

# ACO Matters

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario - Port Hope Branch

Newsletter July 2006

## The President's Report

On June 2, 3 and 4, I attended the annual joint conference of the CHO/ACO at Chaffey's Locks in the heart of the Rideau Canal. As the Rideau Canal is a nominee for Ontario's first World Heritage Site, it was appropriate that the conference be held along this water way and the focus of the Friday seminars be related to heritage through a cultural landscape.

There were three speakers on Friday morning. Herb Stovel of Carleton University entitled his presentation "Setting the Scene: What is a Cultural Landscape?" He was followed by Heather Tomson. Heather's focus was on a provincial framework in which she discussed new opportunities for cultural heritage landscapes and defining values for cultural heritage conservation.

The audience learned how to apply the Ministry of Culture's criteria for determining heritage value and interest. The third presentation was given by Brian Osbourne, Professor Emeritus, Queen's University. Professor Osbourne was a delightful speaker and his sense of humour kept us highly entertained as he showed excellent slides of the Rideau area. After lunch, Mike Sawchuck lead a panel discussion on "Tools for Protecting Heritage Landscape."

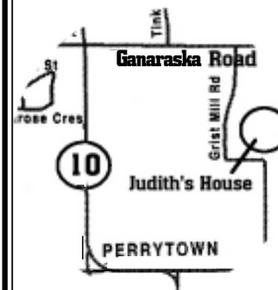
Following a delicious turkey dinner, Mayor Ron Holman was the after dinner speaker. This address was entitled "Good Heritage Planning Begins with the Municipal Official Plan." Perhaps this is something that could be passed on to the Port Hope people at the Town Hall.

Saturday, was divided into two parts. Half the delegates went on a boat cruise from Chaffey's Lock, locking through the Narrows Lock to Portland while the other half went on a coach tour to Jones Falls where one began a Historic Sites/ Landscape Tour. We reversed our agenda in the afternoon. Both tours were extremely informative.

Before our departure after lunch on Sunday, I attended the ACO president's meeting and the ACO annual general meeting. It was a great weekend, especially spending time with 150 other people all of whom are passionate about heritage preservation.

*Richard Vincent*

## ACO Port Hope's 2006 Annual Barbeque



Held this year at Judith Copeland's house at 7775 Grist Mill Road in Campbellcroft.  
5:30pm, Wednesday  
9<sup>th</sup> August.  
RSVP: 905 797 2823

## ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO PORT HOPE BRANCH

41st Annual House Tour  
Saturday September 30th, 2006

10am to 4pm Rain or Shine

Tickets: \$25

Tickets may be obtained from: Furby House Book Store on Walton Street, Acanthus Interiors on John Street, Lampworks/Monogrammes on Ontario Street and Antiques on Queen on Queen Street. They are also available from Days Gone Buy in Cobourg.

The proceeds of this highly acclaimed annual event support restoration projects throughout the Town.

## Contents

<i>President's Report</i> .....	1
<i>House Tour Committee</i> .....	2
<i>Paris Trip!</i> .....	3
<i>ACO Annual House Tour</i> .....	3
<i>Lucky 13 on Church</i> .....	4
<i>History of Locks</i> .....	5
<i>AK Sculthorpe Heritage Scholarship</i> .....	6
<i>Two ACO Web Sites!</i> .....	6
<i>Summertime &amp; the Living is Easy</i> .....	6



## ACO BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006

### Executive Committee:

Richard Vincent	President
	Vice President
Penny Harris	Secretary
Eileen Ford	Treasurer
Peter Rungay	Past President
	Phillip Carter
	Judith Copeland
	Diana Gandfield
	Kathryn McHolm
	Ed Pamerter
	Will Ryan
	Ken Burgin
	Gerald Tooke

### Committee Chairs

Ken Burgin	Media
Judith Copeland	Social
Ed Pamerter	Property Management
Lou Pamerter	Garden Tour
Kathryn McHolm	Education
Will Ryan	Auction
Gerald Tooke	Newsletter & Publications
Mary Trevor	Scholarship & House Tour
Richard Vincent	Membership

### “Heritage Port Hope” Representative

Ed Pamerter

### Advisor

Lee Caswell

---

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.

