

ACO North Waterloo Region

Branch Report, September 14, 2020, Marg Rowell President

On February 12, 2020 we held the second lecture in our series: "Built Heritage Preservation" Are We Getting Right" Rick Haldenby, former Chair of the School of Architecture University of Waterloo was the speaker. The title of Mr. Haldenby's talk was Butterflies on the Felt: At what cost Preservation?

In this time of rapid change in our community, and in the wake of recent losses such as we will certainly experience if the announced demolition of the iconic Preston Springs Hotel goes forward, it's more important than ever that we make informed decisions with regard the fate of our built heritage.

For this reason your ACO NWR has dedicated its fall/winter lecture series to examining best practices in renovation/ restoration from insights brought to the table by Professor Rick Haldenby of the School of Architecture. Rick brings a unique perspective to heritage preservation having committed much time and energy to public education, specifically to the importance of excellent architectural design and its influence on public life.

The next lecture planned for April 15, did not take place due to restrictions because of Covid19. We plan to have this lecture in the fall, when we shall learn from insights brought to the table by Professor Rick Haldenby of the School of Architecture. Rick brings a unique perspective to heritage preservation having committed much time and energy to public education, specifically to the importance of excellent architectural design and its influence on public life

The branch will be considering holding future board meetings via a conference call. The Annual General Meeting will take place as soon as it is possible to do so.

Our branch will mark its 40th anniversary this year. We hope to commemorate this event, probably at the AGM, with a hand-out describing the founding of the branch and some of the highlights of the activities of the branch over the past 40 years.

No virtual meetings of our branch have taken place since the spring. We have had on line meetings of the board (executive) every month except for July & August. We have continued to keep our membership informed about any virtual events of interest via email. We look forward to getting things back to more normal operations of the branch.

ACO Clarington

Branch Report September 11, 2020

By Bernice Norton Branch President

We have been quiet for most of the year until August. August 1, 2020 we started our Ehrenwort Trail Tours. Please visit info@jurylandsfoundation.com for remaining tours schedule.

We were approached by Central Counties Tourism to do a tour for an article in the Globe and Mail. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/adv/article-ghostly-fun-and-a-chance-to-play-dressup/>

We have been checking into doing a virtual tour of the Ehrenwort Trail Tour. We asked Central Counties Tourism if they could help with this. They have offered to do a 20 minute video on the tour. We are currently working on this. In the meantime, York Durham Headwaters Tourism has done an article.

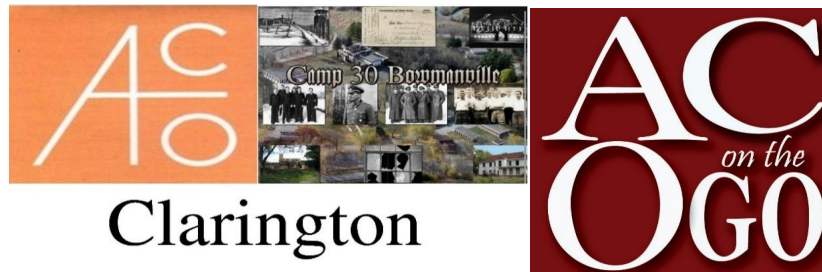
<https://yorkdurhamheadwaters.ca/the-battle-of-bowmanville/>

We are incredibly grateful to Clarington, Central Counties and York Durham Headwaters Tourism.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2020

Our branch has been working with our community Heritage Committee to get Heritage Status on The Fletcher Tree. We are happy to report it is in the final stages and should have status in October if passed by council.

Thanks



Guided Ehrenwort Trail 2020 Tours

(Note: Due to Covid -Schedule could change)

All tours begin at 151 Sprucewood Crescent, Bowmanville

Tours are approximately 1.5 hours. Please bring appropriate footwear for a gravel trail.
There are stairs on the trail.

