

Chairs' Report

It was wonderful to see so many members at the largest summer BBQ ever. Thanks go to our generous hosts, **Phil Carter** and **Sheilagh Fletcher**, for opening up their beautiful garden for over 160 members to enjoy. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect setting for our 60th Anniversary BBQ. We would also like to thank the Summer Barbecue co-chairs, **Marie Lalonde** and **Marina Smirnova**. They put together a wonderful team including **Brenda Willows**, **Lydia Bell-Gradon** and were supported by **Susan Carmichael** who was a great resource for the team.

With regard to advocacy, we continue to wait and watch for news of the fate of 65 Ward Street. The devastating fire at the **File Factory** destroyed almost the entire south end of the complex. We continue to advocate for this important heritage industrial landscape, particularly the **Beamish Mill** which partially survived the fire, and hope to see this location become part of a unified Ganaraska river walk.

Laura Antonik has assumed the chair of the Marketing Committee. Much of the impact we have is through Laura's communication and design work. Our website and social media campaigns reflect exactly what our branch is doing. Head to acoporthope.ca to explore this rich digital environment.

The Education Committee has worked tirelessly this year. The **60th Anniversary Colouring Books** are a huge success - please don't forget to purchase your copy at **Furby House Books** on Walton Street. Our **Saturday Walking Tours** sales were unprecedented this Spring, and we look forward to resuming in late August through September. Our thanks go to the team of tour leaders, **Brian Buttery**, **Jane Watanabe**, **Lois Brown** and **Bruce Bowden** who bring Port Hope's magnificent architecture to life with their delightful descriptions and anecdotes. Tickets for our late August and September tours are available on Eventbrite. Just check [our website](#) for information.

– **Susan Layard & Katherine McHarg**
Co-Chairs, ACO Port Hope

Contents

Chair's Report	1
Advocacy Update	2
Bus Tour	2
Have You Seen This House?	3
Photos from the ACO Summer BBQ	4
Celebrating our First President, 60 Years Later	5-6
2025 European Fundraising Trip	6
ACO Member Profile: Artist Frances Ferdinands	7
Upcoming Events	8

58TH PORT HOPE HOUSE TOUR
Saturday, October 5, 2024 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TICKETS FOR THE 2024 PORT HOPE HOUSE TOUR ARE NOW ON SALE!

The Tour takes place this year in and around the historic downtown of Port Hope on Saturday, October 5.

50% of tickets have been sold!
Act now to avoid disappointment.

This year's Tour will feature seven beautiful and historic homes in Port Hope, plus The Capitol Theatre, a National Historic Site.

Ticket cost is \$40 (including HST).

Tickets are available online at porthopehousetour.com and at the following retailers – Port Hope: Atelier on John, Bibelot, The Capitol Theatre, Gilmer's Home Hardware, and Holton's Flowers; Cobourg: Prep Food Co.



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Advocacy Update

On July 14th, a fire destroyed the File Factory’s entire south end which was comprised of the iconic industrial buildings added by the Nicholson Company in 1902 and 1935. This, combined with the controlled demolition in May of much of the property’s middle section, means that only the buildings at the north end of the complex and the original Beamish Mill are left. The survival of the Beamish Mill of 1853, due to the advocacy of ACO Port Hope at the March 19th Council meeting, is a gift which inspires us to continue to stand up for this designated heritage industrial property despite the loss of so many of its other heritage attributes. We are hoping that the Beamish Mill and north-end File Factory buildings may be restored and that a Riverwalk path through the File Factory site may still be possible. The skilled labour shortage in heritage trades is another issue which is of concern to ACO. Skilled heritage trades people are essential not only for conserving our architectural heritage but also for addressing both environmental and housing concerns. Conserving embodied energy by restoring and adaptively re-using older buildings rather than demolishing them will do much for environment protection, and renovating our existing building stock is essential for meeting the ever increasing demands for housing. Because ACO Port Hope

raises money in order to be able to give grants towards best practice restoration of heritage properties, (usually those that are designated but not always) we are very aware of this labour shortage, and we hope to work with other local stakeholders who believe that a heritage trades program in Port Hope would be of great benefit to the Municipality and the Province.

ACO Port Hope was asked by the Municipality to comment on their draft Property Standards By Law. The draft by-law does strengthen the current by-law and also includes a section on designated heritage properties. We made a number of suggestions to further protect heritage assets in Port Hope and help prevent demolition by neglect in the future.

Finally, as far as 65 Ward Street is concerned, there is nothing new to report. We may, however, receive information soon as the Parties were directed to provide a status update to the OLT by August 27, 2024.

UPDATE: We received information regarding 65 Ward Street essentially saying that there is still no news.

