

the Cabbagetown & Riverdale news

Aug. 30, 1992 • Toronto's Oldest Community Newspaper



A good deal on the Danforth — with casinos coming to Ontario soon, learning to deal is big business. Story on page 13

Photo by Michele Fletcher

Meridian, residents in OMB battle.

By Wade Potts

September 8 marks the beginning of the new school year and an end to what was supposed to be summer. While Cabbagetown residents can look forward to the annual fall fair, many will be keeping watch, for this date also marks the beginning of Ontario Municipal Board hearings which represent what some see as the final battle between large scale building developers and those who work to maintain the architectural and social integrity of their Toronto neighbourhoods.

The specific area in question, Winchester Square, is situated south of Wellesley Street, towered over by St. James Town, and is bounded by Parliament Street on the east, Sherbourne Street on the west, and Carlton on the south. Its north end is the

Continued on page 20

C'town Festival Coming!

By Kathleen ffolliott

Cabbagetown will once again become a centre of activity during its celebration of the 16th Annual Cabbagetown Festival, September 11-13. Sponsored by the Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area, the weekend-long event will offer a variety of activities for the whole family to enjoy.

As in past years, fashion shows, street entertainment, walking tours, a parade, a street flea market, arts and crafts, merchant displays, and a mini-marathon will remain a part of the festivities.

A unique prelude to the events will be the opening of

Cabbagetown's first Film Festival — a festival highlighting films directed by ex-Cabbagetowner Clay Borris. Film showings will take place in the Laurentian Room of the Winchester Hotel, September 9 and 10 at 8 pm.

Most of the weekend-long activities will be concentrated along Parliament Street (from Wellesley to Gerrard), as the street will be closed to make way for the parade (starting at 10:15 am), the flea market, displays and street entertainment.

However, walking tours of Cabbagetown's south-east end (hosted by the Cabbagetown Preservation Association) will provide festival-goers with an

exciting off-the-beaten-track glimpse of Cabbagetown history. Walking tours lasting one hour will leave every 15 minutes from the corner of Winchester and Sumach between 2 and 3 pm on September 12th, and between 11 and 12 am on the 13th.

The renowned Cabbagetown Tour of Homes will offer yet another opportunity for attendees to leave the focal festival area and experience the architecture and decor of Cabbagetown's hidden historic homes. The Tour of Homes will be held on the 12th (from 8:00-10:30 pm) and 13th (from 1-5 pm).

Among the numerous special events, festival-goers

should watch for: the mini-marathon raising money for area community organizations; the boxing bout at the Cabbagetown Youth Centre Boxing Club; the Cabbagetown Youth Centre dance; "Cabbagetown Crisis", a play put on at the Darrell Kent Cultural Arts Centre; a cemetery tour (at the Necropolis cemetery — one of Toronto's oldest); and assorted events at the Riverdale Farm. Needless to say, there'll be something for everyone at this year's festival!

A complete listing of Festival events, times, locations and ticket prices can be obtained by calling the Festival Hotline at 921-0857.

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Look out, Cannes, here comes Cabbagetown!

By Gina Dineen

The Cabbagetown Film Festival will hopefully be a permanent addition to the annual Cabbagetown Cultural Festival.

This year's screenings will take place at the Laurentian Room of the Winchester Hotel thanks to Angelo Christofilopoulos, owner/operator of the Winchester bar and the generous support of the Old Cabbagetown BIA and Spinning Wheels. It will be fun to see this premiere in our neighbourhood.

The four films chosen reflect our changing neighbourhood over the past 40 years.

"Farewell Oak St.", a 50's docudrama narrated by a young Lorne Greene, depicts the demolition of old Cabbagetown to make way for Regent Park. Although the reasoning is believable, its ultimate irony will not be lost on our audience.

The next three films, two short docudramas and one feature-length drama are by an ex-Cabbagetown kid, Clay Borris.

His first film, "Parliament St" made in 1968, depicts

Clay's own experiences as both victim and member of street gang violence.

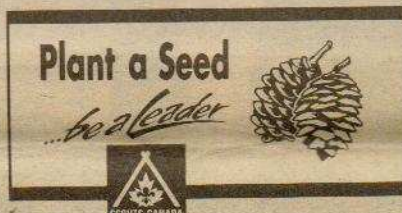
Award winning "Rose's House", made in 1978, is not only about his mother's Cabbagetown boarding house but also uses his actual family members in the starring roles.

"Alligator Shoes" which premiered at the 1981 Cannes Film Festival is a feature-length drama starring Clay and his brother, Garry Borris. In it, he reveals his personal memories of a Cabbagetown family's life.

All the films have been transferred to video. I hope the films will not only entertain their audience, but will also inspire them to pick up that video camera and create some unique and personal visions for next year's Cabbagetown Film Festival.

See you there!

Gina Dineen is the organizer of the Cabbagetown Film Festival.



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Cabbagetown's Annual Fashion Show salutes those Fabulous Cabbagetown Characters

The Cabbagetown Youth Centre will once again hold its annual Fashion Show, featuring the designs of Marilyn Brooks to raise money for its programs for inner-city kids on Friday, September 11 at 8 p.m. at the Cabbagetown Youth Centre, 2 Lancaster Avenue.

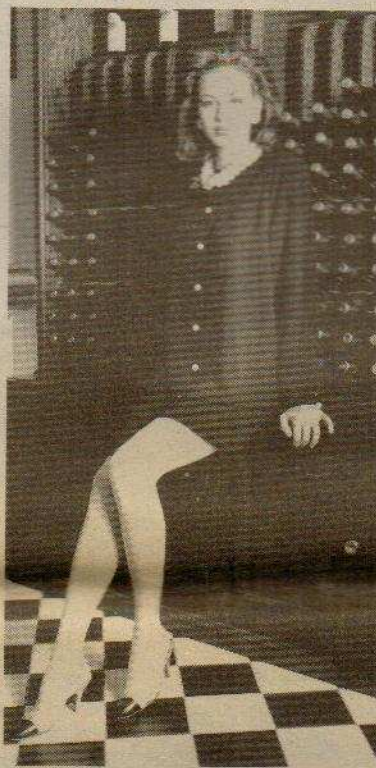


The fourth annual Fashion Show and Party starts the weekend of events for the Cabbagetown area's annual Cultural Festival and as in previous years, owes much of its success to the talents of one of Canada's leading designers, Marilyn Brooks. Her innovative ideas, designs and staging make this annual event rival any of the top fall fashion shows. Her history as one of the originals in Canadian fashion and after four years of running this event, Ms Brooks has managed to make this needed fund-raiser a highlight of Cabbagetown's annual festival.

The children's segment of the show is always a crowd

pleaser. Fab fall children's designs, supplied by Crazy Mama's at 231 Carlton Street, are presented with much flair and entertainment by the kids of Cabbagetown.

The theme this year is **THOSE REMARKABLE CABBAGETOWN CHARACTERS** and the show will turn its attention to the characters that make Cabbagetown tick. The audience can expect the likes of Merion Clement of Simmons Flowers, Spiros Papathanasakis, director of the Cabbagetown Youth Centre, Nicky Rezler,



owner/manager of Nicky's No Frills, Tony Junior, owner of Epicure Gourmet Food Shop, Marg Taggart, owner of Nettleship's Hardware, a family business for over 75 years and others to promote this worthy cause.

Doors open at 8 p.m. with a party to follow at

9:30 p.m. where nibbles and desserts will be offered along with a wine tasting for all who attend. A silent auction, to help raise additional funds for the Cabbagetown Youth Centre, will follow the show.



Tickets are \$10.00 for kids, adults are \$15.00 in advance or \$20.00 at the door and can be purchased through Old Cabbagetown Business Improvement Association, 237 Carlton Street, 921-0857, at Crazy Mama's, 231 Carlton Street and at Marilyn Brooks stores at 132 Cumberland Street in Yorkville and in the Bloor West Village, 2258 Bloor Street West. Proceeds from **THOSE REMARKABLE CABBAGETOWN CHARACTERS** will go in aid of the Cabbagetown Youth Centre and its programs.

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Urban Environment Centre Opens

By Kathleen Jfolliott

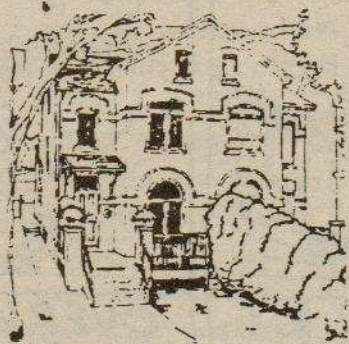
Do you have an energy and environmentally efficient home? Starting this fall, Riverdale area families will have the chance to find out, for free, through a new non-profit organization known as the Urban Environment Centre (UEC).

