

# ACO Matters

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario – Port Hope Branch

Newsletter – February 2011

## **100 Years Ago!**

**Phil Carter on our Library Building, its background, and its 100th birthday this year! ...See pages 6 & 7**

## **President's Report:**

**H**APPY NEW YEAR. The year 2010 was a productive year for Port Hope ACO. The Board has undertaken a number of initiatives that have, I believe, strengthened our organization.

This past year, as instructed by the Annual General Meeting 2010, we undertook a Governance Review. The members of the Committee for this review were Charles Wickett (Chair), Sue Stickley, Bob Harrison, Trish Doney and Ed Pamenter. They have worked hard and developed an excellent Governance document that addresses how the Board and its Committees should operate. This document could well become a template for other Chapters of the ACO, as well as volunteer boards of other agencies. I wish to thank the Committee for their diligence and efforts, and, in particular, Sue Stickley and Bob Harrison, the two non-Board members of the Committee.

This year, our House Tour was a great success and as usual, was “sold out”. Thanks to Susan Carmichael, the Chair, and to her Committee and the many volunteers who helped make the 2010 House Tour such a success. Next year, the Tour will be jointly chaired by Lee Caswell and Blaise Gaetz. It brings many people to Port Hope, and showcases not only the houses on the tour, but the Municipality as a whole. Given the negative image we have just witnessed, this positive showcasing takes on added significance.

The Board has undertaken a number of projects, such as St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Restoration, and others are under review. One building of special interest is the Central School on Pine Street North. This building is now for sale and hence its future is unknown. It is a wonderful structure, built in 1912 in a formal classical style. The classrooms are intact, complete with large original



windows, maple floors, chalkboards and cloakrooms. All that's missing is the roll-down map of the world with the “Empire” coloured pink. We hope for and will encourage development that will retain this wonderful heritage asset.

In my last President's Report I noted that the Bandshell in Memorial park was constructed by volunteers after the Second World War. A member has informed me that there is some record that the Bandshell was constructed in 1922 by WWI Veterans. Is this the same Bandshell? Anyone wishing to weigh in on this mystery is encouraged to reply.

As outlined in the Governance document, a Nominations Committee was formed to select a slate of candidates for the 2011 Board to be presented at the AGM. At the same event, the Marion Garland Award will be presented. One of the recipients is Mell Chapple who we greatly regret to announce died very recently. Mell was a dedicated supporter of heritage in Port Hope over the last 40 years.

I look forward to seeing all ACO members at the Annual General Meeting on February 17, 2011. It promises to be an entertaining evening. Our speaker will be Michael McClelland, principal of ERA Architects, a firm specializing in heritage work. Michael is highly respected in the heritage field. I'm very excited about being able to get Michael and I think it will be a great talk.

Other events of note are the ACO Antiques and Artifacts Auction on April 10, 2011 at Town Park Recreation Centre; the Bus Tour to Prince Edward County on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, and the Biennial Garden Tour. I would also remind you of the ACO/CHO Conference on June 3-5, 2011 hosted by the Cobourg ACO. The theme is “Creating the Will”. It promises to be a good conference.

*Phillip H. Carter*  
*M. Arch., M.C.P., OAA, FRAIC, CAHP*

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**ACO Board of Directors 2010**

**Executive Committee**

- Phil Carter ..... President
- Tom Cruickshank ..... Vice President
- Penny Harris..... Secretary
- Eileen Ford..... Treasurer

**Directors**

- Patsy Beeson
- Susan Carmichael
- Judith Copeland
- Patricia Doney
- Ed Pamerter
- Charles Wickett
- Lee Caswell..... Advisor

**Committee Chairs**

- Joan Tooke ..... Auction
- Patsy Beeson ..... Bus Tour & Newsletter
- Patricia McCaw..... Newsletter Layout
- Mary Shaw-Rimington ..... Garden Tour
- Charles Wickett..... Governance
- Susan Carmichael..... House Tour
- Trish Doney..... Membership
- Tom Cruickshank..... Projects & Auction
- Ed Pamerter ..... Property & HPH Rep.
- Gerald Tooke..... Publications
- Mary Trevor ..... Scholarship
- Judith Copeland ..... Social

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**Proposed ACO Board of Directors 2011**

(Proposed changes are underlined)

**Executive Committee**

- President – Phil Carter
- Vice-President – Proposed –Trish Doney
- Treasurer – Eileen Ford
- Secretary – Proposed – Susan Carmichael

**Directors**

- Patsy Beeson Proposed – Lee Caswell
- Judith Copeland Proposed – Sebastian Hanna
- Tom Cruickshank Proposed – Peter Kedwell
- Charles Wickett

**Advisor**

- Ed Pamerter

*Come to the*

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!**

Thursday, February, 17th, 2011 at 7pm  
at the Capitol Theatre

Meet your fellow ACO members over a glass of wine and nibbles. Then find out what our lively branch has achieved in the last year and what lies ahead for it. Also, what are the proposals for our new Board of Directors (see the proposed Board for 2011 above). And learn who's to be the recipient(s) of the Garland Award for the best contributions to architectural conservancy or skilful restoration design.

