


Chair's Report

A special thank you to **Mary Lou Fallis** for the time and effort and passion she poured so generously into her performance of **Primadonna on a Moose**. The audience was thrilled. I particularly loved the train! Thank you, Mary Lou, for your professional guidance. We learned a lot from working with you at this event. Well done to the committee and especially **Ian Montagnes**. It was fun! We partied! And, we added yet another source of funding to our efforts. All in all, a fruitful Sunday afternoon. Thank you to all who attended.

ACO Central held its AGM on September 28 in Toronto. A new board, including **Chair Kae Elgie**, was elected. Biographies and Minutes will be available on acontario.ca.

The **ACO Heritage Awards** ceremony took place on Thursday evening, October 3, at the Berkley Church in Toronto. Nominated for five awards, Port Hope was well represented. The **Port Hope Barn Quilt Trail** won the **Margaret and Nicholas Hill Cultural Heritage Landscape Award**. This award recognizes a project that has an appreciation of Ontario's significant heritage landscapes. Congratulations to the artists behind the project **Moya McPhail, Kathryn McHolm, Lois Richardson, and Pamela Tate**.

Port Hope's House Tour was a resounding success with glorious fall weather. Many thanks to **Kathy Kobelski** and committee, especially to the homeowners and volunteers who make every year special.

— Julie Mavis 

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ACO Annual Christmas Party

Join us as **Olena Hankvisky** welcomes the ACO to her home, **Villa Idalia**. **Idalia** was built in 1869 in the Italianate style by **Charles Seymour** for his wife **Emma**, the sister of **Colonel Arthur T.H. Williams**. With many restorations recently completed including the plasterwork on the main floor, **Idalia** will soon open as a high-end **Bed & Breakfast**, which means this is a rare opportunity for ACO Port Hope.

LOCATION: 85 Victoria Street South, Port Hope
Villa Idalia is located at the very south end of Victoria Street

DATE & TIME: Friday November 29th, 5:30 – 7:30pm
PRICE: \$30 per person — prepaid & confirmed

- Reservations are required for admission. We are limited to 200 guests, members only. No reservations will be accepted until October 30th
- **TO RESERVE:** reply by email to Anna Gray (anna.gray@sympatico.ca) or if you do not use email, leave a phone message (905 885-7949). Your reservation will be confirmed either by email or phone.
- Upon confirmation, please mail or deliver your cheque payable to 'ACO Port Hope' to Anna Gray, 6 Baldwin Street, Port Hope L1A 1S1
- **Payment must be received between October 30 & November 15.**
- If you do not receive confirmation, you will be placed on a waiting list & notified if there is a cancellation.
- **DIRECTIONS:** Volunteers will be directing guests to the drop off area on the property. **Car pooling or cab is strongly recommended as this is in a residential area; parking is at a premium. There is minimal parking on the property for those with mobility issues.**





ACO Executive Committee

Executive Committee

Chair Julie Mavis	Directors Matt Desbarbieux, Anna Gray, Ted Holmes, Marielle Lambert, Susan Layard, Ian MacKay, Moya McPhail	Advisor Phil Carter
Vice-Chair Bruce Bowden		
Secretary Susan Carmichael		
Treasurer Hugh Parker		

Committee Chairs

Antiques & Artifacts Peter Duck, Sharon Hancock	Fund Raising Anna Gray, Moya McPhail	Next Gen Derek Hurlburt
Advocacy Bruce Bowden, Susan Layard	Governance Ian MacKay	Nominations Bruce Bowden
Communications Marielle Lambert	Membership Anna Gray	Opera House Julie Mavis
Events Marielle Lambert	Newsletter, Bus Tour, Discovery Series	Projects Phil Carter
	Scholarships Matt Desbarbieux	

The ACO was incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of architecture in the province and for the preservation of its places of natural beauty.

PLACE AN AD IN ACO MATTERS!

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

There are now 2 rates for advertising in ACO Matters:

Business Card Size

Width: 3.5 in., Height: 2 in.
\$150 per year (tax included)

Square

Width: 3.5 in., Height: 3.5 in.
\$175 per year (tax included)

Contact Patricia Beeson at pbeeson@eagle.ca.

