



Please, Just a Pinch of Salt...

As Cabbagetowners experience another cold and snowy winter, I have noted a dramatic increase in the amount of de-icing salt used by area homeowners. This quantity of salt is nothing compared to the truckloads the City Roads Department scatters on our streets and laneways. Is there a municipal plan to transform Lake Ontario into an inland sea for salt water fishermen? Apart from these environmental implications, we should be aware of the effects of de-icing salts closer to home.

The cynics among us don't believe that this 'seasoning' of ice and snow has much to do with the genuine concern about the welfare of the pedestrian, but rather our (and especially the city's) inner fear of litigation. This seems incentive enough, but can the use of de-icing salts stain more than our boots and carpets and irritate our pet's feet? Can it contribute to the actual deterioration of Cabbagetown homes? The answer is most certainly YES!

The use of de-icing salts near and on all brick and masonry surfaces will lead to the eventual destruction of this material. No material is immune to damage - stone, brick, terracotta, ceramic and mortar are all at risk. In addition, our Victorian wrought and cast iron fencing will be quickly corroded by salt action. Horticulturalists will also attest to the damaging effect road salts have on plants and shrubs.

Salt dissolves, it penetrates the masonry and re-emerges in the form of a salty efflorescence upon drying. Apart from the disfigurement this causes, the salt will 'explode' the masonry from within as it migrates through the substrate. Hosing down the salty surface simply dissolves the salt and drives it back into the masonry. If possible, sweep the surface salt well away from the effected areas before wetting the masonry. This action may have to be repeated several times as you 'chase' the salt back and forth in the masonry. Particularly stubborn areas of salt build-up can be removed by brushing with household pickling vinegar, followed by thorough rinsing with water. If all else fails, and you feel like experimenting, apply a thick poultice of ordinary wallpaper paste to the effected area. This wet 'mush', when pressed onto a vertical surface and covered with plastic to reduce drying speed, will attract and retain interior salt. Once dry, the poultice is removed and discarded. As with all experiments, it is advisable to conduct a small test on an inconspicuous area prior to full scale treatment.

And slippery walkways are a reality in Toronto and it is unlikely that homeowners and the municipality will stop using de-icing salts. I advise caution however where salt is applied near old and historic masonry. If possible, spread a mixture of sand and salt instead of using just salt. I have found that cat litter makes an excellent salt substitute for providing traction. I suppose if all else fails, we can shovel and sweep our walkways before they turn to ice.

...Steve Poulin.

MEETING

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Thurs. MAY 10, 1990, AT 8:00 P.M.

St. Martin's School,
55 Salisbury Avenue,
Just East of Sackville
(Note Corrected Date)

ELECTIONS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Our President, Pat Poulin will present a short illustrated lecture of historical and architectural interest, about Women's College Hospital, which originated in Cabbagetown.

Summary of Constable Hans Jewinski's "Think Like a Bandit" Talk at our General Meeting in October.

- 911 - Use it, don't abuse it.
- Burglars usually case the place beforehand.
- Burglars usually stay away from a house with two doorbells.
- Burglars windowshop; close drapes at night.
- Burglars often enter through back windows and doors and basement windows, using tools that are conveniently left for them (i.e., bricks, gardening tools, ladders, etc.).
- Then they head for the jewellery box (fill it with junk jewellery and put valuables elsewhere).
- Next, they proceed to where the cash and cheques are kept (desks, work areas etc.)
- Dogs and burglar alarms are the best deterrents.
- Most alarms have 3 1/2 minute response time. (The average time of most "smash and grab" burglaries).
- For prevention, cover lower windows with 'space-age' glass (about \$12/sq. ft.) or clear acrylic (unbreakable).
- Mark electronic items (on front) with an engraving pen, available from your local hardware store.
- Shoulder bags are easy targets for thieves, as no physical contact is necessary for a purse snatcher.
- Be fit and able to run at any sign of trouble.
- ...Tell the burglar, "Don't bother, it's easier to rob someone else."

FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL

This year, the 19th year of the Forsythia Festival, the CPA will be actively involved in its organization. Spearheaded by Tony Brady, the founder of the Festival, and Bridget the Clown, we will work to revive an integral part of our community. The Festival will take place Sunday May 6th, 1990, at Wellesley Park (East end of Wellesley St.). Your ideas and help are desperately needed and will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Ian Paterson (921-9222) or Debbie Deak (944-0047).

Updates...