The new Governance Procedures are now posted on our ACO website, [www.acoporthope.ca](http://www.acoporthope.ca), for all members to review prior to the AGM, and, if wished, to make a copy.

We are delighted to announce that our speaker will be Michael McClelland, principal of ERA Architects, a major firm specializing in heritage work. Michael is highly respected in the heritage field, has undertaken many high-profile heritage projects, and has participated in numerous conferences and symposia on heritage matters. We are excited about being able to get Michael, and know it will be a great talk.

See you there!

## 7th Annual Antiques & Artifacts ~ Sunday, April 10th, 2011

Port Hope Town Park Recreation Centre

**M**any thanks for the encouraging support already given to Antiques & Artifacts 2011. Ed Pamerter and his volunteer crew have been busy collecting your donations for this year's Auction and Tag Sale. Many items have been photographed. The poster and promotional cards will be available for the ACO Annual General Meeting in February.

We are looking forward to working with our new auctioneer, Rob Rusland of Rusland's Auctioneers in Peterborough. He is very experienced and comes to us highly recommended.

The committee is still looking for "great stuff" ranging from china and furniture to art and architectural artifacts. We are very interested in acquiring items from the 1950s and are aware of the popularity of items that reflect the industrial look of that period. Items for the Tag Sale should reflect the Antiques and Artifacts theme. Items better suited to yard sales should be donated to a yard sale.

We are also looking for donations of services or special small items for the Silent Auction. This will be limited to ten or twelve lots. We are very excited about receiving a complete set of Elbert Hubbard's Little Journeys, published prior to World War One, by Roycroft. This 28-volume set will be included in the Silent Auction.

Chairs 'R Us was such a great success in 2010 that it will be repeated in 2011 along with a companion feature – Windows 'R Us. These displays will be located in the gym and the hall.



Anything donated to Antiques and Artifacts should be in good condition or easily repairable. We can arrange to have larger items picked up. We are unable to accept mattresses. Drapes, electronics, non-vintage appliances and records or CDs are best donated elsewhere.

Donation forms are available from Joan Tooke (getjet@sympatico.ca) and arrangements for receipt or pickup can be made by contacting Ed Pamerter at 905-885-2737.

The Tag Sale and Auction Preview will open at 10 am, and the Auction will begin at 1 pm. Chairs 'R Us and Windows 'R Us will open for sales and bids can be placed on Silent Auction items beginning at 10 am.

We look forward to seeing you at the Town Park Recreation Centre on April 10th. Please bring your friends.

*Joan Tooke, Chair  
Antiques & Artifacts Committee*

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## Annual ACO Port Hope & Cobourg Bus Tour to Prince Edward County ~ April 27th, 2011

We're touring Prince Edward County this time, specifically Picton, Glenora, and North Marysburgh (Waupoos area). We'll be visiting various places of great architectural interest, several privately owned.

Among the latter is the 1806 Van Alstine's Mill, one of two splendid stone buildings at the Glenora Ferry Dock, prominently visible as you approach by water. It was built by Major Peter Van Alstine, once one of the area's most influential figures. At one time John A. MacDonald's father was the mill manager and John A. knew it well when young. It has been converted to a home by a retired professor from York University who is kindly allowing us to visit.

We'll also visit Cressy House, an old house with the distinctive 'Marysburgh gable', on the lakeshore in North Marysburgh, restored with great flair by its owner. And following that

we'll visit Hayes Inn, Prince Edward County's oldest inn, a gem of a little 1838 Greek Revival building, which, in the 1960s when it was 150 years old was moved from



Consecon to its present site. It's new owners, sticklers for authenticity, have turned it into the perfect little B & B.

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After lunch at Waring House, Peter Lockyer, former CBC Radio and Television Broadcaster and founder of History Lives Here Inc., will take us on a tour of Picton; after which we'll have tea in a handsome church, and our usual refreshments on the way home.

