



February 1999

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 No. 18

Cabbagetown Preservation Association

presents

Questions About Restoration?

7:30 pm Tuesday February 16

St Martin's School Auditorium

Michael McClelland, an architect specializing in heritage work will speak and show slides about "Heritage for the Year 2000". Mr. McClelland will talk about heritage buildings and heritage conservation districts. He will also answer your renovation and restoration questions.

Mr. McClelland's firm, E.R.A. Architect Inc. is currently working on over two dozen important conservation heritage projects. Among them are Osgoode Hall, University of Toronto's Convocation Hall and Knox College, Spruce Court Co-op, Flatiron Building and the entrance to Casa Loma.

So come on out and learn about the restoration of some of Toronto's most famous landmarks and be sure to bring your questions so that you can take advantage of this unique opportunity to have access to Mr. McClelland's expertise.

President's Report

As I am writing this on January 14th, all I can think of is SNOW, SNOW, SNOW! However a few other things have been going on in Cabbagetown. The worry about staffing at the Riverdale Farm, the concern about the many city inspectors that have been fretting about the benches and kiosk outside Wisteria and the loss of Ann's English Tearoom on Winchester. However, the information that I would like to share with you is as follows:

A committee of the Board of Directors of CPA was charged with investigating the possibility of expanding the existing boundaries of the CPA to include some or all of the area west of Parliament Street. The Board has decided that the most feasible and realistic possibility was initially to expand the borders to include the area between Wellesley Street on the north, Bleeker Street on the west, Carlton Street on the South and Parliament Street on the east. This area was chosen as there are a significant number of CPA members already resident there and that there are a substantial number of Victorian streetscapes and structures within it, such as the 1897 Winchester School building. In order to make this change, the CPA constitution would require modification approved by a vote of the general membership of the CPA. There will be more about this in our next newsletter prior to the Annual General Meeting.

On December 17th, Toronto City Council concluded the long running debate on heritage governance by approving the establishment of autonomous citizen-directed management boards to provide heritage and preservation services to Toronto. Though the staff to run the museums, LACAC's and Heritage Toronto will be city employees, they will be seconded and report to their own boards.

The councillors also instructed the city staff to work in partnership with existing museum boards, LACAC's and the newly formed Toronto Historical Association on the implementation of the new system, and to report back to Council in March.

New Cabbagetown Book Now Available

The CPA has been privileged to participate in the advance release of a new book by Penina Coopersmith, entitled **Cabbagetown: The Story of a Victorian Neighbourhood** (James Lorimer, 1998). Through the author's public-spirited generosity in support of our Association's work, this book will continue to be available through the CPA. It is also available through Cabbagetown stores such as **Wisteria Florists** and **One More Time Books**.

Published in hard cover, this book sells for \$30.00. It is profusely illustrated with glorious, new colour photos by Vincenzo Pietropaolo, as well as recent shots by other photographers and a nice selection of archival, black-&-white graphics. The historical narrative is written in a lively, engaging style, although we should caution readers to double-check factual lore before transcribing it for scholastic or official purposes. For example, Henry Bow[y]er Lane is incorrectly cited as the architect of our beautiful Necropolis Chapel on page 36, while it is correctly attributed to Henry Langley on page 78.

Along with primary sources, CPA member George Rust-D'Eye's excellent *Cabbagetown Remembered* (Boston Mills, 1984) and our own CPA guidebook, *Touring Old Cabbagetown* (1992) continue to be the most accessible sources of reliable historical information about our neighbourhood. Penina Coopersmith's new book will certainly join them on our shelves as a strikingly attractive companion volume.

I know this sounds complicated - it is! Let's hope in my next report to you, I will be able to explain how this complex system will work.

