

Cabbagetown Preservation Association Newsletter

September 2001

Volume 13 Issue 1



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



Mark these dates
on your calendar
CPA Community
Meetings/Events

October 25/01— Meeting
December 7/01 Volunteer
Recognition Event
February 21/02—Meeting
May 23/02 Annual General
meeting

In this issue:

Read about the many activi-
ties of CPA's Board of Di-
rectors - page 2

Look for this symbol
to find an exciting
new CPA project!



Victoria Hadden contributes
a new column—

Our Historical Past - page
3 and tells you how to be-
gin researching your home.

Find out how to apply for
Membership/Volunteering -
page 4

Cabbagetown's Festival of
Lights is announced Page 4

Try out the
“Tasty“ Fall
Recipe on page 4



Come and Join Your Friends and Neighbours at the CPA's Fall Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2001

Place: Pope Joan

6:30 to 7:30 Munch and Mingle

Pope Joan's in-house caterer,
"The Catering Tree" will be preparing the
munchies for the event

7:30 Guest Speaker: Rollo Myers

Topic: "Our 1st Parliament Buildings"
Come and learn more about the “dig” that
took place this summer.

Presentation of Streetscape in Bloom
Award

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge

I am excited to report that, within the first quarter of the Board year -- June to August -- the CPA has enjoyed many "first-time" successes, thanks to the energy of many volunteers.

The "first-annual" Cabbagetown Cabaret was a major undertaking. Under the stewardship of Christopher Dew, the Cabaret raised about \$5000 -- moneys that will fund new projects. It also enhanced the CPA's profile and built stronger sense of camaraderie within our membership.

The "first-time" Fundraising Raffle was a success, thanks to American Airlines who contributed a very enticing "Trip for Two" to any American Airlines destination in North America. Our topflight "Sales Force" -- mainly our newsletter deliverers -- sold lots of tickets, making about \$7,000. These funds will initiate a new Historical Plaque program, with details to be announced soon.

New promotional efforts for the Fall Festival included a brochure -- part of a complete promotional package to be further developed this year -- and a display. The display, created by Claudia Salzmann and a team of many volunteers, highlighted the CPA's Restoration Awards and marks the beginning of an ongoing program of heritage displays.

Such "first-time" achievements were only possible because other CPA Angels agreed to look after established activities. For example, former Board member Chris Howard organized the Tour of Homes Tea -- a demanding event that requires dozens of volunteers. The Tea raises about \$3000 for the CPA -- revenues that cover a portion of annual operating expenses.

The Board has been restructured so that each Director is now responsible for a specific Portfolio: Ray Barton, Meetings and Events; Marijan Bayer, Education and Community Outreach; Christopher Dew, Fundraising; Victoria Hadden, Writing Services; Martha House, Marketing and Promotion; Claudia Salzmann, Heritage Interpretation; Fran Walsh-- Newsletter Editor; and Alan Waterhouse, Architectural Preservation.

Treasurer Ted Gzebb has introduced a new financial management software package to help us better track and analyze our financial situation. It has the capability to accept credit card payments -- a convenience that we hope will increase membership

Secretary Kym Morton has agreed to oversee the Forsythia Festival for the 3rd year in a row! Kym, along with other mothers with young children on her project team, is especially well-qualified to run this community event for youngsters.

Past President Peggy Kurtin continues to manage the vitally important Heritage Conservation District project. This significant project will have a long-term impact on the preservation of Cabbagetown's unique architectural heritage.

Vice-president Sheila Schirmer will coordinate our new three-year Heritage plaque program, an innovative project that we believe will be a "first" in Canada. We expect it will make Cabbagetown a more popular heritage destination, and serve as an educational tool within the school system.

In summary, your Board has made some major achievements in the first Quarter of the Board year, and has many ambitious plans for the balance of the year. I hope that you, as a member or a volunteer, can share in my sense of pride as we all move forward together. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kathy Farrell, President



Contribute your ghost story to new CPA project

Visit <http://torontoghosts.org/cabbagetown/> to add to our inventory of the more macabre side of our community's history. You can help to enliven our store of information about Cabbagetown, and help us in planning a special **Halloween Tour** every year.



Our Historical Past

37 Metcalfe Street a.k.a. 75 Winchester Street:



1892— seen from the north west

The Hampton Mansion

by Victoria Hadden, Board Member

A Captain John T. Douglas who once owned the entire southeast corner of Metcalfe and Winchester built a farmhouse for himself on this site in 1875. As 75 Winchester, this beautiful rambling home described as an Italianate Villa, faced north and was set back from the street on this large lot. The home had lovely large wooden doors glazed with cut and etched glass. The Captain later rented the house, and eventually sold it to an insurance broker, Joseph Reed who enjoyed the spacious property until 1882.

