

ACO Interventions to Protect 2013-2025

Ontario's Most Important Building at Risk in 2024-2025

Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Road, Toronto, Raymond Moriyama, Architect, 1969 closed, future to be determined, a [smaller centre](#) proposed for Ontario Place



Photo: Robert Moffat, *Toronto Modern*

Raymond Moriyama's most spectacular Brutalist building was conceived in 1961 by the same Progressive Conservative Provincial government, under Premier John Robarts (with Education Minister, future Premier, Bill Davis) that built Ontario Place. The OSC was expanded in 1996 by addition of the IMAX/OMNIMAX Dome theatre by Zeidler Roberts Partnership and in 2006 by the Weston Family Innovation Centre by Diamond Schmitt Architects (with the Hot Zone, Challenge Zone, Citizen Science, and Media Studios). Famous for its hands-on approach to science, its OSC Science School, and for special exhibits which included *China: 7,000 Years of Discovery* (which attracted 1.7m visitors, *Mindworks*, *Body Worlds*, and *Leonardo's Workshop* (with models of his inventions), in its later years the OSC suffered declining visitor numbers and structural decay. Its bridge closed in 2022, and, June 21, 2024, citing problems with some of its reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete ([RAAC](#)) roofing the OSC was closed entirely (while other provincially-owned buildings built with RAAC remained open). A [new, smaller Ontario Science Centre](#) is promised for Ontario Place.

[ACO](#), the [Toronto Society of Architects](#) (TSA) and [Ontario Place for All](#) share their opposition to the Provincial government's intent to [relocate the Ontario Science Centre](#) to Ontario Place

TSA notes: *The Ontario Science Centre complex was specifically built for its site, responding to the changing levels of the Don River ravine and forging an irreplaceable relationship between building and landscape. It is an important cultural institution and community resource for Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park, dense neighbourhoods that have historically been underserved. It plays a vital role as a community hub and is among the few large-scale cultural institutions outside of the city centre.*

Most school students may be too young to vote. But we have a voice and we use it to protect our interests [Ontario Science Centre is ours to discover not to destroy.](#)

Grade 9 Student, Arushi Nath



Brutalism by Raymond Moriyama, his finest contribution to a much-despised architectural form that is growing in appreciation, being brought back from the brink of demolition elsewhere but not yet at the Ontario Science Centre.

Photos by James Brittain, for Moriyama Teshima Architects



Raymond Moriyama, born Vancouver, October 11, 1929. He was interned in eastern BC during World War II, on grounds of “national security”, with more than 22,000 other Japanese Canadians. There, as a young teenager, his first architectural project was a treehouse. He died September 1, 2023, nine months before the Ontario Science Centre closed.



Omnimax Dome, Zeidler Roberts, Architects, added 1996 (advertising “Dream Big” – which Moriyama and Zeidler did.)

June 26, 2024, Geoffrey Hinton Nobel Prize-winning “godfather of artificial intelligence” at the University of Toronto offered to donate \$1m towards repairs to the Ontario Science Centre, provided the provincial government agreed to keep the institution in its current 55-year-old building. \$1.5m was offered by Shopify. Their offers – and others – were ignored.

Also endangered: Raymond Moriyama’s Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, pp.119-120

Before ACO: ACO's First Intervention to Protect



Barnum House, 1819, 10568 County 2 Rd., Grafton

In 1932, before there was an ACO, University of Toronto Professor of Architecture, Eric Arthur purchased Loyalist Barnum House near Grafton, Ontario. Like many buyers of heritage properties, he soon realized that he had invested in a money pit. But he had a solution to that problem: *“Now that we had an unpainted house and a ruinous barn on our hands, it was obvious that something more had to be done and, at a meeting in Toronto, the Conservancy was born.”* In 1933 Eric Arthur and his friends founded the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, dedicated to “saving structures of architectural merit and places of natural beauty or interest.” Today, Barnum House, ACO’s first intervention to protect, is a beautifully conserved National Historic Site and museum house managed by the Ontario Heritage Trust. But, like all museum houses, Barnum House faces challenges that threaten its future; these challenges are being met by Ontario Heritage Trust and by ACO’s Cobourg branch – see p10.

In 2013 ACO published *80 for 80: Celebrating Eighty Years of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario*, a record of ACO intervention success presented in the stories of a fraction of the buildings, structures and heritage landscapes ACO saved, or helped others save, through its first eight decades.

ACO Interventions to Protect is a record of ACO action since the publication of *80 for 80*. In this list of more than 150 interventions there are successes and too many cases in which the fate of Ontario’s built and landscape heritage remains, after years of campaigning, still “to be determined”. But, in *Interventions to Protect*, there are few losses where there might have been many, if not for ACO action in its seventeen branches, as well as in many places where there is heritage but, for now, no branch of ACO.

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[ACO Interventions to Protect 2013-2025](#)

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ACO Cambridge & North Dumfries

Preston Springs Hotel, 1888, Fountain and King Streets, Cambridge.

(Originally the Del Monte Hotel Walder, renamed Preston Springs 1903 and, after the First World War, the Preston Springs Hotel and Sanitarium.)



This abandoned luxury hotel was an iconic landmark in Cambridge for 132 years. The high sulphur content in its mineral baths was used to “cleanse” the body and to treat arthritis, rheumatism and a variety of other diseases. Other treatments, included X-rays, hydrotherapy, electric baths and mineral cures for circulatory, respiratory, urinary, nervous and gastrointestinal ailments. Guests included Babe Ruth, Lucy Maud Montgomery, and Lord Stanley (Canada’s 6th Governor General and donor of the Stanley Cup). Several efforts to revive the hotel and spa after the Second World War failed, including by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, who rented Preston Springs to accommodate professional and retired businesspeople. By January 2020, the abandoned hotel had deteriorated to a point that the City of Cambridge issued the current owners, Haastown Holdings Preston Inc., a demolition order. (information with thanks to [Bruce Forsyth](#).)

[March 5, 2020](#) **Karen Scott Booth, Vice-Chair, ACO Cambridge and North Dumfries** filed an objection to stop the City of Cambridge from stripping the building of its heritage status: “The action taken now should be to stabilize the building and to find an adaptive re-use. The original structure is the porch, the tower, and three and a half storeys.” (See photo right.) “That’s what was there in 1880, that’s what is protected.” Removing the additions that came later would significantly decrease possible repair costs. “About 50 per cent of the footprint would be removed, therefore you reduced your costs of stabilizing and conserving the original structure.”

Region of Waterloo Region Planning Advisory Committee and Cambridge Heritage Advisory Committee also encouraged the City of Cambridge and the property owner to examine all possible options for the building. “It’s important to know we’re trying to work with the city, we’re not fighting the city on this.” Karen Scott Booth added: “It is also important to note that there is a development application circulating for this site and, to the best of my knowledge, this proposal does not include the historic hotel. The saving of the hotel and the protection afforded under the Ontario Heritage Act Designation would have an impact on what can be built adjacent to the historic structure, and possibly limit the current proposal.” The matter was referred to the Conservation Review Board (CRB) which is scheduled to begin its hearing mid-October, 2020.

Christmas Eve 2020: [demolition permit issued](#). (“There’s nothing nefarious attached to the issuance of the order on that particular date, it just happened to be the timing of getting all our information together.”) **Jan 5 2021:** [“crews work to tear down the last remains of the once-famous landmark”](#).

Galt Old Post Office Idea Exchange, 12 Water Street South, Cambridge
Thomas Fuller architect, 1884-87, RDHA architects, 2018



Thomas Fuller's Galt Old Post Office on the Grand River is conserved as the heritage core of a branch of the [Idea Exchange](#), which opened to the public July 6th, 2018. ACO Cambridge & North Dumfries sought, unsuccessfully, revision of the design to reduce, especially, visual intrusion of the ultra-modern riverfront glass "skirt" and the glass box restaurant, which overhangs the local stone masonry. However,

the clock, in its tower with a new copper roof, is working again and as much as possible of the original structure of the post office has been restored. With its children's discovery centre, teen creative space, maker lab and reading room, the Galt Old Post Office Idea Exchange is in the words of Library Board Chair, Gary Price "A building with innovative technology programs for children, teens, parents and seniors. A true community gathering place for discovery and lifelong learning".

Black Bridge, 8-106 Black Bridge Road, Hespeler, 1916
(designated as having significant cultural value, 2003)



Official plan amendment is required to complete designation of pin-jointed, steel Pratt truss Black Bridge (the only one of its kind in the City of Cambridge) as a cultural heritage landscape. Residents on opposite sides of the Speed River have different views regarding designation. Karen Scott Booth of ACO Cambridge argues: "Construction should be guided by the cultural heritage landscape."

(See also Winterbourne Bridge, p.65)

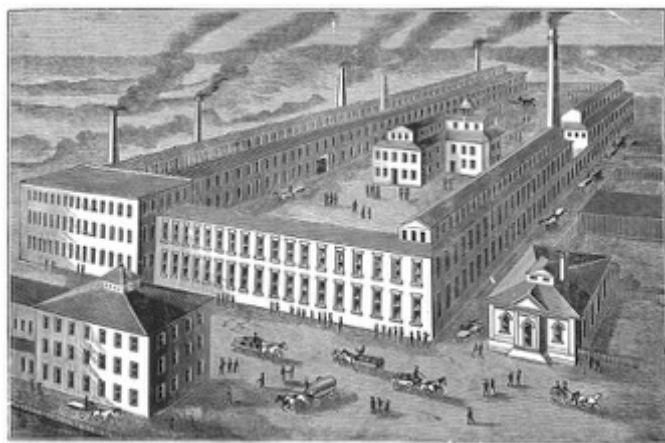
Panabaker farmstead, 1860s, 655 Blackbridge Road, Hespeler (Designated, 1987)

August 18, 2015 City of Cambridge Committee of Adjustment approved severance of the western portion of the farmstead for construction of 39 town houses. Farmhouse retained but demolition of the designated barn approved. Black Bridge Community Association, supported by ACO Cambridge appealed zoning by-law amendment to the Ontario Municipal Board. City-BBCA negotiations produced some assurances regarding the redevelopment. Designation by-law for 655 Black Bridge Road replaced with a new by-law that excludes barn from designation. BBCA withdrew its appeal to the OMB.



Panabaker Barn is now demolished, construction of townhomes complete.

Goldie McCulloch Southworks Industrial Complex, 1890s, 67 Grand Avenue South, Galt



THE GOLDIE & McCULLOCH CO.'S FOUNDRY.

Manufacturer of engines, boilers, water wheels and mill equipment, believed to be the last remaining intact complex of heritage industrial buildings and courtyards of this magnitude in Ontario.

Proposed **Gaslight District** development required partial demolition of listed buildings, construction of two 20-storey residential towers. Two ACO Cambridge OMB appeals noted that “Among other impacts to this distinctive heritage, we are concerned with loss of the north building, the site’s ‘front door’”. Negotiated design changes incorporate more of the historic buildings in the development of a mixed-use community, with a retail street leading to two 20-storey apartment towers on the site.



ACO Chatham-Kent

Morpeth Anglican Church, 1877, 19062 Hill Road, Morpeth



When Chatham-Kent Municipal Council complied with a request from the building's owner to strip heritage designation of the nearly 150-year-old former Morpeth Anglican church, in spite of his proposal to demolish it (offering to put up a monument in its place), Marlee Robinson, former Chair of ACO Chatham-Kent intervened to protect it.

She noted that "This area of Chatham-Kent is full of wonderful old, beautifully built buildings that, with adaptive re-use and imagination, could become wonderful again."

"This wouldn't be the first church in the area to be lost. A church in Ridgetown that was nationally recognized for its architecture was demolished within the last 20 years and a there was recent decision to allow the demolition of a church in nearby Blenheim."

Since Council's approval, the owner has told the CBC that he will keep the building standing and is working with the community to figure out ways to fix it up. Marlee Robinson, however still questions Council's decision saying, along with heritage designation, a conservation plan should be put in place.

"That would help and encourage owners to maintain and repair and work toward the long-term viability of the building. Because these buildings are built better than anything else that we're going to put up today."

She cited the Mary Webb Centre in Highgate (see p.10) as an example of adaptive reuse. The old church was turned into a concert venue and will be hosting live concerts again in December.

Sicklesteel-Newkirk House c1840, 9722 Longwoods Road, Chatham



ACO Chatham-Kent unsuccessfully supported designation and opposed the granting of a demolition permit. But thanks to ACO intervention, new owner Don Thompson and MPP Monte McNaughton, a compromise was reached and the house was moved to a different but appropriate site. It now stands on a new foundation and the back kitchen has been restored with a re-created cook hearth.

Bothwell Town Hall, 1915, 320 Main Street, Bothwell



Thanks to *PreservationWorks!* evaluation by John Rutledge, with hard work and pressure from Bothwell volunteers, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent committed \$500,000 to conservation, to ready the town hall for Canada 150 and Bothwell 150 celebrations in 2017.

Chatham Baptist Church, 1875, 124 William Street, Chatham



Decommissioned as a church, the building has been purchased by two young families who have exposed the vaulted ceiling and transformed the church into The Kent 1875, for concerts, weddings etc.

Ridge House Museum, 1875, 53 Erie Street South, Ridgetown



ACO PreservationWorks! evaluation by John Rutledge enabled re-opening of the museum-house with its Victorian garden that had been closed for one year due to mould. Conservation was facilitated by ACO Chatham-Kent, by Dr Yosef Wosk, for the Canadian Museum Association and by Evelyn Backus who donated her collection of 1860s-1920s clothing.

**Thamesville Bridge, Canadian Bridge Company, 1937, Victoria Road, Thamesville
demolished, fall 2019**



“Built with Canadian Steel by Canadian Workmen”. [ACO Chatham-Kent](#) supported campaign to save this rare cantilever/truss bridge from demolition and replacement by a concrete bridge. “The only bridge of this style known in Ontario, a small-scale continuous through truss. And one of the last remaining metal truss bridges of any kind in Chatham-Kent. Its loss would mean the loss of a unique structure.” Nathan Holth, [Historic Bridges](#)

Mary Webb Centre, 1918, 87 Gosnell Line, Highgate (former Highgate United Church)

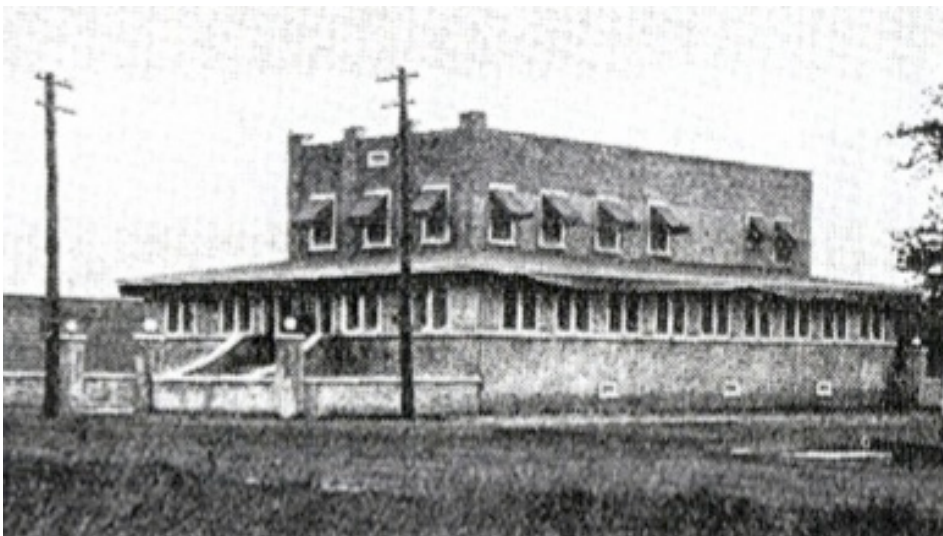


ACO Chatham-Kent, with John Rutledge, of ACO *PreservationWorks!* supported Mary Webb Centre in its building, with the aid of a Canada Cultural Spaces Program \$249,880 grant, of a fully accessible 250-seat music venue and community centre. Work included conservation of stained glass, roof, doors, roof, cupola and porch of church.

Eatonville Roadhouse, 1926, 11658 Talbot Trail, Howard



Built by J. A. "Pop" Eaton near Rondeau Provincial Park, a hotel with a hot dog stand that was one of Ontario's first drive-through restaurants. Also one of the few remaining buildings that served as Federal Internment Camps, in this case for Japanese Canadian men who were relocated from British Columbia in 1942 and 1943. Owners have offered to sell at a very reasonable price to anyone interested. Although it is presently a tax burden, they have deferred demolition to see if anyone comes forward to buy it. Failing that, they have little choice but to demolish it



ACO Chatham-Kent met with Executive Director of the National Association of Japanese Canadians to see if they could help to save it. NAJC hopes "this historic building can be saved and that monies from government agencies can be found for its restoration". So far no luck but the building is still standing.

With regret, ACO Chatham Kent is now closed but available for revival.

ACO Clarington

Camp 30, 2020 Lamb's Road, Bowmanville (National Historic site since 2013.)

[National Trust for Canada's Top 10 Endangered Places, 2013](#)



1926-1941: Bowmanville Boys' Training School for "unadjusted boys who are not inherently delinquent".
1941-1945, Camp 30 for German PoWs. (Site, in 1942, of the "[Battle of Bowmanville](#)" that was inspired by retaliation for shackling of PoWs, in response to similar treatment for Canadian PoWs in Germany.) Guided by a report and condition survey by heritage architect Chris Borgal, ACO Clarington, continues to pursue its campaign to conserve Camp 30 for community use. ACO Clarington has

been leading Ehrenwort ("trail of hope") tours of the camp since 2014.

ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland

CERTO Building, Martin Jex & Co., Contractors, 1909, 520 William Street, Cobourg.

1909-1914 Canadian Steel, administration building



1914-1919 Munitions plant,
1919-1925, York State Fruit Co.
1925-1928 Douglas CERTO pectin plant.
1929-2008 General Foods then Kraft.
2011, ACO Cobourg Past President Malcolm Wardman, proposed designation of the property, for adaptive re-use by the Canadian Innovation Centre. With regret, agreement with Council and CIC broke down and the project was abandoned.

2017: Cobourg & East Northumberland President Diane Chin and VP Jackie Tinson, with Cobourg Heritage Advisory Committee, requested, with success, designation and

denial of demolition permit. Well received by Mayor Gil Brocanier. New owner Thomas Fairfull (CEO, FSD Pharma Inc.) appreciates historic architecture of "the little Greek temple" on his newly acquired property. Oct 9, 2018, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony, he stated his intent to restore/renovate the building into a "heritage museum and on-site dispensary". However, 2021, the Certo Building is a "languishing property, restored but empty and unused".

Barnum House, Eliakim Barnum, 1819, 10568 County Road, Grafton



Maintenance, conservation, attracting visitors, discovering new uses, *funding*, all are problematic for heritage buildings that should be open to the public. This is especially true for museum houses like Barnum House (the acquisition of which, by Eric Arthur inspired the formation of ACO in 1933). In 2017 ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland met with Ontario Heritage Trust, which agreed to undertake a feasibility study for alternative uses, including the UK Landmark Trust model, where heritage properties become holiday rentals. The branch offered to

become a key-holder, that would allow it to use the house for meetings and storage of its archives as well as field requests from community groups who might want to use the house.

Victoria College (1841-1891), 100 University St., Cobourg, Edward Crane, architect, 1832-1836 (now Victoria Retirement Residence) - Restoration of Cupola.



ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland member Keith Oliver alerted the branch to the state of the cupola: Listing to one side, paint peeling, ventilation louvres missing, the entire soffit rotten, the dome's tin cladding poorly made and no longer original. ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland relayed its concerns to the Town's Heritage Planner and to Ontario Heritage Trust, which has a conservation

easement on the building. The building's owner, Mark Rollins, contracted Sky-High Historical Restoration & Consulting to carry out restoration. Cost of repairs estimated at \$275,000-\$300,000. Today, the dome is covered with robust lead-copper cladding that gleams in the sun. Exterior paint replicates original off-white, the cupola is topped with a locally made lightning-rod cum weathervane.

Sidbrook Private Hospital, 411 King Street East, Cobourg, Kivas Tully architect 1857



Designed by the Architect of Coburg's Victoria Hall, built for Henry Mason. Remodelled in 1860 by Major David Campbell. Purchased in 1901 by William Abbott, who enlarged and remodelled it. A fine example of *beaux arts* neo-classical style, it became a private hospital in 1952 and closed in 2002. Windows have been boarded up to prevent vandalism. Plans to convert it to condo apartments have yet to materialize.

ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland, encourages the Municipality to enforce its Property Standards by-law and thereby prevent demolition by neglect. The branch is also mounting a campaign to find the "right developer" who, with the property owners' agreement, will give a "second chance" to a pre-confederation building that was once condemned to demolition and replacement with a car park. 2022 remains in jeopardy, an "archetypical example of "Demolition by Neglect"

Park Cinema, 1948, 60 King St East, Cobourg



ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland commissioned a *PreservationWorks!* Heritage Report by Philip Goldsmith. The branch is monitoring the building's condition, as it urges the municipality to enforce its Property Standards By-law.

Goal is conservation of the *streamline moderne* Park cinema and its return to its designed purpose. Sold, December 23 2016. New owner's intention for the cinema's future tbd.

ACO Collingwood

Nottawasaga Lighthouse, John Brown, Contractor, 1855-1858, decommissioned, 2003

[National Trust for Canada Top 10 Endangered Places, 2016](#)

Nottawasaga Lighthouse is one of six, nearly identical Imperial Tower light stations that were built by John Brown around Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. For 145 years it played an integral role in Canada's maritime history and, in particular, Collingwood's Shipbuilding past. Made from locally quarried cut stone, the tower measures approximately 85 feet in height with wall thicknesses tapering from 7 feet at the base, to 2 feet at the top. In 2010, the Coast Guard ceased maintenance of the lighthouse, leaving its future as a local landmark in doubt. In 2015 it was "wrapped" to slow deterioration caused by lightning strikes and subsequent water infiltration, which put it at risk of collapse. ACO Collingwood, supports [Nottawasaga Lighthouse Preservation Society](#) (NLPS) in its efforts to restore and protect the lighthouse. Talks are currently underway with the Federal government to acquire NLPS ownership of the lighthouse.

(Also endangered: John Brown House, p.92.)



Victoria School Annex, 1897, Francis William Bryan Architect, 400 Maple St., Collingwood



Collingwood Central School, 1884, Marshall Benjamin Aylesworth architect, renamed Victoria School, 1911, demolished 1969 left. Four-room Romanesque Revival separate school added 1897 (later the Annex) right.

2004: Simcoe County sold the Annex to private developers. ACO Collingwood defended the building from then on by supporting proposals for adaptive reuse and petitioning against demolition by neglect.

2015: Annex added to the Municipal Heritage list. It changed ownership several times since, with the latest owner appealing heritage designation. He was not supported by LPAT and the town moved to Designate Dec 16, 2019.

A new owner purchased the property. *Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Heritage Conservation Plan, prepared by Golder Associates were submitted to support the proposed development were peer-reviewed by Su Murdoch Historical Consulting to the satisfaction of the Town. Per the Conditions of Draft Approval for the proposed Plan of Subdivision, the Owner has begun the construction of new homes surrounding the Annex. These will reflect the surrounding streetscape. The eastern site line to the Annex building will be maintained, the footprint of the actual annex has been separated from the remaining property. A positive example of adaptive reuse that will provide more housing while conserving heritage.*

Collingwood Terminals Limited 1929



Collingwood's third set of grain terminals replaced two former wooden silos. They were constructed in open water by a continuous pour of concrete over a wooden framework to a height of 180 feet. This engineering feat was accomplished in only thirteen days. The terminals stored up to two million bushels of grain that were transported by ship and by rail and could handle 30,000 bushels of grain per hour. In 1993, after operating continuously for 64 years, Collingwood Terminals Ltd. ceased operations. Following a brief dormant state, major equipment was removed or sold prior to abandonment of the site. The structure was purchased by the Town of Collingwood in 1997.

Currently the terminals are unoccupied, apart from roof space leased for municipal and commercial communication systems and a portion of the rail shed by the sailing school. The building is listed on the Municipal Heritage Register and the Collingwood Downtown Heritage Conservation Study and Plan, 2002 states that the grain elevators are "The most important industrial site in the Heritage District". The town of Collingwood is seeking public input and is completing engineering reports to help to make a decision whether to demolish the terminals property (estimated cost \$5-8 million) or restore them (estimated cost \$10million).

ACO Collingwood has been defending the terminals since 2011 when the council of the time first discussed the possibility of their demolition. Currently, the branch is acting as a liaison with the Collingwood Terminals and Harbour Action Group in its effort to restore and to maintain the Terminals as part of Collingwood's built and cultural heritage.

For ideas regarding adaptive reuse of grain silos in waterside locations, see:
ACO NextGen Design Charrette, 2014, Canada Malting Silos, p.159

ACO Credit & Humber Watershed

Churchville Road Bridge, 1911, Credit River, Brampton



Pony truss bridge (with W-shaped Warren trusses that are not connected over the roadway so a mounted horse can ride through) and one of only two single lane bridges remaining in Brampton. Bob Hulley, President of ACO Credit & Humber Watershed and ACO's #1 bridge expert, is researching and photographing bridges on the Credit River that might become links in the proposed Credit Valley Trail from Port Credit to Mono Centre, which

is currently under study.

Wiley Bridge, 1930, Humber River, 0 Gorewood Drive, Brampton N. L. Powell, Peel County Engineer



ACO Credit & Humber Watershed supported designation and repair of the Wiley Bridge, one of two concrete bowstring bridges in Brampton and one of the few remaining in Ontario.

With regret, ACO Credit & Humber Watershed is now closed but available for revival.

Heritage Institutions Threatened with Closure: Adaptive Re-use as Seniors' Residences? Bob Hulley, Former President ACO Credit & Humber Watershed:

"Where churches and other institutional building are threatened with demolition, conversion or partial conversion into accommodation for Ontario's growing population of seniors might be an attractive solution, one that would be beneficial for seniors and for heritage buildings that deserve new uses."

**Thistletown Regional Centre for Children and Adolescents, Sproatt & Rolph, architects, 1928
51 Panorama Ct., Etobicoke, originally Toronto Hospital for Sick Children "Palace of
Sunshine". Listed under the Ontario Heritage Act, declared surplus by the Province of Ontario**



The Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure invites from municipalities and organizations proposals that would benefit the community at large by developing properties the Provincial Government no longer requires. Bob Hulley proposes conversion or partial conversion of the Thistletown Centre into housing for seniors.

Bob Hulley is also looking to large farmhouses in new subdivisions in Caledon as possible repurposing projects. "We have met with Municipal representatives, including the Mayor who has enthusiastically endorsed the program, so at the moment we are pinning our hopes on this developing successfully. In the meantime the City of Brampton has given the green light to the last remaining block of land suitable for subdivision in that Municipality. There are approximately 10 designated or listed heritage properties on this land and a proposal from the Developers is before Council to have them demolished. We have contacted City Planners who seem to favour the idea of repurposing the property for social uses, mostly for low income families but Council is very divided on the subject.

See also: [Retiring in a historic Caledon farmhouse? New housing options for seniors](#) and "Stranded Assets", ACO Guelph p.24.

ACO Guelph-Wellington

Guelph Correctional Centre, Ontario Reformatory Lands, John Lyle, architect. 1910



Guelph Correctional Centre Administration Building, 2012. Photo: Susan Ratcliffe

In 1910, Provincial Secretary William Hanna decided to reform the prison system by creating a program of humane treatment and useful work within extensive grounds and sympathetic architecture. He chose the rural countryside outside Guelph as the site for this new type of prison, where inmates could learn useful skills by working on the farm and in industrial shops. He wanted to reform them rather than punishing them as had been the case in the dreadful, dark conditions of the Central Prison in Toronto – a “penitentiary” where men were tortured, kept in silence in the dark, and fed rotted food and bad water.

Secretary Hanna purchased four farms and hired John Lyle, architect of the Royal Alexandra Theatre, and Union Station, to design the Administration Building. Lyle chose the Beaux Arts style with ornamental limestone carving and handmade oak interiors. The original cell blocks had three floors with 13 cells on each floor all open to allow fresh air and sunshine.

The cells and all other buildings were constructed by prisoners with limestone quarried from the jail property. One wing, the Ontario Hospital, housed the criminally insane and those with tuberculosis, while the other held the Reformatory cells for inmates serving less than two years for lighter crimes such as forgery, fighting or liquor offences. From 1917 – 1921, the Reformatory grounds, buildings, and workshops were modified to become the Speedwell Military Hospital that was used to house and train injured soldiers for their return to society.

The original 1000 acres were planned based on the principles of the City Beautiful movement with a grand entrance driveway leading to both working and ornamental spaces. The working sections included a large farm, an orchard of 1800 fruit trees, a greenhouse complex, a quarry, and several industries including a woollen mill, machine shop, tailor shop, creamery, lime kiln, broom shop, and its own spur line access to the CPR mainline.

The ornamental landscape comprised dry and field stone walls, ponds and watercourses, stairs, gates, bridges, and terraced gardens. The front section of the ornamental landscape was open to the public and gained a national reputation for its beauty.

In 1931, a Bull Gang dug out a swamp to create two beautiful ponds. During the Reformatory's most productive years, the prisoners supplied beef, trout, textiles, wood and metal products, for the rest of Ontario's prisons. At one time every provincial park in Ontario had cedar picnic tables constructed by the prisoners. They also worked in the community building bridges, trails, and stage sets, clearing lands for city parks, and repairing the carousel in Guelph's Royal City Park.

By 1947, this was the largest prison in Canada with over 1000 inmates and 400 guards. From 1972 to its closing in 2002, the Reformatory became the Guelph Correctional Centre. Most of the farming areas were closed and about 700 acres of the original prison were sold off. From 2002 to the present, the buildings and grounds have been left vacant except for occasional use by the film industry and security training groups. The Ontario Government has announced that it will sold.

The City of Guelph has designated most of the buildings and some of the landscape features under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, but a coalition of community groups, which includes ACO Guelph-Wellington, is seeking to have the whole site designated as a [Heritage Conservation District](#). To create a self-sustaining Yorklands Green Hub, for education, demonstration, and research hub that will bring together businesses, organizations, and people of all ages and interests – to learn, work, share and innovate as stewards of our land, food, water, cultural heritage and our overall well-being. That study is now underway.



One of the small ponds with ornately decorated small stone bridges. Each bridge initialled "OR" in small pebbles.
Photo: Susan Ratcliffe

Petrie Building, John Day architect, 1882, 15 Wyndham St. North, Guelph
[National Trust for Canada Top 10 Endangered Places, 2015](#)
[National Trust for Canada "This Place Matters" prize 2017](#)



Photos: Hamish Duthie

Designed by Guelph architect John Day, for local pharmacist Alexander Bain Petrie, one of only three documented buildings in Canada erected prior to 1890 with an ornate façade of stamped galvanized iron (topped in this case by a big, bold mortar and pestle pediment, flanked by decorative scrolling and elaborate finials).

In March 2015, ACO Guelph Wellington and Tyrcahthen Partners, the Petrie Building's owners, created a Joint Venture Agreement that launched *Top Off the Petrie*, a \$100,000 fundraising campaign to aid restoration for adaptive reuse that included replacement of the mortar and pestle with other lost parts of the four-storey building's metal cladding.



Recognizing the building's significance, the President of Downtown Guelph Business Association, Chris Ahlers, offered to match the first \$24,000 in community contributions.

July 24, 2017, *Top Off the Petrie* won \$15,000 - first place regional prize - in the [National Trust for Canada "This Place Matters"](#) crowd funding competition, small projects category, for raising \$23,000 towards the \$375,000 cost of restoring one of Ontario's most interesting architectural landmarks.

2019: Restoration of façade complete, the Petrie building was back in business, with Brothers Brewing below, The Modern Bride above,

Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, 75 Dublin Street North, Guelph

Proposed 5-storey condo block.



Concerns: shadows on play area of Central Public School, building design incompatible with the neighbourhood, parking, traffic impact on landscape of Catholic Hill and closeness to the Basilica. Council voted for 4-storeys in spite of that meaning loss of 20 affordable units for seniors. Developer appealing to retain 5 storeys. Guelph Old City Residents Association, backed by ACO Guelph-Wellington, counter-appealing, seeking, a park, fewer than 4 storeys or townhouses, rather than a condo block.



North side of 5-storey condo, as it would look from yard of Central Public School, if built as proposed.

**Wilson Farmhouse, 80 Simmonds Lane, Guelph - “Stranded Assets”
Demolished in 2014, after the City of Guelph withdrew its intention to designate.**



ACO Guelph Wellington opposes demolition of “stranded assets” - houses and barns on agricultural land that is lost to development. Buildings that would be community assets in new residential developments, if they were conserved for adaptive re-use as community hubs with daycares, libraries, clinics, children’s clubs – assets that would turn subdivisions into communities

Niska Road Bridge, 1974



Burnside Engineering recommended that this one-lane Bailey bridge over the Speed River be replaced by a two-lane concrete bridge. ACO Guelph Wellington and 95% of local residents are urging designation of the bridge and its surroundings, as a heritage landscape. [Demolished, rebuilt 2018-2019.](#)

Edwards log house, 1835 240 Provost Lane, Fergus



Home, 1835, of James Edwards, “grave-digger, Scottish remittance man and reprobate.” ACO Guelph Wellington lost its bid for designation to a tie-breaking vote cast by the Mayor of Wellington Centre. Original logs – hidden by siding - were saved and may be reconstructed.

Cutten House, 13 Stuart Street, Guelph, 1891



Built for lawyer Frank Hall, an example of Guelph Edwardian architecture with Italianate styling. Arthur Cutten lived in Chicago and made millions speculating commodities on the New York Stock Exchange, sprinkling his earnings liberally around the City of Guelph.

He purchased the property in 1904 and added verandas, *porte cochère* extending across the driveway, rear addition and sunroom on the southeast side of the house. Gardens were constructed by members of the Cutten family who made “Tranquille” their home to the 1960s.

May 23, 2017, Council voted 10-1 to pass a notice of intention to designate over “concern in the community and amongst staff that demolition has already started to occur.”

ACO Guelph-Wellington President, Susan Ratcliffe led one of three delegations in support of designation, saying “*This is no longer a private matter, but a pressing city concern*”.

37 McNab Street, 1842, First School House in Elora



Built 10 years after the founding of the village, this 183- year-old log house is one of the oldest existing structures in Elora. It served as the Common and then the Boys' School until 1866. A branch of the County Grammar School shared the building, educating students from the surrounding countryside. Its association with the efforts of Scottish pioneers to provide education for their

children and its early log structure, make this a community treasure that must not be demolished.

ACO Guelph Wellington (Ian Rankine and Beverly Cairns with Susan Thorning and Bob Jackson) supported Wellington Heritage Centre request for designation and opposition to owner's application for demolition permit. September 25, 2018, Centre Wellington Council passed a motion of intent to Designate 37 McNab Street under the Ontario Heritage Act.

