

# ACO Matters

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario - Port Hope Branch

Newsletter February 2007

## The President's Report

I trust you had a pleasant holiday season with family and friends. My sojourn to South America from December 16, 2006 to January 6, 2007 was a most enjoyable one. The sixteen day cruise included the Falkland Islands and Cape Horn. In both Argentina and Chile, I had an opportunity to visit many historical buildings both commercial and residential. Some places there were whole 19<sup>th</sup> century communities where the residences were lovingly restored. Many areas have been revived after many years of absolute neglect. The importance of heritage conservation is certainly evident through many regions of both these countries.

This year promises to be another successful year for the ACO with the following events:

**Antiques & Artifacts Appraisal Day - March 17**

**ACO Port Hope Annual General Meeting  
Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm for 8 pm start.  
Wayne Kelly from The Ontario Heritage Trust  
will speak about the Trust and its activities  
The Capitol Theatre Studio**

**Antiques & Artifacts - April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday - Members' Reception & Auction  
Preview - 5 pm to 8 pm  
Sunday - Annual Antiques and Artifacts  
11 am - Tag Sale  
12 pm - Auction**

**Garden Tour - July 7  
House Tour - September 29**

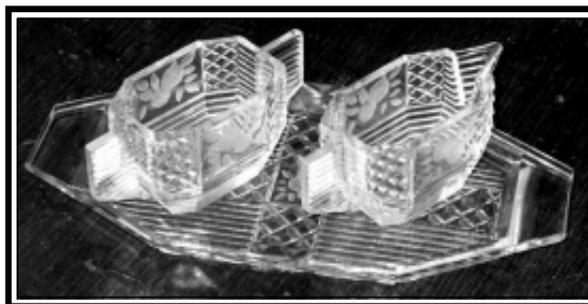
Your support and active participation is strongly encouraged. Please mark these dates on your calendar. We need helpers for these events.

I would also request that you renew your 2007 membership. Trish Doney, Membership Chair, has sent out reminders. If you have not already done so, please give Trish your email address as well.

**Richard Vincent**



In this issue there are photos of some of the many articles donated for the *Antiques & Artifacts Auction*. To donate articles please phone us at 905 885 1116.



### ACO Port Hope Auction

*The Antiques & Artifacts Auction organizers really need help from Monday, April 9th to Auction Day, April 15th, please call Joan Tooke at 905 885 1116 to give a hand*

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## ACO BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006

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Ken Burgin	Media
Gerald Tooke	Publications

### “Heritage Port Hope” Representative

Ed Pamerter

### Advisor

Lee Caswell

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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 protection of its places of natural beauty.

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## The Original Agricultural Park

Not far from the Union Cemetery there was once located a resort that has long since disappeared from the map of Port Hope, but which in its day played a prominent part in the life of the town. This was the original Agricultural Park. Its boundaries as shown on a map published in 1878, were — Toronto Street on the West, Frazer Street on the north, Victoria Street on the east and Arthur Street on the south. The land, about seven acres in extent, was leased by the Township of Hope Agricultural Society in 1875 from Col. A. T. H. Williams at a rental of \$80 a year for nine years.

Up to this date such fairs or exhibitions as had been held in Port Hope had taken place on the Market Square and in the Drill Shed close by. The acquisition of land for exhibition purposes had been prompted by a new development. This was a plan whereby the agricultural societies in the counties of Durham, Northumberland, Victoria and Peterborough, instead of holding small local fairs, would combine to have a large Central Exhibition, to be held from year to year in different towns. Port Hope was to be the location for the Central Exhibition in 1876.

On acquiring the land, the Hope Agricultural Society, with the support of the town, proceeded to put it in shape for exhibition purposes, clearing the ground and letting contracts for the erection of a large Agricultural Hall, stables and other buildings, and the →



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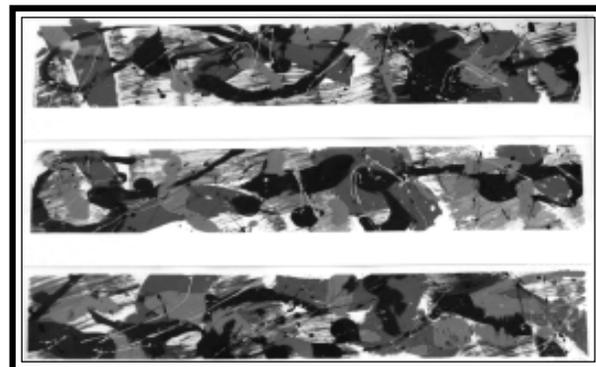
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laying out of a horse ring. The Agricultural Hall, when completed in the summer of 1876, was described as a spacious building well adapted for the purpose for which it was intended, and the committee in charge of the Central Exhibition was well pleased with it and the park in which it was located. The Central Exhibition of 1876 was described by The Guide as an immense success. It ran for three days, there were over 3,500 entries and the attendance was nearly 11,000. On the second day by 10 o'clock "the streets of the town were nearly impassable and those leading to the show presented an animated appearance." Until 1889 the Agricultural Park remained the scene of the spring fairs of the Township of Hope Agricultural Society and the Union Exhibitions in the fall of the East Durham and Township of Hope Societies. There then came to be objections to the location, so that when Port Hope secured incorporation for the Port Hope Industrial Exhibition Company in the spring of 1889 and proposed to hold an Exhibition in the Town Park, there was a readiness on the part of the Hope Agricultural Society to abandon their park and have the buildings transferred. This brought to an end the comparatively brief life of Port Hope's first Agricultural Park.

