



**ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVANCY
ONTARIO**

**COBOURG & EAST
NORTHUMBERLAND**

Newsletter

Summer 2017

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ACO Branch members win Heritage Award

Wendy McQueen and Gail Rayment were presented with the Town’s Heritage Award at the 16th annual Cobourg Civic Awards ceremony on 5 April 2017. They received this major award for their services to heritage given over the last two decades.

Wendy and Gail, as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, oversaw the preparation of the Town’s Heritage Master Plan during their terms on the Heritage Advisory Committee. They also both volunteered their time to serve on the local arrangements committee for the 2011 Ontario Heritage Conference that was held in Cobourg. In addition they are both active members of this branch; Gail is a Past-President of ACO Cobourg and Wendy served on its executive committee. Congratulations to Wendy and Gail!



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Mayor Gil Brocane installs the ACO sign in front of Victoria Town Hall on July 4 assisted by ACO President Diane Chin and Project Chair Felicity Pope. See page 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Diane Chin, President



Our very rainy spring of 2017 finally cleared enough for our Cobourg's Gilded Age: American Summer Houses event on May 27, 2017. By all accounts it was a resounding success. Sold out well in advance with about 30 people still wanting tickets, the event began with a bonus tour of King St. E. by historian Rob Mikel. This one hour walking tour set the stage for the day that followed. Six architecturally stunning properties were open and on display after a lecture was presented by writer Tom Cruickshank at C.R. Gummow P.S. The final garden reception with wine, appetizers and cheese at Ravensworth on Fitzhugh Lane, accessed by a shuttlebus, was enjoyed on a perfect spring evening (see photos on page 5). There were too many people involved to thank here individually but without the homeowners, volunteers, ad sponsors, ticket sellers, flower provider, and ACO Committee members, this event would not have unfolded. Having said that, I would like to thank Virginia and Peter McLaughlin for opening up their home, not only for the tour but for the garden reception.

2017 continues to be busy for ACO Committee members. You can now see 200 plus signs around town on homes and properties that were standing in 1867. These signs were bought with a grant from the Town of Cobourg for its 2017 sesquicentennial celebrations. What a way to celebrate by highlighting the built heritage that so enriches Cobourg! These signs will stand for fifteen weeks until 6 October. As you enjoy looking at the buildings, you will notice the QR code on the signs which takes you directly to the Town's website Heritage Page. If you don't have a smart phone you will be able to see the illustrated inventory of the pre-1867 buildings after it's been uploaded to the Heritage Page later this summer.

Later in the newsletter you will see information on our summer barbecue in the lovely garden of Gail Rayment. Since the last newsletter we have had a bus tour of Guelph in conjunction with Port Hope ACO. It is always a pleasure to see architecturally interesting properties in other towns in Ontario and also learn from their efforts in repurposing and restoring historic structures.

On April 11 we enjoyed a presentation at our AGM by Bill Beaton. His technical expertise in the area of joinery for timber framing was well presented and even understood by novices such as myself. Our intended speaker, William Coukell, COO of Provincial ACO had to cancel due to meetings in Toronto. We are very appreciative that Bill was able to fill in.

Our Provincial ACO is working on a new website for itself and the branches which will be more user friendly and more informative and even more accurate in its database. Stay tuned!! I am hopeful this will provide another more timely means of managing memberships, information and communication.

Ongoing concerns regarding Barnum House were discussed at a recent meeting of ACO branches and the Heritage Trust to brainstorm ways of making this property functional instead of sitting empty.

We wish everyone a fabulous summer and we hope to see you at the summer barbecue.

ACO COBOURG & EAST NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017 - 2018

President Diane Chin

Vice-President Jackie Tinson

Vice-President Gordon Tobey

Secretary Carol Page

Treasurer Richard Holland*

Directors-at-Large

Graham Andrews*

Des Conacher

Roseanne Quinn*

Gail Rayment

Suzanne Séguin

Graham Andrews

From a young age, Graham has had a deep interest in both history and heritage buildings. He and his wife recently moved from Toronto and are in the process of restoring a 19th century farmhouse in Cobourg. He can frequently be found at auctions and local antique shops hunting for his next treasure.



Richard Holland

Richard Holland has been a member of ACO Cobourg since he & his wife moved to the area in 2000. He chaired the ACO Moveable Feast in 2004 and he managed that event's finances in 2008. After a 30-year career in Canadian banking Richard managed the finances of several Ontario government projects before he retired in 2016.



Roseanne Quinn

Roseanne Quinn has spent most of her life in Cramahe, Northumberland. She has served on local heritage committees for more than 25 years: Cramahe and Colborne Heritage Committees and the Castleton Cemetery Board. She was our speaker at the 2015 AGM. Roseanne volunteers at Horizons of Friendship in Cobourg and has worked in the antiques/auction business.



The rest of the Executive Committee members will continue to serve. Jackie Tinson has agreed to move to a 2nd Vice-President position.

