



Architectural Conservancy Ontario

## **Nominating Committee Report**

Annual General Meeting

June 24, 2023

**ARCHITECTURAL  
CONSERVANCY  
ONTARIO**

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 2023-2024.**

Chair: Diane Chin  
Vice Chair: Deb Crawford  
Treasurer: Eben Rawluk  
Corporate Secretary: Sarah Shepherd  
Director, NextGen: Alex Sostar  
Directors-at-large: Dawn Newlands Doug Evans Ian Worte Marlee Robinson

#### Candidate Biographies

##### CHAIR OF BOARD

##### **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 Chair, Volunteers for Cobourg's Victoria Hall. Diane's second term on the ACO board will end in 2025.

#### VICE CHAIR

##### **Deb Crawford**

It wasn't until celebrating her retirement after 42 years of public service, that Deb had 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 2025.

#### TREASURER AND CHAIR OF FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

##### **Eben Rawluk B. Com ( Hon), CPA**

Eben Rawluk is the Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, and became a member of ACO in 2020. Eben's interest in ACO stems from his time in Winnipeg, Manitoba working as a tour guide sharing the city's stories and culture through its heritage buildings and spaces. Through moves to Calgary and later Toronto, his appreciation for the importance of preserving our collective history and culture continued to grow as he had the opportunity to benefit from the hard work of organizations like ACO across the country. Upon discovery of ACO, Eben was eager to contribute to the organization's continued success.

Eben is a Manager of Finance at Hennick & Company, a privately held company investing in businesses across a range of industries and real estate. Here he is responsible for the origination and due diligence of new investments, as well as monitoring and financial reporting for existing investments. Previously, Eben worked at Ernst & Young, working with clients in the public and private sectors in the areas of finance transformation, process improvement, and performance measurement.

Eben holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from the University of Manitoba and is a Chartered Professional Accountant. Eben's second term on the ACO Board will end in 2024.

#### CORPORATE SECRETARY

##### **Sarah Shepherd Hons. BA**

Sarah Shepherd joined Architectural Conservancy Ontario in 2019 as a member of the Finance Committee.

Currently, Sarah works at Manulife as Assistant Vice-President, Human Resources Transformation and Employee Enablement. Previously, she worked as a Senior Manager at Accenture, a global management consultancy, engaging with clients across a variety of industries, including not-for-profit organizations, in Canada, the US and the UK. Sarah's experience is supporting teams and clients in areas of change management, employee experience, human-centered design, organizational transformation and design. With a degree in history and political science, Sarah is passionate about preserving our social history, believing our past is critical to understanding our future.

During her free time, Sarah enjoys camping, reading, writing and exploring the nooks and crannies of not only Toronto, but places around the world. Sarah earned an Honours BA in history and political science from McMaster University.

Sarah's second term on the ACO Board will end in 2024.

#### NEXTGEN BOARD MEMBER

##### **Alex Sostar BDes, Environmental Design**

Alex is the current Chair of ACO NextGen. A long time participant in NextGen events, she joined the group's executive board in September 2020 as the Director of Programming & Events, before stepping into the role of Chair in 2021.

Alex has a long standing passion for architecture and design, and developed an early appreciation for heritage growing up in Galt, Ontario. She is particularly drawn to adaptive reuse projects, and the intersections between heritage conservation and sustainability. She discovered a love of archival rabbit holes during her final years at OCAD University, while working in Toronto's Distillery District, and dedicated her thesis project to the nearby Rack House D and adjacent sites. She now counts the historic Allan Gardens as her backyard and hopes to advocate for heritage conservation in our constantly evolving city.

Alex recently joined international law firm Gowling WLG as their Market Recognition Specialist, responsible for automating and managing directory and award submissions for their offices across Canada. Previously, she worked at ZSA Legal Recruitment where she coordinated with stakeholders, board members, and the Canadian in-house legal community to execute ZSA's programming across the country, including their national event, the Canadian General Counsel Awards. ACO has provided the opportunity to combine her educational background and interests, with her current skills in project management, programming and events.

Alex holds a Bachelor of Design in Environmental Design from OCAD University. She has since completed two certificates through the G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education in Advanced Architecture, and Architectural Preservation & Conservation. Alex hopes to find her place somewhere between architectural design, adaptive reuse and advocacy work.

Alex's first term on the board will end in 2024.

#### BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

##### **Dawn Newlands, MBA, LLB (Hons), Chartered FCIPD, CHRL**

Dawn recently held positions as Vice President Risk Management and Vice President HR for ECMI one of North America's largest family-owned and operated new home builders. Previously Dawn held a number of senior HR and Consulting roles with various companies including Livingston International, Thyssenkrupp and Hugo Boss Canada. Dawn is passionate about ensuring HR meets the needs of each individual business and uses her extensive experience in transformations and mergers and acquisitions to help companies grow.

