

ACO Matters

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario – Port Hope Branch

Newsletter – September 2009

From the President:

The House Tour Committee's selection of properties for this year's house tour are already lined up and once again is impressive. The brochure is the best I've ever seen, with the cover, related advertising, and whole format slick and professional looking. The committee members responsible, along with Michael Wallace and Gray Abrams, are to be congratulated for a job very well done.

The Biennial Garden Tour had a period of torrential rain but public enthusiasm remained undampened and the turnout was excellent. The theme "water features" was interesting and well done. The amount of work and imagination that goes into these gardens never ceases to amaze me. The committee members invited Jackie Tinson and me to their wrap-up meeting, and we enjoyed toasting their success and hard work with a sparkling beverage.

The Spring Bus Tour—a joint project of the ACOs of both Cobourg and Port Hope—headed for St. Marys this year and was a great success. We started at St. Marys' Town Hall with a welcome from their Mayor, then viewed the town hall, library, various historic houses and two churches. At each location were given a short talk on the building's history. It's a town facing the same issues we have in our quest to preserve our historic buildings. St. Marys' architecture, however, is quite different from that of Port Hope and Cobourg, so learning something of the town's history clarified why its architecture evolved that way. As usual, we had a delicious lunch, and then snacks and drinks on the way home. I would highly recommend joining us on one of our bus tours. They're worth the trip.

The Auction committee is already collecting items for the Spring 2010 Auction. If you've anything you wish to donate, please call Ed Pamerter at 905-885-2737.

Why not consider joining one of our committees? All of them need new members. We also always appreciate information about a house or garden suitable for our tours.

I'm very pleased to see the amount of restoration taking place in Port Hope. Recently, Tony Priestley, owner of the building at 102 Walton Street, opposite The British Pantry, replaced its shop front and windows with a very handsomely designed period front which is highly sympathetic to the town's architecture.

In addition, the Walton Hotel is coming along nicely and when completed will affect a substantial portion of the business section. Also, once again, Bill Edwards is tackling

his building; this time, the upper section. His restoration of Furby House Books has added greatly to the historic look and feel of our main street. We're very fortunate that business owners are willing to spend the time and money to improve the appearances of their buildings. It all adds up to a very worthwhile main street.

Will Ryan, President



Above: The new covered porch on the South side of the Perrytown Anglican Church. This is a case of life imitating art. To make a set for the movie "Closing the Circle" a porch was "built" on to the church. The congregation so liked the fake movie porch that a properly constructed porch was added. On the inside there is a "stairway to Heaven" carved into the structure.

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

Projects Committee Report: July 14, 2009

The Projects Committee was established to investigate restoration projects of designated heritage structures in Port Hope and to determine how ACO could assist in their successful and authentic restoration.

A grant of \$40,000 has been pledged to the **Walton Hotel** restoration to assist in the restoration of its windows and cornice. The work on this landmark is underway and it promises to be a spectacular improvement to the downtown.

Another project is the restoration of the storefront of **102 Walton**. This project is now complete and the storefront and cornice are restored. It's a great addition to Walton Street.

Walton Street Fire/Pledges It was noted that after the fire on Walton Street that some \$20,000 was pledged to owners of damaged buildings. As yet, the owners of the former "Plumbers" have not applied for assistance. It is the Project Committee's recommendation that donation pledges should have a time limit of 1 year. Upon expiry, the owner can make a new request which will be reviewed at that time.

Nicolson File Factory Discussions of the future of the Nicolson File Factory are ongoing.

Now completed is the new entrance canopy and barrier-free access facilities for **St. Paul's Anglican Church** in Perrytown. While the new canopy is not original, it does provide protection for designated elements of the building.

The Projects Committee has had an ongoing interest in the future of buildings on the **Central Pier** and encourages the Municipality to undertake serious studies to determine whether these buildings could become part of the overall development of the Waterfront. The buildings represent an important reminder of Port Hope's industrial heritage.

Phil H. Carter, Chairman, Projects Committee
Projects Committee: Peter Rungay, Tom Cruikshank, Lee Caswell, Ed Pamenter, Will Ryan, Chris Wallace

A DATE TO REMEMBER!

