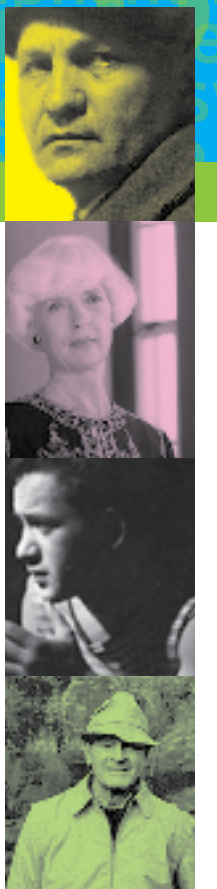


# Cabbagetown People

The Social History of a Canadian Inner City Neighbourhood



Since the mid-1800s the Cabbagetown-Regent Park area has been the place where many of Europe's immigrants began their life in Toronto. Through the years most have led simple lives steeped in a difficult environment. But the people of Cabbagetown were resilient and resourceful, and many have thrived to attain greatness.

History comes alive in Cabbagetown. Not only a Victorian inner-city enclave where you'll find a large number of beautiful heritage homes, indeed many fascinating and remarkable people have called it home. Read their stories here. Or better, use this brochure as your personal guide through the quaint streets of Cabbagetown. You will find blue oval plaques at the addresses indicated here.

To further explore Cabbagetown People, to read about "More Remarkable Lives", to discover more fascinating history, and to book a guided walking tour for a group, visit [cabbagetownpeople.ca](http://cabbagetownpeople.ca)

Welcome to Cabbagetown!



## Sumach Street

### 368 Darrell Kent. 1942 – 1989



**Real Estate Agent and Philanthropist** Born and raised on a farm in Saskatchewan, Darrell Kent came to live in Toronto in the late 1960s and is considered the driving force behind the renovation of many of the area's beautiful and unique Victorian houses. He financially supported activities for local youth, inspiring and encouraging others to join in his philanthropy.

### 422 Fraser Mustard M. D. 1927 – 2011



**Medical Pioneer and Champion of Early Learning** Remembered for his medical and educational achievements, his research in early childhood education paved the way to create a province-wide full-day kindergarten.

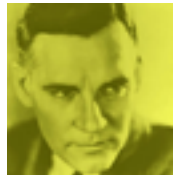
### 424 Bill Stapleton. 1916 – 2008



**Artist, Activist, Teacher.** Some compared his artwork to that of Degas and Toulouse-Lautrec. He painted in startlingly vibrant colours and bold strokes, as forthright in his technique as he was in his social convictions. Collections of Mr. Stapleton's work are in The National Archives of Canada and The Canadian War Museum.

## Wellesley Street

### 328 Walter Huston. 1884 – 1950



**Academy Award-winning Actor.** A plaque is also located at **Winchester Public School, Heritage Building, Ontario and Winchester Streets.**

Toronto-born Walter attended Winchester Public School in Cabbagetown. He later studied engineering, but gave it up for acting. He made his stage debut in Toronto in 1902. He later moved to California where he won an Academy Award in 1948 for Best Supporting Actor in "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre". He appeared in over 50 movies, and occasionally returned to Broadway to act in plays.

### 390 Charles William Jefferys. 1869 – 1951



**History Painter and Illustrator.** Born in Britain, C. W. Jefferys arrived in Toronto around 1880. He is remembered primarily for his bold illustrations of Canadian history and military subjects. His sketches and paintings of bygone events will continue to bring Canadian history to life for many generations.

### 397 Richard Bradshaw. 1944 – 2007



**Canadian Opera Company Conductor and Visionary.** Born in England, he started his career as a conductor. In 1989 he was chief conductor of The Canadian Opera Company, and became the general director in 1998. He had a vision to build an opera house and in 2006 The Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts officially opened.