*Excerpt from W. Arnot Craick's "Little Tales Of Old Port Hope"*



"Triptych" by Jack Pollack above



A very smart sofa-bed

Time to start thinking garage sales & the Port Hope Archives is having one on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are looking for housewares, sports equipment, linens, records, tools & smaller furniture. Don't forget us when you are doing your spring cleaning! For more information and pick up call Marielle Lambert 905 885 5122

#### A DATE TO REMEMBER:

**September 29th, 2007**  
**The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Port Hope House Tour**  
**Featuring a fabulous selection of Port Hope's 19th Century Heritage Homes on view All proceeds go to support restoration projects in the Port Hope area.**  
**Tickets on sale July, 2007**  
**See [www.ACOPortHope.ca](http://www.ACOPortHope.ca) for details.**

Terry Foord, B. Arch, OAA, MRAIC

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## The Central Pier

We all pass by the Central Pier of Port Hope on a daily basis and can't help but notice the large lump of plastic held down by old tires. We put it out of our minds and barely notice the buildings on the Pier, nor realize their enormity or pedigree.

The 11 (or so) acre Central Pier and Harbour is of course the *raison d'être* of Port Hope. Once a large harbour filled with two masted schooners, it was eventually filled in to become storage yards. In the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century it became a foundry and the entire pier was covered with buildings producing plumbing fixtures. The cast iron tub in your house likely bears the imprint of "The Port Hope Bathtub Company".

When the Crane Plumbing Fixture Company terminated its operations, the Town of Port Hope, owners of the land and buildings, leased the entire site to Eldorado Nuclear and subsequently, Cameco, who have used the buildings as storage facilities. Cameco have been excellent tenants, and the buildings have been well-maintained. While visually the green fibreglas covering the windows may not be attractive, it has been protecting the large walls of steel framed factory windows and kept the building waterproof.

The buildings on the site vary in age and construction techniques and all are architecturally interesting, representing some of the few remaining structures of Port Hope's rich industrial heritage. What will be the future of these buildings and the Pier, and what part will this heritage resource play in the future development of this central focus of the Port Hope Waterfront?

One looks to other communities who have redeveloped such "Brownfield Sites" (ex-industrial sites). One thinks of the Distillery

District in Toronto, once Gooderham and Worts Distillery; or the Tate Art Gallery in the old Generating Plant in London, England; or the TTC Barns in Toronto being converted to an active sustainable arts and cultural community.

ACO Port Hope hopes to participate in developing a vision for redevelopment of this focal point of Port Hope's Waterfront. This is a marvelous opportunity since a large clean-up of the site is to occur and the whole Pier can be redeveloped to once more become the focal point of Port Hope's economic and cultural identity.

*Phil Carter*



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## ACO, Port Hope & Cobourg

Spring Trip to Cambridge, April 24th

In the last *ACOMatters*, we proposed a late spring trip to the old town of Galt in the heart of Cambridge. Once handsome, Galt suffered a prolonged depression, but since 2000 has seen a resurrection, due largely to an exciting instance of architectural conservation: the relocation of the University of Waterloo School of Architecture (“one of the strongest think tanks in the country” says Lisa Rochon of the *Globe & Mail*) to a huge old Victorian silk mill by the Grand River in Galt. Rick Haldenby, the school’s dean, is an expert on ‘core-area intensification’ - in other words, reviving dying urban centres, and since the school’s opening, Galt’s riverside has seen just such a rebirth, with lively cafés and shops opening, and the restoration of several handsome old churches.

We now have a bus booked for Tuesday, April 24th. First stop is the Architecture School for a tour. Rick Haldenby will address us about the school’s momentous move and perhaps discuss *other* places he and his group have resuscitated.

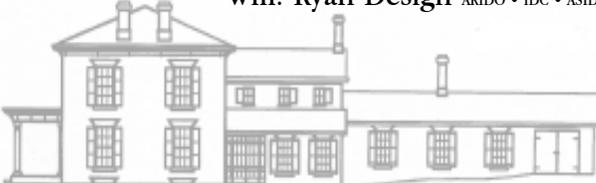
This will be followed by lunch, and in the afternoon we’ll have a tour of Galt and its handsome residential district.

If interested, call Port Hope ACO at 905 885 7929, and leave your name, address, e-mail and phone number. Cost for the trip is \$66.