Executive Nominations

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday, 20th February, 2020. 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 Ian MacKay, chair of the Nominating Committee at ian_mackay@rogers.com by the end of November.

Nextgen's First-ever Event! You're Invited!

The NextGen Committee invites people of all ages to come for our first-ever event, "Architecture and Ales" happening at the Thirsty Goose on Walton Street in Port Hope. Join us on **Wednesday January 22, 2020** from 6:30pm to 9pm to meet the committee, hear about our ideas, and to connect with others who are new to the exciting world that is heritage preservation! We look forward to meeting everyone!

Annual ACO Bus Tour to Hamilton

Wednesday, April 29th, 2020

Known in the past as "Steeltown", Hamilton has undergone a revival, notably in the arts, as Toronto house prices have forced out many, who sought a new 'artist hub' by moving there. Hamilton has also long been a place of history with some key architectural buildings and museums.

We'll start at **Dundurn Castle**, neoclassical home of **Sir Allan Napier MacNab**, railway magnate, lawyer and Premier of the Province of Canada (1854-1856). We will have a customized tour of the house with a focus on architecture and household technology — including the **Kitchen Garden**.

After a casual lunch we will have an on-bus tour of some of Hamilton's evolving neighbourhoods led by a local heritage expert and ACO member, **Barbara Murray**, a fount of information about her city who will be with us all day.

Last stop will be to the **Cotton Factory**, a prime example of adaptive re-use. **Rob Zeidler** (401 Richmond Street building in Toronto) and his team have restored this former textile mill, maintaining the building's integrity while creating a space for a vibrant creative community.

Mark your calendars, and plan to be delighted at what Hamilton has to offer. For more information, contact **Suzanne Gerweck**, ACO Board member Cobourg and East Northumberland, at szgerweck@gmail.com. The February issue of *Matters* will contain further details and booking information. No bookings are being taken at present.



Port Hope's Barn Quilt Trail team win prestigious Ontario Heritage Award

The four artists behind Port Hope's Barn Quilt Trail won a prestigious Heritage Award on October 3, at the annual Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's Heritage Awards evening in Toronto.

The Barn Quilt Trail launched in July 2017 as ACO Port Hope's Canada 150 project. It took over a year to complete. A unique project, it highlights 23 heritage barns around Port Hope, each with its own identity. The unique history and continuing economic and cultural contribution is beautifully narrated by hand-painted board tiles that feature traditional quilt patterns.



Moya McPhail receiving the award

Moya McPhail, Kathryn McHolm, Lois Richardson, and Pamela Tate won the Margaret and Nicholas Hill Cultural Heritage Landscape Award which recognizes a project that has an appreciation of Ontario's significant heritage landscapes.



Scholarship Award

Dayan Beazerclarke from Cobourg, currently enrolled in Heritage Carpentry at Algonquin College in Perth, has won the A.K. Sculthorpe Heritage Trades Scholarship for \$3000.



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A Wonderful Legacy

Joan & Don Rumgay

by Phil Carter

I first met Joan and Don in 1987 when they came to a LACAC (Local Architectural Conservancy Advisory Committee) meeting to explain with slides how they had restored the internal gutters at their wonderful house, 'Bluestone'. They had moved to Port Hope in 1975 and purchased Bluestone after having had a house in Prince Edward County near Picton where Don kept his sail boat, but they decided they preferred Port Hope. Initially Bluestone was a weekend house, but became their permanent home a short time later.

Don was born and educated in Toronto, and joined the navy in the 2nd World War. He attended University of Toronto where he graduated with a degree in Commerce and Finance in 1949 and became a chartered accountant three years later. In 1955 he joined Aeroquip Corporation and was President of their Canadian operations and VP of their international parent company, remaining with them for 35 years.

After buying Bluestone, Joan and Don established *Century Home Magazine* which, in its first years, operated out of offices located in the large garage attached to the house. *Century Home* was an important publication for the heritage community at large, supporting and assisting owners of heritage properties in their renovation efforts, and generally promoting the restoration of heritage properties.