With regret, ACO Guelph Wellington is now closed but available for revival.

[ACO Halton Hills](#)

John Hunter Farmhouse, 15316 #10 Sideroad, Esquesing



In 1852, John Hunter became the first Post Master of Ashgrove. His son, Isaac, was the founder of the *Georgetown Herald*. Demolition of this Gothic Revival property was requested - due to its deterioration - by its owner for 10 years, SmartREIT. Demolition allowed by Municipal Heritage Committee, in spite of opposition by ACO Halton Hills.

Barber Mill, 1854, 99 River Drive, Halton Hills
13-acre complex designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, 2008.
[National Trust for Canada Top 10 Endangered Places, 2015](#)



Established by Loyalist descendant George Kennedy, 1823. Acquired by James and Robert Barber, 1853. Present mill built 1854. Converted from milling wool to wood pulp by John Roaf Barber, 1880. Initially produced rag paper from cotton and linen rags, then paper manufactured from oat, wheat, and rye straw. Sold to Provincial Paper Company, 1911. Principal products until 1948 were machine-finished book paper, lithographic and label papers, coloured covers, posters and better grade newsprint. 2.4 km downstream are the stone ruins of the Barber Mill Dynamo, commissioned from the Brush Electric Company by John Roaf Barber in 1888; powered by a 24ft high dam, it is reputed to have been the first transmission of long-distance hydroelectric power to an industrial plant in North America. Operated by James Charles Alexander (1874-1954) through his entire working life. Subject of Study by Peter Stewart and Donald Scott, George Robb Architects: <http://www.gra.ca/barber-mill>

ACO Halton Hills collaborating with Barber Mill's owner, Victor Boutin, and Halton Hills Council, with a view to adaptive re-use of this "rare example of a pre-Confederation industrial complex in Canada West". As part of its \$500,000 commitment to heritage in the 2017 budget, Halton Hills Council contracted Built Heritage Specialist, Spencer R. Higgins, to make a comprehensive inspection of the Barber Mill and prepare a report for Council with a plan to stabilize and preserve the remains of the mill buildings. Meanwhile, ACO Halton Hills reports, "vandalism is virtually unchecked, theft of stones has been observed, because it is so difficult to secure a 13 acre property that is adjacent to a river." ACO HH looks forward to release of **Built Heritage Specialist, Spencer Higgins' report on Barber Mill, which was completed in January 2017.**

Exchange Hotel, 37 King Street, Georgetown, 1850s built by the town's founder, George Kennedy.



ACO Preservation Works! study by Ian McGillivray: “a rare example of a frame stagecoach style railway hotel in proximity to a federally-designated, 1858, Casimir Gzowski era train station still in operation”.

Habitat for Humanity, promised to “Reconstruct the hotel as a home and finish the exterior to look as close as possible to what the hotel might have looked like at the time it was built.”

Exchange Hotel, 2013 (non-original wings left and right of windows removed pending restoration.)



Exchange Hotel, 1913 (earliest known photo.)



2017 (non-original wings removed.)

Jan 10, 2020 Sarah Golan, Senior Manager of Building, Habitat for Humanity (H4H):

“We are working closely with Town staff to come up with a suitable design that fits the neighbourhood and the unique origin of this property. After several discussions and advice from a heritage specialist, we have completed dismantling and cataloging the beams of the original building to be integrated in the rebuild. We look forward to completing the rest of the development process this year and hopefully starting construction by the end of the year.” **BUT:**

2021 Exchange Hotel demolished. Despite efforts by Heritage Halton Hills, it was never officially designated a heritage property nor listed on the town’s Heritage Register. **H4H March 19, 2021:** “As a nod to the history of the original Exchange Hotel structure, the interior of the duplex will feature the exposed beams that we carefully salvaged and preserved during our deconstruction process.”

Halton Hills Grand Trunk Railway Heritage, 1850s (North American Railway Hall of Fame, 2013.)

John Street Underpass, 1855



“Beep Beep Bridge” threatened by addition of a third track that would require drastic alterations. ACO Halton Hills VP, Jim Walbusser, worked with CN to find a solution, which resulted in the removal of only four of the original limestone blocks.

CN salvaged these massive blocks and transported them to the Town works yard for storage while a plan is devised to preserve and reuse them.



GTR Viaduct, Georgetown

Presbyterian Manse, 1888, 402 Draper Street, Norval



[Home \(1926-1935\) of Lucy-Maud Montgomery](#), her husband, Rev.

Ewan Macdonald, and their sons Chester and Stuart.

ACO Halton Hills, backed by a *PreservationWorks!* report by heritage architect Chris Borgal, supported ex-

Mayor Kathy Gastle’s campaign for purchase of the manse by the

[Heritage Foundation of Halton Hills](#)

and its becoming the [Lucy Maud](#)

[Montgomery Museum and Literary](#)

[Heritage Centre](#).

ACO Halton Hills also requested local Planning Department intervene with developer to prevent destruction of pines described by Lucy-Maud Montgomery: *“The trees are all bare now—the rainstorm today has stripped them—of all save a few lonely yellow leaves falling in autumn dusks. So Norval has lost much of its beauty. But the pines remain, and I am consoled for the going of the leaves by the fact that, now they are gone, I can see the pine grove on Russell’s hill again—lie in bed and look at it, a delicate, unreal, moonlit world—wake and see it talking to the sky against the fires of sunrise.”*

Forbes House, (formerly The British Hotel), 401 Draper Street, Norval , c1840



ACO Halton Hills Chair Pat Farley, supporting request in 2014 by owner Tom Pettingill to Halton Hills Council that Forbes House be designated, noted that the house had been the British Hotel between 1857 and 1888, that it is also reputed to have been a brothel and that her previous request for designation (below) had been a church. She also noted that Forbes House “is an excellent example of an early village home that reflects a vernacular interpretation of Georgian-style architecture”. Previous owners: Major Armitage Forbes, Royal Army Medical Corps, 1948-1973.

Photo: Bill Pippy

(He served in both World Wars), John Miller, who later became one of the directors of the Toronto-Guelph Plank Toll-Road, James Forster (grandfather of Canadian portraitist, J. W. L. Forster). Robert Colgan, proprietor of The British Hotel (when it was reputed to have been a “house of ill repute”. Designated May 20, 2014. Heritage plaque attached December 6, 2015

Norval Church of Christ, 9924 Winston Churchill Boulevard, Norval, 1843



In 1840 John Menzies, with his brother-in-law, John Robertson, erected a simple round log meeting house on the North-East corner of his farm on Lot 8, Concession 10, Esquesing. In June 1843 the Ontario Disciples met for the first time at the tiny log church. It was so small members had to take turns being seated within its walls. Just prior to his death in 1859 John Menzies deeded the acre on which the meeting house stood to his son, Alexander. His widow and children sold the Menzies’ farm to James Early in 1870.

Photo: Arun Khetarpal

In 1880 the church was moved to the property of Robert Noble, at Lot 10, Concession 11 East. The structure was subsequently converted into a dwelling with the addition of a dirt-floored kitchen at the rear and a sleeping loft supported by round log beams. In 1924 Mrs. Robinson's daughter, Edith added a Craftsman-style front porch and an oak door. Inside, the beams supporting the loft were encased in pine. Designated in 2013, thanks in good part to the efforts of ACO HH Chair, Pat Farley.

McGibbon Hotel, 79 Main St., Georgetown built by Robert Jones for Thomas Clark, 1860s.



Third storey added after a fire in the 1880s. Leased to John and Sam McGibbon, 1895.

ACO Halton Hills opposes a project that would top the hotel with 125 unit “Residences of the Hotel McGibbon” that would add seven storeys to the hotel’s present three.

Project will require demolition of four listed buildings and replacement of the McGibbon with a “reimagined replica” based on an archival picture of a different building. Remaining three buildings will be completely modern with window walls.

Number of storeys proposed has increased so they are above not behind the new storefronts.

The Branch favours instead: “Exploring intensification options that will not require destruction of four listed 19th century buildings and construction, above a re-creation of the McGibbon, in new materials, “an oversize and unsympathetic, glass condo.”



July 22, 2016 ACO Halton Hills Chair Pat Farley reported:

“McGibbon condo development is stalled by the developer’s failure to meet the requirements of the OMB and withdrawal of financial backing. The four buildings involved have yet to be de-listed from the heritage register.” In response to suggestion by ACO Halton Hills, the McGibbon controversy triggered development of a Secondary Plan with a Heritage Conservation District for Downtown Georgetown that would focus on preserving the historic streetscape and controlling height and appearance of future development. 2017: project reviewed by Ontario Municipal Board. Dec, 2018: Project cancelled for “unspecified financial reasons”. Sept, 2020: ACO concerns regarding the project remain following its transfer from the [SilverCreek Group](#) in Georgetown to [Amico Properties](#) which is “seeking to amend the [2017 OMB] approval [by increasing the number of residential units] while respecting many of the previous elements that had been included.” Future of the McGibbon remains to be determined.

Reed-Huffman House, 1882, 1104 8th Line, Halton Hills



ACO Halton Hills opposed removal from the Heritage Register and demolition that would include “salvaging and retention of all bricks and salvageable materials for use by the committee and the community”. The Reed-Huffman House is now demolished.

Sargent House, 33 Charles Street, Georgetown, 1901

“A good example of a residential vernacular building that is part of the residential historic streetscape of Charles Street”.



Home of Doug Sargent, 1923-1997, former Georgetown Councillor, Mayor, Reeve, and Warden of Halton County.

For the first time in its history, at ACO urging, Halton Hills Council used its power, under the Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV to consider

designation of this property, in spite of opposition by its owner. Heritage Consultant’s report that property “is not a good candidate for designation” caused that notice of intent to be withdrawn. House offered free to anyone who would remove it but no interest. The Sargent House is now demolished.

14 Church Street Georgetown



Owners of 14 Church Street (second from left in row 10-16) applied to Committee of Adjustment for a variance to create a third floor by adding large shed dormers front and back. Despite opposition from Planning Department, Town Engineer, Heritage Committee, immediate neighbour and Heritage Planner's detailed reasons for the building to be designated, CoA approved the variance.

ACO Halton Hills Chair, Pat Farley, contacted Mayor, CAO and Councillors for the ward in which the house stands. Citizens were outraged at the idea of disfiguring this iconic row of houses directly across from the library/cultural centre which includes an adaptively reused c.1850s church.

She also met with the owner and suggested they work towards a solution together. Both spoke at Council, effectively supporting one another.

Outcome: Council is appealing the CoA decision to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). Owner and

Town have agreed to a settlement that will expand floor space at the rear of the building with no changes at the front. Both parties have already signed the agreement.

Mayor Rick Bonette has suggested ACO Halton Hills recommend to Council, the whole row of houses become a Heritage Conservation District.

Pat Farley 1946-2020, founding Chair of ACO Halton Hills.



Pat Farley, 2013, with the designation plaque for the Norval Church of Christ for which she wrote the Designation Report. When she presented it to the Halton Hills Heritage Committee she remarked "This time it's for a church; last time I did this it was for a brothel." (The Forbes House in Norval that used to be the British Hotel and now has a plaque of its own.)

From her founding of ACO Halton Hills in the fall of 2013 to her retirement which led to the closing of the branch in 2019, Pat Farley was passionate in her defence of the abundant but much endangered built and landscape heritage of Halton, Acton, Norval, Esquesing, Georgetown. In a 2015 [letter to Mayor Bonette and Council](#) she deplored the municipality's reluctance to designate without owner consent. She was equally active on the ground, everywhere in Halton Hills where historic buildings, structures and their environments were under threat. (Including the eleven listed in Interventions to Protect.)

Former Mayor of Georgetown Kathy Gastle: "Prior to her founding ACO Halton Hills Pat was a council appointment to the Town of Halton Hills Heritage Committee and responsible for writing heritage designation reports in that capacity. She located the long-lost Disciples of Christ Church in Norval and The British Hotel. Designation reports of both were written by Pat.

"Pat also assisted Town council with preparation of Provincial heritage lists and consideration of demolition requests. She was involved with all controversial heritage buildings in Halton Hills including the McGibbon Hotel in downtown Georgetown.

"In 2011 Pat received the Halton Hills Arts Alive Award for Heritage. Thanks to Pat's outstanding abilities as heritage researcher Halton Hills now has a heritage planner, larger heritage lists, an improved strategy for processing of heritage designation and the preservation of many heritage sites in our community. Halton Hills has lost a dedicated heritage leader."

In 2020 Pat Farley was nominated for ACO's Mary Millard Award for Special Contributions by Past Chair Leslie Thompson. Her testimonial listed her heritage interventions with this note:

"Pat was instrumental in convincing the municipality of Halton Hills to recognize that it had valuable heritage assets and to hire its first Senior Heritage Planner, to advise Heritage Halton Hills and maintain the municipality's Heritage Register. She then led campaigns to save numerous important examples of Halton Hills heritage. With Pat's leadership and influence the citizens of Halton Hills are more engaged with their heritage assets. The above examples show a change in how they care for these resources in their community for both their cultural and heritage tourism value."

With regret, ACO Halton Hills is now closed but available for revival.

ACO Hamilton Region

The Gore Buildings, a nine-year conservation campaign, concluded at last?

18-20 and 22 King Street East, William Thomas, Architect in Renaissance Revival Style for dry goods wholesalers Archibald & Thomas Kerr. Two of the very few pre-Confederation stone commercial buildings remaining in Hamilton

Glassco Building 24 King Street, Skinner Building, 28 King Street East (1870s, architect unknown) included in list of [National Trust for Canada's Top 10 Endangered Places, 2013](#)



Knox, Morgan & Co.

King Street East, Hamilton, 1892

28

24

22

20 – 18

Bank of British North America
(William Thomas Architect, 1847; demolished 1953.)

ACO Hamilton Region, ACO Provincial, National Trust for Canada, Friends of the Gore and the Ontario conservation community fought hard for conservation of the Gore Buildings after demolition permits were applied for in December 2012. Concerns were regarding proposed “retention” of 18-22, “development” of 24 and 28 (and replacement of #30 that was demolished to become “the Missing Tooth” in 2011).

Gore Buildings, prior to departure of tenants, May 2013



Gore Block mixed-use Development: David Premi Architect, June 15th, 2021



September 24th 2021, final plan with restored 1900s storefront, David Premi, Architect, DPAI.



Stone columns at street level will be retained but proposed replacement of the lost masonry arched entrance to 18-20 has been abandoned. The “new” wood-framed, broad glass storefront façade will evoke that installed c1905 at 18-20 and 22, when 18-20 was the J. Lennox leather goods store. A moulded wood cornice, beneath a demarcating cap of restored masonry will separate the retail façade from the restored original façade above - as in the Lennox rebuild.

Arguments for not replacing lost masonry at street level include the challenge of matching stone weathered over almost 170 years with new stone, and unlikelihood of original and new stone weathering uniformly in future. Façade now proposed will also better match proposed future use, as the Lennox storefront did more than 100 years ago.

Also abandoned: plan to build apartments in the second and third storeys. They will be for offices instead. And proposed rebuild in modern form of 30 King Street East, the “missing tooth” originally near-identical to 24 and 28 that was demolished in 2011. It’s site will become a patio-courtyard.

“By preserving a change that is part of the evolution of the Kerr buildings from wholesale to retail when they were only one third through their lives – so far - adoption of the retail façade will avoid creating a false sense of history.”

Megan Hobson, Heritage Consultant, the Gore Project

Gore Park project, September 2, 2023

KNYMH Architects for Hughson Business Space, Markland Property Management

A secure future for the Gore buildings at last?

Teviah Moro, The Hamilton Spectator, September 2, 2023:

Extending south from King Street East (Gore Park) to Main Street, 32 storeys above a 5-storey podium, 478 residential units, 4,372 square metres of commercial space from grade to 5th floor, 426 parking spaces. Hughson Business Space's renewed vision for 18-22, 24 and 28 King St. E. still includes preservation of the old façades.

City Planning Director Steve Robichaud: *It ticks off the three Hs: height, heritage and housing. We're getting the intensification. We're getting additional residential. We're getting commercial and heritage preservation.*

KNYMH Architecture + Solutions, September 11, 2023

The proposal extends King to Main and will incorporate the facades on King as well as the heritage building on James. We currently have our structural and Heritage teams engaged to finalize the approach. We have our Formal Consultation meeting on September 20th. We will consider the comments from this process to better define the proposal in advance of the Design Review Panel.



Optimism premature?

Markland Property Management, October 19, 2023

We are still in concept design stage and introducing several of the aspects raised through the comments we received at the Formal Consultation meeting. As we become more detailed in the plan we will produce some high-quality renderings – ones we hope will delight!

January 29, 2024

It will be several more months before we get to a final design that is approved by the City.

February 6, 2024

The anchor Tenant in mind for the 2021 design was unable to proceed with their occupancy, therefore unfortunately halting that plan. The intention is to conserve the facades where viable.

November 11 2024, 24 and 28 King Street East collapse.

Their demise cannot have been a surprise, warnings regarding their stability date back at least nine years:

April 2nd, 2015, Goldsmith Borgal Co., Architects and Ojdrovic Engineering delivered a Building Condition Assessment to the City of Hamilton. Here, severely edited, their findings regarding the 1870s buildings:

24 King St E. relies partly on adjacent structures to the east and west to provide shear resistance. While the structure to the east, 28 King St. E. remains in place it has been severely compromised by demolition of 30 King E (in 2011, henceforth known as the “Missing Tooth”). Like a set of dominos, these 1870s structures relied on each other for support and the removal of one may have compromised the remaining buildings.

28 King St. E. Serious movement of the eastern wall is evidenced by a crack running vertically on the front façade. We can only conclude that removal of 30 King St E destabilized the wall and that it is tipping to the east. The implication is that the east wall of 28 King St E is in a state of slow-motion collapse which will accelerate over time. . . This movement is pulling the remainder of the façade with it. At a certain moment in time, which we cannot predict accurately, the eccentricity of the wall will cause acceleration of the movement and will result in catastrophic collapse.

William Thomas’s Kerr buildings?

The walls of 22 King Street East were bowing, making the building “no longer safe”. Another pending engineering report via Hughson Business Space Corporation consultants will shed light on whether No. 18, another pre-Confederation building, also has to come down.

Steve Robichaud, Acting General Manager, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton, reported by The Hamilton Spectator, November 11, 2024

November 15th and 19th, 18-20 and 22 King Street East demolished

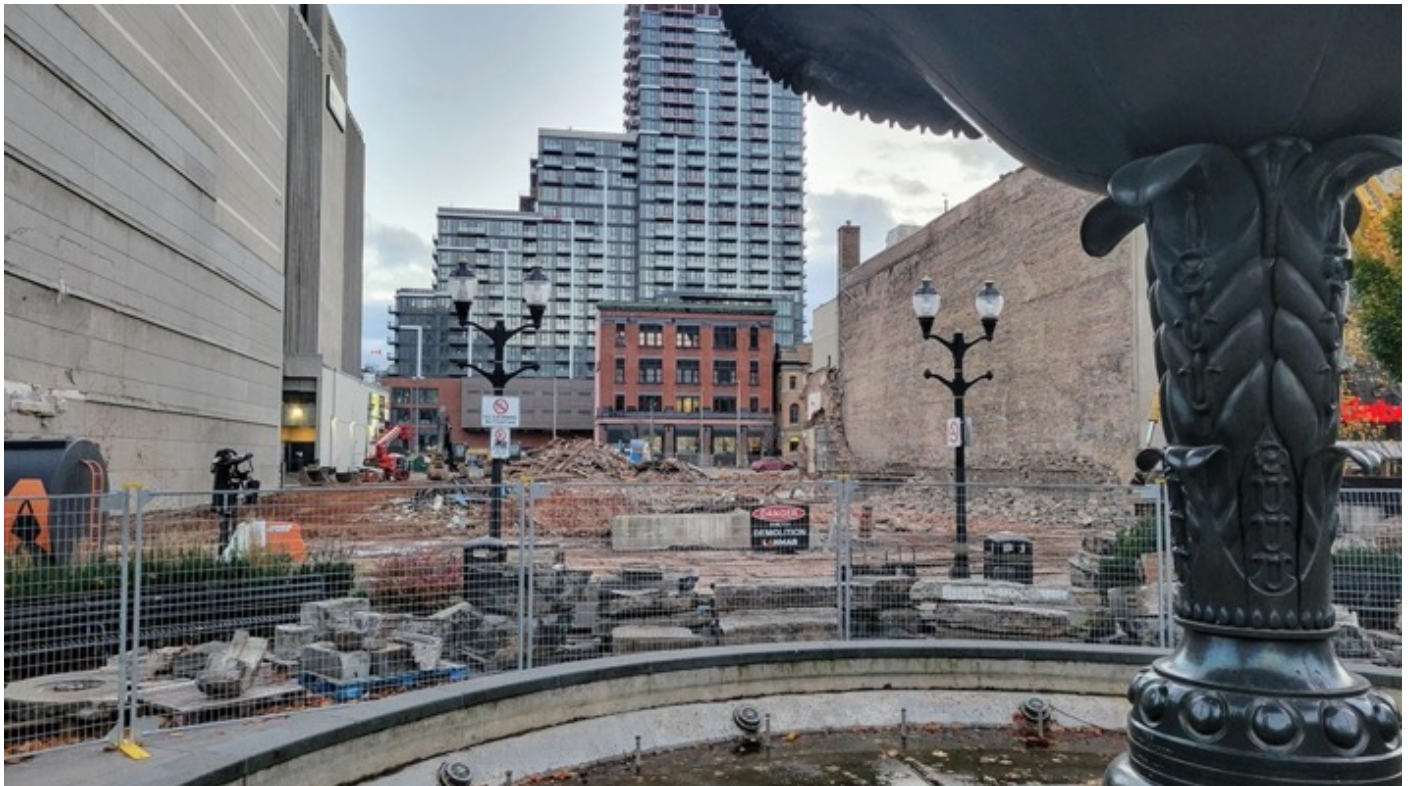


Photo: Joey Coleman The Public Record, Hamilton, November 23rd, 2024

172 years after William Thomas tendered for “enlargement of the present store of Messrs. A. & T. C. Kerr & Co.”, a process that raised their original 1840s building from two storeys to three and left it with a Renaissance Revival façade; 12 years after the owners of the Gore buildings applied for permits to demolish them, where, after removal of 30 King Street East in 2011, there was one “missing tooth”, there are now five.

54-56 Hess Street South, Hamilton, built for Alderman (later Mayor) Robert McElroy, 1852



An excellent example of Second Empire architecture and an early example of a pre-Confederation building in one of the original four historic neighbourhoods in Hamilton. Its preservation and conservation are paramount at this time when most of its original design and features are intact but in serious need of restoration. It is a key component of the neighbourhood's history in a highly visible location for Hamiltonians and visitors alike.

54-56 Hess Street was part of the former farm plot of Robert McElroy, which included the entire block from Hess to Queen and Main to Jackson. He also owned a stone quarry on the Mountain and worked as a stone contractor. He served as an alderman in the city when he built this home and lived in it for a decade, including when he served as mayor of Hamilton from 1862-1864. He married Catherine Hess, daughter of the Hess family that is the namesake of the street and subsequent village. These properties remained in the family's ownership for more than 70 years until 1929. For more, see: [IT'S DEMOLITION OR RESTORATION FOR 54 HESS ST. S.](#) Janice Brown, Hamilton City Magazine, Oct 31, 2023

54-56 Hess Street meet six of the nine criteria required for historical designation. Only two are required but present owner, Wharf Street Development Corporation claim their structure is deteriorating and needs to be demolished

Alissa Golden, Cultural Heritage Program Lead, City of Hamilton: "Council has already supported designation of the property and directed staff to issue the [Notice of Intention to Designate \(NOID\)](#). [Staff report and presentation to Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee](#) on this designation.

Now that the NOID has been issued, the properties are protected as though they are designated and the owners are required to obtain **Heritage Permit** approvals if they are to alter or demolish any of the identified heritage attributes.

I do anticipate that the owner of 54 Hess will formally object to the designation notice now that it has been issued. As required under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, Council must consider any objections to the notice and decide whether to withdraw the City's NOID or pass a designation by-law. If a designation by-law is passed, the owners are served notice of its passing, they can then appeal that notice to the Ontario Land Tribunal."

Shannon Kyles, past president of ACO Hamilton has provided important historical and architectural reasons that this building be saved. Leanne Pluthero has created an [online petition](#), which (by Oct 31, 2023) had amassed more than 5,700 signatures.

James Street Baptist Church, Joseph Connolly, Architect, 1878-1882
 part demolished in 2014 to provide façade for condo tower “The Connolly”



Photo: Eric McGuinness dust cloud created by “minor alteration” demolition of James Street Baptist Church leaving the church as at right and below.



The Connolly as proposed



James Street Baptist, 2017



and 2015 (Photo: Raise the Hammer)

ACO Hamilton joined community opposition to 80% demolition (allowed as a “minor variance”) to allow construction by Stanton Renaissance of “The Connolly”. Demolition in 2014 left the tower and narthex standing in a field of rubble. June 22, 2017, the project went into receivership. 2018 it was taken over by Hue Developments of Vietnam, “one of Southeast Asia’s top developers” with McCallum Sather architects to oversee preservation of the “collective cultural heritage of the building”. 2022, 98 James Street South (2002) Inc. purchased the property from Hue Developments. November 1 and December 1, 2023, after no interest payments were made to Marshall Zehr, holders of \$13.2 million mortgage on the property, legal proceedings began. May 3, 2024, the City of Hamilton granted its annual “minor alternation” heritage permit extension, requiring “that stabilization and restoration work on the retained historic structure, to the satisfaction and approval of the Director of Planning and Chief Planner, by September 15, 2024.” If the heritage permit expires the building remains designated and will continue to be monitored by the Building Division and Municipal Law Enforcement.

[98 James Street South in Receivership, Again.](#) Joey Coleman, The Public Record, Aug 29, 2024

St Mark's Anglican Church, 1877, Bay St South and Hunter St, Hamilton
Major additions and alterations by Robert G. Bousfield, architect, 1884

Federal Canada 150 funding, \$280,000 provided for conservation for community and school use; anticipated additional cost to the city, \$680,000.



Auchmar, 1855, 88 Fennell Ave. West, Hamilton, architect unknown



Centrepiece of Clairmont Park, estate of Hon. Isaac Buchanan (1810–1883). "A rare example of a mid-Victorian estate in Ontario in relatively intact condition."

Defended by Friends of Auchmar, supported by ACO Hamilton.

15 June 2016: Mayor Fred Eisenberger was "spellbound" by Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, proposal to make its 3.8Ha grounds a public park and restore the building with "historical loyalty."

Proposed uses include a RHLI museum, conservation of the chapel, turning the coach house into a period brewpub and drop-in centre for members of the military and first responders. See also:

https://www.raisethehammer.org/article/1351/auchmar_house_hamilton

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-req/place-lieu.aspx?id=8164>

<http://www.friendsofauchmar.ca/history/>

Century Manor, former East House of Hamilton Asylum for the Insane, Thomas Story Kirkbride architect, 1884

(Superintendent of Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane in 1840; in 1854, author of *On the Construction, Organization, and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane.*)



ACO Hamilton opposes Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation wish to sell the land of what it considers “neglected derelict, a slum”, which is seen by Developer Steve Kulakowsky as a potential residence for students of nearby Mohawk College.

Parkside High School, 31 Parkside Avenue, Dundas, Lloyd Douglas Kyles, architect, 1960



In 1960, year it opened, Parkside won National and International awards for design and innovative use of materials. The swooping curve of the entrance was created with a revolutionary method for precast concrete panels with exposed stone. In spite of a vigorous campaign to save it demolition began January 2017. By mid-August the entire structure was gone, the site was reseeded with grass and is expected to remain a passive public open space for approximately two years, until Grove Cemetery fills up and new cemetery space is needed in Dundas.

ACO Ingersoll

Ingersoll Carnegie Public Library, Thomas Warren Nagle, architect, 1910



One of 125 libraries in Canada, 111 in Ontario, donated by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, constructed 1883-1929. ACO Ingersoll changed the town's intent to demolish the library to restoration for sustainable community uses. 2018: purchased by Maurice Van Egdome and Victor Salas. Part of the condition of sale was that the building be designated. June 3, 2019, reopened as [Carnegie Hall Ingersoll](#).

Exterior woodwork is repainted, windows replaced, interior revitalized for weddings and other events.



With regret, in spite of this success, ACO Ingersoll is now closed but is available for revival.

ACO London Region

93-95 Dufferin Avenue

Italianate (#93) and Classical Revival style (#95). Architect: believed to have been Samuel Peters Jr., London's first City Engineer, who lived at 93 Dufferin Street c1868-1882



ACO London opposed requested zoning bylaw amendment for 100 Fullarton St that will impact the former Camden Terrace and 93-95 Dufferin St (that was occupied, and completely functional, until 2019). Concern is that this would enable owner's request to demolish and then "rebuild" the façade of the property. This would also be contrary to Section 1.7.1(e) of the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) which states that "Long-term economic prosperity should be supported by ... conserving features that help define character, including built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes".

March 1, 2021: Zelinka Priamo Ltd (on behalf of Old Oak Properties) [withdrew](#) their demolition application for 93-95 Dufferin:

"After a careful review of the staff reports and public comments, Old Oak Properties has decided to complete this project, including its heritage components as originally approved by counsel."

"We heard loud and clear the importance of heritage, I'm pleased that it's going to be withdrawn."
Councillor Anna Hopkins.

Will be incorporated into 100 Fullarton Street (below).

Camden Terrace, Samuel Peters architect, 1876-77, 479-489 Talbot Street, London, ON
Rare and historic terrace of Italianate townhouse, last remnant of 19th century residential architecture on the downtown stretch of Talbot Street North.



In spite of a vigorous campaign by ACO London, Camden Terrace was “deconstructed” in 2016 to be “reconstructed” inside the lobby of the original Rygar Properties highrise development, a 38-storey tower on the south side - the tallest building between Mississauga and Calgary - connected by nine-storeys in the centre to a 29-storey tower on the north side.



100 Fullarton St. façade, with “commemorative monument” to Camden Terrace in its podium



100 Fullarton St. rear with 93-95 Dufferin Avenue at lower left



City Council's decision to permit the demolition of Camden Terrace at 475-501 Talbot Street, despite strong evidence of its cultural heritage value, and to not pursue its designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act was controversial, and came only after considerable debate and discussion. The requirement for the property-owner to carefully dismantle the façade and then to reconstruct it within the lobby of the new building was a key element in Council's eventual decision to approve the demolition and the proposed development on the property now known as 100 Fullarton Street.

Ron Stang, London Free Press, Jan 6, 2017.

“Part of the façade of Camden Terrace will be incorporated in the lobby of the new development's centre building. It will be framed by floor to ceiling windows that will allow it to be highly visible to passersby on the street, creating a kind of showroom effect. Two 19th century houses at 93-95 Dufferin Street on the far corner — interrupted by more contemporary buildings infilled over the years — will be included in the exterior of the north tower, looking like a 3-D puzzle block glued to the new structure.”

However:

Mike Bloxam, former Chair, ACO London Region.

“There is no guarantee of anything being preserved of Camden Terrace. The claim by Rygar (the developer) was that they would keep and catalogue the bricks. When the buildings started to come down, some bricks were saved and stacked, but no evidence of cataloguing. "Reconstruction" will likely be with replica bricks, and what will "commemorate" the buildings looks nothing like what was standing before. It's a clear case of demolition by neglect, by owners determined not to maintain the property. London City Council told Rygar to do more for heritage with a strong urging to keep the original buildings or at least, the façades. Then, reports about "contaminated soil" underneath the buildings, which turned out to be ludicrous but enough for City Council to vote for re-zoning and, two weeks later, grant a demolition permit. An OMB appeal was launched and there was a court injunction scheduled but Rygar started demolition before the injunction.”

February 18, 2021,

ACO London Chair Kelley McKeating to Planning & Environment Committee:

“The original zoning by-law amendment application (in 2020) proposed a commemorative monument that would include eight terrace residences. The summary in the recent Public Meeting Notice states six, but the rendering shows eight. Clarification would be appreciated. Camden Terrace was made up of six terrace residences, not eight. The current zoning requires the commemorative monument to incorporate the heritage attributes of the Camden Terrace façade. The requested zoning makes no mention of “heritage attributes”. Again, clarification would be appreciated.”



**African Methodist Episcopal Church
“Fugitive Slave Chapel”, 1848,
275 Thames Street, London, ON**

ACO London Region supported the Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation Project, which prevented demolition in 2013 and resulted in removal of the chapel from Thames Street to 432 Grey Street in 2014. Conservation was funded by a “2c Worth” campaign for conservation, which requested of donors 15-minute’s worth of their income (which was 2c for an unskilled labourer, in 1848, when the chapel was built).

2023 [Fugitive Slave Chapel moved to Fanshawe Pioneer Village](#), restored as a landmark of local Black history.



**100 Stanley Street c1901 (designated 2010)
threatened by road-widening, bridge
reconstruction**

ACO London Chair Kelley McKeating wrote to London Mayor and Council “to express support for the continued preservation of city-owned 100 Stanley Street and the current plan to move it to city-owned land on the west side of Wharncliffe Road.”

“100 Stanley Street is a particularly outstanding example of the Queen Anne style in both its interior and exterior design.. Section 1.7.1(e) of the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) states that “Long-term economic prosperity should be supported by ... conserving features that help define character, including built heritage and cultural heritage landscapes”. Section 2.6.1 of the PPS states that ‘Significant built

heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved”. But:

March 23, 2021, Megan Stacey of the London Free Press:

“City council ignored advice from staff and ordered a major U-turn on Tuesday, voting 8-7 to demolish the heritage house at 100 Stanley St. instead of moving it across the street — a compromise ironed out in 2018 after a fierce community effort. The compromise was essentially erased as politicians grappled with the inflated bill — now about \$1 million — to relocate the house.” . . . “Demolition requires a change to the environmental assessment, meaning London now needs to wait for another approval from the province before it can do the work on Wharncliffe. It also opens the door for heritage appeals that could tie up the project.”

City staff estimated a two to three per cent rise in cost for each year the work is pushed back.”

After the vote dissenting Councillor Maureen Cassidy remarked “It’s not going to save the taxpayers any money. Why would we take all those extra risks, put all those other projects in jeopardy, for political gain?”

Kent Brewery Site, established 1859; closed in response to Provincial prohibition, 1917

197 Ann Street, the “largest surviving brewery artifact from Victorian London-Middlesex” has been adaptively re-used for 103 years since it ceased to operate as a brewery, as a cigar factory, cheese factory, bicycle shop, and – at present – an automotive repair shop.

183 Ann Street, house next door to the brewery was built by brewer Joseph Hamilton in 1862 and rebuilt in yellow brick in 1893. These two buildings, along with 179 Ann Street (built before 1881, home to Joseph Hamilton 1887-1890) are a rare example of a brewery site with the brewery itself (197), a house built by the brewer (183), and a house in which the brewer lived (179), all still standing and in good condition.