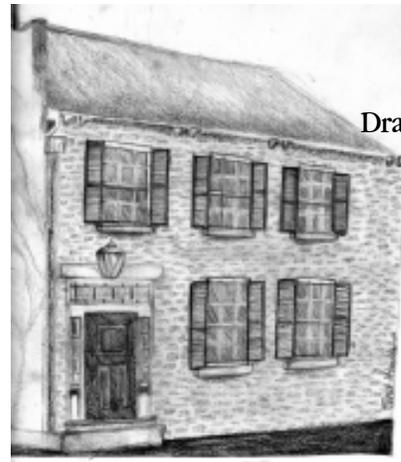
---

## ACO House Tour Committee

The Architectural Conservancy, Port Hope Branch, House Tour Committee decided to try a new approach to the house tour ticket this year. We approached Ms. Liao, the Art Director at Dr. Hawkins School, to see if her students would be willing to work with us. They agreed to make a project drawing the houses on the tour this year. Unfortunately, due to time constraints we have not been able to use the drawings in the ticket, but as you can see from the pictures with this article, the calibre of work was very high.

By way of recognition to the students, four 1st place awards were presented with a gift certificate from Furby House Books and 3 Honourable Mentions received a gift certificate from Facey's.

We are hoping to be able to display the drawings on House Tour day at the Town Hall. Although the intended use for the drawings did not occur, we nevertheless feel that the project was extremely worthwhile and look forward to similar projects with the talented young people of our town in the future.



Drawn by Janet McLachlan



Drawn by Logan Litz



# Brit-Lok

Security & Electrical Contractor

Peter F. Brittain

Security and Electrical Consultant  
Investigative and Forensic Locksmith

Tel.: 905-885-9845  
905-372-2822  
Email: info@brit-lok.com



## The ACOs of Port Hope and Cobourg are on the roll again!

Following on the success of the April tour to Perth - a joint initiative of the Port Hope and Cobourg ACOs - another tour is planned by the same team for Wednesday Sept. 20th. Mark your diaries. Again our tour will be notable for architectural and historical interest, but this time will also have literary aspects.

First we will visit Chiefswood, near Brantford, where the poet Pauline Johnson spent her early years. If you have read Charlotte Gray's fascinating biography of Johnson, *Flint and Feather*, you will know that she was the daughter of a Mohawk chief and an English gentlewoman. If time permits we will then pay a brief visit to Dufferin Street in Brantford - a street of lovely houses to which the Johnson women moved after the death of the father.

We will then move on to the unusual little town of Paris on the Grand River, subject of John Bemrose's recent best-seller, *The Island Walkers*, which portrays a barely disguised Paris in the 1960s. After lunch at the historic Arlington hotel, a local guide will take us on a tour of the town. Its origins have strong American connections, and a number of Greek Revival houses as a result. An American mason called Levi Boughton settled here in 1830 and introduced a type of New York State cobblestone construction. Using Grand River cobblestones he applied this technique to a wide variety of the town's houses - from simple to Gothic to Greek Revival - making Paris unique in Ontario.

We will stop at Hamilton Place, one of the grandest cobblestone houses, where a member of the Paris Historical Society will talk to us about the town's unique buildings.

As before, we are keeping costs as low as we can, but must take into account the higher cost of coaches at this popular time of the year.

Cost of the trip per person, including bus, driver's tip, morning coffee, lunch, and refreshments as we travel home is \$67 for members, \$72 for non-members. (Note: our trips are priced on a break-even basis. However, bus hire costs are higher in the fall due to great demand.)

To secure your seat please send a cheque for the appropriate amount to ACO Cobourg Branch, Box 1013, Cobourg, Ontario. K9A 4W4. We sold out last time so don't miss out! Applications must be in by August 22nd.

**Patsy Beeson**

## 41st Port Hope AGO Annual House Tour

10am to 4pm - rain or shine

It's that time again. Tickets will be available for sale on or about July 30th, 2006. Tickets are still \$25, and may be obtained from Furby House Book Store on Walton Street, Acanthus Interiors on John Street, Lampworks/Monogrammes on Ontario Street and Antiques on Queen on Queen Street. They are also available from Days Gone Buy in Cobourg. The annual event features self guided tours of eight private homes and one public building, in and around Port Hope. We are thrilled this year that 6 of the 8 homes have never been on the tour before.

