



Cabbagetown Preservation Association

February 1998

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 No. 14

Cabbagetown Preservation Association General Meeting

Get Rid of the February Blahs! Let's Talk Gardens Then and Now

Come and get some practical advice and ideas for your garden

Thursday February 19, 1998 7:30 pm

St. Martin's School Auditorium - Winchester Street

Featured Speakers:

*Sue Macaulay of Susan Macaulay
Landscape - Architect and Faculty
at Ryerson*

*Marion Moore of Plantings, a hands on
gardener*

*Cabbagetown gardens have unique
problems of design and light. Bring
yours and ask the experts*

*Representatives of several local plant
emporia will be attending to answer
your questions on plant availability*

See you there!

CABBAGETOWN RENOVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

The committee that will judge the *SIXTH ANNUAL CABBAGETOWN RENOVATION COMPETITION* is looking for nominations. The exterior renovations nominated must have been completed in 1997 and will be judged for their appropriate Victoria or Edwardian look.

You may nominate your own home or any building in Cabbagetown. The winner will receive a watercolour of the building. The prize winner will be announced at the CPA's Annual General Meeting in May 1998. Please drop a note to the chair of the nomination committee, Chris Howard, 420 Sumach Street, Toronto, M4X 1V5. Nominations will be accepted until April 1, 1998.

New Features!

In this issue of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association's Newsletter we are premiering several new columns.

Have a question about the particular problems involved in renovating a Cabbagetown house? "Bricks and Mortar" answers the best general questions and hints or cautions will be given.

"Did You Know" is a place to make everyone aware of all those interesting tidbits about our wonderful neighbourhood.

The "Presidents Comments" will be a regular far ranging report on what things the CPA is doing or events that are effecting Cabbagetown.

Keep an eye on each of these new columns and send us your comments. We would like you to become more involved. Send your ideas to Ted Gzebb, CPA Newsletter, 292 Sackville Street, Toronto, M5A 3G2.

Did You Know?

Parliament Street is so named because the Parliament Building was located close to what is now the intersection of Parliament and Front Streets. This location, currently occupied by a car wash, was "lake front" property in those days. The buildings were burned by the American invaders in 1813. This led to the retaliatory burning of Washington's White House.

Forsythia Festival May 3, 1998

Who could believe that this is the 27th year of the Forsythia Festival? As usual, the organizing committee is looking for volunteers to help with the planning and/or on the day of the event. We are also looking for prizes for the children's activities and the auction. If you can help with any of the above or would like to attend the organizing meeting February 16 please call:

Victoria Fraser or
921-4895

Peggy Kurtin
967-6432

President's Comments

Over the past month or so I have had some very interesting meetings on the CPA's behalf which I would like to tell you about.

Changes on Gerrard Street

You may have noticed a new sign on the abandoned grocery store on Gerrard between Parliament Street and Sackville Street and wondered what was going to be happening. Well, I met with Rick Tobias of the Yonge Street Mission and he told me that they just taken over the 20,000 sq ft building. The plans are for the building to house a clothes store, the Mission's administrative offices and a 25 unit computer training lab. No housing is planned at this time. Rick added that the existing parking lot will be landscaped with trees and bushes along the edges.

Toronto Dance Theatre

Jini Stolk, General Manager of the Toronto Dance Theatre asked me to come for a short visit to see the drawings of the three signs which they are planning to place on their building at the corner of Metcalfe and Winchester. The signs, designed by local sign painter, Barry Lavender, are very simple but elegant brick and green coloured painted signs without any neon lighting. They should complement last falls new paint job.

Dancers from the Toronto Dance Theatre have recently left for a three week tour of India as guests of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and as official representatives of the Canadian Government to India's 50th Anniversary of Independence.

New Acquisition

The CPA recently acquired a metal box belonging to the Estate of Daniel Lamb (d,1920). Daniel Lamb, son of the founder of the glue factory once located in Cabbagetown, moved to 156 Winchester in 1867 and lived there until his death.

The box will be used practically by the CPA but will also be on display and valued for it's historical significance.

Bricks and Mortar

We live in Cabbagetown and almost without exception our houses are brick. Some of you lucky people have decorative detailing in terra cotta or stone. With masonry construction there are problems, two of which I'll discuss here - sandblasted Brick and deteriorating mortar joints.