603 Parliament..

In the fall of 1989, the owner of 603 Parliament (architect T. Kalman) filed an application with the Committee of Adjustment requesting approval for construction of a 5 storey building with a main floor/basement retail store and 18 dwelling units. No on-site parking was to be supplied. This site sits just North of the Royal Bank, on the East side of Parliament , in a block which presently contains no structures higher than 3 storeys. The plans were presented at the C.P.A. General Meeting on October 25, 1989, and were discussed in detail at a C.P.A. meeting of neighbours of 603 Parliament on November 1. Attendees opposed the plan and gave the C.P.A. the mandate to object to the proposed development on the grounds of the excessive density and height, and the absence of 6 required on-site parking spaces. These objections were expressed to Mr. Kalman at a public meeting called by Councillor Barbara Hall, on November 6. In order to address the community's concerns, Mr. Kalman deferred his Committee of Adjustment hearing from November 7 to December 13. His revised plans were then considered by the C.P.A. Board of Directors, and again at a public meeting called by Barbara Hall on December 12. The C.P.A. and area residents again objected to the development plans on the grounds that, although Victorian details had been added to the facade, the scale of the project had not been significantly reduced and on-site parking had not been supplied. The Committee of Adjustment hearing on December 13 was well attended, with the C.P.A., approximately 20 residents, City Planning and Barbara Hall's office all opposing the development. Consistent with our concerns, the Committee of Adjustment refused the application on the grounds that the plans constituted an over-development of the site. We will keep you informed regarding any future proposals for 603 Parliament.

Amelia Street Cottages...

After several months of review by Public Works, the Amelia Street cottages (36-40 Amelia St.) development came up before the City of Toronto Land Use Committee on November 22 1989. The CPA approved this development after many months of public discussions and negotiation with the developer. All CPA members were notified of the Land Use hearing and attendance in support of the CPA position was requested. 21 members of the CPA appeared unopposed at the Land Use hearing, and on this basis, the Committee granted approval for the preparation of a site-specific zoning by-law for the re-development of the Amelia cottages. This by-law was passed at a second Land Use hearing on January 16, 1990, at which 3 CPA members again supported the development. The Amelia Street cottages proposal has therefore passed another hurdle in the process of gaining City approval, and the developers hope to begin construction in the spring of 1990. The CPA is grateful for the continued support of members for this project.

321 Wellesley Street...

As a number of people were left feeling confused after reading our last article about 321 Wellesley, we wish to clarify our position at this time. The CPA is extremely grateful to all the people involved in negotiations over the proposed renovations to 321 Wellesley. We particularly wish to extend our congratulations to the owner Mr. Rashid Khan, the architect Mr. Thomas Kalman, and all the neighbours, for their sensitive and thoughtful negotiations which resolved the issue in a manner which best represents the interests of the owner, the neighbours, and the CPA.

Interested in Forming a Neighbourhood Watch Committee in Cabbagetown?

It was suggested at our last general meeting that some residents might like to pursue this idea. If you would like to help organize a Neighbourhood Watch for your street, submit your name(s) to either Debbie Deak (944-0047), or Ruth Wagner (927-0167) and we will put you in touch with others who respond, as well as with the appropriate Officer from 51 Division who will then assist you in getting this off the ground.

SOLICITATIONS

Time to re-new your Cabbagetown Preservation Association membership for 1990. Your continued support is much needed. Fee is \$10.00. Mail (or drop off) your fee, along with your name, address and telephone number to 93 Winchester Street, Toronto, M4X 1B1. Thank you.

The CPA Education Committee (always looking for new members) would like to begin its own archives. They are looking for old photographs (other than those currently on file at the City Hall Archives or at the library). They'll copy and return them to you. In the same vein, they are keen to interview original Cabbagetown residents in order to collect anecdotal information. Please call 927-0167 or 944-0047.

We welcome anyone who is interested and has architecturally and/or historically interesting information about Cabbagetown, to speak at the general meetings. Contact Debbie Deak (944-0047) or Ruth Wagner (927-0167).

FINALLY...

We are saddened by the passing of Gerry Lisney, who died on December 22, 1989. Gerry was an active member and Charter Board Member of the CPA, as well as a good neighbour and friend, who lived first on Geneva St., and later on Amelia St. A \$100.00 donation was made on behalf of the CPA to the Redemptorist Fathers in his memory.

C.P.A. Executive Board Members

President	Pat Poulin	923-6934
Vice-President	Peggy Kurtin	967-6432
Secretary-Treasurer	Jan Goulding	323-9240

PointOne Printing Inc. Now Introducing PointOne Copy Inc.

At Our New Location
At 417 Church Street.

- Copies
- Offset
- Binding
- Etc.
- Desktop Publishing
- Linotronic and Laser Output
- Fax

923-4066 570 Parliament St.

Articles for this Newsletter are welcomed. Please contact Debbie Deak at 944-0047, or Ruth Wagner at 927-0167.