

# ACO Matters

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario - Port Hope Branch

Newsletter October 2006

## The President's Report

The ACO's most recent project is the repair of the Memorial Chapel in the Union Cemetery on Toronto Road. There is a group of buildings in the southeast corner of the cemetery – the Caretaker's Cottage that was restored by our branch in 2004 for use as a place for our monthly meetings and office space (see the spring, 2004 ACORN), a small brick mortuary, and the Memorial Chapel.

The chapel was built in 1891 by Colonel Williams as a memorial to his wife, Patience. It incorporates a number of Gothic Revival details, including long, thin, pointed arch windows with raised eyebrows ending in drop finials. The symmetrical façade is topped by a steep roof with bargeboards. This line is repeated in the gable vestibule, the louvered vent and the bell cote with braced posts.

The mortuary provided winter storage for flat-topped coffins. However, when fashion changed to caskets with rounded tops, the mortuary was no longer viable. The chapel had its basement reinforced, a new rear entrance added, and a hole cut in the floor to allow caskets to be lowered through the floor for winter storage in the basement. The advent of motorized equipment made this use unnecessary.

The chapel was designated in 1986 but its maintenance had fallen by the way. Our branch has arranged for a 20 year lease and will restore the exterior and reinforce the floor. This will maintain the building and complete the corner of the cemetery. It will also provide some ACO storage.

Many thanks go to Joan and Gerry Tooke who were able to produce the book "Symbols of our Past" (an inventory of buildings in Hope Township that have architectural or historical significance). The work was originally commissioned by the Port Hope branch in 1982. It was never published and the original typescript and photos surfaced in 2005. The text has been scanned into a computer and after essential editing and layout printed. →

CDs are also available. The book launch took place on September 15 at Port Hope's 175<sup>th</sup> annual fall fair. The book is now available through Furby House Books, 93 Walton Street, Port Hope. Over 100 copies were sold at the Fall Fair and the House Tour!

I am happy to welcome Trish Doney to the ACO Port Hope Board. Trish will take over the membership Portfolio. Trish's house on Armour Street was on this year's house tour.

After my return from a sixteen day cruise to Argentina, the Falkland Islands, Cape Horn and Chile beginning December 16, I will report on 19<sup>th</sup> century residential architecture.

I hope to see many of you at the November 30<sup>th</sup> Christmas party.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR 2007 ●

*Richard Vincent*

### ACO Annual Christmas Party

Thursday November 30th - 5:30 to 7:30pm  
At Pete Rungay's NEW house - 267 Ridout Street

Hosts - Peter & Jane Rungay

Gourmet Goodies - by HERMA'S

Reserve Early - Limited Capacity - Tickets \$20

RESERVATIONS - JUDITH COPELAND - 905 797 2823

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## ACO BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006

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Trish Doney	Membership
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### “Heritage Port Hope” Representative

Ed Pamenter

### Advisor

Lee Caswell

## ACO PORT HOPE HOUSE TOUR

September 30th, 2006.

The 41st annual ACO Port Hope House Tour was a great success. The rain held off and we sold more than 1400 tickets! After the amazing 40th tour of last year, it was a hard act to follow, however, my committee and I put together a fabulous tour which featured 8 homes (6 of which had never been on the tour before) and Canton United Church, celebrating the 130th anniversary of the current brick structure. I hope you all got to see the church as it has the most beautiful stained glass windows and a few other rather unique features.

The homes featured this year were:

92 King Street - the 1844 home of Lee Caswell and Blaize Gates  
94 Dorset Street - the 1850 home of Young Mee Kim & Roger Daly  
6 Sherbourne Street - the 1875 home of Joan & Gerald Tooke  
Durham House - the 1820's home of Will & Jenny Ryan  
10 Armour Street - The 1860 cottage of Trish Doney  
3 Ward Street - the 1853 home of Anne Cadoret & Greg Walsh  
33 King Street - the 1850's home of Jenny Wetherall & Brent Bayley  
52 Francis Street - the 1857 home of Cherie Madill & Chris Shmyr.

An event as large as this takes approximately 10 months to plan and execute and over 3000 volunteer hours. This year's house tour would not have been possible without the phenomenal support of my committee - Penny Purcell, Carrol Dizenbach, Sue West, Gerald Tooke, Daphne Svenningson and Mary Jane Preston. I extend to them a huge vote of thanks.

The committee was further supported by Ross Purcell and Tony Trevor for the placement and collection of the boards and balloons on the day of the event. Phil Carter and Lee Caswell for their insight into the architectural history and features of the homes. Ken Burgin for the design of the poster and the web site. As a result of Ken's work we

The ACO was incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of architecture in the province and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.



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were able to put the ticket application form on the web site which became a big hit with our out of town purchasers. The Members of Canton United Church and also Bill Bickle and Carl Ross for acting as very knowledgeable Tour guides through the fascinating Canton Cemetery.

