President's Report

The year 2011 was a very successful and busy year for Port Hope ACO. Our year started with the February 17th Annual General Meeting which was well attended and featured a presentation by Michael McClelland, a noted heritage architect. Over the year, a number of events were held, namely, the Antique Auction, the biennial Garden Tour, the Summer BBQ, the annual House Tour and the Christmas Party. These events were all well attended and substantial funds have been raised to assist us in our goal: the preservation of our natural and built heritage.

With these funds we have supported a number of initiatives over the year:
1. The ACO Scholarship Fund for students to attend restoration programs;
2. A donation to the Willowbank Institute in the name of a long-time ACO supporter, Mel Chapple;
3. Support for students attending the ACO/CHO Conference in Cobourg;
4. Donation towards the restoration of the Wesleyville Church;
5. Donation to St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church towards its restoration;
6. Donation to St. John’s Anglican Church towards the restoration of the steeple; and
7. Painting of the Walton Hotel.

We are embarking on the most ambitious project ever undertaken by ACO Port Hope: the rejuvenation of our downtown. Our downtown is notable as "the best preserved Main Street in Ontario". Due to a number of factors, including the economic downturn, the downtown is in need of help. ACO Port Hope cannot undertake this project alone, but will require other stakeholders of the downtown to join in a partnership with the goal of preserving our downtown, not only physically, but economically as well. ACO can be the catalyst to get the initiative underway and to help orchestrate other stakeholders, such as the Municipality, the store owners and building owners, the Heritage Business Improvement Area (HBIA), the Chamber of Commerce, institutions such as the Library and Capitol Theatre, service clubs as well as businesses and industries. The program would have a number of initiatives, such as:
1. Restoration of buildings;
2. Streetscape improvements including pavement, sidewalks, landscape, etc.;
3. Lighting;
4. Parking issues; and
5. Possible back lane improvements.

This is obviously a project which could extend over a number of years. We, the current board, feel strongly that this should be a high priority for our funding over the coming years and would hope ACO could commit to a budget of $100,000 per year for the next three years towards this initiative. At the AGM, we will ask the members to endorse this multi-year initiative.

Port Hope ACO now boasts over 300 members, making it the largest Chapter in Ontario, indicating the interest and concern of Port Hope residents with their architectural heritage.

I have enjoyed my 2-year tenure as President and thank my fellow board members for their support. I would especially like to thank Eileen Ford, our Treasurer for many years. She has ensured that our finances are flush and well-maintained. I look forward to working with our incoming president and will continue to be a strong contributor to Port Hope ACO.

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip H. Carter
M. Arch., M.C.P., OAA, FRAIC, CAHP
ACO Board of Directors 2011

Executive Committee
Phil Carter .................. President
Trish Doney .................... Vice President
Susan Carmichael ............ Secretary
Eileen Ford .................. Treasurer

Directors
Patsy Beeson
Lee Caswell
Judith Copeland
Tom Cruickshank
Sebastian Hanna
Peter Kedwell
Charles Wickett
Ed Pamenter ................. Advisor

Committee Chairs
Joan Tooke .................. Auction
Patsy Beeson .................. Bus Tour & Newsletter
Mary Shaw-Rimmington .... Garden Tour
Charles Wickett ........ Governance
Lee Caswell .................. House Tour
Trish Doney ................. Membership
Tom Cruickshank ........ Projects & Auction
Mary Trevor ................. Scholarship
Judith Copeland ............ Social

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.

Proposed Slate of Officers & Directors for 2012

Executive Committee
President ..................... Trish Doney (new to post)
Past President ............... Phil Carter (automatic appointment for one year)
Vice President ............ Charles Wickett (new to post)
Treasurer ................... Dennis Hogarth (new to Board)
Secretary ................... Susan Carmichael (elected in 2011 for a 2-year term)

Directors
Peggy Bennett (new to Board)
Patsy Beeson (standing for re-election)
Lee Caswell (elected in 2011 for a 2-year term)
Judith Copeland (standing for re-election)
Tom Cruickshank (standing for re-election)
Phil Goldsmith (new to Board)
Sebastian Hanna (elected in 2011 for a 2 year term)
Peter Kedwell (elected in 2011 for a 2 year term)

What Do We Do With All That Money?

