

FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR, it is a pleasure to present the second Annual Chair's Report

First, I would like to thank members for your participation at meetings and for all your suggestions both in person and via email. I also want to thank your board of the Friends of Auchmar for their regular attendance at monthly board meetings, for their support and for their diligence in working to keep Auchmar in public ownership and suggesting ways to inform and involve the citizens of Hamilton in the preservation of Auchmar. Your board meets monthly to further the mission of the Friends; and I quote *to bring together those persons committed to the history, preservation, conservation, rehabilitation and continuing public use of the Auchmar Manor House, its associated buildings and cultural landscape.*

Since the first Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Auchmar held at N2N on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 your board has worked to

- Promote awareness of Auchmar
- Obtain citizen and Hamilton City Council support for the rehabilitation of the entire Auchmar estate
- Improve the Auchmar Website (www.auchmar.ca)
- Has met regularly with Anna Bradford – Director of Tourism & Culture for the City of Hamilton – for updates on the restoration of Auchmar
- Has continued to recruit new members and develop possible fund raising initiatives
- Continues to request use of the grounds at Auchmar for public and private initiatives

Because Auchmar is a construction site, Doors Open at Auchmar was cancelled in May 2013 –that recommendation was met with sorrow and dismay. We are now concerned that Doors Open May 2014 may also be cancelled due to repair of the stone walls at Auchmar. Fortunately money has been found by the city to repair the walls of the walled garden an extraordinary site.

The Friends of Auchmar were also denied permission to host an Emancipation Day picnic in August because Auchmar has become a construction site and unsafe for visitors.

Upgrades to the Friends of Auchmar WEBSITE are required, therefore your board approved hiring Robert Gill, President, [i2b Global, Inc.](http://i2bglobal.com) who also does the Durand Website. Please check the Friends website regularly and forward your comments when the new look is on line.

In response to the City of Hamilton's request for submissions for an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Auchmar, a special members' meeting was held last November to discuss member suggestions for future uses for Auchmar

To ensure that the Friends of Auchmar had a say in the future use of the entire Auchmar Estate, your board submitted a formal document entitled Request for Information (RFI) renamed from the former EOI to the City of Hamilton on June 20th, 2013. That submission was made on behalf of the Friends of Auchmar and Heritage Hamilton Foundation. We the Friends had the support of 6 non-binding partners in support of our submission. Special thanks to board members who attended extra meetings and proof read the document. Special thanks also to Alissa Denham-Robinson, a member of the Friends of Auchmar, Chair of Hamilton's Municipal Heritage Committee and an expert in drafting these submissions.

The total number of submissions numbered 7 and came from: The Friends of Auchmar and Heritage Hamilton Foundation, CoBALT Connects, James St North, Landmark Group, Ancaster, Mohawk College, NovaCare Communities, Sahar Hospitality and Courtyard Marriott.

At the September 5th, 2013 meeting of the General Issues Committee (GIC) at city hall item number 8.1, stated that the Auchmar Estate Request for Information (RFI) submissions were received. However these submissions were not made public. At that meeting, it was recommended and approved that the next step would be Request for Proposals (RFP).

On September 11, Hamilton City Council approved that staff be directed to proceed with a *Request for Proposal (RFP) for the potential private use and/or sale of the Auchmar Estate*. That recommendation was amended by Councillor Terry Whitehead who added the words, *non-binding* preceding the words, *Request for Proposal*. The amendment was carried and the main motion, as amended, was also carried. We will notify members as soon as the RFP is made public.

Concern for Auchmar and for the demolition of heritage buildings in Hamilton, your board and the board of Heritage Hamilton Foundation agreed to co-host an event on Wednesday November 20th entitled the Economics of Heritage Preservation. Panel members will include developers and architects from Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Waterloo, London and Buffalo. Draft flyer invitations are available tonight for your suggestions. We will invite members of city council, planning staff and developers with the hope that they will attend and learn about the positives of heritage preservation.

If there are any members who would be willing to work with the board to investigate the establishment of an Auchmar Land Trust – an aim of the Friends – we would welcome your participation.

This is the 2012 -2013 Annual Report for the Friends of Auchmar.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane G. Dent, Chair. Friends of Auchmar

Dated: October 17, 2013