Celebrating Cobourg's Architectural Survivors from 1867

ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland rolled out its celebration of Canada's 150th birthday on 24 June. Signs stating "This building was standing in 1867" were installed in front of over two hundred buildings in Cobourg. The project is funded by a grant under the Town of Cobourg 2017 celebrations.

Owners of pre-Confederation buildings received the sign and explanatory letter inviting them to share in this celebration of Cobourg's built heritage. ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland volunteers delivered and installed the lawn signs. The celebration of the buildings will extend to late September. After the project ends, each participating owner will be given their sign as a souvenir of the project.

The sign project flows from ACO's mission to conserve architectural heritage by means of education and advocacy. Cobourg's citizens and visitors will enjoy discovering the Town's architectural heritage as they walk its streets. The project's legacy is an inventory with photographs to be added to the Town's website.

ACO anticipates the following outcomes:

- Community pride in discovering the wealth of heritage resources in Cobourg
- Individual pride in being a steward of a building that was standing in 1867
- Increased awareness of the material culture of Cobourg
- Understanding how buildings can be adaptively reused, e.g. Cobourg's Firehall is now the home of the Northumberland Players

Historic buildings identified

Signs will be placed in front of Cobourg buildings that were standing in 1867

CECILIA NASMITH
NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

COBOURG — The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Cobourg-East Northumberland branch will roll out its own Canada 150 project June 24 — the deployment of lawn signs that say "This building was standing in 1867" in front of some 200 buildings in Cobourg that are 150 years of age (or older).

The project is funded under a Cobourg 2017 grant, and the sign — in a larger version — was premiered earlier this week at 181 Ontario St. Home to Larry and Donna Londry, it was originally a single-storey 1840 Ontario Cottage that had a second storey put on about 1870.

Owners of pre-Confederation buildings will receive the sign and explanatory letter inviting them to share in this celebration of Cobourg's built heritage. ACO Cobourg-East Northumberland volunteers will deliver and install the lawn signs.

This special celebration will run through mid-September. After the project ends, each participating owner will be invited to keep the lawn sign as a souvenir.

The sign project flows from ACO's mission to conserve architectural heritage by means of education and advocacy, the group's press release said.

"Cobourg's citizens and visitors

will enjoy discovering the town's architectural heritage as they walk its streets. The project's legacy is an inventory with photographs to be added to the Town's website," it stated.

Number of benefits are expected from the project — community pride in discovering the wealth of heritage resources in Cobourg, the pride of owners in the stewardship of a building that was standing in 1867, and a new appreciation of how buildings can be adaptively reused — like the former downtown fire station that is now the Firehall Theatre, home of Northumberland Players.

Participation in the project is free. Just put on your walking shoes and bring your sense of curiosity.

"Cobourg is full of interesting surprises when you walk around," committee chair Felicity Pope said in a recent interview.

For Pope, the project is a lasting legacy and not just 200 signs up for 15 weeks.

"It's also the data we have accumulated on the town's heritage base. We are taking photos, and I hope to have a picture of each property. The complete list will be on the town's website," she said.

"Many of the properties are in disguise now. They have vinyl siding, vinyl replacement windows, new doors. You have to look carefully to see that lurking underneath is, in fact, an old building."

If people believe that they own a pre-Confederation building, she added, the branch invites them to get in touch about receiving a sign. You can call Pope at 905-372-4579 for more information.
cnasmith@postmedia.com



CECILIA NASMITH/NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

Larry Londry (centre), who owns the beautiful home at 181 Ontario St. with his wife Donna, displays a larger version of the lawn sign that will be in front of his and dozens of other qualifying homes that were part of Cobourg's architectural landscape in 1867. It's a project of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Cobourg and East Northumberland branch, represented in the photo by (from left) Greg Hancock, secretary Carol Page, president Diane Chin, project committee chair Felicity Pope and vice-president Jackie Tinson.

ACO House Tour



Cobourg's Gilded Age: American Summer Houses event on May 27, 2017 was a resounding success. The event began with a one hour walking tour of King Street East by historian Rob Mikel. Six architecturally stunning properties were open and on display after a lecture was presented by writer Tom Cruickshank at C.R. Gummow Public School.

The final garden reception with wine, appetizers and cheese at Ravensworth on Fitzhugh Lane, accessed by a shuttlebus, was enjoyed on a perfect spring evening.



Historian Rob Mikel conducts a walking tour of King Street East



Heritage Building Profile - Victoria College Cupola

by Diane Chin



ACO Cobourg and East Northumberland is continuing to monitor the cupola on the Victoria College Retirement residence on University Avenue.

This building is privately owned and the Ontario Heritage Trust, which is overseen by the Provincial Government, has an easement over the property.

That easement is between the owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust. The dilapidated condition of the cupola and its tilt is apparent and ACO is endeavouring to acquire some information from the Trust.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland:

Suzanne Gereck and Keith Branscombe, Cobourg

Robert McLachlan and Catrina Wood, Cobourg

David Spann, Cobourg

Catherine and Darryl Stutt, Brighton

Emily and Simon Chorley, Cobourg

Douglas and Marion Gellatly, Cobourg

David and Marilyn Rudd, Grafton

Carolyn Megill and Frederick Wright, Castleton.