Apparently there have been questions as to what the ACO actually does and how we use "all that money we make" in fundraising.

Considering the very many buildings we have helped around our town both recently and over the years it's plain we keep far too low a profile about the wonderful work we do, of which we're justifiably proud. So, uncharacteristically we're now going to toot our horn a little bit.......

THE KIND OF THING WE DO!
The ACO Donates $25,000 To Church Restoration

The Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario donated $25,000 towards the restoration of the steeple at St. John’s Anglican Church in downtown Port Hope.

The church has already begun restoration of the lofty tower, built in 1865 but showing its age since it was last repaired in the 1950s. The congregation has embarked on an ambitious fund-raising campaign to meet the estimated $250,000 cost to replace rotted members, repair masonry and introduce new copper sheathing. The ACO has stepped in to help them meet their goal. “We admire the people at St. John’s for embarking on this ambitious project,” said Mr. Philip Carter, chairman of the Port Hope ACO. “The restoration will cost a lot of money, but we are heartened to see how much this architectural land-
The Port Hope ACO—one of 25 branches of the parent organization, which has been around since 1933—is a group of historically minded enthusiasts who keep an eye on heritage buildings in and around town. Its goal is to ensure that Port Hope’s architectural heritage remains its best asset and that historic buildings continue to stand in good condition and be put to good use. Part of the ACO’s mandate is to raise funds for deserving restoration projects in town. “We raise money through donations, membership fees and of course, the highly successful annual house tour,” continues Mr. Carter. “St. John’s is a great way of putting those donations to work.”

The ACO recognizes St. John’s as a Port Hope landmark. In fact, you can see its steeple from almost anywhere in town, so it’s hard to imagine the town without it. “But that’s the dilemma the congregation faced,” says Mr. Carter. “It had deteriorated so badly that the only other option was to demolish the entire spire. What a sad loss that would have been. How fortunate we are that the people of St. John’s understand the importance of preserving their piece of Port Hope.”

SOMETHING ELSE WE DO

This is a photo of Zach Carrie at work on Redwood House in Cobourg. He has also done work for Acanthus Interiors, Kawartha Credit Union, and DonnyCroft Estates in Canton. Port Hope ACO awarded him a scholarship in 2009 toward his year-long studies in Heritage and Traditional Masonry at Algonquin College’s Perth Campus. He is one of 10 students whom the ACO has assisted in this way. He now runs his own business, Masonry Matters, at 905-376-3188 (masonrymatters@gmail.com).

AND THE KIND OF THING WE’RE ABOUT TO DO!
Announcing the Downtown Task Force

At February’s annual general meeting, the Branch executive will make a major announcement. There, we will make public our plans for a new initiative that will have a lasting and beneficial impact on Walton Street. Specifically, we are organizing the “Downtown Task Force,” a new program that will distribute money from ACO coffers for the restoration of various deserving buildings within the downtown heritage conservation district.
This is big, folks. The Task Force is an ambitious
endeavour, designed to put your donation dollars to work in
a significant way. Knowing that the restoration of commer-
cial heritage buildings isn’t always cheap, the ACO plans to
donate directly to deserving projects—window restoration,
masonry repairs, shopfront design and the like—and super-
vise these jobs to heritage standards. This kind of thing has
long been part of the ACO mandate, but has usually been
in response to a fire or some other calamity. We think that
by being pro-active, the Task Force will be instrumental in
maintaining Walton Street’s reputation as the best preserved
main street in Ontario.

As ambitious as the new initiative is, it is only one
aspect of the new Downtown Task Force. In all, its goals are
described as:
• to encourage the preservation of downtown buildings
  through direct donations and financial assistance to
  building owners
• to foster high restoration standards by supervising work
  and discussion with restoration contractors
• to work with the town and its consultants on streetscape
  improvements
• to have a role in attracting new retail, office and institu-
  tional businesses in the downtown core
• to have influence in discussing downtown policies re
  beautification, parking, planning and other issues related
  to the viability of Walton Street.