Enter a new owner, 35 year old James L. Morrison, whose occupations were listed as Presidents of the Brilliant Sign Company, and the Grip Paint and Publishing Company. He purchased the house and stable and lived there with six members of his family and a dog. By 1891, Morrison, with the aid of Architect J. Wilson Gray carried out the first modernization on the Victorian villa, rendering it almost unrecognizable. It became a new, improved much grander mansion with large verandahs, carved wooden railings, a rooftop widow's walk, and such classical details as modillion cornice, dentils, Ionic columns, foliated consoles, leaded glass transoms, scrolled pediment, and even carved lions. The next important shift in the landscape occurred less than two decades later.

Alexander Park, a real estate man purchased the property and constructed the first of two yellow brick apartments on his front lawn, which became known as the Hampton Mansions. Now 1912, hidden from view on Winchester, the 37-year-old house underwent a second rejuvenation, with the principal façade now oriented to become 37 Metcalfe. Unwilling to squander Morrison's exquisite taste, Park moved many of the wooden architectural features to the new front entrance (west wall) astonishing neighbours and architects alike!

Now 2001, the current mansion houses eight apartments with the front lot beautifully framed by the acquisition of the old metal fence from the demolished Ports of Call restaurant at Yonge and Summerhill. Despite the many radical renovations, 37 Metcalfe remains one of the most unique and exciting examples of architectural craftsmanship in Toronto. The mansion was designated as a heritage property in 1986.

Research by Jenny Davey

For those curious about researching their own heritage homes, a pamphlet is available from the City of Toronto Archives, which details how to go about it.

Go to www.city.toronto.on.ca/archives or call 416. 397 0778.

[photos scanned from George Rust D'Eye's Book, "Cabbagetown Remembered"]



1982—showing the west façade.

The original entrance still faces north into the south wall of the Hampton Mansions.

This will be the last CPA newsletter edited by Fran Walsh.

All story ideas or comments from readers are welcome. Please call Kathy Farrell (416 966-0493).

It is distributed to Cabbagetown homes by volunteers.



The Back Page



Building on its success last year, the "Victorian Christmas in Cabbagetown" theme will be repeated. Inside/outside visits to 2 or 3 historic mansions decorated for the Holiday Season as they would have been 100 years ago, will be offered.

For the 2001 Festival of Lights, a new theme is being introduced: "Choirs in the Park". Children's and adult choirs from the neighbourhood and beyond will perform in Riverdale Park. Quartets and other smaller groups will also be invited to participate.

Plans are also being made for a marshmallow and wiener roast at the park, free to all children.

Buses will be in constant circulation to transport visitors from throughout the GTA to the various venues, and on-board guides will point out many of the heritage highlights of Cabbagetown.

Ticket prices and the schedule of events will be announced in late November.

For more information email festivaloflights@sympatico.ca, or phone 416-923-3432.

Organizers announced today that plans are being made for:
Year Three of the Cabbagetown Festival of Lights
Friday, December 14th, Saturday, December 15th
and Sunday, December 16th
presented by Gift of Light Inc, a not-for-profit corporation



Bill & Aindree Lohman

INTIMATE CULINARY SESSIONS
SMALL EVENT CATERING
CHEF SERVICES

416-928-3123

WWW.TASTINGSCATERING.COM

INFO@TASTINGSCATERING.COM

Chef William Lohman offers up this TEX-MEX twist using an autumn favourite. Roasting your sweet potatoes and combining the puree in soups and sauces adds wonderful sweetness and natural thickening.

"This is a soup that is very simple, but quite flavourful. The satiny presence of the sweet potato is offset by the poignant flavours of peppers & spice. Finally, the addition of corn & hominy give it a perfect richness."

SWEET POTATO CHOWDER WITH CHICKEN & HOMINY

- 3 T BUTTER
- 3 CHICKEN BREASTS
- 1 SWEET POTATO (ROASTED)
- 1 ONION
- 4 CUPS VEGETABLE OR CHICKEN STOCK
- 1 SERRANO PEPPER
- 1/2 TSP CORIANDER
- 1/4 TSP CUMIN
- 1 LEEK
- 1 RED PEPPER
- 1 SMALL CAN OF CORN
- 1/4 CUP FRESH CILANTRO
- 1 15OZ CAN HOMINY (optional, AVAILABLE AT LATIN MARKETS.)

* GRILL SEASONED CHICKEN AND CUT INTO 1 INCH CUBES AND PUT ASIDE. SAUTE ONION IN BUTTER IN SOUP POT UNTIL SOFTENED. ADD SWEET POTATO AND STOCK. BRING TO A BOIL, LET SIMMER FOR 15 MINUTES. PUREE. SAUTE LEEK, CORN, RED PEPPER, SERRANO, CORIANDER AND CUMIN. COMBINE CHICKEN, SAUTED MIXTURE, DRAINED HOMINY AND CILANTRO. SALT & PEPPER

SERVES 6 - 8

CPA Board of Directors 2001-2002

- Kathy Farrell, President 966-0493
- Sheila Schirmer, Vice-President 923-9022
- Ted Gzebb, Treasurer 925-5891
- Kym Morton, Secretary 413-0882

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

Ray Barton, Marijan Bayer, Christopher Dew, Victoria Hadden, Martha House, Claudia Salzmann, Fran Walsh, Alan Waterhouse. Peggy Kurtin, Past President

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 _____