

Chair's Report

The **Little Station** is finally moved to a permanent home on Lent Lane. It was very exciting to watch it travel down Queen Street, turn behind the town hall and be placed onto its new foundation. This building, although small, presented many challenges to plan and complete the move. Thank you to **Phil Goldsmith** for the many hours of architectural and professional work that went into making this project a success.

Many of us had the pleasure of experiencing the colourful canvas of Peggy and Rolly Della Rosa's gardens at our **Annual BBQ**. It was truly a treat to wander through the garden courtyards and landscaped tiers to the Ganaraska River. Special thanks to **Peggy and Rolly Dalla Rosa** for providing ACO with such an exceptional setting and to **Joanne Marrison** for organizing this wonderful event.

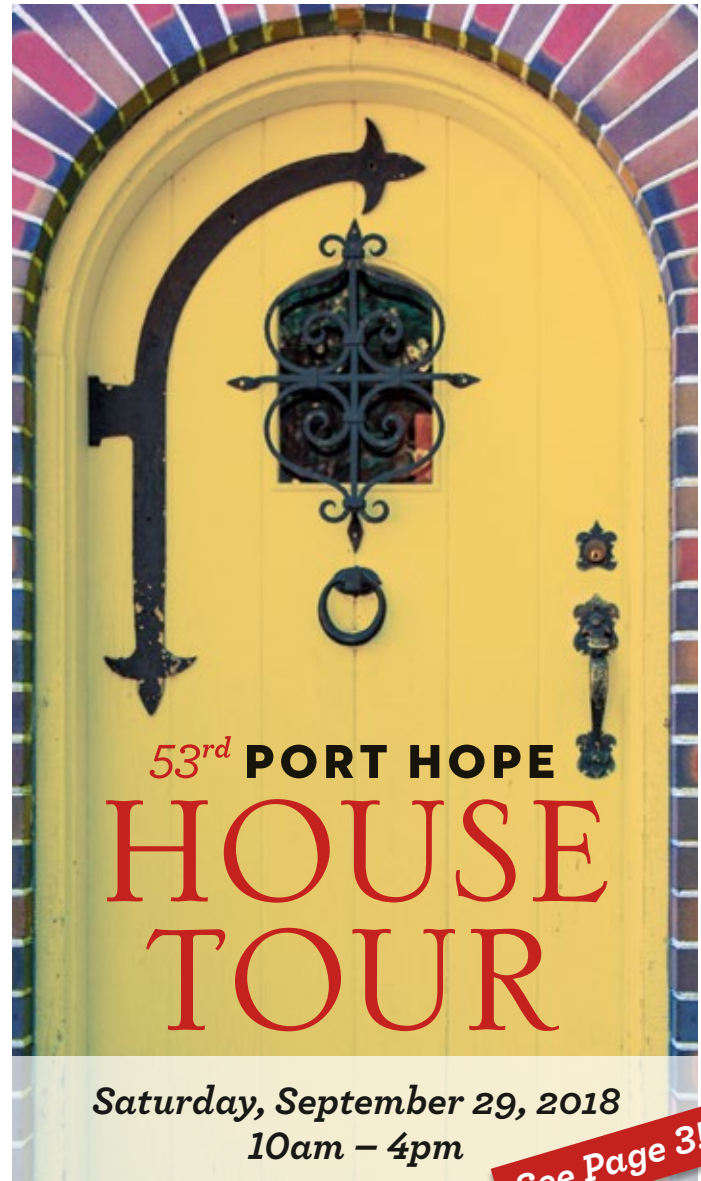
Kathy Kobelski and her committee are ready to launch our **53rd House Tour** on September 29th. The house tour is our largest fundraising event of the year. The committee works hard each year to find new and exciting homes to feature. This year is no exception, we have an exceptional lineup of 6 residences (five houses and one loft), one church, and two heritage office lofts. Tickets are selling well so please get yours today to avoid disappointment. We are very grateful to the property owners who give so generously of their time and energy to host this event.

The **feasibility study** for the **Opera House** was recently completed. The work of consultants **NetGain** has triggered some outside interest. Please read the Progress Report article in this newsletter. We will host an information session for all members before the end of September. Watch for more details.

Advocacy continues to be the largest part of our work schedule as outside pressure from prospective developers finds us, in many cases, scrambling to preserve key buildings in our community. We continue to battle for the preservation of the Historic Hospital. It is very important to show council our collective resolve by attending council sessions, writing letters and emails to Mayor and Council, as well as David Piccini MPP and Kim Rudd MP.

Three of our sitting councillors will be leaving at the end of this municipal term. Each has decided not to run for re election. I would like to thank **Deputy Mayor Greg Burns**, **Councillors Louise Ferrie-Blecher** and **Karen O'Hara** for their hard work and support of Heritage issues throughout their terms in office. Best wishes to you all in your future endeavours.