We're still tweaking the schedule, but probable departure times will be 7.45 am. from Port Hope and 8 am. from Cobourg, returning between 6 - 6.30pm. We'll confirm this nearer the time.

N.B. Several of the old buildings have quite challenging stairs, and at one or two points a certain amount of walking (3 minutes at one place) is involved to reach buildings. Please bear this in mind before booking.

**Bookings are only final after receipt of payment. Your cancelled cheque is your receipt. Sales are to be deemed final, although substitutions can be made either by the original applicant or from a waiting list, should one exist. Refunds will be made only in very rare instances and at the discretion of the organizing committee.**

*Patsy Beeson, Gail Rayment & Honor Shepley, Chairs  
ACO Port Hope & Cobourg*

Address queries to 905-885-7929 or [pbeeson@eagle.ca](mailto:pbeeson@eagle.ca)

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and send with application form to:  
**BUS TRIP, 8 King Street, Port Hope, L1A 2R4.**

Q: Why was the old piece of bread so highly valued?

A: Because it was classically moulded.

## The Port Hope ACO Biennial Garden Tour ~ Saturday, July 9th, 2011 ~ 10am–4pm

The biennial Port Hope ACO Garden Tour will be held this year on Saturday, July 9 from 10 AM to 4 PM and will feature a lively series of town gardens. These range from a very well established, decades old garden to one that saw its first season in 2010. Several of the gardens back onto one of Port Hope's deep ravines with landscaping and permanent features around two large natural ponds. All of the properties feature beautifully planted borders, with extensive and diverse plants and often rare or unique trees.

The 2011 gardens are grouped geographically to allow for less driving and more walking during the day itself.

Lunch and light refreshments will be available at two local churches.

The ticket will also draw attention to the extensive landscaping project along the Ganaraska River with a map of the entire project and information about the long term vision.

In conjunction with this year's event, there will be a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception held at the end of the day with well known Canadian gardening expert, Marjorie Harris, in a local garden of her design. A separate limited number of tickets will be sold for this party as space is a consideration.

Tickets will be available in the early spring at local businesses, by mail order or by phone at 905-885-7929, as well as through the ACO website, [WWW.ACOPORTHOPE.CA](http://WWW.ACOPORTHOPE.CA).

All proceeds will go to support the Port Hope branch of the ACO.

*Mary Shaw-Rimington, Chair*

## The Italianate Style, Part I



Dr. Corbett's Inn, originally built as the Bank of Upper Canada, at John and Augusta Streets, is a very good illustration of the Italianate style, exhibiting all the characteristics – the overhanging eaves with prominent decorative brackets underneath, and the rounded window tops – which characterize it.

The style, which lasted from about 1835 to 1875, was very popular in the United States. Drive through the once wealthy old towns along the Erie Canal in northern New York State and you see it everywhere, in both commercial and domestic buildings, proclaiming the builder's success and ambition. Perhaps its popularity was because it represented change. It wasn't classical Greek, it wasn't Gothic, and it wasn't Georgian English.


*Patsy Beeson*

*[Please see next newsletter for Part II.]*



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*Phillip H. Carter is a registered architect with over 40 years experience. He has completed over 50 public library projects across Ontario. Many of the projects have won awards, including the Governor General's Medal. Phil is a Fellow of the RAIC and a member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals. His office is in Toronto and he resides in Port Hope. He is presently the President of Port Hope ACO.*

## The Best Gift

New Year's celebrations often make one look back to the past and having spent my professional career on library design I look back on libraries. I realize that the Port Hope Library will turn 100 in this year 2011. As many know, it was a "Carnegie Library", but few know the significance of this name.

A wonderful book, *The Best Gift*, by Margaret Beckman, Stephen Langmead and John Black (Dundurn Press, 1984) tells the story of Carnegie libraries in Ontario. While the book is now, regrettably, out of print, copies can often be found in used book stores or at the library.

Andrew Carnegie, the famous industrialist who made his fortune in the steel industry in the United States, sold his company to J.P. Morgan in 1901 and embarked on a full-time philanthropic career and over a 15-year period donated \$56,162,622.97 (how is that for accurate bookkeeping!) to fund some 2,500 libraries around the world (I even photographed one in Sri Lanka). Doing the math, this is the equivalent of approximately \$58 billion dollars in today's terms, a staggering sum to say the least.

This philanthropic program was administered by one man, Mr. James Bertram, Mr. Carnegie's secretary, working only six months of the year. Mr. Bertram had time to review the many applications for the grants and also to write personal letters criticizing plans in a detailed way. One can only imagine the bureaucracy that would be required today to administer this fund.



