



## ***AUCHMAR ADVOCATE***

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## ***BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR***

**Inside the Auchmar Manor House: Winds of Change**

**1936. THE DAYS OF NOVEMBER** gave way to the snows of December. Christmas came. The families gathered at Auchmar. Throughout the house, the rooms were filled with conversations and laughter which echoed down the hallway.

Harry Greening, who had retired from racing seven years earlier, told all who were interested about the Rainbow IV, the fastest boat on the water in 1924. And about Rainbow IX, which was launched two years ago at the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club. Among those who hung onto his every word, was his nephew, Bill Braden.

Gwyneth and Suzanne were at the stables.

Norm and Mabel Braden sat with Edna. What was happening to the Monarchy? The papers were filled with news of Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson. Edward VIII had abdicated the Royal Throne of England, two weeks earlier, on December 11, - shocking news indeed.

William Lyon MacKenzie King, was once again, Prime Minister of Canada. Across the ocean, in Europe, there were whisperings and signs of discontentment. In Berlin, this past August, the Summer Games of the XI Olympiad thinly veiled the intentions of Germany.

Possibly, “Bill” (James Vernon Young) made a mental note to himself- call Harry. Harry (Henry) Crerar , who was Secretary of the Joint Staff Committee, was a close family friend. He would speak with Harry or cable him before he left for England next year and a brief tour of Germany.

Gladys Greening joined the other ladies and their daughters. Gwyneth and Suzanne warmed up and joined the group. Norman excused himself and sought out “Pete” (Alan Vernon Young).

The Horse Palace, which had opened in 1931, was a grand venue.

At the Royal Winter Fair, the previous month, Harry Embleton and others made sure the Edna’s horses were ready. The competition in Dressage, Jumping and Equestrian was top notch this year. The Auchmar stable showed very well and received some honours. Much was made about Dorindale of London, Ontario and young Dorinda “Dinnie” Brickenden.



Gwyneth had become an accomplished rider as was her mother, Edna. Possibly, they knew Dorinda, who would make her mark at the Royal and become well known in equestrian circles among others.

Dorinda “Dinnie” Greenway still rode frequently in her 96<sup>th</sup> year. She spoke with Amanda Margison of the CBC for an interview in October 2016 and recalled the 1936 Olympics.

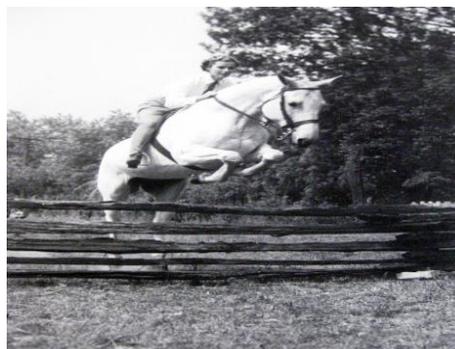
“At 16, she recalls training horses at the 1936 Olympics, where her eyes were opened to the horrors of the upcoming war; ‘Hitler made this terrible speech and that afternoon, Jesse Owens won and we all cheered, and I thought, I will never forget this.’ in vivid details 80 years later.”

She spoke of Dorindale and MacKenzie King; ‘Horses were the focus at Dorindale.’ MacKenzie King stayed at Dorindale. “He wrote a book, we had to study in high school, he wrote beautifully, and portions of it were written at Dorindale.”

When the whisperings of discontentment became the storm clouds of war and battle three years later, the families would see their sons and daughters wear the services’ uniforms. Doug, Bill, Will, Owen, James Mason and Mike would all cross the ocean to the battle theatres of Europe. Others would serve on the homefront.



Dinnie Greenway



Gwyneth Owen Young

# VOICES OF AUCHMAR

## Familial Narratives and Memories: Brushstrokes

**THE FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR** hosted its Spring/Summer Meeting at the Auchmar Manor House on June 23, 2018. The theme of the meeting was “Voices of Auchmar” which included oral histories, reminiscences, stories and memories from friends such Gwen Vasseur, Ken Watson, and Rod Douglas.

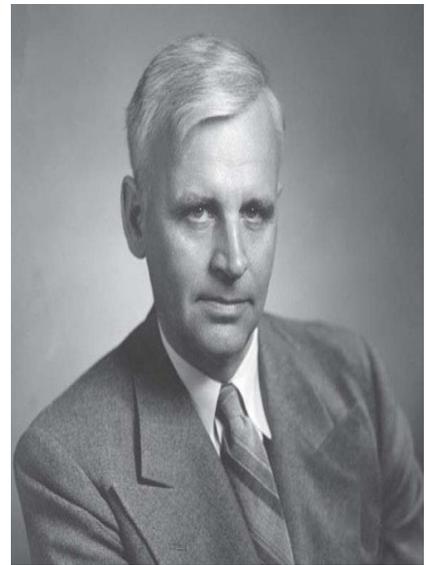
Among the friends of the Young family were Frank and Katherine Panabaker. Gwyneth Young (Rod’s mother) took painting lessons from Frank Panabaker and demonstrated much skill. Among her portfolio is a landscape painting of the manor house and part of the grounds.