– Julie Mavis



**53rd PORT HOPE
HOUSE
TOUR**

**Saturday, September 29, 2018
10am – 4pm**

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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

**PLACE AN AD IN
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**

The Opera House: Progress Report

This former RBC bank building sits in a dominant position at the center of the downtown business district on the south west corner of Walton Street and John Street. Although the building has protection as a key corner building in the Downtown Heritage District under Part V of the Heritage Act, the edifice itself has not been designated under Part IV of the Act by Port Hope. Most of the buildings along Walton St. were completed between 1861 and 1891 and thereby exhibit a consistent architectural character that has made this district recognized as one of the best-preserved nineteenth century downtown centers in Ontario.

Until 2016, the building’s future seemed assured by being the municipality’s RBC branch that had a sizable clientele. Unlike the branches of three competing banks along this street, (or indeed the pattern common to most central cores of Ontario’s towns), RBC had largely maintained the building’s external appearance, and for this decision – particularly important by its corner location - deserves much credit. However, for various reasons the bank was closed, and the branch has relocated to an uptown location on Toronto Road.

Originally known as **O’Neill’s Opera House**, the building was built in 1871. For almost six decades, the Opera House was the entertainment center of Port Hope, and posters from the time are still visible in the stage area walls.

In January 2018, the ACO chapter through its Port Hope Heritage Foundation developed a “Request for Proposal.” The study’s Scope of Work was to assess the “Market and Use Feasibility to Inform the Sustainable Use and Operation of the Port Hope Opera House.”

ACO Executive approached six companies and ultimately hired **NetGain**. The consultant provided an interim report at the end of May. The study process has been lengthy with local and regional consultation, site tours and extensive demographic, tourism and government research. NetGain interviewed and contacted many individuals and groups, owners of buildings and companies around Northumberland. It emerged from a second round of research and consultation that organizations outside of Port Hope could be interested in relocating and utilizing the Opera House building.

NetGain has recently completed the study and has provided a final report. The study by NetGain from its stakeholder consultation and market research is an essential first step toward restoration and ongoing operation. The study process has triggered some interest from outside sources but at this point we have no firm commitments or negotiations underway.

With so many unanswered questions, local government in recess and an upcoming election, much still needs to be confirmed, discussed and decided. With that in mind, ACO will be holding an information session for all members on **Wednesday September 26 from 7 - 9 pm, at St. Mark’s Anglican Church, 51 King Street**. Doug Simpson, President of NetGain, will present his findings. We look forward to your comments and questions. – **Opera House Committee**



Save the Date!

Restoration + Renovation = Renewal

53rd PORT HOPE HOUSE TOUR
 Saturday, September 29, 2018 10am – 4pm

This could be the equation for **HOUSE TOUR 53!** Each of the 8 sites has been lovingly renewed: some restored to the characteristics of the period in which they were built, while others renovated with an unconventional or contemporary twist. Each is unique in its own right, maintaining specific features of the original dwelling. Travel west on the Lakeshore Road to 3 country locations then visit the loft, offices and homes featured in town. Some of these places have remarkable history and in certain cases, never featured on the tour in the past!

The notification for a “Call for Volunteers” was emailed mid-August from our new Volunteer Coordinator, Colleen Bulger. If you had hoped to volunteer on tour day, please be sure you completed the survey and returned it to Colleen. This is her contact information if needed (bulgerce@gmail.com or 905-269-2444). She will be confirming House Captains, Ticket Takers, Room Volunteers as well as those needed as Parking Attendants and other tasks by the second week in September.

Should you wish to simply take the tour, you may purchase your tickets for \$30:

Online via PayPal at: ACOPORTHOPE.CA

**In Port Hope at: Acanthus Interiors, 46 John St.
 Antiques on Queen, 12 Queen St.
 Furby House Books, 65 Walton St.**

In Cobourg at: Quinn’s Blooms & Greenery, 277 Division St.

In Peterborough at: Johnston’s Greenhouses, 871 Crawford Dr.

Be a part of one of the most popular Port Hope events of the year!



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The Relocation of The Little Station

The 20th of June represented a big day for Port Hope's Little Station, a historical heritage building affiliated with the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO), Port Hope branch.

The building, which was previously situated at the waterfront and believed to date back to the 1850s, was successfully moved and relocated to its new foundation at Lent's Lane and the Elias Street parking lot. The relocation process of the heritage structure was an elaborate and necessary undertaking this past summer, all in accordance with the work involved with the remediation of the Harbour by the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI). Through negotiations with the Municipality of Port Hope (MPH) and PHAI, the ACO struck an agreement in principle from Council toward relocating the building to its current and permanent home.

