

**A.C.O. PORT HOPE BRANCH**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY, February 18, 2021**

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** ZOOM

**CALL TO ORDER:** Bruce Bowden

**AWARD PRESENTATIONS – Bruce Bowden**

Our outgoing Directors were thanked for their contribution– Julie Mavis, Moya McPhail and Marielle Lambert

**BLUE STONE AWARD – for their volunteerism**

Charles Wickett

Dennis Hogarth

**MARION GARLAND AWARD – for the preservation and restoration of Rose Cottage**

Stephen Henderson

**Video** – RE Rose Cottage move and Bruce Bowden thanking Stephen Henderson

**INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER– Ian MacKay**

**GUEST SPEAKER – Nina-Marie Lister**

**Founder and Director Plandform**

**Director Ecological Design Lab at Ryerson University**

**Topic – Heritage- Built and Cultural- Leading with Landscape as a Legacy – Design for Regeneration**

It is important to recognize our living landscapes from the headwaters to the lakeshore and from ravines to waterfront.

Toronto has the largest ravine network in the world, a city within a park. It is essential to have a ravine strategy for the health of the city. Simple design can engage people and nature such as old railways to new trails.

Examples throughout the world showed the regenerative power of nature.

In Toronto, Evergreen Brickworks resides on the flood plain of the Don River and connects to the lake.

Toronto is a waterfront city – Leslie Street Spit is man made as is the Sugar Beach, a nod to Redpath Sugar. Small, but a real punch to what already exists in the industrialized area of the city.

In Sweden areas of the industrial space has been refashioned for public use without erasing the past.

A new project in Toronto is the Leslie Slip Lookout at the Port of Toronto. It is small but will have an impact, soil to be relaced with dunes and planted with trees. The dunes will provide a great lookout to the harbour.

It is important to invest in green infrastructure.

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

**MOTION:** to adopt the minutes (Anna Gray/Bill Bickle) **CARRIED**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT – Bruce Bowden**

56<sup>th</sup> AGM

I thank Nina-Marie Lister, the presentation was timely and very helpful with all our advocacy work.

Many of our fund-raising activities have been cancelled due to COVID.

Bill Bickle has formed a committee to develop a marketing strategy for the ACO. Also, several videos have been made to be used in conjunction with this strategy.

Moya McPhail created a video of the Barn Quilt Trail via drone that will be seen on the Ontario Barn Quilt Association website.

ACO Central now has a requirement for the submission of financials and minutes on a monthly basis. This is very time consuming.

Advocacy remains as busy as ever with Penryn Park and the surrounding landscape. Also, taking considerable preparation of the comprehensive listings of the Heritage properties.

The only fund raising is the highly successful online Antiques and Artifacts chaired by Peter Duck and Sharon Hancock. Thank you for your hard work and turning this event into \$20,000 for the ACO.

The CRA audit of ACO Central and the subsequent findings put the charity status under threat. Our branch, and the grants to homeowners was certainly in question. We presented our case, with the aid of a tax lawyer and this was accepted by ACO Central and the CRA. In the meantime, grants have been suspended until a policy acceptable to the CRA is worked out.

A thank you to the Port Hope Library who were helpful in finding articles on the Opera House and giving us an opportunity to speak on the subject.

### **OPERA HOUSE REPORT – Julie Mavis**

The Opera house project was started in 2017, when RBC had moved to a new location. It had resided on the corner of Walton and John for over 100 years.

2018 – NetGain Consultants were hired to assess the economic viability of the building and results indicated it was worth pursuing.

October 2019 – ACO accepts the building as a donation

February 2020- A REOI was launched with newspaper and social media coverage

April 2020- HopeTowns Community Ventures responded with a proposal and ACO committed \$50,000 towards due diligence

December 2020- All conditions have been met and sale expected to be completed around September 2021

This project was a significant undertaking for the ACO, it is a key building in our downtown and will celebrate 150 years, built in 1871.

This project has emphasized how important the preservation and restoration of our built heritage.

**Video** –Bruce Bowden speaking with Aimee Tedford in the upper story of the Opera House building

### **TREASURER’S REPORT – Hugh Parker**

ACO Financial Results

Financial statements for the ACO Branch as of December 31, 2020 were posted on website.

Following is a summary of our financial position for 2020 as at that date:

- Total Unrestricted Funds - \$84,144.
- Revenue - \$68,173.
- Expenditures - \$99,145.

**MOTION:** To accept report. (Hugh Parker/Charles Wickett) **CARRIED**

### **NOMINATIONS – Ian MacKay**

At our February meeting, the Executive approved the following Slate for presentation to the Membership at Large for your approval at this Annual Meeting:

**CHAIR** – Bruce Bowden

**VICE-CHAIR** – Ian MacKay – elect (1 year term)

**SECRETARY** – Susan Carmichael

**TREASURER** – Hugh Parker -re-elect (1 year term)

**DIRECTORS** – Bill Bickle

Anna Gray – re elect

Susan Layard – re-elect

**NEW DIRECTORS**–Laura Antonik - elect

Katherine McHarg – elect

Lydia Svenningson – elect

Brenda Willows - elect

**MOTION:** the slate is accepted as read.  
(Ian MacKay/Peggy Bennett)

**CARRIED**

**Video** – The Importance of Heritage

**MEETING CONCLUDED- 8:50 pm.**

Minutes Recorded by Susan Carmichael