



CABBAGETOWN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1991

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

There are plans afoot to change Parliament Street!!!
Come and here what they are!!!

THEY COULD AFFECT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

CPA GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY JANUARY 24, 1991, AT 8:00 P.M.
ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL
55 SALISBURY AVENUE,
JUST EAST OF SACKVILLE

GUEST SPEAKERS DISCUSS THEIR VISION
FOR PARLIAMENT STREET:

PAUL DINEEN: OLD CABBAGETOWN BIA
STEPHAN LAUER: HERITAGE CANADA
JANE DAVIDSON: CITY OF TORONTO MAIN STREETS PROGRAM

WITH
AN INTRODUCTION BY MR. MARIJAN BAYER -
A SLIDE PRESENTATION,
"A WALKING TOUR OF PARLIAMENT STREET."

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"Your input to the evening is essential if we are to formulate an integrated plan for
Parliament Street that meets the needs of all residents. Please attend and let us know:
"What is your vision of Parliament Street?"
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A VISION FOR PARLIAMENT STREET

Cabbagetown sits as a small community in the large urban sprawl of Toronto. Almost every small town in the country has a Main Street that provides necessary services to its community. The local grocery store, drugstore, clothing store, shoe store and book store are all found on a typical Main Street. For people who live in Cabbagetown, Parliament should be our Main Street. Why isn't it?

Questions are now being asked as to why Parliament Street has failed to retain its Main Street character. Certainly part of the answer lies in the lure of more and better goods and services in other parts of the city. However, in this day of decreased available time and increased traffic congestion, perhaps we should be looking closer to home to provide a greater share of life's daily necessities. It's a vicious circle. If Parliament Street does not supply our needs, we won't shop there. Similarly, there is no inducement for the Parliament Street shopkeeper to provide goods for a client who won't shop on Parliament Street. With these thoughts in mind, a number of groups are now actively planning for Parliament Street as a Main Street. Who are these groups and what are their plans? Do their ideas concur with your vision of Parliament Street?

"..Parliament should be our Main Street. Why isn't it?"

1. OLD CABBAGETOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION:

The BIA is responsible not only for the businesses on Parliament Street, but also for sections of Wellesley, Carlton and Gerrard. They perceive Parliament Street to be composed of 3 main sections: the northern multicultural section that serves St. Jamestown, the southern section that provides basic needs at reasonable costs, and the middle section that provides a little bit of everything from delicatessens, specialty food shops and restaurants to laundromats. The challenge of the BIA is to tie the 3 sections of Parliament Street together and thus to provide an integrated shopping street that is attractive enough in variety to suit the needs of all area residents. To achieve this goal, the BIA has recently started discussions with Heritage Canada regarding the possibility of starting a "Main Streets Program" on Parliament Street.

"...the goal of Heritage Canada is to work with the community to establish the Main Street vision of that community."

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ACCOLADES TO THE TORONTO DANCE THEATRE FOR REPLACING THE STAINED-GLASS WEST WINDOW.

2. **HERITAGE CANADA:** Heritage Canada is a not-for-profit organization that has a history of establishing Main Streets Programs in small towns and cities in Canada (i.e. Perth, Brockville, Sudbury, Halifax). Their 3 year goal in such a program is to improve the quality of business on Main Street, thus increasing client numbers and ultimately making physical improvements to the street economically feasible. Heritage Canada works with the local BIA to train and assist the local, full-time project coordinator in all of the areas necessary to run a successful Main Streets Program, from marketing surveys to facade studies, and their implementation. Thus, the goal of Heritage Canada is to work with the community to establish the Main Street vision of that community.

"Toronto's Planning Department has ... its own Main Streets Program with the goal of increasing the number of residents living on Toronto's Main Streets."

