

Chair's Report

The days have started to get perceptibly longer, and the sun even made a special guest appearance last weekend. It's a reflective time of year, and there is much to look back on, and much to look forward to.

After a "virtual" 2-3 years, the world is slowly opening back up. The **ACO Christmas Party** at the beginning of December was a great opportunity for the membership and members of the Executive to get re-acquainted. A huge thank you to **Katherine McHarg, Marielle Lambert, Bernie Morin, Blaise Gaetz** and **Susan Layard** — together with our gracious hosts, **Dianne and Frank Steblaj** — for making it such a memorable and enjoyable evening. Our **Annual Meeting** will also be returning to an in-person format on **Thursday, February 23rd**, and we have a great speaker (**Bobby Watt**) lined up for the evening.

If you're walking down Walton Street, be sure to look up at the 2nd and 3rd stories of **Dreamers Cafe** to see the newly restored heritage windows. **Hopetowns** has completed the work on the foundations of the **Opera House**, which was the essential first step towards a comprehensive restoration. Both projects were assisted by ACO grants. If you're walking down **Lent's Lane**, you'll notice a tarp over the roof of the **Little Station** - a temporary measure for the winter before restoration work on the roof and woodwork begins in the Spring.

We have a new Mayor and a new Council, and ACO will be meeting with the Mayor and individual Council members over the coming weeks, to talk about important matters around town, including the **old hospital**, the **Nicholson File Factory**, the **Walton Street reconstruction**, the **Waterfront** and **Riverwalk**, and the **Penryn Woods**.

I look forward to seeing many of you in person at our Annual Meeting on February 23rd.

– Ian MacKay, Chair, ACO Port Hope

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Annual Meeting Thursday, 23 February, 2023 Sculthorpe Room, Capitol Theatre, Doors open 6.30 for 7pm

Normalcy is returning! And this applies to our Annual Meeting too, when, once again, we'll return to the Sculthorpe Room at the Capitol Theatre. There will be a cash bar and light refreshments and the speaker will be Bobby Watt, of RJW Gem Campbell Stonemasons.

Find out what are the changes to the executive and who's new? Who will be the recipients of the Marion Garland and the Bluestone Awards? And most importantly, what did we achieve over the last year, how's our financial health, and what's planned for 2023.

Regarding our speaker, **Bobby Watt**, those of you who heard him speak way back in 2013 about his work on the Parliament building will remember him as probably one of ACO's most entertaining speakers – even, to our delighted incredulity, accompanying himself on the guitar as a terminal flourish. We had to get him back! So for those of you unfamiliar with him we promise you a most interesting and highly entertaining talk.

RJW STONEMASONS was Founded in 1987 by Bobby Watt

Bobby Watt is a seasoned and respected stonemason who learned his craft in Scotland. His pride, commitment to excellence and strong work ethic has enabled RJW not only to thrive but to grow.

He has worked as a stonemason since he was 16 years old. He came to Canada in 1975 and has worked on many iconic buildings, Sunnybrook, First Canadian Place, Hart House, Canada's Parliament-West Block, Centre Block and Library, Washington Monument and many more. He has been instrumental in setting up training programs for this trade.

Bobby credits his success to the people he surrounds himself with. They are hardworking, dedicated and talented. In all the years he's been a stonemason he has never wavered from his commitment to excellence. And the rest as they say, is history.



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Newsletter, Bus Tour,

Discovery Series

Patsy Beeson

New Nominees to the Executive

Tom Cruickshank

Tom Cruickshank has been a member of the ACO since he was in university in the 1970s, served the Port Hope LACAC in the 80s and the ACO board in the early 2010s. He has an abiding interest in local history and heritage architecture, a subject he has pursued in no less than five books, some with architect Peter Stokes. His work includes Old Ontario Houses, Old Toronto Houses and Port Hope: A Treasury of Early Homes. For the better part of 25 years, he worked in the Canadian magazine industry, first as editor of the Century Home here in Port Hope and later, Harrowsmith Country Life. He is currently at work on an inventory of the older buildings of Hamilton Township.