In the next few weeks, the Urban Environment Centre (located at 16 Howland Road) will open its doors to provide residents with information they need to make informed choices about the way they live and the way they treat the environment: information on such varied topics as composting, heating, renovating, environmentally-friendly household products and energy efficiency.

Made possible by grants from various levels of government and the private sector, the UEC is a model home featuring both environmentally-friendly and economical appliances and products. Each floor provides the viewer with practical tips and home improvement ideas, reflecting the Centre's areas of emphasis: energy efficiency, waste reduction/recycling, water conservation, green products, gardening/landscaping and environmentally-sound transportation.

The basement, for example, houses items for discussion such as a solar water heating tank, an air exchange (for air-sealed homes), a display on basement floor insulation, and insulated hot water pipes.

The main and second floors hold, among other things, samples of window coverings, a heat-saving fireplace and water-saving appliances.



According to co-directors Judy Smith and Don Houston, the Centre represents "a holistic approach to living in the city — with the environment in mind."

Through seminars, tours, displays, literature, in-home environmental assessments and fundraising events, Smith and Houston hope to promote positive environmental action by all members of the Riverdale community, young and old — with 'action' being the key word.

"Our focus is on action," explains Houston. "There's lots of literature out there but we want to take that literature and help people to take environmentally-appropriate measures, and not just take the literature and put it in a recycling bin."

One of the first projects to be undertaken by the UEC involves conducting environmental assessments of homes in the area. Under the Neighbourhood Environmental Assessment Program, trained volunteers will take a grass roots approach to effecting

changes in urban lifestyles, meeting with homeowners in their own homes.

During an assessment, volunteers will discuss options for home improvements, and install (if desired) money- and water-saving taps, shower-heads and toilet dams. As with other planned outreach projects, this one is intended to "reach people where they live" and encourage environmentally-responsible conduct by individuals and families.

UEC organizers are very hopeful about the impact the Centre will have on the Riverdale community. In time, they may even expand the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Program to include Cabbagetown-area homes. But for the time-being, they hope to be soon regarded as an environmental issues resource centre and an instigator of action.

Anyone interested in learning more about the UEC can call 461-9670.

New Book on Cabbagetown being launched by CPA

By Ruth Wagner

A new book, *Touring Old Cabbagetown*, has been written about our neighbourhood. A committee of local residents from the Cabbagetown Preservation Association has been working on this project for over a year. The book is based on walking tours conducted by the CPA for four years. For in depth information and personal anecdotal accounts for the book, many long-time residents, and past residents were interviewed.

Five local designers/artists have drawn dozens of pen and ink illustrations of local buildings. The artists are John Coburn, Bernie Harris, Dominique Prince, Bill Stapleton and Janishka Zurowski.

Anyone with an appreciation for the historical and architectural importance of this area will be able to buy this publication during the

weekend of the Cabbagetown Cultural Festival, September 12 and 13. *Touring Old Cabbagetown* will be sold for \$15 at the booths of the Cabbagetown Preservation Association located at the stone entrance to Riverdale Park on Saturday and Sunday, and Saturday only on Parliament Street. Members of the CPA will receive a discount of \$5.

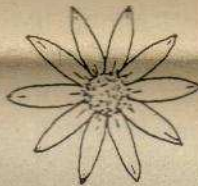
A publishing grant was received from the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications to assist with the printing costs.

The ten member committee that researched, interviewed, wrote, data processed, edited, proofed, and did the layout consisted of Ann Ames, Lena Badhwar, Marijan Bayer, Nancy Conn, Peggy Kurtin, Pat Poulin-Brubaker, Dominique Prince, Earl Vitalis, Ruth Wagner and Janiska Zurowski.

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Letters

South St. Jamestown SOS

Meridian has bypassed City Hall and gone directly to the Ontario Municipal Board for permission to build two highrises of 28 and 16 storeys on the south side of Wellesley between Blecker and Ontario as well as a 19 storey building on Blecker Street across the laneway from, and just south of, the 29 storey tower.

Meridian's plan is not new. It has been around since the Seventies. But since 1981, local residents and City Hall have held Meridian at bay.

For over a year, our Working Committee (which was set up on the instigation of Councillor Barbara Hall), has been working on a compromise plan. The plan, which was endorsed at a well-attended community meeting on June 29th, includes three buildings of 8, 8 and 7 storeys.

This time we can and must win - to put in place a permanent development control over the remaining vacant sites on the Meridian lands. City Planning has come out strongly against Meridian's plans and on August 10th Councillor Hall was able to convince City Council to endorse City Planning's recommendations and lend their support for our fight at the OMB.

Ours is a mixed income neighbourhood where 75% of the housing units are social housing. We have tremendous enthusiasm but lack sufficient financial resources on our own to engage legal council - crucial to the effective presentation of our case at the OMB.

For 20 years residents of South of St. James Town and Don Vale have stood together against bad development and bad developers. I can personally remember many, many meetings in the old

We want to hear from you!
Please send your letters to:
Cabbagetown & Riverdale News
458B Parliament Street
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Fax: 920-3911

For publication, all letters must be signed and have a telephone number where you can be reached.

Don Vale Community Centre. Now we need your individual help in this fight to prevent the southward expansion of St. James Town.

We appeal to you to write to the OMB to express your support. Your consideration of a donation payable to the Winchester Park Residents' Association would be greatly appreciated. Letters and/or cheques can be dropped off or mailed to either: Peggy Kurtin, 93 Winchester St. or Graham Mudge, 511 Ontario St.

Graham Mudge

Leslie St. Extension

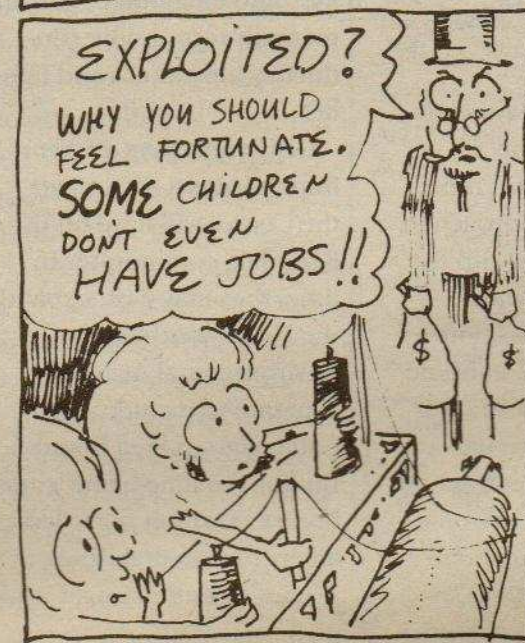
Various ratepayer and environmental groups, as well as the City of Toronto, have for several years seriously questioned the need, cost, projected benefits and environmental and social impacts of the Leslie Street Extension. Despite all reasonable suggestions to the contrary, Metro Toronto is planning to proceed with obtaining approval for the Leslie Street Extension at a Joint Board Hearing (comprised of the Ontario Municipal Board and the Environmental Assessment Board sitting together) which is scheduled to commence with a preliminary hearing on Monday, Sept. 21, 1992.

At this hearing, the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto will be seeking approval for the construction of the Leslie Street Extension and Bayview Avenue widening.

For all individuals and groups concerned with or opposed to the Leslie Street Extension, it is critical that you do the following:

1. On or before September 11, deliver to the Joint Board (as explained below) a written notice of your intent to participate in the Joint Board Hearing;
 2. Attend a meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 8, 1992 at 7:30 P.M. at O.I.S.E., North Auditorium, 252 Bloor Street West. Even if you can't attend the September 8 meeting, you should still write or fax a letter to the Joint Board on or before September 11 as to
- (continued on page 5)

EMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE AGES...



SPOT '92

From The Archives

Twenty years ago in "7 News" • August 26, 1972

If you've noticed the odd man in the area sporting a short, short haircut, don't get excited. It's not a return to the saner days of 15 years ago. What happened was that 20 youths from Don Vald, Regent Park, and Trefann were hired last week as "extras" in a film being shot in Toronto The movie is titled "The Class of 44" and is a sequel to the much acclaimed "Summer of 42."

A community controlled secretariat may be in operation in the Don District as early as October 1st. Negotiations have been underway over the summer between the Social Planning Council, the Community Development Branch and the Federation of Don Area Residents Associations.

Fifteen years ago in "7 News" • August 22, 1977

Construction will begin in mid-September on the City of Toronto's St. Lawrence Housing project, spread over industrial land and parking lots in the area bounded by Parliament St., Front St., Yonge, and the Gardiner Expressway.

