



**ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVANCY
ONTARIO**

Architectural Conservancy Ontario

Nominating Committee Report

Annual General Meeting

June 28, 2025

As per Article 2 of ACO's By-law, the affairs of Architectural Conservancy Ontario shall be managed by a Board composed of Directors elected as Officers, Directors-at-large, and Ex officio Directors.

- Elected Directors: Four (4) individuals elected by the Members to the roles of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Corporate Secretary and up to seven (7) Directors-at-large.
- Ex-officio Directors consisting of the Past Chair and Directors representing the Branches of the Corporation equivalent to the number of branches recognized by the Board each year.

Each Elected Director shall be elected by the Members to hold office for a two-year term and shall be eligible for re-election by the Annual Meeting of Members for a maximum of three consecutive terms. The Elected Directors plus the Past Chair form the Executive Committee of the Board.

The Governance and Nominating Committee proposes that the following members constitute the Executive Committee of the ACO Board of Directors for 2025 - 2026

Chair: Deb Crawford
Vice Chair:
Past Chair: Diane Chin
Treasurer: Taimoor Ali Kureshi *
Corporate Secretary: Jane Clark*
Director, Next Gen: Hayden Bulbrook*
Directors-at-large: Clint Robertson *
Directors-at-large: Christy Kirwan*

*These individuals are to be confirmed in their position.

Candidate Biographies:

CHAIR OF BOARD:

Deb Crawford

It wasn't until celebrating her retirement after 42 years of public service, that Deb had a chance to step back and begin to explore and genuinely appreciate the history of Ontario evident in the buildings and landscapes across the province.

Up until that time, beginning first in the northwestern part of the province, then in the southwest and central, Deb was employed in various management positions in the federal government. Regardless of the location Deb collaborated with community stakeholders to identify community labour market needs and prioritize the delivery of programs and services appropriately.

Throughout her public service career, Deb could be counted on to find ways to fix the problems. With a passionate belief that we all just try to do our best, a respect for diversity and the benefits of multi-disciplined teams, championing customer service excellence, and celebrating our success, led to new solutions for tough problems.

In 2007 Deb joined the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities as a provincial public service manager. She is the proud recipient of the Lifetime Achievement 2013 Realm Award. The award is given in recognition of “exemplifying collaboration, innovation, customer service, fostering a positive and diverse workplace, and inspiring others through an exceptional and impactful career with the Learning Ministries, demonstrating a consistently high level of achievement and outstanding contribution to the Ontario Public Service.”

Looking for something new and different post retirement, Deb became involved in a number of volunteer committees, but it was the invitation to be a member of the Innisfil Heritage Advisory Committee that began a new quest for knowledge. As chair or vice chair of the Innisfil Heritage Advisory Committee, Deb organized the activities of the committee to focus on researching and documenting properties to add to the heritage registry and advocated for the preservation of key properties and the reuse of 2 properties currently under development. She continues to be a strong voice and the defender of the jewel of Innisfil, the Cookstown Heritage Conservation District. Deb is an invited member of public planning consultations, development information meetings and working groups to represent the interests of Innisfil’s heritage community.

The search for knowledge, connections, advice, and stakeholder expertise led her to ACO in 2018. Deb has been a member of the Government and Community Relations Committee (GCRC) since its inception in 2020 and chair since spring 2022.

The recent tabling of changes to the Ontario Heritage Act (Bill23), is likely the harbinger of more changes to come. The importance of connecting ACO to all levels of government, and other like-minded organizations will be key to achieving ACO’s mission. The recent experience as lead of the working group creating ACO’s response to Bill 23 has given the GCRC a taste of what could be done.

As much as ACO’s public face as Ontario’s leading heritage organization is crucial, so too are the governance and financial aspects of the organization. Deb’s past experience as president,

director, or ex-officio on various not-for-profit boards of directors brings a different perspective to the challenges of communication, goal setting, and performance management.

Deb's first term on the ACO Board will end in 2026.

PAST CHAIR

Diane Chin, Hon. B.Sc, B.Ed., M.A., Library Specialist

Diane Chin has a long history in public administration as a school principal and leader in the school library community. In the latter capacity, advocating for the continuance of school libraries at the Ontario government level and school board level was one of her most critical duties, as school library funding was often considered for reduction. In order to increase the efficiency of libraries, she led the automation of those libraries, bringing them into the technological age.

Diane was a science and math graduate who initiated environmental studies courses in the 1980s when environmental science was in its infancy. She also had a passion for history and architecture: her first home in the Beaches in Toronto was a heritage home. Since retiring from education, Diane has thrust her energy into marrying her environmental science background and love of heritage into the work of ACO using skills learned in the library and education arenas.

