

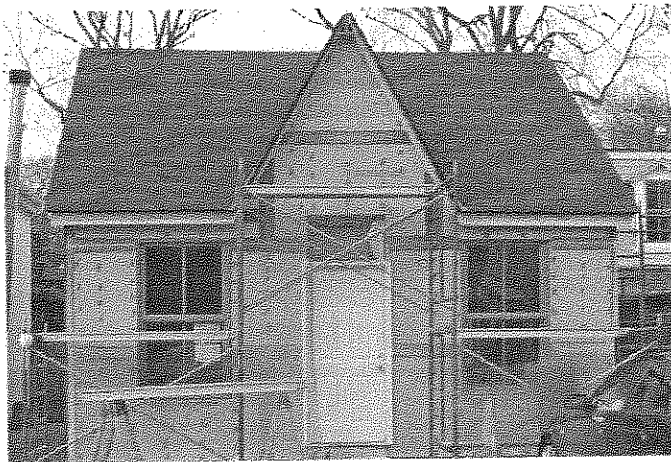
NEWSLETTER

The Town of York Historical Society

December 2010

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LAST WELLESLEY COTTAGE BEING RESTORED



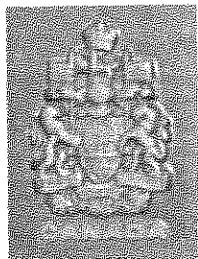
Cabbagetown holds many hidden delights, but one of the most delightful is a row of tiny cottages hidden in an alley just north of Wellesley Street. Five of them are conjoined, while the one at the western end of the row is detached. All six are white stucco with blue trim, and a white picket fence runs along in front of them. Adorable they

are, but also significant: these six houses, built in 1887, are the only buildings in the Cabbagetown North Heritage Conservation district officially designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Cabbagetown was settled during the second half of the 19th century, largely by middle- and working-class immigrants, many of them Irish. It contains numerous styles of homes, one of which is the “worker’s cottage,” which tends to be one-and-a-half storeys tall with a steep central peak over the front door. The style descends from a prize-winning prototype built by Henry Roberts for the Crystal Palace industrial exhibition in London, 1851. It had running water, internal sanitation, and separate bedrooms for children. Queen Victoria’s husband, Prince Albert, concerned himself with housing reform, and presided over such societies as the Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Poor, founded in 1842. Architects working to relieve the crowded and unsanitary nature of working-class housing also felt that improved aesthetics would elevate the spirits of the hitherto unwashed.

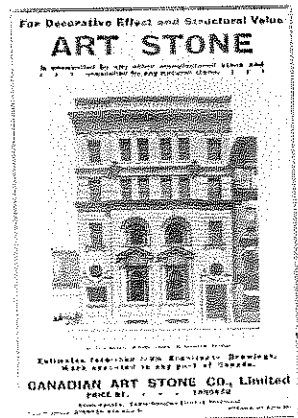
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National Historic Site Is Home to Heritage Organizations

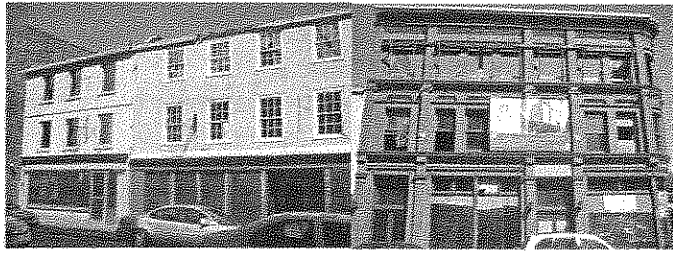


Modest in scale, but stately in its Beaux Arts style, the building at 10 Adelaide Street East has stood for over a century. It was built in 1908 to house the offices and headquarters of the Canadian Birkbeck Investments and Savings Company. George W. Gouinlock, its architect, was then at the top of his game. Both natural stone and “Art Stone” were used on its exterior, and it features in a period advertisement (seen at right) for that particular cast product. Designated a National Historic Site in 1986, it is now known as the Ontario Heritage Centre, headquarters of the Ontario Heritage Trust, and home to the Toronto Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, the Black History Society, and other non-profit heritage groups.

