

# Cabbagetown Preservation Association Newsletter

August, 2000

Volume 12, Issue 1



## Forsythia Festival: 2000 .... Volunteers WOW Community



Thanks to



This year's Forsythia Festival Planning Team  
Cynthia Mulligan, Linda Ross, Anita White, Kym Monaghan-Morton, Paula King  
Gwendoljine, Lucy, & Bryn  
Not pictured: Morrissey Everett

## Proud of our Community?



### Volunteer Opportunities With the Cabbagetown Preservation Association

#### Year Round

- Tour Guides
- Newsletter Distribution
- Public Meeting set-up
- Phone Committee
- Heritage District Researchers

#### Seasonal

- Forsythia Festival
- Cabbagetown Cultural Festival
  - Tea Servers
  - Tour Guides
  - Staff for Sales and Membership booths

### THIS ISSUE - FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

Page 1—The team that put our great Forsythia Festival together—maybe you can stop and thank them when you see them in the neighbourhood

- PS there's lots to do to help—and lots of rewards—see the “volunteer opportunities” and call Sheila at 923-9022 to check it out!

Page 2—The Volunteer Board of the CPA 2000/2001

Page 3—Items of an Historical Nature—provided by our volunteers

Page 4— Cabbagetown Gardeners get a boost from our landscape designer who volunteers her time and expertise to create an article for each newsletter issue

- If you are not yet a member please fill in the form and drop it off—let us know if you can help us to continue ...

**“preserving the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighbourhood”**

See you at the Festival—CPA Volunteers will again lead Free Walking Tours—Saturday and Sunday and serve Tea for the Tour of Homes—Sunday afternoon

# CPA News

## Message from the President

As this year's President, I am so impressed by the quality of the people our volunteer Board, I'd like to tell you something about the personalities behind the names.

**Peggy Kurtin** (Past-President): A well-known driving force behind the CPA. She's been devoted to architectural preservation most of her life. This year, she's our representative at, and Secretary of, the Toronto Historical Association — a body of 66 volunteer heritage associations.

**Sheila Schirmer** (Vice-president): Highly active fundraiser and community volunteer with many groups. The Cabbagetown Youth Centre, the Winchester Park Residents' Association, the Gardiner Museum, the Childrens' Aid Society and Waladi, a child education foundation. Past career: event planning and marketing for American Airlines.

**Kiely Gates** (Treasurer): Several years ago, Kiely said good-bye to the 9 to 5 work-a-day world in order to start up a business related to her real love -- animals. She is now busy full-time as a professional caregiver for people's pets.

**John Court** (Secretary): Professional Archivist and independent historian. Well-qualified to work with a preservation association. Works as Archivist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and other clients. He has made many interesting contributions to the archival feature in our newsletter.

**Ray Barton**: Served on the CPA Board for several years, but may be best known in Cabbagetown as a member of the popular GTA Swing

Band. Claims to be a "retired" high school music teacher, but seems fully employed as a musician in several musical groups including the quintet that played at the Tour of Homes tea last fall — and will be back again this fall.

**Marijan Bayer**: For more years than he can recall (about 10, I think) Marijan has been an enthusiastic Walking Tour Guide and has helped to build the CPA Walking Tour program into one of the most popular in Toronto. Even when he's not conducting our tours, he's still showing houses -- as a real estate agent, working in this area.

**Christopher Dew**: Launched the innovative Cabbagetown Festival of Lights this past December. Received a CPA Restoration Award for the meticulous restoration of 35 Spruce Street, one of Cabbagetown's most historic homes. Produced the internationally successful Canadian TV series, "The Littlest Hobo", and is a video productions consultant.

**Ted Gzebb**: A documentary film producer and longtime Cabbagetown resident (since before it was fashionable). Responsible for CPA membership, which has been steadily growing. Last year, Ted introduced and implemented an up-to-date membership management system.

**Fran Walsh**: Highly experienced manager of volunteers — that's her full-time job with Toronto Region of the Canadian Cancer Society. Is part owner of a delightful Bed and Breakfast at 15 Rose Avenue -- a large, elegant property that she and her partner have lovingly restored. In addition to helping us to develop our volunteer program, she is the

new editor of the newsletter.

**Alan Waterhouse**: Retired University of Toronto Professor of Engineering and Urban Planning. Thoroughly familiar with Committee of Adjustments procedures, regulations on property variances, and guidelines for restoring historic homes. A great asset in helping us fulfill our mandate: "to preserve the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighborhood."

