


Chair's Report

Our **Advocacy Committee** continues to steer us through what has been an exhausting designation process for **65 Ward Street**. Thank you to all who joined us at Council over the past few months. We have been well represented by our members. It is important to demonstrate support for Council as they continue to work for our community's heritage. Although there is still much work to do, we are confident that the Conservation Review Board will support designation. The Review Board will meet February 11–13.

Once again, the **Port Hope House Tour** was a resounding success. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. This was the 53rd annual tour and its hard to imagine the amount of energy and creativity that goes into making it such a success year after year. Congratulations to **Kathy Kobelski** and her committee who work so tirelessly for months to prepare for this fabulous event.

We hosted an **Opera House** information session on Wednesday September 26 at St Mark's Church. More than 60 members attended. Doug Simpson of NetGain Partners provided an informative summary of the feasibility study process and findings. The information was well received and the audience very enthusiastic about the project. The Opera House committee is currently working through a Risk Assessment process. We will be hosting a **Special Meeting** of our members at the Sculthorpe Theatre **November 14, from 7–9 pm**. At that time, we will be asking our members to vote on a recommendation from the board. An agenda will be circulated closer to the event. Please try to attend this very important meeting.

Its hard to believe we are getting close to year end. Plans are already underway for our **Christmas Party** which will be held on November 29, 5.30–7.30pm at the Historic Spalding Inn, home of **Lee Caswell and Blaise Gaetz**. Only 100 tickets are available, and they are selling well. To secure yours please contact Anna Gray at anna.gray@sympatico.ca.

– Julie Mavis 

SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE OPERA HOUSE

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14
7pm – 9pm

SCULTHORPE THEATRE

Bar and refreshments available



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ACO Executive & Officers for 2018

Executive Committee

- Chairman Julie Mavis
- Vice Chairman Bruce Bowden
- Secretary Susan Carmichael
- Treasurer Hugh Parker
- Past Chair Phil Goldsmith

Directors

Matt Desbarbieux, Anna Gray, Terry Hill,
 Ted Holmes, Ian MacKay, Moya McPhail,
 Jo Anne Mulvaney, Joanne Marrison

Advisor – Ed Pamerter

Committee Chairs

- Auction Joan Tooke
- Advocacy Bruce Bowden
- Bus Tour, Newsletter, Evenings Patsy Beeson
- Communications Jo Anne Mulvaney
- Garden Tour Moya McPhail & Ann Cox
- Governance Ian MacKay
- House Tour Kathy Kobelski
- Membership Anna Gray
- Projects Phil Carter
- Property Ed Pamerter
- Scholarship Matt Desbarbieux
- Events Joanne Marrison

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ACO MATTERS!**

Why not place an advertisement in the pages of *ACO Matters*? Our readership is naturally interested in buildings, their preservation, furnishing, their gardens, and everything else to do with them.

Ads are \$120 per year – a bargain spread over four issues

**Contact Patricia Beeson
at 905.885.4416
or pbeeson@eagle.ca**

Executive Nominations

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 21, 2019. More details will be presented in the next issue of *ACO Matters*.

If you are interested in serving on our ACO Executive, or know of someone who might be, please contact the Nominating Committee. Its members are **Bruce Bowden**, **Trish Doney**, **Phil Goldsmith**, and **Ian MacKay**.

Please e-mail either: brucebowden@sympatico.ca, or pdoney@sympatico.ca, by the end of November.

Carnivorous Squirrels!

Did you know that squirrels — well, red ones anyway — were carnivorous? We certainly didn't. In fact, it could be that they enjoy a succulent bit of barbecued hamburger like a lot of us. This was discovered when the Caretakers' Cottage at the Union Cemetery, where ACO Executive meets and the barbecues are stored after the summer event, was found to have been invaded by three red squirrels who must have snuck in through the back entrance. Apparently the lingering scent of hamburger about the grills (you'd have to say not a very customary aroma in these parts) wafted out on the cemetery air to sensitive noses and drew them in!




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The 15th Annual Antiques & Artifacts: Sunday April 29th, 2019

The 15th Annual Antiques & Artifacts Auction and Tag Sale will be held on Sunday April 29th at the Town Park Recreation Centre, 62 McCaul St. in Port Hope. Events begin at 9:30 am. We will again feature a wide variety of items in the Gardens Plus sale in the Fall Fair Centre. The Tag Sale will be carefully curated to complement the Auction. The inclusion of selected pieces of Estate Jewellery was well received in 2018, and we hope to offer special pieces again in 2019.