	Day	Month	Date	Time	Purpose
1	Saturday	August	1	10:00 AM	Summer Tours
2	Sunday	August	9	10:00 AM	Summer Tours
3	Saturday	August	15	1:00 PM	Summer Tours
4	Sunday	August	23	10:00 AM	Summer Tours
5	Saturday	August	29	10:00 AM	Summer Tours
6	Saturday	September	5	1:00 PM	Summer Tours
7	Sunday	September	13	10:00 AM	Fall Tours
8	Saturday	September	19	10:00 AM	Fall Tours
9	Saturday	September	26	1:00 PM	Fall Tours
10	Sunday	October	4	10:00 AM	Fall Tours
11	Monday	October	12	10:00 AM	Thanksgiving Tour

ACO Hamilton Branch

Branch Report September 2020

President Shannon Kyles

May AGM

At the May AGM a new board was voted in. The new board has concluded most of the transition from the existing board and has revamped the social media attached to the Hamilton Branch.

Inventory Project

One of Hamilton's most loved historic houses, Brandon House, a prominent building on the main street of Ancaster, was torn down two days after the lock down in March. Because of the position and prominence of this structure, on the main street and the premier corner of town, its demolition was a shock to a wide spectrum of people. The result was the forming of the Ancaster Village Heritage Committee (AVHC).

Carol Priamo, a board member in the Hamilton Branch, had already begun a listing of all inventoried buildings in the Beasley neighborhood of Hamilton ON. With her guidance, Hamilton ACO has been working with the AVHC to supply photographs and reports of 200 pre-1967 buildings in Ancaster. This inventory will be submitted to the City of Hamilton the first week of October.

Shannon Kyles will also be preparing an Inventory of Greensville ON by December 1, some 35 buildings.

Hamilton ACO is working with the City of Hamilton Building Department to identify those buildings on the aforementioned inventories that should be either designated or added to the Registry.

Demolition Authority

In 2009, Hamilton City Council passed a by-law giving Hamilton City Staff the authority to issue Demolition Permits for all buildings not on the Register or Designated. ACO has been working with AVHC to overturn this by-law.

ACO Port Hope Report for the ACO Ontario AGM September, 2020

In the 2019-2020, this chapter's members participated in the following:

- April 2019 public auction of Antiques and Artefacts.
- June, and September 2020, on-line auctions.
- Summer picnic and Christmas party in 2019; both suspended in 2020.
- Approximately 100 members volunteered to mount the 2019 Garden Tour of rural gardens and the 54th annual House Tour, both events organized by the Board of the Port Hope Heritage Foundation.
- Evaluated requests for Heritage Restoration grants in 2019, and suspended this program for 2020-onward, until the use of such initiatives can be reviewed and potentially adopted by ACO Ontario.
- Created and held a benefit concert and reception in Sept. 2019, featuring Mary Lou Fallis and her accompanist, in "Primadonna on a Moose", with historical commentary by Ian Montagnes, to initiate funding for the upkeep of the "Opera House". The transfer of this 1871 building to ACO Ontario was completed two months later. Fundraising events organized in 2020 fell victim to Covid just as they were being launched.
- Nominated several members and initiatives for municipal and ACO awards.
- Developed an educational trip with Pauwels Travel to southern France in September 2019. A second trip from Berlin via river to Dresden and Prague for September 2020 was cancelled because of Covid.
- Mounted with the Cobourg/East Northumberland chapter the annual educational trip to an Ontario city or region.
- Held an educational walk to municipal sites to discuss the career of Lt. Col. Williams, commander of the Midland Battalion at Batoche. He had received a state funeral, attended by 15,000 citizens and national political leaders.
- Public lecture for the Library about the Opera House in early March, 2020. Phil Carter, architect, outlined the building in its various phases. Bruce Bowden, historian, described accounts of the initial two concerts, and nine plays and concerts held in a three-week period in the fall of 1880. 140 library supporters attended.

The following initiatives were taken to preserve buildings and landscapes:

- Ownership of the "Opera House" building, transferred to ACO by the Royal Bank of Canada. Our chapter has supervised and paid for its maintenance, organized a public request for expressions of interest in purchasing the building and maintaining its

heritage nature; chosen an organization with these intentions, and has been negotiating terms for both an interim and final agreement.



- Moved and restored “little Station” from a waterfront location that was being remediated. This was possibly the initial train station of the Grand Trunk Railway until its replacement by the stone station that still services VIA. The building was moved to a park setting along Lent’s Lane, the roadbed of the Port Hope-Midland Railway.



