

Chairs' Report

The late summer **ACO Port Hope Walking Tours** were very successful this year with approximately 80 participants all told. We commend our excellent tour guides and the members of the **Education Committee** for all their hard work in providing these wonderful Tours. The Education Committee is busy planning their schedule of tours for next spring, summer and fall.

Many thanks to those ACO members who attended the **Special Council Meeting** on October 2nd, 2024, to hear a deputation by the **Save Our Trees** organization and a presentation by representatives from **Canadian Nuclear Laboratories** on the proposed change to the arsenic cleanup criterion for the **Port Hope Area Initiative**. Please see the *Advocacy Update* in this issue for more information about the meeting and its outcome.

We offer congratulations to the **Port Hope Heritage Foundation** for their **House Tour** on October 5th, which, by all accounts, was a resounding success. Over \$40,000 was raised for heritage restoration in Port Hope. You will also be interested to know that almost 150 ACO members volunteered to help our sister organization with this event.

ACO Port Hope's plans for the Holiday Season are well underway. For the **Port Hope Santa Claus Parade** on November 30th, the Education Committee will be participating by passing out candy canes and pages from our recently published 60th Anniversary Colouring Book. Thanks to our TCS student partner, **Michelle K.**, and her team for helping to prepare the handouts for the parade.

On Friday, December 6th, our annual members' **Holiday Party** will be held at **77 Augusta Street**. Many thanks to **Jenny and Denzil Wadds** for offering to host this much anticipated event in their beautiful home. Appreciation also goes out to **Anna Gray** and her committee for their hard work in organizing this event. More information about the party is available in this issue of ACO Matters.

Our 60th Anniversary *Port Hope Heritage Colouring Book* has just been restocked at Furby House Books and are selling well. They would make excellent 'stocking stuffers' or 'little extras' during the Holiday season of giving.

We wish you a wonderful autumn season.

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

2024 ACO Christmas Party

Jenny and Denzil Wadds are generously opening their beautiful and spacious home for the ACO Christmas party.

The first owner of **77 Augusta** was William Burnham and a later one was Baron Adolphe Von Hugel, son of the Secretary of State for Bavaria. Von Hugel was President of the Midland Railway which connected with the Grand Trunk Railway at Port Hope, and became mayor of Port Hope from 1883-4 (He was also the first person to introduce a typewriter to Port Hope!)

Because the party is being held in a private home it is necessary to limit the number of guests to ACO Port Hope members only.



*Christmas Party,
continued on page 2*

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Education

Katherine McHarg, Jenny Wadds

Membership

Lydia Bell-Gradon

Newsletter & Bus Tour

Patsy Beeson

Next Gen

Marina Smirnova

Christmas Party, continued from page 1

We do hope that you can join us for a wonderful event at the start of the Christmas season.

- **LOCATION:** 77 Augusta Street, Port Hope
- **DATE & TIME:** Friday, December 6, 5:30 – 8 pm
- **PRICE:** \$48 per person, payable in advance. Members only.
- **ATTENDANCE:** There will be no admission without prior reservation and payment. The deadline for payment is Wednesday, November 27.
- **PARKING:** We encourage car pooling. It will be possible to drop someone off close to the front door and then turn around and park on the street.
- **BAR SERVICE:** The bar service is by donation which covers the cost of the libations (we hope!). So please bring CASH to drop in the donation bowls by the bars.

To reserve your ticket, please email **Lydia Bell-Gradon** at tickets@acoporthope.ca to register on the guest list. To register on the guest list. Your reservation will be confirmed by email and payment instructions will be given then.

Any New Nominees for ACO Executive Members?

A Nominating Committee has been established to prepare a slate of Director nominees for presentation and election at the Annual Meeting on 20th February, '25. Anyone interested in serving on the ACO Executive Committee should contact Ian MacKay at ian.mackay@rogers.com as soon as possible. If you would like to join one of our committees or our list of volunteers, please call 905-885-7929 any time.

Advocacy Update

The ACO Port Hope membership was well-represented at the Special Council Meeting held on October 2nd, 2024 to hear a presentation by representatives from CNL on their proposed change to the arsenic cleanup criterion for the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI). At the meeting, Council also heard from Robert Fishlock on behalf of the **Save Our Trees** organization. Back in 2019, the ACO Port Hope Advocacy Committee had expressed concerns about the potential loss of trees, vegetation and heritage landscapes that could result from the arsenic cleanup and had suggested that a change in the criterion might be considered. During their presentation, the CNL representatives made compelling arguments in support of their proposed change, and, at the end of the meeting, Council put forward and unanimously passed a motion to support the CNL request to change the cleanup criterion for arsenic from 18 parts per million (ppm) to 50 ppm.