Threat:

Proposed student apartment building on the site. Original proposal would have demolished all of the buildings on the site. Planning and Environment Committee, November 16, 2020 report that the applicant is developing a revised proposal which will “incorporate heritage elements”, which may signal tokenism, rather than retention.

Recommendations:

Buildings are flexible and can accommodate a variety of uses. Currently, the main brewery building is rented as apartments. The rear of the property is used for the Williams Downtown Automotive Service. Absent development, the current uses remain viable.

Ideal use for the brewery, given its history, might be a brew-pub. Alternatively, industrial heritage buildings have been popular sites for office type working spaces like Innovation Works, InfoTech and The Roundhouse.

October 15, 2020

Chair ACO London Region, Kelley McKeating wrote to Planning and Environment Committee, “To express support for the recommendation of LACH and its Stewardship Subcommittee to designate 183 Ann Street and 197 Ann Street under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. . . . In addition to their individual and collective importance in recalling and highlighting London’s industrial past, these two properties sit within the expected study area for the North Talbot Heritage Conservation District. The Kent Brewery complex is an important component of this heritage neighbourhood.

183 and 197 Ann Street should be preserved.”

[War Memorial Children's Hospital \(1921\)](#) and [Victoria Health Services Building \(1922\)](#) South St, London



ACO London Region successfully defended the former Western University Medical School and the War Memorial Children's Hospital (the first hospital to treat cancer with the Canadian-invented cobalt bomb, in 1951, and, in the 1960s, a pioneer in the provision of kidney dialysis in Canada). [Cultural Heritage Assessment](#) recommended: the entire streetscape along the north side of South Street between Colborne and Waterloo Streets be conserved.

War Memorial Children's Hospital

Victoria Health Services Building



The War Memorial Children's Hospital (memorial to the fallen of WWI) and the Victoria Health Services Building (former Western University Medical School) form a distinctive pairing of the former Victoria Hospital campus, complemented by their shared scale, materials, and setback, as well as the soon to be repurposed Colborne building on the opposite side of South Street. The Medical School building, which retains important institutional-styled neoclassical architectural detailing with subtle Art Deco influences, was designed to be a state-of-the-art training and research facility, with large windows and skylights.

February 24, 2021

Vision SoHo Alliance, of six nonprofit housing developers announced its commitment to purchase the vacant Old Victoria Hospital Lands “to develop a vibrant mixed-use housing complex on the old Victoria Hospital Lands in the SoHo (“South of Horton”) neighbourhood that will help increase the supply of affordable housing in our community”.



2025 Update:

The two buildings will be retrofitted to more than 690 residential units, including 138 apartments created by Indwell for individuals, couples and families, renting at market, affordable and deeply-affordable rates: 42 at the Children’s Hospital, 96 at the Health Services Building (where the auditorium will be converted into a SoHo neighbourhood food and services hub). War Memorial Children’s Hospital conversion by Invizij Architects with general contractor Graceview Enterprises is in progress. Health Services Building conversion will commence later in 2025.

With thanks, Julie Ryan, Community Engagement Coordinator, Indwell



Tackabury House, 1588 Clarke Road, c1860s



Homestead of the Tackabury family. Deeded to John Tackabury Sr. by the Mayor of Boston Massachusetts (Edward Hale, son of Hon. General John Hale who fought with Wolfe at the Plains of Abraham). In all, six generations of Tackaburys lived at this farm.

Threats:

Since being left by the Tackabury family, the farmhouse has deteriorated significantly, especially on the interior. City council consented to demolition of the adjacent barn building, which was removed shortly thereafter. The developers requested that the farmhouse be removed from the Register of Cultural Heritage Resources, but were denied. However, the fate of this farmhouse remains unclear within this development.

Recommendations:

This building could be refurbished, as the exterior is in fair condition, and incorporated into this residential development as professional office space, with public park surround. This adaptive reuse would pay homage to the significant local history established by the Tackabury families of the area, and generate expanded interest in this residential development

101 Meadowlily Road South: proposed zoning bylaw amendment to allow 52 condominium townhouses, 36 single detached dwellings on a 5.2 Hectare parcel that is bounded on three sides by protected land: Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area to the east, Meadowlily Nature Preserve to the north, and the city-owned Highbury Woods Park to the west that is one of the last remaining rural landscapes in London.



Photo: Andrew Lupton, CBC



February 9, 2021, Chair, ACO London Region, Kelley McKeating to City Development Services and London Advisory Committee on Heritage:

The area bounded by Highbury Road South, Commissioners Road, Hamilton Road, and the eastern boundaries of Park Farm and Meadowlily Woods is extraordinarily rich in natural and heritage resources. In addition to three natural areas, it contains a bee and duck sanctuary, the ruins of Meadowlily Mill and two properties designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act: Park Farm and the 1910 Meadowlily Bridge. The rural landscapes around the designated properties retain an historic sense of place appropriate to the heritage sites: open fields, woodlots, farmsteads and narrow, uncurbed Meadowlily Road. The latter is strongly reminiscent of the historic pathways that have led to the bridge and the mill since at least 1851 and probably since the 1820s. Although Meadowlily Road has been paved and widened at various points in its history, it remains relatively narrow and its borders retain the embankments, ditches, and vegetation characteristic of a minor country road. This quality is important as part of the overall character of the area.

For any potential rezoning and development at 101 Meadowlily Road South, we recommend:

1. A lower density development that is in keeping with the rural character of the area, and that is consistent with the core principles of the London Plan.
2. Provide more imaginative architectural design evocative of traditional styles, clustered to leave visual spaces at intervals between them, providing hints, at least, of rural space. The design presented in the revised application is even less imaginative and less appropriate to the location, than the original design.
3. A single access point to Meadowlily Road for the subdivision, instead of the two streets included in the revised application. The access point should be at the far south end of the subdivision property.
4. Keeping the soft shoulders and rural laneway feel of Meadowlily Road. In particular, Meadowlily Road should not be widened.
5. A large buffer zone between the development and the Park Farm buildings. These buildings are so close to the southern border of the original Park Farm property, any high-density development or development impinging on the property line would seriously affect their character.
6. Increase setback from Meadowlily Road, hide the development behind a barrier of large trees, both evergreen and deciduous and shrubs to provide a visual, sound, and light buffer between the development, the road, and Park Farm. The renderings show manicured lawns that are not suggestive of any kind of buffer or barrier.

March 30th, 2021, Andrew Lupton, CBC News

A controversial plan to build a cluster of condo units beside two protected areas in southeast London failed to get the support of the city's planning committee Monday, setting up a final decision at council and a possible appeal to the province's land planning tribunal.

Kelley McKeating of Architectural Conservancy of Ontario said the proposed development doesn't fit on a road with the dimensions of a country lane in area that is unique and worth preserving. "To put a development squarely in the middle of one of the last remaining rural landscapes in the city is the antithesis of urban intensification. This is a place that should remain natural and if it doesn't ... the density should be a lot lower than 88 houses." A motion to support a staff recommendation in favour of building 88 condo units at 101 Meadowlily Rd. S. failed in a 2-4 vote at committee.

467/469 Dufferin Avenue, Woodfield, London, ON c.1875 or earlier



A vernacular worker's cottage that was the birthplace of the labour movement in London, and home of its first free library. ACO London Region intervened with London Advisory Committee on Heritage is support of the conservation of cottages of a type that are now very rare in the core of the city, especially in Woodfield.

After years of neglect, appeal by developer to Ontario Municipal board, **demolished 2020**

Marshall Brothers Tea Company, 1873-1979, formerly at 67 Dundas Street, London

2016-2018, ACO London Region contributed to moving this sliver of Victorian architecture to London Central Library where it contributes to the London Room's focus on local history as:

"Probably one of the oldest store facades in London." Dorothy Palmer, ACO, London Region



Sharon Lunau, ACO, London, Scott Courtice, London Central Library Dorothy Palmer, Vice-Chair, ACO, London Region "visit" Ernest Marshall of Marshall Bros.

Dr. Oronhyatekha House, 172 Central Avenue, London, ON



“A very solid looking, Italianate mansion; a powerful structure.”

Chair, ACO London Region, Jennifer Grainger

Born on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, Oronhyatekha (Burning Cloud) was the second person of indigenous descent to become a physician in Canada and the first to attend Oxford University. He was also Supreme Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters for 26 years. London City Council’s Planning and Environmental Committee received letters from numerous concerned individuals and groups, including the Six Nations of the Grand River, many of which were initially contacted by ACO London to lend their support. City Council voted unanimously on July 24 to grant heritage designation to Dr. Oronhyatekha’s house under the Ontario Heritage Act.



The Cedars, Athletic and Boating Club, 1880s

Vacant, vandalized, since 2013, following its loss to fire, July 7, 2018 ACO London requested the city inspect properties to ensure they are maintained even when vacant, and fine owners if heritage properties are destroyed by fire.

Destruction by fire happens all too often to empty buildings and has led to the catastrophic loss of other historic landmarks including Locust Mount on Talbot Street and Alma College in St. Thomas in recent years.”
President, ACO London Region, Jennifer Grainger

Byron Old Red Barn, 247 Halls Mill Rd., Byron ON, c.1880s



Photo Mike Henson, London Free Press



Photo Kate Dubinksi, CBC News,

Jan 28, 2020, Byron Red Barn designated

Politicians on Council's planning committee voted to grant designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, denying the owner's request for a demolition permit.

"It's a landmark; it's where Byron started. This is more than a red barn. It's the centre of Byron. We are losing these buildings. We can do a better job. We're always reacting."

Councillor Anna Hopkins, supporting designation of the property.

Councillor Hopkins won two amendments to the designation, stating administration evaluate other property in Halls Mill for designation, and that barns throughout the city be considered for designation – work that can be done largely by the London Advisory Committee on Heritage, or LACH.

"We're happy with the pro-heritage position taken by councillors. People from the neighbourhood supported saving the barn, there was concern shown by neighbours and councillors listened. It's unusual. It has more style than the average barn. It's definitely part of the heritage of the village."

Chair, ACO London Region, Jenny Grainger

Jan 31, 2020, Byron Red Barn demolished

The barn's owner, John McLeod, who neighbours say was watching the bulldozer in action, said that he had been advised by his lawyer not to provide comment. But he is "delighted" the barn is down. McLeod was opposed to the heritage designation and had fought to quash the decision.

"It's infuriating. After so much effort to try and save this building and having the city vote on our side, it's been destroyed anyway. If the city doesn't take a bold stand and make it clear that they expect their orders obeyed... other people might start to think that they can just demolish a heritage building without getting permission and if if the city says no I'll just do it anyway."

Chair, ACO London Region, Jenny Grainger

Jenny Grainger wrote and spoke to Planning & Environment Committee. She believes that, helped convince PEC, and later the full city council, to designate the building.

After the owner of the barn demolished it, she wrote again to city councilors to urge them to fine or prosecute him, as it's important not to set a precedent that anyone can ignore city council. Jenny Grainger also spoke to local media about the subject. ACO London Region is now awaiting the city's next move.

Proposed Condominium Towers, South of Victoria Park, London, ON

- 35 storeys south of Victoria Park, in what is now a Canada Life parking lot
- 16 to 30 storeys on the wedge of land west of the park, near St. Peter's Basilica
- Up to 30 storeys to the east, in a parking lot next to Centennial Hall
- North of Wolfe Street, buildings ranging from three to 10 storeys high
- North of the park, buildings up to 16 storeys
-



Proposed plan would see highrises built on every side of the central London park, some as high as 35 storeys. Victoria park is on the edge of Woodfield, a heritage designated area, and the secondary plan may have more authority than a heritage designation, planning staff said.

Chair ACO London Region, Jenny Grainger wrote to Planning & Environment Committee, explaining that there are too many plans for highrises around Victoria Park, especially near St. Peter's Basilica, in the revised Victoria Park Secondary Plan

Feb 3, 2020 Jenny Grainger spoke at the PEC meeting (as did Vice President Kelley McKeating) urging a midrise buffer zone around the park and suggesting other locations for potential skyscrapers:

“Not enough attention is being paid to the historical area of Woodfield and its guidelines. The city should encourage developers to build in vacant lots and not surround the park. It would be appreciated if there was some way to encourage them.”

PEC has sent the plan back to city staff for another revision.

[Highrise rules: How tall is too tall around Victoria Park?: Jenny Grainger speaks to CTV](#)

Proposed 40-storey tower 435, 441 and 451 Ridout Street, “Bankers’ Row”, London, ON



Farhi Holdings Corporation plans to build a 40-storey mixed-use tower with 280 residential units at the northwest corner of Queens Avenue and Ridout Street, across from Museum London, kitty corner to London's downtown courthouse. The developer it will be a good fit with the heritage buildings it will sit next to. Site plans show the building's footprint placed behind three designated brick Georgian buildings that date from the mid 1800s. Collectively the three buildings (435, 441, and 451 Ridout) also form a National Historic Site designated in 1966. The project's heritage impact assessment points out that the row of heritage buildings forms an important link between Eldon House at 481 Ridout and the former Middlesex County Court House at 399 Ridout (a heritage building [recently sold](#) to a developer – see below).

That stretch of Ridout is known as **Bankers’ Row** because its buildings were once home to the head offices of five banks, which were later turned into residences or businesses.

Jenny Grainger, Chair ACO London Region

"This is going to be quite controversial for a lot of reasons. This is the wrong place for a 40-storey highrise. It would be a very strange backdrop for the existing buildings on Ridout."

She has also written to the city about Farhi Holding's plan for a tower on this location, pointing out that it would block views of the river, would be unsympathetic to the style of the buildings already there and, being planned on a flood plain, is too close to a section of the Thames which is prone to flooding. Farhi Holdings should, instead, consider locating the building on one of the downtown surface parking lots the company owns.

**Middlesex County Courthouse, John Ewart, Architect, 1829, 399 Ridout St., London, ON
National Historic Site, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act**



Sylvia Chodas, ACO London Region, Western University Historian Prof. Mark Tovey, outside Middlesex courthouse building on Ridout Street

Middlesex County Courthouse, built 1829

London heritage advocates are calling on Middlesex County to postpone the sale of its historic former courthouse, conditionally sold to a local developer, to allow for further input from the public and avoid the historic property from ending up in private hands.

Ali Soufan, president of York Developments, said it plans to create a “very large-scale, mixed-use” development at 50 King, while preserving the historic value of the entire property.

“Our intention is to enhance what is here, to respect the heritage of the site; that’s Priority 1. Priority 2 is to create developments that generate “robust economic spin-off.”

“I know it is the 11th hour, but my greatest wish would be ratification of that sale to be postponed in some way for further discussion, for the sake of present and future generations in London and Middlesex County. Even with this company’s assurances, even with heritage designations, all bets are off when public property goes private. Companies come and go.”

Sylvia Chodas, ACO London Region

Jenny Grainger, Chair, ACO London Region wrote to York Developments, asking to meet with president Ali Soufan in order to discuss his plans for the building's future.

“I’m disappointed. It’s all about money . . . that council would decide to sell to the highest bidder when it seems as though the city would’ve been a more appropriate owner for the building. The preservation of the building is most important, and we have no way of knowing what the future is going to be with York Developments.”

Middlesex County Courthouse is a National Historic Site, is designated under Part 4 of the [Ontario Heritage Act](#) and the exterior of the building and the scenic qualities of its landscape, are protected by an Ontario Heritage Trust conservation easement.

Sale to York Developments became official in December. York has promised to build a “very large-scale, mixed-use” development on the site, starting with 50 King St. The residential project for the site will also include some office and retail space, as well as a public component. York officials also said they’re **committed to preserving the property’s historic components.**

ACO Meaford



35-47 Sykes Street North
ACO Meaford opposed amendments to the Official Plan and the Zoning Bylaw that would “permit a 5-store, 52-unit condo and commercial building that would preserve the second-floor facades of the middle two existing buildings and unspecified architectural details.” ACO Meaford secured the preservation of two second-floor facades and the replication of much of the decorative brickwork in these buildings.

The developer has, so far, declined to move forward with this plan. The file remains open.

47-45 Sykes Street North

Reproduce upper-storey brickwork above fourth-storey windows to top of parapet with similar coloured brick.



35 Sykes Street North

a) Reproduce upper-storey brickwork above fourth-storey windows to top of the parapet.



b) Reproduce brickwork above residential windows



See: <http://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/2016/02/11/meaford-fight-over-condo-plans-over>

With regret, ACO Meaford is now closed but available for revival

ACO Muskoka

Swift River Energy Balla Falls Generating Station National Trust for Canada Top 10 Endangered Places, 2012



ACO Muskoka campaigned to stop a project that would disfigure the heritage landscape of Bala Falls by building a generating station. The project also would destroy a previously designated canoe portage that was used by First Nations for centuries before the arrival of European settlers. This site on the main street of Bala is designated a Heritage Conservation District. ACO Muskoka was a party at an OMB Hearing to defend the designation. The project is now complete.



November 2017, ACO Muskoka collaborated with Swift River Energy Limited and others to research a rock face with inscriptions G.V. WILLSON HIRAM DUPUY PITTSBURG US 1888 and W.A.T. and G.G. BIRRELL, AUG, 1919, LONDON, ONT that was unearthed during excavations. Liz Lundell, founding president of ACO Muskoka, found that the Pittsburgh Rod and Gun Club tented at Bala Falls in 1888. Willson, a prominent Pittsburgh businessman and DuPuy, a dental surgeon, were both members. W.A.T. Birrell, 18, and his brother, Gordon, 19, worked as electricians for Hydro in London. An historically significant finding has been researched and saved. (See: *The Forgotten Past Chiselled in Rock* by Jack Hutton, ACO magazine *Acorn*, Vol 43, #1, Spring 2018.) 2022, the 10-ton “Bala Boulder” restored to its original location.

ACO Muskoka Windermere History Project



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WINDERMERE?

Do you KNOW ?

Who built that building or stone wall?
When was your building built?
Who planted that row of trees? When?
Where Windermere begins and ends?

Who:

- Was here first? Next? Now?
- Farmed here first, who farms here now?
- Are the roads named after?

What do you love about Windermere?

Share your favourite Windermere stories!!

Bring us your favourite Windermere pics, current and early.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Home Base for the ACO Muskoka Windermere History Project, office of Catherine Nasmith Architect, former President of ACO. First building in the village of Windermere to be designated.



Bracebridge resident, Jake La Plant, 2019 summer researcher for the Windermere History Project.

2020, Student Lisa Oversby enlarged the foundational data collected by Jake De La Plante, to further organize and coordinate architectural descriptions of the properties within the village of Windermere. A number of interviews done in 2019 were completed in 2020, with individuals, both local and summer residents who shared their stories of Windermere.

2022 launch of [MuskokaBuilt](#) open Source Database, images and information, Muskoka buildings and landscapes.

ACO Newmarket

Clock Tower Development, Main Street, Newmarket



ACO's newest branch, led by Chair Gordon Prentice and centenarian Margaret Davis opposed the Clock Tower development that would crowd views of the 1914 Post Office (Architect David Ewart, Chief, Ottawa Department of Public Works) and reduce Mary Anne Simpson's 1845 apothecary (the first in Canada to be operated by a woman) and two properties to the south of it on Main Street to facades.



December 27, 2019 Gordon Prentice, Past-Chair, ACO Newmarket:

In this long running saga Clock Tower developer Bob Forrest cut a deal with the Town of Newmarket in 2018. He would be paid \$100,000 to restore and bring back into use the Clock Tower and the other heritage buildings he owned in the heart of the Heritage Conservation District.

9-10 October 2019 the designated former apothecary of Anne Mary Simpson unlawfully demolished. Mayor John Taylor insists there must be consequences.



January 20, 2020:

[Historic Simpson House to be fully reconstructed after unauthorized demolition](#) Main Street Clock Inc. to rebuild and is penalized \$200,000. (\$100,000 fine plus \$100,000 restoration grant withdrawn.)

January 5, 2021: Apothecary is now rebuilt and sold but as yet unoccupied.

October 9-10, 2019: Anne Mary Simpson's, 1845 apothecary demolished; January 5, 2021, rebuilt
Gordon Prentice interventions for ACO Newmarket:

Oct 12, 2019: [Bob Forrest Ordered Demolition of Historic Building on Main Street](#)

Oct 28, 2019: [Unlawful Demolition on Main Street: Why Bob Forrest should be Prosecuted](#)

Nov 04, 2019: [How can Bob Forrest sell his heritage properties on Main Street when he has just unlawfully demolished one?](#)

Nov 07, 2019: [Mayor Taylor wants "full re-build" of unlawfully demolished Simpson building](#)

Dec 06, 2019: [The case for prosecuting developer Bob Forrest](#)

Jan 09, 2020: [Demolition on Main Street... three months on](#)

Jan 20, 2020: [Historic Simpson House to be fully reconstructed after unauthorized demolition](#)

Jan 20, 2020: [Town agrees settlement with Bob Forrest on the unlawful demolition of the historic Simpson Building on Main Street](#)

Feb 02, 2020: [Council explains decision not to prosecute the developer Bob Forrest for unlawful demolition on Main Street](#)

Feb 09, 2020: [What can we learn from Bob Forrest's unlawful demolition of the Simpson Building and the Town's response to it?](#)

May 17, 2020 [Unlawful Demolition on Main Street - and making sure it never happens again](#)

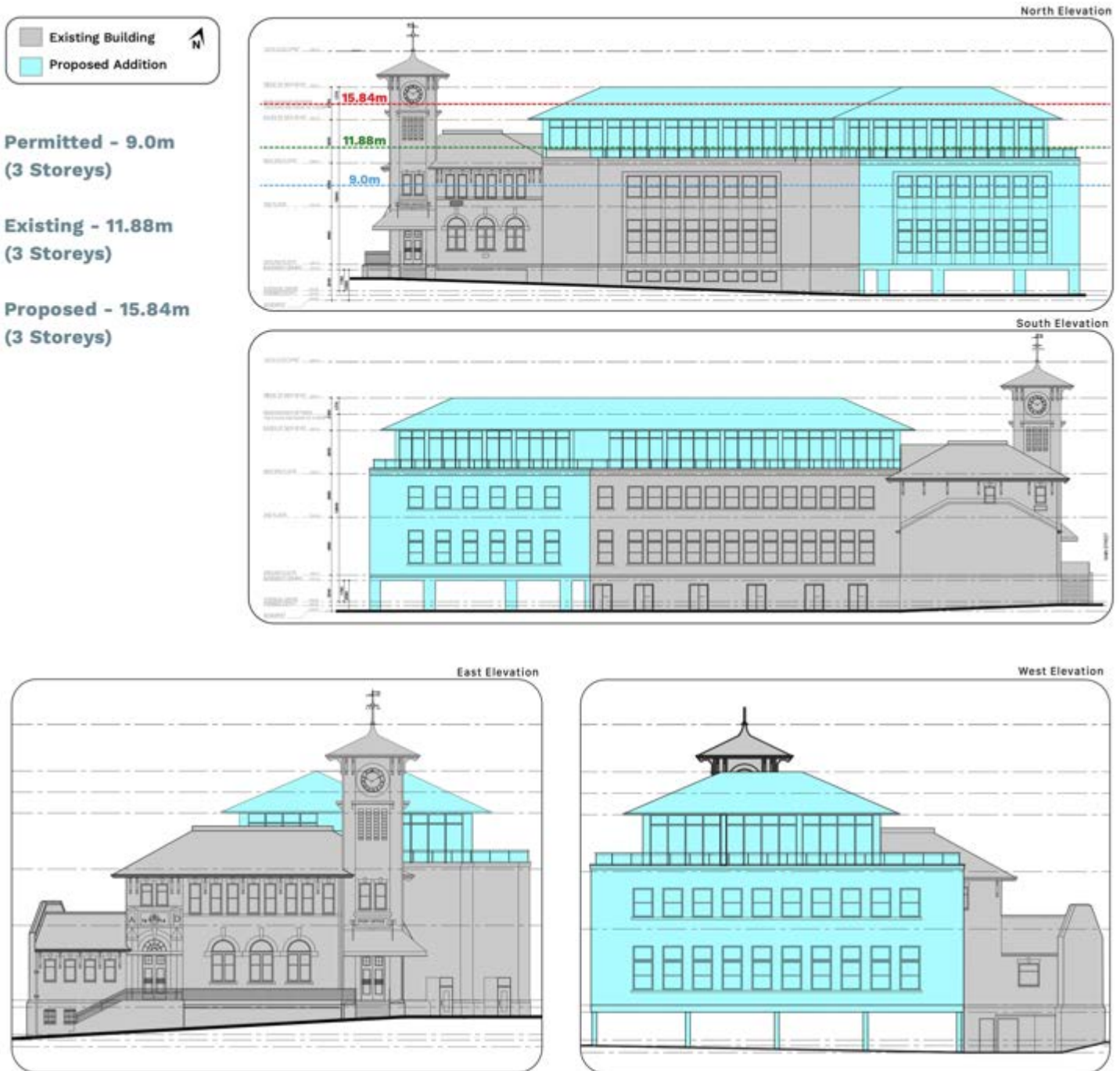
Jan 22, 2022 [Newmarket's iconic clock tower gets a new lease on life](#)



Proposed conversion of the empty post office clock tower building on Main Street into a boutique hotel with 55 guest rooms, restaurant and rooftop event space. The plans have been widely welcomed. Trinity United Church, directly opposite on Park Avenue, and the Newmarket Co-operative Nursery School both support the development.

[Application for minor variance](#) by Bousfield Inc. shows development behind to be set back, lessening visual impact.

The end, at last, of a decade long debate on the future of one of Newmarket's most iconic buildings?



[2022: Gordon Prentice and Margaret Davis winners, ACO A.K. Sculthorpe Award for Advocacy](#)

John Bogart House, 1811, 16920 Leslie Street, Newmarket



One of the earliest dwellings extant in the Newmarket area; a frame building, clad in narrow clapboard on a rubble-stone foundation believed to be one of the two oldest 2-storey buildings north of downtown Toronto. Constructed nine years after the area was settled, for John Bogart, Quaker pioneer from Pennsylvania. He operated a sawmill and gristmill on the nearby creek where *Bogartown* was a significant centre. In 1861 John Bogart was a partner in the Simpson and Bogart store at 226-228 Main Street South, Newmarket, with Robert Simpson, husband of Bogart's eldest daughter Mary Ann, "a well-known dry goods man" who became the founder of Simpson's department store in Toronto (now the Bay).

Bogart House was designated 1987 when it was the developer's intent to preserve and restore it as a residential dwelling. Condition now "derelict". Report commissioned by developer Forest Green Homes recommending demolition was, according to ERA Architects, flawed. Heritage Newmarket Advisory Committee Chair, Athol Hart made it clear, the house should be preserved in situ.

1.25.21 Newmarket Planning advise Bogart House is: Designated, boarded up, safe and protected. Now slated to be incorporated into a 305-unit development of mostly townhouses on Leslie Street.
11.12.21 Developer Humphries Planning Group Promises: "These units, through their design and placement, will highlight the heritage house such that it will stand proud both along the Leslie Street frontage and the interior condominium road."

Director of Planning and Building Services, Jason Unger: "The town receives monthly status reports regarding the condition of the home. Once staff have reviewed the application, and it is satisfactory to the town, a recommendation report will be brought to a future committee of the whole meeting,"

With regret, ACO Newmarket is now closed but available for revival

[ACO North Bruce Grey Owen Sound](#)

**Old Court House, David Smith, architect, 1853 and Jail Henry H. Horsey, architect, 1866
1235 and 1259 3rd Ave. E, Owen Sound.**



ACO North Bruce Grey Owen Sound urges conservation for appropriate re-use. 2016 Southbridge Care Homes withdraw proposal to purchase for conversion into a longterm care facility that would retain historic character of the building. July 2017, most preferred option, Old Court House and Jail becoming a new Tom Thomson Art Gallery (TOM) deemed inappropriate by TOM Board, for reasons that include: "insufficient parking, unknown heritage compliance requirements, and building height restrictions". Jan 15, 2020, Community Services Committee receives [report](#) from Taylor Hazell Architects respecting heritage impact assessment and

demolition approvals plan. City Staff directed to work with consultant to undertake public consultation process. March 15, 2022: "Owen Sound council accepted an offer of \$50,000 for the. properties from Nick Ainis in trust, who has plans to convert the properties into a wedding and events venue, with dining, entertainment, a museum and a shared workspace. Cultural heritage evaluation and heritage impact assessments done by the city looked at the progressive demolition of parts of the jail, ancillary buildings and 132-year-old governor's residence, but none of that work has proceeded. Ainis said on Tuesday that his plans involve leaving "almost everything as is" and utilizing the existing space as much as possible." [Rob Gowan Owen Sound Sun Times, March 15, 2022](#)

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Rectory, 554 15th Street East, Owen Sound, 1872



Jan 10, 2020: **ACO Chair Kae Elgie** urged Owen Sound Council to not consent to the demolition of the 148-year-old, designated [St. Mary's Catholic Church rectory](#), "Rehabilitating the rectory is the better choice – not just for the preservation of the community's heritage but for the environment as well. Razing the building would contravene provincial policy, which says significant built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved and would also be very bad for the environment. Not only would we be destroying building materials superior to what we can easily obtain today, we would be burning fossil fuels to transport wasted materials to the landfill." "Replacing building materials imposes a huge environmental toll – fossil fuels burned, greenhouse gases emitted, air and water polluted. It takes 35 to 50 years for a new energy-efficient building to save the amount of energy lost in demolishing an existing building."

Denis Langlois, [Owen Sound Sun Times, January 10, 2020](#) [Owen Sound Sun Times, January 14, 2020](#)

January 13, 2020: City council has decided not to stand in the way of a St. Mary's Catholic Church parish plan to demolish its historic 148-year-old rectory in Owen Sound. Neil Devlin, Parish Building Committee Chair: "We're glad that Council could see the dollar signs – that's really what it came down to. We cannot ask our parishioners to raise \$4 million. We're just a typical Catholic parish – we're not swimming in money." Mayor Ian Boddy: "It's their property. It's them that has to figure out what they can afford. And the property is not in good shape to try and maintain. February 09, 2021, contractor hired to demolish.

With regret, ACO North Bruce Grey is now closed but available for revival

[ACO North Waterloo Region](#)

Winterbourne Bridge, 48 Peel street, Woolwich Township, 1913

The only significant double-span camelback Pratt through truss bridge in the Region of Waterloo. Closed to all but emergency vehicles and horse and buggy traffic in 2001. Completely closed in 2017.



Photo: [HistoricBridges.org](https://www.historicbridges.org)

The Winterbourne bridge is described by [HistoricBridges.org](https://www.historicbridges.org) as: "A very rare example of a multi-span, pin-connected Camelback truss bridge in Ontario, with excellent historic integrity and no major alterations, adding to its significance." It is also an important landmark in its rural landscape and a favourite subject for painters, including [Peter Etril Snyder](#)), photographers (including [Carl Hiebert](#)) and filmmakers.

It is rated as having significant heritage value in three separate studies of heritage bridges in the Grand River Watershed/Waterloo Region ([Grand Old Bridges](#), [Spanning the Generations](#), [Arch, Truss & Beam](#)) and found to meet four of the nine criteria contained in Regulation 9/06 Ontario Heritage Act. But the Winterbourne bridge is not designated nor is it listed by the local municipality.

GMBLuePlan Engineering 2016 noted numerous defects in its report, which called for major rehabilitation, including concrete repairs, replacing floor beams, deck, stringers, repairing tension cables, etc. Estimated cost: \$760,000.

December 15 2020, Woolwich Township staff recommended that Council demolish the Pratt camelback through truss bridge and replace it with a cement bridge.

Kim Hodgson of ACO North Waterloo Region formed a Facebook group, Friends of Winterbourne Bridge and asked ACO Board Chair Kae Elgie for help. Elgie and Hodgson made presentations to Woolwich Council's December 15 meeting requesting Council designate the bridge.

Council deferred a decision for three months, until after its 2021 budget is passed. This gives the Friends of Winterbourne Bridge and ACO time to rally support and seek alternate opinions on the reparability and life expectancy of the bridge. (See also: Black Bridge, p.5)

**Sacred Heart Convent, 1916, 79 Moore Avenue, 54-68 Shanley Street, Kitchener
ACO North Waterloo Region with Kitchener Heritage**



In April 2015, the Diocese of Hamilton submitted an application to demolish the Convent to mitigate parking problems at Polish Heritage Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Heritage Kitchener called an emergency meeting that recommended designation of the four listed Sacred Heart buildings: convent, rectory, former pastor residence and church. Thanks, in good part, to interventions by ACO member Charlotte Woodley, the application to demolish was withdrawn by the Diocese. By September 2018, neighbours' concerns about the vacant

buildings prompted City and Diocese to convene a community consultation on possible future uses for the Convent and the now vacant adjoining school. Diocese Director of Finance and Administration Jim Long assured the 80 participants – half of them neighbours, half Polish parishioners -- that both buildings would be adaptively reused.

Mayfair Hotel, 11 Young Street, Hymmen Hardware, 1905, 156-158 King Street West, Kitchener



ACO North Waterloo Region vigorously defended these buildings that were condemned by an Order to Remedy an Unsafe Building. Council voted for de-designation and demolition. Questions remain regarding the "immediate life safety concerns" which prompted that decision.

48 Ontario St N, Kitchener, 1914

(Bell Telephone office, 1914-41, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 50, 1941-2001)



“Birthplace of the Blues in Kitchener”; owned by City of Kitchener, unoccupied since 2001, Remembering demolition of nearby Mayfair Hotel, Friends of 48 Ontario Street North, which includes several ACO members, succeeded in getting the building opened to the public for Doors Open 2016. October 2016, City designated exterior features as well as interior staircase with slate treads and risers, wooden handrails, metal balustrade and newel posts. Purchased by Voisin Developments in 2017 for incorporation into a new development that will preserve façade, lobby and grand staircase. No application has been brought forward and the building stands vacant. See proposed development at the Voisin Developments website: [48 Ontario](http://48Ontario.com).

Sir Adam Beck's family home, 1855, 144 Foundry Street, Baden



ACO North Waterloo Region was refused permission to speak to Wilmot Council about its decision to demolish the childhood home of Sir Adam Beck (1857-1925) first Chairman (in 1906) of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission who brought electricity from Niagara Falls and caused Canadians to call it “hydro”. Permit issued September 2014, for demolition promised to be precise and "surgical", to salvage artifacts for a monument.

St. Louis School, 1905, 75 Allen Street East, Waterloo



[March 25, 2013, John Arndt, Past President ACO North Waterloo Region requested the school be designated as heritage.](#) His proposal was met with silence by city councillors. No questions were asked or comments made; the school was not designated but heritage preservation was built into scoring scheme for purchase offers. School bought by developer for conversion into live-work units.

Preservation of Kitchener's Industrial Landscape

Krug Furniture Co., 1887, 111 Ahrens Street, Kitchener



Municipal history was made in June 2015, when Kitchener City Council overcame its usual reluctance to obey Provincial Policy Statement directive that "Significant heritage resources shall be conserved", by adding its oldest still-functioning factory to Municipal Heritage Register, without permission of the building's owner. This followed presentations by Rick Haldenby (former Director U Waterloo School of Architecture) and ACO-NWR.