- Mounted a campaign to save “Rose’s cottage”, a small home built for a servant of the King family who had bought Penryn Park in 1894. The cottage was designed by their teenage daughter, and looks much like a doll’s house. Since it was not specifically named in the property’s heritage designation, the town issued a demolition permit to the housing developer. Stephen Henderson construction stepped forward, and with some financial assistance toward the expense of the move, accepted the building, salvaged it, found a severed lot, moved it, and is now building a significant-sized addition.



- The sub-division developer has sought the removal of the wood that stretched from Rose's cottage south to the compound of building that form the Penryn Park estate. The King family had developed one of Ontario's oldest golf courses to its west, and had carefully preserved this park-like romantic landscape. Our chapter has actively participated in the large citizen's reaction against the natural landscape's destruction, indeed helping to initiate this. We have emphasized that the natural and cultural components of the site are inseparable. Finally, a heritage impact study of the proposal's effects upon both of the original homes has been required.



- Joined with Heritage Port Hope, Council's advisory committee to oppose the owner's request to install "plastic" windows for an important corner building in the Downtown Heritage District to replace wooden ones that had been installed three decades earlier with provincial financial support. The recommendation by Planning staff and the advisory committee was over-ruled by Council. Phil Carter, resigned from the advisory committee in response.

ACO Port Hope and the Port Hope Heritage Foundation were jointly recognized with a **Philanthropy Civic Award for 2019** by the municipality in September, 2020.

ACO Stratford-Perth County

Branch Report, September 26, 2020

Allan Tye, President

AGM 2019

The Annual General Meeting was postponed due to a number of problems with availability of the executive. It was held on October 23, 2019 at the Queen's Inn, Stratford. The guest speaker, Howard Shubert architectural historian and author of [From Rink to Arena: The Early History of the Hockey Arena](#). His insight was of particular interest as the Stratford Allman Arena is one of the oldest continuously operating hockey rinks in the world.

In March 2019, the branch held a forum concerning Heritage Conservation Districts with Wes Kinghorn as speaker. As a result of the meeting, the Hamlet Ward Heritage Area group formed a steering and research committee. On March 10, 2020, the ACO Stratford-Perth County president, Thor Dingman, and members of the steering committee made presentations to Stratford City Council through the Planning and Heritage Sub-committee. Public meetings were cancelled shortly after this meeting but the steering and research committee has carried on with email and Zoom meetings.

On February 22, 2020 the branch celebrated Heritage Week with seven plaque presentations at the Stratford-Perth Archives. Guest speaker, John Kastner, General Manager of the Stratford Perth Museum, spoke on the decline of naming streets after our distinguished citizens and ways we could advocate for a return to that practice. Since then we have passed our 300th plaque application and are now able to have limited access the archives for research.

Getting back on track with having our AGMs in June, we had a Zoom Meeting on June 16, 2020. A new slate of officers were elected including Allan Tye, president, Carole Huband, vice-president and Richard Wood and Mary Walton as new members-at-large. With no in-person meetings, we have started our newsletter [More Than Bricks and Mortar](#) once more with the history of the Stratford furniture industry. Copies will be available on our website in the near future

ACO SOUTH BRUCE GREY

Branch Report September 23, 2020

Edward Cobean

The Jubilee Arts & Music Committee and the Victoria Jubilee Hall and Board of Directors of the South Bruce Grey Branch held a unique outdoor concert on September 13, 2020. As Covid-19 has caused turmoil and extreme hardships to all concert halls, the Committees felt VJH should do something to bring a live musical concert back to the Community after a seven month hiatus.

The JAM committee organized the outdoor live concert ,called SONGS by the GAZEBO. The stage and chairs were set up in the parking lot of VJH. Part of the adjoining street which was closed by the Municipality of Brockton for five hours to accommodate the spectators outside the venue.

All Provincial Covid requirements and regulations were implemented, with the assistance of the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit. Five local musical groups volunteered to entertain the audience with their upbeat music. The concert lasted two hours with 100 people in the special roped off area enjoying the great music. Another 50+ people were also in attendance at a safe distance, on the closed street.

