



Cabbagetown Preservation Association

May, 1997

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 No. 11

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 7:30

ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

This year's speaker, will be Fred Cane, Architect, and Conservation Officer, from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. Mr. Cane is very knowledgeable about Victorian Housing in Toronto. He will show slides and share his experience on how to keep your exterior renovations and windows compatible with the original architecture.

**Presentation of the 5th
Annual Cabbagetown Renovation Award.**

COMPLEMENTARY ORNAMENTAL CABBAGES TO CELEBRATE OUR CABBAGETOWN HISTORY

FORSYTHIA FESTIVAL GIVES TO MANITOBA FLOOD RELIEF

What goes around comes around. Several months ago the Cabbagetown Tour of Homes gave CPA a \$1500 grant to help fund the Forsythia Festival, \$500 for each of 3 years. Because of this Festival support, plus the amazing donations of Cabbagetown merchants to our auction, the Committee with the full approval of CPA, made a last minute decision to donate this year's proceeds to Manitoba Flood Relief. The Forsythia Committee is thrilled to announce that \$1084.57, by far the largest amount ever raised by the Festival, has been donated to flood relief through the CIBC.

The CPA has expressed its appreciation to the Tour of Homes by presenting its executive with honorary memberships in the Association.

Roger Abbott of the Royal Canadian Air Farce led the parade and started the festivities off with a bang by firing the infamous Air Farce Chicken Cannon, show-

ering the park with candies for the kids. Children and dogs eagerly participated in the Grand March and the costume parade and our local politicians, Pam McConnell, Jack Layton, and Bill Graham helped in handing out prizes. Mayor Barbara Hall, greeted the marchers at the start of the parade before leaving to lead a walking tour of Toronto's past and present City Halls. The children danced an enthusiastic macarena and gathered around children's entertainer Rob Joy for a singalong while MC Keith Tarswell kept everything on track and on time.

Glorious sunshine, happy children and a motley crew of the world's most beautiful dogs made the 26th year of our Forsythia Festival an unqualified success.

A big thank you to the following Cabbagetown merchants who contributed so generously to the Forsythia Festival: - Timothy's Restaurant, Pimblett's Restaurant, Ben Wick's Restaurant, House on Parliament Pub & Restaurant, Provence Restaurant, The Town Grill Restaurant, The Peartree Restaurant, Le

Charolais French Restaurant, Luciano's Restaurant, The NOW Cafe, Pet Valu, Epicure Deli, Spinning Wheels on Carlton St., Second Time Around, Cyd's Stuff, Posterity, One More Times Books, Neat Stuff, Richard Ringe Associates, The Hairlift Group, Ms. Emma Designs, Wisteria, Parliament Smoke & Gift Shop, ABN AMRO Bank Canada, Ontario Place, MAC Cosmetics, Simmons Flowers, St. Jamestown Butcher Shop, Mary Harlan, Jim's Super Photo, Home Hardware, Lennie's Whole Food, Tim's Esso Gas Station, Royal Canadian Air Farce, MDS Laboratory Services, Bosley Real Estate, Nestle Quik.

The Forsythia Festival Committee members deserve congratulation:

Ray Barton, Carolyn Cleland, Barbara Corder, Alison Fowles, Victoria Fraser, Mary Harlan, Gerrard Jones, Peggy Kurtin, Senga MacLean, Joann McLennan, Linda Ross, Keith Tarswell, Dianna Tyszko, Earl Vitalis, Kathie Wardle.

Paddy Hanlon and Lorna McCormick, co-chairs

CABBAGETOWN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

President's Annual Report - May 1996 - June 1997

I am delighted to be able to report that, this year, Cabbagetown will be the recipient of three Heritage Toronto Awards.

An Award of Merit will go to Christopher Dew for the preservation and restoration of the 1860 cottage at 35, Spruce Street. Certificates of Commendation goes to Homes First Society, Alan Tregebov, Architect for the conversion of the abandoned Avion Hotel, and to the Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) for its active role in preserving the community's heritage architecture. Congratulations to all those who have chosen to volunteer their time and energy to advance the cause of heritage preservation.