**Patsy Beeson** →



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### Port Hope Garden Tour

The eleventh biennial Garden Tour is Saturday, July 7, 2007, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The ACO's Garden Tour has always featured diverse and interesting gardens. The 2007 tour follows that tradition: ten gardens, one in Canton, the rest in town. The mix includes small gardens, newly-planted gardens, water features, and an historical re-creation. Tickets are \$20 and will be available after May 1<sup>st</sup> but mail order forms will be placed around the area soon.



### Saturday, May 5th, 2007

Due to popular demand, *The Toronto All-Star Big Band* will return to the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope for a fourth exciting benefit concert for Hospice Northumberland Lakeshore, a Northumberland United Way agency. Tickets are available at the Capitol Theatre Box Office 905-885-1071 or 1-800-434-5092, \$33 or \$30 for groups of 20 or more. Doors open at 7 pm for the silent auction.

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### Heritage Trade Fair - "Ask an Expert"

The education committee of your ACO has organized a Saturday morning session for you in the Program Room at the downtown Library on Queen St.. This is the first in a series planned for 2007. On Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 am - 12 noon, you'll not only discover what some fellow members, neighbours and friends do when they aren't attending Port Hope ACO events, but be able to ask questions about the trade or craft they practice on a day to day basis. This event will be set up like a mini trade fair whereby tables are assigned to individuals displaying their work and you can visit whoever is of interest to you.

Peter and Jane Rungay have graciously agreed to describe their projects, answer questions and provide advice, where appropriate - they'll have photos of their recent endeavours and talk to anyone interested in finding and restoring old frame houses.

Tony Trevor whose hands refinish fine furniture will be able to answer questions not only about the art of restoring the finish on your great grandmother's sideboard but your stair railings and banister as well. How to care for your newly restored or refinished artifacts could also be discussed.

You'll also be able to see Ken Burgin's collection of post cards of old Port Hope. There are pictures of streets, individual buildings, the Ganaraska River and railway viaducts. Be sure to check out the same views on your way home from the display.

The next session will be held at the Living Green Fair May 5th in the Fall Fair Centre building. Watch for details. ●

**Appraisal Day March 17th, 10 am to 3 pm**  
Bring along your valuable pieces and find out just how valuable! Best people in the business want to help you. At the Capitol Theatre.

## Now, about Climate Change

With climate change at the forefront of everyone's mind, it's nice to know that we can make some positive changes within our homes that will benefit the planet. None of these suggestions will make a really huge difference but it may get us started on a process to see what other changes we can make.

We can reduce the wattage of our light bulbs by replacing existing lampshades with ones made of a translucent material. This will give out more light. If you find the new high efficiency light bulbs give off too much of a cool green tone you can remedy this by colouring your lampshades with a pale yellow to red tone.

If you are in the happy (or perhaps not so happy) position of renovating it is a good time to really examine your lighting options. Efficient location of task lighting means the remaining room can be lit to a lower level. Not only are pools of task lighting more efficient, they also enhance the appearance of a room. Whatever your lighting levels or format, dimmer switches are an excellent method of saving electricity.

Unfortunately, although they are a way of lighting an area, recessed lights can be a problem. This is because, if there is an unheated space above the recessed lights, there is an insulation issue.

However, the housing of recessed lights interrupts the insulation, causing it to be less efficient. →

There is also the added factor that recessed lights tend to produce less light in spite of the reflective surfaces inside the housings.

Electrically heated towel rods can add heat to a bathroom allowing the temperature in the house to be set lower. Towel rods can be turned on before a bath or shower and then the towels are luxuriously warm and toasty.

Wall to wall carpeting on floors, particularly over unheated garages can have insulating foil under the padding. This type of insulating foil can also be used under new wood flooring.

Curtains are a great way to reduce the heat loss at windows. The thermal effect of lined and interlined curtains that touch the wall at the sides and brush the floor is considerable. They also have the psychological effect of making us feel warmer and cozier!

On the converse side, roller blinds with a silver backing will reflect back a considerable amount of solar heat gain. For some reason, window awnings have fallen out of fashion, but with awnings, and blinds we may be able make our houses comfortable enough that we can avoid resorting to air conditioning.

There are many other considerations that result in a moderate reduction in our energy consumption. Many will be discussed in a further article.

**Will Ryan** ●



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Architectural Conservancy of Ontario  
Port Hope Branch

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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\_\_\_\_\_

Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual memberships in the ACO, Port Hope Branch are due each January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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, Antique & Artifacts Auction and other fund raising initiatives. Educational programmes 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 publication, and to ACO MATTERS, our Port Hope publication. Please send your cheque to:

- ☉ Individual membership: \$30.00
- ☉ Family membership: \$35.00
- ☉ Organization membership: \$40.00
- ☉ Donation: \$???????

ACO, Port Hope Branch, Box 563,  
Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3Z4

Tel: 905 885 7929

## Antiques & Artifacts

The 2007 ACO Port Hope Auction will be held on *Sunday April 15th, 2007* at the Port Hope Town Park Recreation Centre. Do you or your friends have any great pieces that you are willing to donate to either the tag sale or auction!

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