The House Tour relies heavily on the assistance of the People of Port Hope for their patience with our visitors. It appreciates the support of various departments of the Municipality of Port Hope including Police Services and the Tourism office; extends huge thanks to Holtons Flowers, St. Lawrence Flowers and Kathryn McHolm for the beautiful flower arrangements; Furby's Book store, Acanthus Interiors, Monogrammes/Lampworks, Antiques on Queen and in Cobourg- Days Gone Buy, for ticket sales; and all our wonderful advertisers.

It further extends a huge vote of thanks to all the home owners who so generously gave of their time and effort to prepare their homes and permit our ticket holders to view the interiors on House Tour day; and lastly and by no means least - the Committee and I extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers who kept things moving during the House Tour.

Next years tour is already underway with 6 homes already generously offered. As far as I know those 6 homes have never been on the tour - so it's shaping up to be another knock out tour!!

Mark September 29th, 2007 on your calendar for the 42nd Annual ACO Port Hope House Tour.

**Mary Trevor. Chair of the 2006 House Tour** ●



*Pete & Jane Rungay's House, where the Christmas Party is being held!*



*Jim Campbell, ACO volunteer, taking care of our booth at the Fall Fair, where we sold 96 Symbols of our Past*

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### A Brief History of Locks and Locksmithing - Second Installment

If you have an old lock, and you want to preserve it first decide whether the lock is for decorative or functional need. If it is a decorative lock on a chest, or doorway, and if you like the look of it, leave it alone. Use an auxiliary lock to secure the door. If the lock is old, and looks good, let it alone. If it is broken, or falling apart, fix it.

Some old locks have no parts available. If you really love the lock, and want it (or need it) to work again, then let a professional work on it. They will have the expertise and equipment to repair it for you. Do remember, that if you are looking at the value of an old lock, the appearance of the lock is important. Remove the hardware, clean and buff it to the original finish, and then protect it with many coats of varnish. It looks like the original hardware, but will be devalued to an antique dealer. The aging affect on items, metal or otherwise, and the patina created by aging is of importance to the value.

Therefore, it is very important to give some thought to what you want. Keys for your locks are also something to consider. Most old warded locks can have keys made for them. Some cylindrical locks, with keys that are no longer made are more of a challenge, but not impossible. It is possible to replace the core of the lock with a more modern one, and still have the rest of the lock in original condition.

So do some homework, and decide what you want, and then take the appropriate action. You can clean a lock on the outside with non abrasive cleaners that aren't too harsh, so as not to take the lacquer off them. The insides should not have oil applied to them. Mortise locks require disassembly to be cleaned and lubricated. Other locks may need some light machine oil applied to the mechanism. Sometimes lithium or silicon lubricants are used for pivot points. Never use oil in the cylinder. The key will pick up dirt and deposit it to the pins. This will inevitably damage the lock. Use WD-40 in the cylinders, which will have no adverse affect.

*Peter Brittain* ●



*Pete Rumgay wishing Matthew Paul Desbaibieux a great year after banding him a cheque to cover some of his expenses in his first semester at Algonquin College in the Heritage Carpentry Course*



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## THE 2006 ANNUAL ACO BAR-B-Q

A brilliant summer evening and a poolside setting created an ideal spot for the annual ACO party on August 18th in Judith Copeland's garden.

The farm property was deeded to Thomas Campbell in 1827; the brick farmhouse was built about twenty years later with additions in the 1870's and 1970's so historical and architectural interest contributed to the event.

Members of the ACO Board planned, prepared and served to about seventy people, assisted by willing volunteer members. Burgers, fresh corn from the nearest farmer and fruit and other desserts were accompanied by wines and beer.

As the party wound down the sun sparkled on the pond and made the fields golden to the delight and pleasure of the crowd.

*Judith Copeland*



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## Spring bus tour?

### **SILK MILL INTO SCHOOL: Conservational Creativity in Cambridge Sparks a Town's Rebirth**

Architectural conservancy is all about conserving significant buildings. And if we're very lucky, keeping them living, breathing, *useful* buildings.

Our next proposed trip visits a perfect realisation of this ideal, in - surprise! - Cambridge, Ontario.

Turn off the 401, drive through the terrible urban blight where you can't find the road signs for the fast food ones and the air's fragrant with Wendy's fries, and witness what we're talking about! For the old, once handsome but long seriously grungy and depressed, town of Galt buried in the heart of Cambridge has undergone a resurrection.

The spark which ignited this was the relocation in 2004 to Galt/Cambridge of the University of Waterloo's cutting edge School of Architecture. Its faculty had the vision and creativity to adapt a starkly handsome old building that was right there, an empty Victorian silk mill overlooking the Grand River, and re-configure it to its needs. ➡

Now not only a highly avant-garde school, the building invites in the *townsfolk* of Cambridge with a theatre, a restaurant, and an art gallery on the ground floor. It's now a *people* place as often happens, the excitement engendered by this stroke of genius has spread to the surrounding area on both sides of the river and spurred economic revival. Here you'll find lively student cafes, little bistros and brew-pubs, handsome churches, attractive shops and a restful riverside park with a small amphitheatre. We'll also drive you around the residential district of this wealthy town. Think Rosedale.