Antiques & Artifacts is a 12-month project for its committee. We have already received donations from about 30 households

for 2019. Should you wish to donate items, please contact either Ed Pamerter (905-885-2737) or Joan Tooke (905-885-1116). Please follow our progress on Facebook, Instagram or the ACO Port Hope website as we post photos and descriptions of items received. As this will be our 15th Anniversary Auction, we hope to make it extra special.

Looking ahead to 2020, we anticipate that many leadership opportunities will be available for this event. Please contact Joan if you are interested. – **Joan Tooke**

NOW — RIGHT NOW is a good time to renew your membership for 2019!

You won't have to think about it again for a whole year and you won't have to have the annoyance of someone reminding you in the next few months!

Please renew before you depart for warmer climes for the winter!

The homeowners who generously offered their homes for the House Tour have had their memberships paid for by a very grateful ACO-Port Hope Executive.

Please fill in the form at the back of this newsletter or, alternatively, renew online at www.acoporthope.ca

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with Anna Gray at 905-885-7949 or anna.gray@sympatico.ca

Friends of Wesleyville Village Invite You



Yuletide Carolling

Friday Dec. 7, 2018 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Wesleyville Church
2082 Lakeshore Rd
10 km west of Port Hope

Community Family Event - Dress Warmly

No charge - donations welcome

M

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Opera House Background by Phil Goldsmith

Prior to the building's construction all public assembly in Port Hope took place in the Town Hall, which sufficed while the town's population was small. But as its population and stature grew it was clear something more ambitious was needed.

In 1870 the O'Neill Brothers, who also owned the adjacent St. Lawrence Hotel, built the Port Hope Music Hall — a simple shoe box room above shops, with a dais at one end which acted as stage. But by the 1880s the room, though still popular as a venue, had become outdated, and the town's increasing wealth and an interest in a broader range of performances dictated a more sophisticated venue. The O'Neill Brothers having gone bankrupt, the building was bought by a Thomas Bradburn in 1884, who employed E.C. Hall of Peterborough to carry out extensive improvements. A proscenium stage was introduced with a highly decorative proscenium framing the action; a balcony and four private boxes were built, and plaster ornament enriched the room's appearance as did large decorative cornices with painted scenes on the walls.



The Opera House on Walton St. 1895, pre fire, awaiting Barnum and Bailey Circus. Photo:Port Hope Archives

The interior was soon celebrated in the region and staged a wide variety of performances: orchestral music, plays, vaudeville – and opera; and the building became known as the Port Hope Opera House.

Sadly the wonderful interior was destroyed in a devastating fire in 1897 leaving only the exterior walls standing. However two years later the interior was reconstructed in a much simpler form,



"Inauguration of the New Music Hall, Port Hope" — 1871

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Views of Opera House in the 1880s with private boxes and a decorative interior.



somewhat reminiscent of its original form, with a small stage and proscenium at one end and modest balcony at the other. The balcony included a projection booth and from the turn of the century, for twelve years, the building primarily staged movies and vaudeville acts.

In 1912 the Opera House and St. Lawrence Block were divided and sold by Bradburn's executors and the Opera house purchased by the Royal Bank of Canada.

But seventeen years later, in 1929, with only a single entrance and badly aging, the building was condemned for public assembly and closed. There was a great outcry at the loss of this movie house which led to the construction of our beloved Capitol Theatre. So the Capitol is

a direct descendant of and related to the Opera House.

In the 1950s the bank renovated the building, coating the exterior with the stucco we see today and renovating their offices. However, tragically the now abandoned second floor auditorium was utilized as a mechanical attic for the ducts of the Royal Bank's heating system.

This building has anchored the corner of Walton and John Streets for nearly a hundred and fifty years. Despite all its iterations and struggles it remains an important building in town with the potential to be renovated and returned to public use once again, to come alive and ignite the life and the economy of our community.



The opera house after the fire 1897, the burned out interior can be seen through the windows, Trader's Bank occupied the ground floor



Heads Up!

Annual ACO Bus Tour To Lakefield — April 24, 2019

We are at once simple and sophisticated... small town and worldly... old and new... calm and bustling." So Lakefield describes itself with great accuracy.

Our next bus tour is to this charming little town on the shores of Lake Katchewanooka, a site now inextricably linked to Canadian literature — to Catherine Parr Traill, Susannah Moodie, their brother Samuel Strickland, and to Margaret Laurence, all of whose homes were here.

We'll first visit **Lakefield College School** where we'll have refreshments and be given a tour of the school by a member of staff, after which we'll have a guided tour of the town by a member of the Historical Society. Lunch will be in Lakefield.

