

To the new prospective buyers:

We would like to share some of our thoughts and feelings about your possible new home.

Although we are excited to move on with our lives, we feel considerable sadness and regret to be leaving one of the best neighbourhoods in Toronto and a house of wonderful, warm memories. I think of the times when we invited family and friends for holiday dinners, joining tables through the opening between the dining and living room. We often sat on the deck at the front of the house watching the procession of people walking by, often stopping to chat with us. Or we would enjoy our meals on the back deck, with the waft of our two lilac bushes in the early spring, anticipating the blossoming of the peonies or collecting tomatoes from planters on the top balcony. In the winter, we both loved to curl up by fire in the family room with a book and coffee. The kitchen/family room was where we did much of our socializing, where we could prepare meals while being part of the conversation. The fire in the living room lent itself to gracious entertaining.

But the best part of living at 97 Amelia was the neighbourhood. There were lane parties and holiday gatherings throughout the year. The neighbours could be counted on in times of need, providing food baskets when we returned from trips or asking how they could help when moving furniture or when we had car mishaps. Involvement with neighbours is always a matter of choice; we availed ourselves fully of the kindness and sociability of many, making a number of lifelong friends and joining various groups such as walking, hiking, reading and a French conversation club.

Some of our earliest memories include taking our granddaughters to the farm and the wading pools (now splash pads). We would go to Riverdale Park to walk our dogs or to shop at the Farmers' Market., stopping at the cafe for fries or an ice cream cone. One of the loveliest places to take the dogs was in the historic necropolis. For running, we had quite a number of possible routes: through the Don Valley ravine system, behind the Brick Works and the Moore Ravine, through Queen's Park, Philosophers' Walk and the grounds of the University of Toronto, etc.

Our street is known for the restaurant, F'Amelia, and a new restaurant, l'Avenue, both a short walk away. As well, there are a number of popular pubs, including one that welcomes dogs. Cabbagetown Blog is a useful resource for other activities, events and restaurants which are available. Our neighbourhood is quiet and serene. At the same time it is alive with energy. It is truly the best of all worlds.

Sylvia and David