**Chris Howard and Kym Morton**: While not Board members, both are Special Friends of the Board. For many years, Chris has helped to manage our most significant fundraiser — the "Tour of Homes" tea. This year, Chris is co-chairing the event with Kiely Gates. Kym was Chair of the Forsythia Festival in May (a huge job) and we hope that she and her excellent team will do so next May.

My background is mainly journalism, marketing and writing -- hence, my role as editor of the newsletter last year. As an "early retiree", I now have more time to be involved in the community and to learn more about our heritage. This fall, I hope to do research for Phase 2 of the Heritage Conservation District project.

As you can see, this year's Board is full of skills and talents, well equipped to build on the CPA's past achievements.

Please help support the CPA by becoming a member and volunteering with us. Come visit us at our booth at the Festival -- as usual, at the gates to Riverdale Park, corner of Winchester and Sumach.

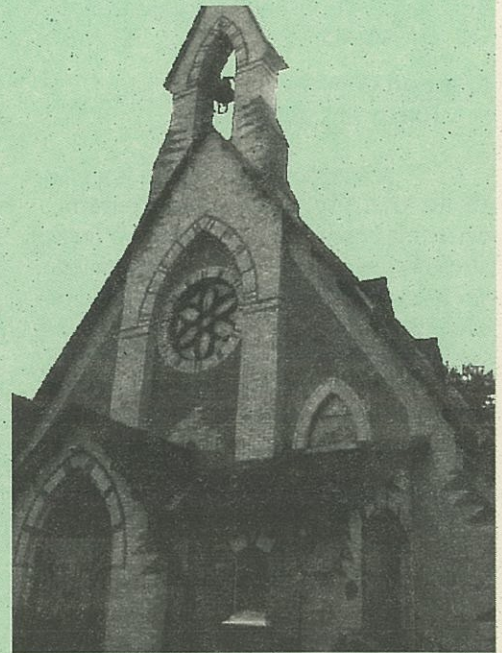
**Kathy Farrell, President**

# From the Archives: – St. Peter's Anglican Church,

by John Court, CPA Board Member

Nineteenth century Toronto and especially the Don Valley were blessed with ample supplies of bricks, both red and yellow (sometimes called buff or white). In the 1860s and '70s, talented architects like Thomas Gundry and Henry Langley followed the teaching of John Ruskin to introduce the High Victorian Gothic architectural style, often using a mix of both types of brick instead of stone – a technique called polychromy.

Along with All Saints' Church a little farther south, St. Peter's at the corner of Carlton and Bleecker Streets is a masterpiece of that form. The congregation was established in 1863 and two years later this still beautiful church was consecrated by none other than Bishop Strachan. The rector and his family, Archdeacon Boddy, lived in a beautiful Winchester Park home nearby and served the parish for 42 years. Later additions included the transepts, organ and furnace (also by Langley, 1872), the Sunday School addition (1880), the clock tower and dormers (1890), and hydro in 1897 and a brass pulpit in 1906, both the gift of Sir Henry Pellat, one of the Church Wardens.



**This well-preserved historic site proudly continues as one of Cabbagetown's active religious centres.**



## Metcalf Street Heritage District

Recently described as "the do-it-yourself approach to heritage conservation districts in Cabbagetown", Once again, the work of dedicated volunteers!

Peggy Kurtin, Past President of the CPA, spearheaded the project. She says, "most people have no idea how time-consuming this process is— every single house in the area must be re-researched at the City Archives and cross-checked at the Registry Office and then catalogued with a formal written description and photograph".

Thanks Peggy and your team...we await the results.

**Newsflash: Ontario Government announces a Retail Sales Tax Rebate Program for eligible Heritage properties/projects contact Paul King, Ministry of Citizenship Culture and Recreation 416.314.7134 or e-mail PaulKing@mczcr.gov.on.ca for more information.**

## Streetscapes In Bloom

For many years, the CPA has sponsored the "Streetscapes in Bloom" Award to recognize one of the many delightful front gardens in our community. This year's nominees are: [in no significant order]

52 Aberdeen Avenue	15 Bowman Street
150 Amelia Street	330 Carlton Street
436 Sackville Street	448 Sackville Street
355 Wellesley Street East	419 Wellesley Street
1 Rose Avenue	426 Ontario Street

Judges view the gardens three times over the season. The panel of judges always includes last year's winners, who, in 1999, were the owners of 123 Winchester Street.