There have been several developments with regard to the **Nicholson File Factory** property since the last Advocacy Update. On September 23rd, 2024, the ACO Port Hope Advocacy Committee wrote a letter to Municipal Council reminding them that, despite the recent loss of some valuable heritage assets on the File Factory site, the property is still designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and that a number of heritage attributes described in the designation by-law still remain on the property including the original Beamish Mill, the north buildings, and other artifacts. The Committee also mentioned in the letter that we look forward to further discussions with the Municipality concerning the future of this important industrial heritage property. The owner of the File Factory site, Spotlight Developments, is now showing on their website that the property will be developed as a “future commercial factory,” but it seems that no further details have been made public. As far as the clean-up of the File Factory site following the fire is concerned, the Mayor recently reported that the Property Standards Committee met on October 21st to hear an appeal by Spotlight’s legal counsel on the Municipality’s Order to Remedy with respect to the clean-up.

Advocacy, continued on page 3



Advocacy, continued from page 1

After deliberation, the Property Standards Committee voted to uphold the Property Standards Order to Remedy, and the owner of the property was given 20 days to clean up the property in accordance with the order. Spotlight Development is entitled to appeal this decision to provincial court.

The recent circumstances with regard to the File Factory have highlighted the need for the strengthened Property Standards By-Law that has recently been under review. On October 22nd at the Committee of the Whole meeting, the revised draft Property Standards By-Law was presented. The Advocacy Committee was pleased that the by-law now includes a section devoted to designated heritage properties and that some of our additional recommended changes were added in the revisions. We were concerned, however, that the revised draft by-law still does not include a more detailed definition of the terms ‘heritage attribute’ and ‘maintenance as they apply to heritage properties.

We were particularly disappointed that the document did not include a provision requiring regular inspections of vacant or damaged buildings, where lack of oversight often results in the loss of heritage integrity, if the property is designated, as well as demolition by neglect and dangers to public safety. In a recent letter to Council the Advocacy Committee expressed these concerns and made additional recommendations around appropriate utilities remaining connected in a vacant or damaged building and the need for some clarifications within the by-law as a whole.

Port Hope citizens may have noticed that the foliage has been tidied up and that the grass has been cut at 65 Ward Street in response to a complaint from a member of the Public. They may also have seen that the lower windows and doors have been boarded up to prevent access to the old hospital building which is still being allowed to deteriorate through neglect. Unfortunately, there has been no new information as yet with regard to Southbridge’s appeal to divisional court.

– Susan Layard



Prince Edward County Bus Tour update

April 30, 2025

We can’t believe how lucky we’ve been in the venues we’ve managed to line up for the April Bus Tour. However, various matters have still to be finalized regarding pricing so bookings will not be accepted until the February newsletter.

Our buffet lunch will also be in a very interesting setting — **Picton United Church** — and the organizer just happens to be the vice president of ACO’s new branch in PEC, Debra Marshall! So expect a friendly welcome and a delicious lunch.

To mention just two of our six venues, we’ll have a tour of the amazing **Crystal Palace** in the afternoon. Constructed in 1887, it was once one of many North American replicas of the great 1851 Crystal Palace in London but is now the only one of its kind remaining on the continent. We’ll also visit the Grandstand of the old racetrack that once occupied the same property.

Our last stop will be **Cold Creek Vineyards**, the restored farm and barn of Chris Braney, in Hillier. Chris produces both wine and cider in his Cold Creek Vineyards.

This promises to be a most interesting day so come aboard and meet fellow members in a daylong exposure to some great architectural history and restoration. It’s not too far, not too long and rich in interest.

Bus Tour Committee:
Patsy Beeson, Peter McLaughlin & Denise Johnston





Marion Garland, A Founding Member

Marion Garland was a force of Nature, whose strident voice was one of the loudest at Port Hope ACO during its early days. She used to say she came by it honestly, being the only female on the faculty at TCS. Indeed, you could be sure that she would speak fervently on behalf of preservation whenever a matter of heritage was up for discussion.

As we continue to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our branch, we are delighted to reprise this short article, which documents Marion's accomplishments as one of our founding members. It was written by her friend, Paul Godfrey, shortly after Marion's death in 1998. No wonder the ACO named an award for her. — Tom Cruickshank

MARION! by Paul Godfrey

Marion Walker Garland was born before the First World War in Evanston, Illinois, youngest child of a successful American businessman and a Canadian mother from near Hamilton. Her father died soon after the war and mother and child moved to Toronto where she attended Bishop Strachan School. In the late 1920s she and her mother spent a year in Europe where Marion attended Swiss finishing school and 'came out' in London. On her return to Toronto in 1929 she attended a party at the newly opened Royal York Hotel.