This year's tour features an 1844 Georgian Town home, an 1860 Vernacular style cottage, an 1850's Georgian home on King Street, the 1853 "Scott House," three circa 1850-1860 classic revival style homes and the 1820 "Durham House." We are also featuring Canton United Church as it commemorates 130 years. The very interesting cemetery will also be offering informational tours.

Tickets traditionally sell out early for this tour and we recommend purchasing before the end of August. Occasionally returned tickets are also available on the day of the tour at the Town Hall between 9am and noon. Mail order is also available by calling 905 885 7929.

**Mary Trevor, Chair**

*Dr. CORBETT'S INN*  
*Fine lodging in historic Port Hope*



**Neils Lund & Richard Pattison**  
*Proprietors*  
86 John Street, Port Hope  
Ontario L1A 2Z2  
Tel. 905-885-7057

[www.drcorbettsinn.com](http://www.drcorbettsinn.com)

  
**HOLTON**  
*Flowers*

---

**Blake Holton**  
*Proprietor*

62 Walton Street • Port Hope • Ontario L1A 1N1  
[www.holtonflowers.com](http://www.holtonflowers.com)      905 885 7439

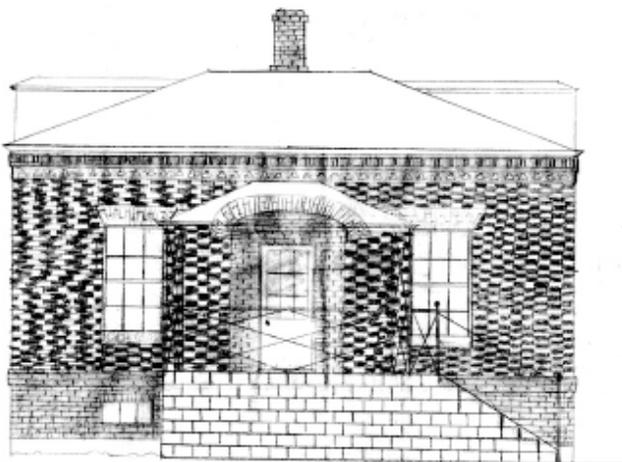


**Lucky 13 on Church!!**

A phoenix is arising from the ashes on Church Street, number 13 to be precise. The aluminum clad three storey cottage on the corner of Church and Baldwin has shorn its outermost envelope and is showing some of its worth instantly.

The aluminum removal began about two weeks ago and some fancy brickwork at the cornice level and around the doorway has emerged. The cornice, while hidden for years was suggested with the aluminum as it bent out slightly toward the eaves. The cornice consists of dentil bricks at the upper most cornice level (blonde dentils) and red brick surround. The next level down shows a recessed inverted 'T' design (blonde in the recess) with red brick surround. Both of these cornice levels are proud about 1 inch. The lack of eaves is curious, and is a much tailored look, much like a tea-caddy.

The header over the windows is in blonde brick. Under the porch (which may have an original roofline), is a wonderful Georgian arch hidden from view, incorporating blonde brick laid flush with hand painted red grout lines again a very stylish detail. Under the arch is a red brick recess (again recessed about 1 inch) with a plain rectangular door, with no sidelights or transom.



*Pencil drawing showing proposed changes to the building*

The pencil sketch shows a glazed door which is speculation as no door is present. The most exciting feature appears to be the brick body of the house. It is laid in Flemish bond with the red brick being the larger and a blonde brick being the smaller. This gives the entire front a "checkerboard" effect, which hopefully will reveal itself with proper cleaning of the presently



*The South West corner with wood strapping still showing painted brick. Some of these areas are unpainted under the porch roofline and this checkerboard is evident there. There is a starter course at the door threshold level which again projects one inch. Some brick has been damaged by strapping applied to hold the*



"A quality multi-dealer shop next to the historic Capitol Theatre"

