

FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR, it is a pleasure to present the first Annual Report of the Friends.

Prior to formal elections held in June 2012, several meetings were held in 2011 and 2012 to discuss the formal establishment of The Friends of Auchmar. As a result, it was decided to:

- formally establish The Friends of Auchmar
- formulate the aim/mission/objectives of the Friends
- form categories of membership
- appoint an interim Friends of Auchmar executive
- discuss the establishment of a Land Trust
- promote awareness of Auchmar
- republish and distribute Historicity, the Historical Board publication about Auchmar for Doors Open
- obtain citizen support for the rehabilitation of the entire Auchmar estate
- discuss fundraising initiatives
- create an Auchmar website

Since it was also determined that it would be beneficial for the Friends to seek incorporation, Rob Leverty, Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society attended a meeting at Auchmar on March 22, 2012. Rob reviewed the reasons why it is beneficial to seek incorporation. The motion "Be it resolved that the Friends of Auchmar wishes to incorporate as a not-for-profit corporation in the Province of Ontario through the affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society" was carried. Rob Leverty was provided with a formal written request to proceed signed by the interim co-chairs. It was also approved that members take the Constitution and By-Laws home and meet within 30days to discuss.

At the April 26 meeting of the Friends, it was approved I quote "to accept the inaugural constitution of the Friends of Auchmar". The Ontario Historical Society met on October 13 and approved The Friends of Auchmar Constitution and By-Laws. Their recommendation is with the provincial government for confirmation. Rob notified us that the proroguing of the govt will not hold up confirmation.

Anna Bradford, then Acting Director of Culture and Tourism, the guest speaker at the April 26 meeting, explained that at that time city council had not approved any action for work on Auchmar. Carolyn Samko, our guest speaker, will provide an update for us tonight on current and future restoration activity at Auchmar.

On May 24 at a general meeting, Terri Mines, Chair of the Friends of Auchmar Nominating Committee outlined the nominating committee process and explained that only paid members could be nominated and vote for officers at the meeting to be held on June 21. Terri confirmed that a notice asking for nominations would be placed in the Hamilton Spectator, on Cable 14 and other media. Also at that meeting, an update on the Auchmar Challenge Fund was presented by Brenda Head, member of the board of Heritage Hamilton Foundation.

Dr. Grant Head, the guest speaker, gave a fascinating and important power point presentation on Loch Lomond, Scotland, the site of the original Auchmar Estate and the Auchmar Estate built in Hamilton in 1854 on land that the Honourable Isaac Buchanan had purchased. The talk was very well received. Since that time, Grant has been requested to speak to the Rotary Club.

On Thursday June 21, The Friends of Auchmar hosted a meeting at which Terri Mines, chair of the nomination committee and, assisted by Sara Collyer and Bill King oversaw the election of officers. The board was acclaimed and consists of Chair, Diane Dent; Vice Chair, Robin McKee; Secretary, Eric Lootsma; Treasurer, John Buchanan; Membership Coordinator, Pat Saunders; and Member at Large, Douglas Farraway.

Following the election, guest speaker Sara Collyer, Operations Manager and Director of Community Food at Neighbour to Neighbour, outlined the mission of N2N, her work on community gardens and her desire to create community gardens at Auchmar. Sara also reported on her meeting in the gardens at Auchmar with Anna Bradford. It is hoped that community gardens under Sara's and Anna's leadership will be reality at Auchmar in the spring of 2013.

Since the election of June 21, your board has met regularly to further the mission of the Friends; 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.

On June 29, a week after the election, the board of The Friends of Auchmar met to brain storm. We discussed the importance of:

- a Friends of Auchmar website and comparative costs
- ongoing updates with Tim McCabe and Anna Bradford
- the need to recruit members and develop fund raising initiatives

In July — The Friends of Auchmar board wrote to Tim McCabe and Anna Bradford requesting permission to use Auchmar for a small group which included members of Stewart Memorial Church to host an Emancipation Day picnic on Saturday, August 4th. We were denied permission to use the grounds because Auchmar has become a construction site and unsafe for visitors.

Also in July we received an email message from Tim McCabe who requested a meeting with the board in September in order to provide an update on the city's plan for the rehabilitation of Auchmar.

At that time, Tim McCabe reported verbally that he hoped the rehabilitation of Auchmar would be his legacy. Tim also announced that Anna Bradford had been formally appointed Director of Culture and Tourism for the City of Hamilton and that Anna would now work with him on moving rehabilitation forward.

Guests at the July 25th included webmaster Alina Yeremenko and John McKenzie as well as Gary Werner, Mountain News, who asked to attend a board meeting in order to write an Auchmar update which was published in the Mountain News. Guest, Norris Poedetz, — a pen and ink sketch artist, referred by Anna Bradford, — met with the board to show his sketch of Auchmar and discuss fund raising initiatives. The board agreed that Norris' sketch in card form could be a possible fundraising project. Norris is present tonight. Last week the board met with Patrick Sondola to hear Patrick's ideas

for fundraising initiatives at Auchmar. Patrick is also present tonight. No formal decision has been made on these fundraising suggestions.

It was reported to the board that Terry Whitehead confirmed at City Council the announcement he made at a public meeting of the Friends that he would donate \$25,000 from his ward budget to the rehabilitation of Auchmar.

At the August 28 board meeting it was decided that a waiver agreement for copyright-to confirm use of photos/articles on the Friends of Auchmar website was essential. That waiver is now in place. Doug Faraway will report on the current status of the Friends of Auchmar website.

In September, Anna and Tim McCabe attended the Friends board meeting to explain why Tim was putting forward a document entitled Expression of Interest to be presented at the General Issues Committee on Wednesday October 17. Tim outlined the city's need to create its own business plan that demonstrates strategy that will create revenue (city welcoming centre, seminar centre, etc).

Anna was asked for the results of the Doors Open questionnaire that asked visitors for suggested uses for Auchmar. We learned that this information is still being tabulated.

At the General Issues Committee of October 17, presentations on the importance of the preservation and rehabilitation of Auchmar were made by 4 members of the Friends of Auchmar. Following which councillors commented favourably on the Proposed Use Concept Plan- for the Auchmar Estate, submitted by Tim McCabe and prepared by: Anna Bradford

The full report can be found on the Friends and the city's website.

It is the intention of the board of the Friends of Auchmar to host a meeting in November to discuss member suggestions for future uses for Auchmar, create a membership subcommittee and a fundraising subcommittee and discuss fund raising initiatives, to meet the mission of the Friends and in response to the city's Expression of Interest for Auchmar that will be required in the Spring.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane G. Dent, Chair. Friends of Auchmar

Dated: October 30, 2012