After a lengthy struggle to stay alive, the Community Secretariat closed its doors and laid off its staff on Friday. The funding problems that had been plaguing the Secretariat finally caught up with it, and, last week, the money ran out.

Ten years ago in "7 News" • August 20, 1982

On September 1, the Reverend Norman Ellis, Director of All Saints' Church-Community Centre, retires after an 18-year ministry here. He is being succeeded by the Reverend Bradley Lennon.

The first group of women to enroll in the Dixon Hall Job Training program are now graduates. The women were given their diplomas in a small, quiet ceremony at Dixon Hall on Thursday, July 29.



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Letters cont'd

your intent to participate in the Joint Board hearing. The letter should be addressed to: The Joint Board, Office of Consolidated Hearings, 2300 Yonge St., Suite 1201, P.O. Box 2382, Toronto, ON, M4P 1E4 (fax #: 323-4997).

The purpose of the Sept. 8 meeting is to discuss how various individuals and ratepayer groups may best form one or more coalitions to take the lead at the preliminary hearing to make the case for party status and intervenor funding (for expert assistance and legal fees) and later participate actively in the main hearing.

The Sept. 8 meeting is critical in order to: 1) identify major issues raised by the proposed route and construction of the LSE; 2) focus on which issues can most usefully be addressed by groups and individuals (the City of Toronto is strongly opposed); 3) discuss how common concerns can best and most effectively be brought to the Joint Board's attention and represented at the actual hearing; 4) try and form one or more coalitions to be represented at the preliminary and main hearings and seek intervenor funding.

Your involvement in the Leslie Street Extension hearing is important.

If you would like addition-

al information please call any of the undersigned.

Michael Gray
Governors Bridge Ratepayers'
Assoc. - 307-4021,
Gord Champion
Bennington Heights Residents'
Assoc. - 429-5278,
Vivianne Toupin
West Don Subcommittee - 635-0472

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Of Casey House & C'town

By Kathy Flaxman

Casey House will be walking proud. When the Cabbagetown Festival's parade takes place Saturday September 12, Casey House will be a part of it. There will be staff, volunteers and, hopefully, residents wearing our hearts on our hearts, as it were. Some will be walking, some may be in wheelchairs, but everyone will be proud. Proud of Casey House and the work it does, and proud to be a part of Cabbagetown and its Festival.

The Casey House Foundation Office moved to Cabbagetown last fall. Tucked into a Carlton St. suite of offices, the staff have been working hard to raise the funds that make Casey House Hospice such a special and such an important place.

"Casey House Hospice provides palliative care for

Darville, Executive Director, explains. "We are funded by the Ministry of Health, but many special projects and therapies rely on money raised through donations. Acupuncture, for example, and aromatherapy are very comforting for the residents, and these are paid for through fundraising. Our stretcher-sized elevator and our wheelchair ramp were given large injections of dollars raised by fundraising."

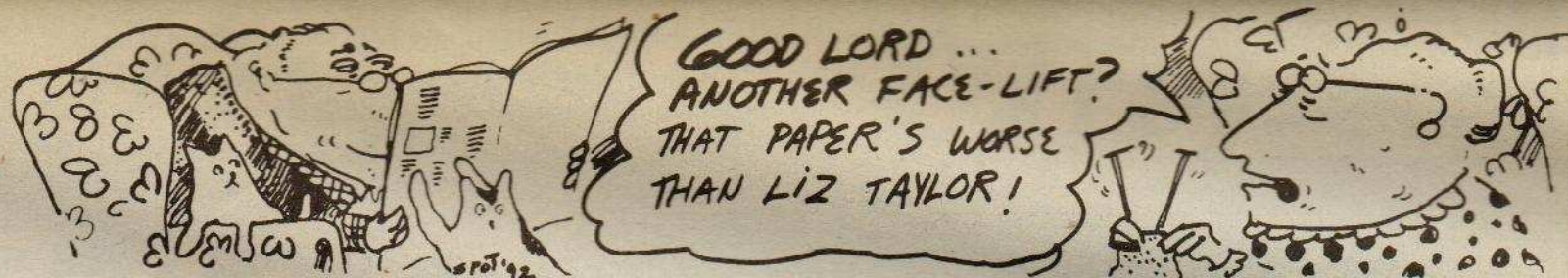
Jim Wakeford, Executive Director of the Casey House Foundation (which is now a separate entity, with its own Board of Directors headed by wonderful June Callwood) beams when he talks about Cabbagetown. "The people here are very generous, and their support has been tremendous. Local businesses, such as RePrint, the Here and Now Gallery, Cabbagetown One Hour Photo, Epicure, Cabbagetown-

Riverdale News and Home Hardware, Nettleship's, Daniel et Daniel have all been very generous," he states.

Casey House, after the parade, will have a booth on Parliament St., where visitors can pick up literature, ask questions, and buy things. "We'll be selling our t-shirts, sweats and other items with our Casey House logo," Jim says. "And we'll also be holding a yard sale of donated items. It's important for us to get out in the community, because it raises people's knowledge about Casey House Hospice and about AIDS."

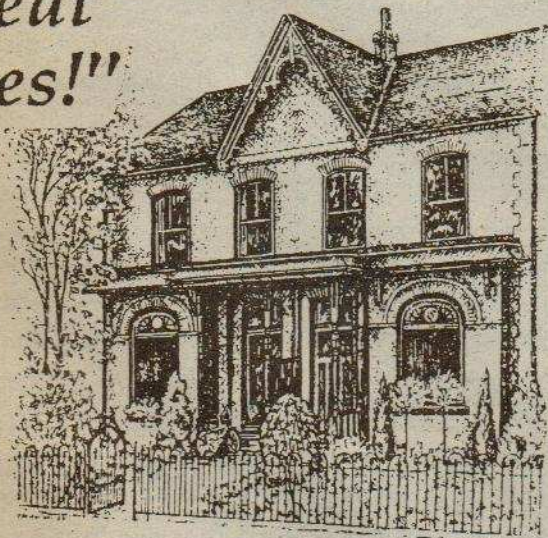
Everyone is invited to visit the Casey House Booth, during the Cabbagetown Festival. "We want to meet as many of our neighbours as possible," Jim stressed.

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Politicians Report

Canadian Immigration Policy

By David MacDonald
Rosedale MP

When a Canadian is asked where she or he comes from, the answer is rarely simple. Fully 98 per cent of our population traces their origin to other countries and each of us, no doubt, has a family story or two about when, how and why our relatives came to Canada.

Immigration is indeed fundamental to the Canadian identity. Over the years, Canada has worked to design an immigration system which may achieve a variety of social, humanitarian, and economic objectives by admitting immigrants on the basis of family, refugee, and independent criteria. Large scale and unpredictable movements of people are sparked by natural disasters, regional conflicts and economic collapse. It has been estimated that as many as 80 million people are on the move at any one time.

A recent example of this kind of movement involves the fighting in the former Yugoslav federation. It is estimated that 2.2 million

people have been driven from their homes, and some of them are seeking refuge in Canada. This is just one example of many in which Canada has experienced large numbers of refugees seeking protection. In fact, Canada is traditionally one of the countries which welcomes the largest number of refugees for resettlement. Over the past decade, more than 200,000 persons have made refugee claims in Canada. The overall acceptance rate for the claims process at the full hearing was 69 per cent in 1991. Furthermore, since the end of the Second World War, Canada has accepted no fewer than 476,000 people on its territory, either under the 1951 UN Convention or within the framework of ad hoc humanitarian programs. To this end, Canada is one of the most generous donors to international humanitarian aid and continues to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in its attempt to find solutions to this ongoing prob-

continued on page 18

By Pam McConnell
Ward 7 Public School Trustee

Your children look forward to it, and remember it for years to come. If you grew up in Toronto, you probably remember it, too. "It" is the Toronto Island Natural Science School, a week-long overnight program for Toronto students in grades 5 and 6. It is a wonderful, environmental adventure. And its fate is currently in the hands of Metro Council.

Here's the problem. The current school is in terrible condition. Of the 600 schools in Metro Toronto, it is considered to be the school in most need of replacement. Our Board has had the money to replace it since 1989. And although we do not own the land on which the school is built, we have leased the land for almost 100 years.

The Municipality of Metro Toronto (Metro) currently owns the land. Staff in their Parks and Property Department have recommended to Metro Council that the Toronto Board of Education not be permitted to reconstruct the school on Metro lands. They want the school to be re-located closer to the Island residential community, onto land that

will soon be owned by the Province. The staff have also advised Metro Council to terminate our lease when it is up at the end of this year.

