



April 1999

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 No. 19

# Cabbagetown Preservation Association

## Annual General Meeting

# Cabbagetown's Heritage Conservation District

7:30 pm Wednesday May 19th  
St Martin's School Auditorium

At this year's annual general meeting the keynote address will be given by Robert Truman, speaking with slides about the Heritage Conservation District (HCD) study for Cabbagetown.

Bob Truman is one of Toronto's most successful yet personable planning consultants and independent professional land-use planners. He spearheaded the planning study for Toronto's first HCD, approved for the Wychwood Park neighbourhood, and has appeared before numerous municipal councils on other heritage and planning proposals.

Be there for a first-rate presentation. Bring your questions for Bob or for the CPA's working group for an HCD, to be represented by CPA member, author and historian, George Rust-d'Eye.

### 28th ANNUAL FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL SUNDAY MAY 2

The parade starts on Winchester Street beside Riverdale Park at 1pm and winds around Cabbagetown to Wellesley Park and will be led by Community Officer Gerrard Jones. Be sure to come early to get a good place in the parade and have the children's faces painted. Be sure to decorate the children's bikes, wagons, carriages, or wheelchairs. All children will get a twirler to carry in the parade and a lootbag during the festivities at Wellesley Park. Also free juice and cookies. The Amazing Robert will amaze the children. There will be games and competition for the whole family and their dogs. There will also be a horse pulling a wagon for rides in the southern section of Wellesley Park. See you there - I'm sure we will all have fun!

ONCE AGAIN THE 1999 RENOVATION AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AND FREE ORNAMENTAL  
CABBAGES WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL THAT ATTEND THIS MEETING



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another busy year! However this is my last year as I've been President for 4 of the last 6 years this is enough to tire anyone out. CPA's Board and Officers have also worked incredibly hard.

The Cabbagetown Festival as usual took up a huge amount of CPA volunteers time. Vice President Chris Howard and a group of over two dozen CPA volunteers hosted the Sunday Afternoon Tea for the Tour of Homes. Over 650 attended the Tea and many of our members baked cookies for the Tea. Chris also supplied the banners that CPA's Board carried in the Parade that opened the Festival. June Rowlands and Victoria Fraser co-ordinated the volunteers at our booths at Riverdale Park and on Parliament Street. As usual Marijan Bayer's group of walking tour volunteers took hundreds of people for a walk around our historic neighbourhood. They will also be giving two walking tours for Heritage Toronto this summer - Saturday July 24 and Sunday August 8 at 1:30, meeting at Wellesley and Parliament Streets.

Dr. Brian Hoffman spoke of his childhood at our October meeting. A few other people from the neighbourhood also spoke of their experiences. The evening was topped off with the presentation of the Cabbagetown Streetscape in Bloom watercolour to Fred Jarman of 31 Spruce Street.

Board members, John Court, Ted Gzebb and Ray Barton have spent many many hours looking at the possibility of enlarging CPA boundaries. The suggested changes were submitted to the Board of Directors and approved for presentation to the general membership at the Annual General Meeting as it requires a change of the constitution. The detail of this Constitutional amendment is outlined elsewhere in the newsletter.

In December, CPA had a reception for our many volunteers in the Simpson House of Riverdale Farm. Many of our Board members helped make the food that was served. It was a wonderful opportunity to thank individually CPA's members who actively participate in our work and events.

During the winter months, many members of CPA wrote to the Parks Department and our City Councillors protesting the layoffs at Riverdale Farm. Whether because of these letters or not, there appears to be more workers at the Farm. At our Heritage week meeting, Michael

McClelland spoke and showed slides about house restoration. A new book on Cabbagetown written by Penina Coopersmith was released that day with the author signing copies for our members at the meeting. Also CPA member Kathy Farrell volunteered to be CPA's representative at the monthly meetings of the 51 Division Liaison Community Committee.

The Board member responsible for membership, Kevin McEvenue, resigned due to workload in February. Kevin is sorely missed as he has maintained the CPA membership on his computer for the past 2 years. Thank you Kevin for all that you did for CPA.

