



AUCHMAR ADVOCATE

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BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR

Inside The Auchmar Manor House: Echoes from The Library

THE HAMILTON SANATORIUM opened in the year 1906. The land had been donated by successful local merchants Mr. W.D. Long and Mr. G.H. Bisby. Old Hamilton families with means, commercial interests, and thriving industrial and business ventures, gave of their time to “The San”. Committees were formed, patrons secured and donations were sought.

With the World War in Europe receiving coverage in the local papers, and the arrival home of injured soldiers from Belgium and France, the stories of the battlefields resided next door, down the street or on the next block.

The Hamilton Health Association, which operated the Hamilton Sanatorium, decided to build a Brow Infirmary to treat the returning soldiers who suffered from tuberculosis and those troops who had endured the first attacks in which chlorine gas and mustard gas had drifted silently across the lines and damaged their lungs.

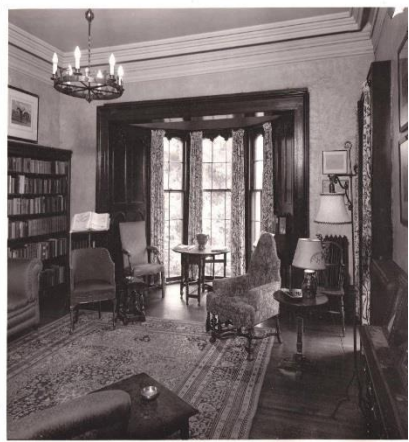


New buildings rose with donations from the Wilcox, Evel and Southam families. Dr. Howard Holbrook became superintendent in 1917.

Mr. A.V. Young, Mr. St. Clair Balfour, Mr. F.F. Dalley, and Mr. J.N. Dalley were sustaining members of The Hamilton Sanatorium. The B. Greening Wire Company, Imperial Cotton Company and Canadian Westinghouse Company were benefactors.

Many friends and other members of Mr. A.V. Young's extended family supported "The San" The 22nd Annual Report lists Norman Braden, Walter Price Lindsay, Charles E. Bull, Walter Burrill Sr. Harry Greening, Charles Mills and James V. Young as active and associate members.

Did these gentlemen meet formally or informally to discuss the affairs of "The San" at the Royal Connaught or over drinks at the Hamilton Club or dinner at The Tamahaac Club in Ancaster? Did the topic of the local Red Cross and Social Services which Mr. A.V. Young was active in, enter their conversations.



In 1926, the Young family left Edgecliffe and settled in comfortably at Auchmar.

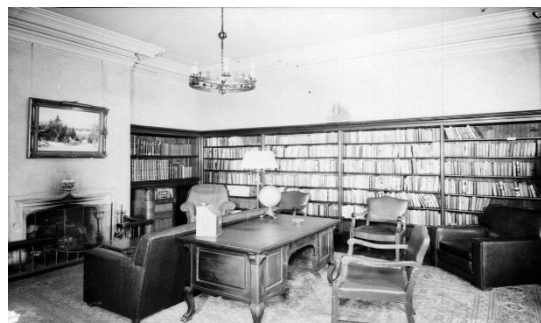
Perhaps, one or two evenings a month, the family and friends occupied the comfortable chairs, enjoyed coffee and tea, and browsed the shelves of the Young's library, which contained 1,500 volumes and books.



Then the conversations commenced.

In 1943, Mr. A.V. Young leased Auchmar to the R.C.A.F. to use as a convalescent hospital for airmen who sustained burns while carrying out their missions.

Once more, a younger generation would walk the corridors of Auchmar, and voices would echo in the library where men gathered amidst the books.



VOICES FROM AUCHMAR

Stories, Narratives and Memories

THE FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR hosted its Spring Public Meeting at the Auchmar Manor House on May 6, 2017. `Voices from Auchmar`, the meeting`s theme, included recollections, memories and reminiscences from those who have significant ties to Auchmar.

Among others, Doug Embelton and Frank Fordham answered questions and told stories which were posed by Donna Skelly, who was the moderator. In her 101st year, Mrs. Viva Voelker, who is the wife of the late Dr. Philip Voelker (who oversaw the plan of treatment at Auchmar) sent her regrets.

Doug Embelton knows Auchmar well. He was born on the estate when the Young family owned Auchmar. His father, Harry, was the stable master and took care of Edna Young`s fine horses. Doug lived in the Gatehouse. He recalled a home filled servants, Nellie the cook, and made the audience laugh while recounting the story of how the family parrot ruled one of the large rooms and would announce loudly each knock upon the door or when the bell was rung.