Dominion Tire/Airboss plant, 1914, 101 Glasgow, 149 Strange Streets, Kitchener



This excellent example of the work of great industrial architect, Albert Kahn (1869-1942) was added to Kitchener's Municipal Heritage Register in December 2015, despite initial owner reluctance. Thanks to ACO-NWR lobbying efforts and heritage staff who created a provision that allows Council to waive heritage requirements as long as the property is an active manufacturing site, thereby protecting it from demolition.

John Motz House, 56 Weber Street West, Kitchener, 1900



Home of shoe manufacturer Carl Ahrens, now owned by Vive Developments who made a demolition application for this property and for 254 Queen Street South. Heritage Kitchener Committee recommended against demolition. Sept 24, 2018 Kitchener Council voted 8:3 to refuse permission to demolish both houses

C. A. Ahrens House, 262 Queen Street South, Kitchener, 1900



107 Young Street, Kitchener, A. H. Crocker, architect, 1911



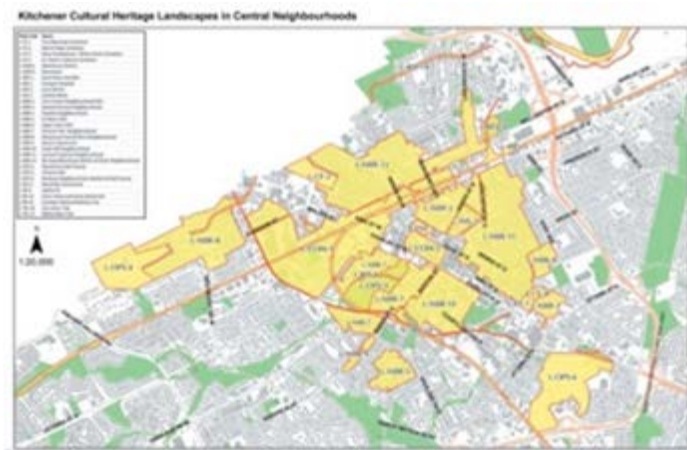
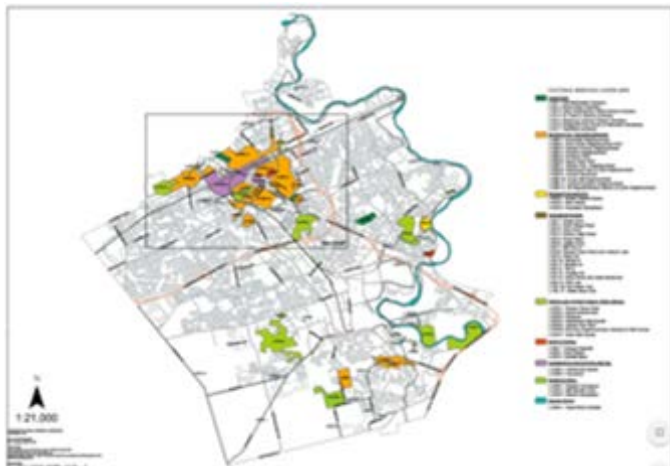
Arts & crafts style house with many original features, including wood trim on the front porch and decorative brick work.

Future not yet determined by Kitchener Council

ACO North Waterloo Region intervened to protect these properties that are members of the Civic Centre Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation District at Heritage Kitchener and at City Council for 262 Queen Street

Kitchener Heritage Landscapes

ACO North Waterloo Region spoke in support of the Kitchener Cultural Heritage Landscapes report, co-authored by heritage architect Chris Borgal (and ACO Past President) at several Open Houses, Municipal Heritage Committee and Council meetings. Following those interventions, the City of Kitchener added 55 Cultural Heritage Landscapes to its Municipal Heritage Register April 27, 2015. Kitchener Cultural Heritage Landscape Study was the subject of a 2016 National Award of Excellence from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects and a 2016 National Award of Merit from the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals.



Sears Building, Fairview Park Mall, Kitchener, Maxwell Miller, Sears in-house architect, 1965



Sears Building South Facade



Rendering of proposed renovation to Sears building showing location of north elevation where original building facade is proposed to be retained

Sandra Parks: *"Why build fake brick-and-beam when we already have real mid-century modern?"*

Karl Kessler: *"It's almost a rule; we feel often strong disaffection towards architecture that is about 50-60 years old. We are fast approaching a situation in which good examples from this important, striking architectural era have mostly vanished, creating a conspicuous gap in our cultural heritage."*

Jean Haalboom: *"The Sears building has put its stamp on our sense of place. It demonstrates the tastes of its time. Surely, we can use our innovative talents to demand reuse instead of destruction".*

Prof. Rick Haldenby, University of Waterloo School of Architecture: *"It's got dignity, it's got rhythm, it's got grace. The mid-century buildings that popped up in Waterloo Region from the early 1950s to the early 1970s are representative of a booming era in local history. They should be protected."*

Finley McEwen, Cadillac Fairview Senior VP Development responded: It would "essentially render the property undevelopable". Nov. 19, 2018, City council voted to reject Heritage Committee recommendation to preserve the façade, except a section of it on the north side of the new building.

ACO Port Hope

Port Hope Heritage Inventory

Port Hope proudly lists 250 designated properties. However, Port Hope has never developed an inventory of properties as suggested by the Ontario Heritage Act. It has not used the classification “listed” for properties not yet designated and, until 2017 the Town had not accepted a designation request from its advisory committee that was not welcomed by the property owner. The town has designated its Downtown Business District, where owners have been supported by grants for restoration but Port Hope does not have any heritage districts in residential areas, nor has Council provided research or staff to support its advisory committee, beyond the work of its secretary who has other duties within the Planning Dept.



2017: ACO wrote to Heritage Port Hope and Mayor Sanderson, advocating for increased resources for HPH. HPH received \$5000 in funding to hire a graduate student in 2018 to begin work on a Heritage Inventory. In August he presented his report to Council outlining a process for assessing and listing properties, and research to support the designation of 41 properties. In September, Council accepted the motions that flowed from this report but the suggested properties have not yet been reviewed by Heritage Port Hope.

2019: Council funded a student summer placement in the Planning Department but unlike in 2018, this produced no results. Work within Planning toward broadening the Register to “listed” properties to the Heritage Register was unproductive as the documentation sought from the Heritage Committee was as thorough as what would be needed for Heritage Designation. Progress stalled but, following its speaking to Heritage Port Hope and meeting with the Mayor, ACO Port Hope hopes for a simplified approach in 2020, and approval of an additional staff appointment in the Town’s budget.

Port Hope Little Station



There are two theories regarding the origin of Port Hope's "Little Station":

Built mid-1850's for the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton Railway that was subsequently extended to Midland and renamed the Midland Railway in 1869.

When the Grand Trunk Railway purchased the Midland in 1884, moved to beside the stone Port Hope station on the main Grand Trunk Line. Or, more likely . . .

It was the original early 1850's Port Hope Grand Trunk station until the existing stone station was built in 1856. It may have been moved then, a little further along the line, to serve as a baggage shed. After a lengthy

period of disuse, it was moved to the property of a railway employee. When it was slated for demolition, ACO Port Hope took ownership, and moved it to face the harbour sailboat anchorage where it was used by the local Yacht Club.

In 2018 ACO Port Hope financed and organized the Little Station's latest move to a concrete foundation facing Lent's Lane, beside Memorial Park that is the former raised railbed of the Midland Railway. Plans are that the Little Station will provide a public space for "Critical Mass", a centre for contemporary art and innovative not-for-profit community arts organizations. In 2019 heritage architect and former Chair of ACO Port Hope, Philip Goldsmith, was nominated for ACO's Paul Oberman award for Adaptive re-use for making it "his mission to relocate and restore the Little Station for a public purpose beside Memorial Park in Port Hope's downtown core".

King's Field Oak Trees, Port Hope



ACO Port Hope requested Council revise a 169 home sub-division development plan by Aecon and Mason Homes that directly threatened two old-growth oak trees.

While most other trees of the small woodlot bordering on King's Field are being lost, these two will remain.

Port Hope Centre Pier industrial buildings



Building 41

Erected c1910 by the Port Hope Sanitary Manufacturing Company, extended c1930. Acquired 1932 by Eldorado Gold Mines (Cameco after 1988.) “The Central Pier and Buildings 41 and 43 are as much a part of Port Hope’s built and cultural heritage, as any of the buildings that have been the subject of preservation efforts in the town. They are simply not yet recognized as such.” (Christopher Andreae: Heritage Impact Assessment, the Central Pier, Port Hope, for The Pier Group, November 30, 2008.)

Building 41 is “an excellent example of late 19th century factory design. Its heavy timber framing combined with load bearing brick walls, a representative of a type know as slow-burning mill construction.”

Building 43 was originally a foundry; part of it may have been built before 1910 but relatively small sections of the original building remain and much of the structure consists of 1920s/1930s steel framing with brick infill.

The Pier Group (supported by ACO Port Hope) advocated for conservation of Building 41, at least, for adaptive re-use by the community, without success. Citing cost and the delay that conservation would cause the Port Hope Area Initiative cleanup, City Council determined, with regret, that the buildings cannot be saved..

Building 43



Both buildings are now demolished; the pier’s land has been remediated.

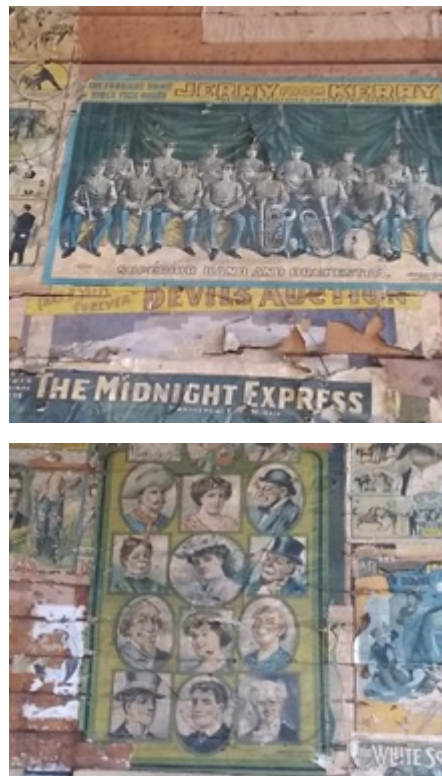
O'Neill's Opera House (later Royal Bank of Canada), 1871, 85 Walton Street, Port Hope



O'Neill's was Port Hope's music hall and opera house, until 1928 when it was replaced in that role by the Capitol theatre. The building was the main Port Hope branch of the Royal Bank of Canada until 2016.

January 2018: ACO Port Hope and Port Hope Heritage Foundation issued a Request for Proposal to assess "Market Use and Feasibility to inform the Sustainable Use and Operation of the

Port Hope Royal Bank Opera House". Interim Report by NetGain Partners Inc. was completed. Fall 2019, RBC transferred the property to ACO Ontario for a tax receipt of its assessed property value. Fall 2021 sold to HopeTowns Community Ventures that is dedicated to "developing the capital to restore O'Neill's Opera House, and finally by bringing together the expertise to manage it for the benefit of the community".



Gillett Paterson Block, 29-33 Walton St., Port Hope, 1845



Hiram Gillett built this three-storey block on land purchased from Robert N. Waddell in 1844. In 1876, Gillett sold the block to Stanley Paterson, Secretary and Treasurer for the Midland Loan and Savings Company who established a stock exchange in the block. Prior to completion of the Town Hall in 1853, the first Town Council met in Gillett's Block.

In the late 1980's the windows on the two main streets were replaced with modern glass, retaining the wooden sashes, the cost being assisted by a provincial grant of \$85,000. In 2017, the building was sold, and this owner has applied to replace all, but the two curved windows, with new vinyl windows. Heritage Committee and Planning staff recommended against this replacement.

Council, after hearing the owner's appeal, returned the matter of retention of heritage windows, with apparently greater costs, for further study. *Upon receipt of a policy document to provide an assessment approach for the designated district, and continued rejection of the owner's request, Council took no action on the report, ignored the municipal easement that had been registered on the property as a result of the public moneys that had assisted the previous work, and voted to grant the owner his request to install the vinyl replacements.*

There is great concern that this exception may now become the custom. In the past decade ACO Port Hope has helped defray the additional estimated costs of repairing wooden windows and brick for several owners in the downtown Heritage District.

Former Port Hope & District Hospital, Ellis and Ellis architects, 1915, 65 Ward St. Port Hope



A 1.583Ha property at the corner of Hope Street, east of the Ganaraska River. The southern portion is occupied by a long-term care facility owned by Southbridge Homes. Two earlier buildings to the north are empty and deteriorating.

The first of these building built in the 1860's, facing Hope St. was a private home until, in 1912, it briefly became the town's first public hospital. During the summer of 1915 its lawns were covered by the tents of a military hospital. When they became overcrowded, nurses slept on the tent floors. The second building, known as the "historic hospital", was built to provide extended medical care for returning veterans. It opened in 1916. At least 200 enlisted men were treated here. Those who were infectious were isolated in local homes. After the First World War the hospital doubled as a nurse's training school while the first building served as a nurses' residence. The hospital expanded in 1921 to 25 beds with adjoining wings and closed-in sun balconies. It remained Port Hope hospital until 1961, when it became a seniors' home.

Ellis and Ellis were also the architects of three Port Hope schools. One of them, now designated, and repurposed as residences, faces the hospital on Ward Street, creating a balanced effect of similar red-brick classical buildings with matching lawn setbacks. The hospital is the only one of the four Ellis and Ellis properties in Port Hope not yet designated.

Fall 2017: Southbridge Homes sought a demolition permit for both historic buildings and released its plans to upgrade its current facility with a new lengthy extension running north along Hope Street, removing any balance with the former school at the Ward St. intersection. Heritage Port Hope and ACO Port Hope submitted separate designation requests to Council in April, 2018, the first time that ACO Port Hope, led by its new Advocacy Committee has done this.

March 13, 2019: Heritage Review Board recommends designation which Council declines to accept. Instead, it chose to prioritise the importance of retaining a longterm care facility in the municipality, and deferred its previous decision to designate the property. Southbridge was required to provide the Municipality of Port Hope with all documentation that would allow the Municipality to issue the necessary approvals for demolition of any of the initial cottage hospital, the powerhouse, and the hospital building located at 65 Ward Street.

September 19, 2019: [Port Hope Council Approves Agreement on 65 Ward Street](#)

Municipality agrees to withdrawal of the Notice of Intention to Designate the hospital building known as 65 Ward Street once Southbridge has completed all their requirements and made the necessary monetary payments in relation to the project.

Rose's Cottage, 36 Victoria Street, Port Hope c1860s



A small frame white-stucco'd cottage with eyebrow windows built at the back entrance to the Penryn King Estate for Mary Rose who immigrated from Ireland to join the estate's staff. She lived there for several decades. Since then, prominently sited where the estate's laneway is now the entrance to the Port Hope Golf and Country Club, it has often been unoccupied. Although it stood on a designated property, the cottage had not been included in the listing; accordingly, a demolition permit was granted to Mason Homes, who intended to develop this section of the estate into phase three of a new sub-division. Then a new owner, Stephen Henderson, of [Henderson Construction](#), who specializes in heritage conservation and restoration, committed to move the house to an alternative site, 65 Pine Street North. **ACO Port Hope** supported local hero **Stephen Henderson**, the new owner of Rose's Cottage, by defraying costs of a move that was video'd by [Global News](#). See also: [Rose's Cottage in Port Hope won't be demolished](#), Sarah Hyatt, Northumberland News, June 19, 2019 [How historic Rose Cottage in Port Hope got moved ahead by a century](#), Tracy Haynes, Toronto Star, Feb 3, 2021



Village of Wesleyville, 1860



Jan 23, 2018: Friends of Wesleyville Village (Chair Kathryn McHolm) signed a 20-year lease with Ontario Power Generation for the provincially-listed, heritage schoolhouse and Oughtred house properties, along with the woodlot between the Church and Barrowclough House. In the heritage village, the restored United Church at 2082 Lakeshore Road, Port Hope, is functioning well and FOWV has 12 more years on the 20-year lease from the United Church of Canada. Now the process of restoring the heritage schoolhouse, Oughtred house and barn for community, visitors' and educational uses begins. FOWV will also work with community partners to restore natural habitat areas and create nature trails on the newly leased property.



ACO Quinte

Henderson Building, 1859, 397-399 Front Street, Belleville



ACO *PreservationWorks!* 2014, two site reviews provided free:

Scott McNeely, Structural Engineer:

Building could be a successful renovation candidate with major reconstruction of the rear of the building from the third floor to roof. Ground and second floor appear quite sound. A fourth floor or mezzanine would provide lateral support to third floor walls - with exterior fire escape to double as bracing.

Scott Bailey of ERA Architects: building, is unoccupied but designated, and secured against vandalism and the elements.

Owner's intention was to renovate, convert upper floors into condominium units (requiring window openings on north and east sides).

Façade provides the primary heritage character; it appears to be structurally sound and should be conserved.

January 3-7, 2024, still designated. Henderson Building **demolished**. For more see:

[Left to rot by Mark Rashotte: The Story of the Henderson Building in Belleville](#)

(Also demolished in 2024: Belleville's "[Coleman Castle](#)" built c1872.)

Gibson Isolation Hospital at Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf, 350 Dundas Street West, Belleville



Kivas Tully, Chief Architect, Ontario Department of Public Works, 1894

One of two surviving buildings of the original Ontario Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb founded 1870.

ACO Quinte Past-President David Bentley, and Donna Fano, former teacher at the school and now its historian, nominated the hospital to the [National Trust for Canada's Top 10 Most Endangered Places, 2016](#).

"Though the exterior of the municipally listed building appears to be in good condition, this important piece of Deaf history may be paved over for parking spaces."

White Pines Wind Turbine Project, Prince Edward County

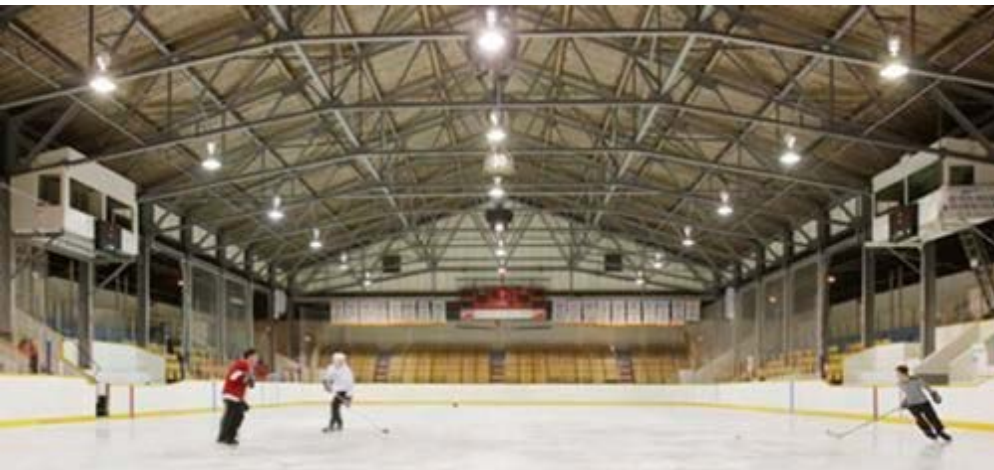


ACO formed a working group with The National Trust for Canada to monitor heritage-impact assessment process for 29-wind-turbine project it opposed in the Loyalist landscape of South Marysburgh.

ACO also introduced the community to a local filmmaker, who produced accurate animations of the visual impact of selected turbines. July 2015 – for the first time in Ontario – the Provincial government denied approval of two turbines because of negative visual impacts. Subsequent community group appeal to the Environmental Review Tribunal was successful in removing eighteen turbines to protect the Blanding's Turtle. Community continued legal action at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for cancellation of the remaining nine turbines surrounding Milford.

July 10, 2018, White Pines Wind Project Termination Act, retroactive to July 10, promised by new Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford and Todd Smith, MPP Prince Edward-Hastings, received Royal Assent July 25, 2018. Estimated cost of cancellation to Ontario taxpayers, \$100m.

Memorial Arena, Belleville, 1929



Designated 2003. Originally Hume Arena, renamed 1946 to honour veterans of the Second World War.

1956-61 home ice of the Belleville McFarlands who defeated the Soviet Union in 1959 to win the World Championship.

2010: Ice-making machinery failure, skating no longer

feasible. ACO Quinte joined discussions regarding potential adaptive re-uses. To facilitate sale zoning changed from community to commercial. 2020: Arena sold; development plan preserves its structure and the weigh scale building (which some say has even more historical significance). November 2019 Task Force Engineering Ltd. won bid to redevelop Memorial Arena and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99 into the "Memorial Market Place".

With regret, ACO Quinte is now closed, replaced in part by ACO Prince Edward County

ACO South Bruce Grey

Victoria Jubilee Hall, A. R. Dennison, architect, 1897, 111 Jackson Street South, Walkerton



In 2017 ACO South Bruce Grey, which owns and manages Victoria Hall, supported refurbishment and replacement of the cupola's wooden railings and balusters. Railings were covered with aluminum sheeting, balusters were replaced with anodized aluminum. Colours were matched to originals. At its height of 70 feet, there are no perceivable changes in appearance.

“2021 was a great opportunity to catch up on all outstanding maintenance and repairs, while activity was low. Nine projects were accomplished this year or planned for 2023-2024.”

West Brant Presbyterian Church, 1869



First stone Church in Bruce County, (linked with North Brant (Malcolm). Built partly on land severed from the farm of Rev. John Eckford who was grandfather of John McCrae, poet of *"In Flanders Fields"* who spent many summers at the farm. In 1878, the link with North Brant was dissolved and West Brant church was joined with Pinkerton. Membership of West Brant Church dwindled in the early 1900s and the church was closed in 1909. It served as a Mortuary for Douglas Hill Cemetery for 20-30 years, until 1980. New owners plan to maintain stone walls and windows, renovate the interior as a country retreat.

ACO St Catharines

Port Dalhousie, Lake Ontario terminus of first three Welland canals, 1820-1932.



In 2008, a 71-day OMB hearing, allowed proposed Port Place development of the old port, which [Port Dalhousie Conservancy](#), backed by ACO, opposed. Development did not proceed beyond demolition, leaving the port's tiny jail (built 1845) in an unsightly demolition pit that was described in 2014 as "like Dresden in 1945"..

In 2014 St Catharines Council passed two motions, unanimously – at ACO urging – to request completion of the project by July 2015, and protection of vacant heritage buildings around the site.



August 3, 2018, Fortress Real Developments Inc., third owner of Port Place (now Union Waterfront) went into receivership. [Nov. 26, 2019, "Union Waterfront currently in preconstruction."](#)

Renamed [The Locks](#) by latest developer, Rankin Construction, build scheduled to start in 2021. Jan. 02, 2022: "Work has not commenced yet."

Lakeside Pavilion, Port Dalhousie, 1920s

In spite of defence by [Port Dalhousie Conservancy](#) (backed by ACO St Catharines and Port



Dalhousie Councillors), St Catharines Council, citing issues of structural integrity, safety, cost of conservation, voted to demolish one of the most conspicuous remaining fragments of old Port Dalhousie.

Hollydean House, 333 Main St. Port Dalhousie, 1914



Built for St Catharines banker Francis Blaikie, on 40 acres of land purchased from the Read family in 1904. Name shared with “Holy Dean” built by Blaikies 300 years ago in Bowden, Scotland and “Hollydene”, now part of Branksome Hall girls’ school in Toronto (built in 1879 by Francis Blaikie’s father, John Lang Blaikie).

January 16, 2017: ACO St Catharines supported motion proposed by Councillor Carlos Garcia requesting designation of “one of the most architecturally significant older homes in Port Dalhousie” and request to owners to make every effort to preserve it, when it is incorporated into a development that may include as many as eleven homes. Motion passed unanimously.

February 9 2017, developer withdrew demolition permit pending decision on designation.

May 11, 2017 Planning and Building services recommended designation of the interior and exterior.

Aug 9, 2018, ACO St Catharines reports: “Hollydean is being preserved thanks to the efforts made by local councillors Carlos Garcia and Bruce Williamson and by ACO St. Catharines.

**Lincoln Fabrics Building, 63 Lakeport Road, St Catharines
(Maple Leaf Rubber c1900, Lincoln Fabrics 1955-2017.)**



Proposed: Convert to 120 residential loft condominiums with water views. Add two storeys to the main building. Eight-storey addition with penthouse, in place of present addition. Replace original cupola. Include restaurant, marina, underground parking, swimming pool, boat slips, public access to waterfront. Display historic items including elevator drive motor, flywheel from when the building was water-powered.

ACO St Catharines reservations regarding the Lincoln Fabrics condo project:
10 storeys max height vs four-storey original height overwhelms the heritage building.
Density: 150 plus condo units - more than Lakeport Rd. can accommodate.
Blocking views: present Lakeport Road residents will be confronted by a wall of condos.
Parking: One spot per condo where most resident families will need more than one car.



Barnsdale Trolley Stop (originally at Martindale Road, Port Dalhousie)



Photos second from right: Colin Johnston, Chair ACO St. Catharines, Leo Versluis, President Versluis Bros. Contractors, Craig Crane Managing Director of Willowbank, Hank Beekhuis, President, Port Dalhousie Conservancy

The [Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Street Railway \(NS&T\)](#), operating between St. Catharines, Port Dalhousie, Niagara Falls and Port Colborne, 1899–1959, was the world’s first commercial street railway. The 110-year old Barnsdale Trolley Stop is being restored by Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Queenston. Intent is to locate it near the first lock of the 2nd and 3rd Welland Canals. ACO St. Catharines supported [Port Dalhousie Conservancy’s campaign to raise the \\$15,000](#) needed to complete this project. 2022: the branch awaits City of St. Catharines approval for placement in an appropriate location in Old Port Dalhousie.

Port Dalhousie Lighthouses



Outer Range Lighthouse, 1879



[Inner Range Lighthouse](#) 1898
with chainlink fencing



Ed Smith (ACO St Catharines) with Welland Canal fencing to replace chainlink.

Line them up, you’ll be heading for port. The Outer and Inner Range lighthouses guided shipping to the entrance of the third Welland Canal at Port Dalhousie until it was replaced by the Welland Ship Canal in 1932. The outer lighthouse – which features in the logo of ACO St Catharines - continues to flash every two seconds but the inner lighthouse was deactivated in 1988. Both lighthouses were designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1996 and both are Recognized Federal Buildings.

To enhance the appearance and security of the inner lighthouse, ACO St Catharines, the City of St Catharines, Bronte Construction and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) collaborated to replace chainlink fencing around the inner lighthouse with surplus fencing from St Lawrence Seaway Lock One of the Welland Canal. The same fencing is used at the St Catharines Museum.

Bells of Hope, St John's Church, Port Dalhousie, 1868



The original wooden church was built in 1841 on the plot of land that today is home to St. John's Cemetery. That building burned to the ground — but the bell survived, and was installed a few years later when the current church was constructed further east on Main Street.

While the building was mostly locked down during the pandemic, the church's front doors remained open to anyone in Niagara on Sundays at noon, with an offer to ring its bell and send out a musical message.

"It can be for whatever you want," said ACO St Catharines Chair, Colin Johnston, a parishioner at St. John's who, like his father before him, was married at the church. "Maybe you would like to ring the bell in remembrance of a loved one or on behalf of friends or family facing personal misfortune.

"There aren't a lot of churches left in Canada that have a bell to ring. Most have carillons, and you have to be a bit of a specialist to ring them. Others have mechanical bells. This is kind of walk in history when you get a chance to ring a bell here. In many world religions, the ringing of bells symbolizes spiritual awakening, through the extension of hope, peace and harmony.

"You might want to ring the bell for the end of the pandemic, or world peace or the suffering of the homeless. There are a myriad of personal reasons; it's your choice." To register call 905-327-7555.

Lakeview, John Brown House, c. 1868–1874, 205 St David's Road West, Thorold



John Brown's house, later known as Lakeview, has been described as having significant heritage value as an early vernacular hybrid of styles characteristic of Ontario Italianate architecture (1830-1890) combined with earlier Georgian architectural features.

The heritage value of the house lies also in its adjacency to the Thorold Site (AgGt-1), where the historic Neutral Nation had established a significant settlement in the early seventeenth century.

John Brown (1809–1876) left his native Scotland for the United States at the age of 23 and moved to Thorold around 1840. A master stonemason, he built his reputation as a successful and entrepreneurial contractor of large public works projects that were characterized by a high degree of operational efficiency and progressive labour relations. His most notable projects were the six "Imperial" lighthouses around Georgian Bay and Lake Huron (including the Collingwood lighthouse, p. 15) and his contributions to the construction of the Second and Third Welland Canals that were worth \$2,000,000 - more than those of any other contractor. During excavation of the third canal, bones of American soldiers who had died during the War of 1812 were discovered and subsequently interred in a sarcophagus Brown built beneath Thorold's Battle of Beaver Dams monument.

John Brown's success allowed him to become an owner, in 1858, of more than 200 acres of prime real estate in the Niagara Region and Essex County. He built his house in two stages, in the 1860s and 1870s, from limestone quarried on site, in emulation of the Hamiltonian industrial elite. The result was a home that was meant to celebrate and broadcast its builder's success from its prominent position overlooking the Niagara escarpment to Lake Ontario, with a unique view of the Welland Canal's progress. It is Thorold's earliest example of such a house. Sadly, John Brown, who died unexpectedly in 1876, did not live Lakeview but it remained in his family's possession until 1914.

Repeated efforts to support preservation of the John Brown House were made by **ACO chair, Kae Elgie**, to the City of Thorold, echoing the Municipal Heritage Committee's unanimous support for designation. Letters of support also came from **Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society, Rob Leverty**, and **Chair of ACO St Catharines, Colin Johnston**, who wrote: "This house tells a wonderful story – how a Scottish stonecutter could arrive in Thorold in the 1830s and, through the application of hard work and natural ability, become one of the most successful engineer-contractor-entrepreneurs ever seen in southwestern Ontario." But, to no avail.

November 20, 2020, the [Thorold News](#) announced that Council had agreed to allow demolition. A sad day and ironic for Thorold that was the 2017 recipient of the [Prince of Wales Prize for Leadership in Heritage Conservation](#), for its: "exemplary commitment to the preservation of heritage, identity and sense of place within its boundaries" and recognized by the Prince himself: "I applaud the city of Thorold for its efforts, that may inspire others throughout Canada to recognize the power that heritage has to revitalize and transform communities." March 2021, demolition in progress.

ACO St. Thomas Elgin

Laurence Grant, President ACO St Thomas Elgin participated in the establishment of the Dutton Dunwich Municipal Cultural Heritage Committee (DDHMC) in 2017. Its recommendations for designation of five buildings have all been accepted by Municipal Council. DDMHC is opposing appeal against designation of landscape views of Graham House and Lucas House mounted by wind turbine developer Invenergy Strong Breeze of Chicago:

Graham House, 32272 Talbot Line, c1910 Edwardian farmstead



Lucas House, 29480 Fingal Line 1883

Gothic Revival stone house (a rare construction material for this area).



Iona Hall, 8851 Iona Road, 1862 (originally Free Will Baptist Church)

Classical Revival building has undergone a multi-year restoration by its owner and operator, Iona Community Preservation Association.



William Harris House, 8947 Iona Road, 1853

Iona's first post office in Classical Revival style, built for Iona's first postmaster, William Harris.



Lumley & Co., General Store, 8979 Iona Road, 1888

Moorish Revival commercial building with Italianate accents, built for Mary and James Owen Lumley. Location of the first telephone office of the Southwold & Dunwich Telephone Association. ACO St Thomas Elgin President Laurence Grant has bought the store. His restoration of it, including decorative masonry on its exterior walls, earned him an honourable mention at ACO's 2017 Awards.

Lumley & Co., 2017



Lumley & Co., 1925



With regret, and with thanks to Laurence Grant for the magnificent work he did for his community, ACO St Thomas is now closed but available for revival.

ACO Stratford Perth

390-396 Ontario Street

Developers demolition of three heritage homes and an old restaurant in a heritage corridor in Stratford to erect a four-storey, high-density condominium. ACO Stratford-Perth opposes this development on these grounds: It conflicts with the City of Stratford's official plan that outlines this area as a heritage corridor. The massing of the proposal is unsympathetic to the surrounding streetscape. Such a development sets a precedent for further deterioration of the heritage corridor. Demolition with the removal of mature trees conflicts with the City of Stratford's climate emergency declaration. ACO Stratford Perth sent its concerns to the city planning department; they were brought forward to city council.



This massing model viewed from Trow and Ontario, illustrates the scale of the building compared to the homes on the adjacent properties. The scale and mass of this large four storey structure does not comply with Official Plan 3.2.2 Intensification Strategy ii)f) - Permit limited intensification in Residential areas of scale and built form which reflects the surrounding area.



Trow Avenue side of 370 Ontario – Red line indicates Four Storey Building at Setback Lines. Note the height of the building adjacent to the existing house. The existing chimney seen was measured at 40' which is about the height of a four storey building. It seems lower because it is set back from the wall closest to Trow Avenue.

[Avon Crest – Stratford General Hospital, George F. Durand, Architect, 1891](#)



ACO Stratford Perth is actively involved in the campaign to save [Avon Crest](#)

A century and a quarter ago, in the spring of 1889, a committee of local worthies chose London architect George F. Durand to draw up plans for Stratford's first hospital. Fast-forward to today, when the building, rundown and about 65 per cent occupied, is home to a hodgepodge of hospital-related offices, including the Stratford General Hospital Foundation, educational services and the wonderfully cluttered two-room hospital and nursing school archives run by the dedicated Joan Macdermid.

Outside, the structure has lost many original details — gone are the turrets and the chimneys, and the tower has been truncated. The building is practically surrounded by a huge parking lot and almost no one enters by the old front doors. Overall the effect is rather shabby and forlorn. Will the almost 125-year-old Avon Crest building be preserved? The answer will depend on many things — including the use to be made of the site, finances and the demonstration by the community that it cares about its first hospital.

With thanks to Dan Schneider

It took a determined community effort to get it built and now there is a determined community effort to save it from the landfill. To quote Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal, first non-"starchitect" winners of the Pritzker Prize for Architecture for their rehabilitation — rather than demolition and rebuild — of mid-20th century apartment buildings that are so despised but so numerous in and around cities everywhere: "Demolition is an act of violence. It is a waste of many things—a waste of energy, a waste of material and a waste of history." It would be such waste to see Stratford's first hospital destroyed.

With thanks to the [CANADIAN ARCHITECT](#)

ACO Stratford Perth, Stratford and District Historical Society donate to save [Gallery Stratford](#)
(Former [Stratford Waterworks](#), 54 Romeo St. South, Stratford, [George F. Durand, Architect](#), 1883)



After learning Gallery Stratford’s board of directors had been unsuccessful in securing an additional \$22,000 from the city to match a federal arts and culture grant received prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jayne Trachsel (left) VP Stratford and District Historical Society, Allan Tye (right) Chair ACO Stratford Perth, donated \$200 and \$2,500 respectively to Gallery Stratford director Angela Brayham to help save the 140-year old gallery building from falling into further disrepair.