She married John Garland, an Englishman, and in the mid 1930s John, engaged in road building north of Toronto, moved to a lake near Dorset. Here the two built a log cabin (Marion's Roughing it in The Bush period!), where her daughter, Pam, spent her early childhood. Life wasn't easy for the young family with the limited shopping of 1930s Dorset quite a paddle away. Her colourful language probably stemmed from this time in her life!

In 1939 the family moved to Port Hope. She used to say she'd probably have to wait at least fifty years before being accepted as a true Port Hoper. In fact, she lived there for sixty, fifty-nine of them in the house on Augusta Street where she remained until her death.

During World War 2 Marion was virtually a single mother as John was working in Newfoundland. Besides her own two children, she accommodated two Scottish girl evacuees, and during Christmas and Easter holidays, Trinity

College School boarders who could only visit far distant homes in the long summer vacation. It was at this time that Marion made many lifelong local friendships.

Her interest in architectural conservancy started in Toronto in the 1930s when she met Eric Arthur, Tony Adamson, author of *The Ancestral Roof*, and Verschoyle Blake, who wrote *Rural Ontario*. Through Tony Adamson she also met Frank Lloyd Wright.

In 1964 the ACO Port Hope branch was founded by Jack Adamson (no relation to Tony), Mrs. Dann, Marion Garland, Roger Kirkpatrick, Dr. Ross Richardson (then owner of the Bluestone), and Peter Schultz (publisher of *The Evening Guide*). Peter became the first president. Charles Tidy and Roger Carr were also early supporters.

Peter Schultz and Marion organized the first House Tour and Marion wrote up the notes on the styles, dates and architectural features of the houses. At about the same time, the first building on Walton Street, the St. Lawrence Hotel (now the St. Lawrence Apartments) was saved through Peter's efforts.

Marion continued her involvement in the house tours and also produced two booklets, *Architectural Styles and Terms*, receiving considerable assistance from Peter Stokes (Stokes was preparing a study of Walton Street in 1978 which ultimately led to the designation of Port Hope's central area).

Keen to display the beauty of Port Hope's homes and their interiors, Marion had no desire to show off her own! If it were ever suggested she would say, "I will



Marion Garland in front of her 86 August Street fireplace, December 1991. Photo by Helen Kucey

stand at the door and pay people not to come in!"

After her second booklet had been published, I was helping out by selling it in a house north of Port Hope. When anyone came through who, to my knowledge, knew Marion, I would tell him or her that I'd inform Marion if there was no sale. This horrified her! However when I mentioned that I'd sold over seventy copies she was somewhat mollified as the money was going to the Port Hope ACO!

In 1976 she succeeded Peter Stokes as editor of the Acorn and continued as editor for eleven years, simultaneously acting as an ex-officio member on the ACO's governing council. And when Port Hope Council started LACAC, she chaired it until 1997. She also continued writing the Port Hope House Tour notes for the next decade, and for a time assessed the features of houses requesting historic designation. She was very firm about this. Page 63 of Tom Cruickshank's and John de Visser's *Port Hope: A Treasury of Early Homes* excellently illustrates her determined march up the front path of a house!

Marion, continued on page 5



Marion, continued from page 4

Over and above all this the inexhaustible Marion taught Developmental Reading at TCS.

She also led local bus tours for the ACO and occasionally for TCS on May alumni weekends. On one of her first, two close friends of hers remarked as they disembarked that they “didn’t know how anybody could talk so long and say so little!” She wasn’t above telling her passengers — particularly on the TCS tours, and definitely if they had been one of her ex-pupils and/or their parents — to “Sit down and shut-up so the tour can begin.”

She was, besides, passionately concerned with the Women’s Guild and the creation of goods for St. Mark’s Church’ Hollyberry Bazaar. In addition, she entertained her children, grandchildren and great-grand- children, gardened, produced pottery, made preserves, played tennis and bridge and spent much time with friends, particularly her close friends and neighbours, the Tidys, Farwells and Lays. She helped found a writers’ guild which resulted in her other book, *Sorry Sir, I mean Ma’am*, a memoir of her teaching career at TCS. And for the stage she wrote two plays based on local incidents, performed in Port Hope, and acted in commercially produced plays as part of the Rigby Players.

Finally, she joined the Community Advisory Board of the *Port Hope Evening Guide*, spotting a grammatical or spelling error at 100 yards and fearlessly informing the editor. The monthly meetings were probably quite stimulating!