The Toronto Board of Education has very strong reasons for wanting to rebuild the school beside the current site. First of all, there is simply no other site available on the Islands. All of the sites that the Board examined as part of our planning process were either too small for a school or too environmentally sensitive. The only remaining possible site is directly next to the current school building.



Memories of the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse and its "ghost" stay with students for years.

There are also strong transportation and convenience arguments for keeping the school on Gibraltar Point. The school actually has two different programs: one, a regular day school, with children coming from the mainland and from the island, and the other, a natural science program. Moving the school closer to the residential community certainly makes going to school more convenient for the children who live on the island. But, what about the children who come from the City? The Island School is also the neighbourhood school for students who live in the Harbourfront and Bathurst Quay area. And nearly 3,000 students visit the Natural Science School from the City every year!

Staff at Metro Council have advanced the argument that the two schools should

perhaps be housed in separate buildings, at separate locations. Both the Metro Toronto School Board and the Toronto Board of Education have rejected this proposal because it is simply too expensive.

Moving the Natural Science School into a residential community would completely defeat the school's basic teaching purpose. The program relies on a natural, wilderness setting and the natural facilities of the current site cannot be found elsewhere on the island. Students can experience the bird sanctuary, the beach, the pond, the Metro compost area and the lighthouse, just by walking out the door of the school. If the school were located on the other end of the islands, students would have to be bussed back and forth throughout the day in order to enjoy an even somewhat similar natural science program.

We are waiting, with bated breath, for the Metro Council meeting on September 16, when the issue of the school's future location will be debated once and for all. Parents and teachers are busily contacting their Metro Councillors to encourage them to support the Board's position. Our own Councillor, Roger Hollander, has already expressed his support. Let's hope the other Metro Councillors follow suit.

In these days of grave concern for the environment, it is very important for schools to provide opportunities for students to learn about nature and ecology. We hope to continue to offer this successful and popular Natural Science Program in its historical environment for many years to come. We must ensure that our children share the legacy of the Island School - the first sleepover, the banding of birds and the ghost stories.



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Diary of a dog-walker 'Sally & Louise'

By Sally Gibson

Simcoe Day 1992 dawned clear and encouraging, despite dire weather warnings. I enjoyed the dewy (or, more appropriately, the "rain-soaked") beauty of Wellesley Park, as the sun broke through the trees, set the grass asparkle, and backlit my fluffy white pup. (Yes, the sun, an all too infrequent visitor this summer.)

Ilua, however, was disappointed. This early morning visit to our local park was far too quiet for her tastes. She missed her pals, who were either sleeping in (not something she understands) or away for the long weekend. Having failed to stir up any excitement at the park, we decided to celebrate the holiday in fitting fashion. We headed for Fort York, where Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe and his intrepid life's companion first set up their tent, or "canvas house" in July 1793.

We took along a picnic, which the humans consumed on the grass-covered earthworks in front of the Fort, while Ilua squirmed under a picnic table, plotting her canine campaign to enter the Fort. (One strategy which she tried later was simply to run through a cannon embrasure overlooking the entrance.) Actually, I didn't know if dogs would be allowed into the Fort. If not, we would have to beat a hasty retreat, since Ilua could not be left to her own devices outside the Fort or in

the car.

I prepared myself to suggest that historical veracity supported Ilua's presence at the Fort. After all, Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe himself had a pet Newfoundland dog named "Jack Sharp" who had walked to Detroit and canoed to the Lake Simcoe area with his master. And other dogs, surely, lived at the Fort after it was built between 1813 and 1816 (admittedly, not samoyeds, which didn't come to this continent until 1906).

My daughter, however, would have been humiliated if I had tried any such historical ploys. Fortunately, I didn't have to. While I don't want to launch a large-scale, four-footed invasion of the Fort, I am glad to report that dogs-securely-held-on-short-leashes are welcome (or, at least, tolerated) inside.

I have visited Fort York many times, but this visit was definitely "different." Taking a dog along colours both the duration and the content of a visit. It's a bit like taking along a small, potentially unruly, child. Like small children, Ilua was extremely interested in low-level sights and smells. She licked the broad floor boards in the officers' mess; sniffed (but didn't tug at) the regimental colours displayed on a wall; lunged toward (but didn't reach) the roped-off rooms displaying period furnishings; and completely ignored (and tried to dart past) any museum displays that caught

my eye.

Naturally, outside activity was the most appropriate. She sighted The Dome through one cannon embrasure; searched for, but thankfully didn't find "Molly", the resident cat who is named after Molly Brant; trotted along the grass-topped ramparts; and turned her back on the looming offensive Gardiner Expressway which now marches through what was once Lake Ontario. Smelling goodies, she tried to join the soldiers and "ladies" in early nineteenth century dress who were having tea and biscuits warmed over a campfire in the tent encampment area. In fact, she loved the tents - both the elaborately furnished officer's marquee (which even had an oriental rug laid on the ground) and the cramped soldiers' tents (which crammed 4 or 5 men under a tiny bit of canvas). I was terrified, however, that she might collapse a tent or two by her excited exploration. (No one suggested that taking a dog to the Fort would be relaxing for the human companions.)

Because it was Simcoe Day, the Toronto Historical Board laid on a variety of special events. Ilua was a bit stunned by the drill on the parade ground: she initially wanted to march along with the soldiers and their drummer boy, but was discouraged by the sudden blasts of musket fire. (She later tried to help Fort personnel locate exploded bits of car-

"Thelma and Louise" have nothing on C & R News' pair of intrepid columnists. Sally Gibson and her canine companion Ilua traverse the wide open spaces of Cabbagetown and beyond, while Louise Kent-Boyd reports on whatever, or whoever takes her fancy! Unfortunately, Louise is recovering from surgery at the moment (all of us wish her a very speedy recovery), but she promises to be back next issue!

tridge by sniffing somewhat frantically through the grass.) She loved the Regency Dance display, eager to add her four feet to the human foursomes. And she loved, even more, the Early 19th Century Music demonstration. She actually stopped in her tracks, sat down unbidden, and cocked her head quizzically. Unfortunately, however, her enthusiasm became vocal — she began to bark and howl along with the tin whistle tunes — so we had to leave the concert and find excitement elsewhere.

We found it in the form of an archaeological dig along the 1813 foundations of Blockhouse No. 2. While I chatted with an archaeologist about the dig, Ilua simply wanted to dig. She made (failed) efforts to climb over, under, or through the orange protective fence. My questions were punctuated by being pulled off my feet, as Ilua tried another approach to her problem. The sound of scraping and the scent of damp earth were almost overpowering to her...and by extension, me. I nearly offered her tunnelling talents to the archaeologists, who still have a good deal of earth to uncover before the (renovating)

bulldozers move in. By the time the enormous Union Flag was officially lowered, with much pomp and ceremony, the Gibson family — human and canine — was pooped. Even Ilua was ready to leave the nineteenth century behind and return to the creature comforts of the twentieth century.

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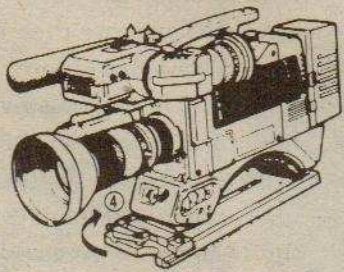
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'Cabbagetown Crisis'

By Franco Polillo

We got trouble. Right here in Cabbagetown...

But, fortunately, a concerned group of young environmentalists called the Greenspecks know about it and they are preparing to deal with the crisis.

The Greenspecks are planning to march on City Hall because they have discovered an evil plot. It seems, Iza Digger, a greedy land developer wants to turn a community park into a office tower complex. And, he's willing to use underhanded means to trick City Hall into giving him what he wants.

If you want to lend your support to these concerned environmentalists, you will have to see the new production of the Cabbagetown Crisis at the Darrell Kent Cultural Centre The Cabbagetown Community Arts Company, which offers arts programs for children, has been operating out of the Centre for the past three years. Along with the Toronto Christian Resource Centre, it is staging the premiere of the Cabbagetown Crisis. Written by Beth McMaster, the play was originally titled "The Clover City Crisis", but has been reworked for the Cabbagetown area.

Executive Director, David Blackmore, who grew up in Regent Park, says the Centre is designed to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment among neighbourhood kids through arts programs.

"The skills they learn here help to break the poverty cycle and improve their self image," says Blackmore.

In 1979, he starting giving free music lessons to children in the area. And eventually organized them into the 14 Spruce Street

Community Band (so named, because he was teaching the children in the basement at that address). As the music lessons became popular, Blackmore organized a company of volunteers to run and teach music and dance programs at local schools.

Blackmore was able to open the Centre in 1989. The Centre is to be renovated and expanded, but the recession has hampered fundraising. So, the planned renovations have been put on hold.