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

12 Queen Street, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 2Y7  
Phone: 905 885 9858 Fax/answer: 905 885 1118

Prop: Lee Caswell & Kendra Simmons

**Antique Restoration**

Fine Furniture Refinishing

Now offering: Staircase, Handrail & Fine Woodwork Refinishing

Tony Trevor - 905 885 5006



aluminum, but nothing that can't be repaired. On the north side of the house, barely visible, is the signature Brick diamond sign, thought to be a masons or builders signature. There are thoughts this may be a Trick house and there are many similarities between the brickwork and design of the Ridout Street landmark. The cottage next door on Church Street contains this signature on the North wall, now painted, as does the home owners' house on King Street, the old *Evening Guide* building on Walton, and the house facing Walton on the corner of Church. Some research begs to be done about this builder, or maybe some readers know more. Please advise.

The lower level window is original and only present on the left side. This suggests the staircase to the main level was always in this present layout. The porch design and handrail are speculation as no photos exist. The hip roof and dormers to the north and south appear all original and are a well proportioned delicate example. Too often dormers today appear out of proportion to the scale of the building. The centre chimney appears in its original location and there is an existent fireplace on the lower level. ●

*By home owners Lee Caswell and Blaise Gaetz*

Wm. Ryan Design ARIDO • IDC • ASID



Interior • Exterior Design • Renovation  
4558 County Road 10, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3V5  
905 753 2033



**MOYA MCPHAIL DESIGN**

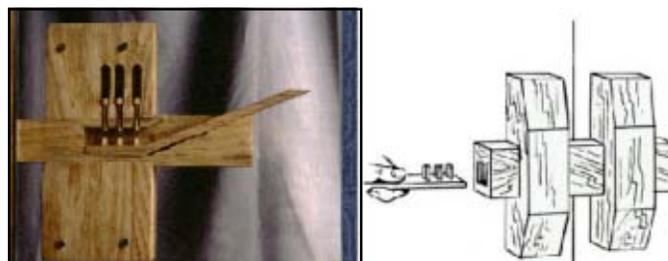
Read House, 20 King St., Port Hope, ON L1A 2R4  
www.eagle.ca/~moya · moya@eagle.ca  
Tf: 1-877-425-5505 · Ph: 905-885-1567  
Cell: 416-457-1205 · Fax: 905-885-1860

- RENOVATION
- CONSULTATION
- DECORATION
- RESIDENTIAL
- INTERIORS
- SPACE PLANS

## A Brief History of Locks and Locksmithing

Locksmithing is an old and respected profession. It is also one of the most secretive with regards to the “tricks” of the trade? References to locks and keys are found frequently in the Old Testament and in other writings. The Book of Nehemiah states “set up the doors thereof, and the locks thereof, and the bars thereof.”

One of the oldest known locks, found in Persia at the Khorsabad palace ruins near Nineveh, is thought to be 4,000 years old. A large wooden bolt secured the door, and was retracted by means of a “key” which lifted wooden pins or pegs, which prevented the bolt from being slid to the open position. This was a common lock in Egyptian times and is a predecessor of today's pin tumbler lock. It is believed that locks and keys were invented independently in early Egyptian, Roman, Greek and Oriental civilizations. Evidence suggests that the Romans and the Chinese each may have invented padlocks.



*Early Egyptian Wooden lock*

In Europe and the Far East, brass and iron padlocks were made popular by the Romans and the Chinese because of their portability. These padlocks could be attached to boxes and chests, and operated by keys that were turned, screwed and pushed. They were ideal for securing valuables to be transported. Animals, dragons, and mystic creatures adorned these padlocks and keys - each reflecting its origin. Some were given as presents with messages written in cuneiform characters. Few of these ancient wooden or iron locks exist today. Over the years they have deteriorated with rust and decay. We may, however, still admire those made of bronze and other materials.

For hundreds of years, ropes made of rush and fibre secured or “locked” doors and other items. Gordius, King of Phrygia, secured the yoke to the shaft of his chariot with an intricate knot - the Gordian Knot. The oracles predicted that only the man destined to conquer Asia could untie this knot. When Alexander the Great was unable to do so, he cut it off with his sword in a swift manner. Thus “to cut the Gordian Knot” means to act boldly.