Take the time over the last weeks of summer to wander past these and the many other delightful gardens in Cabbagetown. It always amazes me how inventive we city dwellers can be!

**Plan to attend the Fall Meeting of the CPA to learn who this year's winner will be!**

*The CPA newsletter is edited by Fran Walsh. All story ideas or comments from readers are welcome (962-8591).*

*It is distributed to Cabbagetown homes by volunteers coordinated by Ray Barton (929-6388).*

# Dig This!

By Wendy Boyle, Be-leaf Landscape Design  
Tel: 416-406-4198

## Common Gardens -- A Rarity in Cabbagetown

A common front garden is a marvelous ideal, especially in Cabbagetown where many semi-detached and row houses already create the feeling of a harmonious streetscape. Yet, such gardens are rare because there are many practical issues to resolve.

First of all, there must be agreement as to the theme of the garden -- will it be contemporary, Victorian, or "other"? Then, agreement as to cost. Long-term goals need to be discussed as the length of time that each homeowner intends to own the home will influence both the budget and the design.

As well, ongoing maintenance of the garden is an issue. In a shared garden that I designed for the owners of 74 and 76 Amelia Street, the issue of watering raised some valid concerns. Both parties were keen to invest in an irrigation system and one system would be adequate to serve both properties. Yet, with only one transformer, one owner would need to be responsible for controlling the timer, arranging for annual servicing, and divvying up the water bill. Although they were on friendly terms, they decided that two systems made more sense in the long-term.

While the ideal of creating one harmonious front garden does present challenges, the final results are worth the effort. The project I worked on at Amelia Street had two separate walkways with a mutual center garden. Balance was achieved by repeating plant selections and introducing

rockery for practical reasons and to marry the properties together. Although the garden is not completely symmetrical, the common theme of year-round interest and colour brings balance and harmony to the shared space.

Walking around Cabbagetown, I have noticed other attractive common gardens. At 338 and 340 Carlton, a small front garden is joined by a common brick walkway leading to both front doors. All grass has been removed from both sides, and different perennials have been planted on each side. Although the perennials are not identical, they have common heights -- a feature that creates balance and interest, without absolute symmetry. The result is a common feeling that is both fun and functional.

At 57 and 59 Winchester, a large semi-detached home has a formal period garden complementing the strong architecture of the building. Here, symmetry is at its finest! Once again, a common central brick pathway leads to both front entrances. The walk is lined with matching boxwood hedges. Hosta lilies and summer flowering viburnum bloom in sync with one another and create a striking balance. Saucer magnolias on each side help bring down the

height of the home and make it more inviting. A black iron fence encloses the properties bringing together the theme which was so popular in the Victoria era.

Something a little more casual but equally pleasing is the combined effort at 366 and 368 Wellesley Street. Using a brick retaining wall to encompass both properties, the illusion of space has been created. Gardens have been installed along the perimeter of both properties and by repeating the use of a few plants and adding a strong central walkway, the owners have achieved a pleasing sense of balance and an illusion of greater space.

If you and your neighbor have entertained any ideas of establishing a common front garden, but -- for one reason or another -- just can't quite bring the project together, I would suggest hiring a professional landscape designer. Quite often, a seasoned professional can help facilitate the discussion and resolve the many issues and concerns that each party may have. Then, the next time you and your neighbor get together to share a bottle of wine, it may be to congratulate yourselves on the success of your joint venture.



### CPA Board of Directors

Kathy Farell, President	966-0493	Ray Barton, Marijan Bayer,
Sheila Schirmer, Vice-Pres.	923-9022	Christopher Dew, Ted Gzebb,
Kiely Gates, Treasurer	928-7405	Fran Walsh, Alan Waterhouse
John Court, Secretary	921-5634	Peggy Kurtin, Past President

CPA Office Phone: (416) 410-4259; Fax: (416) 966-2036

## CPA Membership/Volunteer Application

Your support is critical to the health of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association. Your membership fee, along with revenue from sales of our books, t-shirts, mugs and other items, is our main source of funding. Please mail or drop off this form to Ted Gzebb at 292 Sackville Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3G2.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

One Year \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Three Years \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Five Years \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Single \_\_\_\_\_

Family \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please call me about Volunteer Opportunities \_\_\_\_\_