### 443 Tony Brady. 1935 – 1991



**A Founder of the Forsythia Festival.** Actor, magician, hairdresser, animal breeder, traveller and writer of popular children's stories, Tony was a founder of Cabbagetown's Forsythia Festival, which has become a popular annual event.

## Winchester Street

### 21 The Venerable Archdeacon Samuel Johnson Boddy M.A., D.C.L.



**1826 – 1905**  
**A Remarkable 42 Years of Service to this Community**  
He came to Canada from England in 1858. Later, the Anglican parish of St. Peter's was duly constituted in Cabbagetown and he was appointed rector. His residence served as the Rectory for St. Peter's during his tenure when he was also responsible for getting the first streets in the area paved.



### 94 Doug Henning. 1947 – 2000



**World Famous Magician.** As a teenager in Toronto, Doug Henning studied magic. He created and starred in several magic musicals on Broadway. On television the Emmy-award winning "Doug Henning's World of Magic," made him one of the best-known and popular magicians in the world.

### 152 Sir Ernest MacMillan. 1893 - 1973



**Brilliant Composer, Organist and Educator.** Canadian-born Ernest MacMillan was a child prodigy performing at Massey Hall at eleven years of age. Conductor of the Toronto Symphony for many years after WWII, he was knighted in 1935 in recognition of his musical accomplishments.

### 156 Daniel Lamb. 1842 - 1920



**Industrialist, Politician, and a Founder of Toronto's First Zoo.** Active in civic politics from 1885 to 1901, Daniel Lamb served as an Alderman for Cabbagetown. He built the first public water works, still in operation today, on the Toronto Island.

## The Early Settlers.



**NE Corner of Winchester and Sumach Streets.** The remains of 984 early settlers of the Town of York were removed from Potter's Field, a 6-acre plot in what is now the Yorkville district of Toronto and re-interred in the Necropolis in a section designated "The Resting Place of Pioneers" 1851 to 1881.

Teachers, Students, Parents - Read about Cabbagetown People's Program for Schools at [cabbagetownpeople.ca](http://cabbagetownpeople.ca)

#### Credits:

Seton: Ernest Thompson Seton Institute Inc.  
Allward: Veterans Affairs Canada  
Oliphant: V. Tony Hauser  
Oronhyatekha: Royal Ontario Museum  
Hume: Miss Margaret Robins Archives, Women's College Hospital  
Brick: Chubb Family Collection – Source Unknown  
Gordon Sinclair: City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1652, File 422, Item 2

Sauriol: City of Toronto Archives, Series Goss: 372, Sub-series 41, Item 597  
Garner: CBC Still Photo Collection  
von Kunits: Toronto Symphony Orchestra Archives  
Wicks: The Wicks Family  
Liste Sinclair: Gloria Saarinen  
Callaghan: CBC Still Photo Collection  
Rose: Canadian Methodist Historical Society  
Nichols: The Ingram Gallery  
Schawlow: Photo by Robert Lansdale, University of Toronto Archives  
Smith: The Arts and Letters Club

Adaskin Family: University of Saskatchewan Archives, photograph A-7093  
Grand & Toy: Grand & Toy Company Limited  
Stapleton: The Cabbagetown Regent Park Museum©  
MacMillan: Toronto Symphony Orchestra Archives

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CPA charitable number: 85053 6160 (RR0001)

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## Aberdeen Avenue

### Ernest Thompson Seton. 1860 - 1946



*Self-trained Biologist, Scientific Illustrator and Naturalist. Plaque located at #6 (formerly #4 which no longer exists.)*

He was one of the founders of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of America in addition to being one of the most important 19th century Canadian novelists.

## Amelia Street

### 43 Walter Seymour Allward. 1876 – 1955.



*Renowned Canadian Sculptor.*

Following early training at Central Technical School in Toronto, Mr. Allward studied in London and Paris. He is best known for his monument at Vimy Ridge in France which took 14 years to complete.

