THERE ARE MANY fine homes of stature and prestige in Hamilton that have defining heritage features and specific legacies. These legacies may reflect the trail of ownership through archival documentation and land deeds or the rare status of a residence that has been designated a “royal home” to be offered for use by visiting royalty. These homes serve as “social registries” that tell the stories of who dined at the banquet table and regaled their hosts with the politics of the day.

Visitors to Auchmar over the years have included Lord Dufferin, Sir George-Étienne Cartier, Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Allan MacNab and Pope John Paul II when he was Cardinal. Black people were recognized at Auchmar on the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Occasionally, a home will present a different measure of importance accrued over the years; such as a vault or safe. Within these vaults and safes, significant documents, correspondence, currency and valuables would be housed.

McMaster University had a safe installed when it opened in Hamilton. Harry Frost, who was the driving force behind the building of the Royal Connaught Hotel, had a safe put into his home on Markland Avenue in the Undermount area. And the Buchanan family installed a safe at the Auchmar Estate.
This work was completed to satisfaction by Goldie & McCulloch Co. Ltd. of Galt Ontario.

By 1919, after sixty years in business, Goldie & McCulloch had become a major manufacturing company of national importance.

Among its product lines were steam engines and turbines, millstones, tannery equipment and a highly profitable line of safe doors.

In 1923, three years before Elsie Buchanan sold Auchmar, Goldie & McCulloch joined with Babcock & Wilcox. The new company took the name Babcock and Wilcox and continued to operate at its South Works location until the building was sold in 1987.

When you have the opportunity to tour inside the Auchmar Manor House, look for the Buchanan safe located on the first floor in the north wing. According to the blueprints, it is listed as Room 116.

THE HONOURABLE ISAAC BUCHANAN
Tracing His Legacy

ARE YOU FOLLOWING the footsteps and carriage pathways of Isaac Buchanan through the early years of Hamilton and visiting the places that honour his name? Buchanan’s contributions to the city are acknowledged in many ways, some public and some private.
Today, you can drive through the Durand neighbourhood and up the James Street hill to Auchmar and pass by the 19th century Hamilton of Isaac Buchanan.

**The Buchanan Family Bible**
Faith was a cornerstone of life embraced by many families of this era, including the Clan Buchanan. A family Bible passed down by generations was revered and held dear.

James Isaac Buchanan, son of Isaac, was a banker in Philadelphia who returned to Hamilton and purchased Auchmar, bringing it back into the family. He was a mason who was instrumental in the Hamilton Masonic Lodge District. Lodge No 550 was renamed Buchanan Lodge and the family Bible was presented to it in 1958.

Beneath the letterhead of F.R. Lee, Edgemont Farm, Crown Grant 1801, Stoney Creek, Ontario, the following words were typed:

*This Bible was given to the late Col. James Chisholm, Past Master of St. John’s Lodge, No. 40, by Miss Elsie Buchanan, the last member of the Buchanan family. On Col. Chisholm’s death, it passed onto his nephew, Frank R. Lee, Past Master of Wentworth Lodge, No. 166, who in turn presented it to the Buchanan Lodge, April 3, 1958.*

**The 13th Battalion**
Isaac Buchanan founded the Volunteer Militia and served as commanding officer. Formed it would be involved in the Battle of Ridgeway. From its beginnings decades it has served with honour and valour. We know it today as the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, Wentworth Regiment.
The Isaac Buchanan Portrait
In September 2013, with the 13th Battalion Ceremonial Guard in attendance, the portrait of Isaac Buchanan was unveiled in the foyer of Buchanan Park Public School on Hamilton Mountain at 30 Laurier Avenue.

In 2001, the Ontario Heritage Society gifted the portrait to the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society. It was looked after by members of the Bailey family and loaned to the school by the society. It is on public display until Auchmar is restored.

Community Builder
Isaac Buchanan was the first president of The Hamilton Club and the founder of the Hamilton Board of Trade. Look for the modern locations of the club and Hamilton Chamber of Commerce. The lands now occupied by St. Joseph’s Hospital West 5th Campus and Century Manor once belonged to Isaac Buchanan. Auchmar Road is named after his Manor House. Claremont Drive is named for Claremont Park. The Buchanan Park neighbourhood honours him.