Preserving streetscapes is an important part of CPA's mandate. We were inspired by the national competition called "Communities in Bloom" to establish our own "Streetscapes in Bloom" award. The new measures to preserve the appearance of neighbourhood streets recently passed by City Council gives us a valuable new tool for maintaining and improving streetscape quality in the City of Toronto.

Two 19th century cottages, one at 54, Spruce Street and one at 298, Sackville Street, were honoured by their inclusion in the City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties.

The property at 298 Sackville Street has presented some challenges though. The owner, originally proposed to demolish the 1879 cottage and construct four new units on the lot. At a Committee of Adjustment (C of A) meeting in November, thanks to an overwhelming attendance (35) and letter writing campaign, the Committee refused the proposal. Since that time, a compromise which satisfies the major concerns, has been reached. The new proposal calls for the retention of the listed cottage, two new units in the rear and the retention of as many trees as possible. The proposal will be presented to the C of A on May 21st at 6:30. (Please attend or write).

My biggest disappointment has been the failure to come to a satisfactory conclusion regarding the Winchester Hotel. No amount of trying seems to have worked.

We are so fortunate to live in this beautiful, active and vibrant community called Cabbagetown. A good example of the support organizations and neighbours give each other is the donation the Tour of Homes gave the CPA to fund the Forsythia Festival. Thanks also goes to the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation for the Heritage Development Grant which helps defray the cost of the printing of our quarterly newsletter.

The rain fell on the Cabbagetown Festival, but the sun shone on the Forsythia Parade. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this years Forsythia Festival such a smashing success.

Last February Cabbagetown experienced its own Megacity Madness (as it is popularly called) when more than 300 attended our public forum on issues of municipal governance and fiscal rearrangements. With the major changes about to occur, community participation is going to be as important as ever.

It has been an enjoyable and fulfilling year working with the CPA Board and volunteers. Thank you all for your interest and support in helping preserve the past, enjoy the present, and look forward to the future.

Hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting on June 4th.

Lene Badhwar

CABBAGETOWNGARDEN/ STREETSCAPE COMPETITION

In Celebration of Toronto's national win last year as the most beautiful capital in Canada in the Communities in Bloom Contest, the CPA has decided to hold our own competition "STREETSCAPES IN BLOOM" this year. Two of the judges live in houses on Winchester Street that were part of Toronto's submission to Communities in Bloom.

The judges will consider the historical perspective of the garden/streetscape as well as variety, colour, texture and condition of the garden. The nominated gardens and homes will be viewed from the street, once each in June, July and August for seasonal changes. The judging will also take into consideration that some gardens are in full sun, while others are in the shade.

Nominations are to be made by phoning 967-6432 and leaving the address of your nominee. No need to leave your name or the name of the nominee. So nominate your garden, the next-door neighbour's garden or just the garden you admire as you pass. The nominations must be in by **June 15**. A note from CPA will be dropped in the mailbox of all the nominees to let them know they have been nominated before the first judging.

The judges are Margie Hunter-Hoffman, AOCA, a well-known Cabbagetown artist, Stephen Boddy a landscape designer, Chris Howard and Peggy Kurtin representatives of the board of CPA.

First prize will be a watercolour of the winning garden and house. There will also be Certificates of Merit. Awards will be presented at the CPA's October meeting.

The CBC had a very interesting hour-long show in April about Tomson Highway, distinguished writer, musician, composer and a Cabbagetowner to boot. CBC plans on showing it again in the future but cannot give a date at this time. Either call the CBC or watch carefully your TV Guide.