Instead, the Company has decided to work with the space already available. The patio area behind the Centre is being transformed into a covered outdoor theatre where the play "Cabbagetown Crisis" will be performed. The play's artistic director, Lindsey Connell, calls the theatre 'the CabbageDome'.

And just like the Skydome they are having trouble with the roof. But, Connell says the bugs will be worked out of the design before opening night.

Children are being involved in all aspects of the production. "When we were painting the set, we had children as young as four painting with little sponges, says Connell. About 30 kids will be involved in the actual production. Even the music will be performed live.

In fact, music director Rick Donaldson, who wrote the music for the play, says all eight of the play's musicians are under 12 years of age. The kids have been practicing their parts for more than two months and they are confident they will win over City Hill.

Cabbagetown Crisis runs from Sept 12-26. Tickets are \$5. Children under 12 and seniors get in free.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING in our co

Activities

• **William Lyon Mackenzie Toronto Walking Tour:** Sept. 6. Presented by the Toronto Historical Board, this tour looks at Toronto through the eyes of its first mayor. Tour starts from the lobby of the South St. Lawrence Market. 1:30 pm. 392-6827.

• **Riverdale Horticultural Society** first meeting of the fall/winter season: Sept. 9, 7:30 pm. Frankland Community Centre, 816 Logan Ave. Organic gardening and plant care will be discussed. Visitors welcome.

• **Festival of Festivals.** Sept. 10-19. A rival to Cannes, the film festival brings stars, premieres and 250 world-class films to Toronto. 967-7371.

• **Building Support: Tenant Organizing in the 90's.** A training session for tenant advocates. Sept. 11, 9:30 am-4:30 pm. 519 Church St. Community Centre. Register by Sept. 4. Cost: \$10.

• **Cabbagetown Cultural Festival.** Sept. 11-13. Enjoy fashion shows, street entertainment, a street flea market and more. 921-0857.

• **Riverdale Farm Fall Festival '92.** Sept. 12-13. Events for the whole family to enjoy. Free. 392-6794.

• Come to the **Cabbagetown Youth Centre Community Dance** during the Cabbagetown Cultural Festival! Sept. 12, 8:30 pm-1 am. 2 Lancaster Ave. Cost: \$12. (includes light buffet, raffles, entertainment by Danny Marks and dancing). Tickets are available at the BIA, the Youth Centre and at Nettleship's Hardware. 920-1032.

• **Building the Bloor Street Viaduct,** a speech by engineering historian Phyllis Rose at Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum, 67 Pottery Rd. Pre-registration required. 425-2250.

• **Harvest Days Farmers' Market.** Wednesdays Sept. 2-Oct. 7. at Nathan Phillips Square. 10 am-4 pm.

Kids

• **Kaleidoscope** - weekends and holiday Mondays. Kaleidoscope offers parents and children the opportunity to be creative together with various art supplies. 11:30 am-4:30 pm. Located at The Lookout, north end of York Quay Centre. 973-3000.

• **St. Lawrence Library-10th anniversary celebration** featuring a variety show with magic, puppets, music and dance, Sept. 12, 2 pm. Feature film: "101 Dalmations", Sept. 19, 2 pm.

• **Pape/Danforth Library-** Toys and Games, Sept. 5, 2:30 pm. Feature Film: "Bambi", Sept. 12, 2:30 pm.

• **Parliament Street Library-** Come and see DR. ZED do science experiments as part of the Cabbagetown Festival, Sept. 12, 2pm. Toys & Games, Saturdays at 10:30 am.

• **Queen-Saulter Library-** Express Yourself through Craft, Sept. 12, 2pm.

Health

• **Whole Life Expo '92.** three days of lectures, demonstrations and exhibits for achieving vibrant health in body and mind. Arts & Crafts Building, Exhibition Place, Sept. 18-20. 463-6677.

Support Groups

• **Depression Support & Mutual Aid** has openings in small groups for people suffering from depression. For info. about cost, location, time, etc. Call Roslyn at 783-6969, 10 am-3 pm.

• **Living With Cancer meetings** alternate Wednesdays, 2-3:30 pm. Take control of your life, call the Canadian Cancer Society at 485-0222.

• **Centre for people living with HIV disease/AIDS.** Conversation, art classes, seminars, massage therapy, haircuts, treatment info. Free. Toronto PWA Fdn. 925-7112.



"102 Centre Ave., Rear, 23 February 1912", pictured above, is one of more than 150 historical photographs on display at the Market Gallery. exhibit entitled "Official Photographers: The Work of Arthur Beales, Arthur Goss, Alfred Pearson".

Visual Arts

• **Our Four-Legged Friends,** a mixed media show featuring domestic and wild beasts. Presented by In the Making (2nd floor, 207 Queen's Quay West) until Nov. 1.

• **Official Photographers: The Work of Arthur Beales, Arthur Goss, Alfred Pearson.** A historical photo exhibit at the Market Gallery.

Dance

• **The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society,** Toronto Branch, will be holding dance classes at Hodgson Public School, 282 Davisville Ave., commencing Sept. 24 at 7:30 pm. Call David Ross at 483-5434.

Da Collision will be presenting an evening of works by Toronto choreographer Darcey Callison at the

Winchester Street Theatre, Sept. 9-12 at 8 pm. Works include In the Belly of the Whale and Sandboxes. Call 360-6429.

See the **Esmerelda Enrique Spanish Dance Company** at Toronto's International Hispanic Fiesta, Sept. 4-7 (Harbourfront Centre). Call 973-3000.

Two weeks at a glance - Aug

Sunday, Sept. 6

William Lyon Mackenzie's Toronto Walking Tour. Tour starts in the lobby of the South St. Lawrence Market at 1:30 pm (See Activities)

Sunday, Sept. 13

Sale of Garden Mums at the Civic Garden Centre. Noon-5 pm (See Fundraisers)

Toronto Walks the United Way Walkathon, 11:30 am (See Fundraisers)

Last Day of Cabbagetown Cultural Festival (See Activities)

Say Amen!: A gospel music celebration (See Music)

Monday, Aug. 31

Monday, Aug. 7

Labour Day

Monday, Sept. 14

Building the Bloor Street Viaduct, a talk by engineering historian Phyllis Rose (See Activities)

Tues. Sept. 1

Tues. Sept. 8

Demonstrate in support of the Toronto Island Public and Natural Science School - Nathan Phillips Square, 2 pm. (See article page 6)

Back to school!!

Tuesdays

Ladies: join the Don Valley Chorus and sing 4-part harmony their way 7:30 pm (See Music)

Wed. Sep

Wed. Sep

Drama dance Da Collision at the Winchester Theatre (See Music)

Riverdale Horticultural Society, first meeting 7:30 pm (See Music)

Cabbagetown Cultural Festival opens at the Winchester Hotel (See Music)

Wednesd

Soundsation Wednesdays at Nathan Phillips Square 7:30 pm (See Music)

Farmers' Market at Nathan Phillips Square 10 am-4 pm (See Music)

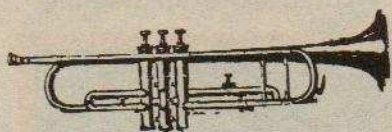
Communities and across the city

Music

• Join the **Don Valley Chorus** (Sweet Adelines, Int.) and sing 4-part harmony, our way! Church of St. Andrew rehearsal hall, S/E corner 401/Victoria Park, beginning 7:30 pm. Call Corrinne at 694-1464.

• **Say Amen!**, a special gospel presentation to celebrate the establishment of the first chair in Black Canadian Studies. Sept. 13, 3 pm at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor St. E. Call 256-2036 for tickets.

• **Soundsational Star Wednesdays:** free lunch-time concerts at Nathan Phillips Square. Performers include Colleen Peterson, Siyakha, Mad Love, Danny "B" and the R&B Allstars, and Lori Yates. Noon-2 pm until Oct. 7. Call 392-0458.



Drama

• **The Biggest Wish**, a new children's play appearing at the Limelight Supper Club, 2026 Yonge St. The show (affiliated with Feed the Children Canada) teaches children about the gift of sharing. Showtimes are Saturdays and Sundays at 1 pm. Call 482-5200.

• **Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story** (a musical) continues at The Royal Alexandra Theatre until Sept. 12. Call 872-3333.

Seniors

• **The WoodGreen Seniors Club** invites seniors of Riverdale to a "Welcome Back Party" on Sept. 11. The buffet luncheon at noon and entertainment is free with your \$5. annual membership. For more details, please contact Emilee Norte, 469-5211, ext. 172.