➔ (continued on page seven)



### The AK Sculthorpe Heritage Scholarship

The Scholarship Fund Committee is pleased to announce that this year's recipient will be Matthew Paul Desbaibieux of Port Hope. A recent graduate of Port Hope High School, Matthew has been accepted into the Heritage Carpentry programme at Algonquin College. Those of you who recently took the tour to Algonquin College in Perth were able to see first hand the high quality level of the curriculum there and we are pleased to continue to assist candidates on an annual basis.

Brandon Bliss was last year's recipient and we are pleased to advise that Brandon is currently completing his final semester at Algonquin College in the Heritage Masonry programme. We look forward to seeing Brandon's work in and around Northumberland County in the very near future. We wish him every success with his career.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Port Hope branch, is pleased to accept specific donations to this very worthwhile fund. A tax receipt will be given.

*Mary Trevor, Chair*

### Two ACO Websites!

Not quite what was envisioned when the first ACO local organization came into being! ACO Port Hope has two web sites. One is an ongoing - always online - all the up-to-date information you ever needed to know about our ACO - operation. This is operated by Ken Burgin, and its address is [www.acoporthope.ca](http://www.acoporthope.ca). The other web site features the annual "Antiques & Artifacts" auction only and is run by Gerald Tooke, and its address is [acoauctionporthope.homestead.com](http://acoauctionporthope.homestead.com). Each has a link to the other and it is very easy to move from one to the other. [acoporthope.ca](http://acoporthope.ca) is still, in part, "under construction" but has more information every day. For instance, the past newsletter is already on line and available for reading or downloading.

Sascha Pico

Home decor

---

Hand crafted leather furnishings,  
designer prints and mirrors,  
decorative lamps and accessories for your home.

Visit us at:  
42 Walton Street, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 1N1  
905-885-5039

### Summertime and the Living is Easy!

A very memorable room for me was one with a black & white tiled floor, white slipcovers, with black piping and mattress ticking cushion covers.

In this instance, the winter curtains were removed and replaced with light unlined curtains. The accessories were mainly black and the contrast was created with green plants.

As most of us operate with a limited budget, use attractive baskets and fun accessories that can be picked up relatively cheaply at a local store on Hwy 28 that specializes in primitive items.

The shops on the main street of Port Hope have extremely tasteful items, as does our local hardware store.

Our local grocer has a 'Bistro' line of plain crockery that can be used instead of the 'good' china. It does not cause a major depression if a piece is broken. (Extra, plain china is useful at any time of year and any time you have a crowd.)

If you're dining 'al fresco' often, the white enamel picnic dishes with a red, black or blue edge are charming. There is no danger of broken shards of china to mar the occasion.

Easy summer living is a chance to let style drive your decorating decisions not the value of the items.

All too soon, winter will be nudging and we will look forward to arranging our furniture back again and reintroducing our warm and cozy fabrics and our heavier accessories. You may discover that you quite liked the 'less is more' aesthetic and find you are happy to pare down somewhat. Whatever your decorating decisions, lighten up and enjoy yourself!

*Will Ryan*

### Gerry's Reminder Service

**Art Gallery of Northumberland "A Day in the Country"**  
Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2006. Tickets \$40 per person, includes BBQ lunch, wine & beer, entertainment & a raffle!  
Tickets: Northumberland Gallery: 905-372-0333

**Port Hope Fall Fair - Fun for everyone!**  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> - The Fair's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Competitions for art, photography, baking, crafts, a spelling bee - something for all ages!

**Port Hope Jazz Festival - Jazz Blues & More!**  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> 2006  
Spectacular music for three days!

(continued from page five)

About 870 to 900, the first all metal locks appeared. They are attributed to the English, and were of the warded style of locking mechanism. During the early middle ages locks became more elaborate, but less secure. Gothic architecture had a great influence in the ornamentation of locks and this continued into the Renaissance when Master Locksmiths created locking devices for nobility and church and improved upon the mostly warded style of mechanisms. These individuals were transient so it is difficult to determine where locks were produced or even used.