Joan and Don's love of Bluestone led to extensive restoration of this previously-neglected national treasure. Don was particularly proud of his restoration of the original basement kitchen and staff quarters with its old fireplace and bake oven. They were very generous in making Bluestone available for events such as the ACO House Tour and Christmas Party. Their annual Christmas Eve 'drop in' was particularly memorable with the house lit up entirely with candles. Sometimes Don had a small band and he joined them with his saxophone.

Joan and Don's next restoration adventure was the purchase of the old Customs House at Mill Street South which became the new offices of *Century Home*. This is a wonderful building overlooking the Ganaraska River. Upon the closing of *Century Home* it became part of the Lantern Inn Hotel next door which they also purchased.

The two came again to our LACAC meeting with an illustrated talk on the restoration of the rooftop 'lantern' of the **Waddell Block at 1 Walton Street**. After much deliberation, they decided



to convert this building into a hotel with restaurants at the ground floor, aptly named 'The Lantern Inn' (now the Waddell). And the Customs House became part of this complex.

Don asked if I would assist in my professional capacity to develop strategies for the conversion, which would meet the stringent *Building Code* requirements for hotels. They managed to transform the building to this new use, while maintaining the exquisite heritage attributes of this important Port Hope landmark.

Another interesting aspect of this conversion was the addition of new windows on the previously blank west façade. These windows, together with the outdoor terrace, celebrated the view of the Ganaraska River — a view which most early buildings in Port Hope ignored.

Cabinetmaking was one of Don's many talents and hobbies and he made all the armoires in the Lantern Inn's suites in his workshop at Bluestone. Another of his great interests was in all things nautical. His navy experience and his love of sailing on his yacht (which he built himself) and enjoyment of model-making led to a collection of ship models and a large collection of nautical artwork which found their way into the Hotel. His son, Peter, has continued this tradition of model ships,



Bluestone



1 Walton Street



The Capitol Theatre

concentrating on ships with a history founded in Port Hope.

The Rumgays operated the Lantern Inn for seven years, then sold the Waddell portion of it and kept the Customs House, which they renovated to furnished apartment suites.

One Friday afternoon in 1995, I was asked to join a group for drinks at the Carlyle Inn. This group was Don, AK Sculthorpe, Rod Stewart and I think, Anita Blackwood. Over beers, a plot was hatched to establish the **Capitol Theatre Heritage Foundation** (CTHF) with the aim of converting the old Movie House into a live theatre venue. Rod Stewart, who owned the building, offered the new entity very favourable terms of purchase and with the help of an ACO grant, the project was launched.

Don was instrumental in the early stages and with the help of Roger Carr, managed to convince the Ganaraska Credit Union to give the CTHF a loan. As Don remarked, "I was surprised that they would give us such a large loan, given our dream." This loan was crucial and allowed the first round of renovation of the building, which included changing the rake of the floor, extending the stage and orchestra pit, providing trestle stage lighting, restoring the plaster and painted scenery walls and restoring the Art Deco-themed lobby. Much of the success of the theatre can be attributed to Don's dedicated attention to the project. Later, in the second round of renovations in 2002, Don

was called back into action to assist in making a case to ACO for a grant to restore the 'atmospheric ceiling' of the Capitol, interrupted by the aforementioned trestle stage lighting. The ACO again awarded a generous grant for this work.

Joan and Don were awarded the **Eric Arthur Lifetime Achievement Award** by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario for their dedicated work over the years in preserving many of Port Hope's finest heritage buildings.

When Don sold Bluestone after Joan's death, he was concerned that the new owners would respect and maintain the property. He found a buyer willing to honour this request and over the past five years, the owner has lovingly maintained and restored Bluestone, making it one of the finest restored houses in Ontario.

Joan and Don imparted their love of heritage buildings to Don's sons, Paul and Peter. Paul bought **Metcalf Terrace**, while Peter became a restoration contractor undertaking numerous houses, including **Shuter Street house**, where Don retired after Joan's death and the sale of Bluestone. He spent his remaining years between the Shuter Street house and his cottage in the Kawartha Lakes.

Don will be remembered for his dry sense of humour, and he and Joan long appreciated for the legacy of wonderful heritage buildings they lovingly restored.