We can think of places nearer home with empty riverside and lakefront factories begging a purpose. Could this trip contain applications to our own towns? Should we invite our town councillors along too? Come and see what *you* think!

This would probably take place in late April, 2007. If interested call 905 885 7929 and leave a message with your name and telephone number.

*Patsy Beeson* ●

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### **KITCHEN STYLING AND APPLIANCE SELECTION**

As someone about to embark upon a major kitchen renovation I am naturally interested in what is available in the present marketplace. My home is a period house and the cabinetry style has already been established. However, it is the appliances that are causing me the greatest concern. There are many aspects to consider. In the area of stoves; is gas the route to go or is it to be electric. If gas is not available in your area, is it worth it to have propane? Then there is the styling. In my case, what will look relatively correct in a period house, without getting into fake period appliances? It appears that most brands of larger stoves are now termed 'Professional' series and the finish is stainless steel. It appears these stoves are only available in white in the US. Occasionally I find a stove I like only to find that if it has the flat ceramic cooktop, it comes in white, but the top is black! If you have the space there is nothing wrong with a cooktop with wall ovens. This gives you much more flexibility because you can lose an oven in a cooking island or it can live on a piece of wall that is not really useful for cupboards. This can work for many people, but it is certainly more costly than a stove/oven unit. What I would really like is a stove that looks like something from the 50's. A white enamel, straightforward design with softly rounded edges, that has stood the test of time. Unfortunately to get either white enamel or a colour it ➡

seems that I have to go to one of the European designs, but along with the attractive styling and colours comes the not so attractive price! As a further caution, most of the European stoves do not have a self clean option, and more importantly outside the urban area there are not a lot of repairmen. Parts have to be ordered and you may end up paying travel time for a repairman to come from the city.

The dishwasher is not problematic at all because it can have a trim kit which means you can face it with your cabinetry style. Be warned however; if you are planning to do this make sure your dishwasher says it is 'fully integrated'. This means the controls are along the inside top of the door so the panels can be attached without any controls showing. Refrigerators are also easy as many of them have trim kits available. Do make sure if you are going to face the fridge with your own panels that the style you have chosen does come with a trim kit. Even with a trim kit you are given the manufacturers door handles which, for the most part, I find unattractive. I have attached my own style of handle on a couple of occasions. If you are keeping it simple and not trimming the fridge, then you are faced with a number of choices. There is the choice of stainless steel, black or white, and now there is an interesting cream colour on the market. After gazing in to numerous fridges, to choose the optimum height, depth and whether you want top or bottom mount freezer you still have to decide whether you want a textured finish or smooth.

There are many choices for sinks also, but it has been my experience that acrylic sinks do not last up well. This is because the drains are metal and when boiling hot water is poured into the sink the metal parts expand and eventually cause cracks to form in the sink. We are spoiled for selection and it is really personal choice because apart from the problem mentioned above, most sinks last for a long time.

Happily the taps and hardware are not hard to find, as there are so many manufacturers out there who have really wonderful plumbing fixture designs and hardware to suit all styles and tastes. We are also able to choose what finish we want in these items, so the whole look is very integrated.

So, the bottom line is, yes there are many wonderful choices out there in the marketplace and if you have the luxury of time to be able to research everything then the experience should be a positive experience.

**Will Ryan**

#### COMMERCIAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES INCENTIVE FUND

A great idea initiated by one government and closed by the next! This fund was, in many cases, the incentive to raise larger sums of money to assist in the renovation and restoration of older commercial buildings. By offering developers financial incentives to rehabilitate commercial buildings so deteriorated they might otherwise be torn down, it rescued traditional street-scapes across the land. In Thorold, Ont, a \$300,000 CHPIF grant boosted the restoration of an 1846 flour mill into a residential and commercial complex. In St. John's, \$498,630 in federal money helped King George Properties Inc. to convert the King George V Building to a boutique hotel. In Toronto, \$1-million in CHPIF aid leveraged the restoration of the Distillery District.

Administered by Parks Canada, the two and one half year old project will wind up with three million dollars unspent!

I had often wondered if that fund would still be around when both the Crane Building and/or the File Factory would be on the drawing boards! Not any more.


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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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, Antique & Artifacts Auction and other fund raising initiatives. Educational programmes including bus/walking tours of Port Hope and other learning forums are part of our yearly programme. Each member is invited to participate in branch and provincial activities. Membership also includes a subscription to ACORN, the provincial publication, and to ACO MATTERS, the Port Hope publication.

- o Individual membership: \$30.00
- o Family membership: \$35.00
- o Organization membership: \$40.00
- o Donation: \$

Please send your cheque to:

ACO, Port Hope Branch, Box 563,  
Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3Z4

Tel: 905 885 7929

## Antiques & Artifacts

The next ACO Port Hope Auction will be held on April 14th, 2007 at the Port Hope Town Park Recreation Centre. Start to think about what great piece(s) you could put into the tag sale & auction!

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