Andrew Carnegie.  
Wikimedia Commons  
(Public Domain)

Ontario was a recipient of many of the Carnegie grants, which funded 111 libraries in the province. These Ontario grants totaled \$2,556,660, and the one for the Port Hope Library was \$5,000, awarded in 1911. Of the 111 Carnegie libraries built in Ontario, 79 are still operating as libraries, although most with renovations and additions. Seventeen others still remain, but are used for other purposes, and fifteen have been demolished. That so many remain and are still used for library purposes is testament to the effectiveness of this grant program. Probably more important than the legacy of built structure is the codicil (called a "letter of promise") that municipalities had to agree to in accepting the grant: that "Public library services will be maintained in perpetuity." This simple promise laid a solid foundation for the establishment of the public library services we now all take for granted today.

The \$5,000 grant for the Town of Port Hope was awarded in 1911 and Mr. Walter A. Mahoney was selected as the architect. Mr. Mahoney was the architect for fourteen Carnegie libraries in Ontario and they

  
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Port Hope Public Library's Carnegie Building, circa 1912

exhibit a similarity in their designs. Aside from Port Hope Public Library, others he designed with which one might be familiar are Campbellford and Whitby (but that is no longer a library). The designs were based on Mr. Bertram's instructions which were:

1. A rectangular building with a central entrance;
2. One storey with a basement 4' below grade;
3. One large adult room on the main floor and children in the basement with a separate entrance for children;
4. Rear and side windows to above 7' height to allow for wall shelving;
5. A lecture room provided usually in the basement.

Many of the Carnegie libraries share a classical design with a Greek portico entrance and a formal symmetry. This was not dictated by the Carnegie Foundation, but was rather a response to the architectural style of the early 20th century and the association of classical architecture with intellectual pursuits. The Port Hope Library, as built in 1911, followed this formula and while it has been added to and renovated to accommodate modern library needs, this original form still exists, demonstrating the flexibility of its simple but sophisticated design.

While Mr. Carnegie's portrait, a copy of which was donated to each library, has disappeared in many cases, his legacy remains to be celebrated 100 years after his extraordinary gift.



Port Hope Public Library's Mary J. Benson Branch as it looks today

"A great building must begin with the unmeasurable, must go through measurable means when it is being designed, and in the end must be unmeasurable."

*Louis Kahn (1901-1974), Architect*

## Report on Christmas Party

The festive season was opened for the ACO Membership at our annual Christmas Party. Our president offered his fabulous century home and the decorations were all up in perfect time for Herma's staff to appear with their wonderful goodies. Our board members, Charles and Tom, were ready to pour libations as the first guests arrived at 5.30. Eileen and Trish welcomed everyone and checked the list – over 90 people filled the rooms with lively greetings and conversation. Many agreed that we should carry on the tradition. Thanks very much to Sheilagh, Phillip and all the volunteers.

*Judith Copeland, Social Chair*

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### Major Upcoming Events

**ACO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Thursday, February 17th, 7pm  
Capitol Theatre

**ANTIQUES & ARTIFACTS AUCTION**  
Sunday, April 10th  
Town Park Recreation Centre

**PORT HOPE & COBOURG**  
**6th ANNUAL BUS TOUR**  
Wednesday, 27th April  
to Prince Edward County

**ACO/CHO CONFERENCE**  
hosted by the Cobourg ACO  
June 3-5, 2011

The theme is "Creating the Will"

**PORT HOPE BIENNIAL GARDEN TOUR**  
Saturday, July 9th, 10-4

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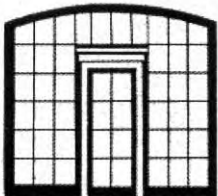
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## Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Port Hope Branch MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual memberships in the ACO, Port Hope Branch are due each January 1<sup>st</sup>. Membership cut-off is July each year. The Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is financed through membership fees and voluntary contributions which are tax deductible. Additional funds are raised through the annual House Tour, Biennial Garden Tour, Antiques & Artifacts Auction and other fund raising initiatives. Educational programs, including bus/walking tours of Port Hope and other learning forums are part of our yearly program. Each member is invited to participate in branch and provincial activities. Membership also includes a subscription to *Acorn*, the provincial ACO publication, and *ACO Matters*, our Port Hope Chapter publication.

Please send your cheque to address below:

- Individual Membership: .....\$30.00
- Family Membership: .....\$35.00
- Organization Membership: .....\$40.00
- Donation: .....\$?????

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or eford@cogeco.ca