At the end of March a group of 27 students from Cardinal Carter High School for the Arts in North York came down to photograph and document houses in Cabbagetown. They are putting it all on computer, including the pictures and giving it to Heritage Toronto.

The 28th Annual Forsythia Festival is still to come. As you all probably know it is on Sunday, May 2. The Forsythia festival will be honouring Community Officer Gerrard Jones. Gerrard has been active in the Festival for over 22 years and now he is retiring from the police force. He will be missed by the Festival volunteers and by all Cabbagetown. He always knows the right way and the right folk to make things happen. The new Manager of Riverdale Farm, Linda Sellers, has been a great help to the Forsythia Committee with suggestions and loans of games etc. Menagerie Pet Shop and Pet Value have donated prizes for the Dogs and MacDonalds have donated orange drinks for the children. A big thank you must go to Christie Brown who have supplied ALL the cookies for the Festival. And of course, we cannot forget the donation of funds from the Tour of Homes that bought the gifts to put into the 300 children's lootbags.

The Toronto Historical Association which was formed last autumn now has a membership of over sixty groups or associations from across the whole of the city. CPA was a founding member. They will be holding their first meeting in downtown Toronto on May 18th in the Meeting House of Riverdale Farm.

Thank you to Board Members Ted Gzebb for editing and Ray Barton for distribution of the newsletter. Many of our members only know us because of the newsletter.



## PRESIDENTS REPORT Cont'd

Another thank you must go to our Treasurer Kiely Gates. Though I must admit, that without the Tour of Homes we wouldn't have much to look after. They have been very generous.

When I look back at this year, I have to admit that the most exciting thing that has happened to CPA must be the vote of Heritage Toronto last week to make part of Cabbagetown a Heritage Conservation District study. With this small start it won't be many years till we have the whole of Cabbagetown a Heritage Area!

Good luck to next years President and Board. If next year's President has such a hardworking Board as I have had for the past few years, Cabbagetown WILL BECOME a HERITAGE AREA.

Peggy Kurtin, President

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CABBAGETOWN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

We are looking for members who would be willing to become working members of the board of Directors to head up a committee with specific job responsibilities. Nominations may be made by any two members of CPA. The nomination must be made in advance and not later than one week prior to CPA's Annual General Meeting to be held May 19, 1999. The nominee must be a member of CPA and must give his/her assent in writing. The nomination(s) must be delivered to the Nomination Committee at 93 Winchester Street prior to May 12, 1999.

## MEANDERINGS

Finished renovating your house? Looking for a new project? Why not consider a new paint scheme for your window frames, bargeboards, and doors. A walk around the neighbourhood to see what other people have been doing will get the creative juices flowing. There are some really interesting examples in the neighbourhood of late (forgive me if I've missed some). On the North side of Amelia, numbers 142 and 144, a really nice job of replacing deteriorating woodwork and repainting has recently been completed. Note too, how the thistle keystones have been treated. Walk by 410 Wellesley St. E. and look up to the gables and second floor window to see how the subtle use of colour makes the detail stand out. Across the street at 419, is a charming example with Victorian colours used to advantage. Of course there is the "Witches House" at 319 Sumach where 10 shades of 4 basic colours were used to bring out the detail. Walk down the last block of Carlton and look at 403, the use of gold on the lintels is really effective. Take a stroll and find your own examples, check out the library for books on Victorian houses - those in San Francisco have been illustrated often.

Several major paint companies now have a series of heritage colours from which you can make a selection. But remember that while colours needn't be traditional they should be sympathetic to your particular brick tone.

## HELP PRESERVE CABBAGETOWN'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

From time to time we all pass through certain other downtown neighbourhoods, several of them all too close by, where formerly thriving businesses have been replaced by boarded-up shells of abandoned stores and offices. The Police advise that many of them have become havens for crack heads, drug dealers and other lawbreaking transients.

The CPA's Board believes that a large part of preserving the historic character and livable viability of our area, along with the residential streetscapes, lies in preserving its thriving commercial core. Many of our businesses are family enterprises that have served us with exceptional dedication and quality service for many years, even decades. Yet many Cabbagetowners hop in their cars and routinely head off to shop in other neighbourhoods.

