

ACO Matters

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario – Port Hope Branch

Newsletter – February 2009

From the President

I do hope that all of our members are planning to attend our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, February 19th at 7:00 pm in the upstairs studio at the Capitol Theatre. We had a great turnout last year!

We will try to keep the business portion as brief as possible as we are expecting a very interesting presentation from our guest speaker, Phil Goldsmith.

Phil has been involved with the adaptive reuse of many existing properties and will be discussing two particular projects—one of which is the Summerhill Liquor Store, on Yonge Street, in Toronto—a particular favourite of mine. This former train station had great style to start with but, as with many buildings, suffered from “modernization.”

Fortunately the building has always been in use which is what probably saved it from being demolished long ago. This thinking of adaptive reuse has been occurring regularly when buildings have lost their original use and are now “recycled” for new purposes. This is taking place worldwide, and has led to some very interesting solutions.

Also on our AGM agenda is a discussion of the “reception” that the Pier Group received when they presented their report, “Heritage Assessment of the Port Hope Centre Pier,” to Port Hope Council.

We will also be discussing the positions of the members of the board.

Just a quickie reminder that our 5th-annual Antiques & Artifacts Auction will be taking place on April 5th, and as always, we need more items. Please see what you can contribute as all proceeds go towards the ACO’s good works in this area.

This year is the year of the Garden Tour and, of course, we will also be having our Annual House Tour, so keep an eye on the calendar. The Garden Tour is on Saturday, July 11th and the House Tour is Saturday, October 3rd.

Looking forward to seeing you on February 19th.

Will Ryan, President ACO Port Hope Branch



Above—The Summerhill CP Rail Station/Liquor Store, Toronto



Above—All about Mansard roofs in Port Hope—see inside!

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**November’s Architectural Challenge—
 The Mansard Roof**

Make a statement about an architectural feature—like the mansard roof—and, the ACO being the organization it is and Port Hope the town, discussion immediately begins. Did we say mansard roofs were flat on top with a very steep slope? This is what my daunting old architecture-school tome, Bannister-Fletcher, says. However Elizabeth Wilson feels that mansards, to be authentic, should have two slopes on each face. Peter John Stokes, on the other hand, says the upper part is sometimes flat, but more usually pitched slightly to allow water run-off.

Well, whatever the upper slopes may be, the lower, visible, slopes are found in a variety of styles. Some are steeply angled but straight like the grandiose Clemes Duplex at 57 and 59 King Street. Others are bell-curved like the arresting, turquoise-roofed Cassie House at 35 Baldwin Street with a rather flattened bell-curve. The home of Mel and Eileen Talbot, this house, was built in 1876 on Cassie family land and named after the family of the Rev. John Cassie who was instrumental in building Port Hope’s Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Cassie’s own home had been, more appropriately for a Calvinist, the modest cottage next door.

Another bell-curved mansard with wonderful fish-scale roof-tiles crowns a charming, most unusual little house at 106 John Street, right on the corner of Dorset Street, just as you approach the steep rise; and two doors north of it at 98 John, nearly opposite the Post Office, is another mansard, with that flatter bell-curve.

Also two houses apart, exactly where Walton Street becomes Ridout, are a pair of houses with imposing mansard-topped towers. The taller, narrower tower, at 240 Ridout, has a bell-curved mansard and is topped by attractive

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Upper Left—Chapter members Rick and Susan Brooks took care of the bartending duties all evening.

Lower Left—Peter Rungay with parents, our gracious hosts, Joan and Don Rungay, along with Charles Wickett.

Upper Right—Four lovely ladies enjoy an evening at The Bluestone, one of Port Hope’s most historic homes.



on duty that night: Joan and Don Rungay (the real owners), Trish, Eileen, Lou, Ed, Sheila, Phil, Rick, Susan, Joan T. and Will.

Happy new year, everyone!
Jackie Tinson, ACO Social Convenor

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The Garland Award—A Brief History

Once again, the annual Marion Garland Heritage Award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Port Hope Branch of the ACO, to a recipient to be announced. The award honours preservation and restoration achievements in Port Hope.

Originally named “The Port Hope Heritage Award” the award was renamed in 1998 as “The Marion Garland Heritage Award” to honour the late Marion Garland, who was a well-known leader in the preservation and restoration of heritage properties.

The award was instigated in 1982 by a motion put forward by Anita Blackwood and Wilf Day as a way to “recognize, on the occasion of Heritage Day, a person or persons who have made a significant contribution to the Historical and Cultural values inherent to our community.”

The award for 1981, the first of its kind, was presented to James H. Cutting, Editor of the *Port Hope Evening Guide*, in recognition of his persistent interest and research in Port Hope’s history over many years, and his devotion to increased public appreciation of our community’s heritage through the pages of *The Evening Guide* since becoming its Editor.

Following is a list of subsequent year recipients:

1982 – Marion Garland (at this time, the award was still known as The Port Hope Heritage Award)

1983 – Mrs. A.K. Sculthorpe

1984 – Clay Benson for saving and preserving the Chainway Building at 27 Walton.

1985 – Bob Sanderson for restoring the “Little Bluestone” at 117 King Street.

