

# Cabbagetown Preservation Association Newsletter

October, 2000

Volume 12, Issue 2



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



## CPA's October Meeting A “Triple Header”

In response to popular demand, the CPA is once again host- ing a community meeting at the **Winchester Pub** -- the date is **October 26th**. Once again, the meeting will start with a **Munch & Mingle from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** This time, the Winchester has kindly offered to supply the munchies -- many thanks to the owners!

Starting at **7:30 sharp**, there's the “Meat of the Meeting”, a topic that's on everyone's mind these days --Parliament Street. What on earth are all those back hoes doing? And, why are they tearing up Parliament Street? The good news is that it's a plan to create a new, improved Parliament Street.

This meeting will focus on  
“Parliament Street: Past, Present and Future”.

- **A Review of the Past**, **Alan Waterhouse**, CPA Board member and retired Professor of Engineering and Urban Planning, will share some insights on the history of Parliament Street.
- **An Update on the Present**, **Paul Dineen**, President of the Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Association, will give us an overview of the BIA's current efforts to improve the appearance and “infrastructure” of the street.
- **A Look to the Future**; **Councillor Pam McConnell** will discuss some of the ongoing issues of concern and possible solutions.

As well, in keeping with recent tradition, this meeting will recognize the recipient of the CPA's annual “**Streetscapes in Bloom**” Award. With more than a dozen excellent candidates this year, it was difficult for the judges to make a final selection. Come on out and meet the winner.



## Some Things to Do in October

1. Attend the **CPA Community Meeting - October 26, 2000** - [article this page]
2. Check out the Autumn colours at the **Necropolis** - [ article page 3]
3. Bed your garden down for winter
4. Buy a pumpkin and lots of treats for the little ghosts and goblins
5. If you live east of Parliament consider forming a **Residents Association** - [see page 2]
6. Thank your neighbours who support CPA - [see page 4]
7. Buy and put up your outdoor lights ready for

## Cabbagetown's Festival of Lights



See Kathy Farrell's Message on Page 2 to learn about this cottage and others before it



# CPA News

## Message from the President

### **The CPA - Twelve years Old and Still Growing**

Much like a corporate Board of Directors, your CPA Board has numerous discussions related to our Vision and Mission. The question is this: After 12 years of steady growth, where do we "grow" from here?

Lest this sound high falutin, I confess that our Board is very much a "worker-bee" Board. We lick stamps, stuff envelopes, bake brownies, fold t-shirts, write and deliver newsletters, conduct Walking Tours, organize quarterly community "heritage meetings", coordinate the Tour of Homes Tea and the Forsythia Festival, trek down to Committee of Adjustment, do research at City Archives, manage Awards programs to celebrate exemplary restorations and streetscapes, and seek status as a Heritage Conservation District.

Yet, we still have dreams for future growth. For example, to establish a local Heritage Resource Centre -- a place where homeowners and developers could find useful information about our heritage and helpful advice on restoration techniques. But, before we can embark on new initiatives, we must clearly define our focus and set priorities.

First and foremost, the Board is committed to the association's original statement of purpose as defined in 1988 -- "to preserve the architectural integrity and historic character of our neighborhood." Let me tell you what this Mission means to me.

Only a few weeks ago, a heritage home at 146 Amelia Street was threatened with demolition. To be sure, the house is in a state that some people would describe as

"severely dilapidated" and deserving of demolition. Yet, it is one of the last of the unrestored workers' cottages in Cabbagetown and, from the CPA's perspective, is worthy of some protection. I'm pleased to report that, as a result of our initiative, the Community Council voted that the property should become "listed".

What does this mean to our community? And to the purchaser? In the case of heritage homes, the CPA's position is that the "streetscape" -- the facade of the house and everything that can be seen from the street -- ought to resemble its original "architectural integrity and historic character". We acknowledge that owners of heritage properties may prefer the efficiency of a modern interior and are entitled to do whatever they wish behind the streetscape.