• **Rendezvous for Seniors** dance sessions. Tuesdays & Thursdays at the York Quay Centre. Partners are not necessary, but a sense of fun is helpful. Tuesdays feature ballroom- and line-dancing, while Thursdays focus on folk-dancing. 10:30 am-2:30 pm. Cost: \$2.50 per day. Call 973-4093.

Films

• **Cabbagetown Film Festival '92.** This premier event—featuring films by ex-Cabbagetown director Clay Boris—will take place Sept. 9 & 10, from 8-11 pm. Laurentian Room, Winchester Hotel. Films about Cabbagetown include: Farewell Oak St., Parliament St., Rose's House, Alligator Shoes. Tickets: \$5. Beer and snacks at bar.

• Registration for **English as a Second Language** and Skills training classes held at the Woodgreen Community Centre will take place Sept. 9 (10 am-7 pm) and Sept. 10 (10 am-8 pm).



Skaface, one of the performers that will be appearing at Nathan Phillips Square, as part of the Soundsational Star Concert Series, Wednesdays from noon to 2 pm.

August 31-September 14, 1992

Literary

• **Harbourfront Reading Series.** Tuesdays, 8 pm. A literary showcase of authors and poets from around the world. Held at the Brigantine Room, York Quay Centre. For more information, call 973-3000.

To list your event/program/activity on these pages, write or fax "What's Happening" Cabbagetown-Riverdale News, 458B Parliament St. Toronto, Ontario M5A 3A2 Telephone: 920-3121 Fax: 920-3911 Deadline for the Sept. 13 issue: Fri., Sept. 4, 5 pm.

<p>Aug. 2</p> <p>Aug. 9</p> <p>Company performs at Water Street Dance</p> <p>Articultural meeting (See Activities)</p> <p>First Film at Nathan Phillips Square, 8-11 pm. (See Films)</p> <p>Market. Nathan Phillips Square, 10 am-4 pm (See Activities)</p>	<p>Thurs. Sept. 3</p> <p>Thurs. Sept. 10</p> <p>Toronto International Film Festival of Festivals opens (See Activities)</p> <p>Last Day of the Cabbagetown Film Festival. 8-11 pm. At the Winchester Street. Hotel (See Films)</p>	<p>Fri., Sept. 4</p> <p>Fri., Sept. 11</p> <p>Cabbagetown Cultural Festival begins. Events planned include a parade, fashion shows, a street flea market and more. (See Activities)</p> <p>Those Remarkable Cabbagetown Characters, a fashion show put on as part of the Cabbagetown Cultural Festival. 2 Lancaster Ave. 8 pm. Show features clothing for adults and kids.</p> <p>Building Support: Tenant Organizing in the 90's, a 1-day training session for tenant advocates (See Activities)</p>	<p>Sat., Sept. 5</p> <p>Sat., Sept. 12</p> <p>Cabbagetown Crisis, a musical play performed by community children, opens. At the Darrell Kent Cultural Centre. Tickets \$5. Children/Seniors free. 925-7222.</p> <p>14th Annual Old Cabbagetown Tour of Homes, 8-10:30 pm</p> <p>Riverdale Farm Fall Festival '92 opens (See Activities)</p> <p>Community Dance at the Cabbagetown Youth Centre. 8 pm-1 am. Entertainment by Danny Marks (See Activities)</p>
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Fundraisers

• **Be a part of the cure for Muscular Dystrophy.** Watch the Labour Day Telethon on your local community channel, Sept. 6 & 7. Call 1-800-567-CURE.

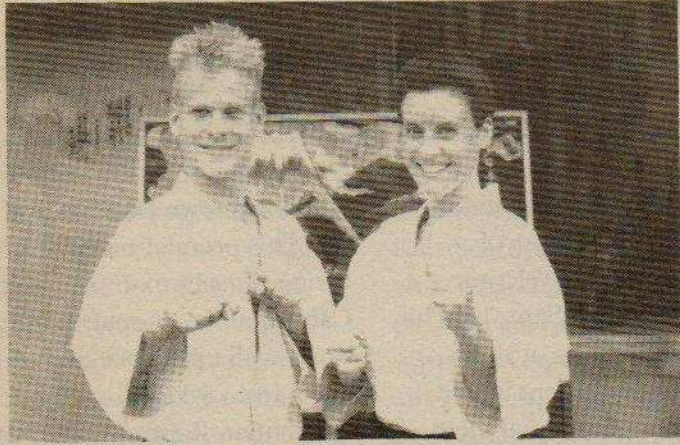
• **Yard Sale.** Sept. 12, 10 am. 335 Wellesley St. E. Proceeds to Central Neighbourhood House. Please bring cash.

• **Mums for sale!** The Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. E., is having a fundraising sale of outdoor mums, Sept. 12 & 13, noon-5 pm. All mums will be sold in 8" fibre pots at \$4.99 each. 397-1340.

• **Blue Jay Fans:** Support the **United Way Home Run Hotline!** Pledge 1, 2, 5 or 10 dollars to the United Way for every home run hit by Toronto Blue Jays Kelly Gruber and Pat Borders. Call the Hotline at 1-800-268-1121, Ext. 17.

• **Toronto Walks the United Way Walkathon.** Sept. 13, starting at 11:30 am. Pledge forms are available at Bank of Montreal branches. Call 777-2001.

Taking a Chop at the Top



This November, competitors Don Ritter and Susan Adaskin will represent Canada at the World United Karate Championships in Spain.

By Thomas Peacock

Three local athletes have been selected to represent Canada at the World United Karate Championships in Spain this November. All three are members of the Japan Martial Arts Karate Club at 135 Danforth Avenue.

Don Ritter, 23-years-old, has a black belt and will compete in the Team Fight.

Shah Franco, a 26-year-old black belt, will fight in the minus 70 kilo category, while Susan Adaskin, a 28-year-old elementary school teacher, will fight in the heavyweight division.

The club is officially recognized by Ontario's governing sports body and the athletes take their training very seriously. Under the tutelage of Master Takemasa Okuyama, they are training

four hours a day, seven days a week.

The competition is the biggest of its kind, and is expected to draw more than 1,000 athletes from around the world.

According to Canadian experts, our local competitors stand an excellent chance of bringing home some gold medals to add to the many the club has already won.

For those not familiar with the club, they teach a non-contact type of Karate, known as the Shotokan style. They stress physical fitness, mental discipline and harmony of spirit, with an emphasis on self-defense.

Self defense is such an integral part of the club's philosophy that they offer free courses for women every Sunday from 1-2 pm. The classes are open to women of all ages.

For further information, call 465-2326.

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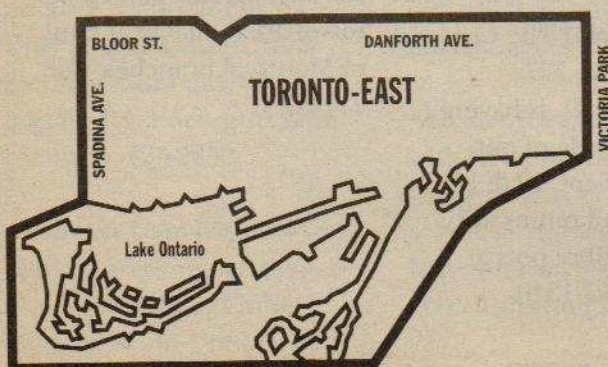
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The Ontario Breast Screening Program is a program of The Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation

Taking a gamble on the Danforth

By Thomas Peacock

On September 19, 250 students will be taking part in Ontario's first graduating class for casino dealers.

The students, former bank managers, teachers, nurses, actors labourers — and even a lawyer, have all attended an intensive course offered by Casino Excellence Services on Danforth Avenue. The program is operated by Emil George, president and training manager of the school.

George, originally from Cairo, Egypt, has worked and trained dealers in casinos in Egypt, England, Spain, Turkey, and Greece, is now preparing new dealers for the estimated 6,000 new jobs that will become available when the provincial government makes its proposed changes to the Ontario Gaming Act.

These changes will permit casinos in several Ontario locations, including Niagara Falls, Windsor, Sault Ste. Marie, and Toronto.

"It takes a lot of work to become a skilled dealer" George says. "Students must learn the basics of Black Jack, Baccarat, and Roulette. Then they must learn the public relations skills and casino etiquette that separate the great dealers from the ordinary. We always look for clean, keen people who are serious about a new career." In addition to the 250 graduating students, the school has attracted dealers from Alberta and Las Vegas who are being sent to his school for re-training.

Just what attracts new students? Graduates asked replied that dealing is a highly marketable skill that allows them to work just about anywhere in the world. Europe, the Orient, Australia, the U.S., not to mention aboard romantic cruise ships. And the pay is every bit as desirable as the locations. A hard-working dealer can make up to \$50,000 a year, with tips.