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Travel with the ACO! **BERLIN TO PRAGUE** September 2020

Fully escorted tour: 3 Nights in Berlin, an 8-day river cruise with all meals, and 2 nights in Prague. 4-star hotels in both Berlin and Prague. All breakfasts included, with a welcome dinner in Berlin and farewell dinner in Prague.

Proposed Itinerary

- Day 1** Panoramic tour of selected sights of Berlin, especially 'East' Berlin. Welcome group dinner at a restaurant
- Day 2** Berlin — General introduction to Museum Island & Berlin Museum scene & Berlin Mitte, using public transportation. (e.g. Pergamon museum with the sculptural frieze of the Hellenistic Pergamon Altar (one of the seven wonders of the world) as well as Babylon's Ishtar gate)
- Day 3** Berlin — Panoramic bus and walking tour, featuring the Reichstag building, Brandenburg gate, Holocaust memorial, Berlin wall memorial, Check Point Charlie and more
- Day 4** Free day in 'West' Berlin. Embarkation to the river cruise in the afternoon (Croisi Europe ship - MS Elbe Princesse)
- Day 5** Optional half day tour of Berlin. In the afternoon, visit to the gardens of Sanssouci Palace, former residence of Frederick the Great.
- Begin cruise to Wusterwitz.**
- Day 6** On to Magdeburg and a tour of this Gothic city.
- Day 7** Wittenberg — guided tour of the city where Martin Luther sparked the start of the Reformation. A visit to Luther's house, a former Augustinian monastery
- Day 8** Meissen — guided tour of this city, renowned for its porcelain
Dresden — city known as 'The Florence of the Elbe'
- Day 9** Dresden — Usti
Excursion to the Elbe Sandstone Mountains with an interesting hilltop fortress.
Cruise through the magnificent Saxon Switzerland area (which really is a part of Germany)
- Day 10** Usti — Litomerice — Kralupy.
Tour of one of Bohemia's oldest cities, established in the 10th century
- Day 11** Kralupy — Prague
Tour of Prague's Old town
- Day 12** Disembarkation — Prague
Coach visit to Strahov Monastery, seat of the Premonstensian Order since 12th Century. As well as excursions to various sites such as Ss. Cyril and Methodius cathedral, with a very moving memorial to the 7 Czech paratroopers involved in the assassination of Heyrich in 1942.
- Day 13** Optional walking tour of Prague, includes Jewish quarter and Jugendstil/ Art Deco/ Art Nouveau architecture. Farewell group dinner
- Day 14** Flight home

Full itinerary and pricing will follow as soon as possible.



Prima Donna

On Sunday Sept. 22 Mary Lou Fallis with Peter Tiefenbach presented *Primadonna on a Moose* at the United Church for over 100 ACO members and friends. The mostly classical and Canadiana repertoire created much laughter and delight while educating us too.

Ian Montagnes added to the humour with readings from his book about the early days of Port Hope. After the event, an enjoyable reception catered by Summerhill Manor took place at Eve and Terry McBride's home. All in all it was a great way to celebrate the Opera House and raise funds for the continuing maintenance of the building.

A thousand thanks to Mary Lou, Peter, Ian and the McBrides for a wonderful afternoon!

- Moya McPhail



Mary Lou Fallis with Ian Montagnes

Antiques & Artifacts

April 26, 2020

The Auction is gearing up to be an exciting event! This year, the focus is on modernism and the integration of old with new. We are also looking at ways to highlight the environmental benefits of re-using vintage and antique items as opposed to buying new.

Many of the items in these photos will be featured either in the live event or in our upcoming online auction which starts October 31st and runs to November 7, 2019.

- Sharon Hancock, Co-Chair



54th PORT HOPE HOUSE TOUR



Photos by Alana Lee



Major Upcoming Events

ACO Christmas Party

Friday, November 29, 5.30–7.30 pm (p. 1)

Friends of Wesleyville, Yuletide Caroling

Friday, December 6, 7:00–8:30 pm

AGM

Thursday, February 20 (p. 2)

Antiques & Artifacts

Sunday, April 26 (p. 7)

Bus Tour

Wednesday, April 29 (p. 2)

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Individual Member – \$35: _____

Household Membership – \$40: _____

Corporation – \$60: _____

Student Membership – \$12: _____

Tax Creditable Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

I am interested in volunteering for ACO Events.

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

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