– Susan Layard

Bus Tour

Yes it’s a long way ahead, but we thought we’d provide a Heads Up on the Annual Bus Tour next April 30th. We’re off to **Prince Edward County** which seems to be bursting with creative energy regarding great heritage architecture and its restoration. As a tickler, our first stop will be a stunning Regency (1834) Cottage which was threatened with demolition and transferred by architecture professor Shannon Kyles from Ancaster to Consecon! In addition, to the back of the property she recently moved a carriage house, also being restored, so it’s two for one!

There are more exciting offerings in the County than we can possibly visit in one day, but once we’ve made final decisions we’ll let you know more. Meantime, even this early, this promises to be a highly interesting tour.

– Bus Tour Committee





Have You Seen This House?

Pity the poor researcher who thinks he knows every vintage house from Port Hope to Pontypool only to stumble upon a mystery dwelling that doesn't even ring a bell.

In browsing through a random on-line archive, I happened upon this 1890 photo of a lavish country estate, whose location was noted only as "near Port Hope." Although there was nothing to suggest where it stands—or stood—there was plenty on its builder, who was none other than Simeon H. Janes, the man who earned a fortune developing the Toronto neighbourhood known as the Annex. He lived in a sprawling stone mansion called Benvenuto at Avenue Road and Davenport Road.

Janes' Port Hope connection was through his wife, Maria Ann Quinlan. Local historians are likely familiar with her father, Cornelius Quinlan, who served as mayor and built a commercial building on Ontario Street (in which the Social now resides) and in 1866, a row of shops on Walton, opposite John Street. Janes' Port Hope house was his country retreat, humble by comparison to Benvenuto, but head and shoulders above neighbouring farmhouses.

You'd think such a lovely country home would be well documented, but I had never heard of it before I happened across this picture. Despite a (cursory) search through land titles, old maps and newspapers, I have yet to find a record as to where it stood. Nor do I know its fate. That's why I'm turning to you, fellow ACO members: If anyone reading this has a lead, I would be thrilled to follow up.

Hint: Although it resembles both, it's not Ravenscourt, and it's not Doneycroft, two other rural mansions of local renown.

– **Tom Cruickshank**
tecruickshank@gmail.com

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Photos from the **ACO Summer BBQ** Photos by Pam Marr





Celebrating our First President, 60 Years Later

In 1964, the Port Hope branch of the ACO was founded. Peter Schultz was the first president, joined by board members Jack Adamson, Chris Dunn, Marion Garland, Roger Kirkpatrick, and Dr. Ross Richardson.

Peter Schultz's contributions to heritage advocacy in Port Hope are enormous, in addition to his passion for nature conservancy and his work in starting the Willow Beach Field Naturalists Club.

As we celebrate our 60th year together as a branch, please enjoy reading this re-printed article about the life and achievements of our first president, Peter Schultz, written by Peter Stokes. — Katherine McHarg

'Peter' Schultz

By Peter Stokes



I have put 'Peter' in inverted commas because his real name was **Albert Bigelow Schultz**. At his birth on August 1, 1923 in Port Hope while the family were on vacation, his parents didn't know what to call him, and the doctor in attendance suggested the name Peter, which stuck in his too-short life.

He was the child of American parents, **Albert B. Schultz**, lawyer, and **Winnifred K. Schultz** of New York. They passed each summer at **Penryn Park**, their substantial vacation home in Port Hope, a village Winnifred's father preferred to Cobourg which was more popular with summer visitors. Peter was their third child and only boy. His three sisters included **Alice King** (A.K. who would marry **Bob Sculthorpe**) who, like him, adopted Canada after coming each summer with their parents.

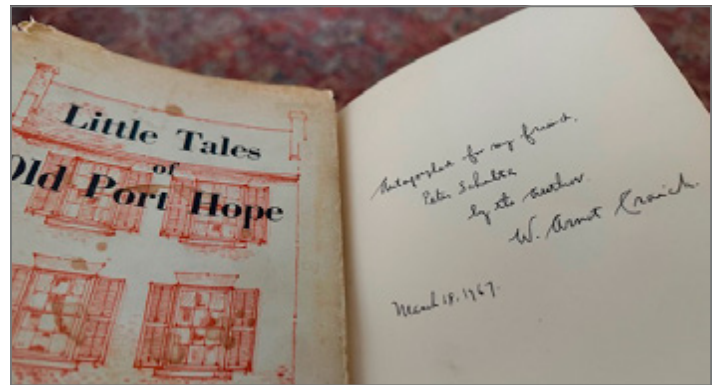
Peter was schooled in the States and graduated from Princeton, later lecturing there and at Washington and Lee University in Modern Languages. Politically he was, like his father, a Liberal Republican, a term outdated today.

