

## CHAIRS' REPORT

As we both sit down to write this greeting, we enjoy the return of the autumn colours, the crisp air outdoors, and hopefully the continuing brilliant sunshine. The reopening of Walton Street has been a lift for the entire community. We were so proud to see our heritage districts shine on the recent *Breakfast Television* episode. The HBIAs children's trick or treat event was an outpouring of community spirit.

We offer congratulations to the **Port Hope House Tour Committee** for their spectacular fall offering this year. An unprecedented number of guests enjoyed eleven wonderful properties and raised a considerable amount of money to be used in heritage work locally. Thank you to everyone who worked on this successful tour.

Our Port Hope **ACO Education Committee** Walking Tours wrapped up for the season, after a very successful year. Our new tour of Englishtown was very popular, as was the perpetual favourite, *Parade of Stately Homes: Augusta and Dorset Street West*. In all, fifty-four guests joined us this fall for a stroll and an opportunity to learn a little more about the history of our neighbourhoods. For more information about the walking tour season, please read the article later in this edition.

While we are celebrating learning about heritage, we must congratulate **Bruce Bowden** and **Nigel Dickson** on the publication of their book *Ontario's Port Hope – A Cultural Story*. This richly illustrated book provides a wealth of information about our town and its architecture. The book launch at St. Mark's Parish Hall on September 27 was organized by Port Hope Friends of the Library together with St. Mark's Heritage Foundation and the ACO Port Hope branch. To get your copy of this book, head to Furby House Books on Walton Street. And while you are there, don't forget your copy of *Sixty Reasons to Celebrate* by **Phil Carter** and **Susan Carmichael** or our fun *ACO Port Hope heritage colouring book*.

We were excited to be approached by Furby House to welcome **Dan Schneider** and **Lynne diStefano** in

presenting their book *The Ontario Cottage – Perfect of its Kind*. This book launch took place on November 1 at the Sculthorpe Room in the Capitol Theatre, which also became a partner in creating this event. This was a paywhat-you-can presentation, with all proceeds going to our local Friends of the Library.

One of the most exciting events of the fall will be the **ACO Port Hope Live Auction** on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Town Park Recreation Centre gymnasium. Over two hundred items will be auctioned, and the committee is also holding a huge tag sale, with items priced at \$5, \$10, or \$20. Refreshments by Queenies Cafe are available onsite for purchase, and you can also buy the ACO Port Hope books mentioned above, as well as *Ontario's Port Hope – A Cultural Story*. Doors open at 11:00 am for the tag sale and viewing, with the auction starting at noon. Many thanks to **Brian Buttery** and **Blaise Gaetz** for all their hard work in putting together this highly anticipated event.

Finally, we are looking forward to seeing you at the annual **ACO Holiday Party**, which is being held at **Hill and Dale Estate**, the home of **Allison Doyle**, on Friday, December 5. This promises to be a spectacular event. For more information, please see the Holiday Party invitation, later in this newsletter.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy autumn season.

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

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# EXECUTIVE

## Executive Committee

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**Co-Chair**

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**Treasurer**

Brenda Willows

**Secretary**

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Susan Layard

**Communications & Marketing**

Laura Antonik

**Education**

Katherine McHarg, Jenny Wadds

**Grants**

Susan Carmichael

**Membership**

Lydia Bell-Gradon Svenningson

**Newsletter**

Patsy Beeson

# 2025 ACO HOLIDAY PARTY: HILL AND DALE ESTATE

**Allison Doyle** is generously opening her beautiful and spacious home for the ACO Holiday party at **47 Pine Street South** on **Friday, December 5**. The party will be held from **5:30 to 8:00**.

Because the party is being held in a private home it is necessary to limit the number of guests to Port Hope ACO members only. Catering will be provided by **Jayne Dunsmore of Jayne's Gourmet** and tickets are going on sale for \$55.00. Bar is by donation. The event is being organized by **Darlene King and Shirley Richardson**, and their team of merry volunteers.

