



# Cabbagetown Preservation Association

Newsletter

April 1988 Vol.2 No.2

## Victorian Home Care

You may have noticed something curious about a number of Cabbagetown's Victorian era front doors when they have been stripped of paint and given a clear finish by their twentieth-century owners. These doors display strange markings or scars located just over the letter box or, alternately, on the central panel between the windows. The scars consist of a row of three holes -- one approximately one-half inch in diameter is flanked by two smaller holes -- the whole group may be entirely framed by another rectangular scar.

Although my grandmother probably could have told me what these marks represented, they puzzled me for years. Then, I saw some reproductions in a catalogue of Victorian style hardware, and realized that these marks indicated the former locations of the escutcheon plates and twist handles of Victorian mechanical doorbells. Always searching for authentic Victorian touches to add to my own house, I was delighted when shallow indentations on my own front door proved to be Victorian doorbell scars. A reproduction model was duly installed on my freshly repainted Victorian-green door.

It has proven a great success. It is not only attractive but, to my surprise, it is as effective as a modern electric model in waking one up from sleep. In fact, it can be heard in the basement when the washing machine is running--unlike the telephone which is located in the room directly above!  
*Jennifer Bush Isaacson*

## Highlights of the January 28 Public Meeting

The good news from this meeting was the turnout -- more than 100 people, among them Roger Hollander, our man at City Hall. With the surge came new members who joined the Association on the spot. Committees presented their reports and, just before adjournment, a vote was taken endorsing the interim steering committee.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED. JOIN THE  
CABBAGETOWN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION.

## Greetings Members and Cabbagetown Residents

This is the second issue of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association Newsletter, and comes to you with news from several fronts. But, first things first.

**You're invited to our next general meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 28, 8:00 p.m. at the St. Martin School on Salisbury Avenue (just east of Sackville).**

### Agenda Items

- Review of the Association's purpose
- Vote on the revised constitution
- Plans for the Amelia Street cottages

## What's Happening with the Amelia Cottages?

The Association scored its first victory in December 1987 when the Land Use Committee at City Hall took note of our presentation and asked the developer of the site at 36, 38 and 40 Amelia Street (where three vacant cottages now stand) to re-submit new plans for the site after consulting with the Association. Included in the developer's original plans was the demolition of the three historical buildings and the erection of townhouse units along the front and rear of the site.

Terry Duncan of the committee reports that since that breakthrough, the property has been sold. The committee met with the new owners on March 17. The new owners disclosed that their plans for the site involve retaining the cottage facades and building six infill houses to the rear, or demolishing the three cottages and building six new townhouses on the front of the property. The committee requested more details which are to be given on April 19. These details will be presented at our meeting on April 28.

### Interim Committee Chairpersons

Membership	Gerry Lisney	964-9080
Govt. Relations	Ian Paterson	921-9222
Fund Raising	Larry McGill	967-4398
Organization	Bob White	924-2387
Communications	Jan Goulding	323-9240
Amelia St. Cottages	Terry Duncan	921-4814
Steering Committee	Michael Roman	962-0716

## Government Relations -- your support is needed

Because governments -- municipal, provincial and federal -- enact laws that can work for, as well as against the Association's goals, we must consult with them to ensure that our needs are heard and considered. As a result of three meetings in February and March, the Government Relations Committee has set two goals, one short-term and the other long-term.

According to Ian Paterson of the committee, the Association must join the Confederation of Residents and Ratepayers Association because it is the "best resource for advice on dealing with problems that we and other groups face". Members of the Confederation which the committee has dealt with on a one-to-one basis are: the Scarborough Coalition of Ratepayers, Rouge Valley, North Rosedale, South Rosedale, Grange Historical and the Sussex-Ulster group.

For the short-term, the greatest need of the Association is support by, as many Cabbagetown residents as is possible, says Paterson. For the many problems that are about to emerge, residents must show up "en masse" at City Hall during weekdays and on weekends to register the community's approval or disapproval of development plans as they are first proposed. "We must be prepared to fight individual battles to save the neighbourhood", he says.

For the long-term, the committee is consulting with the Toronto Historical Board about listing endangered properties and obtaining an historical designation for Cabbagetown.

At City Hall, the committee has met with Barbara Hall and Pat Zolf to consider ways to protect the neighbourhood through zoning redesignation and "Part II" plans.

## Fund Raising -- An Ongoing Endeavour

Each public meeting of the Association costs \$200. The Fund Raising Committee plans to raise funds to cover such costs and build a "war chest" to fight legal battles.

**Cabbagetown in the news...**The New York Times (April 10, 1988) features a travel article on Toronto, and describes Cabbagetown as the only Toronto neighbourhood that has preserved its Victorian character lock, stock and gable. *Nice to have our efforts appreciated.* Ed.

Among the projects being considered by the committee, reports Larry McGill, are an art show and sale, crafts and bake sale, a community garage sale, and a possible relationship with the existing Tour of Homes. The committee is also considering working on mutually-supportive projects with local Cabbagetown businesses.

## Communications -- Keeping Us All In Touch

The Communications Committee is committed to issuing the Association's Newsletter and publicizing the Association's activities and accomplishments via the local press, bulletins, posters and other available media, reports Jan Goulding. The Communications Committee keeps in touch with all the other committees to ensure that everyone is kept abreast of developments in which we all have a stake.

Articles for this Newsletter are welcomed. Our new mailing address is:

P.O. Box 57, Station 'J'  
Toronto, Ontario M4J 4X8

## Membership -- It's Growing

The January 28 meeting brought in 46 new members of the Association, bringing the total of paid members to 86. The Membership Committee also reports that an additional 148 people expressed an interest in the Association's activities. Membership fee is \$10 per person.

The committee has been organizing volunteers who will act as couriers to deliver the Association's Newsletter and other information to the residents of Cabbagetown. Thirty routes have been established, and volunteers are needed for these routes. The committee is contacting volunteers so that 2,000 households will receive the newsletter.

The committee has also created a file containing names and streets of all members and volunteers, reports Gerry Lisney.

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570 Parliament St.  
Toronto, Ont. M4X 1P8  
(416) 923-4066