This is one of the most important pieces of architecture in the city. ... The architect (George F. Durand) is the same architect who designed the courthouse, the jail, and Avon Crest.” Allan Tye “Without the pump house, Stratford wouldn’t be what it is today, so it’s very important. We wouldn’t have had the city, we wouldn’t have been able to develop the (CNR) shops, you wouldn’t have had all the manufacturing in town, and you wouldn’t have had people living here. Stratford would have just been another one of those stops along a railroad. Angela Brayham

One of our goals is to teach and inform people about historical events, buildings, sites; to have these things preserved helps people understand history, to know the history of Stratford; and having the Gallery here is so important. Jayne Trachsel

With paint flaking throughout the building, water leaking in the gallery’s collection room, an HVAC system that needs replacing and more cracks hiding beneath the surface, Brayham said now is the time to determine the future of the Gallery Stratford building and how it can be preserved for years to come.

with thanks, Galen Simmons, [Stratford Beacon Herald](#)
August 23, 2020

Grand Trunk Railways Repair Shops, Cooper Site, 1909, 350 Downie Street, Stratford
[National Trust for Canada's Top 10 Endangered Places, 2014](#)
Inducted to the North American Railway Hall of Fame 24 June 2016.



During the boom years of steam power, the Stratford GTR shops employed more than 40% of the city's workforce. October 2014, Heritage Stratford voted 5-1 in favour of designation of "elements" of the 15,900sq m shops on the Cooper Site. November 2017, Urban Strategies presented the City with its **Grand Trunk Community Hub Master Plan** which would: "Preserve of a portion of the Grand Trunk Building to celebrate its industrial heritage for adaptive reuse", which might include: YMCA, cultural/community space. A central green recreational space as a Community Hub focus, University of Waterloo student housing, mid-to-low density market-rate housing, affordable or seniors' housing."



Grand Trunk a City Built on Steam, Stratford Ontario - ACO Media Award, 2018

Produced by ACO Stratford Perth with Powerline Films. Director Simon Brothers, narrated by local historian and author of *Railway Stratford*, Dean Robinson. Premiered on TV Ontario, July 18, 2018.

Grand Trunk Community Hub Master Plan

If executed, the plan will strengthen existing partnerships between the University of Waterloo, Stratford-Perth YMCA, City of Stratford and community groups and organizations by creating a place that reflects Stratford’s community, values, and aspirations.



[March 25, 2019 Local Planning Appeal Tribunal](#) approves modified version of the plan amendment authorizing the establishment of the Grand Trunk anchor district designation for the property.

Perth County Archives, 24 St Andrew St., Stratford, Thomas J. Hepburn, Architect, 1912

Designed to match the architecture of the County Court House and County Jail, which are on located on either side of the Archives building, creating a continuous, harmonious landscape. ACO Stratford Perth presented its concerns regarding risk of demolition to Perth County Council and Heritage Stratford which continue to study the future of the building.



ACO Toronto

Ontario Place, 955 Lakeshore Boulevard West

Eb Zeidler Architect, Michael Hough Landscape Architect, Eric McMillan Architect, Children's Village



November 3, 1970, Ontario Place is promised by Premier John Robarts to be:

“A new focal point for our province, a new attitude to our lakefronts, a new showcase for our province and people, where we should let our imaginations soar.”

May 22, 1971, Premier Bill Davis opens *“A stimulating and permanent symbol of the work and achievement of the people of Ontario. The vision and scope of Ontario Place gives promise to our vast potential. There reposes here a part of the soul and spirit of all the thousands of towns and villages, farms and mining camps, urban high-rises and suburban homes which continue to make Ontario.”*

2012: Ontario Place closes, on list of [National Trust for Canada Top 10 Endangered Places](#)

2017: [Trillium Park](#), opens, Cinesphere reopens. [National Trust for Canada 2017 Prix du XXe siècle](#)

Jan 18, 2019: Provincial Government deletes [Ontario Place Statement of Cultural Heritage Value](#), releases [Creating a new world-class destination at the Ontario Place site](#).

Nov 19, 2019: Ontario Place on [World Monuments Fund Watch List, 2020](#) (thanks to Bill Greer, ACO.)

June 24, 2020: [Next Place – Exhibition Place proposals](#) promise a greener, humanized, year-round Exhibition Place with vastly improved connection to Ontario Place and Liberty Village and to the city east and west.

July 18, 2020: [Three Proposals for Redevelopment](#) considered by Government of Ontario

2020-2021: [Future of Ontario Place Project](#): partnership of World Monuments Fund, U Toronto John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Architectural Conservancy Ontario, “to imagine the future of Ontario Place as a public cultural asset for all Ontarians”. Produces: [Future of Ontario Place Call for Counterproposals](#)



January 2018: The Provincial government deletes the [Ontario Place Statement of Cultural Heritage Value](#) and replaces it with [Creating a new world-class destination at the Ontario Place site](#). The new guidelines dictate that the site’s land will not be sold but will be available for long-term lease. Other restrictions include no residential development and at least 7.5 acres of the site’s total 155 acres to be maintained as park land. Proposals may incorporate all or part of Trillium Park (designed by LANDinc, completed 2017, winner [Architizer A+ Award in Public Landscape Design 2018](#)) provided an equal area of park is created elsewhere on the site. Otherwise land, water, islands, pods, Cinesphere are all available for redevelopment. The markedly non-Zeidler Budweiser Stage that replaced the much-loved Forum in 1995 is the only structure not available for re-development. Negative reaction to the Provincial Government’s “new vision”? Torrential.

May 8, 2019: [Ontario Place: Building on Our Legacy](#) hosted by ACO Toronto and the Toronto Society of Architects, **Carolyn King** former elected Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit insists that access to Lake Ontario must be guaranteed to all Ontarians - as it is at Trillium Park that was built in consultation with First Nations. Planner **Ken Greenberg** re-iterates the importance of Ontario place as a waterfront park that must not be diminished in any way. Construction of a version of Kingston’s [Gord Edgar Downie Pier](#) where Toronto’s lake water is [famously clean](#) is a well-received suggestion.

Michael McClelland of ERA Architects recalls [Harbour City](#) designed for a population of 60,000 by Eb Zeidler in 1970. Much admired by Jane Jacobs it would have been built on reclaimed land and artificial islands between Ontario Place and Hanlan’s Point. McClelland insists that revitalization of Ontario Place cannot happen without revitalization of Exhibition Place. Nor can there be revitalization without improved access between the two Places and the City with improved transit to both - as recognized by Exhibition Place management in its evolving [proposals](#) for [Next Place – Exhibition Place](#).

Improved transit? [Ontario Line](#) extension of the long-promised downtown relief line will connect stations at Exhibition Place and Ontario Science Centre. Estimated opening date 2031. Estimated cost \$27.2b (43% more than in 2022).

Ontario Place Pods the late, **George Baird**, Architect proposes a request for proposals for reuse of that might include a Museum of the City of Toronto or of Toronto’s First Nations or live-work spaces that would support themselves as well as other businesses and entertainments year-round.

ACO and TSA sponsors a video that has more than 60,000 hits in social media. There are articles in the press and guided walks, ACO past Chair **Leslie Thompson** meets with then Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Michael Tibollo to request that any proposed Ontario Place plans conserve the features recognized in the now deleted [Statement of Cultural Heritage Value](#).

November 2019: Chair of ACO Ontario Place Sub-Committee, **Bill Greaves** successfully promotes inclusion of Ontario Place on the [World Monuments Fund 2020 Watch List](#). **Dec 10, 2019: Ontario Association of Architects, Ontario Architecture Day:** Chris Glover MPP (NDP Fort York-Spadina) nominates Ontario Place as his favourite building in his riding. It is then selected by OAA as one of its eight [QPP Picks 2019](#).

ACO applies to the [Getty Foundation’s Keeping it Modern program](#) for \$200,000 US to support development of a Conservation Management Plan for Ontario Place. The application is shortlisted.

October 2020-January 2021: as part of its collaboration with [The Future of Ontario Place Project](#), **ACO NextGen** makes **Ontario Place** the focus of its ninth annual **Design Charrette**. In combination with a [Call for Counterproposals](#), the charrette will, for the first time in its history be a country-wide, virtual event, spanning months rather than a single day.

December 17, 2020: Provincial Government declares that redeveloping Ontario Place is “central to the recovery of heritage, culture, recreation and tourism for all Ontarians post pandemic — both as a tourism destination but also as a display of our strong cultural identity in Ontario”. **Cinesphere, pods, Trillium Park and the William G. Davis Trail will remain**. But its ideas regarding future uses of the pods (closed since 2012) are meagre.

July 30, 2021: Provincial Government identifies its [Ontario Place Development Partners](#)

May 27, 2023: notice from management of Ontario Place re [Site Access](#)

To ensure public safety and in keeping with the redevelopment schedule, the following portions of the site have been closed:

Ontario Place marina

West Island for large public events

Path through the marina that connects the West Island to Trillium Park

At this time, Trillium Park, a portion of East Commons, Budweiser Stage, and a portion of the parking lots will remain open, in addition to the West Island for passive pedestrian use. The West Island can be accessed through the bridge at the west entrance.

Beginning in 2024, the majority of the site will be closed to allow for active construction, with the exception of Budweiser Stage and a portion of the parking lots, as well as Trillium Park, as long as it remains safe to do so.

Additional closures may be announced as more information becomes available.



October 2, 2024 [CANADIAN ARCHITECT](#): Under cover of darkness, Infrastructure Ontario began the removal of 865 trees at Ontario Place on the evening of Wednesday, October 2, 2024. Within a single day, workers had cut down the vast majority of those trees. As the mini-forest was being razed on October 3, the Province [released the details of its 95-year lease with Therme](#), which journalists and grassroots organizations have been seeking for years to obtain through Freedom of Information requests.

Removal of trees in progress at Ontario Place on October 3, 2024, around 5 pm. Photo by Jason Ash

The timing, critics say, aimed to distract from the tree removal in progress. It also likely anticipates the expected release later this year of an Auditor General's report about the lease, which would make public many details about the arrangement between the Province and Therme.

The work—which includes the removal of every single tree on the western portion of the waterfront site adjacent downtown Toronto—is part of the [approximately \\$200-million in site preparations](#) that taxpayers are funding to prepare the land for Therme, an Austrian spa company, to develop [a stadium-sized indoor waterpark](#) on the site.

December 3, 2024 [Ontario Place Redevelopment](#): Report of the Office of the Auditor General.

The project—which includes a stadium-sized waterpark and spa by Austrian developer Therme and expanded concert venue by LiveNation—has elicited public concern related to its privatization of public space, environmental impacts, and procurement process. The planned redevelopment is also linked to the closure of the Ontario Science Centre, which the government plans to replace with a half-sized facility at Ontario Place.

[CANADIAN ARCHITECT, Part 1: The cost of privatizing Ontario Place](#)

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The Auditor General's office noted that the public cost of the Ontario Place redevelopment has ballooned from when the call was launched. While initially, the government anticipated spending \$335 million to \$424 million preparing the site, the total tally for the project currently amounts to over \$2.237 billion in taxpayer dollars.

[CANADIAN ARCHITECT, Part 2: The billion dollar question of parking](#)

The signed lease with Therme requires that the Province construct 1,600 parking spots for Therme within 650 metres from Therme's entrance. The Auditor General's report notes that the Province has also agreed to make 1,200 spots available to Live Nation, within 750 metres of its entrance. There is some overlap between the spots but overall, the Province has agreed to build a 1,800 spot parkade.

Back in 2021, the plan was to create a five-storey underground parkade on the south side of Lakeshore Boulevard, up against Lake Ontario, with the relocated Ontario Science Centre on top of it. In fact, [as the Auditor General noted last year](#), the relocation of the Ontario Science Centre itself was presented to key decision-makers as primarily to justify this site-wide parking solution.

Infrastructure Ontario currently has two "recommended" options, which are less costly, to fulfill its parking obligations. The first is a four-storey above-ground parkade at Exhibition Place. Alternatively, they suggest a single parking level below the new Ontario Science Centre, paired with a three-level above-ground parkade at Exhibition Place. These options are priced, respectively, at over \$280 million, and over \$400 million.

While no site is specified in the documents, there are two possibilities. Neither is perfect. One is a parkade on the land adjacent to the current Exhibition GO stop (and future Ontario Line Exhibition stop), where the CNE currently houses its kid's midway. This would take up a potentially prime spot for future development or expansion of the CNE. Moreover, while creating large park-and-ride facilities next to transit nodes may make sense in the suburbs, it seems like an odd placement in this downtown location—particularly as the parkade would not serve transit riders, but almost exclusively visitors to Therme and Live Nation.



Better Living Centre, Marani, Morris & Allan, Architects, 1962, a fine specimen Mid-Century Modern with echoes of *streamline modern*, adjacent to the recently liberated Garden of the Greek Gods with sculptures made in the 1960s by E. B. Cox). Important and striking among the remarkable assembly of architecture of Exhibition Place, the Better Living Centre has also served as a homeless shelter in winter.

Threatened by demolition to provide additional parking for Therme's Ontario Place. (Justification: being close to Lakeshore Boulevard, with an elevation that would potentially conceal some of the Ontario Place parkade's height.)

[CANADIAN ARCHITECT, Part 3: Therme](#)

Based on a review of e-mail correspondence, the Auditor General found that Infrastructure Ontario has been in active discussions since early 2024 to move the handover date up by 11 months, to May 31, 2025, from the original hand-off date of April 30, 2026.

"If the site is handed over to the tenant earlier, once Therme has obtained its excavation permit, it would eliminate the Province's ability to terminate the lease for convenience," notes the Auditor General. Pulling out of the lease before the handover will carry a \$30 million penalty. However, after the excavation permit is issued, pulling out would be near-impossible—the Province would be required to provide a five-year notice period after 10 years of operations, and pay for the demolition and rebuilding of Therme's facility at a different provincial site agreeable to the Austrian company.

CANADIAN ARCHITECT, Part 4: Collateral Damage

The estimate for building and operating a Science Centre at Ontario Place has gone up by \$400 million from when the relocation was announced. The new price tag of over \$700 million for a new Science Centre includes items that were considered “out of scope” when the business case for the relocation was completed, but that should have been anticipated. These include, for instance, an underground loading zone. To meet functional requirements for the Science Centre, [this will likely be a two-storey underground space](#) that also accommodates a bus loop, as well as car drop-off, bus entry, and shipping/receiving for Therme.

The report notes that there was only a single bidder on the \$5 million contract for a planning, design, and compliance consultant for the new Science Centre—[WZMH Architects is the consultant that was selected for this work](#).

While the Auditor General came short of stating that renewing the legacy location of the Ontario Science Centre would represent better value-for-money than relocating it to Ontario Place, the ballooning costs for a new Science Centre supports this conclusion—making the [unpopular closure and relocation](#) an even worse proposition to taxpayers.

CANADIAN ARCHITECT, Part 5: The Future, Continued Privatization of Ontario Place

Phase 2 would potentially involve filling in and paving the lagoon, also known as Brigantine Cove—the body of water between Budweiser Stage and Trillium Park. The purpose would be to add to the land available to build on. Infrastructure Ontario’s estimate for public realm work—exclusive of site servicing, shoreline repair, soil remediation, and roads—has increased tenfold from \$50 million (\$1.8 M/acre) in 2021 to \$500 million (\$18 M/acre) in 2024. Does this set the stage for the further privatization of Ontario Place?



September 2020 illustration, obtained by Global News, shows Ontario Place’s Brigantine Cove paved over to enable later development of Phase 2.

CANADIAN ARCHITECT, Part 6: Procurement

The majority of Auditor General Shelley Spence’s 121-page Value for Money audit of the Ontario Place redevelopment centres on procurement. “We found that the CFD [Call for Development] process and realty decisions were not fair, transparent or accountable to all participants as would be required by the Realty Direction, the CFD document, and best practices,”

[The Future of Ontario Place Project](#)

Through a research initiative and public campaign, the Future of Ontario Place Project is working to build public knowledge of the heritage values of the site, and to imagine the future of Ontario Place as a public cultural asset for all Ontarians.

[The Future of Ontario Place Colloquia:](#)

<https://www.canadianarchitect.com/wmf-daniels-faculty-and-aco-presents-the-future-of-ontario-place-colloquium/>

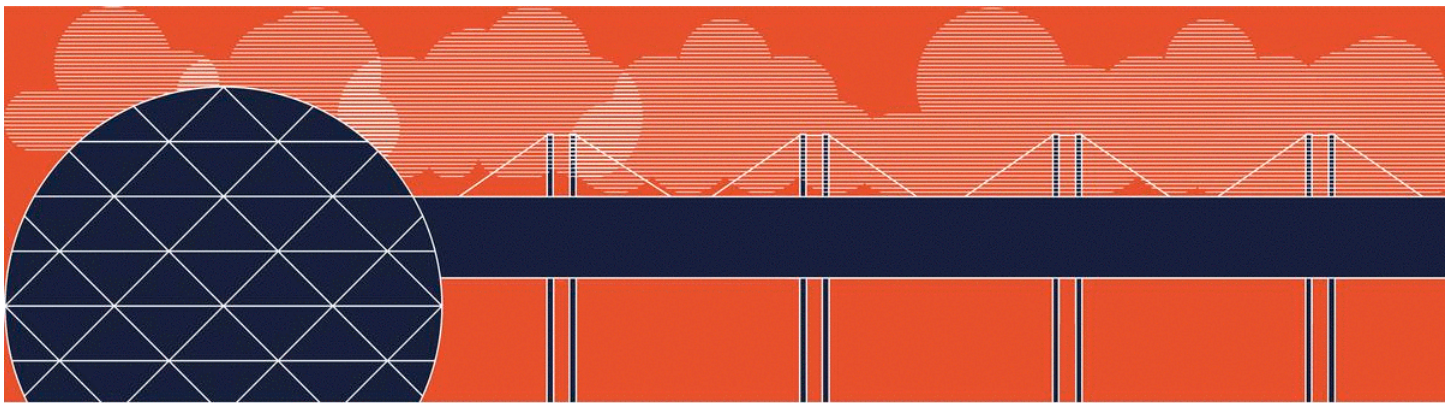
February 3, LESSONS FROM UTOPIAN MEGASTRUCTURES

February 10, WATERFRONTS, HERITAGE, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

February 17, REVITALIZING ICONIC MODERN WATERFRONT SITES: TORONTO, MONTREAL, SYDNEY

February 24, THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION: CRITICAL APPROACHES IN THE HERITAGE FIELD

[Ontario Place: A Call for Counterproposals](#)



The Government of Ontario has not engaged the public in a consultation to imagine the future of Ontario Place, a publicly owned site. In 2020, young designers all over Canada submitted counterproposals to broaden the range of ideas for the site’s future. While these ideas do not replace a conservation management process or public consultation, they play an important role in expanding public dialogues about Ontario Place.

In these counterproposals, the heritage values of Ontario Place are safeguarded and enhanced while taking the public into consideration. The site is programmed as a public asset. No condos or privatized development; rather, a myriad of stakeholders on the site are engaged; including families, casual cyclists, the houseboat community, environmentalists, yoga enthusiasts, basketball players, fishing groups, performance artists, skateboarders, cinephiles, architects, and others who have contributed to the vibrancy of the site.

View the submissions [here](#):

139 proposals that reimagine the aspirations of Premier John Robarts for Ontario Place:

“We should let our imaginations soar . . . A major new recreational complex for the people of Ontario . . . A new focal point for our province . . . a new attitude to our lakefronts.... a new showcase for our province and people.”

Ontario Place as it will look if Therme Group and Live Nation proposals proceed.

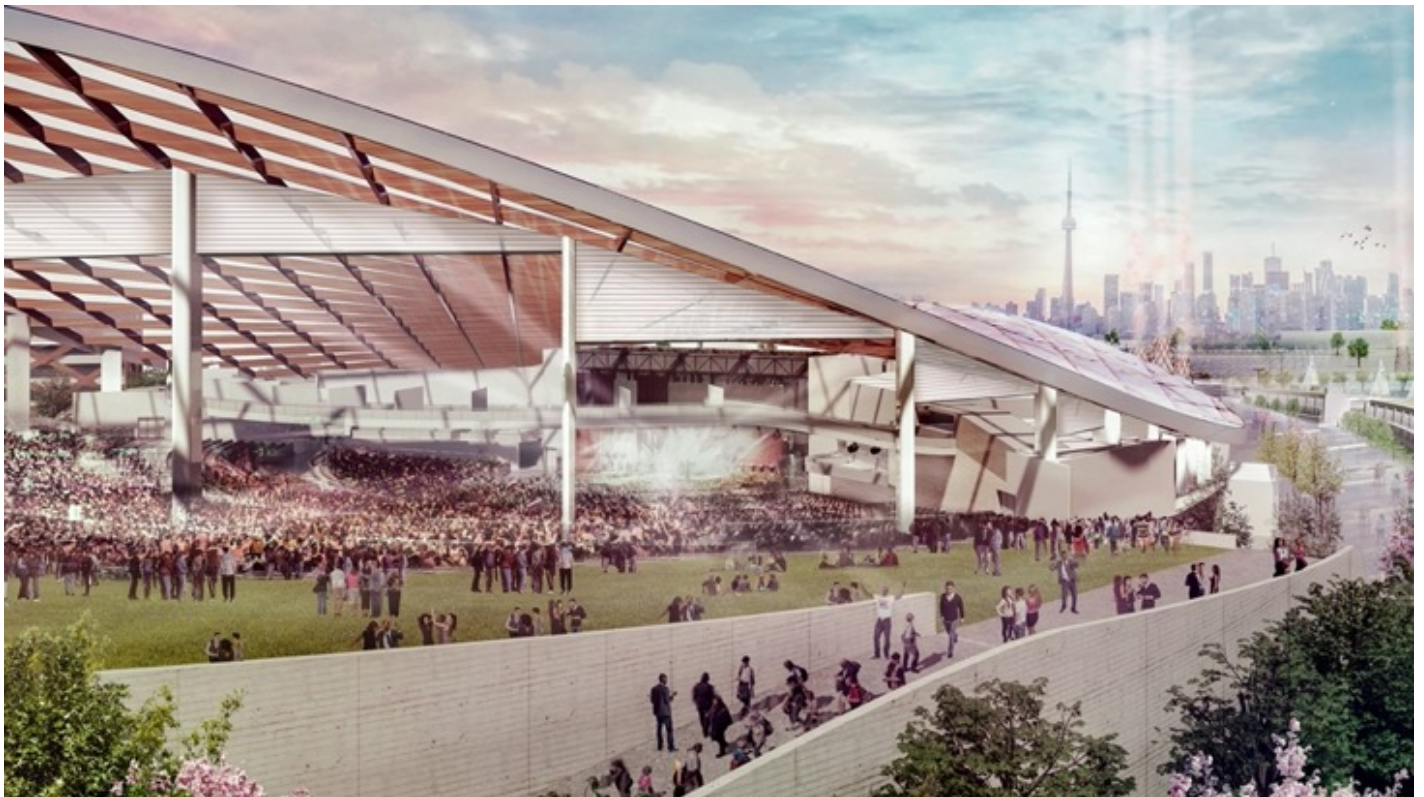
Cinesphere and pods that were, with Trillium Park, originally available for demolition, will remain. Future use of pods to be determined. (Science related activities in collaboration with the Ontario Science Centre suggested.) William G. Davis Trail will be extended around the perimeter.



Therme Canada | Ontario Place: “A year-round, multi-part complex includes pools, waterslides, botanical garden, sports, performance and recovery services, plus over eight acres of outdoor gathering spaces and public beaches.”



Live Nation “Will redevelop the existing amphitheatre with new high-tech finishes, creating an indoor-outdoor performance venue that can be used 365 days of the year. The amphitheatre’s iconic lawns will be kept, but retractable walls will be installed to allow concerts in any weather.”



August 2023, [Therme Canada re-design shrinks its Ontario Place spa project](#)



- The size of the Therme building has been reduced by 25 per cent. Instead of a single large building, it's now composed of a campus of connected buildings.
- Some 1.6 hectares of rooftop parkland and trails have been added on top of the buildings, in addition to the 4.8 hectares of public parkland, including a new beach, boardwalk and cycling trails included in the previous design.
- The bridge connecting the mainland to the West Island over Lakeshore Boulevard West and through a redesigned entry pavilion will include publicly accessible greenspace.
- The East Headland will have a larger public gathering space and "better protection from the elements."
- Public pathways have been widened and more space for food concessions added.
- Input from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation has informed many of the new features, including the bridge and rooftop pathways that will "recreate the path of the Credit River."

Norm Di Pasquale, co-chair of Ontario Place for All: the design changes don't fix "fundamental flaws" with the project: "We're still talking about erasing every single tree at West Island and everything that's there right now, we're still looking at \$650 million in taxpayer money and a 95-year lease of which we cannot see any of the details."

Coun. Ausma Malik (Spadina—Fort York): "Hundreds of millions of dollars of public funds spent by the province to subsidize site preparations for a private spa, water park, and parking structure for thousands of cars, could be put to much better use".

October 3, 2024, [Walter Kehm](#), (Landscape Architect of Tommy Thompson Park and Trillium Park) who had been commissioned to design landscaping of the (to be shrunk) public realm of Ontario resigns in protest against felling of trees on the West Island. October 29, 2024: 800 trees are felled.

November 20, 2023: [Oversight of the Gardiner and the Don Valley Parkway is being uploaded to the provincial government](#). As part of the deal, the city allows the province to take over responsibility for the entirety of Ontario Place.



Jacobs Consultancy Canada Inc.

January 14, 2025: As well as felling trees, the Therme project will obliterate the beach on the West Island's south side, where water was reputed to be the cleanest in the city. For swimmers a new beach is proposed on the western tip of the Island, The province's current plan would empty a combined sewage pipe into The West Channel, highlighted in red. Right now, the pipe empties on the other side of the breakwater, the site of a future public beach.

Walter Kehm: "We're creating an entrapped bathtub where we would have a major public recreation waterway and one of Toronto's major beaches befouled by sewage water."

The garden of Osgoode Hall, threatened by construction of the Ontario Line

Will it be a caesarian section, causing some scarring but out of it a new city is born, or a suicidal cut that spills the guts of Toronto's built, natural and cultural heritage onto a landscape that will be hard to heal?



City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1498, f1498_it0016

Osgoode Hall, 1829-1857, John Ewart, William Warren Baldwin, Henry Bowyer Lane, Frederic William Cumberland, William George Storm, Architects.

National and Provincial Historic Site, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act

Photo by Armstrong, Beere and Hime, taken in 1857 from the 5-storey Rossin House Hotel – tallest building in Toronto at that time - looking north up York Street, across King, Adelaide, Richmond, Queen Streets. One of 13 photographs of a panorama that was sent to London to be shown to Queen Victoria when Toronto was competing with Kingston, Montreal, Quebec City and the eventual winner, Ottawa, to determine which would become the capital of the Province of Canada.



Interventions to Protect and Restore the West Garden of Osgoode Hall

clearcut to meet Metrolinx needs for construction of the Ontario Line.



Build Transit Better, 11 February, 2023. At right, behind ACO banner, Liz Driver, Manager, Curator Campbell House Museum and Chair, ACO Prince Edward County branch. Third from right, Councillor Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York, Ausma Malik.

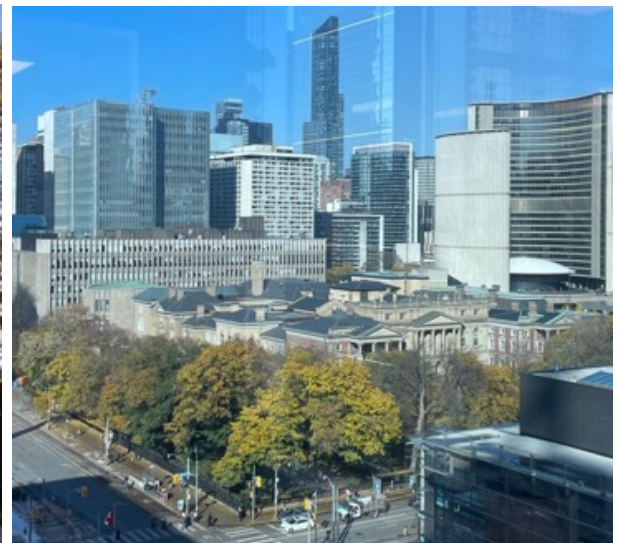
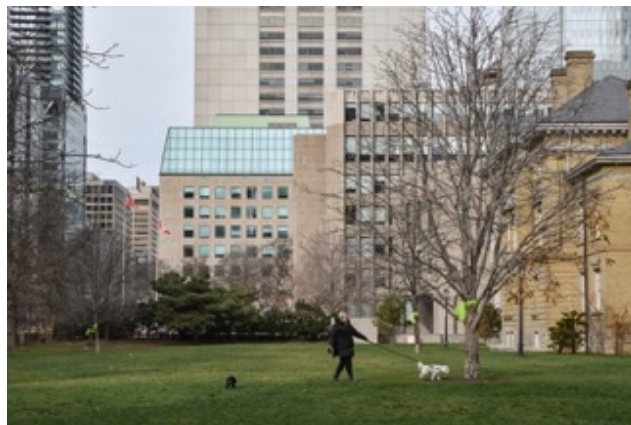


Photo: Alex Sostar, Past Chair, ACO NextGen

Osgoode Garden inside its cast iron fence, as it was, looking southwest towards University and Queen (one of Toronto's busiest traffic intersections) and looking northeast from the former Bank of Canada (with Osgoode Lawn to the north).

February 2023, Osgoode Garden clearcut



North of Osgoode garden, Osgoode Lawn, closed to the public, used for staging during a five years or longer period of construction.

Osgoode Garden the Shape of Things to Come?

Ontario Line northeast station entrance head house: two options, both promised to be "as transparent as possible to allow views through them of Osgoode Hall". Grass replanted around entrance (with shrubs around Option 1) but no substantial trees – not possible where soil will be too shallow above underground station infrastructure.

(Note, both: Artist's rendering – subject to change)



Option 1: Section of fence removed for access. Green screen inside Osgoode garden.
(With what appears to be a ghost fence painted on station wall).



Option 2: Fence intact but inverted inside the garden, behind and beside station entrance.
(Preferred by Metrolinx for ease of access, safety, preservation of fence inside the garden.)



Are there alternatives to locating an Ontario Line head house in the Osgoode Garden?

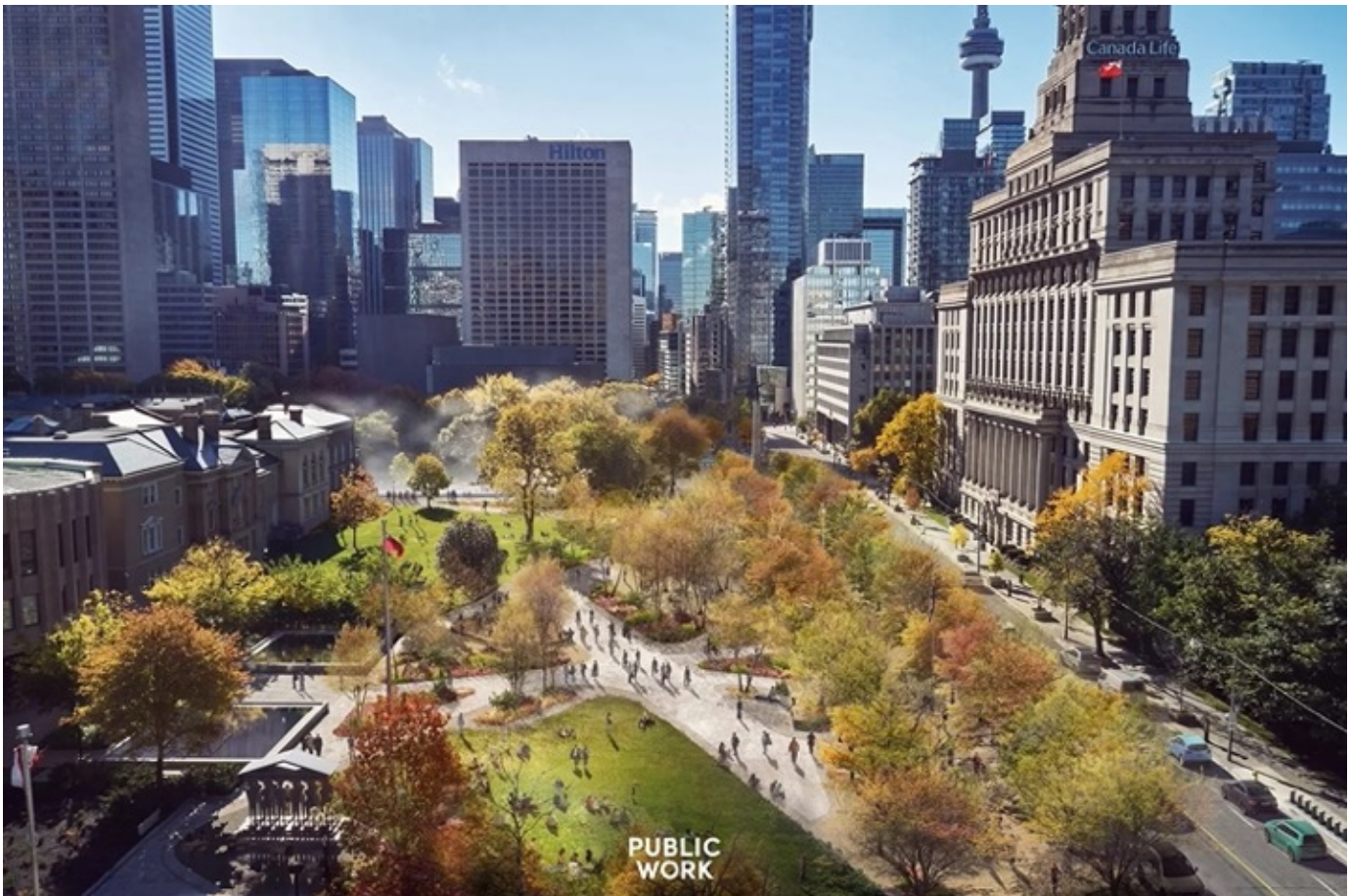
Many alternative locations have been proposed, but Metrolinx insists:

- Two entrances are required, in case of emergency, need of rapid exit by riders, rapid entry by emergency services.
- Elevators are required at both entrances to provide access for all.
- Need for smooth integration with Queen streetcars, plus presence of 4 Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts at the southeast corner, of Campbell House Museum at the northwest corner of Queen and University prevents construction of entrances at either of those locations.
- 30x40m side, 30m deep "keyhole" excavation, in bedrock, for construction of Ontario Line Osgoode Station, under the existing 12m deep Line 1 subway, cannot be moved more than 2m (3m max) further west to avoid disturbance of the Line 1 station box.