**The 44th Port Hope House Tour
October 3rd, 2009, 10:00am to 4:00pm.**

We will be offering a great selection of historic homes in the town of Port Hope, including a totally restored Georgian house circa 1856 and a Greek Revival one of circa 1878 that grew over time. The Cameco Capitol Arts Centre will also be on show.

The House Tour is a major fundraiser for the ACO and cannot succeed without the generosity of homeowners, the large number of volunteers who help during it, and the sponsorship of local businesses.

Tickets are on sale at the following outlets in Port Hope:

- Sascha Pico – 42 Walton Street
- Antiques on Queen – 12 Queen Street
- Acanthus Interiors – 25 John Street
- Monogrammes – 14 Ontario Street

In Cobourg:

- Days Gone Buy – 12 King Street West

Tickets can also be purchased online on our web site at: www.acoporthope.ca

We advise you to obtain your tickets early as there is a limited number and they are always sold out before the tour.

If you wish to sponsor or volunteer please contact us at 905-885-7929.

Susan Carmichael

15th Annual Writers & Friends

**Sunday November 15, 2009
Trinity College School,
Port Hope**

Sally Armstrong, Ian Brown, Miriam Toews,
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'PETER' SCHULTZ Port Hope's Unlikely White Knight by Peter John Stokes

I have put 'Peter' in inverted commas because his real name was Albert Bigelow Schultz. But at his birth at Penryn Park in Port Hope, in August, 1923 his family were at first unsure what to call him, and the doctor gave him the name which stuck in his too-short life.

He was the child of Alfred and Winifred Bigelow Schultz, Americans from Hewlett in Long Island, N.Y., who passed each summer at Penryn Park, their vacation home in Port Hope. Winifred Schultz had lengthy connections with Penryn. She was a King, whose father, Henry King of Pittsburgh, had bought the house in 1894 as the family's summer home. Peter was the third of the four Schultz children and the only boy. His sisters included Alice King (A.K.Sculthorpe), who, like him, would adopt Canada after coming each summer with the parents.

Peter was schooled in the States and graduated from Princeton, later lecturing there and at Washington and Lee College in Spanish. Politically, he was, like his lawyer father, a Liberal Republican, a term outdated today.

In 1955 Peter and his wife Virginia moved permanently to Port Hope, and lived in one of the cottages in the grounds of Penryn Park, where they started to raise their three children, Henry, Amanda and Albert.

Peter was talented, erudite, a linguist, literary, a good organizer of community efforts, and fun. Among his many responsibilities he taught Spanish briefly at Port Hope High School and at Trinity College School, a sub-position, and even taught art for a short period.

In 1960, the community newspaper, The Port Hope Evening Guide, began to falter under its long-time owner, R.C.Wilson. Peter bought it and became its editor and publisher, bringing much new life, broad opinions and creative thinking to it, with news coverage contributed by young, enthusiastic reporters and talented and aspiring journalists like Jack White.

The Evening Guide's office was at 118 Walton Street, a three-storey brick building of 1841, which was perhaps the



earliest structure of downtown Port Hope's historic buildings. Next to it, coincidentally, was the latest of these historic buildings, built around 1871 as a furniture emporium. A circa 1880s archival photograph, probably from the Long collection, proved that the fronts of both buildings were in their original condition, and, using the photograph as a guide, Peter was able to restore the front of his building. In this he was assisted by the writer (who made a sketch of it, used on the dust jacket of Peter's re-publication of Craik's *Little Tales of Old Port Hope*).

Peter was also deeply interested in nature conservation and was one of the founders of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists' Club, which carries out an annual bird count among its many roles. After his death the organization

purchased a tract off McDonald Road, north of Grafton and Centreton, a hundred acres of unlogged bush demonstrating the original hardwood forest (sugar maple, beech, birch, hemlock, and eastern white pine). Named Peter's Woods, it is a fitting tribute indeed, and was presented to the government of Ontario. It is now jointly managed by the government, Nature Conservancy of Canada and the WBFNC.