Sandblasting is a thing of the past and modern cleaning methods are both environmentally friendly and non-harmful to the brick. The problem is what to do when the surface of your brick has been compromised to the extent that the weatherproof surface (The hard face of the brick) has been removed by sandblasting.

New finishes, for replacing the original, come on the market almost daily. You will need one that is clear and breathable (not silicon which was used a dozen years ago but could not breathe). Check in the Yellow Pages under building maintenance, repairs and restorations for companies specializing in this work.

Most important is proper tuck pointing of your mortar joints. The new mortar should be as close as possible to its original formulation which was softer (used less cement) than modern mixtures. Pigments or sand were used for colouring the mortar. Your contractor can mix samples for you so that the colour can match the existing mortar.

Remember that when bricks need to be replaced, you should check salvage yards for old bricks to match yours or ask neighbours whose remodelling may have meant a new opening from which there may be leftover "original" bricks.

A point to note is that some houses in Cabbagetown were built with a soft brick which was meant to be painted to provide the weather-proof skin.

If you have any renovation- restoration questions or if you have a topic you would like to see discussed, send them to: Bricks and Mortar, CPA Newsletter, 292 Sackville Street, Toronto, M5A 3G2.

WINNERS OF CABBAGETOWN STREETSCAPE CONTEST

At the CPA's November meeting, the winner of the **FIRST ANNUAL CABBAGETOWN STREETSCAPE IN BLOOM** competition was announced. The winning garden/streetscape was at 94 Amelia Street, the home of Susan and Bill Brereton. The exceptional garden of this Victorian home was a colourful perennial garden framed with a white trellis and fence. Mr. & Mrs. Brereton were presented a painting of their home and garden.

In celebration of Toronto's win last year in the "Communities in Bloom" as the most beautiful capital in Canada, the CPA decided to hold their own Cabbagetown competition. Cabbagetown gardens and homes were viewed by the judges from the street in June, July and August to check for historical perspective as well as the variety, colour, texture and condition of the garden.

The garden and home of Frances and Randy Rolfe at 32 Sackville Place was chosen as the Best New Garden. The most Victorian garden was at 15 Bowman Street. An Honourable Mention was given to the garden at 32 Amelia Street.

The judges for the competition were Margie Hunter Hoffman, a well known Cabbagetown artist, Stephen Boddy, a landscape designer, Chris Howard and Peggy Kurtin from the CPA.

Thank you to all who entered and remember to look for the 1998 competition.

Book Revision Update

I recently met with Pat Robertson, President of York Pioneers. Her great-great-grandfather John Eastwood, 1812 - 1891, owned the Winchester Street property from Sackville Street to the laneway east of St. Martin's School. Mrs Robertson showed me photographs of drawings and paintings and documents of her ancestors. Mr. Eastwood built his house in 1867 at the very west of his property quite far back but facing on Winchester Street. It's number was then 88 Winchester while now the address is 433-435 Sackville Street. There were only ten houses on the whole of Winchester street at that time. By 1889, he had built five double houses further east on Winchester but they were placed closer to the street. These houses were rented and at his death in 1891, he willed them to his children. Mrs. Robertson gave me more information but I will save it to use in the revised book.

If you have any information on your home, please let me know. We would like our proposed book to have as many stories as possible. Peggy Kurtin

Just Asking

Why are the sidewalks on Parliament Street among the narrowest of any commercial street in the city when it is among the highest in level of pedestrian traffic?

Board of Directors Elections

The annual elections for the Board of Directors are held at the end of May. If you would like to nominate someone for a position on the Board please send the nominating Committee a note at Board of Director Nominations, Cabbagetown Preservation Association, 93 Winchester Street, Toronto, M5A 3B5, before May 15, 1998

Members of C.P.A. Board of Directors

Executive

President - Peggy Kurtin 967-6432

Vice-President - Chris Howard 962-7398

Secretary - Paddy Hanlon 324-9277

Treasurer - Judi Pay 966-4092

Past President - Lene Badhwar 921-4601

Board

Ray Barton, Marijan Bayer, Victoria Fraser,
Ted Gzebb, Kevin McEvenue, June Rowlands

Contact the CPA: Phone - (416) 410-4259 or by Fax - (416) 967-9728

M E M B E R S H I P

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, mugs and postcards. Please join CPA today:

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

Please mail or drop off your membership to 15 Dermott St., Toronto, Ontario, M5A 3B5.