1986 – Tom Long in recognition of his devotion to the preservation of his collection of Port Hope historical photos.

1987 – Mel Chapple, Jane Staunton and Rod Stewart for

achievements on the Heritage Conservation District plan.

1988 – Joan and Don Rumgay for their restoration of the “Bluestone” at 21 Dorset Street East and their work on the Customs House, 12 Mill Street.

1989 – Robin Long for his work on the Gilette Block at 31 Walton Street.

1990 – Shirley Horner in recognition for her efforts in restoring the building at 35 Walton Street.

1991 – The congregation of St. Mark’s Anglican Church for their restoration of Port Hope’s oldest church.

1992 – St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church congregation for the renovations to the Sunday School interior painting which highlighted the interior architectural features.

1993 – Ilva Norval and Robert Norton for their renovation of 36 Barrett Terrace—verandah, roof and crenellations.

1994 – Dr. and Mrs. J.S.W. Aldis for restoration work on 238 Ridout Street.

1995 – Dave Watson for restoration of the storefront at 66 and 68 Walton Street.

1996 – (first year for two awards)

Residential: Joanne Wells-Oates for restoration at 57 King Street.

Commercial: Eileen and Blake Holton for restoration at 62 Walton Street.

1997 – *Residential:* David Weir for work at 84 John Street with credit to Carl Ross for work on the four chimneys.

Commercial: David Presson for work on Turner House at 73 Mill Street South.

1998 – *Residential:* Peter Rumgay for restoration work at 10 Little Hope Street.

1999 – *Residential:* Jim and Pauline Graham for the restoration of “Terralta Cottage” at 160 Dorset Street West.

Commercial: Phil Carter for his work with ACO’s Heritage Fund and his involvement with an “enormous” range of

projects in Port Hope.

2000 – *Residential:* Larry Green for restoration of 12 Bramley Street South.

Commercial: Clay, Carol and Christine Benson for the restoration work they have done on Molson’s Mill. In a new category, “*The Building Blocks Award*” for the merchant who most improved the back of their building: Susan Dewhurst and Leo Panache of the Granary, 41 John Street.

2001 – *Residential:* Charles and Paula Beale for restoration of the roof and tower, bargeboard and dormers, doors and windows at “Terralta Cottage.”

Residential: Scott and Shawna Campbell for restoration work at 78 Augusta Street.

Honourable Mention: Richard Vincent and Bill Twining, for restoration work at their home on Walton Street.

Building Block Award: Tim Badgeley and Dean Howlett for enhancement of the parking area at Acanthus Interiors, 25 John Street.

2002 – *Residential:* Colleen Neumann and Donald Carson for complete overhaul at 156 Walton Street.

Commercial: Don and Joan Rumgay for tireless restoration at 2 Mill Street.

Building Block Award: Peter and Dan Elliott for back of building (river front) at 27 Queen Street.

2003 – *Residential:* Dorothy Thomas for restoration at 9 Church Street.

Commercial: Hugh and Carrol Levin, and Susan and Ken Crosina of Lampworks for shop front restoration at 14 Ontario Street.

Commercial: Greg Walsh and Anne Cadoret, Walsh Mountain Ironworks, for restoration of upper floor shop front at 59 Walton Street.

Building Block Award: Dave and Jean Henderson, Hill and

Dale B&B, for creating a “parklike” setting at the old John Street entrance to the property.

2004 – *Residential:* Joel Schraven, 3043 Hwy. #2, Welcome.

Residential: Peter and Jane Rumgay for restoring Palmer House from Elizabethtown on a lot in Port Hope.

Building Block Award: Debbie Harvey for the renovation at 24 Ontario Street.

2005 – Sascha Armour for a lifetime of Heritage involvement in Port Hope.

2006 – *Residential:* Leslee Argue and Duncan Greene, and Patricia and Christian Boos for restoration of the verandah at 57 and 59 King Street, the “Clemes Duplex.”

2007 – *Commercial:* Graham Abrahams and Wenda Thomson for restoration of the building front at 253 Ridout Street—Gallerie Decollect.

Commercial Honourable Mention: David Evans, Anne Cadoret and Carrol Levin for restoration of the C’est Please storefront at 10 Ontario Street.

2008 – Joan and Gerry Tooke for their years of involvement with Port Hope heritage and cultural projects.

From Caretaker’s Cottage files, supplied by Ed Pamenter

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Joint Port Hope/Cobourg ACO Tour to St. Mary's—April 30th, 2009

The St. Mary's Tour will be the fourth joint Port Hope and Cobourg ACO undertaking. Each has been very popular. This time we'll travel to the charming, tranquil little town of St. Mary's, near Stratford, but outside its theatrical hurly burly. It's another "stonetown," with many dignified grey stone homes, handsome churches, public buildings and a wide river which once powered mills.

Our first stop will be at the Town Hall where the Mayor of St. Mary's will welcome our group. After that we'll have lunch at the Westover, a fine 1860s mansion set in 18-acre grounds. Christopher Plummer likes to stay here when acting at Stratford.