### 137 Betty Oliphant. 1918 – 2004



*Renowned Innovator of Ballet Education.*

Betty Oliphant came to Canada in 1947 as a war bride and opened her own ballet school, then served as ballet mistress for the National Ballet of Canada

### 139 J.L. (Allen) Yen PhD. 1925 – 1993



*Prominent Figure in Canadian Radio Astronomy.*

Born in Canton, China, Allen Yen was first appointed to the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Engineering at the University of Toronto in 1952. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he will be remembered for his endless wisdom and love of sailing.

### 160 Mary O’Riordan D.V.M. 1925 – 1993



*Pioneering Veterinarian.*

Born in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland, “Dr. Mary” moved to Toronto in 1963 where she opened her own animal hospital and was purported to be the first veterinarian to make house calls.

## Carlton Street

### 211 Oronhyatekha M.D. 1841 - 1907



*Mohawk Physician, Victorian Businessman and Philanthropist. (he had lived at #209)*

In 1860, under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, Dr. Oronhyatekha (“Burning Sky”) became the first North American aboriginal to attend Oxford University. In 1866 he graduated from the University of Toronto’s medical school and was likely the first native medical doctor in Canada.

### 226 Rowena Grace Douglas Hume M.D. 1877 – 1966



*A Founder of Women’s College Hospital.*

Born in Galt, Ontario, Dr. Hume was a graduate of the University of Trinity College and became Women’s College Hospital’s Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

### 274 Sarah Anne Curzon. 1833 - 1898



*Pioneer for Women’s Rights Who made Laura Secord a Household Name.*

Sarah Anne Curzon was a playwright, poet and journalist. She wrote about Women’s suffrage, property rights, and access to higher education. One of her major works was Laura Secord, *The Heroine of 1812: A Drama and Other Poems* (1887).

### 314 Benjamin Brick. 1845 – 1913



*Builder Who Specialized in Elaborate Plaster Decoration.*

Born in Worcester, England, Benjamin Brick started out as a bricklayer in England and became a skillful house builder in Toronto. He gained popularity because of the elaborate plaster moldings and ceilings he created.

### 375 Gordon Sinclair. 1900 - 1984



*A Giant in Canadian Broadcast Journalism. Plaque located on the fence of Spruce Court Public School (formerly 375 Carlton).*

Gordon Sinclair began working as a reporter for the Toronto Daily Star in 1922 and travelled around the world four times as a wandering reporter. Following WWII he became a prominent radio and television personality.

## Lieutenant Francis Gwillim Simcoe.



1791 - 1812

*First Private Owner of These Lands. Plaque located at SW corner of Riverdale Park at Carlton and Sumach Streets.*

Francis Simcoe was the eldest son of John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. He was the first owner of the lands now known as Cabbagetown. He was killed at the age of 21 in Spain while leading a storming party under the command of the Duke of Wellington.

## Cabbagetown’s First People.



*Plaque located inside the SW entrance to Riverdale Park.*

Centuries before there was a Cabbagetown community and long before French fur traders or the British settlement called York, many different Aboriginal cultures such as the Anishnabai (Ojibwa), Haudenosaune (Iroquois), Huron, Eries, Petuns and Neutrals came together to trade, hold councils and seasonal ceremonies in this region of Ontario. The confluence of these many cultures gave birth to a great circle of Aboriginal civilization with a rich ceremonial, ritual, artistic and political legacy.

## Charles Sauriol. 1904 – 1995



*Pioneer Ecologist. Plaque located in Riverdale Park West at the end of Carlton Street.*

In his dedication to the preservation of Toronto’s green spaces, he led fundraising campaigns that generated more than 200 million dollars. In 1949, he co-founded the Don Valley Conservation Association.

## Hillcrest Park

### 31 Lister Sinclair. 1921 – 2006



*Broadcaster, Playwright, Renaissance Man.*

Born in Bombay, India and schooled in England, Lister Sinclair eventually settled in Toronto. A gifted mathematician, he continued his studies at the University of Toronto. He joined the CBC in 1944 and his career there spanned 50 years. He was a prolific broadcaster who wrote over 650 radio and television plays.

