

Aberdeen Avenue

Ernest Thompson Seton. 1860 - 1946
Self-trained Biologist, Scientific Illustrator and Naturalist. Plaque located at #6 (formerly #4 which no longer exists.)



Ernest Thompson Seton 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. In 1959 she co-founded the National Ballet School, serving as Artistic Director and later, Principal.

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 not only for his contribution to science but also 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. She was one of the founders of Cabbagetown’s annual Forsythia Festival.

Carlton Street

Oronhyatekha M.D. 1841 - 1907
Mohawk Physician, Victorian Businessman and Philanthropist. Plaque located at #211 Carlton Street (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. He was also known by his baptized Christian name of Peter Martin.

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 Word.



Sarah Anne Curzon was a playwright, a poet and a journalist. She wrote about Women’s suffrage, property rights, and access to higher education. She was most impressed with Laura Secord, and 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 prominent 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. In 1979 he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. At his request, his place of burial has no marker or other form of identification.

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.

Francis returned to England where he attended Eton and at 16 was an Ensign in the 27th Inniskilling Regiment. 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, Charles Sauriol led fundraising campaigns that generated more than 200 million dollars. In 1949, he co-founded the Don Valley Conservation Association, and in 1989 he received the Order of Canada.

Lancaster Avenue

2 Albert (Frenchy) Bellanger. 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.

Metcalf Street

20 Arthur Goss. 1881 – 1940
Left a Photographic Legacy of over 35,000 Images of Toronto.



Arthur Goss began his working life at age 11 as an office boy in the City of Toronto Engineer’s Office. Later, 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.



Raised in 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 autobiographies, one of which, *Raisins and Almonds*, was developed into a CBC TV special, a full-length musical and a full length play.

Ontario Street

262 Frederick Hagan. 1918 – 2003
One of Canada’s Greatest Artists and Teachers.



Born in Toronto, Frederick Hagan took up studies at what is now known as the Ontario College of Art and Design. In 1946 Mr. Hagan was hired to teach drawing, painting and printmaking at O.C.A. 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, Garner’s focus was on working class Ontario and the best known of his realistic novels is *Cabbagetown* (1950). In 1963 Hugh Garner won Canada’s Governor General’s Literary Award for *Hugh Garner’s Best Stories*, a collection of his short stories.

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 was very popular, and 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. Plaque located at “The Ben Wicks Pub”.



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 became a Member of 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. Known as a man of noble and generous impulses, he was later pastor of churches in many southern Ontario communities.

Sackville Green

203 Morley Callaghan. 1903 – 1990
Canada’s First Urban Novelist, Writer and Broadcaster. Plaque located at Regent Park Community Centre.



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. In 1951, Mr. Callaghan received Canada’s Governor General’s Literary Award for his book *The Loved and the Lost*. He was also a Companion of the Order of Canada.

Corporal Ainsworth Dyer. 1977 - 2002
Killed in Action in Afghanistan. Plaque located at Regent Park Community Centre.



Corporal Dyer was a member of the Edmonton-based battalion of the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry. Corporal Dyer was killed in action on April 18, 2002 during

a nighttime training exercise near Kandahar, Afghanistan. He is described by his colleagues as a thoughtful leader who had a strength of heart that was unparalleled.

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 did not go unnoticed. His work appears in prestigious museums across Canada and in many private collections.

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.



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

Salisbury Avenue

34 Eden Smith, Architect. 1858 - 1949
Prolific Early Toronto Designer and Architect.

Eden Smith and his wife Annie moved from England to Toronto in 1888 where 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 in Cabbagetown. It was begun in 1913 and flourishes to this day as a model of successful cooperative housing.

Sherbourne Street

495 The Adaskin Family.
One of Canada’s greatest Musical Families of the 20th Century. Harry. 1901 – 1994. Murray. 1906 – 2002. John. 1908 – 1964. Plaque located in what is now the Wellesley Community Centre - Lobby. Pictured, Murray Adaskin



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 from 1926 to 1938 and worked on many projects for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

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 stationery 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. Their first store was behind the King Edward Hotel.

35 Charles B. MacKay.
Toronto’s First Customs Officer.



Charles B. MacKay was an official sent by Queen Victoria in 1858 to set up and administer the customs offices in the burgeoning Port of Toronto.

A black and white photograph of a Native American man, likely from the Plains region, standing in a formal pose. He is wearing a large, elaborate feathered headdress with many long, white feathers. His attire includes a dark, long-sleeved tunic with a decorative sash or belt featuring a patterned design. He is also wearing leggings and moccasins. He holds a long, thin staff or spear in his right hand, which rests on the ground. The background is a plain, light-colored wall with a dark baseboard.

The purpose of the Cabbagetown People program is to pursue these questions and disseminate them by leading educational tours of the community for schools and other groups, as well as researching the day-to-day existence of these outstanding people. Our Program has honoured several remarkable lives from Cabbagetown's past by installing commemorative plaques at residential and other strategic places throughout the neighbourhood. They are listed here by street name, and may be located by referring to the map on the last page.

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