Dawn holds an LLB (Hons) from Northumbria University, UK and an MBA from Schulich School of Business. She is also a Chartered Fellow of the CIPD in the UK and holds the CHRL designation. She is also a volunteer member of the Appeals Committee of the Human Resources Professional Association since 2018.

Her passion for architecture and history framed from an early age by visiting the dilapidated Gibside estate, a former grand Georgian estate designed by George Bowes, close to her home. The estate was taken over by the National Trust in the 1980s with a plan to restore it to its former glory. Dawn lives in the village of Swansea and is passionate about preserving the unique nature of the area and surrounding treescapes.

An avid runner Dawn enjoys daily runs through High Park, cycling along the Lakeshore and generally enjoying the great outdoors.

Dawn's first term on the ACO board will end in 2025.

##### **Doug Evans BES, BArch, AAGradDipl**

Doug is a conservation architect, now retired, with over 40 years experience in the construction industry including 37 years specialist professional experience in the conservation, repair and adaptive reuse of ancient monuments and historic buildings. He has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies and Bachelor of Architecture from University of Waterloo, and a post-graduate degree in Building Conservation from the Architectural Association, London England.

Between 1982 and 2018, Doug worked for architectural practices in the UK on a wide range of historic buildings and ancient monuments. Several received prestigious awards including: Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) 2017 Yorkshire Award and Yorkshire Conservation Award

for the Re-ordering of Wakefield Cathedral, RIBA National Award 2015 for the Sheffield Cathedral Gateway Project, Wakefield Civic Trust Design Award 2014 for the Wakefield Cathedral Nave Re-ordering, Sussex Heritage Trust Award 2013 for The Great Barn, Great Dixter, Sussex Heritage Trust Award 2012 for Dixter Farm, Great Dixter House and Gardens.

Now retired and based in Bruce County (Walkerton), Doug is an expert member of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and Chair of ICOMOS Canada and ICOMOS-UK Wood Committees. He was a trustee of ICOMOS-UK and Treasurer and Vice-President of the ICOMOS International Wood Committee 2017-2021.

Doug is a member of ACO's Policy Committee. His second term on the ACO Board will end in 2024.

### **Ian Worte MA, MEd**

Ian Worte is a researcher who works in the economic and destination development field, and is passionate about tangible and intangible cultural heritage. He currently works for the Culinary Tourism Alliance, an Ontario-based nonprofit. In this role, he combines his extensive research experience and economic development skills with his passion for helping communities become more vibrant and prosperous through understanding and elevating the unique aspects of their culture, geography and built environment.

Ian studied public affairs and policy management at Carleton University, before going on to complete a Masters degree in Political Science at the University of Toronto. After graduating, he became a public opinion researcher at one of Canada's leading polling firms. One of the highlights of Ian's early career was in 2011, when he had the privilege of traveling to South Sudan shortly after it gained independence to help manage the country's first ever national public opinion research project. Since then, he has worked as a research consultant, a conference developer, and more recently in a research and economic data analysis role with a nonprofit Ontario construction industry organization.

Periodically, Ian has worked as a political organizer. An early highlight of his political activity was traveling across the United States as a campaign organizer on Barack Obama's first presidential campaign, where he was one of the first Canadians to be involved at the grassroots level. Ian returned to the political world a decade later to manage a successful mayoral campaign in Orangeville, Ontario in 2018.

During the pandemic, Ian returned to school to complete a Master of Economic Development & Innovation degree at the University of Waterloo. He focused his studies on the importance of cultural heritage to economic development and tourism, and explored the impact that adaptive reuse can have on economic development and tourism, particularly in small towns.

While Ian has always loved exploring historic buildings and architecture, heritage conservation, and cultural landscapes, he did not consider it as an interest he could pursue in a professional or volunteer capacity until he was inspired by a Cultural Heritage Planning course that he took

at the University of Waterloo. Since then, Ian has continued to pursue his passion for heritage conservation, most recently, by volunteering for the ACO's Education Committee.

Ian's first term on the board will end in 2025.

**Marlee Robinson BA, Diplôme d'études, Sorbonne**

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).

In addition, Marlee led initiatives to save several important buildings – often using the ACO Preservation Works! program – and has been a contributor to ACORN a number of times. In April 2014 Marlee organized A Heritage Primer for Realtors and Insurance Professionals – a day-long programme in a rescued Morpeth church which featured speakers architect Chris Borgal, Jim Leonard from the Ontario Heritage Trust, Marcus Létourneau from OAHP, Heritage Coordinator Dave Benson and Chatham-Kent Planner Brian Nagata. The event drew delegates from Windsor, Stratford, Kingsville, Tecumseh, London, Guelph and Sarnia.

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 will end in 2025.