In 1965 Peter, fascinated with the heritage of the area, set up the Port Hope branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in conjunction with several others, possibly with the help of Verschoyle Blake, and supported by his sister, A.K. It became

one of the ACO's most active and successful branches, with a very worthwhile program, backed by a fund providing grants, awards and low interest loans, and replenished by monies from an annual house tour and like enterprises.

Peter died in his early forties of leukemia, but while still able, he involved himself in two more major building conservation projects on Walton Street. In 1965 he saved the 1853 St.Lawrence Hotel, its Italianate design by Mervin Austin, the Rochester architect of Port Hope's 1851 Town Hall. The hotel had been mildly damaged by a relatively small internal fire but was threatened with demolition and the inevitable parking lot, an outcome which would have been disastrous to historic Walton Street. As it was, previous owners had played 'musical posts' with the Hotel's frontal columns which supported the three storeys

above, had painted the building, and introduced permatone and glass block for 'improvement', and certainly variety. It was a curious building, very cleverly designed to accommodate to its sloping site on Walton Street, with each storefront divided into three panes in height. Fortunately this was on record, and this guided the consultant (again the writer) in making it look perfectly normal and fitting. Peter was unable to finish the apartment conversion on the three floors above due to illness, but did see to some vital structural reinforcement and the restoration of the storefronts.

Following this, he got wind of the possible demise of 1 Walton Street, the William Thomas-designed block of 1845 at the corner of Mill and Walton Streets, (now the Lantern Inn), where aging tenants had lived for many years. Peter again saved the building, but was unable to carry on.

Around this time, Peter's charming mother, Winifred, who lived in the Big House at Penryn Park, died, and he and his family moved into it. He made improvements to the building, restoring the exterior Gothic Revival woodwork and certain grand interiors, where he subsequently hosted community parties. But tragically the leukemia from which he suffered quickly became worse, he grew weaker and less able to carry on and finally died in 1969. He left a vivacious wife, Ginny, and three young children, the youngest of whom grew into a tall and handsome young man—Albert, the Pepper and Soul of Soulpepper Theatre.

Peter will long be remembered for his many and diverse achievements.

Peter John Stokes, Consulting Restoration Advocate

With thanks for help from Evelyn and Larry Hall, Margaret Harrison, Amanda Schultz, Virginia (Schultz) Thompson, Robert Sculthorpe and others.

Spring Bus Tour to St. Marys: April '09

The bus trip took place at the end of April, as customary. This year it was Port Hope's turn to organize the tour, with the help of the Cobourg team. We hired a 48-seater bus from Franklin of Belleville. The bus was completely booked, with a small waiting list.

We arrived at St.Marys Town Hall exactly on time at 11.15, to be welcomed most warmly by St.Marys' Mayor, Jamie Hahn, and photographed by the local newspaper!

After an excellent buffet lunch at the Westover Inn (haunt of Christopher Plummer when performing at Stratford), we were taken on a guided tour of this most attractive little stone town by Mary Smith, curator of the local Museum. Along the way we visited the impressive week-end home of Toronto lawyer, Paul King (president of Community Heritage of Ontario), who was there to welcome us.

The tour culminated with tea at the large, imposing church of St. James's Anglican Church. We then re-embarked on our bus and enjoyed our usual treats en route home.

Patsy Beeson



The Port Hope Town Hall – An Update

The final report by consultants Carter and Foord on the Town Hall has now been submitted to Council and, although the idea of building an addition has been dropped, the report does contain recommendations with regard to on-going exterior and interior maintenance and refurbishment. Recommendations include re-pointing damaged brickwork and painting the exterior woodwork. The report also suggests that the false ceiling in the Council Chamber be removed and the original plaster ceiling and medallion restored.

