uncover concealed historic architectural features, repair or reproduce period decorative elements and carry out repairs using traditional building and construction materials. The overall impact of the renovation on the streetscape will be factor in the judging. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on Saturday, June 15, in conjunction with the sidewalk sale. By the first of October, we

should see at least three store fronts refurbished with special attention being directed to elements such as signage, lighting, material texture and colour.

These new facades will certainly enhance Parliament Street's streetscape and encourage further improvements. But to get to the heart of the streetscape, we must go further than just walking down our mainstreet. We must get to know our shop keepers, try their products and make them aware of our needs and desires. If we do not support neighbourhood stores, the heart of the streetscape will disappear or change drastically and not necessarily favourably. And we will miss out on the opportunity to stroll leisurely through our treeshaded streets to pick up our fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables.

Of course it is easy to jump in the car, whistle to the mega shopping centre and hurry through our shopping chores. A study carried out in 1992 by John O. Winter came to the conclusion that within our neighbourhood, neighbourhood being defined within walking distance of Parliament St., some \$162 million is being spent annually on goods and services. Consider how much of this money leaks out of our neighbourhood and ends up in mega stores and what this leakage does to our community stores. Mr. Winters also drew another interesting conclusion. If 4% of this money was spent locally, it would mean some \$6.5 million in extra sales for our local merchants. Think about what this kind of financial support would do for Parliament St. It would not only enhance their ability to increase the size and variety of their inventories but would also provide them with the ability to meet our consumer needs in a more timely and satisfactory manner.

We have asked the merchants to take a proud and rightful place in the preservation of the

streetscape of Cabbagetown. Now seems the appropriate time for the citizens of Cabbagetown to enhance the heart of the streetscape by supporting our merchants and encouraging them to participate in the Storefront Improvement Contest. The stores on Parliament St. are a part of our community, a part of Cabbagetown.

Now to the upcoming events. We are running three walking tours this summer and supplying guides for 18 horse drawn wagon tours. They will be part of the 200 Years Yonge celebrations. Do join these delightful historical tours.

We also look forward to celebrating the CPA's tenth birthday in 1997. Our first decade will be cause for celebration in a special way.

I hope you have enjoyed this year in Cabbagetown as much as I have. It has been an enjoyable and fulfilling year working with the CPA Board and volunteers. Thank you all for your interest and support in helping to preserve the past, enjoy the present and look forward to the future.

*Lene Badhwar*

### NOTICE OF A PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE BYLAWS OF CPA

It has been proposed that Bylaw 04:02 be rescinded. As amended on April 12, 1992, Bylaw 04:02 now reads as:

*"No person may serve as a director for more than two consecutive terms, except that he or she may serve an additional two terms as an officer. No person may serve as an officer for more than two consecutive terms."*

## INFORMATION KIT

Those interested in participating should contact the Old Cabbagetown BIA for a contest information kit.

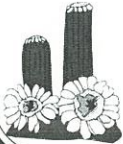
**THIS CONTEST HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WITH DONATIONS FROM THE ONTARIO FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, THE TORONTO FILM LIAISON OFFICE AND THE DON VALE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION.**

### *Plant a HERITAGE Flower somewhere on your property.*

*The little blue Forget-Me-Not is perfect to tuck into a corner of your garden. It is self-seeding so plant it once and its there forever.*

*For information on other  
heritage flowers*

*call the Toronto Field Naturalists  
at 416-968-6255*



### *Interesting quote:*

*The built city can join its citizens together or push them apart, hide our collective memories or reveal them, encourage our best instincts or our worst. A successful city fulfills itself not by master plans but through an attentiveness to the processes that have created it and an awareness of its possibilities. It achieves a heightened identity by giving form to memory and providing space for new life. Robert Fulford, "Accidental City: The Transformation of Toronto", Macfarlane Walter & Ross, 1995*

## MEMBERSHIP

**YOU MAKE THE CABBAGETOWN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION HAPPEN WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP.**

Your \$10 membership fee in the Association is very important. It provides part of the financial basis for our survival together with the proceeds from the sale of our books, t-shirts and postcards etc. Please join CPA today:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring your membership to the Thursday May 30 meeting, or mail or deliver it to our membership secretary Paddy Hanlon at 307 Sumach St, M5A 3K4