We urge everyone to do their part for maintaining the vibrancy (and also the property values!) of our community by shopping, whenever possible, right here in Cabbagetown. If you have any questions or suggestions for our business neighbours, please talk to them directly or call the Old Cabbagetown BIA office (237 Carlton St.) at 921-0857.



## Proposed constitutional amendment

Amendment to 1(1) as amended March 2, 1989, proposed by the Board of directors on November 27, 1998 that the following paragraph be added to said 1(1):

“In addition to the area outlined above:

- i) Bleeker Street, Ontario Street and Rose Avenue between Carlton Street on the south and Wellesley Street on the north
- ii) Aberdeen, Winchester and Prospect between Parliament Street on the east and Ontario Street on the west. “

This amendment to the constitution will recognize that a significant number of members of CPA reside on the west side of Parliament Street and also allow CPA to act to preserve the integrity and historical character of a larger portion of what has become accepted as Cabbagetown. We have selected this area as being a feasible size for expansion with the current membership base and Board of Directors.

### CABBAGETOWN STUDY AREA FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

As many of you know, since the beginning of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association we have requested that Heritage Toronto designate, list or make into a Heritage Conservation District, all or parts of Cabbagetown. Before the CPA in 1975, the Donvale Property Owners Association requested that this area be designated a historical area. Both the Annex and Wychwood areas are already Heritage Conservation Districts (HCD). Well, believe it or not, on April 7, 1999, the Board of Heritage Toronto voted to recommend to Toronto City Council to establish a study area for a possible heritage conservation district for the greater Metcalfe Street area. The area to be included in the study is outlined in the Map (opposite).

This report will be going to the Toronto City Council at it's April 28th meeting. If the Council agrees, then a steering committee will be formed to guide the study process. The committee will review work plans and design guidelines. A public meeting will be called so that everyone can ask questions of Heritage Toronto's Preservation staff. Marissa Williams has been assigned to this project. We are lucky to have her working on this project as she has 9 years of experience and is already working on the Hazelton Area HCD study. In Ms. Williams' experience, the study process takes between one and two years. Ms Williams

will be at our AGM on May 19th to explain further what this project means.

Once the greater Metcalfe area has been made into a HCD, then the next step is to get to work on the rest of Cabbagetown. Let's go for it!!!!