Jennifer Wadds

Jennifer and her husband Denzil are the (slightly overwhelmed) owners of 77 Augusta Street, also known as the Wickett Mansion. Jennifer's family has a historic farm on Rice Lake and she grew up appreciating the wealth of history and heritage buildings found in Northumberland County. Jennifer and Denzil escaped the city in 2015 when they moved to Port Hope with their three children and an assortment of animals. When she is not chasing bats out of her attic, Jennifer is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology as well as the owner of a small private practice. She is the past vice-chair of the board of her professional provincial association (OSLA) and is currently co-chair of the Ontario sub-committee of the board of the Canadian professional association (SAC). Jennifer looks forward to contributing to the preservation of the historic architecture of our beautiful community.



A "CUPPA" THANKS...

To our "storied teacup" donors, Bernard Morin, Katherine McHarg, Lou Pamenter, Sharon Hancock, Judy Waymark and Colin James. An entire teapot of gratitude to Katherine and Greg McHarg for their positivity (and patience) in helping to decorate the auction committee's contribution to the 2022 Capitol Festival of Lights and Trees. We sparkled! — Heather Burnet

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.

Contact Patricia Beeson at pbeeson@eagle.ca.



Exciting New Heritage Designations in Port Hope

by Susan Layard



During the summer of 2022, Port Hope Council formally designated the residential properties at **10 Armour Street, 18 Princess Street, 27 College Street** and **46 Dorset Street East**. Under the Ontario Heritage Act, municipalities may pass bylaws to formally designate properties of cultural heritage value or interest. According to the Act, designation publicly acknowledges a property's heritage value to a community. At the same time, designation protects the property's cultural heritage value and helps to ensure its conservation for the benefit of future generations.

There are criteria stipulated in the Ontario Heritage Act which must be met in order for a Municipality to designate a property. These fall into three categories — Design Value, Associative Value and Contextual Value — and the four recently designated properties were all found to satisfy criteria in each category.

Design value is identified by considering a property's heritage attributes. As indicated in the designation reports, the dwellings built on three of the newly designated properties — 10 Armour Street, 18 Princess Street and 27 College Street — are each “representative” examples of the 19th century front-facing gable house design, a form very popular in Port Hope and throughout Ontario. As is typical of this design, each dwelling has three bays with wooden windows and an off-centre main entrance, a side-hall plan and a handsome staircase inside. They also have a veranda or porch on the front facade and display well-crafted Classical design elements. The house built at 46 Dorset Street East is an excellent example of Arts and Craft inspired architectural design which became popular in North America around the turn of the 20th

century. Proponents of the Arts and Crafts movement sought an emphasis in design on simplicity, utility and craftsmanship along with the use of high quality materials. Several architectural styles and sub-styles evolved out of this movement including the Bungalow and Craftsman styles which the 46 Dorset Street East house exemplifies with its quality detailing and workmanship. According to the designation report, “the cross gable, partial-width inset side porch, prominent overhanging eaves, rich textural and colour contrast in the exterior finishes, prominent elevated front entrance with staircase and porch, and the form and pattern of original double hung wooden sash windows” all contribute to the design value of the property.

The Associative value of a property is determined by researching its history. The newly designated properties were each historically interesting for several reasons, but their associations with early Port Hope residents who were well known for their contributions to the commercial life of the Town stand out. Harvey Milton Rose, who commissioned the house at 10 Armour Street, was an early member of the community who was successful in business and known for his retail shoe store on Walton Street. The second owner, W. D. Stephens who lived in the house with his family for over 50 years, ran a popular Port Hope provisions and grocery business. The original owners of 18 Princess Street were members of the Mitchell family, Port Hope settlers who were well known for home construction and market gardening. The Barkwell family of 27 College Street “contributed



The Harvey Milton Rose House,
10 Armour Street, 1868-1870



46 Dorset Street East



27 College Street

Designations, continued on page 4



Designations, continued from page 3

much to the local communities of Elizabethtown, Bethel Grove and Port Hope, and Thomas B. Spiers, original owner of 46 Dorset Street East, was a Port Hope engineer and contributor to the local milling and lumber businesses.

In order to establish the contextual value of a property, one must view the property within its wider context. The Contextual Value of our newly designated properties were found to be important because they each help define, maintain and support the character of their neighbourhoods. The properties at 10 Armour Street, 18 Princess Street and 46 Dorset Street East each enhance the rich historic context of the area at the top of the hill behind Mill Street, and the property at 27 College Street strengthens the heritage nature of the neighbourhood that surrounds the historic Trinity College School. By including contextual value in the designation criteria, the Ontario Heritage Act recognizes the importance of context to the value of heritage resources and thereby ensures the consideration of what would happen to the character of a neighbourhood if the

property was considerably altered or lost. This not only helps to protect the cultural heritage value of the property itself but also that of the historic properties in the surrounding streets and neighbourhoods.