But it is not easy, and George and his staff are demanding teachers. His students must put in an initial 40 hours of table training, and as much practise time as they can devote to the tables, cards, and chips. For many grads, the effort has already paid off. Many are already employed aboard cruise ships and 250 of them were hired to work the casinos at this year's Canadian National Exhibition. In fact, more than half of the dealers at the CNE were trained by George and his staff of eleven teachers.

All of the dealers working at the CNE were personally table tested by George before being hired. His standards are said, by industry experts, to be the highest in Canada and North America. "With good reason," he says. "Canada has the opportunity to become the number one casino destination in the world. We're already respected internationally as a safe, wholesome place by visitors. If we can transpose that attitude to our casino

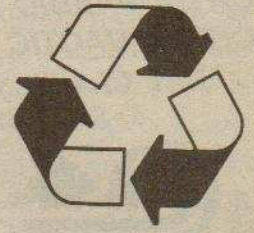
operation and offer gaming as elegant entertainment in a dignified hotel setting with professional dealers and operators, we can attract players and millions of dollars of tax revenue from around the world."

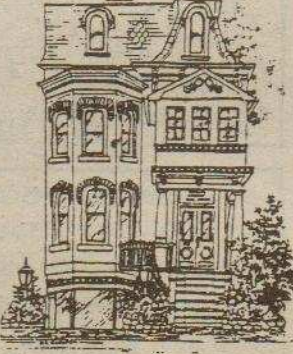
Casinos are expected to add an additional \$100 million to \$150 million annually to the provincial treasury. It is big business. For the students, it is a ground floor opportunity that could lead to jobs in casino management.

Initially, Ontario will need at least 6,000 full-time dealers just to service the casino industry. This does not include part time people who, for supplemental income, or just for the fun of it, will be needed to work Monte Carlo fundraisers or other charitable events.

The demand for dealers will be so great that George and his school, in co-operation with Employment and Immigration Canada, are offering special rates to attract new students to this

exciting new industry. For more information, contact Casino Excellence Services at 778-5528, or your local office of Employment and Immigration Canada.





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IN OUR
LATEST
EPISODE, SUPER-
SHEEP HAD
JUST UNLEASHED
THE POWERS OF
HER SONIC
BLEAT ON
THE BORG.

BUT UNKNOWN TO OUR
HEROINE, HER SONIC BLEAT
HAS WEAKENED THE ALREADY
CRUMBLING STRUCTURE OF THE
EVIL POLYESTER TWINS' SECRET
HIDEOUT...



MEANWHILE, JUST ABOVE THEM, IN GERRARD
SQUARE, THE SULTRY SYLVIE ASKS
HERSELF...



CAN SUPER-SHEEP
SAVE THE DAY ONCE
AGAIN?
WILL SHE HAVE PITY
ON THE EVIL POLYESTER
TWINS?
WILL GERRARD
SQUARE BE
TOTALLY DESTROYED?
KEEP READING
TO FIND OUT!

EPISODE... "SUPER" HAD FINALLY
DEFEATED THE EVIL POLYESTER
TWINS AND RENDERED THE
DREADED BORG HARMLESS.

HOWEVER, IN THE PROCESS HER
POWERFUL SONIC BLEAT HAD
WEAKENED THE STRUCTURE OF
THE POLYESTER TWINS
SECRET HIDEOUT...



WILL: SUPER SHEEP BE ABLE TO SAVE THE DAY?
WILL: SHE SAVE THE EVIL POLYESTER TWINS?
KEEP TUNED & FIND OUT!

SPOT
'88

Homes

Real Estate News & Views

By Keith Tarswell

If you have noticed the sold stickers going up on those FOR SALE signs on your street, you already know that our resale housing market is gaining momentum. With interest rates at a 25 year low, Toronto real estate has been surprisingly active for July and August. The Toronto Real Estate Board reports the best July since 1988, with sales up 30% over last July. This August to date shows an increase of 49% over August 1991.

On the TREB Multiple Listing System there were 28,100 active listings for sale at the end of July. With total sales of 4,137, there are still far too many listings relative to the number of buyers for this to be considered a "normal" market. In other words, it is still a buyers market.

Cabbagetown and Riverdale (TREB districts C08 and E01) had 106 sales of single family homes in July with 514 properties listed for sale. The average price in central

Toronto was \$279,912 and in the east it was \$183,450.

Prices appear to be remaining stable. With purchaser confidence returning this could signal a strong fall market. Affordability is still the key, however, and properties that are realistically listed at a fair market value will sell. There are still thousands and thousands of properties listed for sale at too high a price that will continue to sit there, and sit there, and sit there.....

Keith Tarswell is an Associate Broker and Market Value Appraiser with Family Trust on Parliament Street.



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The Cabbagetown Festival 1992

Parade, Shows, Sales - and a chance to help others, too

By Richard Silver

This year it's the Cabbagetown Festival. The word 'Cultural' has been dropped, in case people might be put off, picturing something too highbrow for their tastes, and not attend. "We think the 'Cabbagetown Festival' more accurately reflects the fact that this is a community event," Paul Barber, Chair of this year's festival, states. "We want absolutely everyone to feel comfortable to attend."

And attend they certainly do — in the thousands, lured perhaps by the parade or the Tour of Homes, or one of several walking tours. All the standard and well-loved festival highlights will be happening on schedule again this year. The Riverdale Farm has its usual wonderful events planned — costumes and contests and corn, corn, corn. The Mini Marathon always gives a jolt of excitement and fun to the Saturday, with everyone from serious runners to kids and even dogs taking to the streets.

This year, the festival has one very innovative new feature — its own film festival.

The festival is always lots of fun. Everyone gets into the spirit from local merchants

who decorate, dress up and offer specials, to the residents, who almost in unison, hold lawn sales. For the browser and the bargain hunter, the Cabbagetown Festival is pure heaven.

Festival Showcases Community Organizations

Tight times got you down? Believe me, there are people who are having times, experiences and troubles that are far worse. I know it didn't make you like your porridge any better when mom told you about the starving children in Africa who would be glad to eat it. But during the Cabbagetown Festival, you will have a chance, on the Saturday, following the parade, to visit booths on Parliament Street, that our community groups will be putting up and staffing.

John Loewen of Central Link, who co-ordinates the community groups for the festival, reports that there are about half a dozen that were confirmed in mid-August, to participate, and by the day of the festival, there will likely be more. These are organizations such as Operation Springboard, Casey House, the Native Women's Resource Center

and the John Innes Community Centre.

What do these groups do? What are they all about? Find out for yourself, on September 12. Get out on Parliament Street and visit the booths. Read the literature. Ask questions. I will tell you that these groups exist to help people. And they could probably use your help. OK, so times are not booming. What we have to do is adjust. And by helping others, donating time, for example, we may just feel better about ourselves and what we do have.

The Cabbagetown Festival is a wonderful time for Cabbagetown.

It's a clear demonstration that we are a neighbourhood with strong, strong, community spirit. We know how to put on a party! And we include groups that help those that need it; we're not selfish. Come out, enjoy the festival, and be proud of our terrific neighbourhood! For information about the Cabbagetown Festival, call 921.0857.

Richard Silver is a Sales Representative with Johnston & Daniel Limited, Realtor.



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Priscilla McAuliffe

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Herb Gardens

By Peter Iveson

I've just picked a couple of stalks. No, not stalks of Jack in the bean stalk, but a couple of stalks of Eau de Cologne Mint. This herb's leaves, when rubbed, emit that wonderful fragrance that women adore.

All plants without persistent woody stems, and not tree or shrubs, have been classified as herbs. Today, we refer to herbs as plants with aromatic foliage employed as flavourings, perfumes, and medicines.

In medieval times separate gardens devoted to herbs were grown by monks in courtyards of monasteries. Apothecaries also grew them. The knot or medicinal garden of Tudor England was planted in a formal, intricate pattern combining different foliage, textures, and shades. From the end of the seventeenth century until recent times when the herb garden was revived, only a few herbs that were popular were grouped in a corner of the vegetable garden, since early gardens in North America concentrated on food production.

Only in England did gardeners use Lady's Mantle, Wormwood, Valerian, Lemon balm, Santolina Sage, and mints in perennial borders for effect and fragrance.

Two examples of herb gardens can be found in downtown Toronto. One is at Riverdale Farm, and the

other is at Campbell House. Enter through a nineteenth century gate at the rear of Campbell House, and you find two small herb gardens. One features Rue, Woolly Lambs Ears or Betony, used for its healing properties, Wormwood, and Sweet Woodruff. Another parterre features culinary herbs such as horseradish, dill, chives, thyme, sage, and rosemary. Stative is grown to be dried as an everlasting. The gardens at Campbell House are quite lovely.