Parking is extremely limited on Pine Street and on Strachan and Augusta Streets, so carpooling is recommended. There is a drop off circle for guests who have mobility issues. And there is additional parking at the Lion's Club parking lot on Strachan Street.

An incredibly significant property in the centre of the heritage districts, **Hill and Dale** is a four-acre estate in the heart of Port Hope built for Henry Howard Meredith in the early 1850's. Hill and Dale represents a fascinating blend of architectural styles with rectangular bay windows, new entrances, and extensive covered verandahs. The view of the town below from one of the covered porches is an unexpected treat. Visiting Hill and Dale is like discovering an oasis hidden in the centre of the town.

**Tickets go on sale shortly for this special event via Eventbrite. Watch your e-mails in the coming weeks for the opening of ticket sales.**



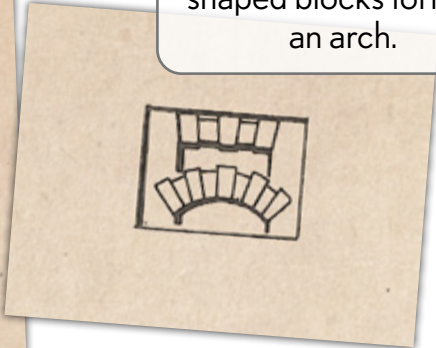


# SO'S YOU KNOW!



**QUOIN**  
(Fr. *coin*=corner) A term applied to the corner-stones at the angles of buildings.

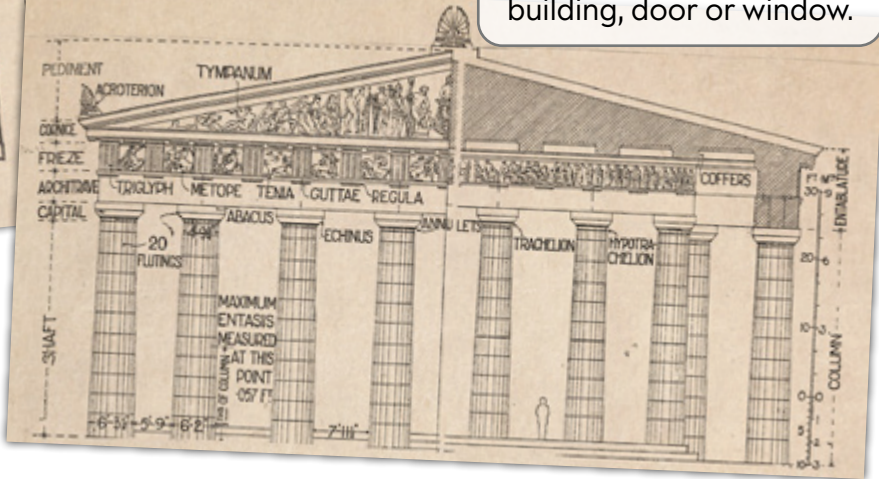
**VOUSSOIRS**  
The truncated wedge-shaped blocks forming an arch.



**PEDIMENT**  
Low triangle ornamenting the front or gable end of a building, door or window.



**MANSARD ROOF**  
A roof with steep lower slope and flatter upper portion named after the architect Francois Mansart (1598-1666).



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# WALKING TOURS FOR 2025 – THAT’S A WRAP!

An Education Committee Report by Katherine McHarg

One of the prettiest sights in this lovely town on a Saturday morning was the view of a heritage tour guide leading a group up and down our streets, pointing out the hidden stories and architectural features of a property. Hurray for walking tours!

It was an unbelievably lucky year for our education committee, weather-wise. Our Saturday morning heritage walking tours were both well attended and blessed with beautiful clear mornings. Not once did a tour have to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

This year, our committee and tour guides presented four different tours over eleven Saturdays, resulting in spring tour sales of 39, and fall tour sales of 54. Well over two thousand dollars was raised by this initiative, but the main priority was to raise the awareness of Port Hope heritage. Our tour groups became so large we had to purchase a wireless voice amplifier for the guide to wear, ensuring that guests could hear all the tidbits and historical facts.