## Lancaster Avenue

### 2 Albert (Frenchy) Bélanger.



*1906 – 1969. Flyweight Boxing World Champion. Plaque located at The Cabbagetown Youth Centre.*

Canada’s first World Boxing Champion in 1927, “Frenchy” became a sports icon and retired after 61 bouts, later opening a boxing club to help the youth of Toronto.

## Metcalfe Street

### 20 Arthur Goss. 1881 – 1940



*Left a Photographic Legacy of over 35,000 Images of Toronto.*

As City Photographer, he devoted himself for 37 years to creating countless important photos of early Cabbagetown, the Riverdale Zoo and the City of Toronto at large.

### 25 Fredelle Bruser Maynard PhD.



*1922 – 1989 Author and TV Host.*

A native of Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, Fredelle Maynard studied at the University of Manitoba and the University of Toronto before taking her PhD at Radcliffe. She went on to become a brilliant academic, a popular teacher and an acclaimed writer of books including her memoirs.

## Ontario Street

### 262 Frederick Hagan. 1918 – 2003



*One of Canada’s Greatest Artists and Teachers.*

In 1946 Mr. Hagan was hired to teach drawing, painting and printmaking at the Ontario College of Art where he stayed for 37 years. His works are held by the National Gallery of Canada and the Art Gallery of Ontario among others.

## 550 Hugh Garner. 1913 – 1979



*Author and Witness to Depression Era Cabbagetown. Plaque located at the Hugh Garner Housing Co-operative.*

Born in Yorkshire, England, Hugh Garner grew up in Cabbagetown and worked at the Toronto Star newspaper as a copy boy. He fought in the Spanish Civil War and WWII. As a Canadian writer, his focus was on working class Ontario and the best known of his realistic novels is *Cabbagetown* (1950).

## 675 Luigi von Kunitz. 1870 – 1931



*Founder of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Plaque located at SW corner of Rose Avenue Public School.*

Born and trained as a musician in Vienna, he came to Toronto in 1912 to teach. He inspired many musicians. In the 1920s he founded the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and became its first conductor.

## Parliament Street

### 424 Ben Wicks. 1926 – 2000



*Political Cartoonist, Global Literacy Advocate, Humanitarian.*

Ben Wicks’ cartoons provide important insights on 20th century events and Canadian culture. He wrote and illustrated books and established the “I Can Foundation” which provides education and literacy programs for children. In 1986, he received the Order of Canada.

## Rose Avenue

### 5 Flos Jewell Williams.



*Writer with a Passion for Western Canada.*

Flos Williams was born in Toronto and attended Jarvis Collegiate and Toronto Normal School. She became one of the best known women writers of Western Canada, wrote short stories and published three novels.

### 27 Reverend Samuel Rose D.D. 1806 - 1890



*A Pioneer of Methodism in Ontario.*

Samuel Rose was born near Picton, Ontario. In 1831 he began his ministry as a missionary to the Indians in the town of what is now Orillia. He was later pastor of churches in many southern Ontario communities.

## Sackville Street

### 395A Jack Nichols. 1921 – 2009



*Canada’s Pre-eminent World War II Artist.*

Born in Montreal, and like many artists, Jack Nichols was largely self-taught. The Royal Canadian Reserve appointed him “official war artist”. His depictions of Canadian bravery in battle have become iconic. His work appears in prestigious museums across Canada.

### 435 Al Purdy. 1918 - 2000



*“The Most Canadian Poet”.*

Al Purdy has been called the best English-language Canadian poet of the twentieth century. Although he lacked formal education, he wrote 33 books of verse, and twice won Canada’s Governor General’s Literary Award as well as being awarded the Order of Canada.