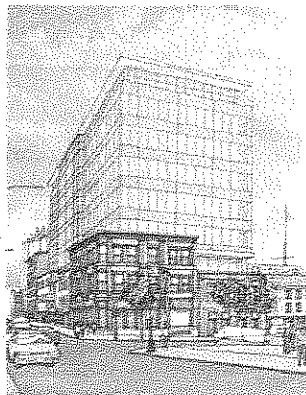
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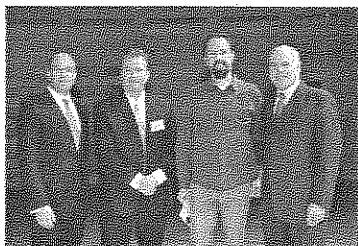
Halifax Update



Last December, we told you about a number of heritage buildings in downtown Halifax that were slated for demolition. The photographs above, taken in August of this year, attest to the fact that their facades – through which one can currently see blue sky – are to be preserved and incorporated into the Armour Group’s Waterside Centre, illustrated at right. While restored façades and the continuity of an historic streetscape are preferable to plaques in the absence of either, is this the best that we can do? It seems that much of our built heritage is destined to survive only by virtue of incorporation into yet another glass box.

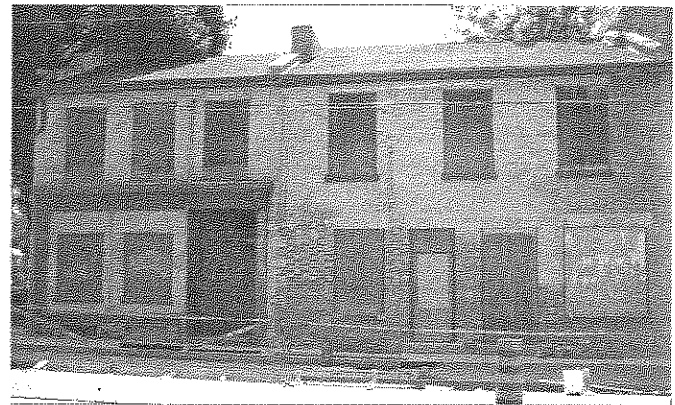


St. Lawrence BIA Wins Community Heritage Award



The Heritage Toronto Community Heritage Award is open to one volunteer, community-based organization in each of the city’s four Community Council

areas. The organization must be currently active, and have either initiated or completed a significant heritage-related activity. This year, the St. Lawrence BIA was given the award in recognition of its role in the night-lighting project, launched in November, 2009, to highlight the historic buildings in old town Toronto. Above, George Millbrandt accepts the award October 5 on stage at Koerner Hall. As some of you might recall, the Town of York Historical Society was a stakeholder in this project from its inception.



Extreme Makeover

The sorry picture above is about to change. These derelict 19th-century shops are to be redeveloped into a new two-storey building that will serve as a “storefront” for Little Trinity Church’s ministry, mission and community. The historic King-Street façade will be restored, while a new administrative centre and multi-purpose hall behind it will enable the church to respond to the needs of a new neighbourhood emerging in the West Don Lands.

Little Trinity Church itself was built in 1844 and its former rectory, currently home to offices and Christian education programs, dates to 1853. The little shops on the western edge of the property make up the third structure on a sizeable lot, just east of the corner of King and Parliament Streets. While all three buildings will undergo some renewal, it is the latter – boarded up for many years – that are slated for major redevelopment.

Two rendered views of the proposed renovation appear below, courtesy of Little Trinity Church. The basement will house a dedicated youth lounge, with lockers and showers for guests and needy visitors. A reception area and administrative offices will be located on the main floor while the second floor will be given over to a large conference room with kitchen attached. Both will overlook a newly landscaped outdoor space.