The following excerpt is from Rod Douglas’ recollections about Auchmar and Frank Panabaker.

*... ”we only knew Auchmar as the place our grandparents and mother and her siblings lived on prior to WWII.*

*Regarding Frank Panabaker, he, and his lovely wife, were indeed friends of my grandparents, and in fact they were friends of my other grandparents and both the Dalley and Greening families that formed my sister’ and my blood lines.*

*Regarding the painting you mentioned (and where I have to assume you mean the self portrait of mother with Frank sticking his head around the door frame behind mother’s position) it was painted in a room either at Auchmar, Edgecliffe, or possibly at Chedoke or the Greening family home in between Chedoke and Edgecliffe.*



*Mother was just one of a number of pupils that Frank taught, and the locations I believe varied between those locations. When all of this took place, I don’t have a clue, but I suspect that some of the lessons were organized by a co-ordinated effort of Mrs. Ethel Balfour, Gladys Greening and my grandmother Edna Young.*

*Mother may have subsequently taken further lessons on her own later in her life*

*The story (and I’m sure it is somewhat enhanced) is that Frank asked mother to go out and fetch a coffee (or possibly a martini) and in the meantime he quickly painted himself into the picture as a joke.”*

*I'm sorry I cannot be there on Saturday, but we may try to swing by for the open house on Sunday.*

*Regards,*

*Rod*

Rod Douglas kindly emailed his recollections to be shared at the meeting.



*Gwyneth took lessons from renowned Hamilton painter Frank Panabaker when she was young. She did this painting of Auchmar.*

## **PHOTO GALLERY**

A few photographs of the grounds of the estate.



# **RESTORATION OF THE VIMY MEMORIAL**

## **The Friends of Auchmar Annual General Meeting**

The Friends of Auchmar Annual General Meeting was held at the Hamilton Club on October 17, 2018. Prior to the Keynote Address, a brief business meeting was held where reports were received from the Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Co-ordinator. Diane Dent gave the Chair's Address which highlighted the activities of the Friends of Auchmar during the past year.

The slate of directors for the executive and members at large was presented to the membership. There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of directors and members at large was acclaimed for a two (2) year term (October 2018- October 2020).

Dr. Julian Smith, Dean of the Willowbank School of Restorative Arts in Queenston was the keynote speaker.

His address and presentation about the Restoration of the Vimy Memorial was well received and numerous questions were posed to Dr. Smith during the question and answer session.

The Friends of Auchmar presented Dr. Smith with a donation to the Vimy Memorial Foundation.

Many guests and members stayed a little later after the formal conclusion of the meeting to talk more about the Vimy Memorial Restoration.



## CONTACT US

**LOOKING TO REACH** the Friends of Auchmar and not sure how? Do you want to attend our public meeting? Would you like a little bit of information? Do you have a comment? Would you like to become involved? Do you have a memory or story about Auchmar that you wish to share?

Here are the ways:

Website: [www.friendsofauchmar.ca](http://www.friendsofauchmar.ca)

General Information Email: [info@friendsofauchmar.ca](mailto:info@friendsofauchmar.ca)

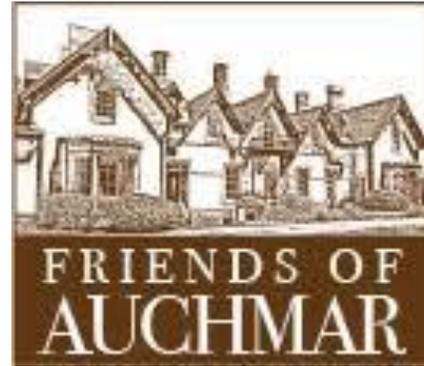
Membership: [membership@friendsofauchmar.ca](mailto:membership@friendsofauchmar.ca)

Twitter: @FOAuchmar.ca

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/friendsofauchmar](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofauchmar)

OR

Just come up and speak with us.



## PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1 The Lights of Auchmar (Sourced at Friends of Auchmar)

Page 2 1931 Royal Winter Fair Poster (magnoliabox.com), “Dinnie” Greenway (equineink.com), Gwyneth Owen Young (Gwyneth Young Private Collection, Urbanicity, May 2011).

Page 3 Frank Panabaker (creations-gallery.com) Gwyneth Owen Young (Gwyneth Young Private Collection).

Page 4 Landscape Painting (Gwyneth Owen Young Private Collection, Urbanicity, May 2011)

Page 5 Dr Julian Smith, Dean, Willowbank School of Restorative Arts (Friends of Auchmar)

Page 6 Mountainview Hotel and Claremont Drive (Sourced at Friends of Auchmar)