Carol Hanley, Cobourg

Members who haven't renewed their membership can do so at <http://www.arconserv.ca/> click Cobourg & East Northumberland to renew, join or donate online. Otherwise please give me a call at 905-372-4579.

Felicity Pope, Membership

12th Annual ACO Bus Tour - April 26, 2017

This year's tour to Guelph was organized by the Port Hope branch.

We were fortunate to have as our tour guide for the entire day, former ACO President, Susan Ratcliffe. She boarded the bus in Aberfoyle, and with microphone in hand, began her "drive-by" architecture and history lesson. We drove north through Puslinch Township, the University of Guelph campus, and into the center of town where we parked up on the highest point in city where the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate stands overlooking Guelph.

This magnificent limestone church, built in 1863, was completely restored in 2015. After coffee and pastries in the church hall, we toured the crypt and were then guided through the nave by a parish historian. The hilltop site boasts three other major Roman Catholic landmarks. The former Loretto Convent and girls' school (1854) now houses the Civic Museum. The boys' school next door sits boarded up, awaiting a new life. The fourth building, designed in the "second empire" style was the nuns' residence. It also sits vacant and is in dire need of attention.

Next stop was the Market Square and the old and new city halls. We



Former Catholic boys' school

were greeted in the square by city Councillor Leanne Piper who many of you will recognize as the longtime former editor of

Acorn magazine.

The 1856 City Hall was designed by William Thomas, who also built St. Lawrence Hall, the Don Jail and St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. The building became the Provincial Court House when the new city hall (by Raymond Moryama) was built in 2009. The two buildings are linked by the original market building's limestone wall that was discovered when they demolished the old hockey arena. The wall is now the backdrop to the multi-use, vibrant civic square that features a fountain, concert bowl and winter ice rink.

We returned to the hill



Former City Hall designed by William Thomas in 1856

top and had lunch at the previously mentioned civic museum in the old convent. After lunch, the head curator invited us to tour the marvelous galleries that trace the town's history from the days of the Canada Company in 1826 through the Victorian industrial era and into the 20th Century.

Back on the bus, we toured the north end of Guelph's residential neighbourhoods. Susan related the stories of the founding families who lived in the magnificent Victorian houses.

We arrived at "Woodside", a prominent suburban villa built on a two and a half acre "park lot" in 1869 by a prominent Guelph architect in what has been called the "Jacobethan" style. The owner, who bought and restored the house told us about the years



"Woodside", 1869 suburban villa on 2 acre "park lot"

long process to return the house and grounds to its former glory.

The second house we visited was "London House", a very large, late Victorian mansion built in 1893 for the owner of a local sewing machine factory. In later years the

house served as a doctor's home and office. When the present owners bought the place it was a boarding house and needed a major restoration. A local historian took us through the house and recounted the history of the building, its various owners and its rebirth as a luxury bed and breakfast establishment.

As we left Guelph, Susan pointed out all the historic buildings on the way to the charming little village of Eden Mills which has survived as an idyllic residential community. At this point, her day with us was over and we thanked her profusely for her informative, humorous and entertaining tour. Her enthusiasm for Guelph was quite evident and contagious.

As we sped homeward on the 401 we were treated to wine and nibbles served by our host committee from the Port Hope branch. It was a wonderful outing and enjoyed by all. Stay tuned for details regarding next year's tour of the architectural wonders in the city of Kingston. Mark your calendars. April 25, 2018. - **Des Conacher**

Upcoming Events



You are cordially invited to a
SUMMER BBQ
Saturday July 29, 5:30 pm.
184 Ontario Street, Cobourg
For Tickets please call:
Gail Rayment 905-377-0536

This year the ACO Cobourg and East Northumberland Summer BBQ will take place on Saturday July 29th, starting at 5:30 p.m. The location is the house of members Tony and Gail Rayment, 184 Ontario St. on the corner of Albert. Cost is \$15 a head. Please bring a salad or dessert of your choice, enough for eight. Also, please advise Gail what you will be bringing at 905-377-0536 or gail.rayment@sympatico.ca

Finally, and most importantly, please pay in advance by dropping off a cheque or cash at 184 Ontario St. All payments will be acknowledged. Or you can do an e-transfer, or you can mail to: ACO BBQ, 184 Ontario St, Cobourg, ON, K9A 3B5. Cheques should be made payable to: ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland. BYOB! We hope to see you there.

COBOURG BOOK LAUNCH AND SIGNING

Cobourg - The Spirit of the Place
by Historian Robert Mikel

Sunday, July 23, 2017 2-4 pm

Victoria Town Hall Main Lobby

*For information contact Suzanne Séguin
at 905-372-3984 / sseguin@bell.net*

316 pages full colour - 8.5" x 11" Featuring heritage homes, churches, industries, downtown retail, schools and the people of Cobourg. Limited edition. \$40 (HST incl.)