In the late 1950s Peter and his wife Virginia moved permanently to Port Hope to one of the cottages on the grounds of Penryn Park where they started to raise their three children, **Henry, Amanda and Albert**.

Peter was talented, erudite, a linguist, literary, a good organizer of community efforts, and fun. Among his many responsibilities he taught Spanish briefly at Port Hope High School and at Trinity College School, a sub-position. He even taught art for a short period.

Then around 1960 the long time family owners of the community newspaper, **The Port Hope Evening Guide**, decided to sell, so Peter purchased it and became its editor and publisher. To it he brought much new life, broad opinions and creative thinking, with news coverage contributed by young enthusiastic reporters and talented and aspiring journalists like Jack White.

The Evening Guide office was at 118 Walton Street, a three-story brick building of 1841, which was perhaps the earliest structure of downtown Port Hope's historic buildings. Next to it, as it happened, was the last, built around 1871 as a furniture emporium. A circa 1880's archival photograph, probably from Tom Long's collection, confirmed that the fronts of both buildings were in their original condition and, using the photograph as a guide, Peter was able to restore the front of his building in the mid 1960's. In this he was assisted by the writer, **W. Arnot Craick**, who made a sketch of it, used on the dust jacket of Peter's re-publication of Craick's *Little Tales of Old Port Hope*.



But even before this Peter had become involved in the heritage of the area. In 1964, possibly with the help of **Verschoyle Blake** and supported by Peter's sister A.K., he set up the Port Hope branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. Port Hope became one of the ACO's most active and successful branches, with a very worthwhile program, backed by a fund providing grants, awards and low interest loans, and replenished by monies from an annual house tour and like enterprises.

President, continued on page 6



President, continued from page 5

Peter was also deeply interested in nature conservation, and co-founded the **Willow Beach Field Naturalists** (WBFN) which carries out an annual bird count among its many roles. The organization purchased a tract off McDonald Road, north of Grafton and Centreton, a hundred acres of unlogged bush demonstrating the original hardwood forest of sugar maple, beech, birch and the shade-tolerant evergreen, hemlock, as well as isolated sentinels of eastern white pine piercing the mighty canopy. Named Peter's Woods, it is a fitting tribute indeed, and is now managed by the WBFN.

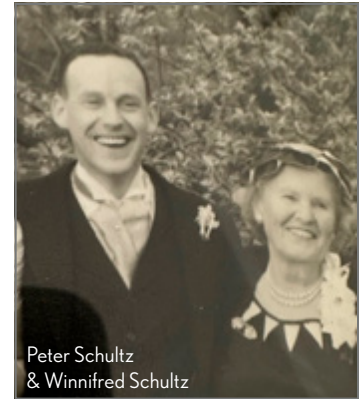
Peter died in his early forties of leukemia, but before he succumbed, he involved himself in a major building conservation project on Walton Street. In the mid 1960's he saved the 1853 St. Lawrence Hotel, its Italianate design by Merwin Austin, the Rochester architect of Port Hopes's 1851 Town Hall and other buildings on Walton Street. The hotel had been mildly damaged by a relatively small fire but was threatened with demolition and the inevitable parking lot which would have been disastrous to historic Walton Street. As it was, previous owners had played 'musical posts' with the Hotel's frontal columns which supported the three storeys above, had painted the building, and introduced Permastone and Glass Block for 'improvement' — and certainly variety. The original was a curious building, very cleverly designed to accommodate to its sloping site on Walton Street, with each storefront divided into three panes in height. Fortunately, this was on record,

which guided the consultant, W. Arnot Craick, in making it look perfectly normal and fitting. Sadly, Peter was unable to finish the apartment conversion on the three floors above, but did see to some vital structural reinforcement and the restoration of the storefronts.

Following this, he got wind of the possible demise of 1 Walton Street, the William Thomas-designed block of 1845 at the corner of Mill and Walton Streets (now the **Waddell**) where aging tenants had housed horses over many years. Peter again saved the building, but was unable to carry on.

Around this time, Peter's charming mother, Winnifred Schultz, who lived in the Big House at Penryn Park, died, and he and his family moved in. He made improvements to the building, restoring the exterior Gothic Revival woodwork and certain grand interiors. Tragically the leukemia from which

he suffered progressively became worse, he grew weaker and less able to carry on and finally died in March of 1969. He left a vivacious wife, Virginia, and three young children. Peter will long be remembered for his many and diverse achievements.



