

Port Hope Architectural Conservancy Begins Work on Historic Chapel

Port Hope Ontario, August 15th, 2006 — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

The Port Hope Branch of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario has begun preservation work on the historic chapel located in Union Cemetery, Port Hope. Long unused, the vacant chapel is much in need of repairs to preserve the integrity of the structure. The building is in need of paint, as it has not been attended to for several years. The ACO has hired a contractor to re-caulk, prime and paint the exterior clapboard and trim and to replace damaged and rotted areas.

Also planned is the restoration of deteriorating window sash and strengthening of the floor. Years ago, a trap door was cut in the centre of the floor and the floor joists were severely weakened, resulting in an unsafe condition. This will be rectified with the addition of new structural members as prescribed by a consulting engineer hired by the ACO.

The church, which dates from the 1880's, was traditionally used for funeral services at the cemetery but was deconsecrated years ago. It is hoped that with these improvements, new uses can be found for the building, which is an excellent example of a wooden vernacular church building.

The ACO was founded in Toronto in 1933 by architect Eric Arthur to help preserve Ontario's architecturally significant landscapes and structures for future generations. There are eleven branches across Ontario of which the Port Hope ACO Branch is the largest and most active.

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For more information on the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Port Hope Branch, contact Ken Burgin, 905-885-2510 or email: ken@contextcom.com