**One of our wonderful restored Amelia Street Cottages**

Is this position realistic? Is it possible to combine historic preservation with modern convenience? Flashback to the early 1990s, to Amelia Cottages. Like 146 Amelia, this row of cottages (36 to 40) was slated for demolition before the CPA intervened and sought protection. Although the developer was probably not happy at the time, today the Amelia Cottages are heralded as one of the most attractive examples of innovative preservation in Cabbagetown.

Without a doubt, the Amelia Cottages project required tremendous imagination and effort. I have been told that the developer actually sawed off the front facades, put them in storage, completely excavated and re-graded the property to create a spacious interior, and then put the facades back in place, in beautifully restored condition. The result is stunning.

The Amelia Cottages project is a striking example of the value of the CPA's Mission. We hope that the restored 146 Amelia Street will bring equal pleasure to the community. Yet, such preservation campaigns take much time and effort -- a point that brings us back to the issue of setting priorities.

Over the past few years, the CPA has been acting as a proxy for a local residents' association because there is no longer an active association in the area east of Parliament Street. Consequently, the CPA has stepped forward to send representatives to community forums such as the Community Police Liaison Committee and the Neighborhoods Forum. Although we believe it is important that the residents of this area are represented, the CPA Board doesn't have the "people-power" to do this and also do justice to our mandate. We hope that other people in the community will come forth to fill this gap.

A key constraint for the CPA is limited resources. Although membership is now approaching 500, that's only about 25% of the community -- as our work benefits the entire community, we'd love to see that number increase further! In order to continue to grow and to build on our solid base of past achievements, we must keep our focus on our Mission. Only then can our dreams, such as a Heritage Resource Centre, have a real chance of becoming a reality.

Kathy Farrell, President

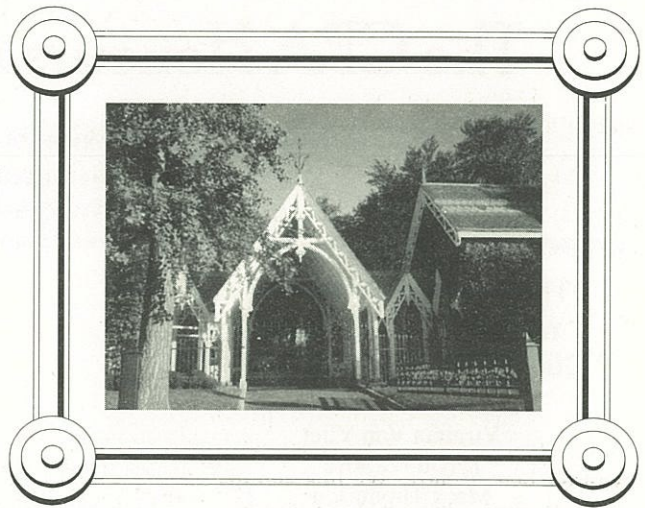


# Part of Our Proud Heritage – The Necropolis

**Celebrating One Hundred and Fifty Years!**  
Sunday October 15, 2000 - 2:00 PM

Picturesquely situated on the west slope of the Don Valley between Winchester and Amelia Streets, the Necropolis was originally developed in 1850 as the city's second non-sectarian cemetery. In those far off days there was nothing around the Necropolis but a few houses and John Scadding's farm on the other side of the Don River. With the passage of time the Potters Field that was located on the north side of the concession road that separated the fast growing village of Yorkville from the city of Toronto found itself in the spotlight. The people of Yorkville didn't like having a cemetery in the middle of their village!

It was closed and the remains of 984 people from the Potter's Field came to be interred at the Necropolis in a special section called, "The Resting Place of the Pioneers." Over time the Necropolis, Greek for City of the Dead, became the resting place of many of Toronto's and Canada's leaders. Some of the many notable monuments, in no particular order, are:



## **George Brown [1818-1880]**

Section E, Lot 85

Brown established a newspaper called, "The Globe". A Father of Confederation he helped to unite Upper and Lower Canada with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He was shot during a struggle with a distraught, drunk newspaper employee. The wound became infected and he fell into a coma and died. The assassin was hanged at the Don Jail and interred in the prison graveyard.

