



AUCHMAR ADVOCATE

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BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR

Inside The Auchmar Manor House: Winds of Change

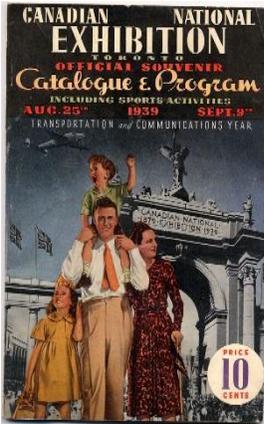
1939. THE EATON COMPANY calendar indicated that it was winter as did the catalogue. It was March. Outside, the snow was melting and the first of the spring birds had arrived. In the distance, the cardinals sang among the trees.

Edna Young sat with her sister Mabel Braden. Both ladies talked about their families and how quickly the years went by. It seemed like the blinking of an eye and all the children had grown up. So, it came as no surprise, when Bill Braden announced to the families, what everyone already knew, that he was serious about Joan McColl.

A week earlier, on March 12, Bill officially announced his engagement to Joan Gwendolyn McColl of Toronto. The wedding date would be on December 2nd of this year and the ceremony would be at Grace-Church-on-the-Hill in Toronto.

Prime Minister MacKenzie King attended the coronation of King George VI in 1937. At the time, on behalf of the Canadian Government, he extended an invitation to visit Canada. Now, with the Munich Crisis of 1938 behind them, the Royal Visit would occur in the Spring of 1939.

The Royal Visit crossed Canada from coast to coast during May and June. On June 7, the Royal Visit came to Hamilton. CKOC and CHML provided coverage of the visit. The streets were packed with about 300,000 people and the Hamilton Half Company of the RCNVR paraded in honour of the King and Queen.



Bill Braden worked for the B. Greening Wire Company. On the weekends, he spent his time “tinkering” with engines, motors, and speedboats. By mid June, some of the family would be heading to the summer places on Lake Muskoka. He and Joan would arrange to be there for a week or so.

In August, during the Canadian National Exhibition, he competed in the speedboat races and won the World’s Championship. This victory was a harbinger of the success that Bill would achieve in the world of speedboat racing.

During these idyllic summer days, there was an uneasiness across the country. Would the Depression continue or would Canada be called upon to send another generation overseas to the battlefields of Europe?

Abruptly, the war came home.

On September 3, 1939, the passenger liner SS Athenia was torpedoed. Close to 1,400 lives were in jeopardy. Margaret Hayworth, a 10 year old girl from Hamilton, was injured and later succumbed to her injuries. She was among the first Canadian casualties of the war.

She arrived at the C.N.R. station with her grieving family on September 15. The Hamilton Spectator covered Margaret’s well attended funeral service in detail.

Within the next two years, the sons and daughters of the Young, Greening, Braden, Watson, Bull and McColl families would be overseas and stationed in England, France, Italy, Belgium and Holland.

The summer on Vernon Island was enjoyable. The weeks went by effortlessly and the long days of summer, filled with boating, conversations, dinners and parties, drew to an end. Autumn was in the air.

Autumn settled in with its own rhythms. Thanksgiving came and the families gathered. Alan and Edna Young may have known already that a wedding was in Gwyneth’s future. The songbirds had started their migrations.

In late November, Bill’s friends gathered to commemorate his upcoming wedding with a party. Many martinis were poured from a silver martini shaker engraved with the initials W.G.B.

After their honeymoon in Havana, Cuba, Bill and Joan Braden took up residence on Kent Street, while a larger home was built in Waterdown.



AUCHMAR IN THE NEWS

A Brief Digest of Decisions and Events.

THIS DIGEST HIGHLIGHTS Auchmar related developments which occurred during the past six months.

The 13th Battalion Auchmar Heritage Trust.

The 13th Battalion Auchmar Heritage Trust was unsuccessful with its' business plan to lease Auchmar and proceed with its vision of adaptive reuse of Auchmar Estate.



The City of Hamilton

The City of Hamilton Council declines the 13th Battalion Auchmar Heritage Trust proposal for Auchmar Estate.

The City of Hamilton Council votes to keep Auchmar Estate in public hands and city owned. Council directs staff to develop 10 year plan for Auchmar Estate.



Jane's Walk at Auchmar

A Jane's Walk will be held at Auchmar Estate on May 4, 2019.



Doors Open Hamilton – Auchmar

Auchmar Estate will participate in Doors Open Hamilton on May 3 and May 4, 2019. Hours are 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.



DOORS OPEN HAMILTON -AUCHMAR

THE FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR was proud to act as a “Host” at Auchmar Estate during Doors Open Hamilton on the first weekend of May 2019.

The Ontario Heritage Trust compiles data from all cities and towns that participate in Doors Open and profiles the most visited sites in each community.

Previously, when Auchmar Estate was included in Doors Open Hamilton, over 2,700 people visited the manor house and grounds – a resounding success.



Once again, this year, the halls, stairways, grounds and rooms of Auchmar were filled with many return visitors and those who said that Auchmar was “their must see” site of the weekend.

Questions were answered, stories were exchanged and memories shared; all of which contributed to a successful and eclectic event.



Thank you to the City of Hamilton for providing The Friends of Auchmar this opportunity and support. Thank you to the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce for the loan of the portrait of Isaac Buchanan.