Feisty, fearless and forthright, Marion lived life at full charge experiencing both ends of the economic pole, and her death in 1998 created an enormous vacuum in the life of the town she loved.

With the kind assistance of Peter Stokes, Pam (Garland) Ogilvie, Anita Blackwood, Nancy Redner, Rod Stewart, Patsy Beeson, Helen Lay Kucey and Ed Pamenter.

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Live Auction

The ACO Live Auction team is excited to follow up on the success of this year’s auction. We are calling for quality donations now. All proceeds of the auction go to Port Hope ACO to support heritage in our community.

When: April 27/2025
Where: Port Hope Recreation Centre Gymnasium
To Donate: Please email Blaise Gaetz (blaisegaetz@gmail.com) and/or Brian Buttery (brianabuttery@gmail.com) and include photos of items you wish to donate. Selected items will be appraised and tax receipts issued following the sale.

- Examples of items sought for donation:**
- Georgian/Victorian/Deco/ MCM furniture
 - Antique and vintage artwork
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Port Hope ACO Heritage Colouring Book

By Katherine McHarg

Forty years ago, a team of people from the Port Hope ACO and the Diamond Triangle Economic Development Co. worked together to create *The Town and Country Colouring Book*, with beautiful drawings by Marg Round. The book was divided into geographic sections between Port Hope and Cobourg, showcasing heritage structures and landscapes in the urban and rural environments.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of our Port Hope ACO branch, co-chairs **Susan Layard** and **Katherine McHarg** wanted to present a new version of this useful and charming collection of drawings, updating the information on each drawing from the original book. Additionally, two Marion Garland pocket-sized reference guides to heritage architectural styles and elements were added as chapters.

A final bonus section was a wonderful selection of measured drawings compiled by **Chris Wallace** from his classmates from the University of Toronto Architecture School. The complete collection of original drawings resides in the Ontario Archives, but we picked just six as a sample of important structures around our community.

The *Port Hope Heritage Colouring Book* was compiled and edited in April of 2024, with assistance from **Tom Cruickshank**, **Lee Caswell**, **Anita Blackwood**, **Chris Wallace**, **Madeline McHarg**, and **Greg McHarg**. Copies were delivered to **Furby House Books** for sale to the public at \$10 per copy.

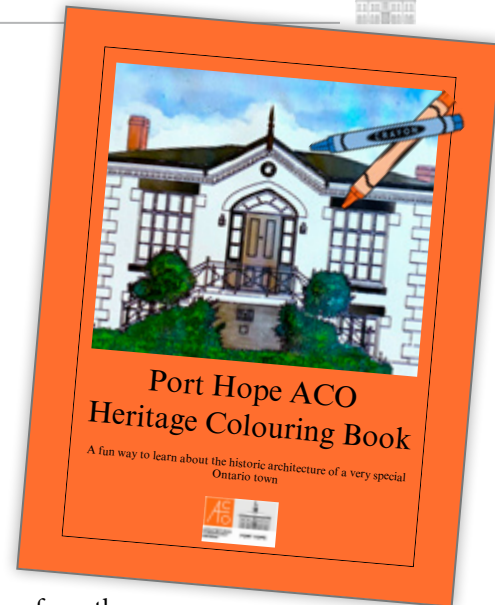
One of the main goals of this publication was to provide an educational resource to local schools in Port Hope. To that end, several copies were donated to each school and library in our community for their continued use as a reference guide.

Teachers can photocopy pages from the book for repeated student use as required.

Our book launch was hosted by the Mary J Benson branch of the Port Hope Public Library on May 16. It was a delightful affair with community members dropping by to purchase the book, and actually sit down and colour together. **Lisa O'Leary** and her team at the PHPL were wonderful hosts, providing refreshments and joined in the colouring fun themselves.


Looking forward to the completion of the Walton Street Reconstruction next month, we are hoping to have a small presence in the November 30th **Port Hope Santa Claus Parade**, where our volunteers will pass out candy canes and pages from the colouring book for families to enjoy.

To buy your own copy of this fabulous book, head over to **Furby House Books** at 65 Walton Street! Every penny of the \$10 price goes directly to support heritage conservation in our community.



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Major Upcoming Events

- Port Hope Santa Claus Parade** November 30
- ACO Christmas Party** December 6 (p. 1)
- Annual Meeting** February 20, 2025
- Live Auction** April 27, 2025 (p. 5)
- Bus Tour** Bus Tour April 30, 2025 (p. 3)

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New or Renewal

Individual Membership: \$40

Household Membership: \$50

Full-time Student Membership: \$20

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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

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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