Peter Schultz & Winnifred Schultz

ACO Port Hope 2025 European Fundraising Trip



Our trip this year will be to **Domme**, a small medieval village in the Dordogne area of France. It's an all inclusive one week trip at an establishment run by two ex-pat Canadians called **Les Petits Cousins du Quebec** (lespetitscousinsduquebec.com).

Cost is 1880 Euros (2000, single) per person and includes all meals, wine and soft drinks, all excursions and pick up/drop off at either Toulouse airport or one of two train stations nearby.

We have booked the week of April 10th, but either April 3rd or a week in June are possible too. More information is available on our website at acoporthope.ca. If interested please contact **Anna Gray** at anna.gray3112@gmail.com.

– Anna Gray & Jennifer Keys

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An ACO Member Profile

Artist Frances Ferdinands

By Susan Layard and Katherine McHarg

ACO Port Hope member, **Frances Ferdinands**, is an internationally recognized Canadian Artist who lives on the beautiful Vimy Ridge Road in Port Hope. Born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Frances came to Canada with her family when she was six years old. We visited Frances at her studio a few weeks ago.

Frances has an A.R.C.T. in Piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music, a Visual Arts degree from York University, and an Education degree from the University of Toronto. Her artwork has been exhibited in prestigious art centres such as London, New York, and Paris, as well as across the USA and Canada.

Frances describes her artwork as “hovering between representation and abstraction and featuring a mix of Western, Middle Eastern and South Asian imagery and patterning.” She says that she is “trying to speak to the ‘in-between space’ of the varied social and cultural realities” she inhabits.

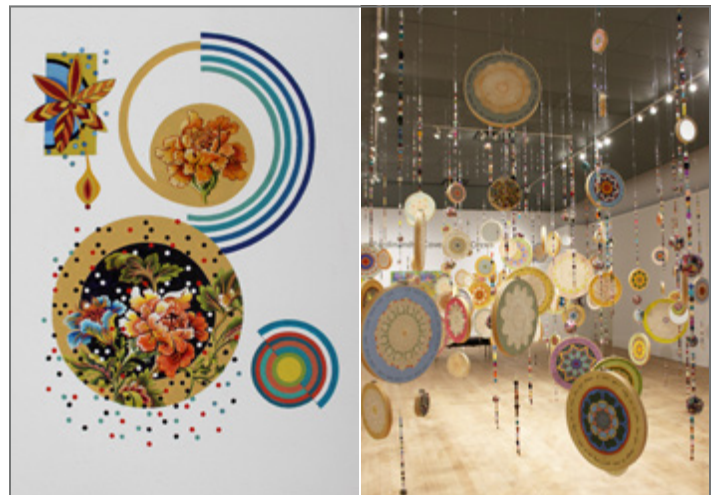
During our visit, we discussed with Frances the themes of transformation, cultural and gender identity, migration and transience that are explored in her work. The idea of “cultural intersections” is key, merging different visual languages and traditions. For example, one finds Islamic patterns transposed onto unexpected vessels, blending the decorative with the political.



No Fixed Address, acrylic on canvas, 24" x 24", 2022

We also talked about the almost musical flow and counterpoint that her work exhibits. Frances begins each piece with broad, simple shapes, and then intuitively builds in increasingly complex elements, patterns, textures and images. One can't help but see the influence of J. S. Bach, a composer Frances greatly admires, as she develops her paintings through multiple overlapping layers and embellishments.

A solo show of recent work by Frances Ferdinands, entitled “Covenant of Circles”, was held this spring at the **Art Gallery of Northumberland**. Eliciting comments such as “stunning” and “impressive”, the show was comprised of colourful acrylic works on paper, large vibrant canvasses, and, at the heart of the exhibition, an installation entitled “109: The Domestic & Divine”. This installation consisted of an array of intricate circular embroidery hoops suspended from the ceiling on strings of vintage beads, all in slow and ever changing juxtaposition as they turn in space.



Celebration, acrylic on watercolour paper, 2022

109: The Domestic & Divine

If you would like to spend a delightful time exploring the work of Frances Ferdinands at her studio on Vimy Ridge Road, you are invited to make an appointment by emailing francesjferdinands@gmail.com or through her website at francesferdinands.com.



Major Upcoming Events

Port Hope House Tour Saturday, October 5, 10-4 (in-town and unaffected by construction) (p. 1)

Bus Tour April 30, 2025 (p. 2)

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Name(s): _____

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New or **Renewal**

Individual Membership: \$40

Household Membership: \$50

Full-time Student Membership: \$20

Tax Creditable Donation: _____

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

1. 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.

2. 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**

3. Credit Card: to pay by VISA or MasterCard, contact Architectural Conservancy Ontario (acontario.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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