Port Hope’s heritage context is our most fundamental and important resource. Ensuring that all of our properties deemed to have heritage value under the Ontario Heritage Act are designated is vital to ensure that this resource is protected. Under the Act, property owners are permitted to recommend their own properties for designation. All of our newly designated properties were nominated by their owners, and we would like to suggest that other Port Hope property owners who believe that their property meets the designation criteria consider doing the same. While some additional responsibilities do come with designation, it is important to note that, according to the Ontario Heritage Toolkit, designation is “not intended to prohibit any future site alteration or development on the property. It simply enables change through a helpful and cooperative review

and consent process between the owner and the Municipality.” Designation also means that the property would be eligible for an ACO Port Hope heritage restoration grant should that be necessary. Property owners who are interested in the designation of their properties are encouraged to contact the Chair of Heritage Port Hope through the Port Hope Planning Department.



“I have always appreciated that this house is well built, well designed, and has survived and thrived for so many years largely unchanged ... it’s a thoughtful and delightful house,” says Karen Rankin, owner of 18 Princess Street, circa 1875.

Pewter ornaments

Suzanne Camm had recently moved from the U.S. to Port Hope with her family, and was thinking of a way to give something back to her newly adopted town. While talking with A.K. Sculthorpe, rendering Port Hope’s beautiful buildings into pewter became her mission. For each of four years, Suzanne selected five pewter ornaments that crossed commercial and residential buildings, the urban and rural areas, and various architectural styles.

Sold individually and in framed sets, she raised thousands of dollars for the Port Hope Chapter and brought the beauty of Port Hope’s homes and other buildings to life, here in Port Hope and as gifts across the globe. In time she was commissioned to create one-off ornaments for private home owners, for Trinity College School’s Chapel, the town of Cobourg and others in Ontario. Most recently, she was commissioned to create a memorial ornament for St James Anglican Cathedral at the corner of Church and King Streets in Toronto.

In 2021 during the pandemic, the House Tour Committee decided to augment the online tour with something physical. In addition to the Walking Tours, the Committee approached Suzanne and asked her if she had any remaining ornaments in inventory for sale, and would she be willing to sell them at the Farmers’ Market.

Suzanne thought everyone who was ever going to buy one of the early ornaments had done so, but was persuaded to give it a try at the ACO/House Tour booth at the Farmers’ Market that summer.

Previously Released Ornaments



Ornaments, continued on page 5



Ornaments, continued from page 4

To our surprise, at least half the people coming up to the booth had never heard of, nor seen the ornaments. And even more interestingly, they were keen to buy them!

This renewed interest in the previous ornaments encouraged Suzanne and the Committee to proceed with producing five new ornaments for 2022.

Here are the new ornaments introduced this year, in line with the King Street and Smith Family theme in this year's House Tour: **The Bluestone**, **Little Bluestone** and **The Grange** were all Smith Family homes.

The ornaments are a great way to support the conservation of the amazingly unique heritage landscape that is at the heart



The Bluestone The Little Bluestone The Music Hall Canton Church The Grange

of Port Hope's character. Visit <https://porthopehousetour.com/pewter-ornaments> to purchase any of these beautiful ornaments, or to gift them to people near and far (available online for local pickup or shipping as well).

– **Bill Bickle, ACO Port Hope Executive Member & Past-co-chair of the House Tour Committee**

ACO Annual Bus Tour to Clarington April 26th, 2023 by Patsy Beeson & Felicity Corelli

We sincerely apologize that we cannot yet supply you with a price, or times of pick-up and drop off, which we fully expected to be able to do by now. Both Felicity and Patsy have been ill (as one recovered the other sank), so have been unable to hold meetings with our Clarington counterparts to finalize arrangements. However, we expect to send this information to you very soon. Those on the Interested List will be informed slightly ahead and we urge you to send payment promptly. Then we'll open up to the general membership. Only payment guarantees a seat.

The bus tour is shaping up very well. We've just got a great house with carriage house to visit in Bowmanville. The Interested list is full and we've opened a Waiting List. If you aren't already on the Interested List put your name down for the Waiting List as in the past we've invariably found that changes occur at the last minute due to medical appointments or family visits.