At this writing, we are in the initial stages of organiz-
ing certain projects and there are still any number of details
to iron out. Come to the AGM, you’ll definitely learn more.

Tom Cruickshank

Xmas Party Report

The ACO Christmas Party on Dec 1 at the home of Terri and Da-
vid Pamenter (new comers to Port Hope) was another jolly af-
fair with an exuberant crowd of revellers filling the house with
their greetings and enjoying Phil and Charles's drinks and Herma's
goodies. The hosts handled the onslaught with grace and aplomb, and
the old house was a welcoming site! Thanks to all the board volun-
tees who greeted, served and kept the good spirit going, and to the
Pamenters for offering their wonderful home. 

Judith Copeland

(Continued from previous page)

7th Annual ACO Bus Tour –
Peterborough
Wednesday, April 25th, 2012

If your visits to Peterborough usually take you no further
than the big box stores on Lansdowne with occasional
visits to the Canoe Museum or the Lift Lock when
you’ve visitors to entertain, you’ve been missing out on
some very worthwhile architecture. As it’s so close, we’ll
have the luxury of spending more time than we usually can
on our visits to places of interest, meals and general sight-
seeing. Thanks to our ‘heritage’ friends there, our plans
include visits to private homes and buildings not normally
open to the public.

Peterborough owes its existence to the industrious
settlers who, in 1819, arrived at a propitious looking river,
the Otonabee, and promptly set up grist and saw mills. The
population swelled quickly when, under an experimental
emigration plan, 2,000 Irish immigrants were brought over
from County Cork by Peter Robinson, a politician from York
(present day Toronto). They were given free provisions,
tools and farm land. In recognition of Mr. Robinson’s contri-
bution, the growing town’s name was changed from Scott’s
Plains to Peterborough. As Peterborough grew, particularly
since the 1950s, it has expanded much more quickly to the
west than the east, which is why one of the areas we’ll be
exploring, known as ‘the Old West End’, is in fact very cen-
tral. Here we find the most imposing houses built at the time
of Peterborough’s greatest prosperity, the mid 1850s to the
late 1920s. It is also a city of handsome churches as well as
some very interesting 20th century buildings. But we won’t
forget Peterborough’s origins, and in fact have already lined
up a splendid old mill in the final stages of restoration out to
the east of the city.

Our tour will include, as usual, lunch and tea, and of
course our traditional homeward-bound refreshments on the
bus. We anticipate that the cost will be close to that of last
year ($70 ACO member; $85 non-member). If you would
like to be kept informed as the itinerary for the tour is firm-
up, please contact Gail Rayment - preferably by email at
gail.reayment@sympatico.ca or by phoning 905-377-0536.

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Many residents and visitors to Port Hope have discovered a picturesque old mill at the corner of Molson and Hope Streets near the dam and fish ladder. Few people are aware of its importance to the then-emerging Canadian art movement that took place between the two World Wars and during the Great Depression. Influenced greatly by the new-found appreciation of the Canadian landscape by the Group of Seven, the mill and the surrounding countryside became an important centre for art instruction as well as social interaction for aspiring art students of all ages.

The mill was built on the banks of the Ganaraska River C. 1850 by Thomas Molson of Molson Breweries, Port Hope and Montreal. The mill was sold locally by the late 1880s. Little is known about its use until it was discovered abandoned in 1923 by well-documented Canadian artists J.W. Beatty (an Ontario College of Art painting instructor) and G.A. Reid (Principal of the Ontario College of Art in Toronto) who converted it to a summer art school affiliated with the college and was referred to as "The Outdoor School for the study of Landscape Drawing and Painting, Port Hope, Ontario". During this time it became part of a very colourful chapter in the history of Canadian art. Taught by Beatty, an accomplished landscape painter, the school became a formative experience for art students including Alice Innis, Tom Stone, Franklin Arbuckle, Sir Frederick Banting, Doris McCarthy, Bernice Martin, Isobel Clelland and many others who have described their summers at the mill as "the best of their lives".