### 436 Arthur Schawlow PhD. 1921 - 1999



*Nobel Prize Winner Who Co-developed the Laser. A plaque is also located at Winchester Public School, Heritage Building, Ontario and Winchester Streets.*

Arthur Schawlow attended Winchester Public School. Earning a scholarship, he enrolled in the University of Toronto and began his studies in physics. In 1981 he won the Nobel Prize for physics for his contribution to the development of laser spectroscopy.

### 487 Josef Škvorecký. 1924-2012



*Czech-Canadian Literary Giant.*

During the 1950s he wrote several books and worked as a translator of important novels. After leaving Czechoslovakia in 1968 and moving to Toronto, he founded a publishing company called 68 Publishers. He was a brilliant storyteller and teacher and wrote more than 40 books.

## Salisbury Avenue

### 34 Eden Smith, Architect. 1858 - 1949

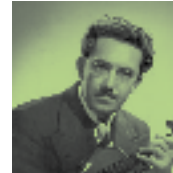


*Prolific Early Toronto Designer and Architect.*

In 1888 he began his architectural practice. As well as designing many prominent churches, he designed houses in Wychwood Park, Rosedale, The Annex and Forest Hill. Another outstanding achievement was the design of the Co-op housing complex at the Corner of Spruce and Sumach Streets.

## Sherbourne Street

### 495 The Adaskin Family.



*One of Canada’s greatest Musical Families of the 20th Century.*

*Harry. 1901 – 1994. John. 1908 – 1964. Murray. 1906 – 2002. (Pictured)*

*Plaque located in what is now the Wellesley Community Centre - Lobby.* The Adaskin brothers represent one of the greatest stories in Canadian music history. They were all brilliant musicians performing, teaching and conducting across the country. In addition, John played cello with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and worked on many projects for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

## Shuter Street

### 438 Plaques located at Regent Park Community Centre:

#### Corporal Ainsworth Dyer. 1977 - 2002



*Killed in Action in Afghanistan.*

Corporal Dyer, a member of the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, was killed on April 18, 2002 by friendly fire near Kandahar, Afghanistan. He is described by his colleagues as a thoughtful leader who had a strength of heart that was unparalleled.

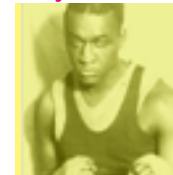
#### Morley Callaghan. 1903 – 1990



*Canada’s First Urban Novelist, Writer and Broadcaster.*

Born into an Irish Catholic family he was educated at the University of Toronto. Working as a junior reporter at the Toronto Star, he met Ernest Hemingway who encouraged him to be a writer. His first novel, *Strange Fugitive*, was published in 1928.

#### Larry Gains. 1900 – 1983



*Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the Dominion of Canada and the British Empire.*

Born in Toronto, as a young boxer he went to England and Europe where he won every major title and knocked out heavyweight champion Max Schmeling. Due to the times, he was not allowed to fight for the British Championship and the World Championship. There was a bar on black boxers and they could only compete for the “Coloured Heavyweight Champion of the World”, which he won in 1928 and 1935.

## Spruce Street

### 26 James Grand. 1857 – 1921

### 28 Samuel Toy. 1859 – 1906



*Founders of Toronto’s Oldest Office Supply Company.*

James Grand is believed to be the first office supply salesman to go door-to-door selling stationary products from a wheelbarrow. By 1883 his company had grown, so his brother-in-law Samuel Toy joined him as a partner, resulting in the Grand and Toy name.

### 35 Charles B. MacKay.



*Toronto’s First Customs Officer.* Charles B. MacKay was an official sent by Queen Victoria in 1858 to the burgeoning Port of Toronto to set up and administer the customs offices, located in what is now the St. Lawrence Market.

### 41 Edward Mulberry Hodder M.D. 1810 - 1878



*Father of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Ontario.*

Born in Kent, England, he came to Canada in 1838 and taught at the Medical School of Trinity College. He was one of the first to use carbolic acid as an antiseptic in surgery and childbirth. Dr. Hodder was co-founder of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club.