Afterwards we'll drive east to the small village of Warsaw, which, by extraordinary coincidence, happens to be the home of two workshops of three absolutely brilliant artisans. One is **Michael Fortune**, a world-class furniture-maker whose work can be seen in Rideau Hall and in embassies and head offices around the world. Articulate and always interesting, Fortune's use of wood is spectacular and luckily we'll catch him between international teaching assignments. The other is the studio of the husband and wife ceramics team, **Tom Aitken** and **Kate Hyde** whose work you may have seen at the Gardener and Aga Khan Museums. We think you will be fascinated.

For more information, email **Patsy Beeson** at pbeeson@eagle.ca

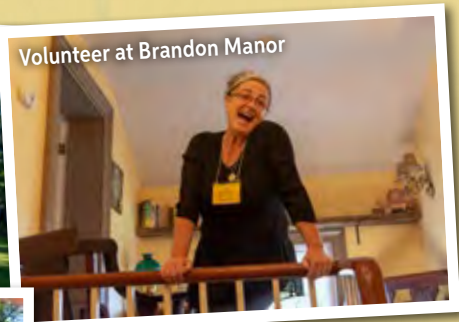
53rd PORT HOPE HOUSE TOUR

The 53rd Annual Port Hope House Tour took place on a clear, crisp and sunny Saturday on the 29th of September. By all accounts our tour guests were extremely impressed by the selection of sites, the architecture, restoration and renovation within each. Many thanks to the 100 plus volunteers who gave their time that day, our committee and of course, the homeowners who opened their doors to our guests.

by Kathy Kobelski



Brandon Manor



Volunteer at Brandon Manor



Line on laneway leading to Brandon Manor



Haskell Farmhouse



Wesleyville Church



Kathryn McHolm in front of Wesleyville Church



Homeowner of Haskell Farmhouse, Alex Reda, in the "Keeping Room"



Volunteer in the Wesleyville School House



Entry to pool at Haskell Farmhouse



The old barn at Haskell Farmhouse



Photos by Ted Rouse



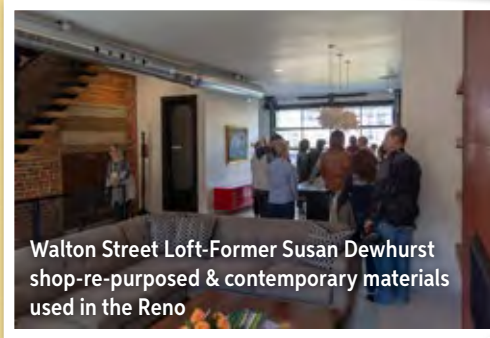
Living room of Shortt Street Home



Homeowner Laura Segal in the kitchen in her Shortt Street Home



Offices at Ontario Stree
Jason Schmidt Legal Services —
Miles Bowman, Baby Gus & Jason Schmidt



Walton Street Loft-Former Susan Dewhurst shop-re-purposed & contemporary materials used in the Reno



Clear Garage Door opens to spectacular deck — Jody Fiske (far left) explaining their deck area



Offices at Ontario Street
Cats Media office —
check out those beams!



Front of Little Bluestone



Volunteer Victoria Terry
with Homeowner Brenda Fiske



Ticket Taker Peter Hunt
— Ontario Street



Ian MacKay, Homeowner of the Little Bluestone in front of the fireplace & former bread oven in the master bedroom



Stuffed Animal Art in the Little Bluestone



Architect Lyndsey Sneddon in the Dining Area-Lyndsey is overseeing the restoration of the exterior wall of the Little Bluestone



“Cookie the Crocodile” greets guests on the front porch at Hagerman Street



Line up at Hagerman Street — note the gargoyle on the peak of the roof



Volunteer & Editor in Chief of ACO Matters,
Patsy Beeson at the Hagerman Street home



Major Upcoming Events

Christmas Party

Thursday, November 29

Wesleyville Church Carolling

Friday, December. 7 (p. 3)

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2019 (p. 2)

Bus Tour

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 (p. 5)

Antiques & Artifacts Auction

Sunday, April 29th, 2019 (p. 3)



PORT HOPE

Membership Renewal Form

Please enroll me as a member of the Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. I have indicated my/our applicable membership category below.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Individual Member – \$35: _____

Household Membership – \$40: _____

Corporation – \$60: _____

Student Membership – \$12: _____

Tax Creditable Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

I/we have an interest in volunteering for:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Tour Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> House Tour Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Tour Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Tour Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Events Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Outreach Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Receiving ACO Matters by email |

Please fill out this form and mail it with your cheque to:

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