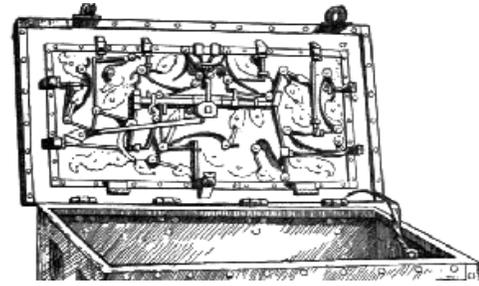


***A very early Chinese lock which has a thin metal key***

Some of the locks of the 14th to the 17th centuries utilized hidden keyholes, trick devices and very intricate internal warding and mechanisms. One great advancement in ornamentation was a process similar to the "niello" process, which allowed the craftsman to create various stains for metal and thus to highlight designs. Methods of producing casts and etching were greatly refined at this time. Repousse, ornamentations, overlays, embossing, chaffing, piercing and fretwork became more refined. By the 17th century, Europe had some impressive locks, including the Bramah lock which utilized a series of sliders in a circular pattern. Bramah became the oldest lock company in the world, and still operates.

In the 18th century, lock picking became more prevalent, and the locksmith had to become more inventive. Locks became more secure with alarm bells connected to the mechanisms, puzzle locks and combination locks as seen on vaults and safes, and other refinements. Some of these old vaults are very ornately designed not only on the outside, but, on the inside of the locking mechanism also. In 1862, a bank vault lock used on the U.S. Treasury Department, and patented by Dodds, MacNeal, and Urban of Canton, Ohio, used a combination lock of letters and numbers, which

afforded 1,073,741,824 combinations. It was estimated that to run through all combination without interruptions would have taken 2,042 years, 324 days and 1 hour.



***An incredibly intricate chest lock from 1790.***

Prior to 1800, most of the locks used in the Americas were brought from Europe or were copies of them. But as prosperity grew, the need for lock makers and locksmiths increased. Between 1774 and 1920, American lockmakers patented some 3,000 varieties of locking devices and systems. For example, Linus Yale Sr., and Walter Schlage advanced the "Pin Tumbler Lock" to what we know today. In 1767, *The Art of the Locksmith* was published in France, and described examples of the lever tumbler lock.

Very impressive locksmiths and lock makers have emerged in the past few centuries. Robert Barron of England dramatically improved the security of tumbler locks and patented a double-acting tumbler lock in 1778. Joseph Bramah patented his Bramah's lock in 1784; it was considered unpickable. Linus Yale Sr invented a pin-tumbler lock in 1848; his son improved it. James Sargent invented the key-changeable combination lock in 1857, and in 1873 patented the combination locks still used in vaults. Samuel Segal, a former New York City policeman, invented the first jimmy proof locks in 1916 and has 25 patents to his name. Harry Soref started the Master Lock Company in 1921. (Look for another installment!)

***Peter Brittain, Locksmith***



**SMITH'S CREEK  
ANTIQUES**

A Member of The Canadian  
Antique Dealers Association



Carol & Clay Benson

27 Walton Street, Port Hope Ontario L1A 1M8 • Phone (905) 885-7840  
Beside the River • Three Floors of Antiques • Open 7 Days a Week



Architectural Conservancy of Ontario  
Port Hope Branch

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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 programme. 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, the Port Hope publication.

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

Please send your cheque to:

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

Tel: 905 885 7929

## Antiques & Artifacts

The next ACO Port Hope Auction will be held on April 14th, 2007 at the Port Hope Town Park Recreation Centre. Start to think about what great piece(s) you could put into the tag sale & auction!

## Form And Function

CUSTOM CABINETMAKERS

CABINETRY AND KITCHENS  
FOR HERITAGE HOMES

ALAN SHARPE

905 885 7773  
1 877 850 7047 Toll Free  
[www.formandfunction.ca](http://www.formandfunction.ca)



## INN & SUITES

Port Hope • Ontario L1A 2S5  
5-2449 • Fax 905-885-5355  
[terninn.ca](http://www.terninn.ca)

## THE HILL & DALE MANOR LUXURY BED & BREAKFAST



47 Pine Street S.  
Port Hope, Ontario  
L1A 3E6  
(905) 885-5992

Hosts: David & Jeanne Henderson  
[www.hillanddalemanor.com](http://www.hillanddalemanor.com)