In the afternoon we'll be given what we're confident will be an entertaining insider's tour of town by Mary Smith, the Curator of the St. Mary's Museum (which incidentally has an interesting Port Hope connection); Paul King, president of Community Heritage Ontario, is very kindly opening his splendid Victorian house specially for us. Darn your socks, everyone! We'll have to remove our shoes! While half our group views the house, the other half will be given a walking tour, and then the halves will switch.

Our last two stops will be at two extremely handsome side-by-side churches, a marvelous contrast in architectural styles. We'll visit both and have tea in the second. Then it's back on our bus where we'll have our usual Happy Hour and cocktail nibbles as we travel home.

We're still tweaking departure and arrival-home times, but we'll inform you as soon as we've decided. Cost: \$68. for ACO members or \$78. for non-members. The cast-iron rule is that only payment reserves a seat, and we take reservations strictly in order of paid precedence. We emphasize



that booking over the phone doesn't guarantee a seat.

Send your reservation and payment (made out to ACO, Port Hope Branch) to: St. Mary's Tour, Box 563, Port Hope, L1A 3Z4. Please include your up-to-date e-mail, telephone number and address. If you need more information, please phone ACO Port Hope telephone: 905-885-7929, ...or e-mail: tours@acoporthope.ca. We look forward to seeing you.

Patsy, Gail and Honor.

Fantasizing at the Bluestone

Christmas festivities began for many of us with our party at the Bluestone—a most magical setting—on November 27th. There was an abundance of food and wine, an open fire, candlelight, and very good company. The house was beautifully decorated in 19th century style, and for those of us sporting enough to wear a name tag (suggested because we have many members new to Port Hope) there was a chance to win a small gift, courtesy of Joan Tooke. When we could tear ourselves away from the table or the bar, there were two whole floors of the Bluestone open to us to wander through as we pleased.

As I stood at the door with Will Ryan welcoming people, someone asked me if this was my house. Hmm, I was tempted to lie—*very* tempted to lie! I didn't lie but I did fantasize. A visit to the basement kitchen below stairs, standing by the fire in the parlour and being served by a young maid and manservant made it very easy to imagine (until the witching hour when I had to put on my boots and go out into the cold) that I was mistress of the Bluestone, the best house in Port Hope, and that this was Christmas 1834.

Thanks for a truly lovely evening must go to all those

iron cresting; the wider tower at 236 Walton Street, has interesting red shingles on its roof and a flatter bell-curve.

A possible bombé example may be found in the downtown area, at 114 Walton Street. This slightly forbidding Second Empire building has a convex roof on the front façade only, which looks like a bombé mansard. The roof is windowless with an odd, also convex, projecting central section rising up from the eaves. The roof top is hidden by the walls at each side so one can't tell whether it's flat or slanted. Authentically mansard or not, this roof illustrates the sheer exuberance of the architectural diversity found in this town, and deserves to be noticed.

The seventeenth century French architect after whom the mansard was named was François Mansart. The name was misspelled when it was applied to the roof. Apparently taxes were once levied on the number of floors below the roof, so lowering the roof and incorporating windows into it not only made clever economic sense but also made good use of the roof space. Mansart didn't, as it turns out, invent this style; he adopted it from an earlier form of roof (seen in parts of the Louvre), and made it his own. Two hundred years later, it became a feature of Louis Napoleon's Second Empire style in France. It was widely copied elsewhere too,



Above—A local example of a Bombé Mansard roof at 114 Walton and quoins at the Lantern Inn, 1 Walton.

in particular the United States. Many mansards may be seen around Boston.

New Architectural Challenge—Quoins

A "quoin" (from "coin" the French for corner or angle) is a large stone used to strengthen house angles and corners. Usually they're arranged down house corners alternating at right angles, and look decorative.

Our example comes from the very handsome Lantern Inn, at 1 Walton Street, and shows the inn's Mill Street façade. The quoins facing Mill Street are handsomely carved, but the less-visible south-facing ones—several of which are quite damaged—have a textured or rusticated look. There must be a number of examples of quoins around Port Hope. Most are stone, but sometimes yellow brick in a red brick building copies stone. When you see a good example, please contact us with the address, at pbeeson@eagle.ca or send to 8 King St., Port Hope, L1A 2R4. We need your name and contact information as well.

Patsy Beeson

Fifth Annual Antiques & Artifacts Auction

To be held on Sunday April 5, 2009 at the Port Hope Town Park Recreation Centre. Eager bidders will be able to snap up contributed items ranging from art, antiques and collectibles to vintage architectural artifacts, such as doors or newel posts etc. Money collected will go towards grants and projects for the restoration of heritage designated buildings in the area and our restoration arts scholarship fund. If you wish to contribute articles for the auction, please call the ACO at: 905-885-7929.


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Port Hope ACO Major Events 2009

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, February 19th

ANTIQUES & ARTIFACTS AUCTION
Sunday, April 5th

BUS TOUR TO ST. MARY'S
Thursday, April 30th

ACO BI-ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR
Saturday, July 11th

ACO SUMMER BARBECUE
Thursday, August 13th

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)

**MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**

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: _____

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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:

- Individual Membership:\$30.00
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