



Autumn 2026 Newsletter

September 24 2026



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ACO Provincial

The ACO Provincial Office has almost completed the migration to a blended membership. Some branches have closed. New branches are being added. Hamilton has decided to go with an Associate membership, which means that we will essentially be part of the ACO as we have been in the past. We will not be a separate entity. Our name will change from ACO Hamilton Region Branch to ACO Hamilton Region Associates.

ACO fees have gone up this year to \$60.00.

ACO Hamilton Region Branch

The current ACO HRB Board comprises
 President - Shannon Kyles
 Vice President - Catherine Robertson
 Treasurer = Sandra Iskandar
 Website - Ann Gillespie
 Media and Membership - Elizabeth Sue Hanna

For the past five years, ACO HRB has mainly functioned to produce Doors Open. The current board feels that smaller events and tours would best suit the needs of the community. There will also be more time for advocacy in future. Our main focus now is the Awards Event.

ACO Awards 2026

We are very pleased to announce that the ACO Provincial Awards will take place at Magnolia Hall on Thursday October 29 at 6:30 pm. Doors open for the event at 6:00.

Nominees for the event can be found at
<https://acoheritageawards.ca/the-2026-nominees/>

For those who have never attended this event, it showcases many examples of fine restoration work across the province. People who have done the work, or provided craftsmanship for restored buildings, or who have written about, podcasted about, or in any other way provided education or exposure to restoration and built heritage are all included. This event is a great inspiration for those involved in heritage and restoration work.

There are 45 nominations this year.

Because the awards are based in Hamilton, we have arranged that Magnolia Hall be opened from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm for the general public to attend and see what is happening in heritage across the province. Please come and tell us what you think. This will be a chance to view the best that we have done this year.

We are currently looking for sponsors for the event. Please feel free to contact us.

The committee for the ACO awards will be preparing large display boards with all the information for each of the nominees. For those who are interested in heritage, this is a great opportunity to become inspired, to learn how other companies and communities are dealing with repurposing their buildings, and to generally keep in touch with heritage in the province.

From 4:00 until 6:00 on October 29, Magnolia Hall will be open for the public to see the awards nominations and projects. We hope it will be a nice day, and that you will be able to take a wander through. We will also look forward to seeing you at the event if you plan to go.

ACO HRB-HRA Membership Drive 2026

ACO HRB (soon Hamilton Region Associates) is, once again, reinventing itself to fit in with the existing Hamilton Region historical and heritage groups. Our aim is to help provide smooth communication between the various groups, and compliment the activities already taking place. ACO HRB/HRA is different than the other groups in that we then report back to a central provincial body which is involved in changing legislation and lobbying the government on a provincial level.

A great many people are interested in heritage, but think that the beautiful old buildings are protected.

They are not.

By becoming a member and becoming involved with ACO HRB, you are helping to protect our built and natural environment. We would be very happy to send further information to anyone interested in joining.

An application (or renewal) form is included in this email. Or contact Sandra Iskandar at sandra@iskandararchitect.ca

