

The Year in Review

Visuals highlighting a few of the **many** accomplishments of ACO's branches



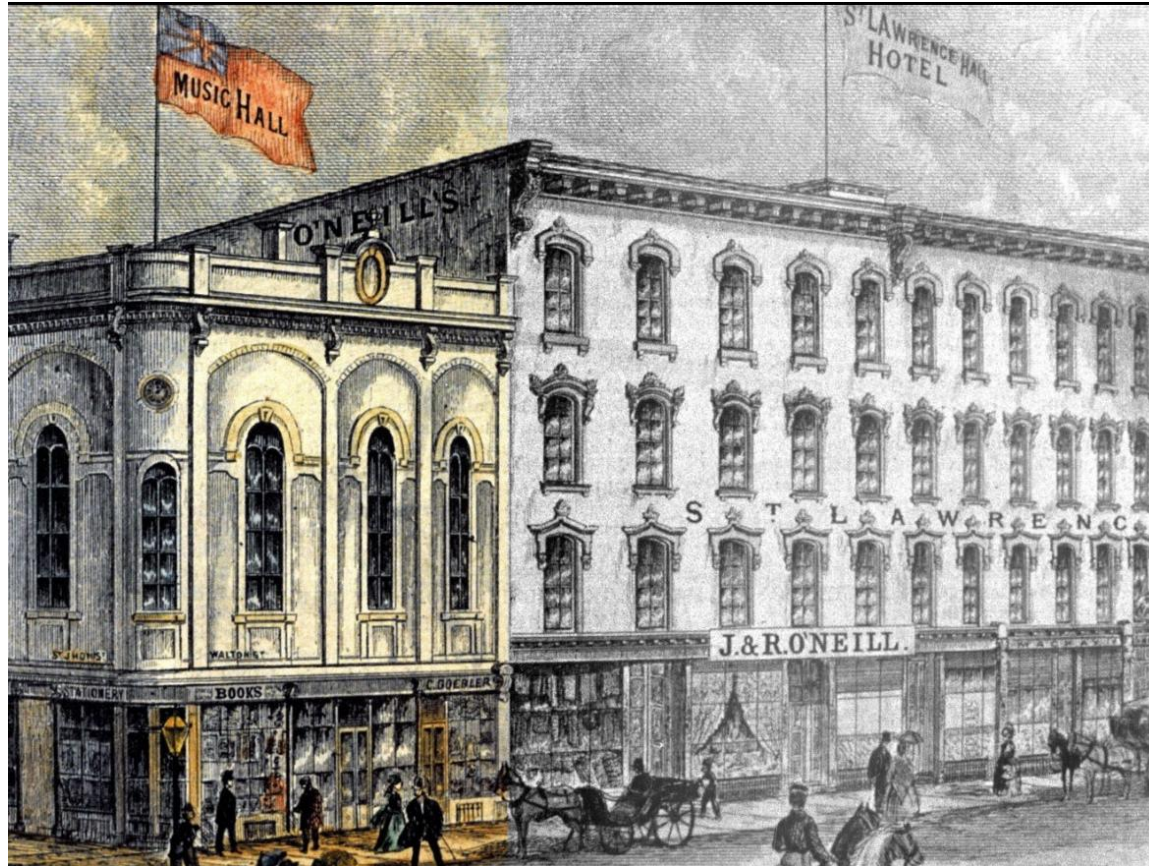
The Farm as Cultural Heritage Landscape

ACO Guelph-Wellington advocated for and assisted with the designation of Marcolongo Farm as a Cultural Heritage Landscape. (Surrounding countryside is owned by developers and being considered for re-development.)



Educating homeowners about heritage maintenance

ACO London got a booth at the London Homebuilders Association Lifestyle Show to share ideas on how to repair and restore vintage homes.



Conservation and Adaptive Reuse of the Opera House

ACO Port Hope worked two years to secure the Oct 31 2019 donation of the 1871 Opera House from Royal Bank Canada. The branch will maintain the building until a suitable proposal to restore and reuse is received.



Heritage Promotion & Education

In addition to offering weekly tours of Prisoner of War Camp 30, which they are fighting to preserve, **ACO Clarington** is very active in municipal festivals such as Maplefest (pictured), Applefest, Bluesberry, Doors Open.



The Windermere History Project - evolution

1 year ago | [More](#)



Karen Lang [BUSINESS](#)

Cultural Heritage Conservation

For two summers, **ACO Muskoka** has been working with the Windermere Women's Institute Archives and long-time residents to record, conserve and share the history of the village of Windermere.