In today’s Durand neighbourhood, the land for MacNab Presbyterian Church (pictured to left) was donated by Isaac Buchanan.

The economic downturn of the 1870s forced Isaac Buchanan to sell off lands and other assets to cover the debts he had outstanding. Once all debts had been paid, he moved below the mountain onto what is now James Street South.

Though the street numbers have changed, the building he lived in is still here. We know it today as Radius.
THE FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR and its Board of Directors continue to make the case to maintain the entire Auchmar Estate in public ownership and ensure its appropriate adaptive reuse under the terms of the Ontario Heritage Trust easement.

The following is a brief timeline of our recent activities:

January 2016: Attended a public forum hosted by the City of Hamilton to discuss and provide input into the Auchmar Estate Operational Plan prepared by the Culture Division.

May 2016: Held a community meeting at The Hamilton Club. The topic was “The Case for Public Ownership.” Guest speakers included Marvin Ryder (McMaster University, DeGroote School of Business), Jeff Feswick (Historia Building Restoration) and Alexander Temporale (ATA Architects Inc.).

June 2016: Made a delegation at the General Issues Committee meeting of Hamilton City Council and influenced council’s decision to keep Auchmar in public ownership.

July 2016: Urbancity magazine published an article authored by board member Richard Allen titled “Advancing Auchmar: The Importance of Public Ownership for Hamilton’s Grand Estate.”
THE PHOTO GALLERY
Do you have a favourite photo? Recognize the individuals in the photos below? Let us know.
IT WAS MAY 2016. Excitement and anticipation permeated the air and shops of downtown Paris. People were talking. Many had driven or walked over to 31 Mechanic Street previously to watch a landmark slowly re-invent itself.

The Paris Wincey Mills Co. was a few days away from the soft launch.

The anchor tenants, those who believed in the adaptive re-use vision of Wingbury Property Ltd., were in place and made last minute adjustments.

The vision is of an urban market, located within a restored industrial building, with retailers, crafters and artisans, and boutique vendors. Business and office space is available to lease on the second and third floors.

Why is there support for Wincey Mills? The Town Council believed in it. Residents believed in the future benefits, both short and long term. Wingbury, true to its word, respected the building’s valuable heritage.

**Architectural Elements**
The metal panels installed by Canadian Tire over the large windows were removed. The original windows on the main floor were restored and reinstalled.

The century old wooden floors and thick timber posts and beams were kept. The original brickwork and mechanical were left exposed in parts of the building.

Glass was installed in the new elevator which allows tenants and visitors to view the old elevator shafts. Belt drives once used in the mills were mounted on the ceilings.

**History**
Steve Pinkett, Chair of the County of Brantford Heritage Committee, noted that the Wincey Mills was at one time a large complex of six buildings. This is the one that survived.
Founded in 1889, it began by manufacturing yarn goods. When the Great War began, it secured a contract for military uniforms and the supply of khaki. Expansion occurred and the labour force rose to 125. It made it through the Great Depression and even managed to increase wages at that time. By the 1950s, orders were diminishing for Wincey, as with other mills across North America, and the writing was on the wall. The doors closed in 1959.

Canadian Tire moved there in 1972 and stayed for four decades. After two years of restoration and renovation, The Paris Wincey Mills Co. is once again open for business!
CONTACT US
Looking to reach us and not sure how? Want to attend our public meetings? Would you just like a little bit of information? Do you have a comment? Would you like to become involved? Have you got a story or memory about Auchmar that you want to share?

Here are the ways:

Website: www.friendsofauchmar.ca
General Information E Mail: info@friendsofauchmar.ca
Membership: membership@friendsofauchmar.ca
Twitter: @FOAuchmar.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofauchmar

PHOTO CREDITS
Page 5. Gwyneth Owen Young personal collection (Published in Urbanicity, May 3, 2011).