AS this concert was so successful the JAM Committee are now planning another virtual inhouse stage performance for the Christmas season with donations going to a local Charity.



You are looking for a picture that represents the Victoria Jubilee Hall and what is happening here. Our volunteers who spend hundreds of hours on the gardens around the hall so here a picture to show the work. There is so much more than what you see as the variety of plants is amazing and there are always vast amounts of flowers blooming all the time.



The other picture is our work crew of Bob, Jim Bill and Henry. We are so very lucky to have these guys. One was a building contractor and the other an electrician plus so they can tackle almost anything in the Hall. In this picture they have been working around Victoria Jubilee Hall raising the windowsills to help with drainage and keeping any chance of water getting into the basement. That was no easy feat because there were 10 window sills, and most were very low in respect to ground level. They did make it look easy, but the picture shows them hard at work on the south side. This was done in the last month.



Here is a picture of the garden volunteers who work hard each year making the grounds around Victoria Jubilee Hall look amazing. You can decide which ones will be used. The four guys work hard all year around fixing and making the Hall hum along makes a great picture as well.

ACO London Region

Branch Report – September 19, 2020

For the past several years, the ACO London Board has tried to focus its energy on projects and initiatives that advance the ACO's objectives in at least one of the following areas:

- Advocacy (for the conservation of buildings of architectural or historical merit)
- Policy (focus on research and education, through the branch's Policy Committee)
- Member engagement (offering activities for members, encouraging members to become more involved in the branch)
- Community outreach (activities for the broader community, activities that raise the branch's profile)
- Governance (improving our efficiency and effectiveness as a Board and as a branch)

When we're considering an idea for a new project or initiative, we ask ourselves whether or not it would help us move forward in at least one of the above areas. If the answer is no, we don't proceed.

Our branch membership continues steady in the 100 to 110 range. We have 1,600+ followers on Facebook and 1,600+ Twitter followers, plus almost 150 followers on our new Instagram account.

Our 46th annual Geranium Heritage House Tour – the Victoria Park Promenade – was held on June 2, 2019. We had great weather, which always helps with walk-up sales. We sold about 600 tickets.

Each year, we set up our bright orange booth at as many neighbourhood fairs as possible (usually 5 or 6). 2019 was no exception. Early in 2020, we participated in the inaugural Heritage Corner at the London Home Builders Association Lifestyle Home Show. It was a great opportunity to connect with people wanting information about the do's and don'ts of renovating a heritage home.

Our policy committee, established in 2017, met with city councillors and staff to advance recommendations regarding demolition transparency. The committee also prepared an information package for councillors regarding the Ontario Heritage Act and the economic and environmental benefits of preserving existing buildings – heritage or other.

For our members, we hosted three events in 2019 – a talk in March, our AGM at the London Music Hall of Fame in May, and a bus trip to Tillsonburg and Otterville in September. We also co-hosted – with the Heritage London Foundation – the 12th annual Heritage Awards Gala in February of 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley McKeating

President, ACO London Region

Windsor / Essex

Annual Report, September 20, 2020

Prepared by: Tammy Dewhirst, President

The Windsor/ Essex Branch has continued to advocate for Heritage Preservation in Essex County. The Branch has promoted fundraising for the preservation of the historic Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church with the Branch sponsoring roof tiles for the 1845 structure. The Branch endorsed to council the idea of Les Amis Duff Baby taking lease of the first floor of Duff Baby Manor, the oldest home in the region, which has hosted both Canadian dignitaries and American Presidents, for better access to the public. The lease was granted, and Les Amis Duff Baby was granted funds for staffing. The Branch backed in writing and in kind a request to the Geordie Howe Bridge for funding for a community event to celebrate and promote the Manor and its vast history. The organization received the grant. The event is currently postponed.

The Branch planned and promoted its own Design Charette which has been postponed due to the recent pandemic. The Branch is currently looking at options for alternative remote and socially distanced event options. The Branch was approached in March by the owner of a local Heritage Property and is currently working toward helping the owner think outside of the community box in options to repurpose. We continue to advise and advocate whenever we see Heritage in danger. Doors Open Windsor was delayed for 2020 granting the opportunity for a big celebration in 2021, the events 25th year. We celebrate and help where we can the Heritage Heroes in our community like Paul Mullins who fought tirelessly to save Our Lady of Assumption whose sister church in Detroit was recently named a Basillica.