The Summer School was open from the middle of May to October 1. The resident instructor and assistants conducted a course in Drawing and Painting From Landscape, Outdoor Figure and Animal Study. According to the College brochures of the period "the building contains a dining room, dormitories and a magnificent studio with North light. There is a large tent for the men students. Catering and household affairs are in charge of a competent matron."

There were sleeping accommodations on the third floor of the mill for 22 female students and the men's dormitory held 12. The management also arranged additional accommodation at several nearby houses. Board was $7 to $12 per week and instruction fees were $20 for the full summer months or $10 per month. Recreation included an indoor badminton court. From archival photos it has been determined that there were outdoor costumed theatrical performances.

... continued next page
In the summer of 2002 past events and present ambitions were reunited when The Old Art School opened its doors to young artists when it welcomed Journey Through the Arts, a summer program of music, art and drama for students 6-13 years of age, operated by Christine Benson and Mike Woods. Unique to Port Hope, the program seeks to inspire and encourage a life-long participation and interest in the arts. Now preparing for its 11th successful summer, Journey Through the Arts has provided an exciting and enriching experience for over 1,000 participants.

The mill has also been featured as a wonderful gallery space for several artists during the Northumberland Hills Studio Tour. Future plans for the building are to continue its use as a music, arts and drama venue.

If anyone has any information, photos, sketches or anecdotes, or is acquainted with any former students during the era of Beatty's Summer Art School, we would be most appreciative of this information and further knowledge as we are currently assembling a comprehensive history of this period. Please contact Christine at journeythroughthearts@bellnet.ca. Website: www.journeythroughthearts.com.
It’s that time of year again! The Antiques & Artifacts Committee is gearing up for the Auction and Tag Sale to be held at the Town Park Recreation Centre on Sunday April 22, 2012. This year’s event will again feature a Silent Auction as well as the ‘R Us sales – Chairs ‘R Us and Doors & Windows ‘R Us. The Tag Sale and the ‘R Us sales will open for business at 10 am, and the auction preview will begin at the same time.

This year’s auction will benefit from the services of both Rob Rusland of Peterborough and Les Brittan, currently auctioneering for Waddingtons in Cobourg. We are very excited about this collaboration. The auction starts at 1 pm and runs for approximately three hours.

The word is obviously out there that this is an event worth supporting. The Chapel is three-quarters filled with a wonderful assortment of articles, large and small, and we are only now officially asking for donations. As always we are looking for “great stuff.” Great stuff relates to the title Antiques & Artifacts; great stuff is collectible; great stuff has a presence about it; great stuff is clean and in good condition; great stuff is hard to give up. We are also looking for a few exceptional pieces, a few “stars.”

There are some items that we must decline. These include electronic equipment, draperies, most upholstered furniture, mattresses, encyclopedia and out of date as opposed to classic or vintage household or office equipment. If in doubt, please call Joan or Ed.

We look forward to your “great stuff.” Please contact Ed Pamenter (905-885-2737) or myself (905-885-1116) to facilitate drop off or pick up. Please provide us with as much information as possible concerning your donations. Many thanks.

Joan Tooke, Chair
Major Upcoming Events

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, Feb. 23rd (see p. 1 for details)

ANTIQUES & ARTIFACTS
Sunday, April 22nd (see p. 7 for details)

ANNUAL APRIL BUS TOUR
Wednesday, April 25th (see p. 4 for details)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
If you have questions or comments, we would like to receive them and will pass them on to be answered by the appropriate member of the board.

If the subject is of general interest, we shall publish the question and answer.

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Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Port Hope Branch
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s):__________________________________________
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Full Address:________________________________________
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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: ..............................................$35.00
• Household Membership: .........................................$40.00
• Organization Membership: ....................................$45.00
• Donation: ..............................................................$?????

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