



Cabbagetown Preservation Association Newsletter

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Greetings Members and Cabbagetown Residents

This is the annual pre-elections issue of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association Newsletter, and comes to you with news and views from several fronts. But, first things first.

You've been asking: "Whats happening with..."

...The Bram Group Project (N.E. corner of Winchester and Parliament.)

We've all noted the former building has come down and yardings have been up awhile.

When we spoke to Jeff Thorn of the Bram Group, he explained that the building will be commercial throughout. The main floor will basically keep the pattern of the street somewhat similar to the area immediately to the South - small restaurants, a shop or two, service-type establishments possibly including a bank or two on the corners.

"...it's really a matter of the marketplace".

The ground floor won't be a problem to rent although no leases have been signed yet. The question of not starting the construction is really a matter of the marketplace. Bram needs an anchor tenant for the upper floors before proceeding. In the present economic climate of climbing interest rates there is alot of office space lying vacant.

Bram also owns the historically designated Winchester Hotel, part of which has recently been refurbished and turned into commercial space. This section (approximately 7000 square feet) has acted as a pilot for the new building (28,000 square feet), which Mr. Thorn describes as being as close as you can get to the look of a 100 year old structure in a modern building.

Elevations and floor plans will be available for viewing at our May 10th General Meeting. They show a 4 storey building with a high Mansard roof containing 14 Dormer windows, 2 storeys of rectangular windows, with additional arched windows and doors throughout the two facades. One section of the building on the Winchester facade will be set back more or less in line with the next house and will lead to a ramp to the underground parking which will facilitate 13 cars.

Surrounding the building on 2 sides will be 8 Maple and Locust trees set into sidewalk areas, trimmed in clay pavers on the West and granite pavers on the South side.

It would be safe to say that it will be another Neo-Second Empire building.

...Ruth Wagner.

...Diversified Building Corporation Project (N.E. corner of Sumach and Gerrard) :

This building, built in the 1890's, was originally a pharmacy. When the adjacent Toronto General Hospital closed its doors and moved to its present College Street location, the pharmacy was converted to the Avion Hotel. Later it was known as Chuckle's, and more recently the Cabbagetown Tavern.

Diversified Building Corporation bought the old building from the Jordane Building Corporation, with the intention to construct condominium residences. Upon discovery of safety problems with the proposed underground parking, they were forced to reconsider the whole design. They are now involved in a legal situation with the original architect. While DBC does have the necessary permits to construct, they will proceed only when the more critical issues have been resolved.

The latest plan for the 'Avion' Project involves construction of 7 condominium apartments, with "ground" parking.

Jason Teitelbaum, of Diversified, informed us that they are quite excited by the historical nature of the building and will retain the original exterior shell. He also expressed a keen interest in working with the CPA.

We look forward to the successful completion of the 'Avion' project, as well as the retention of the building's historic and architectural integrity.

Upcoming Elections

The Association's constitution calls for the annual election of Officers and Directors. This year, the following positions are open: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, 3 Directors at large and 3 2-Year Directors. Nominations will be accepted up to and including the evening of May 10th. Written acceptance of a nomination is required if the nominee cannot attend the General Meeting.

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 10, 1990

8:00 P.M., St. Martin's School

55 Salisbury Ave. (Just East of Sackville)

AGENDA ITEMS

- * Elect Officers and Directors
- * Set long term goals
- * Hear Patricia Poulin give an illustrated talk about the Ontario Medical College for Women.

Cabbagetown Preservation Association helps organize 19th annual Forsythia Festival '90.

...see page 2 for details.

What is the CPA?

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association exists in order to "preserve the integrity and historical character of our neighbourhood." Our purpose is to protect historic buildings and streetscapes by encouraging sensitive, appropriate and responsible infill and development. Membership is open to anyone at \$10.

At our General Meeting we want to hear what YOU think the CPA should be doing. What are the CPA's LONG TERM GOALS?