As of July 2018, negotiations were underway to establish a partnership to lease the property with **Critical Mass**, a community arts group and the ACO's Little Station. "It's a piece of our history and a very important one to the town of Port Hope — and it continues to offer a wonderful venue for the arts, cultural and heritage organizations of our community," explains Julie Mavis, ACO President.

The original mid-1850s structure, which once served as a whistle stop on Port Hope's first railway, will be transferred to its new home, nestled on its new foundation, next to the old railway path. The one-storey frame building was recognized for its heritage value in 1980. While the building's story is largely unknown, it's speculated that the building was the first station for the Grand Trunk Railway in Port Hope and some believe it was a stop along the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton Line.

Aside from the planning and operations to move the Little Station, the cost attributed to its relocation were significant, \$10,500 in total. Since remediation work was involved, the PHAI helped to off-set the project and on June 5, council accepted a staff recommendation, offering \$7,000 from municipal resources towards the development of Lent's Lane.

"We are grateful for everyone's involvement with this grand move for the Little Station. It will be a remarkable addition to Lent's Lane, offering more history and character to the block," adds Julie Mavis. – **Jo Anne Mulvaney**

Fundraising for the Little Station's Restoration

The Little Station has been moved - to Lents Lane! - thanks to Phil Goldsmith's architectural expertise and organizational skills and Steve Henderson's expert execution.

We have a tenant lined up — **Critical Mass**, a centre for contemporary art — with whom we are negotiating. It will be responsible for interior wiring, lighting and finishes.

Now ACO needs to raise the funds to restore the exterior of this important ACO asset and complete appropriate landscaping. A Fundraising Committee, established for this purpose, will recognize all sponsors on a permanent sign posted outside the building. Those sponsors making a significant financial contribution will have their logos painted on the building walls between the decorative slats for a year, much like the painted signage from the late 1800's and 1900's.

We'll need approval for the exterior painting from the Municipality so will meet with the appropriate departments and committees. Once done, we'll follow up with information on how to become a sponsor. Look for an email blast in September. – **Charles Wickett & Moya McPhail**

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Proprietor

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Photos from the ACO Summer Barbecue Photos by Matt Desbarbieux



The Past. Our Present. Your Future.


ACO Heritage Awards 2018

Come celebrate with us!

Thursday October 11, 2018


Reception and Tours begin: 5:30
Awards Presentation: 7:00 pm
Tickets: \$75



Tickets available online at
<https://tinyurl.com/ybk8tmru>




Location: Junction Craft Brewing
(the recently-transformed 1930s
Symes Road Destructor)
150 Symes Road, Toronto

For more information,
contact ACO at 416-367-8075



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Letter From Scholarship Recipient, Akira Inman, From Norway

I am very fortunate to be the first permanent stone carver on-site in a long-term conservation project on the 900-year-old cathedral, **Stavanger Domkirke** in the coastal city of **Stavanger, Norway**. Scheduled to be completed by 2025, it has been commissioned by the Municipality of Stavanger with the **Archeological Museum of Stavanger (University of Stavanger)**, my employers, who were awarded the contract. The museum's role is to restore and conserve all the stone elements, both the exterior envelope and the building interior.

Stavanger Cathedral, dated from 1125, is a Romanesque structure but was rebuilt and 'modernised' with a Gothic choir in the 1300's after a fire in 1272. At the time of construction, Stavanger was a very small community with no history of erecting large stone structures: it's thought that the presiding bishop imported stonemasons from his hometown of Winchester. Perhaps through me they are following the tradition of hiring out some of the stonework to a non-Norwegian.



My background is in creative new-builds and heritage stone masonry, dry stone walling, and plaster conservation. Most recently I completed a three-year stone carving diploma program at City & Guilds of London Art School. While at C&G I was awarded the Idun Ravndal work/travel grant to Norway. This is how I met the Norwegian carving community and was introduced to two of their better-known stone cathedrals; **Nidaros Domkirke** in Trondheim and Stavanger Domkirke. Both are undergoing significant restoration.

My responsibilities include carving stone mouldings and gothic ornamental carvings that have been included in the scope of the repair works. We are currently working on the East elevation of the building where most of the work involves correcting the previous restorations (1867, 1920, and 1984). As is often the case with ancient buildings that have evolved since their original construction, Stavanger Domkirke is a palimpsest of past architectural styles and conservation interventions: the cathedral displays a variety of techniques and approaches to conservation and the decorative arts. These past interventions, using modern materials such as ferrous dowels, cement and synthetic resins, are the direct causes of damage. Additionally, the prosperous 19th century fish canning industry's smoke from the smoking of the fish added to the air pollution, along with sea mist and the weather.