Peggy Kurtin
President

Layoffs at Riverdale Farm

Seasonal layoffs have taken their toll on Riverdale Farm this year. On January 7th, four Farm workers were given notice. This is to be expected and usually takes place in the late fall. The problem this year is that there are a number of permanent staff positions already vacant at the farm leaving the farm with a difficult staffing problem. To date there has been no response to questions as to when or if the permanent staff positions will be filled. This has had the effect of reducing Farm programmes. In previous years the "new" meeting house was closed for 1 day a week during the winter, this year it is closed 3 days per week. While the current staffing situation does not compromise animal care, it does impact on the staff interaction with the public - an important neighbourhood resource - and more importantly with the thousands of school children from across the city who use the Farm as an educational resource. Services and programmes at this unique facility must NOT be allowed to decline. Please take a moment to let our City Councillors Pam McConnell and Jack Layton know that you want the Farm maintained as a Cabbagetown and City resource.

Winners of the Cabbagetown Streetscape in Bloom Competition

For the second year CPA has held a Cabbagetown Streetscape in Bloom competition. The nominated front gardens were judged four times between May and September for their beauty, condition and compatibility to the home. The winner of this year's best front garden in Cabbagetown was Fred Jarman of 31 Spruce Street. He was presented with a watercolour of his garden by Connie Johnson.

Mr. Jarman's garden, which was in constant bloom from May until the autumn, has an interesting stone path which meanders from the street through to the side garden of flowering bushes. Though the garden was small, the judges felt that it was a garden that invited you to explore its beauty each time you passed it.

Other front gardens were also honoured with certificates. The garden at 355 Wellesley was chosen as the "Best Country in the City Garden". The terraced rose garden at 358 Sumach was given the "Fragrant Garden of the Year Award". 123 Winchester's garden was given the "Retrofit Garden of the Year Award" and 56 Spruce Street was given the "Outstanding Terraced Garden Award".

A group of City Homes at the western end of Winchester Street received a cheer from the assembled audience when the front garden received an award for the most improved garden. This garden went from strictly grass to a flower beds and bushes extravaganza.

The judges for the competition were Margie Hunter Hoffman, artist, Stephen Boddy, landscape designer, Chris Howard and Peggy Kurtin.

Thank you to all that entered and remember, now is the time to start planning for the 1999 competition!

Forsythia Festival Sunday May 2, 1999

Who would believe that this is the 28th year of the Forsythia Festival, Cabbagetown's rite of spring! As usual, the organizing committee is looking for volunteers to help with the planning and/or on the day of the event. Thanks to the **Tour of Homes** funding for the festival is not a problem. If you would like to help and/or would like to attend the organizing meeting on Thursday February 18th, please call Victoria Fraser 921-4895 or Peggy Kurtin 967-6432

CPA's Seventh Annual Renovation Competition

While walking around the neighbourhood, we have noticed that this year there have been quite a few homes and buildings with their facades restored. Every year we ask the people of Cabbagetown to nominate the home or building that they think has been most successful in it's exterior front renovation or restoration.

To nominate the building or home of your choice or your own home, please send your nomination and the reasons this for your choice to the Chair of the Nomination Committee, Chris Howard, 420 Sumach Street, M4X 1V5. Nominations will be accepted until April 1, 1999. The winner will receive a watercolour of their winning building or home. The prize winner will be announced at the CPA Annual General Meeting in May, 1999.

Members of C.P.A. Board of Directors

Executive

President - Peggy Kurtin 967-6432

Vice President - Chris Howard 962-7398

Secretary - Victoria Fraser 921-4895

Treasurer - Kiely Gates 928-7405

Board

Ray Barton, Marijan Bayer, John Court,
Ted Gzebb, June Rowlands

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

Board of Directors and Executive Elections

The annual elections for the board of Directors and Executive are to be held at the end of May. If you would like to nominate someone or would like to serve yourself, please send a note to the Elections Nomination Committee, 93 Winchester Street, Toronto M4X 1B1.

MEMBERSHIP

YOU MAKE THE CABBAGETOWN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION HAPPEN WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Your 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 the CPA today.

One Year \$10.00 _____ Three Years \$30.00 _____ Five Years \$50.00 _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone (_____) _____

Please mail or drop off your membership to 93 Winchester Street, M4X 1B1