### HERITAGE TORONTO UPDATE

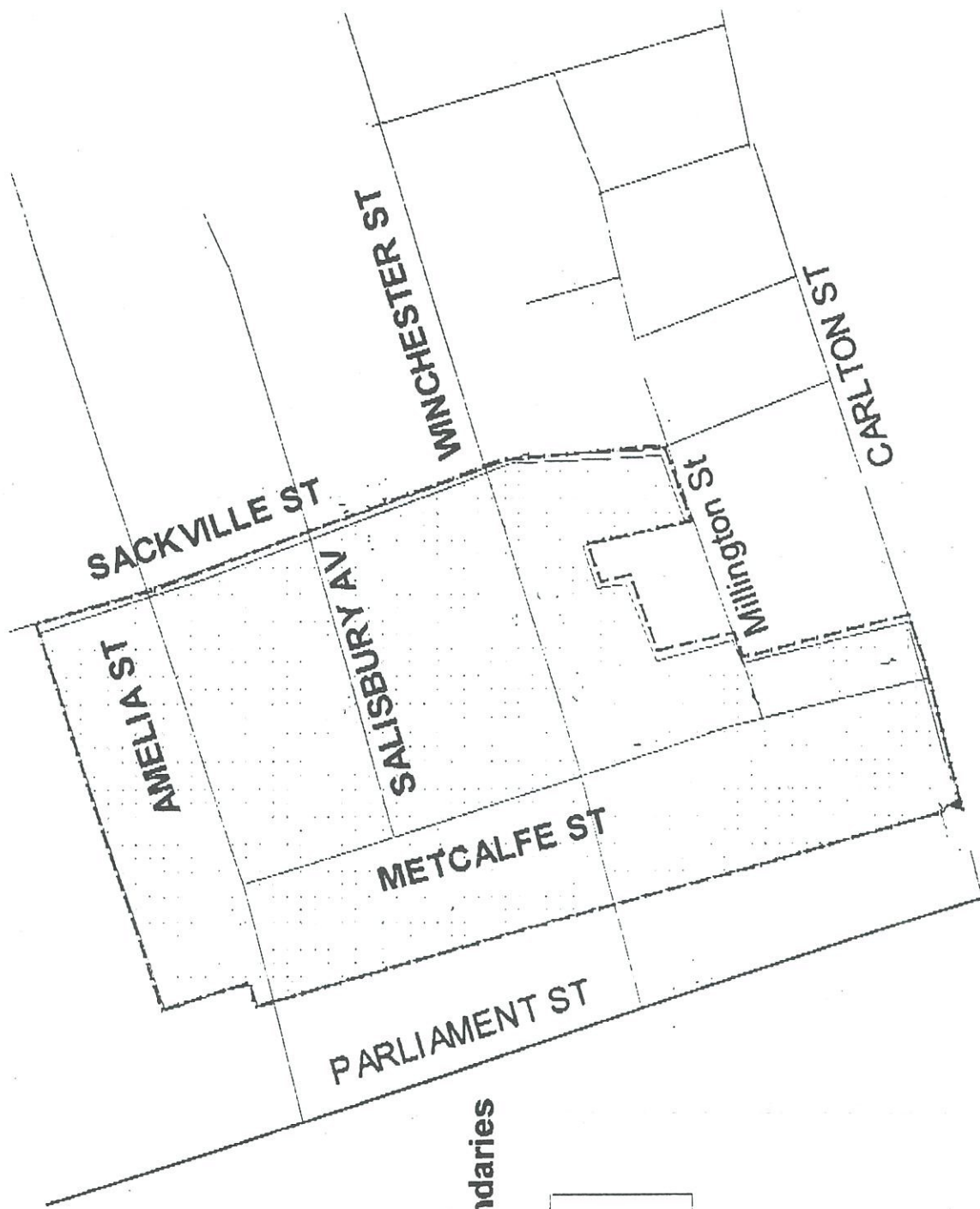
On April 6, the City's Economic Development Committee approved a compromise proposal on the future of Heritage Toronto. Heritage services would retain a measure of independence from civic government. Their preservation staff would be seconded to a new Toronto Preservation Board, a citizen-run body whose mandate would include advising politicians on which buildings to designate or list. There will be six local boards that will report to the Preservation Board.

Heritage Toronto would be transformed into a 26 member citizen body whose job is to advocate for heritage, public programs, awards, fundraising and developing the Heritage Master Plan. There will also be 9 separate community based museum management boards that will oversee operations of their museums. This proposal will be going to Council before the end of April



**Heritage Toronto  
Proposed Study Boundaries  
Cabbagetown**

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Area Under Review



## CABBAGETOWN STREETSCAPES IN BLOOM

This is the third year of our STREETSCAPES IN BLOOM competition. This competition is for the best front garden in the area. The nominated gardens will be viewed from the street by the judges, once each in June, July and August for seasonal changes.

Last year the judges saw many gardens that should have been nominated but were not. This year we want all the beautiful gardens in Cabbagetown nominated. You may nominate your own garden, a neighbour's garden or any garden in Cabbagetown. The nominations must be submitted by May 30th. Nominations are made by phoning 410-4259 and leaving the address of the garden. You do not have to leave your name.

A note from the CPA will be dropped into the mailbox of the nominees to let them know that they have been nominated before the first judging.

First prize will be a watercolour of the winning garden and house. The other nominees will be presented with Certificates of Merit. Awards will be presented at the CPA's fall meeting.

## WINCHESTER SCHOOL'S 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A committee is being formed to plan and execute the 125th Anniversary of Winchester Public School.. The event is to be held on Saturday, October 23, 1999, 25 years to the day that the 100th Anniversary took place. At the first meeting of the group, Bill Bush, a graduate of 1932, showed up to help!

If you are a graduate or would like to help with this event please call Nancy Boomgaardt at 967-7924 or email at [g\\_nboomgaardt@sympatico.ca](mailto:g_nboomgaardt@sympatico.ca).

### 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**

## 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