Special thank you to Norris Podetz for demonstrating his artwork of Auchmar, Bill King for his book, Buchanan of Auchmar and to Gwen Vasserur and her family for sharing and displaying their family archive about Elsie Buchanan.

Thank you to so many, many others who contributed in their own fashion to ensure a memorable visit.

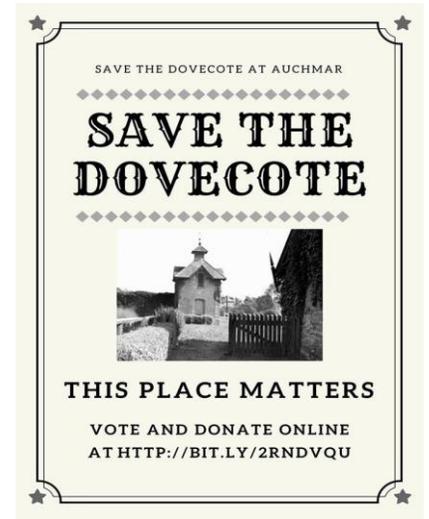
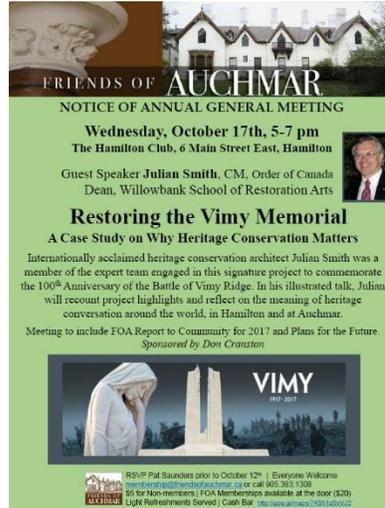
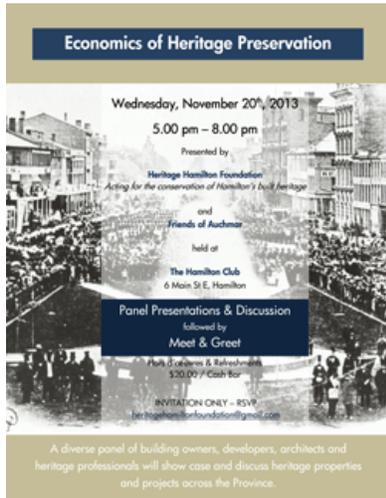
AUCHMAR ON SCREEN

THE FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR BOARD is in preliminary planning for the event with the working title of Auchmar on Screen. Conceptually, three ideas are pursued concurrently. They are a) a panel discussion with film companies which have used Auchmar, b) an evening with Murdoch Mysteries and c) Auchmar -the War Years which will feature the home movies of Dr. Philip Voelker.



THE PHOTO GALLERY

The photo gallery is a retrospective which portrays and highlights some of the history of the Friends of Auchmar and the events it has held.



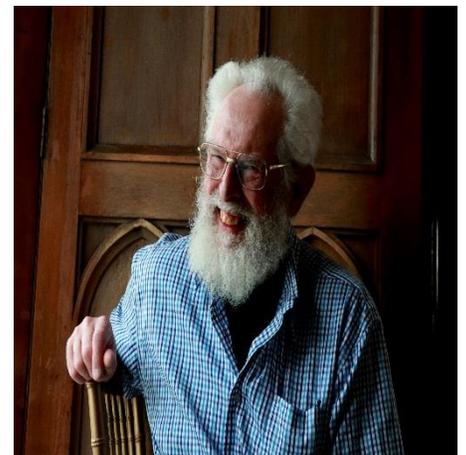
Voices of Auchmar Speaker Series



Doug Embleton



Gwen Vasseur



Ken Watson

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

General Information Email: info@friendsofauchmar.ca

Membership: membership@friendsofauchmar.ca

Twitter: @FOAuchmar.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofauchmar

OR

Just come up and speak with us.

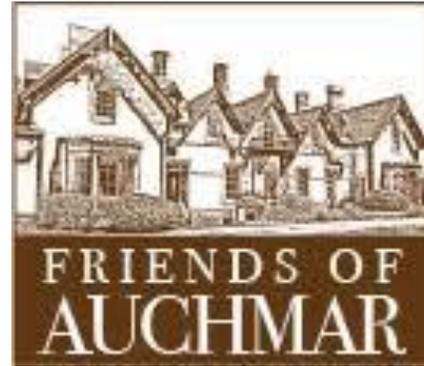


PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1 The Gate Post, Roof Finial (ancestralroofs.blogspot.com) Auchmar manor (Urbanicity 2017)

Page 2 1939 Royal Winter Fair Poster (www.cneheritage.ca), Athenia, (The Hamilton Spectator, www.thespec.com)

Page 3 Buchanan Portrait (Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society), City of Hamilton logo (City of Hamilton), Jane's Walk Logo (janeswalk.ca). Doors Open Hamilton (Doors Open Hamilton).

Page 4 Stable Painting (Norris Podetz), Broach (Vasseur Family Archive) (F.O.A. Events).

Page 5 Posters (F.O.A. Events) Voices of Auchmar Speaker Series (Fotograf Geissler) (F.O.A. Events).

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