3. **CITY OF TORONTO MAIN STREETS PROGRAM:** Toronto's Planning Department has recently established its own Main Streets Program with the goal of increasing the number of residents living on Toronto's Main Streets. The current availability of transit and other services (i.e. sewers, hydro, etc.) on City Main Streets makes such streets highly attractive as targets for new rental housing. Such housing would be encouraged in existing buildings with main floor retail and empty or under-utilized 2nd and 3rd floors. In addition, the city will be encouraging infill of empty lots and 2nd-3rd floor additions to existing 1 storey buildings. Parliament and Carlton Streets currently have a large number of buildings and sites that will be targeted by the City of Toronto Main Streets Program. Thus, the City of Toronto vision of Parliament Street is that of a mixed commercial/residential street that will provide badly needed housing to many of those in Toronto who cannot currently purchase their own homes.

"If we work now to establish criteria for development and guidelines for developers and renovators, the character of Parliament Street will be enhanced..."

4. **THE CABBAGETOWN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION:** The goals of the CPA, known to many of our readers, are to preserve the historic and architectural character of Cabbagetown, including Parliament Street. As such, we have the opportunity to play a key role in any redevelopment and renovations that take place on Parliament Street. If we work now to establish criteria for development and guidelines for developers and renovators, the character of Parliament Street will be enhanced during the coming years. We have a large number of handsome heritage buildings hiding on Parliament Street behind layers of paint and modern additions. The redevelopment of Parliament Street as a Main Street is a wonderful opportunity to improve the facade of Parliament Street, thereby making it a physically more attractive street for working, walking and shopping.

Much work remains to clarify and focus these different visions of Parliament Street, even before the planning stages are reached. Thus, the CPA is very excited to be able to sponsor a General Meeting on Thursday, January 24, 1991 (8:00 P.M. at St. Martin's School) to discuss "A Vision for Parliament Street." Guest speakers will include: Paul Dineen (Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Association), Stephan Lauer (Heritage Canada), and Jane Davidson (City of Toronto Main Streets Program). The evening's topic will be introduced by Mr. Marijan Bayer (Cabbagetown Resident) in the form of a slide presentation entitled "A Walking Tour of Parliament Street." Your input to the evening is essential if we are to formulate an integrated plan for Parliament Street that meets the needs of all residents. Please attend and let us know: "What is your vision of Parliament Street?"

...Pat Poulin-Brubaker

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ANNUAL CABBAGETOWN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association had another successful year at the annual Cabbagetown Festival. A booth was set up at the corner of Winchester and Parliament Streets, and was manned by volunteer members of the Association. Our new venture this year was to offer T-shirts for sale. The original design of the CPA T-shirts was the artistic creation of one of our members, Dominique Prince, to whom we are most grateful. The T-shirts were a tremendous success, selling out of the extra-large and coming close with the large. We still have a few large T-shirts left however, and these will be available at our next General Meeting (a wonderful souvenir for those who no longer live in Cabbagetown, and even for those who do). The CPA would like to express its appreciation to those members who volunteered their time and efforts to make our Festival booth a success, especially Lina Badhwar, Margie Bakewell, Andrea Corlett, Pat Corlett, Carol Cox, Jan Goulding, Francis Rooney, Steve Poulin and Ian Thom.

As a part of this year's Festival, the CPA offered the 2nd Annual Walking Tour of Cabbagetown. A group of dedicated volunteers once again met through the summer to plan the new route, to research the streets, the architecture and the relevant local history, and to write the tour. In contrast to last year's tour, which covered the area bounded by Winchester, Sumach, Spruce and Metcalfe Streets, this year's new and original tour ran around Winchester, Parliament, Wellesley and Sackville Streets and included many of the smaller, less well-known streets of northern Cabbagetown. Over 150 people were guided along the new route, and from the enthusiastic applause garnered at the end of each tour, we can only conclude that the Walking Tours were again a success. The CPA is most grateful to those involved in this year's tour: Marijan Bayer, Nancy Conn, Debbie Deak, Kathy Goulding, Peggy Kurtin, Pat Poulin and Heather Thom.

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

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

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ACCOLADES TO 12-14 METCALFE STREET FOR THAT BEAUTIFUL CABBAGE THAT IS SITUATED BETWEEN THE TWO DOORS. IT MUST BE 1 YARD IN DIAMETER!!