“ACO files official objection to council's vote that will lead to demolition of iconic building”

ACO Cambridge is fighting City of Cambridge’s de-designation and demolition order for the 1888 Preston Springs Hotel, which has been vacant since 1990 and allowed to deteriorate.



Supporting and encouraging heritage rehabilitation

Our Lady of the Assumption church closed its doors in 2014 due to concerns over the building's deteriorating condition. **ACO Windsor** supported local lawyer Paul Mullins's fundraising campaign to save the church, and sponsored roof tiles for the 1845 structure. The Church had a glorious reopening Sept 9, 2019.



ACO returns to the Barnum House it was founded to save

Two years of negotiation with owner Ontario Heritage Trust got **ACO Cobourg** Permission To Enter, hold branch meetings and events, and celebrate the property whose then precarious future propelled Eric Arthur to found ACO in 1933.



Collaborative Advocacy

Since 2011, when town council first proposed demolishing its 1929-built grain terminals, **ACO Collingwood** has advocated for their restoration and adaptive reuse, currently in liaison with the Collingwood Terminals and Harbour Action Group.



ACO's Lecture Series on
Andrew Carnegie and his libraries

ACO North Waterloo Region lecture series are renowned. Their 2018-2019 series on Carnegie Libraries culminated in a sold-out bus tour in April 2019.

The Brandon House - In Memoriam

Let's let Brandon House be not just a tragedy, but the catalyst for change.

By [Shannon Kyles](#)

Published April 16, 2020

The Brandon House at 262 Wilson Street in Ancaster was a key feature of the town's main street, providing a delightful structure that was distinctly Canadian.



Raising public awareness of heritage issues

Since its rebirth in early 2020, **ACO Hamilton** has been very actively stimulating public conversations about its rapidly disappearing heritage, with media articles (above), letters to councillors, meetings with neighbourhoods, working to expand the Heritage Registry, etc.



Great Fun! Great Education !
The Great Architectural Scavenger Hunt

ACO Belleville-Quinte Region 's eagerly awaited annual event gives participants two hours to find all the architectural features listed on a handout sheet.



Ontario Place



Kensington Market



The CNE



McLaughlin Planetarium

ACO Toronto collaborated with Old Toronto to make a series of YouTube videos. Their March 2019 presentation on the *History of Ontario Place* has been seen by **over 14,000 people!**



Promoting Community Awareness of Heritage

ACO Stratford-Perth County historical plaque program (over 300 produced since 2012) was paused by COVID-19 closure of the Stratford-Perth Archives. So the branch wrote a history of the Stratford Furniture Industry!

L.M. MONTGOMERY MUSEUM &
LITERARY CENTRE

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

WHEN: Tuesday June 11, 2019 6:30pm -
8:30pm

WHERE: The Studio, Halton Hills Cultural
Centre lower level, 9 Church Street,
Georgetown, ON



ACO's *Preservation Works!* program aided **ACO Halton Hills**, working with other community organizations, to preserve the Norval manse where Lucy Maud Montgomery lived for 9 years. Sadly ACO Halton Hills branch closed in 2020.

Victoria Jubilee Hall, Walkerton



In the historic Victoria Jubilee Hall they rescued and now own, **ACO South Bruce Grey** keeps culture alive by hosting local and visiting artists, like this Oct 2019 sold out performance of *Wingfield Progress*.



Town agrees settlement with developer on unlawful demolition of historic Simpson Building

Nine years of strenuous advocacy work by **ACO Newmarket** protected a row of Main Street historic buildings from the developer's proposal to demolish all but their facades. When the developer illegally took the Simpson Building down, he got *not only* a \$100,000 fine and *forfeited* \$100,000 restoration grants: the town *ordered him to rebuild* the demolished property to heritage standards.



Creating awareness of our built heritage

A popular “Heritage Eye Spy” game on the **ACO St. Thomas-Elgin** Facebook page got people really noticing – and starting to appreciate – local heritage buildings. Sadly, the branch voted to close in June 2020.



Adaptive Reuse in action

Surplus fencing from St Lawrence Seaway Lock One in Welland is being reused to enhance security and appearance of Port Dalhousie's Inner Lighthouse, thanks to **ACO St Catharines**, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Bronte Construction and the City of St. Catharines



The show goes on at Meaford Hall

ACO Meaford formed in 2000 with the specific objective of preserving the historic Meaford Hall, neighbouring Fire Hall and the Meaford Museum. Thanks to ACO (and special cleaning staff) Meaford Hall continues to offer performance and viewing space, even during COVID-19.