The cathedral is predominantly built with Gneiss, granite and greenschist but the east elevation, decorations, doorjambs and quoins are carved from soapstone (called *kleberstein*) which is quarried locally in Norway. The stone I am working with is the *kleberstein*: it is a dense, low porosity metamorphic with a high talc content making it soft and easily workable, at least when there are no inclusions of dolomite interfering with my chisel. It is also very resistant to heat — a valuable trait utilized from ancient times as cooking vessels and used for trade throughout the Viking and Medieval periods.

Although there were many quarries available in the past, a significant proportion of them are now protected heritage sites; currently only one of them, **Målselv**, (also protected), supplies carving-grade *kleberstein* to both Nidaros and our cathedral. Fortunately it possesses a large quantity of stone that has already been extracted and Nidaros' workshop, being a larger operation than ours, can process the stones for us. With similar interests, conservation ethics and principles to Nidaros Domkirke we have been able to share knowledge and expertise along with our most basic natural resource.

Our approach to this project is not only to restore the domkirken physically but to encourage and preserve the traditional crafts and techniques required for authenticity in the process. In the case of Stavanger, all stone carving is by hand and we are using only lime-based mortars for our construction. In the past, considerable efforts were made on construction work for log houses and stave churches, through the *Riksantikvaren* (Directorate of Cultural History in Norway) Middle Ages





Program and later through the *Stavkirke* (Stavechurch) program. For these decades-long initiatives, carpenters and joiners were trained in medieval craftsmanship and material understanding. A similar effort has not until now been seen for traditional masonry and stonework.

At Stavanger Domkirke, great care is taken in the documentation of all aspects of this project and fortunately we have the capacity to save and store all the stones being replaced. Too often, when a building is restored, most of the stone elements removed are destroyed in the process, usually for budgetary or logistical constraints or both. In our case, the size of the cathedral and therefore the quantity of disturbed materials allows for a reasonably-sized safe space for storage for the benefit of future interests and investigations into our own historical moment in time, heritage and craftsmanship. Another unique aspect of this project is the use of the archaeological museum's scientific resources to test materials in order to explore traditional techniques. Specifically, the kleberstein used extensively in our cathedral is little known outside Norway and rarely used for carved ornament or masonry building. It is therefore something of a renewed field of study.

I work in a small and diverse team made up of fixer masons, conservators and researchers, all from different backgrounds, education and countries: four of whom are graduates of C&G. The size of the team facilitates a healthy sharing of knowledge. I am nowhere near fluent in speaking and reading Norwegian yet, but I look forward to learning more in order to delve into their literature and the research surrounding Stavanger Domkirke, and Norway's heritage history. – **Akira Inman**

ACO Annual Christmas Party

LOCATION: Historic Spalding Inn,
the home of Lee Caswell and Blaise Gaetz
10701 County Road 2, Grafton

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, November 29
5:30 to 7:30 pm

PRICE: \$30 per person, prepaid and confirmed.
Reservation needed for admission.

We are limited to 100 guests, members only please.

NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BEFORE OCT 1

Join us as Lee and Blaise welcome the ACO to their beautiful and historic home. It will be a very special way to begin the holiday season.

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 St. Port Hope L1A 1S1. Payment must be received by November 1.

If you do not receive confirmation, you will be placed on a waiting list and notified if there is a cancellation.

DIRECTIONS: Spalding Inn is located on the south side of County Road 2 at the west end of Grafton.

CAR POOLS RECOMMENDED.

Signs and volunteers will direct guests to parking at the rear of the property accessed from nearby Brimley Road. There is a short walk over grass and uneven ground to reach the house from this area.

We do not advise parking on County Road 2.

Please let us know if you have mobility issues; there is limited on-site parking for those who require it.

**Original pine floors throughout the house.
Please, NO high heels!**

Next Gen Welcomes New Members

The end of summer is approaching, and while we've all enjoyed a relaxing summer, it's time to get back to business! Jade and I had a blast working the bar at the ACO Port Hope Summer BBQ. It was a wonderful event. Thank you to Joanne, fellow volunteers and our gracious hosts for making it all a huge success.

Now that the new season is underfoot, we are actively looking for more members to join our NextGen Committee. We have

a few initiatives that we will be implementing in the coming months to attract youth who are passionate about heritage. We are always open to meet with anyone interested in attending our meetings, which are held every first Thursday of the month. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with those of you whom I have met and look forward to working with those of you of whom I haven't yet had the pleasure. – **Derek Hurlburt**



Major Upcoming Events

Port Hope House Tour

Saturday, September 29 (p. 3)

Christmas Party

Thursday, November 29 (p. 7)

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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 <i>ACO Matters</i> by email |

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

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