The Ontario Medical College for Women (OMCW) was founded in Cabbagetown on October 1, 1883. At the CPA General Meeting on May 10, 1990, Patricia Poulin will give a brief illustrated talk on the history of the OMCW in Cabbagetown. The following questions address a few of the points that will be discussed:

1. Why did Toronto, which already had 2 Medical Colleges, need the OMCW?
2. Why was the OMCW established in Cabbagetown?
3. Whose obituary read "...largely through her efforts that so many Canadian women enjoy so many of the privileges that today they accept so calmly as their rights...?"
4. Why did Jenny Gray Wildman study medicine with her sister at OMCW?
5. Why was the Sackville Street Women's Dispensary founded in 1896?

Can you answer these questions? If not, and even if you can, why not come to the General Meeting and find out more about the OMCW in Cabbagetown?

19th ANNUAL FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL

WHEN: Sunday May 6, 1990 from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

WHERE: Wellesley Park - East End of Wellesley

WHAT:

Parade

At 12:30 the founder of the Forsythia Festival Briget the Clown, Tony Brady in real life, will lead a parade that will assemble on Winchester St. beside the Riverdale Farm. The parade will commence at 1:00 P.M. and follow a route festooned with yellow ribbons. THE ROUTE: North on Sumach to Wellesley, West on Wellesley to Sackville, South on Sackville to Winchester, East on Winchester to Sumach, North on Sumach to Amelia St., then East to the bottom end of Wellesley Park. Among the participants in the parade will be the Cabbagetown Marching Band, Mounted Policemen, Fort York Fife and Drums, groups representing the Community Folk Arts Council, exotic cars, politicians etc. Anyone with a decorated bike, wagon or loved pet is invited to meet beside the Riverdale Farm and walk behind BRIGET the CLOWN. A makeup artist will be available at the start of the parade to help anyone turn him/herself into a clown. Hundreds of yellow balloons will be distributed during the parade.

PLANTING OF THE FORSYTHIA

At 1:45 BRIGET the CLOWN, Councillor Barbara Hall and Patricia Poulin, President of the CPA, will plant the traditional Forsythia bush at the entrance to Wellesley Park, followed quickly by:

JUDGING of the MUTTS, WAGONS and BIKES

At 2:00 P.M., our favorite politicians will judge and award prizes to children who have decorated their bicycles, wagons or mutts.

From 2:15 to 4:00, there will be much to do and see. Look for DISPLAYS by local associations and clubs, and one of Bengal Cats and Kittens. The CPA will conduct WALKING TOURS of Cabbagetown, and don't miss the stage ENTERTAINMENT.

WALKING TOUR

Members of the CPA will lead historic walking tours through nearby streets. The tour route will repeat that taken during last year's fall Cultural Festival.

ENTERTAINMENT

Singing and/or dancing groups from Bulgaria, Serbia, Scotland, Poland, Austria, Polynesia, England and Cabbagetown will be performing on stage, all afternoon. Performing groups include: the Austrian Junior Schuhplattler Group, the Toronto Morris Men, the White Eagle Polish Song and Dance Ensemble, Oplenac Serbian Cultural Group, Georgina Finlay Scottish Country Dancers, Bulgarian Ladies Bulgarka Choir, the Polynesian Song and Dance Association, and the Cabbagetown Girls Jazz Dancers.

NOTICE

TO HOMES ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE

May We Have Your Co-Operation?

On Sunday morning, May 6th, members of the CPA will be along the parade route tying yellow bows to trees and fences. As you may have noticed, some of the Forsythia appear to have bloomed early this year, and so we have 500 M of yellow ribbon to put a little glow into the parade route. It will also remind you to come and have fun at the Forsythia Festival. We will take the ribbons down later in the day.

Your support is needed. Join the Cabbagetown Preservation Association. Membership is \$10. Mail (or drop) your fee, as well as your name, address and telephone number to 93 Winchester Street, Toronto, M4X 1B1.

Articles for this newsletter are welcomed. Please call Debbie Deak: 944-0047, or Ruth Wagner: 927-0167

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The late Paul Rimstead wrote that the Forsythia Festival was "one of the most enjoyable, but absolutely worst organized annual events." Our committee hope to keep "the most enjoyable", but hope to improve on "the worst organized", and we would like your help.