Diane joined ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland in 2014 and was soon recruited for the branch executive. Chairing ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland from 2016 to 2020 was both an honour and a passion. Under her leadership the Certo building, fronted by a heavy Greek style colonnade on an early twentieth century industrial site owned most recently by Kraft Foods and subsequently sold, was saved from demolition. As a result of ACO and Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) presentations and advocacy, the building was designated and is currently undergoing restoration. In 2018, after almost two years of negotiation with Ontario Heritage Trust, ACO Cobourg & East Northumberland was granted permission to open Barnum House, a property which had spurred Eric Arthur to found ACO in 1933, for branch meetings and community events.

Diane currently lives in a century home in Cobourg. She is also Past Chair, for the Victoria Hall Volunteers. Diane is on the Board of the Cobourg & District Historical Society as well as the Cobourg Museum Foundation. Diane's third term on the ACO board will end in 2026.

TREASURER AND CHAIR OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Taimoor Ali Kureshi, CPA, CGA, FCCA-CCA, BSc. Applied Accounting

After a long search, Taimoor Ali Kureshi is recommended to be appointed to the position as Treasurer. Taimoor is the Treasurer of No Time for That, a NFP charity and holds a CPA, CGA designation from the Chartered Professional Accountants Association of Canada. He has over 7 years' experience in management accounting, financial planning analysis, profitability analysis and general accounting. He enjoys being part of a team environment as well as taking on challenges on his own. He has been shown to be a hard worker and meets deadlines efficiently. We look forward to working with him.

CORPORATE SECRETARY

Jane Clark, B.A. (Hons), B. Des., Paralegal Accelerated Diploma

Jane grew up in Oshawa, Ontario. Following university, she worked as an in-house editor for educational publishing companies in Toronto for about a decade before going freelance as a writer, editor, proofreader, and researcher. Jane joined her first historic-preservation battle, to save the Eglinton Theatre (now the Eglinton Grand), in the early 2000s.

In 2013, she was appointed to the Toronto & East York Community Preservation Panel, on which she continues to serve, currently as Treasurer. To assist her aging parents, Jane moved back to her home town in 2014, where, hoping to effect positive change from the inside, she served on Heritage Oshawa from 2016 to 2021 as the Chair of the Outreach and Education Committee. She has enjoyed organizing and hosting various heritage talks, panels, and forums for both organizations, as well as leading numerous walking tours for Jane's Walk and Heritage Toronto. For the last several years, she has researched, written, and produced heritage research reports for an independent heritage planner and consultant.

After bringing an appeal of a problematic designation to the OLT in 2021, Jane felt she could be more effective by understanding the legal process and policy underpinnings of municipal decisions. As a result, she enrolled in an accelerated paralegal program and obtained her paralegal (P1) license in March. As she begins a new career in the public service with the Ministry of the Attorney General, Jane continues in her free time to advocate for heritage properties and for the neighbourhoods they grace, and to learn how to do so more effectively.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE NEXTGEN

Hayden Bulbrook, MA, BA

Hayden holds a Master of Arts in History from the University of Waterloo and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from the University of Ottawa.

He currently works as a Cultural Heritage Project Lead at TMHC Inc. where he is involved in drafting cultural heritage evaluation reports, heritage impact assessments, and other reports. Hayden has actively participated as an executive member for the Stratford-Perth branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and was a jury member for the 2023 ACO Heritage Awards.

With a passion for architectural photography, he works on digital history projects that showcase Ontario's architectural history and has published historical columns in ACORN Magazine, the Stratford Times, and the Stratford-Perth ACO publication More Than Bricks & Mortar. He is also a general member of the Toronto Society of Architects and the Canadian Business History Association.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Christy Kirwan, BA, Diploma in Heritage Conservation

"Christy is a Heritage Planner with MHBC who joined the firm in 2023. She holds a Diploma in Heritage Conservation from the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts and a Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of California: Santa Cruz where she graduated cum laude with Department Honours and College Honours. Christy has experience in research and report writing for both public and private sector clients. She has completed historical research, inventory work, and evaluation on a variety of projects, including cultural heritage landscapes, cultural heritage evaluation reports, and heritage impact assessments. Prior to joining MHBC, Christy gained experience as a Heritage Intern for the Town of Grimsby. She has also received hands-on training from the Messors Field School in art and monument restoration and previously worked in the skilled trades restoring heritage buildings and fine furniture. Prior to refocusing on heritage as part of a career change, Christy worked in marketing and advertising within the publishing industry in San Francisco."