This year, we were approached to offer a special tour for the Canadian Nautical Research Society, who were visiting town and holding their annual conference here. We created a customized tour with a focus on nautical matters, and despite some rain, an

intrepid group set out to explore the river trail down to the train tracks and harbour.

Huge thanks and congratulations go out to our loyal, well-informed tour guides: **Brian Buttery, Lois Brown, Tom Cruickshank, Helen Evans, Jane Watanabe, and Bruce Bowden.** Thanks also to **Marnie Bickle** for writing and researching our tours, often collaboratively with the guides. And without **Jennifer Wadds** coordinating sales through our Eventbrite platform, we wouldn't have any guests at all!

As our committee looks forward to next season, we are considering which tours to continue, and which to pause for a year or two. We are developing new tours which also promise to be entertaining and educational. And surprising!

As the education committee continues to plan for the upcoming year, we are working on projects including book launches/presentations, local lectures and events. We hope to build even stronger partnerships with our local schools, and are hoping to deepen our service learning work with the next generation.

See you on the street for next year's season of heritage walking tours!



## 2026 ACO BUS TOUR TO TRENT HILLS

Our 18th annual ACO bus tour has morphed from a Campbellford bus tour into a Trent Hills bus tour. Make sure that Wednesday, April 29, 2026 is marked on your calendar.

We promise you a stimulating, thought provoking tour of Trent Hills where many architectural gems are scattered on the landscape — From granite and limestone houses to those designed with sustainability in mind.

We will not be taking bookings until February. We are just whetting your appetite for a lovely day out in the country on April 29, 2026 to learn about and be inspired by the tender loving care people have spent, with great pleasure, on their properties throughout history. Please join us!

Any questions, contact **Denise, ACO Cobourg**, e-mail: [johnson.4d@gmail.com](mailto:johnson.4d@gmail.com).





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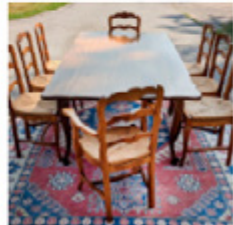
# LIVE AUCTION

## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9 2025

PORT HOPE TOWN PARK  
RECREATION CENTRE

**11:00** AM  
JUMBO  
TAG SALE

**12:00** PM  
AUCTION  
STARTS



Payment by cash, cheque, debit and credit. Bring your own transportation for larger items. All proceeds go towards heritage restoration in our community.

View more auction items @



[acoporthope.ca](http://acoporthope.ca)



# 2026 Heritage Trip to France A WEEK AT THE CHATEAU

April 18 - 25, 2026

by Anna Gray



HISTORY, HERITAGE, & HOSPITALITY in South- West France at the Chateau de Borie

Cultural exploration with visits to a winery, markets and historical sites, combined with chef prepared dinners and lots of free time to enjoy with a convivial group.

All rooms have a private bathroom and some rooms are ensuite.

For further information, please contact **Abigail Carter** at **abby@chateaubdrie.com** or visit her website at **chateauborie.com**.

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## Major Upcoming Events

- Live Auction** November 9, 11am (p. 7)
- Holiday Party** December 5 (p. 7)
- Bus Tour** April 29, 2026 (p. 7)

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## 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 Patsy Beeson at [pbeeson@eagle.ca](mailto:pbeeson@eagle.ca).**



## Membership Renewal Form

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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New or**  **Renewal**

**Individual Membership: \$50**

**Household Membership (for 2): \$65**

**Each Additional Member: \$15**

**Full-time Student/Emerging Professional: \$20**

**Tax Creditable Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Membership is free for individuals who donate a minimum of \$1,000 in the calendar year.*

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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](mailto: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 ([acountario.ca](http://acountario.ca)) online or by telephone at **416-367-8075 ext. 404**. Please indicate that you wish to join the Port Hope branch.