Defenders of Osgoode Garden insist there are alternatives.

University Park

In 2020, landscape architects PUBLIC WORK, the Michael Young Family Foundation and non-profit Evergreen proposed greening of University Avenue from Queen's Park to Queen Street to evoke memories of its tree-lined past.



North of Queen Street East, adjacent to the garden of Osgoode Hall and Osgoode lawn, past the Toronto courthouse to Queens Park, the east side of University Avenue would be transformed, into University Park that replaces University Avenue's eastern sidewalk, three-lanes of roadway and central median, with north-south road traffic concentrated into west lanes only. (Bike lanes, presumably inside the park.) Dream or potential reality? July 24, 2022, City Planner Gregg Lintern and General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation, Janie Romoff released:

[Priority Downtown Parks and Public Realm Opportunities](#) in which they state:

"A reimagined University Avenue and Queen's Park Crescent will provide a continuous linear public space and green connection between Downtown's Financial and Health Science Districts, Queens' Park, and the University of Toronto." But also: "This transformative opportunity is contemplated as a longer-term and potentially incremental endeavour."

To which [City Council responded, July 19, 2022](#):

City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with other relevant Divisions, to report to the Executive Committee in 2023 on options to speed up the delivery of the Bathurst Quay and University Avenue parks; including phasing the University Avenue project by focusing on the northern section first.

But: **Malcolm Mackay, Sponsor Ontario Line, Sept 1, 2022** (in conversation):

TOcore (University Park) plan remains "conceptual" where "environmental assessment and traffic studies are not close". He doubts that City Council will "want a station entrance in the public realm" and that, if it does, without "significant acceleration of development of University Park plans". He also doubts that construction of a northeast entrance inside University Park can happen in sync with Metrolinx schedule. Where "Metrolinx is on the cusp" of construction, moving the Osgoode garden entrance into University Park would require a "significant deviation" in Metrolinx plans. He also notes need to not move the entrance keyhole more than 2m west to avoid de-stabilizing the existing Line 1 station box.

**Osgoode Plaza proposed by Liz Driver, Manager Campbell House Museum,
Chair, ACO Toronto Prince Edward County branch**



Proposed location of Osgoode station northeast entrance moves out of the garden west onto "Osgoode Plaza" on sidewalk, north-bound lanes and central median of University Avenue (north-bound lanes move west to share road with south-bound lanes), leaving the garden and 1867 fence intact. To integrate, eventually, with University Park. But Metrolinx objections to moving the entrance west too close to Line 1, remain - and garden area needed for excavation of the entrance "keyhole", is now clearcut - meaning this proposal is now moot?

NOT if the keyhole is capped below surface of the garden and **IF** access to stairs, escalators, elevators inside the keyhole will be possible, from a head house moved west of it, above the existing Line1 station concourse. The devil is in the civil engineering details but, **if** Osgoode Plaza is a feasible solution, Osgoode garden, inside its 1867 undisturbed fence, could be replanted over the keyhole with grass (and with trees, where soil outside the keyhole is deep enough to support them).

February 26, 2023, Toronto and East York Community Council established a [Subcommittee on Metrolinx Ontario Line Construction](#) (Councillors Ausma Mailik, Chris Moise and Paula Fletcher with Liz Driver "to hear from the public regarding Metrolinx's development, construction and implementation of the Ontario Line; and develop recommendations which can be forwarded to Metrolinx and the Ontario Government by City Council". The subcommittee's first meeting will be March 22, 2023.

2024 construction of the Ontario Line in progress. All trees removed from west garden and Osgoode Lawn.

**Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (after 2001 Noor Islamic Cultural Centre),
123 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Raymond Moriyama, Architect, 1963.**



Designed by then 28-year-old Raymond Moriyama (whose first project, when he was a boy, interned as a Japanese Canadian citizen during World War II, was a treehouse in the woods of British Columbia)

To Crystalize the hopes and aspirations of present and future Nisei (“second generation”) and to make them proud of their strong cultural heritage and reverse their life in Canada.

And to be A living memorial to the Japanese pioneers in Canada

A cultural centre with social and recreational facilities – culture as seen through the eyes of Canadians of Japanese ancestry – not strictly Japanese

An outgoing process – not to be an inward ghetto-creating ethnic centre, but open to all Canadians from all walks of life on a national basis.

July 2001: renovated and adapted by the Moriyama firm to become the Noor Islamic Cultural Centre. Changes included conversion of judo changerooms into ablution rooms, and of a former activity space into a prayer hall with Arabic calligraphy in the wood screens and at the door handles.

October 2021: after 18 months of lockdown due to COVID-19, sold to Originate Developments and Westdale Properties who propose construction of a 48-storey tower block over the original building and 55-storey tower closer to Wynford Drive.

Originate, promises: *A masterpiece arises amidst an endless sea of greenery . . . an architectural marvel at the intersection of anything and everything. In a rare opportunity for reinvention, Moriyama is collaborating with Originate, Kirkor, ERA and Plant to reimagine this site as a residential masterpiece. The world class design team will breathe new life into 123 Wynford Drive, while both maintaining and showcasing its cultural and natural heritage.*

Opponents of “facadist” conservation of built heritage might describe this project as “heritage crushed” or “death from above”.



June 11, 2023: in [ACO Toronto's Statement on At Risk Works by Raymond Moriyama](#), sent by Diane Chin, Chair of ACO and Stephanie Mah, Chair of ACO Toronto to Acting Mayor Jennifer McKelvie: The former Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre was the first major commission and ground-breaking for an architect who would become a rare nationally and internationally significant Canadian architect, one of a handful who are household names. Moriyama overcame the unjust interment of his family and fellow Japanese-Canadian families to study architecture and to bring a high level of design excellence which responded uniquely to the place and program of his commissions.

The JCCC was commissioned by 75 Japanese-Canadian families who had survived unjustified treatment in Canada during the Second World War. These families mortgaged their homes to fund the creation of a space where they could gather as a community to celebrate their common heritage, as well as share it with the broader Canadian public. The building was later used as the Noor Cultural Centre as a place for Islamic practice, learning, and celebration, and today is an important community landmark to the larger Thorncliffe Park and Don Mills area.

We applaud the proposed designation of the former JCCC under the Ontario Heritage Act and hope that you and members of City Council will support and do all you can to see the building preserved in its entirety, including the architecturally significant interior spaces.

265 – 275 Wellesley Street East, built 1876



Historic row houses in Cabbagetown West (of Parliament), south of the 19 towers of St James's Town. Toronto Community Housing's dilemma: demolish or conserve for low-income housing? Renovations have been stalled for years, at least in part because of their heritage status. Dixon Hall, a non-profit agency that provides housing and support services throughout the city's east downtown core, was top bidder for the lot but says it can't move forward until several issues are overcome.

HousingNowTO technical lead Mark Richardson: "Tearing down this handful of old buildings and building a new modern, accessible rooming house building on that Wellesley Street site would be a less costly and more efficient way to house the homeless,"

ACO Chair, Diane Chin: "We are not opposed to redoing the insides of these buildings so that they are totally modern and up to existing guidelines, with respect to all that is necessary to make them energy efficient. Retrofitting existing buildings is better economically because it produces more jobs locally and it's better for the environment, because new uses less of materials that are produced offshore. How much longer can we continue to demolish and truck buildings to landfill?"

Past President, Winchester Park Residents Association, Heather Wilberforce: "They're integral to the community ... I don't care for the idea of tearing them down and building a large 10 or 12-storey building to warehouse people."

4/24/24, Councillor, Ward 13 Chris Moise: My understanding is that given the heritage designation as well as the Neighbourhood's designation (which prohibits buildings taller than four stories) is that retrofitting would be much more likely than demolition.

**West Ellesmere United Church, 37 Marchington Circle, Scarborough,
Craig & Zeidler, Architects, 1958**



Photo: cubecom.ca

This unique building features parabolic glulam arches with a north-facing clerestory at the intersection of the two roof planes. The facade is finished with natural stones quarried from Napanee and is perforated with small glass openings.

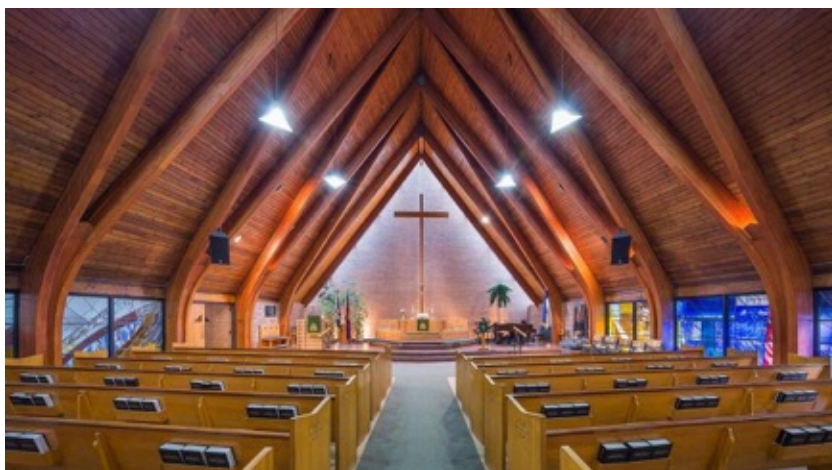
In late October 2021, 37 Marchington Circle was put up for sale for \$7 million and marketed as a residential development opportunity. Part or all of the property's existing structures, which have no heritage designation status, could be demolished once the sale goes through.

January 24, 2022: a letter sent by Amanda Large for ACO Toronto to Councillor Michael Thompson noted:

[West Ellesmere United Church] is not currently Heritage Listed or Designated, however this does not discount its historic value, The City should work with the current and future owners to encourage its reuse or incorporation into any future development and unlock its potential. Not only would the demolition of the building be a loss to the community and the City as a whole, it would contribute to further building demolition waste and loss of quality materials.

Our recommendation comes on the basis that there is an opportunity for the site to be incorporated into a development in a manner that could appease both the developers and the wider community. We believe this is an opportunity to expand, progress, and diversify our definition of and processes for heritage conservation of cultural places and spaces in Toronto.

**St Peter's Estonian Lutheran Church, 817 Mount Pleasant Road
Ants Elken and Mihkkel Bach, Architects, 1955**



St Peter's Estonian Lutheran Church: March 20, 1955, consecrated in the presence of Mayor Nathan Phillips, the first modernist church in the city of Toronto, a sanctuary reminiscent of an overturned boat which symbolizes the refugees' reaching safe harbour. In the church courtyard, a Columbarium with niches in which are interned the cremated remains of more than 300 individuals - including many founding church members, war veterans, and community leaders.

"St Peter's showcases the struggles and triumphs of the Estonian People and their hopes and dreams of a new life in Canada: a symbol for freedom and democracy, a wonder for Estonians living in exile, a church by an Estonian architect, headed by an Estonian minister, funded and built by Estonian war refugees, with stained glass windows that celebrate Estonian heritage by Austrian-Canadian artist, Ernestine Tahedl, a central hub for the Estonian and surrounding community, that offers scouting, daycare, clubs, choirs, and more.

September, 2020: to gauge interest in selling; the church building, which sits on valuable midtown real estate and suffers from dwindling attendance, members who had contributed financially to the church the previous year were invited to vote on a proposal by St Peter's executive. The vote passed but congregants in favour of preservation rallied to form "Friends of St. Peter's", to develop a business plan that would allow St Peter's to operate more economically and to apply for its listing as heritage. Their intervention to protect caused the executive to resign. St Peter's is no longer in danger of being sold but, like many churches in Canada, it remains in danger, due to its diminishing congregation and its need of imaginative solutions if it is to survive in future.

With thanks, [*A symbol of the Estonian diaspora in danger of disappearing*](#),

Dave Leblanc, "Architourist", *Globe and Mail*, March 30, 2023

April 24, 2023: On behalf of ACO Toronto, Amanda Large wrote to the Toronto Preservation Board recommending that St Peter's Estonian church be included in the Heritage Register.

May 16: North York Community Council approved the inclusion.

June 20, 2023: St Peter's Estonian Lutheran Church 817 Mount Pleasant Road added to the Heritage Register

Dominion Wheel & Foundry Buildings, 1917-1929, 153-185 Eastern Avenue, West Donlands,



January 14, 2021

Demolition crews arrive at the Dominion Foundry Buildings that are deemed “historically and architecturally significant as a good example of an industrial enclave in the area adjoining the lower Don River” and **listed** as such on the City of Toronto’s Heritage Register since 2004.

Demolition of Building 153 began Jan 18.

The City’s powers to regulate planning, heritage and demolition were suspended for this property by Minister of Municipal Affairs Lisa MacLeod who issued a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) on the site, without consulting with City, community, or heritage experts.

Jan 15

ACO Chair Kae Elgie and ACO Toronto Chair Matt Zambri to Minister MacLeod

“You have spoken many times of the value you place on Ontario’s heritage, and how proud you are to have rebranded your Ministry to put Heritage first. We need your help to protect this part of Ontario’s heritage from imminent demolition. As you are aware, many heritage properties have been successfully repurposed for quality housing. The benefit to the environment of avoiding needless demolition and landfill costs while taking advantage of already manufactured building materials cannot be overstated. Finding a



solution which re-uses these buildings will set a provincial example for conserving the environmental and cultural value of existing heritage buildings, creating more jobs than new construction, retaining the significant embodied energy in the existing building fabric and preserving the sense of place and heritage in the community.”

Councillor Ward 13, Toronto Centre, Kristyn Wong-Tam:

“The demolition of these heritage assets would be an incalculable detriment to proper city planning. It signals to municipalities and developers across the province that the Ford Government is unwilling to follow its own recently updated heritage planning policies. If the Province refuses to respect its own heritages policies, why should anyone else?”

Jan 29, 2021 Justice David Corbett stays demolition pending a decision at the end of February

February 14, 2021: Show your LOVE for the Foundry on Valentine’s Day, with Cllr Wong Tam, MPP Toronto Centre, Suze Morrison, leader Green Party of Canada, Anamie Paul.

February 22, 2021: [Provincial government is refusing to disclose the identity of the prospective buyer or the purchase price for the Dominion Wheel and Foundries property on Eastern Avenue in the West Don Lands.](#)

Friends of the Foundry: Key issue before the court will be whether the province violated the Ontario Heritage Act and the 2010 subdivision agreement between the city and province when it began demolition of the Foundry buildings earlier.

February 25, 2021: Urban Strategies [City Building at the Foundry](#)

[Dominion Foundry Demonstration Project](#) Heritage+Affordable/Market Housing+Community Space = Vibrant Neighbourhood

127 Strachan Avenue, David Brash Dick, Architect, 1878,

Built in Second Empire style for grocer John H. Meyer. Now the popular restaurant Pennies.

Threatened with application to demolish as part of a [parcel for development, 111, 115, 127 Strachan.](#)



Nominated as a Heritage Property by then Manager of ACO TOBuilt, Pauline Walters who conducted in-depth research on the history of the building and its architect, to urge its listing or designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Backed by a letter from ACO Toronto Chair, Matt Zambri to Toronto and East York Community Council, which included: "ACOTO recommends that the City oppose demolition. This building is not currently Heritage Listed or Designated, however this does not discount its historic value, especially its being in proximity to the historic Palace Arms at King Street West and Strachan Avenue. The City should work with the current owners to reconsider demolition and encourage its reuse or incorporation into any future development and unlock its potential. Not only would demolition of the building be a loss to the community and the City as whole, it would contribute to building demolition waste and loss of quality materials."

Backed also by letter from Paul Farrelly, Chair Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel which included: "I am writing on behalf of the Panel to urge councillors to refuse the application to demolish the existing 3-storey mixed use building because there is no permit to replace the building on the site at this time; and move to list this building on the heritage register and conduct an evaluation under Ontario Regulation 9/06."

In addition to these communications 4,748 people signed a change.org petition to save the building. Result: February 26, 2021: At Toronto and East York Community Council meeting, where the 127 Strachan Avenue demolition application was to be discussed, it was announced that the application had been withdrawn. According to the City website, there will be no further action taken on this matter.

Organisers of the petition note: "This is a big win, but it is not the end of the road. 127 Strachan Ave. still does not hold any heritage status that would protect it from demolition in the future."

663-665 and 661 Huron Street, 1890-1891



“Fine examples of eclecticism in Late Victorian Era architecture in Toronto, combining elements of Richardsonian Romanesque with Queen Anne Revival. Contextually, historically and visually linked to their setting on the east side of Huron Street between Dupont Street and Bernard Avenue with a number of other grand late-Victorian-era houses.”

April 1924, 661 Huron Street occupied by the [Church of England's Waifs and Strays Society](#) through which lodged and trained young immigrant British girls for employment in domestic service. Between 1869 and the early 1930s the organization received over 100,000 relocated British girls. **October 7, 1924** the Right Reverend Bishop of Toronto officially opened 661 Huron St as the **Elizabeth Rye Home** (named for the sister of the founder of the organization, Maria Rye). In the first year of operation 72 girls, average age seventeen, were housed and trained for employment. The Toronto branch closed to new lodgers, January 31, 1932 but continued to house the existing girls at the house until 1933.

663-665 Huron Street (originally 665) only the second house to be completed on Huron Street between Dupont Street and Bernard Avenue by 1890. Originally occupied by Alexander Rankin, realtor and Vice-President of Fairbank Consolidated Lumber Company, then by Thomas J. Ford, owner of the Ford Pill Company. (Considering Rankin's professions, it is probable that he commissioned construction and may have been the builder.) The property remained a single-family dwelling until the early 1940s, when it began to accommodate multiple units. City Directory 1942 indicates street address as 663 and 665 Huron Street for the first time. From the post-war period on, the house remained a multi-unit residential dwelling.

Spring 2020, 661 Huron nominated for cultural heritage evaluation by The Annex Residents' Association and the British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association. Determined that 661 and 663-665 Huron Street meet provincial criteria for municipal designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

August 7, 2020, Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning recommend inclusion on the Heritage Register with intent to designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

ACO Chair Kae Elgie, ACO Toronto Chair, Matthew Zambri and other members of ACO write to Toronto and East York Community Council in support of designation.

November 22, 2019 Zoning By-law Amendment and Rental Housing Demolition applications submitted to permit a 48 unit, four-storey apartment building, which would require demolition of the existing house.

December 22, 2020, City of Toronto Council designates 661 and 663-665 Huron Street.

Hotel Waverly, 1917; Silver Dollar Room, 1958, 484 Spadina Avenue, Toronto



ACO Toronto with ACO Associate Member, Harbord Village Residents' Association, advocated, at the OMB for conservation of the fore part of the Hotel Waverly and the Silver Dollar Room, reduction in height of proposed 22-storey residential tower. 2020: both buildings demolished. Residential tower 15-storeys rather than 22. Silver Dollar Room restored internally with sign replaced.

Central Technical School, Ross & Macfarlane architects, 1915, 693 Bathurst Street, Toronto

Inflatable sports dome reduces community access to the sports field (now artificially turfed). The dome also obscures heritage views, of the school, from the sports field, from nearby streets and of its heritage landscape, from inside the school.



ACO Toronto provided ACO Associate Member, Harbord Village Residents' Association with graphics and photographs to support the heritage views aspect of its campaign against this project. Mediation at the OMB produced improved community access and a less enormous dome that will fit inside the running track rather than cover the entire playing field.

University of Toronto Back Campus



ACO Toronto, ACO Associate Member, Harbord Village Residents' Association and Councillor Adam Vaughan supported community opposition to conversion of this heritage landscape to artificial turf, without success.

Ten Editions Bookstore, 1885, 698 Spadina Avenue



Threatened by proposed construction of 23-storey University of Toronto student residence.

ACO Toronto backed Harbord Village and Huron Sussex Residents' Associations' defence of this entrance building to Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District that has been home, since 1984, to Ten Editions bookshop. Recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

As a result of mediation at the Ontario Municipal Board, façade of 698 Spadina (building on left) will be incorporated into the podium of the residence but, regrettably, it will not contain a bookshop.

Garden Court Apartments, Page and Steele architects, 1941, 1477 Bayview Avenue, Toronto



Tenants sought ACO advice regarding owners' proposal to convert this elegant *style moderne* apartment complex from rental to condominium, to allow investment in repairs. Conversion proposal rejected by North York Community Council in 2014. Financial problems for tenants and owners remain.

Coca Cola Headquarters, Mathers & Haldenby architects, 1965, 42 Overlea Blvd., Toronto



“One of the best remaining examples in Toronto of a suburban corporate headquarters . . . a new and important building type during the postwar period”. Robert Moffatt, editor, “Toronto Modern” quoted in the *Toronto Star*, July 4, 2012
Thanks to pressure on the City by ACO Toronto and local heritage activists, developer of the Costco warehouse project hired

heritage architect (and ACO Past-President) Chris Borgal) as a design consultant. Where, at most, only the granite “bottle-bottom” wall was to remain, the entire façade of the Coca Cola building is now the façade of the offices of the warehouse. Regrettably, the Coca Cola logo on the granite wall and a towering sculpture of stacked coke bottles by Walter Yarwood have been removed but restoration of the facade is meticulous. This incorporation of a heritage building into one of their warehouse stores is a first for Costco in North America.

Stollery's, 1929, 1 Bloor Street West



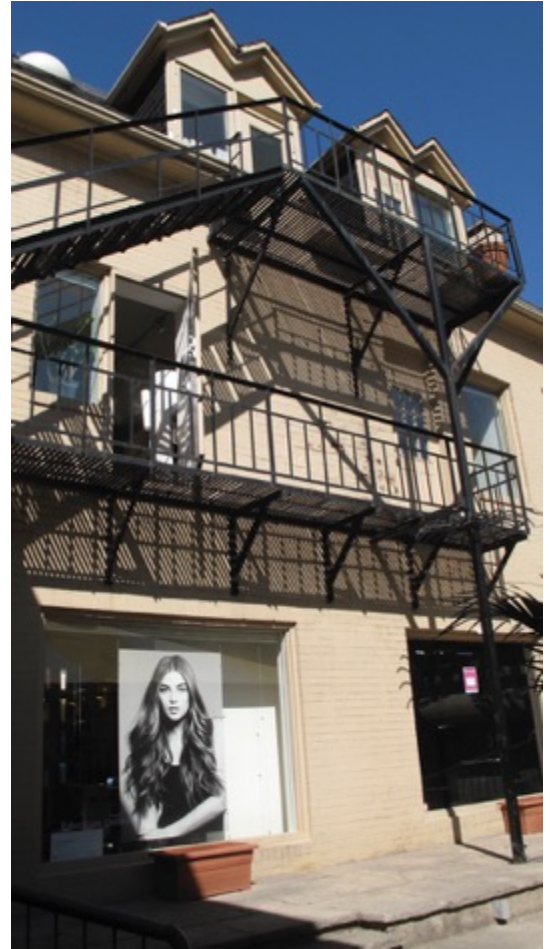
Demolition in January 2015 of this classic men's clothing store caught city conservationists unawares. Due in part to ACO Toronto urging, *art deco* decorative masonry has been saved for installation at the replacement building, The ONE, 85-storey condo tower designed by Norman Foster that will be the tallest building in Toronto, or at the nearby Frank Stollery parkette.

562-566 Spadina Crescent, 1909



ACO Toronto supported ACO Associate member Harbord Village Heritage Conservation District and ACO member Michael Vaughan (lawyer for the owner) in their successful campaign against "renovation" that would have added inappropriate gables to this Edwardian apartment house. ACO, HVRA and Michael Vaughan supported restoration of the house to its original appearance and apartment house use.

York Square, Jack Diamond and Barton Myers, architects, 1968
33-41 Avenue Rd., 18 Yorkville Avenue, 1903-1913. May 2022 demolished.



“In an era when urban renewal was the norm, this pioneer project from Diamond and Myers with circular windows inspired by architect Louis Kahn was the first project to combine new and old buildings into a new urban form.” **ACO Toronto** opposed development that would demolish 75% of the heritage attributes of these designated buildings – including their much loved courtyard - and top them with a 30-storey “vertical forest”. Sept 12 2017, the branch hosted “**A Toast to York Square**” to “Celebrate and commemorate the sights and sounds of 1960s Yorkville.”

Zeidler Partnership’s 33 Avenue Road project promised “The heritage of York Square is conserved. The plaza facing Yorkville is conceived as a repositioned York Square, a true community amenity space with a dedicated interior space for community use, and ongoing event programming. The roof over the square would provide shelter for year-round events as well as define the fourth face of the square and support a vibrant neighbourhood.” Latest, non-Zeidler, no-York Square, version of the project promises something different. 2022: York Square demolished.

[Previous zoning application](#) by Zeidler for a 38 storey building with 342 units was revised to a 40 storey mixed-use residential building with 330 dwelling units. BUT [latest version](#) by Giannone Petricone Architects for First Capital Greybrook developers will demolish York Square entirely.

2016: [Zeidler Partnership](#), Richmond Architects, 32 storeys
Loses interior courtyard but would retain exterior form of York Square.

2020 [Giannone Petricone Associates](#) and BBB Architects, 29 storeys. Eliminates York Square entirely, replaces it with a sprawling podium that includes an unsecluded courtyard and a structure with a green roof.



Glacial Lake Iroquois shoreline, [De La Salle Oaklands](#) playing field, Avenue Rd., Farnham Ave.



13,000 years ago the glacier that contained ice age Lake Iroquois melted. A body of water larger than Lake Ontario drained away to expose the land on which Toronto is built, beneath an ancient shoreline marked by the Spadina escarpment below St Clair Avenue and the Scarborough Bluffs. In 2015 ACO Toronto supported lawyer Michael Vaughan in his opposing construction of Charbonnel Homes (named for the Bishop of Toronto who invited the Christian Brothers to found De La Salle College). Project would obscure views from south and west of a heritage landscape that is the only part of the Lake Iroquois shoreline clearly visible from a major road in Toronto. 2017 project approved by City of Toronto, provided ERA Architects' conservation plan implemented for stone gates, and Gatekeeper's Cottage (Darling & Pearson, Architects, 1908). 2021 construction complete, cottage and gates preserved, views of the escarpment from Avenue Road and Farnham Avenue, obscured.



Davisville Junior Public School, 43 Millwood Road, Toronto , Peter Pennington architect, 1962
Commissioned by Chief Architect Frederick C. Etherington for Toronto School Board.

[National Trust for Canada 10 Most Endangered Places, 2017](#)

[Can Davisville public school be saved?](#)

[From avant garde to the absurd: The rise and fall of Davisville Junior Public School](#)



ACO Toronto, “Mod Squad” of architects Kim Storey, Carol Kleinfeldt, Roman Mychaelowyz, Luigi Ferrara, Monica Kuhn with Robert Moffat (author of [Toronto Modern](#)) and columnist [Dave LeBlanc](#), opposed demolition and advocated for the school’s designation as heritage. At Ryerson University Architect Joey Giaimo organized a symposium that produced a number of ideas for the building’s adaptive re-use. April 7, 2018 ACO Toronto held symposium “Toronto School Buildings AT RISK” with Globe & Mail architectural critic [Alex Bozikovic](#). In spite of their efforts - and Heritage Preservation Services and Toronto Preservation Board recommendations - Toronto District School Board argued eloquently for a school that would need to be entirely new if it is to serve 21st century educational and community needs and Toronto City Council rejected designation. Demolition completed 2018-2019. A sad loss – another of too many – for Toronto Mid-Century Modern.



Davisville Junior Public/Spectrum Alternative Senior School, Snyder Architects, opened 2022

**Oculus Revitalization Project, South Humber Park,
Alan Crossley architect, Laurence Cazaly, consulting engineer, 1959**

A unique modernist structure, a fantastical space-age park shelter nestled in a meadow along the Humber River Recreational Trail. The Oculus's sculptural quality and use of concrete is part of a generation of ambitious and optimistic public pavilions built in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Summer 2019, The Oculus Revitalization project is one of five selected for Park People's Public Space Incubator Grant, funded by the Balsam Foundation and Ken and Eti Greenberg.



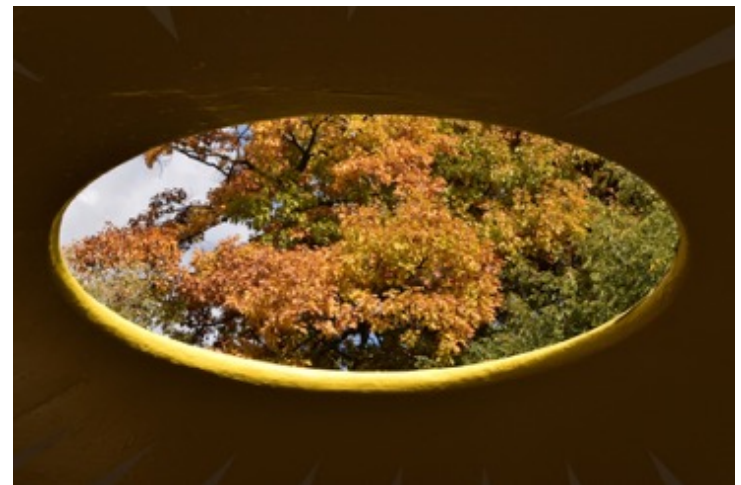
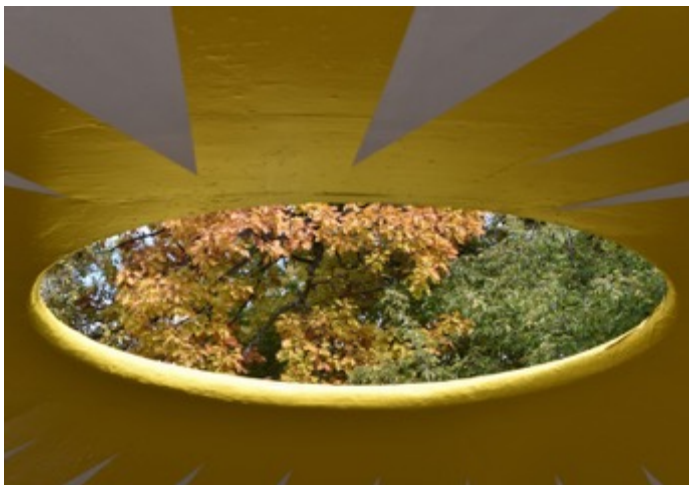
Oculus Pavillion Joey Giaimo, Kim Storey, Architects, future Chair ACO Toronto, Stephanie Mah

2020 Brighter Days Ahead: the oculus with bright yellow stripes to represent the sun's rays; ready for its first wedding.



Photo: Stephanie Mah

Inspired by the oculus (“eye”) in the dome of the Pantheon in Rome, or by a vision that was entirely his own, Alan Crossley’s mid-century modern Toronto Oculus soars like a flying saucer in an urban forest beneath its glorious views of the heavens. In 2016 the Oculus was threatened with “revitalization” that would demolish its washroom and wrap the slender steel posts that support it in the washroom’s rusticated stone. Stephanie Mah, Secretary of ACO NextGen (now Chair, ACO Toronto) organized a Facebook petition that requested a more sensitive preservation. Result: thanks to a Park People Public Space Incubator Project grant, architects Joey Giaimo and Kim Storey have overseen restoration of the Oculus with new landscaping and benches around it; making it ready for future weddings and much more.



Forest and sky, as seen through Alan Crossley’s Oculus

While restoration of the oculus was delayed by the pandemic of COVID-19, it emerged from years of neglect; cleaned of graffiti, transformed, by Joey Giaimo and Creative Silhouette’s Inc., into a sunburst, waiting for its new future. A symbol of “Brighter Days Ahead”, this project has received immense support and feedback from the local South Etobicoke neighbours, as well as the larger Toronto architectural and heritage community, which has shaped the entire process.

2021, sunburst appliqué removed, the Oculus restored to its original all-white appearance with a ring of explanatory prisms around it that explain the oculus and the history of space-age architecture.

For more see:

[South Humber Park Pavillion Heritage Report](#) July 2019 by Kim Storey, Brown+Storey Architects

20 Jerome Street, Toronto Junction, built, clad with terracotta tiles by John Shelley Turner, 1905



Included in *Terra Cotta: Artful Deceivers*, by Alec Keefer, published by ACO in 1996. Listed but not designated by the City as heritage. Identified by NOW magazine in 2016 as “one of the city’s best kept secrets”.

2018: sold, deemed by its new owners, their architect and the City to be “not structurally sound”. August, 2018 tiles removed, “as many as possible” saved. Owners responsible for rebuild, their architect and local Councillor urged to arrange for display of the tiles on Jerome Street or on Dundas West, the Junction’s “main street”. 2019: demolished and replaced by a new house with a few of the less interesting tiles attached like stickers - hard to see, all but impossible to appreciate. Spring 2019 sold, “over asking”. Fate of the tiles unknown. A sad loss for Ontario’s vernacular architecture.



20 Jerome Street, 1905



20 Jerome Street, 2019

Canary Restaurant Sign, 425/441 Cherry Street, Toronto



When the Vlahos family ended their 42-year ownership of the Canary Restaurant in 2007 its sign was removed from over the entrance of the Cherry Street Hotel at the corner of Parliament and Cherry and taken to Jim Addison's antique everything warehouse on Wabash Avenue. There it remained, weathered and battered but intact, until shortly after Jim's death in June 2017. When efforts, encouraged by ACO, to restore the sign to the Canary District came to nothing the Canary itself was recovered by the restaurant's last managers, leaving the banner to be purchased by neon collector Mark Garner at the March

24, 2019 auction that brought the life of Addison's Inc. to an end. Efforts to re-unite the two parts of the sign and, if possible, return them to another Canary Restaurant have continued – so far without success. Equal as a symbol of a Toronto that no longer is to the spinning records of Sam the Record Man, the temporarily downed Silver Dollar and the recently restored El Mocambo palm tree, the Canary sign is precious. Its loss to the city that loved it so much or its continued incarceration would be extremely sad.

Wizz-Bang Corner at J. J. Davis Store and Post Office, 1894, 1909 Yonge St.



An intervention not to protect but to *project* history where it happened. In 1918 Stanley Francis Turner painted *A War Record: recovering patients of the North Toronto Military Hospital, sunning themselves on the south side of Jack Davis's store at Yonge and Davisville, a spot they call "Wizz-Bang Corner"*. A proposal that *A War Record* be reproduced on a now blank wall was welcomed by the Starbucks manager but ignored by the company and rejected by the building's owners. Two years later the wall remains blank, Wizz-Bang Corner remains forgotten.