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Clint Robertson, Master of Tourism Administration, Graduate Diploma Urban Studies

Clint works as a Heritage Planner for the city of Toronto and is a member of the Windsor Branch of ACO. He has worked as a Planner for over 15 years including in Amherstburg and Calgary, Alberta. He is also a member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Planners (CAHP). Clint is also involved with the National Trust and sits on the Federal Issues Working Group Committee. He has also served on many Not for Profit Boards including CAHP and was a director for Heritage Vancouver Society. Clint has worked with ACO on Heritage Advocacy Day in the past.

THANK YOU: TO THE FOLLOWING:

We wish to thank the following for their service for many years

ALISON DRUMMOND

I would like to take this opportunity to thank on behalf of the Board, Alison Drummond who led the G & CR Committee during our successful campaign to protect the listed heritage properties of Ontario. Alison's understanding of the workings of government was invaluable in that challenge. Alison will be remaining on the Policy Committee for which we are very appreciative. We wish Alison a great deal of success in her new role as the Executive Director of the Ontario Museum Association.

EBEN RAWLUK

Eben Rawluk has served on the Board as Treasurer for the past 6 years. He has served during years of change and challenges including Covid. During his stewardship we were finally able to wrestle the challenges of the audit to the ground culminating in the positive audit result from CRA that was completed in September 2024. As Treasurer he led the Finance & Audit Committee as well as attending 8 Board and Executive meetings per year. He assisted in supporting the Branches as well as staff. We are very appreciative of his outstanding work and commitment to ACO. We thank him for his tremendous service to our organization. Eben's work is not done. He will be assisting in the orientation of Taimoor to his new role beginning May 2025.

IAN WORTE

Ian has served on the Board for two years as a Director at Large and as Corporate Secretary. As a Director at Large he has shared his vast experience in Not for Profits along with his common sense, enabling the Board to go forward during many discussions. We thank Ian for his two years of service both as a Director and for his work on the Education Committee and wish him well in his very busy and varied career.

MARLEE ROBINSON

Marlee Robinson is a retired art historian/curator, event planner and journalist. In 2007 Marlee Robinson moved to her family's heritage farmhouse after 35 years living abroad in London England and Bermuda. She immediately became involved in trying to prevent demolition of Ridgetown's Erie Street United Church – a church worked on by noted architect William Malcolmson. Although that battle was lost, it succeeded in introducing Marlee to Catherine Nasmith and the ACO. Together with other local heritage enthusiasts, Marlee was instrumental in opening a Chatham-Kent branch of the ACO. She served as Vice-President and then President of the branch – a branch which sadly closed in 2019 due to falling membership.

Marlee was Co-Chair of the 2010 Ontario Heritage Conference with a rural theme looking in depth at barns and other rural outbuildings, places of worship and the architecture of Kent County. The committee incorporated a youth programme, green options and an innovative partners' programme. With support from Ontario Heritage Trust, the threatened Highgate United Church, a rare round building, was the focus of an intensive evaluation at the

conference. (It has just celebrated its 10th anniversary as the Mary Webb Cultural and Community Centre).

Marlee has been an advocacy resource for the Chatham-Kent Heritage Committee, Chair of the 1874 Ridge House Museum Advisory Committee and organizer of Ridgetown's Festival of Porches & Verandahs celebrating the town's Victorian architecture. In addition to being an Executive Committee member, Marlee is founding chair of ACO's Government and Community Relations Committee, a member of ACO's Ontario Place Committee, and member of the 2022 Ontario Heritage Conference planning committee.

Marlee is an active member of the ACO Windsor branch. She welcomes the chance to continue to be connected with ACO, particularly as a voice for rural communities and for southwestern Ontario.

Marlee's third term on the ACO Board ends in 2025.

Motion to approve the following Directors: Made by Diane Chin Seconded:

The Governance and Nominating Committee proposes that the following members constitute the Executive Committee of the ACO Board of Directors for 2025-2026. Taimoor Ali Kureshi, Christy Kirwan, and Hayden Bulbrook who held interim positions pending this AGM and Jane Clark moving to the role of Corporate Secretary

Chair: Deb Crawford

Past Chair: Diane Chin

Treasurer: Taimoor Ali Kureshi *

Corporate Secretary: Jane Clark*

Director, NextGen: Hayden Bulbrook*

Directors-at-large: Clint Robertson* and Christy Kirwan*

*New Directors or new to the role