Did you know that there are over 100 varieties of mint around the world? My favourite is Eau de Cologne Mint — wonderful to scent a room or to add to a flower arrangement.

"Herb Faire" at the Teaching Garden, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton. Jim Wilson of PBS' "Victory Garden" will give lectures on August 28 and 29. Sunday, August 30, from 10 am to 5 pm a market place of 50 herb vendors, herb demonstrations, wandering minstrels, music, and a café will take place. Call the Royal Botanical Gardens at 1-800-668-9449.

On Sunday, September 13, at 10:30 am, join a Toronto Field Naturalist Tour of the gardens at Campbell House to learn more about herbs and garden plants. Meet at the north-west corner of University and Queen Street West at 10:30. All welcome - walk goes on rain or shine.

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SOLD - 99 Hogarth Ave. \$245,000. I will donate \$250 on behalf of the vendor, Tony Debattista, to Kids Connection.

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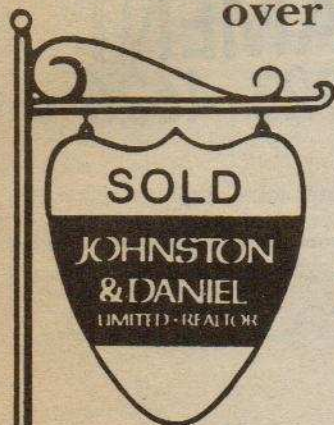
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Tour of Homes, September 12 & 13

For the fourteenth year in a row, the old Cabbagetown Tour of Homes will hold its annual event on two consecutive days, Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13, 1992.

One of the mainstays of the Cabbagetown Cultural Festival, the Tour of Homes opens some of Cabbagetown's most beautiful homes and gardens to the public. Lovingly restored and renovated by their owners, the homes are wonderful examples of the architecture of Victorian Toronto, many complemented by fine examples of small urban gardening.

This year, the House Tour will present 16 very eclectic homes and gardens and two historical buildings over a two day period. There will be five homes for the Candlelight Tour on Saturday evening, September 12th and five homes and six gardens, during the day, Sunday, September 13th. Among the homes on the Sunday tour: 53 METCALFE STREET Although a rooming house in the 1940's and renovated in the late 1970's, this lovely Victorian home, circa 1880, has managed to retain much of its original charm.

22 GENEVA Circa 1884, visitors to this small row house will be met by lovely gardens, which last year won second prize in the Riverdale Garden contest.

38 GENEVA STREET This two storey Victorian row house, built in the 1890's, has been completely renovated. Notice the lovely entrance garden and the enclosed patio in the rear garden.

192 CARLTON STREET (THE HOWARD HOME) When Allen Maclean Howard built his house on Carleton in 1850, there were sixteen other residences on the north side of this shady suburban road between Yon Once known as a fine country residence on the outskirts of the Town of York, the home became the property of the City of Toronto in 1947 and was renovated and leased to the Second Mile Club.

209 CARLTON STREET This wonderful Cabbagetown landmark sits proudly on what is fast becoming the area's grandest street. The Amsterdam is the quintessential bed and breakfast offering 15 rooms, all beautifully decorated. As you tour this wonderful example of Victorian ele-

gance and style, notice the detailing which has been lovingly restored.

211 CARLTON STREET Visitors to Carlton Street, west of Parliament will notice a resurgence of restoration to the fine facades that grace this part of the street. The interior is a testament to the owner's love of Victorian reproduction. While you are here please view the fine water-colour exhibit.

511 ONTARIO STREET This wonderful Victorian home house represents everything you would expect of grand elegance in downtown Cabbagetown. The Saturday tour includes a Victorian High Tea. Tickets for both tours are \$20.00. The Candlelight Tour starts at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12. The Victorian High Tea Tour runs from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13. Tickets can be purchased through Family Trust Corp 962-8113, More Than Cabbages, 324-9915, Johnston & Daniel Realtor, OCBIA, 237 Carlton Street, 921-0857. Proceeds will go to inner-city school food programmes, the Cabbagetown Co-operative Nursery and the Second Mile Club.

Immigration

Continued from page 6

lem.

In an effort to streamline the determination process, some changes have been proposed for Canada's refugee program. Faster decision-making means that genuine refugees can get on with their lives sooner. Delays and backlogs not only are costly and cause hardship for applicants but they also encourage abuse of the program by those who are not refugees. It is interesting to note that one-third of all refugee claimants come to us through the United States. Currently, we are negotiating an agreement with the American government which would respect a more commonly-accepted principle amongst countries

who have refugee determination systems — that is, the shared responsibility of processing refugee claims.

Canada has a long and proud tradition of assistance to refugees. Increased emphasis on international efforts to address the root causes of migratory movements, including refugee movements has led Canada to adopt programs which adapt to changing world conditions. Canada has international obligations and humanitarian traditions which are reflected in both its domestic and international policies. Canada favours the development of international strategies and coordinated collective action to provide durable solutions to migratory movements and refugee flows.

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Cabbagetown Flea Market, Sept. 12, 9 am-4pm. Sell your treasures on Parliament St. Table rentals \$20. Call Marilyn at 968-1688.

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potential site of three additional high-rise apartment buildings — plans which are the product of Rose Park Howard Investment Ltd. - better known as Meridian. Three empty lots sit at the northern most portion of the Winchester Square community, which now holds as its tallest structure the 8-storey Hugh Garner Housing Co-operative. Meridian is proposing 16, 29, and 18 storey apartments to be constructed at the corners of Ontario and Wellesley, Bleecker and Wellesley, and just south of Wellesley on Bleecker St. The sites have remained undeveloped since the late 1970's when then Mayor, John Sewell, and supporters were successful in putting the brakes on the type of large scale development that clashed with the needs of Toronto communities. Meanwhile, Meridian has wrangled with Toronto City Hall's planning department to gain building permits which would allow further large scale construction. After having failed, on more

than one occasion, to gain the required permits from City Planning, Meridian has decided to attempt an end run. Eight days of hearings before the OMB are to yield what Meridian hopes will be a final decision in their favour, one which would bypass City Planning's repeated rejections of Meridian applications. A well-attended community meeting on June 29 at the Cabbagetown Youth Centre indicated strong community opposition to the Meridian proposal. Organized by City Councillor Barbara Hall and the Winchester Square Residents Association — which has itself been meeting for more than a year preparing opposition and an alternate proposal — the meeting provided a brief history of the battle to develop the sites in question, the current Meridian proposal, and a compromise proposal. The result of the Winchester Square residents meetings is a 26-page document prepared by the residents association in consultation with the City Planning Depart-

ment, as well as local community and recreational services. Meridian was invited to take part in these meetings, but chose not to attend on all but one occasion, when lawyers were present to represent Meridian's interests. The completed document was presented to City Council in early August, in hopes of garnering formal City support to oppose Meridian's proposal. As a result, City Hall has decided to send a solicitor to the OMB to voice the City's opposition to the Meridian proposal. Concerns raised in the Residents Association document include:

- Meridian has been responsible for purchasing and demolishing several Victorian structures which were on the Toronto Historical Board's preservation list;
- Meridian's previous plans were inadequate in that not enough landscaped open space was included in the design;
- A previous application by Meridian to the OMB was

withdrawn the afternoon before they were set to begin;

- Community educational and recreational services are already at or near capacity. Nowhere in Meridian's plans are there provisions for facilities like a library, meeting centre, or recreation facility.
- Traffic and parking problems on Bleecker Street would worsen. There are no new parking provisions in the Meridian proposal. For the Winchester Park Residents Association, the issue has always been that something must be done to positively change the building sites in question. Their condition is unkempt, overgrown, in poor repair and strewn with debris — sites notable for their anonymity and the presence of criminal activity — a threat to the neighbourhood. At the OMB hearings, a compromise plan keeping in mind architectural and social-recreation community needs will be put forward. Arrived at over the course of meetings held by the residents association, the proposal

calls for:

- Cutting the size of Meridian's proposal in half. Buildings of eight and seven storeys would be built.
- One site would contain small commercial and business space at street level, and a second would house a library and community meeting area. A small group of townhouses would extend along the west side of Ontario Street.
- The laneway at the north end of the Hugh Garner Co-op, joining Ontario and Bleecker Streets would be eliminated.
- Pedestrian walkways would join Wellesley Street with a new green space. Individual community members are also welcome to present their views over the eight days of hearings. For residents of the Cabbagetown area, the decision will have a profound and lasting impact on the community and its resources. For many Toronto neighbourhoods, it will be a battle watched closely for its precedent-setting principles.