The Branch looks with optimism toward adapting our advocacy to our new normal.



ACO St. Catharines Annual Report

September 26, 2020 ACO St. Catharines Activity Summary 2020

2020 has been a very active year for the ACO St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie Conservancy.

ACO St. Catharines have been working with the City of St. Catharines to preserve the iconic Lighthouses in Port Dalhousie.

ACO St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie Conservancy have been working with Willowbank School of Restoration Arts to save the Barnsdale Streetcar Trolley Stop.

ACO St. Catharines recently met with students from the Willowbank School of Restoration art to tour the Heritage Core of Port Dalhousie to discuss Conservation Management Plan.

Colin Johnston

President

ACO St. Catharines

Port Dalhousie Lighthouses

The Port Dalhousie Lighthouses are the historic icon of not only the Port Dalhousie's Historic district but for the entire City of St. Catharines. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) St. Catharines goal is to ensure that both lighthouses are preserved for future generations to enjoy and admire.

In order to enhance the appearance and security of the Inner Lighthouse ACO St. Catharines Branch is working with the City of St. Catharines to ensure chain link fencing is replaced by more secure and far more decorative fencing. In order to achieve this we will use surplus fencing from the St Lawrence Seaway Lock One of the Welland canal, the same fencing is also used at the St Catharines museum (see attached photo).

This project is a collaboration between the ACO, the City of St Catharines, Bronte Construction and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Working

together we will ensure a great legacy is preserved and passed on for generations to enjoy.





Barnsdale Streetcar Stop

Restoration is well underway on the Port Dalhousie's 1st remaining Streetcar Trolley Stop. The Students and teachers at Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Niagara-on-the-Lake are back to work and they hope to have it completed by spring 2021. The Port Dalhousie Conservancy hope to have a meeting with the students this fall to see the progress and discuss additional features we would like to see to protect the leaded windows etc.

In the meantime, an extensive proposal has been sent to the City with respect to the placement of the building. Current proposed plans are to incorporate the Streetcar Trolley Stop in the Port Dalhousie core, in a highly and more useful location that will celebrate our unique history.



Conservation Management Plan for Port Dalhousie

On September 10, a group of second year Willowbank students and their instructor, Tatum Taylor Chaubal, met with Port Dalhousie Conservatory members, Colin Johnston and Sarah King Head, and St Catharines City Councillor and heritage advocate, Carlos Garcia, to discuss their year-long assignment to produce Conservation Management Plans focused on how best to preserve the cultural heritage resources still extant in the Welland Canal's former terminus. Designated a Heritage Conservation

District in 2002, the area has been under considerable development pressure over the past decade and a half — and is currently the site of four independent condominium developments. Central to any CMP is an assessment of heritage value based on initial and ongoing research of the site and consideration of all stakeholders' concerns and goals. This exercise is therefore intended to provide a basis for shaping ongoing and future planning initiatives as well as impact assessments and monitoring. By the end of the 2020–21 academic year, the students will present their findings to their Willowbank peers and instructors as well as to the PDC.



ACO Muskoka

Branch Report, September 20th, 2020

Karen Lang – Branch Rep

Our focus this summer continued with the Windermere History Project.

Student, Lisa Oversby, worked from the foundational data collected in the summer of 2019 by Jake De La Plante, to further organize and coordinate architectural descriptions of the properties within the village of Windermere.

Plans are to continue next summer.

Additionally, we contracted software developer Barry Veerkamp (who set up TOBuilt) to develop a similar platform for the District of Muskoka - MuskokaBuilt. The information, architectural descriptions and relevant heritage information that has been gathered to date, will be added to this platform. Long term goal will be to expand this opportunity to the entire district.

A self-guided Heritage Walking Tour of Windermere is also in the works. This will take form in a booklet format for print (and possible sale) as well as an abridged version for free access. We are submitting a draft version to be part of Muskoka Chautauqua's Canada Wide Culture Days. This will be accessible on line in PDF format from Sept 25th - October