Sadly, the drive home is too short to allow our usual Happy Hour.

We have truly excellent guides for Newcastle, Bowmanville and the POW camp:

MynoVan Dyke will be our guide in Newcastle and Bond Head. This will include a tour of Newcastle's impressive Community Hall (which has many stairs but we think no elevator) and Walbridge House, built in 1825, one of only 92 known buildings of this vintage in Ontario. Jim Sculthorpe refurbished it in the early 2000s, and he will be present to describe his work.

Myno is an eminent Clarington historian who was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement. Among his other impressive awards is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for volunteer work in Clarington.

He emigrated to Canada with his family in 1951, is retired from a Policing Career, and has a passion for history, heritage, and old cars.

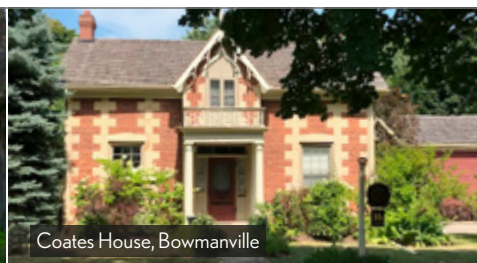
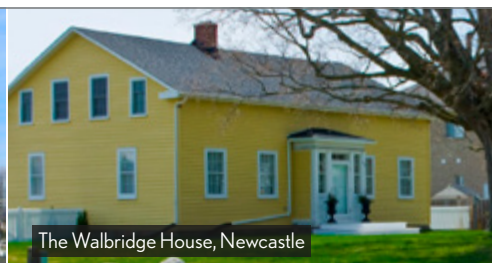
Marilyn Morawetz, Chair of the Jury Lands Foundation, a group dedicated to telling the many stories of the POW site, will be our guide at the POW Camp. She has lived in Clarington all her life, was a High School teacher for a number of years, and has a wonderful background in all things Clarington, not only Camp 30. As a founding member

of ACO Clarington and several times Chair of Doors Open, she has fascinating information and anecdotes to share.

Bill Humber, our guide in Bowmanville, is a member of ACO Clarington, a retired administrator of Seneca College, and wrote Bowmanville, A Small Town at the Edge (1997). Among many other things, he is described as a fantastic story-teller. He is also a baseball historian, has been inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, and more recently awarded the Order of Canada. He is a member of the Jury Lands Foundation and works with Marilyn on Camp 30 and Valleys 2000.

So it should be a fun day of many discoveries offered by excellent guides in the company of your fellow ACO members.

Once we provide the price, we strongly recommend that you send payment rapidly to the address supplied. In addition to your payment we will need 1) your email, tel.no. and home address. 2) the name and daytime tel. of an emergency contact. 3) whether you'll be embarking in PH or Cobourg (the address isn't always a clue). And 4) if you have any dietary considerations.



In April the ACO bus tour to Clarington will be visiting among other places the former German POW camp. This is an article about the camp and its history, formerly published in ACORN in 2018 by Jason Moore, a high school English teacher in Bowmanville with an interest in history. Jason is Vice President of the Clarington ACO branch (our neighbouring branch to the west), as well as a member of the Clarington Heritage Committee. During the summer months he and other members of the ACO provide guided tours of Camp 30 in Bowmanville as well as at the annual Doors Open.

OF MICE AND MEN

The Incredible History of Bowmanville's Camp 30 / Boys Training School

by Jason Moore

When local Bowmanville businessman John H.H. Jury attended a speech by esteemed academic J. Alex Edmison at the King Edward Hotel in 1922, he could not have foreseen the events that would unfold as a result of that night. The topic of the speech was juvenile delinquency. Edmison, a professor of criminology at the University of Ottawa, proposed a radical theory at the time: young boys, frequently in trouble with the law and challenged by normal educational procedures, could be reformed into responsible adults if given the proper guidance and living arrangements. So impressed by this speech was Jury, that he immediately proposed to donate 150 acres of his farmland on the outskirts of Bowmanville to erecting a training school for “underprivileged boys”. The province matched his donation with an additional 150 acres and with the help of local Kiwanis, Rotary and Lions clubs the school was opened on Monday August 24, 1925.