J. J. Davis Store and Post Office, 1894. In 2018, Starbucks - as it would have looked if *A War Record* had been reproduced on its Davisville side (with thanks to Jeniffer Milburn)



Saving Yonge Street and College Street

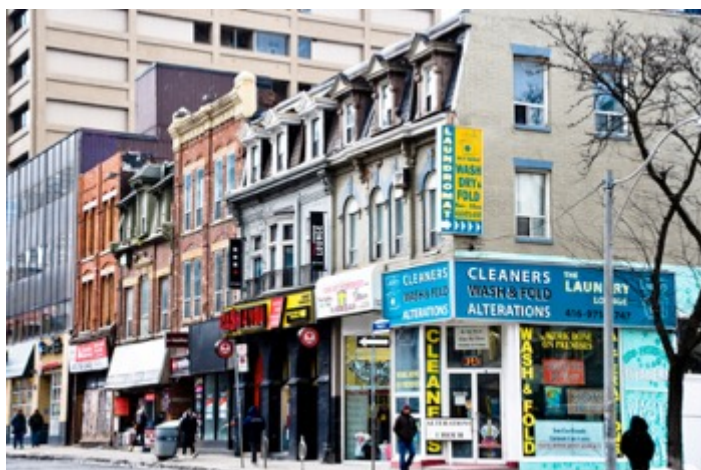
Yonge Street is Toronto's main street but its condition downtown is in many places forlorn against a backdrop of highrise gentrification. In 2016 ACO Toronto supported its nomination for the National Trust for Canada's Top 10 Most Endangered Places and its College to Bloor Street section becoming a Heritage Conservation District. This will require setback of at least 10m behind the heritage streetwall and retention of staircase access from the street to upper residential and business floors. Most urgent, though, are property taxes that are set to rise, after a temporary 10% cap expires in December 2018, by up to 400% by 2020. For more see:

[Historic Yonge Street - Study Area Designation By-Law:](#)

[Are we killing Yonge Street?](#)

[Will facadism ruin Yonge Street?](#)

[How heritage designation can save Yonge Street's Victorian architecture from rapid redevelopment](#)



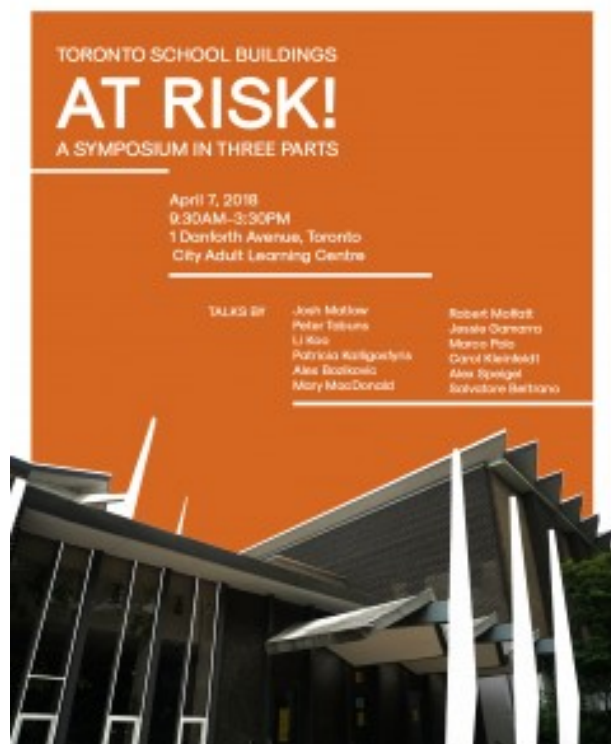
College Street, named for being the southern boundary the 1827 Land Grant for the University of Toronto, is rich in built heritage and a target for demolition and re-development.

Associate member of ACO, Harbord Village Residents' Association, collaborated with ACO Toronto in a campaign that resulted, April 24, 2018, in inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register of 24 College Street properties between McCall and Bathurst Streets. July 26, 2019, the Alexandrina Block, 281-289 College Street (below, left) is designated.



ACO Toronto Symposia

April 7, 2018, Toronto School Buildings AT RISK!



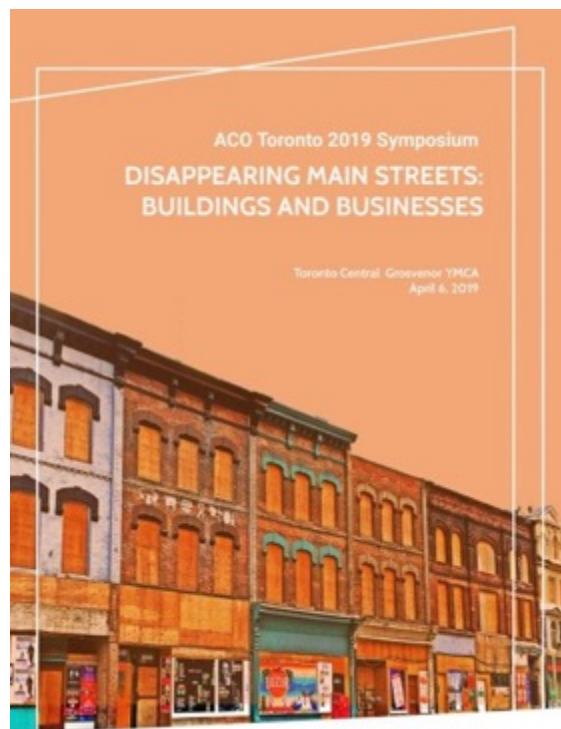
This symposium in Three Parts examined the cultural value of school buildings and the political and government forces that are putting some of our most significant public buildings at risk.

A full quarter of Toronto's schools are in critical condition and require extensive renovations or replacement of core systems. Leaking roofs, broken boilers, and other symptoms of general neglect such as mold, rust, and asbestos are commonplace. While the city's school buildings crumble, chronic underfunding and poor policy have caused a repair backlog of \$3.7 billion, quickly increasing to a staggering \$6 billion by 2020.

The gradual deterioration of Toronto's schools threatens a significant portion of our city's built heritage. The demolition of Davisville Junior Public School signals a worrying trend in the city: school buildings are being allowed to deteriorate to the point of no return.

This situation was not improved when the new provincial government cancelled \$100-million earmarked for school repairs that would have been funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

April 6, 2019 Disappearing Main Streets: Buildings and Businesses



Presentations from architects, municipal officials, developers, heritage consultants, landscape architects, urban planners on topics included taxation, development and gentrification; built form and transportation, zoning and changing retail supply and demand in environments as varied as downtown Yonge Street and suburban shopping malls.

For information about speakers and their presentations see:

https://acotoronto.ca/resources_new.php

May 13, 20, 27 2021: On Demolition, Deconstruction and Displacement

Virtual speaker series created by ACO Toronto and Alison Creba of Local Technique.

05.13.2021
05.20.2021
05.27.2021

Register online:
acotoronto.ca

DEMOLITION/DECONSTRUCTION/DISPLACEMENT

In collaboration with emerging and established practitioners across multiple fields, this virtual speaker series explores how processes of demolition, deconstruction and displacement have shaped our physical and cultural environments.

spring speaker series



Part 1 - On Demolition

Part 2 - On Deconstruction

Part 3 - On Displacement

April 25, 2020: Buildings as Resources – Material Conservation and Environmental Sustainability



What if saving and reusing materials was normal? What happens to demolition materials? Can demolition ever be sustainable? Is sustainability all about operating energy? What about the embodied energy required to build a building? Why are some demolished buildings mourned while others are forgotten? Are we valuing what we should? Are we asking the right questions?

This one-day dialogue convened experts and practitioners from a range of perspectives, including architecture, engineering, industry and advocacy. We explored this fascinating and salient topic from three distinct angles: Methods: How To Use What We Have, Metrics: How Do We Measure Value, and Material Flow: A Landscape Analysis.

Panelists

Lloyd Alter | Romas Bubelis | Barbara Campagna | Alison Creba | Joseph Dahmen | Paul Dowsett | Mark Gorgolewski | Jane Hutton | Ted Kesik | Chris Magwood | Sheena Sharp

Recommended Readings

[Tear down for what? A plea to keep Toronto's St. Lawrence Centre standing](#) Alex Bozikovic, The Globe and Mail, January 21, 2020)

[By wrecking tall buildings, are we contributing to the climate crisis?](#) Alex Bozikovic, The Globe and Mail, January 17 2020)

[The case for...never demolishing another building](#) Oliver Wainwright, Guardian, Jan 13, 2020

[A New Idea in Architecture? No New Buildings](#) ArchDaily, January 25, 2020

With regret, Buildings as Resources, cancelled due to COVID-19

January, 12 and 26, 2020: Does Canada need a National Architecture Policy?
ACO Toronto and Toronto Society of Architecture collaborating with Rise for Architecture



What would a National Architecture policy for Canada include? Since 2016, a group of educators and practitioners, Rise for Architecture, have been developing a process to answer this question and now they want to hear from you!

January 12, 2021, 12-1:30PM:

Towards a National Architecture Policy for Canada Info Session and Workshop

- What does an architecture policy entail?
- History and context of this initiative
- The four themes of the policy: Place, People, Prosperity and Potential

Speakers:

- Toon Dreessen, Steering Committee Member, [Rise for Architecture](#)
- John Stephenson, Steering Committee Member, [Rise for Architecture](#)

January 26, 2021, 5:30-7PM:

Urban Affairs Forum: Does Canada need a National Architecture Policy?

Representatives of some of Toronto's leading city-building organizations, share their perspectives on the process and content of the emerging National Architecture Policy for Canada, responding to the nationally formulated "Rise for Architecture" Vision.

Speakers:

- Megan Torza, Chair, [Toronto Society of Architects](#)
- Deborah Wang, [Design TO](#)
- Catherine Nasmith, [Architecture Conservancy of Ontario, Toronto Branch](#)
- Toon Dreessen, Steering Committee Member, [Rise for Architecture](#)

May 18, 2023, Heritage and Housing Symposium: Learning From Leijona



ACO Toronto's annual heritage symposium will take place in Fall 2023 and focus on Heritage and Housing. Leading up to the symposium, ACO Toronto is offering free talks and resources related to this theme. First guest lecturer in this series:

Meghan Elliott Principal, Founder, and CEO of Jillpine, New History, and RevitalizeMN: insights from the recently completed conversion of the historic **St Louis County Jail in Duluth, Minnesota** into 33 units of mixed-income housing.

(**Jillpine** is a real estate development company for high-potential historic properties. **New History**, a Minnesota-based consulting practice that Meghan Elliott started in 2011, works throughout the Upper Midwest of the US, with clients who include regional and national real estate developers, cities, counties, architecture firms, and educational institutions, to increase the use of historic buildings and sites. New History's integrated team includes historians, licensed design professionals, and project planners for historic building redevelopment – all with a depth of experience in the regulatory, financial, and physical framework of historic preservation. Most recently, Meghan Elliott was a co-founder of **RevitalizeMN**, which has advocated, since 2020, for the extension of the Minnesota state historic tax credit, and to bring awareness to the important role of building reuse for economic development, sustainability, housing, and heritage.)

Like many jails, the former St. Louis County Jail in Duluth is a challenging building type to reuse. It has many small cells that make up the structural system, it was stripped for demolition, and it had been vacant for over 15 years. In addition, financing complex reuse projects is challenging and generally involves multiple funding sources, including historic tax credits, tax increment financing, and grants.

This building was built almost 100 years ago to inspire civic engagement through exceptional architecture. The materials, including granite from Stearns County and 280 tons of steel, held up well over time despite years of neglect, allowing us to repurpose it for the most unique apartments in Duluth – creating jobs, supporting environmental sustainability, and retaining heritage. – Meghan Elliott

September 23, 2023: **Heritage and Housing**



Symposium, *Heritage and Housing*, on September 23 at Ontario Science Centre at 10AM. To explore this theme, the symposium was broken down into 3 sessions:

- Addressing affordability (10-11:30AM)
- Responding to the climate crisis (11:35AM-1PM)
- Future of our growing city (2-3:30PM)

Each session had 3-4 presentations and a moderated panel discussion with a diverse range of speakers, including professionals (emerging and established), architects, developers, planners, artists, and academics. The symposium was an opportunity to foster open conversations, learn about different perspectives and new ideas, and work collaboratively towards solutions for the challenges that we are facing in Toronto.

NOTICE: a change is proposed, sculptures made of construction waste, brick, gypsum cement, used and new wood, salvaged insulation board, by Nicole Charles and Justin Pape.



September 29, 2024



“Intangible Heritage can relate to traditions, activities, commerce, communities, identities, and storytelling. There’s a sense in which all heritage has intangible elements,” reads the event page. “While it certainly has relationships with physical spaces, what makes Intangible Heritage different from built heritage is that its significance lies outside traditional evaluations of architectural merit. It is use, not aesthetics, that defines Intangible Heritage.”

First panel speakers: Lisa Prosper, Cultural Landscapes and Indigenous Heritage, Dane Williams, Black Urbanism, and Chiyi Tam, Chinatowns.

Second panel speakers: Sneha Mandhan, Suburban Banquet Halls, Nicholas Jennings, Music Venues, and Michael McClelland, The Church-Wellesley Village.

TOBuilt



TOBuilt: an open source database with photographs and essential data on Toronto buildings and structures that range in age from more than 200 to less than five years.

TOBuilt was acquired for [ACO Toronto](#) in 2013 from [Robert Krawczyk](#) who began his searches in 2001 and put the site online in 2006, When ACO Toronto acquired ToBuilt the number of entries was approximately 10,000 – an amazing achievement for one man with a camera, and a bicycle (rarely a car). The number of entries has since risen to 11,500.

You want to gather information about your home or your workplace or add them to ToBuilt? You are interested in buildings in Toronto by a particular architect, in Toronto’s industrial buildings, schools or places of worship; in buildings in a particular style? TOBuilt is the site for you. Entries are logged by name, address, location (all are mapped), architect, use, type, status, style. TOBuilt may be searched using any of those criteria; the more detail an entry contains, the more useful it is.

TOBuilt is viewable to anyone who logs onto it and accessible to any member of ACO Toronto who wishes to add to it or update it. New entries and updates are checked for accuracy by ToBuilt Coordinator.

In 2015 *art deco* [Stollery’s men’s clothing store](#) at Bloor and Yonge; in 2017 the [110-year old Bank of Montreal at Yonge and Roselawn](#) and [Schindler’s “Rain Beau” racquet string factory](#) in Mimico; in 2020, [98 Superior Avenue](#), also in Mimico, turned to rubble. In each case the city was taken aback by lightning but legal demolitions. How can this happen? Because listing or designating a building heritage can take years while obtaining a demolition permit is too easy, it can take only days and executing it on an unprotected building can happen over a weekend.

TOBuilt’s criteria may not match the strictness of province’s guidelines regarding [listing or designating built heritage](#) but its comprehensive coverage and ease of access contribute enormously to conservation by providing a tool that allows fast and simple location of built heritage and discovery of information about it. ACO would like to see ToBuilt used and grown by all who are fascinated by built heritage and to include not only heritage buildings and structures but the heritage landscapes that are so crucial to the diversity of Toronto’s built environment. Cathy Nasmith, Past Chair of ACO Toronto, who acquired TOBuilt for the branch looks to the evolution of TOBuilt into ONBuilt, for all ACO branches and for places in Ontario where there is no ACO.

ACO Windsor Essex

ACO Windsor-Essex Receives Prestigious Local Award

January 23, 2025, Essex Region Conservation Authority presented its 2024 John R. Park Homestead Conservation Award (for individuals or groups that have made a significant contribution to heritage conservation by leading conservation efforts in the preservation and interpretation of the region's history to ACO Windsor-Essex. The nomination cited the 30 years of activism by the branch in Windsor and Essex County highlighting such projects as the Colchester Schoolhouse, Belle Vue House in Amherstburg, and Mackenzie Hall in Windsor.

The Branch was also congratulated for its long history of activism and in lobbying local Councils throughout the county to save built heritage and preserve the unique streetscapes and culturally significant structures in Essex County. The branch's leadership in Doors Open Windsor and the expansion of Windsor/Essex Jane's Walks were also cited among the reasons for the nomination and selection for the award.



Branch Chair Tammy Dewhirst accepted the award on behalf of the late Pat Malicki, the late Stephen Marshall, and all members of the branch past and present. She pledged that the branch would continue the legacy of heritage education and advocacy and invited attendees to become involved in activism in their communities.

L-R: Jim Morrison (ERCA Vice Chair and Windsor City Councillor),
Tammy Dewhirst (Chair, ACO Windsor-Essex),
Molly Allaire (ERCA Chair and Amherstburg Town Councillor)

Colchester Schoolhouse, 1882, 195 Bagot Street, Colchester ON

Jason Mayti, Councillor for the Town of Essex, expressed his gratitude to Architectural Conservancy Ontario for its *PreservationWorks!* assessment which the group used to convince the Town of Essex to preserve the building (managed by Heritage Colchester). Thanks to the "Rutledge Report" generated by *PreservationWorks!* volunteer, John Rutledge, the schoolhouse will be adapted to become a community centre with a walkway to the nearby shore of Lake Erie.

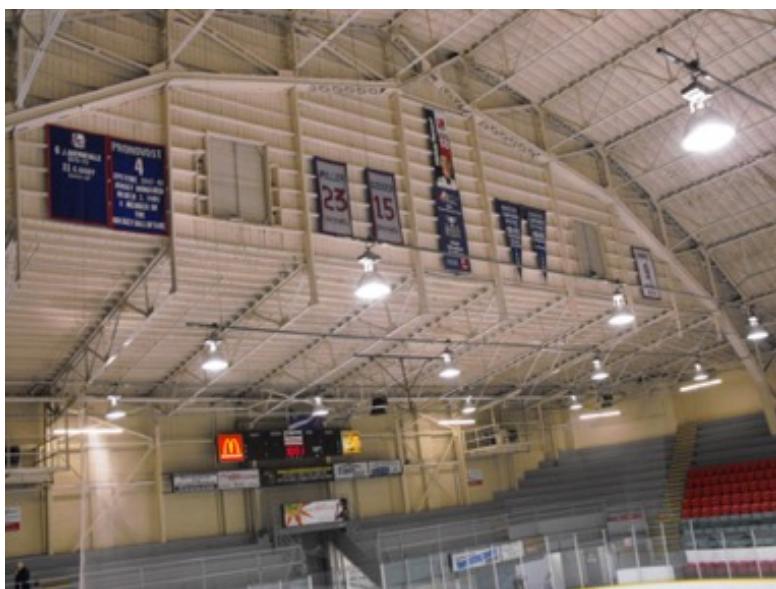
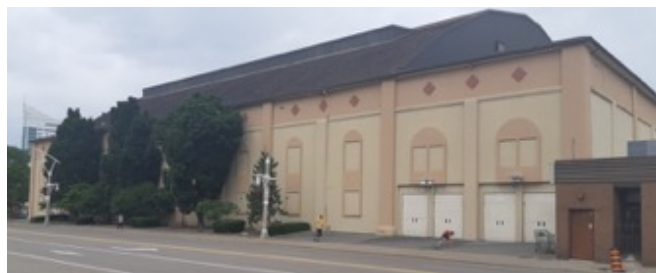


Windsor Arena, 334 Wyandotte Street East/572 McDougall St, Windsor, 1924, closed 2013, aka "The Barn" or "The Madhouse on McDougall", originally "The Border Cities Arena".

Constructed by the McClintic-Marshall Company (builders of the Windsor-Detroit Ambassador Bridge, the Empire State building, the Golden Gate bridge and many other buildings and structures) using the trussed bar system devised by industrial architect Julius Kahn.

Windsor arena was home to Detroit's first NHL team, the Detroit Cougars (which eventually became the Red Wings) during their 1926-1927 season while the Olympia Arena was being built in Detroit. (The red seats in Windsor Arena are from the Olympia, which was demolished when Joe Louis Arena was constructed.) Windsor Arena has also served as the home of the Windsor Bulldogs and Windsor Spitfires and of Windsor's wrestling scene. Along with this extensive sports history, Windsor Arena has hosted concerts, rodeos and visiting musicians.

Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkins has not disclosed his vision for the property, beyond saying that his plan involves demolishing the arena. In 2014 it was used for salt storage. Also in 2014, proposed demolition of the arena for construction on its site of a new Catholic Central High School was not realized. The Windsor Express basketball team proposed adaptive reuse that would maintain the lobby of the building as a sports museum, until April 2021, when that scheme was rejected by Council. For now, the arena still stands but is clearly at risk. ACO Windsor Essex Branch is advocating to save the building as a community hub, on its own and in partnership with the *Save the Barn – A new life for Windsor Arena* campaign.



Windsor Arena, 2012, showing Kahn trussed bar system. Spitfires old banners hanging in The Barn include Mickey Renaud, 1988-2008, Captain of the Windsor Spitfires and. prior to his death, at age 20, due to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a fifth round draft to the Detroit Red Wings. Since 2009, the Mickey Renaud Captain's Trophy is awarded to "the OHL team captain that best exemplifies leadership on and off the ice, with a passion and dedication to the game of hockey and his community".

Photo: Devan Mighton

Church of Our Lady of Assumption, 350 Huron Church Road, Windsor,
Robert Thomas Elliott architect, 1842-1847 (the fourth church to be built on its site.)
[National Trust for Canada Top 10 Endangered Places, 2015](#)

In 2007 \$9.8m was needed for restoration. In 2012 re-assessment of repair costs increased that amount to approximately \$15m. The church was de-canonized in 2014 but opened for Doors Open in 2016. In 2017, lawyer [Paul Mullins](#) (who studied to become a priest at the Scarborough Foreign Missions before he switched to law) volunteered to “analyze options to save the church”. Phase 1 of a four phase restoration plan was launched in early 2019: installation of a new copper roof, a new heating system, electrical work, and structural repairs. The building reopened for regular weekend masses on September 8th, 2019.

Phase 2 of restoration planned to begin in 2020 will include consolidation of interior plaster that will allow restoration of ceiling paintings.

Phase 3 will restore exterior brick and masonry.

Phase 4 will restore the Rosary Chapel and its stained glass windows.



**Belle Vue, 525 Dalhousie Street, Amherstburg, Robert Reynolds builder, 1816-1819.
National Historic Site, 1959, Designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* 1982.**

[National Trust for Canada Top 10 Endangered Places, 2009](#)



Robert Reynolds was Commissary to the British garrison at Fort Malden, after he returned from serving in the War of 1812. His sister Catherine's landscape paintings are an invaluable record of early 19th-century life in Upper Canada. At risk of demolition

by neglect and repeatedly vandalized, the Town of Amherstburg bought the house in 2016 and members of Belle Vue Conservancy have raised more than \$305,000 toward their \$1 million fundraising goal. December 2017: Terry and Susan Whelan presented Belle Vue House with \$20,000 in memory of their late parents, Elizabeth and Eugene Whelan (Federal Minister of Agriculture, 1972-1984). Also in 2017: Launch Pad Coaching grant from National Trust for Canada to explore new fundraising strategies to regenerate Belle Vue for the community and future generations. 2018: \$100,000 funding from Parks Canada National Cost-Sharing Programme for Heritage Places for restoration of the wood shingle and copper roof. Also in 2018: nominated for ACO Margaret and Nicholas Hill Cultural Heritage Landscape Award. 2019: roof replaced

Iona College, 208 Sunset Avenue.1924, University of Windsor



Former Home of Judge Bruce MacDonald who prosecuted war crimes charges against SS general [Kurt Meyer](#) as part of the Canadian War Crimes Commission and later served as a [Crown attorney](#) and judge in Windsor. 1964: affiliated with Canterbury College, Assumption University and the University of Windsor. ACO Windsor lobbied for designation with strong support from some council members but the motion was voted down. The University of Windsor intends to buy and demolish all of the homes in that historic neighbourhood. 2018: Iona College demolished.

Lesperance Log Cabin - built by French-Canadian Pioneer, Charles Lesperance in 1799.



When the Tecumseh Historical Society needed to replace logs in the cabin they had volunteers and materials but not the expertise to appropriately replace them. ACO Windsor Essex connected them with *PreservationWorks* volunteer John Rutledge who spent a day on site, assessing the issue. He very quickly sent a 14 page report back to them and they were able to replace the rotted logs quickly and successfully using donated labour.

Colchester Schoolhouse, 1881 - first schoolhouse in the area to be built under the 1871 Public Schools Act



When the Town of Essex declared an intent to sell the property to a developer in 2020, a small band of citizens came together and created Heritage Colchester with the goal of saving the building and turning it into a community hall and event space. When the developer pulled out due to the delay caused by the group, the Town agreed to lease the property to them, if they could come up with a realistic plan to save it. The group was on a time crunch and reached out to ACO Windsor Essex for advice. The Branch connected the group with Preservation Works volunteer John Rutledge who assessed what the group would need to do to make the property a community centre and helped with an overview of the plan requested by the Town of Essex. The group received approval for their lease late in 2021.

Interventions to Protect Outside ACO Branches

David Secord House, c.1799, 46 Paxton Lane, St. Davids ON

Intervention to Protect at Niagara-on-the-Lake Municipal Heritage Committee
by ACO member Brian Marshall



David Secord House, Owen Staples, Artist, 1913



photo: Brian Marshall, 2024

With apologies for paraphrasing:

A vital piece of Canadian heritage built by the most prominent founder of the village of St Davids (and the brother-in-law law of heroine of the War of 1812, Laura Secord who rested here on her 20-mile journey to Beaver Dams to warn Lt. James FitzGibbon of impending American attack) is on the precipice of loss. For more than a decade, this once gracious stone home has been owned by a developer and allowed to deteriorate in a textbook case of demolition by neglect. In 2020, a property standards order was issued by the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. It has not been enforced. The designated building – designated since 2015 - continues to decay.

“The roof is completely shot. Rain and snow are getting in. Missing windows and the front door that was left standing open allow the entry of animals. Stucco is peeling, exposing lime mortar. We simply haven’t enforced the laws that we have to protect this building,”

Brian Marshall has identified a person willing to put \$1 million into its restoration. “But he needs to know if a million dollars will save this place before he commits.”

In 2013 the Ontario Municipal Board decided in favour of the owner (a numbered company in Toronto) to build 33 single-family homes and townhouses on the property. As part of the draft plan condition, the owner is required to conserve the structure that was designated in 2015.

Senior heritage planner, Candice Bogdanski: “We appreciate receiving your comments. I assure you that I am working on it internally with staff at this moment so I appreciate you bringing it to the attention of the committee but there is a response underway. We are just following due process.”

Lynes Blacksmith shop, Kenilworth, 1885, Garafraxa Road (Hwy 6) Wellington North



“For two generations the Lynes family operated a blacksmith shop. They kept stagecoaches on the road and - until 1955 – farm machinery running. Frank Lynes was the last of the family to own the property. His wish was that it could be restored for future generations to enjoy as a working blacksmith shop. The homestead is now gifted to the Mount Forest Museum and Archives, headed by Kate Rowley; she chairs the project’s planning committee that has prepared a comprehensive business plan. Hope is to restore different parts of the homestead to their historical eras:

1940s for the house, 1890s for the blacksmith shop. Restoration of the forges, chimneys and roof will allow educational tours, blacksmith classes, and festivals.”

Colin Burrowes, Mount Forest *Confederate*, September 25, 2017

ACO *PreservationWorks!* Team: Past President Cathy Nasmith, Will Teron of Tacoma Engineering, and Sarah Hill of Lord Cultural Resources, consulted in 2018 with Lynes Blacksmith Shop regarding its structural condition, viability as an attraction and its potential for continued use by blacksmiths.

Cull Drain Bridge, Sarnia, 1910



Crosses the cull drain (now [Perch Creek](#)) on the Bluewater Highway to [Kenwick on the Lake](#) and [Bright's Grove](#) (site of Canada's first commune). ACO supports campaign of Friends of Cull Drain Bridge that was dismantled in 2014 for re-erection beside a new bridge but that has yet to happen. Nov 4, 2019: Steve Loxton, [Friends of Cull Drain Bridge](#): "We are now working with the City on formulating a plan to begin restoration work on the bridge in Mike Weir Park."

See also for updates: [BlackburnNews Cull Drain Bridge](#)

Lundy's Lane Battlefield, 3 July 1814



Site of the bloodiest battle fought in Canada (3 July 1814, 878 British and Canadian, 853 US casualties).

In 2013, ACO learned from the [Friends of Lundy's Lane Battlefield](#) of a proposal to convert the closed Battlefield Public School into a seniors' home, with a parking lot that will be built on the school's playing field. When this project is realized the view from the cemetery (which contains the grave of Laura Secord) where the British and Canadian forces deployed their artillery towards the incoming Americans will be obscured. Niagara Falls Municipal Heritage Committee, recommended the school property be designated a Cultural Heritage Landscape but the seniors' home project was realized - in sight of a ceremonial arch erected in 2015 to commemorate the battle.

Save Midhurst Village (Township of Springwater, seat of Simcoe County, Ontario)



Midhurst Ratepayers' Association, supported by ACO, defended its community northwest of Barrie (population 3,500) against a plan to build 10,000 houses (potential population, 30,000) on prime agricultural land. If built as planned, the development's treated sewage would drain into the nearby RAMSAR designated Minessing Wetland. Project dependent on environmental assessment, regarding water taking and potential for pollution. Cost to SMV of engaging in this battle? Considerable.

Stouffville Co-Op Grain Elevator, 1916



ACO supported local campaign for conservation and adaptive re-use by appealing to Metrolinx, GO Transit and Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor and Council. Latter voted to demolish, to allow enlargement of a parking lot. Demolition was to have been conducted in a way that would allow re-erection in another but then undetermined location. Actual demolition allowed salvage of certain components only.

Vineland Public School, 1895



ACO supported Friends of Vineland School (led by Carla Mackie and Brett House) against school-board intent to demolish (to enlarge a parking lot) and for conservation of this one-room school for educational and community re-use. Decorative brickwork on façade removed November 2014. Remainder of building demolished July 2015. ACO continues to be concerned with regard to the process that allowed this to happen.

Oro Methodist Episcopal African Church, 1849



Line 3 and Old Barrie Road, Oro-Medonte Township

Built on land set aside for black troops of the Coloured Corps after the War of 1812. ACO supported the township's campaign to fund the church's restoration. Need for that support negated, by success (more than \$72,000 donated) of the township's campaign, which was topped by a \$121,000 Trillium grant.

May 18, 2016; restoration complete, church re-opened.

Nicholas and Margaret Hill Cottage, c1880, 135 Essex Street, Goderich



When the owners of architect Nick Hill's cottage applied to have it de-designated, their request was approved by Council. It then went to the Conservation Review Board, which rejected de-designation and returned the decision to Council.

May 24, 2016 The Goderich *Signal Star* reported: "Cheers erupted in the gallery of Goderich council chambers as council voted to reject the Cottage owner's request to have it de-designated as a heritage site."

Beaverdams Church, 1832, 0 Marlatts Rd., Thorold



Beaverdams Church, 2014



Beaverdams Church, 2019

Located at the intersection of two important, ancient Indigenous trails, built for its nearby village and farming community in Niagara, Beaverdams Church is the second oldest Methodist building still standing in Ontario. Originally a key stop on the Methodist circuit, it was here that the father of public education in British North America, Rev. Egerton Ryerson, first preached. After regular services ceased in 1890, the church became a Sunday School until the late 1970s.

Since the building was purchased by The Friends of Beaverdams Church from the City of Thorold in 2014, close to \$500,000 has been raised by fundraising and donations. Work began with reroofing in 2014, a new foundation laid in 2016, all 26 windows replaced or restored in 2018, weatherboard siding replaced in 2019. Efforts are now focused on restoring the interior to its pre-1870 appearance.

Mindemoya Consolidated/Continuation School, Central Manitoulin Island, 1922



Built by Charters and Brown of Sault Ste Marie. Public School rooms on the right, Continuation School (high school) rooms on the left with changing rooms for outdoor clothing. Large windows reduced need for artificial lighting. Half of the basement was the Community Hall. After World War II a Victory Garden was planted and tended by students and in the summer by the Custodian. School buses or vans were sleighs drawn by horses in winter, covered wagons in summer.

1959: high school grades move into new Central Manitoulin High School; elementary grades occupy all rooms of the original building. **1969:** island-wide Manitoulin Secondary School, opens at West Bay (now M'Chigeeng). Elementary grades move into Central Manitoulin High School building (renamed Central Manitoulin Public School). Municipality uses original building for a variety of purposes: government offices, toy library, community organizations, Victorian Order of Nurses, health unit, dental office, law office. Some tenants make leaseholder renovations.

Fall 2016: the building closes, water, heat and hydro are turned off. Municipal Property Committee recommends the building be demolished. ACO members Blair and Lynn Quesnel, Linda Farquhar and Jan McQuay, with Central Manitoulin Historical Society and community members rally to save the building; Chair of the first committee struck to save the school, Ted Williamson, presents an appeal to Municipality of Central Manitoulin to preserve it. Council forms Mindemoya Old School Repurposing Committee of volunteers, gives them a year to propose financially and otherwise viable re-uses for the building. Ideas include a museum with artifacts from all three original townships, art galleries, childcare and continuing education, fitness and dance classes, music, community and social activities, workshops, mental health and addiction rehabilitation, meeting and conference rooms, rental offices and apartments.

Jan 14, 2020 Jan McQuay writes to ACO: "We have perhaps reached the end of the road for the Mindemoya Old School, a landmark building with a history of serving the community for nearly 100 years. Council is expected to include \$150,000 for demolition in its 2020/2021 budget, after a feasibility study failed to come up with a plan to repurpose the building."

January 2020, ERA Architects for ACO PreservationWorks! assess the structure, the heritage value and the potential of the Old School, *pro bono*. ERA's Statement of Significance includes: "It is our opinion that the Old School, as well as its neighbouring arena, hall and church have inherent cultural value and would likely meet the criteria in the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) for listing or designation given its civic contribution to the area . . . potential location for start-up businesses or student housing for the local college . . . realize the full potential of this built asset as an important component to the town's and Island's civic commons." (See **ACO PreservationWorks!** below, p.141.)

December 16, 2020 execution or reprieve for re-use?

Central Manitoulin Property Committee recommends demolition of Mindemoya Old School.

Jan McQuay writes in an open letter to Mayor and Council: "Now, near Christmas, during the pandemic, when it is difficult to rally opposition, the committee has chosen to wield the wrecking ball. The Old School wasn't even on the committee's agenda, it came up under 'new business,' out of the blue."

Mayor Richard Stephens: "This is an historic building. It is unique and it has a very solid base. There is no reason to bring it down. I would like to find a purpose for it, not destroy it just because it is sitting there."

If Mindemoya Old School is saved from demolition who might use it?

2019 Weengushk Film Institute expressed an interest but, unfortunately that interest lapsed.

January 2021 Friends of Mindemoya Old School (FOMOS) incorporated through Ontario Historical Society.

May 27, 2021: Council discussion of proposed "Five Points Community Centre" with incorporation or demolition of MOS.

June 24, 2021: Council rejects Canadian Builder offer to convert MOS into seniors' housing.

June, 2022 FOMOS secured a 21 year lease for the Old School, FOMOS is presently working with architects on renovation plans. The outside of the building will remain mostly untouched except for new windows and doors. The plan for the upper floor includes a creative hub for artists and artisans. The lower level will be a seniors gathering centre, which will provide a much needed place for organized activities and a safe, accessible area for informal gatherings.