Frank Fordham also knows Auchmar well. He recalled the Church services on the lawn, the physical therapies which Dr. Voelker had the men do and the parades. The dances were important to the men. The community took part in the dances. He noted that the airmen were appreciative and at times very resourceful in bending a rule now and then.

Jennifer Douglas is a great granddaughter of Alan and Edna Young. She spoke briefly of hearing stories about her grandmother Gwyneth Young and how Auchmar is a window into her grandmother`s life.

Anna Bradford and Carolyn Samko both spoke of the potential of Auchmar and what makes this estate significant to them.

Auchmar is situated in Ward 8. Councillor Terry Whitehead also spoke about the importance of Auchmar.



Thank you to the City of Hamilton and all who gave of their time to organize and participate enthusiastically to ensure that the “Voices of Auchmar” became a memorable event which was enjoyed and appreciated by many.



(Left to Right): Diane Dent, Frank Fordham, Terry Whitehead, Doug Embelton, Jennifer Douglas, Donna Skelly

RESTORE THE DOVECOTE CAMPAIGN

Crowdfunding for Heritage Buildings

DURING THE LATE SPRING and early summer months, The Friends of Auchmar was selected and participated in The National Trust of Canada This Place Matters competition.

This Place Matters was a nationwide competition divided into regions and categories. Heritage buildings, both grand and small in scale, were selected from towns, villages and urban centres.

The Friends of Auchmar Board submission to The National Trust of Canada included the entire Auchmar Estate. The Board’s decision was to enter the small projects competition category, highlight the Auchmar Dovecote (one of two in Ontario) and promote its restoration.

This Place Matters.ca
VOTE by JULY 17th, 2017



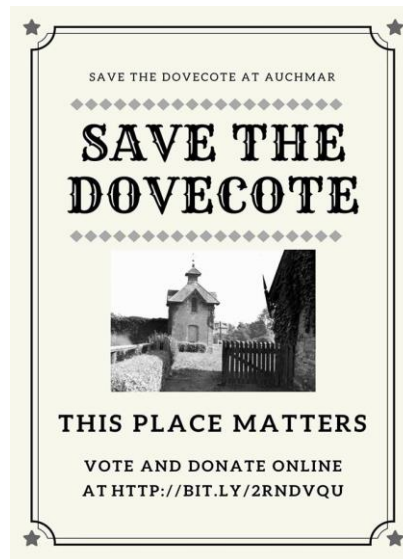
The This Place Matters campaign went active in June with an end date set in July. During that month, you may have seen the banner “This Place Matters Auchmar” which was prominently displayed at Auchmar, read about it on the website or Facebook, picked up a postcard, visited us at one of the summer festivals and made a donation.

The Restore the Dovecote campaign provided the Friends of Auchmar with new partnerships, valuable education in crowdfunding and brought Auchmar into the spotlight for a short time.

A small, but none the less significant amount was raised, towards the eventual restoration of the Auchmar Dovecote.

Thank you to all who donated to the Restore the Dovecote campaign.

Auchmar with its Dovecote truly is a place that matters.



THE PHOTO GALLERY

The photo gallery in this issue is dedicated to and highlights the Voices of Auchmar series.

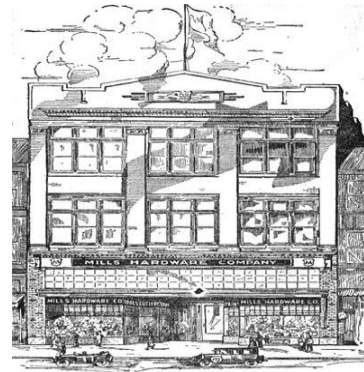


CHARLES MILLS

His Legacy Buildings

ONE OF HAMILTON'S leading architects during the city's growth into a mercantile and manufacturing centre was Charles Mills. His firm received commissions for commercial, industrial, church and residential buildings throughout the province.

Mills had his own firm from 1890-1909 until a partnership with Gordon Hutton was established in 1909. Gordon Hutton came to work for Mills in 1905. The new firm was known as Mills and Hutton. William R. Souter worked for Mills and Hutton.



Charles Mills walked in the circles of finance, banking, commerce and industry. He knew the captains of commerce which included James Mason Young. He had watched as the boys, Alan Vernon and James Vernon, became men ready to learn the trade and step in if necessary.

Like many other men and families, he supported The Hamilton Health Association and its operation of the Hamilton Sanatorium.

G.W. Robinson sought out Mills to design his Ravenscliffe residence (2 Ravenscliffe).