Architecturally the site was a modern marvel. During construction, while drilling for water, natural gas was discovered on the premises. What resulted was a completely self-sufficient institution, running on its own electricity, gas and sewage system. The buildings included residences, infirmary, cafeteria, administrative building and a modern gymnasium complete with one of the first indoor swimming pools in Ontario. The “modern” look was indebted to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Prairie Style architecture, hallmarked by horizontal lines. These “underprivileged boys” were now being housed in the showpiece of the town with plenty of surrounding land and farms to accentuate the sprawling campus.

The site’s historical importance (and this article) might be significantly shortened were it not for the events that propelled Canada and Bowmanville onto the world’s stage; World War Two. In September of 1941 the school was notified by the Premier’s office that a party of army officers would be inspecting the site for the purpose of establishing a prisoner of war camp. The reasoning was perfectly logical: a secluded location from the war, modern living quarters, a cafeteria and plenty of land. The only construction necessary would be a barbed wire fence, guard towers and a few additional barracks. During the next four years the training school would be known as Camp 30, home to over 800 German prisoners of war.



Camp 30, continued on page 7



Camp 30, continued from page 6

Those four years are rife with many legends and stories. Tunnels were dug and escapes were attempted (any escapees were quickly caught). For three days in October 1942 prisoners rebelled against the proposed shackling of 70 men; a direct order from Churchill in reprisal for the manacling of Canadian soldiers in Germany. Holing themselves up in the site’s cafeteria, the prisoners fought with guards in what became known as “The Battle of Bowmanville”; a battle which forwent guns and bombs in turn for bats, bottles and hockey sticks (that’s Canadian hospitality for you).

What makes this story so incredible is that the site still exists. Most of the buildings are still here. The Boy’s Training School was closed at the end of the 1970’s and various private schools occupied the site until 2008 when a sewage problem forced its closing. The land had been acquired by housing developers who had no idea of its historical significance at the time. Since then there have been ongoing negotiations between the site’s owners, ACO Clarington, Jury Lands Foundation, as well as the local municipality to restore and repurpose the existing buildings.

Unfortunately in the past decade much damage has been done due to weather and vandalism. The beautiful administrative building was lost to arson and other buildings have been damaged significantly inside and out. While still structurally sound, time is taking its toll on the remaining structures and the urgency for renovation is nigh. As the only remaining prisoner of war camp in North America, the value of Camp 30 as a testament to history and Canada’s war effort is colossal.

Since 2016 the Jury Lands Foundation, in connection with ACO Clarington, has been leading guided tours through the former site of Camp 30. Over the past several years several hundred guests have strolled the grounds and heard the stories of the land. Often we have visitors who share personal experiences — former

students, relatives of Canadian guards, local employees- which makes the tour interactive and even more compelling. The aim of the Jury Lands tours is to share local history with younger and older generations as well as raise awareness about the necessity of preserving our heritage. Our hope is that when younger generations recognize the significance and historical weight of Camp 30, they will be more inclined to take ownership of their heritage rather than vandalize or destroy it.

Nothing lasts forever though and without immediate action these buildings and this site will be lost to time.

The heritage area including the 6 remaining buildings was recognized as a National Historic Site in 2013.



Since 2018 when this article was written, several significant steps have been accomplished. They include movement toward conveyance to the municipality of the designated area and five of the six heritage structures after a legal agreement was struck with the owners. As a result, the cafeteria and 2 acres around it have become municipal property. There is much work still to do but we are encouraged with every victory however small or large.



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Major Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting

Thursday, February 23 (p. 1-2)

ACO Bus Tour

Wednesday, April 26

Port Hope Garden Tour

Saturday, June 10

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Individual Membership: \$40

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Total Enclosed: _____

Note: Free Membership for individual donors who have donated at least \$1000 in the year.

I am interested in volunteering for ACO Events.

I give permission for ACO to contact me electronically .

Payment Options

- E-transfers:** From your bank's Interac service, the address is **etransfer@acoporthope.ca**. please provide your email and mailing address in the message box and indicate that the payment is for membership fee and/or donation.
- Cheque:** Please complete this form and mail it with your cheque payable to **ACO Port Hope at P O Box 563, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3Z4**
- Credit Card:** to pay by VISA or MasterCard, contact Architectural Conservancy Ontario (**acountario.ca**) online or by telephone at **416-367-8075 ext. 404**. Please indicate that you wish to join the Port Hope branch.



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