Summer Walking Tours throughout Toronto - Heritage Toronto has organized walking tours for every Saturday and Sunday this summer. Barbara Hall, our esteemed Mayor and Cabbagetowner lead the first walking tour to visit the City Halls of Toronto on Sunday, May 4th. CPA will be leading walking tours through Cabbagetown on Saturday June 21 and Sunday, July 20. Our tours will meet at the corner of Parliament and Wellesley Sts. at 1:30pm. For further information about other walking tours, please call Heritage Toronto at 392-6827. For information about CPA's Tours call Marijan Bayer at 359-0993.

Interesting quote: "At one time, the entire community took part in forming the dwellings and implements they used. The individual was in fruitful contact with these things; the anonymous houses were built with a natural feeling for place, materials and use and the result was a remarkable suitable comeliness. Today, in our highly civilized society, the houses which ordinary people are doomed to live in and gaze upon are in the whole without quality. We cannot, however, go back to the old method of personally supervised handicrafts. We must strive to advance by arousing interest in and understanding of the work the architect does. The basis of competent professionalism is a sympathetic and knowledgeable group of amateurs, of non-professional art lovers." Steen Eiler Rasmussen, in "Experiencing Architecture".

I am sure many of CPA's members will be interested in the following **announcement by Heritage Toronto**.

Please mark Monday, **June 9, 1997**, on your calendars and join us (Heritage Toronto for an evening celebrating this city.

The second annual William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture will be held in conjunction with the Heritage Toronto Annual Awards Cer-

emony again this year. Distinguished Canadian writer and thinker John Ralston Saul, will deliver the lecture following the 23rd Annual Awards Ceremony at the Winter Garden Theatre. He will speak on "Toronto and the Idea of the Public Good".

Tickets will go on sale in mid-May at TicketMaster, (416) 872-5555 at a cost of \$5.00 (plus a service charge) per person. Once again, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and The Toronto Star join us in producing this event. Watch The Toronto Star for details.

The Awards Program, launched by the Toronto Historical Board in 1974, honours individuals, groups and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of the history of the City of Toronto. Each year some twenty Awards of Merit and Certificates of Commendation are presented by the Mayor of Toronto and the Chair of Heritage Toronto.

The 1997 event will feature the presentation of awards in four categories:

- 1) building restoration
- 2) contributions to heritage preservation by an individual or organization

3) media and multimedia presentations related to Toronto history, and

4) publications related to Toronto history

In 1996 the Award Ceremony was presented in conjunction with the first annual William Kilbourn Memorial Lecture. The late William Kilbourn, Professor of History, distinguished author and respected City Councillor, was an individual who has a passionate devotion to Toronto. The lecture was not intended to be a reminiscence of Kilbourn's life, rather a celebration of his vision of the city. The 1996 Kilbourn lecturer was esteemed journalist Robert Fulford who addressed a full house (900+) at the historic Winter Garden Theatre.

Board Nominations

This is the last opportunity to nominate someone to the Board. This is a working board. Each member heads up a committee. Please only nominate people who agree to work hard for the good of Cabbagetown. Please phone the head of our nominating committee, Kevin McEvenue - 324-9676, or drop in a nomination at 15 Dermo Place. The deadline for receiving nominations is **May 28 at 6:30pm**. As stated in the Guidelines of the Constitution, nominations are closed one week before the Annual meeting.

Member of CPA's Board

President - Lene Badhwar 921-4601

Vice-President - Joann McLennan 923-8640

Secretary - Chris Howard 962-7398

Treasurer - Peggy Kurtin 967-6432

Board

Paul Dollak, Paddy Hanlon, Kevin McEvenue, Ray Barton, Marijan Bayer

MEMBERSHIP

YOU MAKE THE CABBAGETOWN PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION HAPPEN WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Your \$10 membership fee in the Association is very important. It provides part of the financial basis for our survival together with the proceeds from the sale of our books, t-shirts, mugs and postcards. Please join CPA today:

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

Please bring your membership to the Wednesday, June 4, 1997 meeting, or mail or deliver it to 307 Sumach St., M5A 3K4