It is recommended that the bricked in windows be opened up to restore the building to its pre-1893 appearance. Other recommendations are more controversial. Two companies were asked to present reports on the windows: Craig Sims, a nationally known heritage building consultant, found the windows to be in good condition and suggested that with thermal upgrades such as weather stripping and caulking, the energy efficiency of the windows could be brought up to a very high R value. Window Craft Industries offered three options. Option 3 calls for the removal of all windows (including exterior and interior frames) and their replacement with double or triple glazed, non-working sash. As windows are one of the most architecturally significant features of a period building, every effort should be made to retain the original frame and sash to preserve the texture and character of the building. Double and triple glazing distorts the pattern of the muntin bars that hold the glass with the result that the period character of the window is lost.

Council is currently looking for funding. If and when funding is secured, choices will be made about the recommendations in the report. The ACO Town Hall watch continues. *Jackie Tinson, Vice President*

The ACO Port Hope Summer BBQ

The Summer BBQ was held on Thursday, 13th August, on what might be described as “the first real day of summer”! The sun shone, the setting, at Penny and Bill Harris’s lovely farm at Canton, was perfect, the grub was simple but terrific, and according to Judith Copeland, ACO’s social organiser, it was attended by 139 people! Quite a few more than expected!

Judith and her hard-working team of helpers should take a bow for creating a happy, lovely event. And our very many thanks go to the kind Harrises for affording the venue and everything that hosting invariably entails.



Above: Great weather, great food and lots of pleasant conversation were in order at the beautiful Harris Farm in Canton.

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Antiques & Artifacts Auction: April 5, '09

Antiques & Artifacts 2009 was held in spite of the current economic downturn. Our faith was justified. We received auction donations from 55 households, the print material was all distributed, ads were placed, Les (our auctioneer) and Linda returned from Panama, the volunteers worked hard in the two days allocated for set up, the weather gods smiled on us, and a large and enthusiastic crowd attended both the Tag Sale and the Auction. Steve Leach prepared a visual presentation on the work of the ACO and this ran in the lobby of the Town Park Recreation Centre throughout the event.

It was interesting to note an increase in the number of young people attending and bidding. The Auction had an interesting variety of items, and the Tag Sale complimented it very well. Both rooms looked terrific largely due to the artistic eyes of Peter Duck and Judith Copeland. Appraisals were done by Lee Caswell and Clay Benson. Our added feature—the Silent Auction—raised \$1,000.

\$18,000 was transferred to the ACO, Port Hope Branch. The Town Park Recreation Centre is booked for April 11, 2010 and items have already been received for Antiques & Artifacts 2010. Many thanks to all who assisted, donated and attended.

Auction Committee: Les Brittan, Ken Burgin, Lee Caswell, Olga Cwiek (co-chair), Judith Copeland, Peter Duck, Steve Leach, Ed Pamerter, Penny Purcell, Will Ryan, Gerald Tooke, Mary Trevor (treasurer) plus additional members in April: Linda Brittan and Felicity Corelli

Joan Tooke, Chair



Above: Peter Duck gets bidders attention on an ancient schoolmaster’s desk while Olga Cwiek and Terry Foord stand ready with the next item to go on the block. The auction would not be possible without its dedicated group of hardworking volunteers.

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Port Hope ACO Major Events 2009

ACO ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR
 Saturday, October 3rd
ACO CHRISTMAS PARTY
 Thursday, November 26th

The Port Hope ACO will have booths at the Living Green Fair, May 2 and the Port Hope Fair, Sept.18,19 & 20.

Watch *ACO Matters* and www.ACOPortHope.ca for updates and/or changes

**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 1st. 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:\$?????

ACO Port Hope, Box 563, Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z4

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**Book Launch Invitation:
Letters to a Small Town by Paul Bennett
 illustrations by Eric Beddowes**

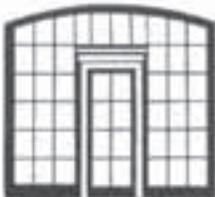
All are invited to a book launch party to celebrate the publishing of Paul Bennett's book:

Letters to a Small Town.

Launch Party to be held at Furby House Books,
 65 Walton Street, Port Hope
 on Saturday, November 14th, at 2pm.
 (905-885-7296)

Terry Foord, B. Arch, OAA, MRAIC

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