## **William Lyon Mackenzie [1795-1861]**

Section O, lot 94

Mackenzie's outrage at the House of Assembly at the time led to the ill-fated rebellion of 1837 the outcome was the overthrow of the Family Compact and Mackenzie fleeing for his life and spending 12 years in exile. He was pardoned in 1849 and returned to Toronto. He published a political newsletter called Mackenzie's Week. He used it to campaign for a public burying ground.

A ramble through the delightful treed grounds of the Necropolis provides for a walk into history - and a lovely autumn outing.

## **Thornton Blackburn**

Section E, lot 100

A former slave who made his way to Canada and freedom via the "Underground Railway". He was Toronto's first cabbie c. 1834.

## **Henry Langley [1836 - 1907]**

Section O, lot 255

Respected architect known for Gothic Rival Churches and Second Empire Houses. He built the chapel, porté cochère and superintendent's lodge at the Necropolis in 1872.

## **Shirley Herbert Dye [1868 - 1957]**

Section S, lot 16

He was a survivor of the Battle of Batoche, the major conflict in the Northwest Rebellion during which Riel surrendered to the troops under General Frederick Middleton.

## **John Macdonald [1824 - 1890]**

Section VNG, lot 133

Macdonald arrived in Canada in 1837, opened a dry goods store, Macdonald and Co., in 1849 and quickly became both wealthy and influential. He fought for confederation, strongly supporting Sir John A. MacDonald [just to confuse us]. He was appointed to the Dominion Senate.

## **Rose, Jane, Cecilia, Phoebe and**

**Mary Ward [aged 6, 7, 9, 11 & 12 years]** - Section F, lot 157

The daughters of David Ward all of whom drowned in 1862.

Editor's note: Women were not written up in the historical information that I found on the Necropolis. However, you can find the tombstones if you look.

*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).*





# The CPA Honours its Own!

Watch for the announcement of the winner of Heritage Toronto's **Certificate of Commendation for Architectural Restoration**  
CPA has nominated The Winchester Pub

## Thanks to all who helped make the Cabbagetown Cultural Festival a success

- Virginia Van Vliet
- David Pretlove
- Mack Thompson
- Alan Waterhouse
- Richard Saylor
- Peggy Kurtin
- Marijan Bayer
- Jill Richardson
- Patricia Braithwaite
- Chris Howard
- Kiely Gates
- Heinz Gebers
- Robin Sudsbury
- Nancy White
- Margaret McBurney
- Richard Bishop
- Emmett Robbins
- Vickie Armstrong
- Janice Hebert
- Carla Swansberg
- Angus Stilbert
- Shirley Robinson
- Joan Heney
- Simone Lee
- Claire Kurtin
- Ray Barton

- Kathy Farrell
- Jerry Farrell
- John Court
- Fran Walsh
- Christopher Dew
- Ted Gzebb
- Sheila Schirmer
- Claus Schirmer

Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions.....



### To CPA Volunteers: Mark your calendars

CPA Volunteer Recognition Event  
Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m.  
Simpson House.

## Some issues span the centuries . .

- Toronto's first garbage collector, called a scavenger, started collecting in 1835.
- Toronto got it's first 100 outdoor gas lamps set on fancy black iron poles , lighting up King Street on December 28,1841.
- In 1861 a set of rails was laid down on Yonge Street from St Lawrence Market to the Red Lion Inn above Bloor. The speed limit was 6 miles an hour. Very soon King and Queen had tracks too! Other areas followed.

. . . And we've been worrying about where to put our garbage, changing our lamp standards and digging up the tracks ever since!

**Remember to attend the CPA meeting on October 26th to revisit the past and learn about plans for Parliament Street 2000**

### CPA Board of Directors

Kathy Farrell, 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

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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_