Among the commissions Mills completed in Hamilton are the Landed Banking and Loan Company (1907), The Bank of Hamilton Head Office Building (1907), and Eagle Spinning Mills (1907) which is located at Sanford and Wilson streets.

A decade earlier, in 1898, Mills was commissioned by the Hamilton Cotton Company to design a weaving mill. In 1902, Mills was retained to design a major addition for the Hamilton Cotton Company. In the same period, the Thomas Watkins Store (affectionately known to future generations as the Right House) rose at Hughson and King streets.

Charles Mills retired from the profession of architecture in 1914 and devoted time to his other enterprise – Mills Hardware Company - which was a successful commercial retail business.



Hamilton Public Library
Mills Hardware Store, King Street East between John and Catherine Streets, 1950s



In 2013, Mills Hardware returned to Hamilton. The architectural firm of Thier+Curran adaptively repurposed the building into a multi purpose event space, 12 loft apartments and artist studios.

CONTACT US

LOOKING TO REACH The Friends of Auchmar and not sure how? Do you want to attend our public meetings? Would you like a little bit of information? Do you have a comment? Would you like to become involved? Do you have a story or memory 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. Ballroom/Piano Room (Sourced at F.O.A. Facebook A.V. Young Collection), Exterior Auchmar (Renew Hamilton) (Urbanicity May 2017), World War Soldier Orchestra (Source: The Hamilton Health Association 15th Annual Report, 1919).

Page 2. The Library (A.V. Young, R.C.A.F. Sourced at F.O.A. Facebook).

Page 3. Doug Embelton, Frank Fordham (Fotograf Geissler)

Page 4. Voices of Auchmar Group (Fotograf Geissler)

Page 5. This Place Matters Auchmar, Save The Dovecote (Fotograf Geissler), The Dovecote (A.V. Young Collection).

Page 5. The Photo Gallery. a) Carolyn Samko, Donna Skelly, b) Jennifer Douglas, Donna Skelly, c) Doug Embelton, Donna Skelly, d) Doug Embelton, e) Frank Fordham. (Fotograf Geissler).

Page 6. Mills Hardware (Hamilton Public Library Collection), Their+Curran Architects.

McNally, Rt. Rev. J. T.
Mercury Mills, Limited.
Moodie, Miss Jean.
Moodie, James.
Moodie, Mrs. James.
Moodie, J. D.
Moodie, Mrs. J. D.
Moodie, Col. J. R.
Moodie, Mrs. J. R.
Moodie, R. R.
Moodie, Mrs. R. R.
Morley, Mrs. Julia P.
Otis Fenson Elevator Co.
Parke, George.
Patterson, A. S.
Patterson, Robert.
Penman, John.
Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. G. W.
Robinson, J. H. & Co.
Scott, C. S.

Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. L.
Smye, Fred.
Southam, Mrs. William.
Southam, William.
Spectator Printing Co.
Stanton, Hon and Mrs. Geo.
Lynch.
Taylor, Fred.
Temple Lodge, A.F. & A.M.
Thomson, P. A.
Viceroy Reading Lodge, No. 886.
Walton & Magee.
Watkins, The Thos. C. Co.
Westaway, W. J.
Wilcox, C. S.
Wilson, Archdale.
Wilson, Mrs. Archdale.
Walter Woods & Co.
Alan V. Young.
Zimmerkitt, Limited.

Active Members, 1927

Adam, Alex. E.
Adam, John.
Aitchison, D. B.
Aldous, J. E. P.
Alexander, A. G.
Alexander, Mrs. H. S.
Alexander, H. S.
Allen, R. S.
Ambrose, Mrs. E. H.
Ambrose, H. S.
Anderson, B. F.
Arkell, R. H.
Armstrong Cartage & Warehouse Co.
Armstrong, James D.
Atkins, Messrs. E. C. & Co.
Bagshaw, Dr. Elizabeth.
Ban, A. G.
Balfour, St. Clair.
Balfour, Walter.

Barker, Miss Frances E.
Barnard, Mrs. S. J.
Bell, J. P.
Bell, Miss Madeline.
Bertram, John & Sons Co.
Bethune & Jaques.
Biggar, Mrs. S. D.
Blachford & Wray.
Black, W. D.
Boyd, Norman J.
Braden, S. S.
Bremner, Charles.
Brown, Mrs. John E.
Bruce, Ralph R.
Bull, Mrs. C. E.
Bull, C. E.
Burbridge, H. A.
Burkholder, Harry F.
Burkholder, Mrs. H. F.
Burrill, Walter S.
Callaghan, J. Orr.