ACO NextGen Design Charrettes

ACO NextGen of Students and Emerging Professionals have gathered each fall since 2012 at a heritage site that invites adaptive re-use. They examine the site; they break up into teams and brainstorm the ideas for new uses they present to a panel of architects, designers, planners and heritage experts. This is just one way in which ACO NextGen intervenes to protect.

2013, Distillery District, Toronto

The undeveloped site at the corner of Mill and Trinity Streets contained a designated masonry warehouse built in 1906 by David Roberts Jr. for the General Distilling Company, and an adjacent parking lot. 1916 – 1929, the building evolved through alterations and additions to its present form. Charrette teams were asked to consider connections to the existing and proposed context, and reflect the history of the site through their designs. The day included presentations about the historic First Parliament Site by the Ontario Heritage Trust's Sam Wesley and Laura Hatcher, as well as a tour of the site led by ERA's Andrew Pruss and the Distillery District's Jamie Goad. Each team delivered a five-minute presentation to judges Andrew Pruss, Jamie Goad, Michael Tocher and Peter Heyblom of thinc design.



2014, Canada Malting Silos, 5 Eireann Quay, Toronto, built 1928



15 original 37m silos, plus additional 46m storage bins built 1944. Building such structures in concrete was an innovation in 1928, introduced to avoid the proneness to fire of wooden silos. Abandoned in the 1980s, they were designated heritage and have been candidates for adaptive reuse since. Conversion to a music museum or a Museum of Toronto have been suggested but they remain out of use, western bookends to the Victoria Soya Mills Silos at the east end of Toronto Harbour.

The Canada Malting Silos design charette suggestions included: hydroponic farming, diving school, climbing school, hotel with cylindrical rooms above cylindrical art galleries.

[June 8, 2017 City of Toronto Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Plan Interim Report](#) recommends “further analysis of adaptive reuse of the Canada Malting Silos site and Marina Quay West that would combine a cultural and community services hub, an underground parking and transportation facility, a City aquatic facility and accessory uses. Staff are of the view that the Canada Malting Silos site is too constrained to support large scale residential or mixed use development as a means of funding heritage conservation and infrastructure.” For consequence of that plan:

[Bathurst Quay Common](#) Oct 4, 2024

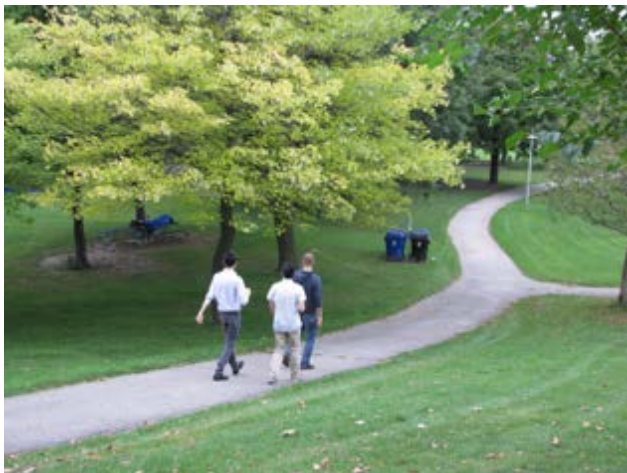
2015, Christie Pits Park, 750 Bloor Street West, Toronto

In 1909 the Christie Sand Pits were converted into Willowvale Park. The name did not stick. Today, with baseball courts, swimming pool, children's playground and an annual film festival they are well loved and well used. That's in spite of confusion over their name (should be [Christy not Christy](#)). and memories of the bloody Christie Pits Riot when, in 1933, Jewish-Canadian and Italian-Canadian baseball players saw off an invasion by the east end the Nazi Pit Gang. The Pits have a rich past but they do need revitalization. Brendan Stewart of ERA Architects presented on heritage interpretation in landscape design; Mary MacDonald, Manager of City of Toronto Heritage Preservation Services described the history and context of the site; Ward 19 Councillor Mike Layton described upgrades already in progress. 18 NextGens in four multidisciplinary teams set about revisioning, with an emphasis on heritage interpretation, to make the history of Christie Pits more tangible.

First and second choices of judges Mary MacDonald, landscape and urban designer Lara Herald of ERA, Kaitlin Wainwright, Director of Programming, Heritage Toronto Landscape Architect Brian Jacobs and Councillor Layton were:

Green Team's "Unearthing Forgotten Histories" with lookout points, public art, a central "rock beach" and wetland, presented with thorough analysis and clear and professional graphics.

Yellow Team's "Christie Canal", a complex and bold scheme, supported by beautiful hand drawn plans and diagrams, a rich material palette and thoughtful programming of activities, including the promise of a naturalized linear ice rink.



2016, Wellington Destructor, 1925, 677 Wellington St. West, Toronto



The Wellington Destructor, big, strong, voluminous, built for hard work. Horse-drawn wagons crawled over its arched access ramp, laden with barrels of stinking fish, crates of rotten eggs, dead cats and dogs as well as the usual dreck, all of which were poured into the Destructor's furnaces. The stench, combined with that of the Toronto Abattoir next door, was interesting. The Destructor's life as an incinerator ended in the 1960s. Today it sleeps in mouldering retirement, half-hidden in scrub, stripped of its chimneys, with pigeons flying in and out of its broken windows.

NextGen design charette participants recognized, the Destructor's size and resilience would allow it to be used for practically anything: from the usual daycare, ESL, art and exercise classes to rental of spaces for "post-industrial industry", including the heavier work that traditional "makers" like to do that might include fiery activities. Pottery, glassblowing and – this really turned the judges on – blacksmithing, which are hard to pursue in Toronto. For more see in NOW magazine online:

[**Wellington Destructor Rises Again**](#)

2017, Gray Coach Terminal, Charles Dolphin architect, 1931, 610 Bay Street, Toronto



Toronto's Gray Coach Terminal provides an elegant art deco welcome to the city's core. With soaring ceilings, decorative travertine walls and chandeliers, it's a sophisticated gateway for arrivals and departures. But as car and air travel became easier, the terminal began to decline. Within the next five years or so its operations will move to a new mega bus terminal beside Union Station. The terminal building – with its huge area of bus docking land – will then be available for adaptive reuse. Done well, revitalization of the coach station will revitalize and re-populate the Ward, Toronto's famous "slum" that was once the City's most vibrant and multicultural neighbourhood.

Charette proposals included conversion of the site to a hi-tec electronic recycling centre and combinations of residence, markets, green space, retail and business space that would revive the lost vitality and cultural richness of the Ward, without its squalor. In a city where the need for affordable housing is desperate, the Gray Coach Terminal's bus-docking land and the empty parking lot north of it offer wonderful opportunities, in a location that is perfectly located, for housing people of all, incomes: Hospitals to the west, retail to the east, Ryerson University, University of Toronto, Queens Park, City Hall, law courts, the financial district - all are within walking distance.

For more see: [Toronto Coach Terminal could use some inspired ideas for its reuse](#) by ACO NextGen, Pauline Berkovitz.

Nov 21, 2024: [Toronto's old coach terminal to be turned into housing, plaza and health facility](#)
The terminal's two sites, at 610 Bay St. and 130 Elizabeth St., will be home to two towers with 873 new rental units, 290 of which will be affordable housing

Gray Coach Station Re-Development Kilmer Group and Tricon Residential, 2024



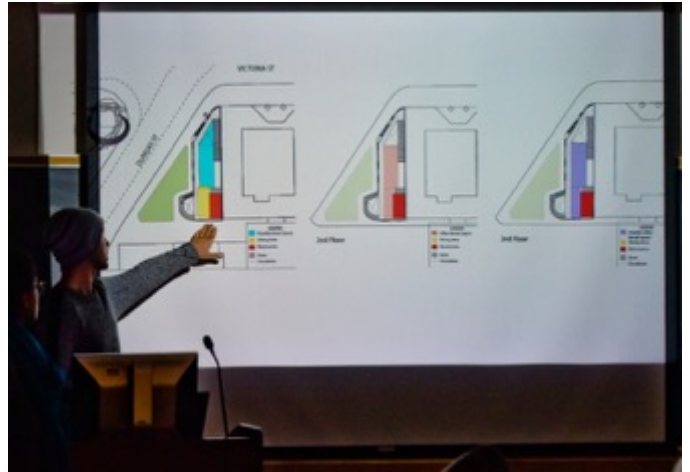
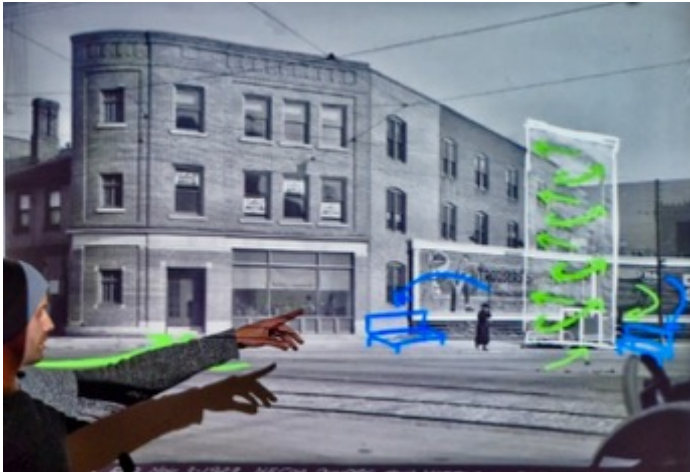
The terminal's two sites, at 610 Bay St. and 130 Elizabeth St., will be home to two towers with 873 new rental units, 290 of which will be affordable housing. The Bay Street homes are expected to be completed and leased out at the beginning of 2029, while homes on Elizabeth Street are expected to be leased at the beginning of 2030. An undisclosed number of the other homes will be specifically allocated to health-care workers and three separate housing organizations, Woodgreen Community Services, the March of Dimes and Wigwamen.

The project will also include a 23,000-square-foot Toronto Paramedic Services multi-function hub with approximately 10 to 15 vehicles, 15 staff that can be deployed anywhere in the city.

Between the two buildings will be a public plaza that will include "outdoor rooms," which will incorporate green space. The site will also feature an organ repair centre operated by University Health Network for heart, lung, kidney and liver transplants.

Charles Dolphin's *art deco* Coach Terminal, built in 1931 is described as "a celebrated heritage building that we are excited to build on the legacy of."

2018, Powell Chemical Company Building, 1925, 38-40 Dundas Street East, Toronto



The Powell Building's location northeast of Dundas Square is challenging: separated by a tiny triangular parking lot from a chronically traffic-choked bend of Dundas Street East, with a 10-storey Toronto Public Health building and a safe injection site behind it and, to the east, gloomy, unfriendly Victoria Street Lane that connects Ryerson University to the north with Massey Hall to the south. Five design charrette teams transformed those challenges into an array of opportunities.

1 Connect 38-40 Dundas St E. with the Toronto Public Health building that is attached to it, making 38-40 Dundas St E. an extension of the Toronto Public Health building and the new face of it.

2 Retain as much of the façade of the original building as possible, add an extension to increase size, and organize programmes at the interior that allow for community engagement.

3 (the winning team): 38-40 Dundas East has the potential to restore a human scale to a corner of "super-human" Yonge-Dundas Square. Enclose the east façade and parking lot in glass to create an interior park through which the building remains visible. Inside, a food hall, with café, bar and green roof respects and enhances the historic building. Revitalize Victoria Street Lane by adding welcoming neon signs that pay homage to the neon signs previously in the area.

4 Transform 38-40 Dundas St E. into a public space with minimal intervention. The triangular parking lot becomes a park with benches that local artists are invited to decorate.

5 Transform the interior of 38-40 Dundas St East into a community space for community use with programming similar to that provided by a library, while keeping the exterior of the building (including its white paint) relatively untouched.

See also: Charette summary by NextGen Vice-Chair Loryssa Quatrociocchi and NextGen Secretary in NOW magazine:

[Future of Yonge-Dundas fixture remains in a state of disarray](#)

Jan 10, 2024: [Long-abandoned building in the heart of Toronto will soon be demolished](#)

2019, New Toronto Hydro Station, E. J. Lennox Architect, 1917, 124 Birmingham Street



In 1889, Toronto industrialist Thomas McDonald purchased over 500 acres of farmland in Etobicoke Township. He subdivided the tract into commercial, residential and industrial sectors, with industrial lands reserved on Seventh Street (now Islington Avenue) and Eighth Street to the west. The need for enhanced electricity supply for the development's industries required construction of the hydro station. More than 100 years later the station and its 21-acre site have been listed for sale by [CreateTO](#). To “conserve the cultural heritage value of the landmark property and maintain the historic industrial character of metal manufacturing of over 80 years in South Etobicoke”.

Paul Chomik of the Etobicoke Historical Society led a walking tour of the neighbourhood. Architect Joey Giaimo presented on the adaptive reuse of industrial buildings. Four Charrette design teams then set to creating ideas for conservation and redevelopment that were evaluated by Megan Torza of DTAH Architects, Michael McClelland of ERA Architects, Alex Corey of Toronto Heritage Planning Services, Myles MacKenzie of PMA Landscape Architects, and Chris Bateman of Heritage Toronto.

All charrette teams highlighted the importance of restoring the hydro station, as well as enhancing employment and cultural opportunities, providing park space and community gardens for its community. The winning proposal, “Lakeview Park & The Hub”, focused on retrofitting the historic substation into a multifunctional hub that would contain an interpretive and informational centre as well as amenities for community groups, parents, children, seniors and schools. There would be greenhouse pods at the sides of the building and reworking of the 21-acre landscape within expansive artificial hills that would be topped by a lookout with views of the lake and city.



2021, 15 Queen Street Cooksville – charrette by Zoom

ACO NextGen partnered with the Cookstown Community Development Team (CCDT) to provide a small group of its members with a real-world experience in architectural preservation. The focus of their concern: a 2-storey, brick commercial building (built 1893, re-facaded 1950s) located in a heritage conservation district in the heart of Cookstown, Ontario, (now part of Innisfil).

After decades of housing local businesses, the brick duplex at 15 Queen St. was purchased in 2018 by a large developer. It has since sat vacant and disconnected from power. In an effort to spark revitalization of the abandoned property, the CCDT and ACO NextGen invited emerging professionals to propose a redesign and new use.

Eleven ACO NextGens, in three groups, researched the building's history, local policy requirements, the community's needs and the structural design of the building to develop new ideas ranging from a bike shop to an art gallery with fitness room and upstairs cafe. They presented these ideas in front of a virtual audience, including CCDT members, who plan to use the proposals to defend the building.

(Top right: current photo of 15 Queen Street. Top left: rendering of possible interior. Bottom: rendering of possible facade restoration.)



2021, Toronto Central Prison Roman Catholic Chapel, 70 East Liberty Street, Toronto

Last remaining building of the Toronto Central Prison complex. Kivas Tully Architect, 1873.

Built by prisoners, 1877. Added to the city's list of heritage properties in 1985.

The chapel, stands in the midst of Liberty Village Park entirely surrounded by high-density housing where it remains untouched. With thoughtful adaptive re-use it could play a vital role in bringing the communities of Liberty Village together.



November 13th, 2021, members of ACO NextGen briefed by Sean Marshall, of World of Walking and Liberty Village BIA

December 4th, 2021, ACO NextGen hosted their 8th annual Design Charrette event at the Campbell House to present ideas for the adaptive reuse of the Toronto Central Prison Chapel.

Four teams of ACO NextGen members displayed their visions for the future of the site and demonstrated how activating heritage assets can help give back to the community in a great many ways. Many proposed the building be restored as a multi-use space, which could combine elements such as a library, yoga studio, gallery, and event space.

ACO would like to give a special thanks to the wonderful judges, the NextGen team, and all the participants for their immense help and support throughout the process.

With thanks, ACO NextGen intern, Eny Ross



2022 (postponed to 2023), 820-830 Church Street, Toronto



Apart from Burger Delicious and One-A-Minit-Car Wash (both now closed) no built heritage remains in this conspicuous, heavily trafficked but unused triangular space east of Toronto Reference Library (by Raymond Moriyama, Architect 1977). The location of this piece of land, in a neighbourhood rich in cultural associations, steps from downtown Toronto's busiest intersection and busiest subway station: Bloor and Yonge is prime.



Nicole Nomsa Moyo (Intern Architect and Urban Designer, DIALOG and Contract Instructor, U of T Daniels Architecture) gave a keynote speech which touched on human-centric design, master planning, innovative and disruptive sustainable development.

Daniel Rotszain ("Urban Geographer" and Artist in Residence, ERA Architects) led a tour of the site in its rich urban and cultural context.

Where developers have requested re-zoning to permit a 32-storey hotel, charrette proposals to **Sharon Vattay** (Principal, GBCA Architects), **Michelle Bullough** (Intern Architect, Giaimo) and **Patricia Milne** (Principal, Milne Architect) focused on creating a "backyard" to the Central Library, a cultural hub that would provide community space, outdoor art installations and an observation deck with new perspectives on nearby Harold Town Park and Rosedale Ravine - as well as acknowledgement of Castle Frank Brook, the "lost river", once source of water to the village of Yorkville and to nearby Severn's Brewery, that now runs, hidden in a conduit, beneath the site.

HERITAGE WEEK
FEB 21 - 25 2022

ACO NEXTGEN JOB SHADOW

ACO NextGen's annual Job Shadow Program takes place during Ontario Heritage Week in February. The program provides students with an opportunity to network and make key professional connections in their area of choice, learn about future job opportunities and gain experience for their resumes, as well as meet with other young people interested in heritage and get published. 115 students will be placed this year with 45+ partner organizations, which include architecture and engineering firms, government bodies and diverse non-profits.

The program is open to students and young professionals exploring careers in architecture, heritage conservation, planning, landscape architecture, museums, history, archaeology and related fields. This is also an opportunity to get published. Job shadow participants will have the option of publishing a post about their experience for the NextGen blog, with the possibility of having it shared to NextGen's newsletter list on ACO's social media.

NextGen hosts a Zoom Meet-And-Greet for all shadows and NextGens in the week following the event. This is an opportunity to meet other young people who share an interest in historic preservation.



Irene Galea, 2019, journalist, then Chair ACO NextGen, with National Trust for Canada Manager of Heritage Policy and Government Relations, Chris Wiebe



Sarah Bulman, 2019 then a second year student (now a graduate) at Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, washing artifacts in the Burlington lab of Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI).



Amy Calder, 2014, then pursuing an MA in Planning at the University of Waterloo, now Planner, Culture Planning at the City of Mississauga, with Gill Haley, Architect, ERA Architects.

ACO PreservationWorks!

provided information and advice to the owners of nine of the more than 100 properties listed in Interventions to Protect, 2013-2022



PreservationWorks! has, since 1972, connected property owners and communities in need of conservation advice with professionals, who include restoration architects, engineers, lawyers, archaeologists, landscape architects and historians.



Requests for service can include overview of building conditions and structural soundness, evaluation of architectural and historical merit, approaches to repair, upgrading and restoration, and advice on reuse.

PreservationWorks! provides a brief preliminary report that can be effectively used to avoid demolition, forewarn of structural or architectural problems, suggest appropriate, less costly preservation strategies and gain public support for conservation - for a nominal cost, delivered within six weeks of the request.

Any individual or not-for-profit organization in the Province of Ontario facing a threat to a piece of local heritage can access this service.

PreservationWorks! application form, go to: http://aontario.ca/show_program.php?id=5

PreservationWorks! locations: https://aontario.ca/pworks_location.php

For a sense of the scope of observations and recommendations provided by **PreservationWorks!**, see below.

ACO PreservationWorks!

58 Wheatfield Road, Mimico, Alfred Baker, architect, 1908 (resident with his family to 1956.)



Synopsis of report by Emily Cheng, Taylor Hazell Architects, 2019 Advice on Repair, Upgrading, Restoration
(To support *Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act*)

Observations, Recommendations

- 1 Crack in concrete foundation wall.
Crack should be filled by epoxy injection to prevent groundwater leaking in
 - 2 Peeling or degraded paint on exterior wood elements.
Epoxy wood filler repairs where needed, re-paint, re caulk.
 - 3 Some leaded glass windows: bulging comes, detached saddle/support bars
If bulge more than 38mm, remove, flatten, reattach original support system, solder loose saddle bars.
 - 4 House partly covered in ivy
Remove ivy
 - 5 Heat loss through single-pane lites
Fabricate removable storms, attached with magnets
 - 6 Client desire to insulate cathedral attic.
In original roof structure batt insulation preferable to spray foam.
 - 7 Attic window sashes and frames deteriorated from squirrel-chewing:
Remove ivy to reduce access, replace wood windows with aluminum, squirrel deterrent chemicals
 - 8 Exterior roughcast stucco cracked in places, some areas missing on original wood lath and metal mesh
Re-patch as per US National Parks Service Brief 22: *The Preservation and Repair of Historic Stucco*
 - 9 Features of Cultural Heritage Interest
Maintain as much as possible.
 - 10 Contractors who specialize in heritage restoration recommended (choice of three).
-

ACO PreservationWorks!

Belfountain Village Church, 1880 or 1894, 17258 Old Main Street, Belfountain



In December 2020, ERA joined with the ACO's *PreservationWorks!* to assist the Belfountain Village Church in identifying and addressing several building issues impacting the community. In meeting with the church, examining photographs, and undertaking a site visit, ERA observed the following issues affecting the interior and the exterior of the church building:

- Water is entering the interior vestibule space and being trapped at the walls. It is leaking into and wicking up from the foundations and being retained.
- The vestibule is significantly colder than adjacent interior spaces, with no functional heaters.
- Doors have gaps, but vestibule space is fairly sealed with little air movement
- Moisture is unable to migrate-through the current application of paint.
- The site is not properly graded properly resulting in a grade which slopes in towards the building.
- Rainwater leaders are broken.
- Current mortar is not porous and is potentially trapping-in moisture.
- There are two lower wall openings that could potentially allow melting ice water into the crawlspace.
- The exterior cedar shakes at the belfry portion of tower are in poor condition (scheduled for replacement in March 2021).

ERA made the following recommendations:

- Provide low level heating to the vestibule with portable heaters to address immediate moisture and heat concerns.
- Work on providing weather stripping to the doors to prevent heat-loss.
- Consider incorporating a ventilation system like a ceiling vent to ensure proper ventilation and seasonal circulation of air.
- Replace interior plaster and paint as required.
- Undertake work to the exterior including: altering the slope in the landscaping, repointing the foundation walls, and/or if affordable, parging the foundation walls of the vestibule.
- Replace rainwater leaders (including extensions to shed water away from exterior walls).

The Belfountain Village Church immediately set to work implementing ERA's suggestions. The addition of a small heater for the vestibule space has led to significantly improved conditions: moisture in the space has been significantly reduced and paint delamination has slowed down. A ceiling vent could be considered at a future date. Weather stripping has been added around doors to help with sealing, and the re- grading and additional improvements will be considered in the Spring of 2021. (With thanks, Michael McClelland Principal, Catherine Riddell, ERA Architects)

ACO PreservationWorks!

Mindemoya Old School, Manitoulin Island, by Paul Evans, Principal, ERA Architects (see also p120 above)



Civic assets like the Mindemoya Old School are mainstays in the civic commons¹ and social fabric of their towns. Across Canada, the legacies of these community pillars are in crisis at a time when their ability to provide space for connection and community has never been more vital.

January 23, 2020, representatives from ERA Architects with a group of local area residents, conducted a building walk-through and tour of Mindemoya and

adjacent areas. This tour was carried out after reviewing existing feasibility and council directive reports.

It's our opinion that the Old School, as well as its neighbouring arena, hall and church have inherent cultural value and would likely meet the criteria in the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) for listing or designation given its civic contribution to the area. However, its full potential can only be realized if its adaptation and reuse fulfill a clear need for the town and Manitoulin Island as a whole, identified through consultation with area residents.

ERA recommendations:

The Old School, arena and the hall have individual cultural heritage value, as well as collective heritage value as a cluster of civic assets as the town's centre. We recommend that prior to considering heritage designation under the OHA to protect the building, Council should determine the exact need(s) of the area residents which the asset will respond to in its reuse. A network of public places and facilities that enable communities to learn, celebrate, express collective actions, collaborate and flourish - libraries, parks, community centres, squares and more.

The 2019 proposal will replace three existing civic assets in Mindemoya, which will arguably have a negative impact on the cultural heritage value of the site. It is thus unclear if and how the proposal would properly mitigate this potential heritage impact. Opportunities to integrate any of the existing assets should be explored to discourage unnecessary construction of new built form(s).

Additional opportunities may exist to incorporate the existing Old School into the new multi-plex development, or Sever and retain the existing property as a standalone structure, to be repurposed as temporary housing for local students or a similar purpose.

Develop an Island-wide cultural economic strategy and vision:

Shifts in the cultural economy are affecting Manitoulin Island, Mindemoya and towns across the country. Representatives from each area should be involved in developing a strategy that leverages the strengths of their respective networks in the wake of this change. We recommend a robust strategic plan be developed and implemented in order to limit the loss of the former pillars of the Island that are vital to the social fabric of Mindemoya and larger areas. This vision requires the thoughts, opinions and perspectives of area residents across the Island, including Indigenous communities, other municipalities, educational institutions and community organizations.

Mindemoya Old School would likely meet the criteria for listing or designation as described in Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The building is in fair condition and requires repairs totaling approximately \$900,000. But being vacant, the Old School is at increased risk of deterioration, posing a liability for the municipality. If successful adaptive reuse is to happen, it must fulfill a need for area residents that may not have already been identified. This requires Mindemoya and other Island residents to work together to satisfy the needs of the region as a whole.

ERA understands the value of the Mindemoya Old School, and together we believe we can realize the full potential of this built asset as an important component to the town's and Island's civic commons.

Conserve or Replace? energy-efficient heritage windows.



Shannon Kyles: blower test

photo: Hamilton Spectator

It's too little known: provided they are maintained properly, original wood and metal windows can survive practically indefinitely where "maintenance-free" vinyl windows might last little more than a decade.

There's another misconception. It's about **energy efficiency.**

Since the 1970s, many studies comparing the energy efficiency of restored original windows with replacement windows showed that originals are more energy efficient than new material replacements.

In 2013, [Shannon Kyles](#) (teacher of Western Architecture and Ontario Architecture at Mohawk College and Chair of ACO Hamilton) launched a campaign to raise awareness of this issue in Canada.

In Ontario homeowners who prefer original windows are often persuaded, quite wrongly, by window salesmen and by government agencies to replace them for energy efficiency with new. The focus of Shannon Kyles campaign was to raise awareness of the virtue of restoring original windows for energy conservation as well as for their aesthetics and, historical integrity. She researched and videoed nine separate pre-1920 houses that had both restored old windows and new replacement windows. She used an infra-red camera to highlight the areas where energy was being lost. In all cases the old windows were more energy efficient. This information was uploaded to YouTube and presented on CBC Radio's *Fresh Air*. With the help of ACO she circulated petitions throughout Ontario for presentation at Queen's Park, requesting funding for restoring original windows equal to that for replacing them.

To test her findings she built a 12 ft x 8 ft building with two restored windows and two new windows. The "blow test" used to determine energy rebates in Ontario was used to compare air infiltration. The results showed virtually no difference between restored windows with well-fitting storms and weather sealing and new windows. The results of these tests were published in the *Hamilton Spectator* and in the *OBOA Journal* of the Ontario Building Officials Association.

Shannon Kyles' findings, and her petitions, resulted in funding to restore windows being provided by **Green Ontario** on the same platform as for replacing windows. This programme was just launched when the Ontario provincial government that was elected in 2018 terminated it, along with other energy conservation initiatives.

Going forward ACO will continue to promote the restoration of original windows (and doors) and to develop appropriate training programs for carpenters and home-owners. ACO will also continue to urge updating of the Ontario Building Code to reflect the energy efficiency as well as the heritage value of original doors and windows.

Our Architecture: Shaping Lives for 150 Years

ACO Collingwood, ACO Meaford speaker series, fall 2017



ACO Collingwood and ACO Meaford present a heritage speaker series

OUR ARCHITECTURE: SHAPING LIVES FOR 150 YEARS

Tuesday Sept. 19, 7pm
Simcoe Street Theatre
Collingwood
*Architectural Elements in
Simcoe and Grey Country*
Shannon Kyles, teaches history
of Ontario architecture at
Mohawk College

Thursday, Oct. 19, 7pm
Meaford Hall, in the North Gallery
*Heritage Meaford: Yesterday,
Today and Tomorrow*
Richard Longley, former president
of ACO, contributor to NOW
magazine

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 7pm
Simcoe Street Theatre
Collingwood
*Collingwood Heritage District-
Challenges, Rewards and
Looking Forward*
Ron Martin, Heritage Consultant
Kandas Bondarchuk, Resource to
the heritage committee

Tickets \$10 per lecture, \$25 for the series

Tickets available at the Simcoe Street Theatre, 65 Simcoe St., and Meaford Museum or Stuff to Read in Meaford
or call 705-446-8087

Stay for refreshments and Q&A after the talk

"We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us." W.S. Churchill



Annette Snowden
& Douglas Boer



Knights of Meaford, burned August 29, 2017 – 6 days after this photograph was taken. Demolished 2018. Last standing reminder of when Meaford was an industrial town. (Theme of the Meaford talk).

Architectural Conservancy Ontario Annual Awards



ACO HERITAGE AWARDS 2019

An inspiring celebration of dedicated people working to preserve, restore, and transform Ontario's heritage buildings and landscapes



Tickets available at events.epl.com/ACOHeritageAwards

For more information call 416-367-8075 or email devorah@acontario.ca



ACO Awards, 2019, members, friends and nominees gather at historic Berkeley Street Church.

ACO Awards, 2024

Eric Arthur Lifetime Achievement Award

Mary-Jean Page

Mary Millard Award for Special Contributions to ACO

Marilyn ‘Duffy’ Davidson

ACO Public Education and Engagement Award

Sarah Morris [Windsor]

A.K. Sculthorpe Award for Advocacy

Brian Skerrett [Guelph]

ACO NextGen Award

Eli Aaron [Toronto]

Margaret and Nicholas Hill Cultural Heritage Landscape Award

Friends of Allan Gardens [Toronto]

James D. Strachan Award for Craft

Patrick Moore [Ottawa]

Stephen A. Otto Award for Research and Documentation

Adam Bunch [Toronto]

Marie Voisin, Ernie Ritz, Kristen Hahn [New Hamburg]

Carlos Ventin Award for Municipal Heritage Leadership

Tamara Anson-Cartwright [Toronto]

Paul Oberman Award for Adaptive Reuse: Large-Scale/Team/Corporate

St. Mark’s Place [Kitchener]

Paul Oberman Award for Adaptive Reuse: Small-Scale/Individual/Small Business

John Muir Branch, Windsor Public Library

Peter Stokes Restoration Award: Large-Scale/Team/Corporate

Wychwood Neighbourhood Branch Library Restoration and Addition [Toronto]

Peter Stokes Restoration Award: Small-Scale/Individual/Small Business

Marine Heritage Society [Southampton]

ACO Special Jury Awards

Linda and Jack Hutton “With Memories of Lucy Maud Montgomery” [Bala Museum]

K-W Urban Native Wigwam Project and Warrior Home 2023 Student Design Team [Kitchener]

ACO Heritage Day at Queen's Park

Since 2014 delegations of members of Architectural Conservancy Ontario have met with MPPs at Queen's Park during Ontario Heritage week in February, to learn MPP's heritage concerns and share ACO's. Past themes have included Ontario's Schools, Ontario's Main Streets and Shannon Kyles' campaign and petition for the conservation of energy-efficient heritage wood windows.

As well as its annual theme, ACO's message is the same as the present provincial government's: **Heritage is open for business**, recognizing the economic as well as the cultural and historic value of Ontario's built and landscape heritage – of all ages and locations – where people want to live, work, raise families, make television and movies and visit as tourists. Heritage is about individual, community and provincial self-esteem and much more

As past vehicle plate slogans tell us, Ontario's heritage: Keep it Beautiful, Yours to Discover

ACO Heritage Day, February 21st, 2019 Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport Michael Tibollo addresses ACO delegates, with ACO Chair, 2017-2019, Leslie Thompson



ACO Heritage Day, February 19th, 2020 Minister of Tourism, Culture & Sport Lisa MacLeod addresses ACO delegates, with ACO Chair, 2019-2021, Kae Elgie



February 17th, 2021 Heritage Day at Queen's Park by zoom – a new experience for ACO and MPPs



Media Release

November 10, 2022

Bill 23: Ford Drops Bomb into Ontario's Heritage System Disaster Hidden in Bill 23: Response to More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

“Whether intended or not, the changes proposed for the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) in Bill 23 will make it practically impossible to protect most of Ontario’s identified heritage properties. This can only be seen as a knee-jerk response to a vindictive attack by the development industry on our heritage system. There was no consultation or consideration of the destructive impacts of these proposals across Ontario”, [says ACO Chair Diane Chin.](#) “Why drop a cluster bomb of changes into the heritage system that will not create a single unit of affordable housing? The proposed changes to the OHA must be dropped from Bill 23”, [adds Ms. Chin.](#)

Two of the proposals stand out. Forcing communities to drop “listed” properties from their heritage registers if they are not designated in two years and requiring that the standard for designation of properties be hiked from at least one of Ontario’s heritage criteria to two.

Requiring a property meet two of the legislated criteria for designation, instead of one, will make it challenging to protect the often-humble buildings and places associated with the historic contributions of Black, Indigenous, Franco-Ontarian, multicultural, and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities to Ontario. This will seriously hamper communities like Little Jamaica or Kensington Market currently seeking heritage status and protection.

Ironically this effort to stymie advancements made in recognizing and celebrating cultural diversity is being promoted by the “minister of heritage,” the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, Michael Ford.

The change to the treatment of listed properties is equally confused, baffling, and counter productive. Listing — placing a property on the local Heritage Register — recognizes cultural value without the expensive and cumbersome process required to “designate” under the Ontario Heritage Act. Listing is an important planning tool, imposing no conditions on property owners save for requiring 60 days notice of intent to demolish.

[“Why make it so much harder to keep listed properties on the Heritage Register,” asks Ms. Chin.](#) “

Designation should not be seen as the holy grail of heritage protection; listing is easy to implement and does the job in most cases. Why is the Ford government forcing unnecessary designations on municipalities and heritage property owners?”

In most of Ontario, identification and protection of heritage is undertaken by volunteer organizations and members of Municipal Heritage Committees. Most listed properties are not in any danger, so listing is an adequate tool for local councils to identify and celebrate their cultural heritage. The changes to listing requirements proposed in Bill 23, forcing either designation or the dropping of thousands of properties from the register within two years, leaving them with no heritage status, will undermine decades of volunteer work identifying and honouring local properties of value to their respective communities.

Architectural Conservancy Ontario is the largest voice for heritage in Ontario, founded in 1933 with branches in 17 communities across the province.



November 2024: The National Trust for Canada recognized Architectural Conservancy of Ontario with its Governors' Award for ACO's successful campaign to extend the deadline required by the *More Homes Built Faster Act* for the designation of 36,000 properties in over 100 municipalities in Ontario that are listed as heritage under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, by two years, from the end of 2024, to the end of 2026.

