



## ***AUCHMAR ADVOCATE***

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### **BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR**

**Inside the Auchmar Manor House: The Years of War**

**ACROSS THE OCEAN**, in Europe, the clouds of war threatened once again. By September 1939, another generation would stand up when called upon.



In June of 1940, against the background of these world events, Gwyneth Owen Young married Roderick Dalley Douglas. The ceremony was held at Auchmar. The manor house was filled with family and good friends such as Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Bell and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Farwell.

October became November and December followed. Auchmar would welcome Harry and Gladys Greening, Norm and Mabel Braden and the Dalleys as they joined Alan and Edna Young at Christmas.

The years passed. The war was never far away as the family gathered at Christmas. Alan and Edna's son, James was overseas, as were their nephews, Bill, Doug, Owen, and Mike and Bill.

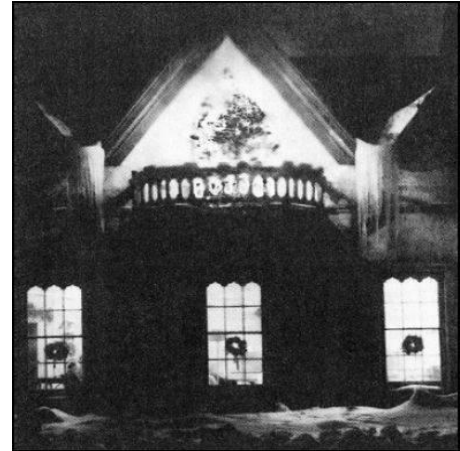
In the summer of 1943 after visiting with the Farwell family in Beaumaris, Mr. A.V. Young arranged with the R.C.A.F. for Auchmar to be used as a convalescent hospital for airmen who returned from service overseas. Mr. F.F. Dalley agreed to a similar arrangement. From October 1943 to the end of war, Auchmar and Wynnstay (the Dalley family home in Ancaster) would be known as R.C.A.F. Convalescent Hospital No. 2, Young Division.

Dr. Philip A. Voelker documented on film the convalescence of the airman at Auchmar. During the Christmas season, he raised a Christmas tree and placed it on the balcony of Auchmar.

The airmen kept busy each season and created their own newsletter entitled *The Auchmar Tonic*.

The following are excerpts from issues of the *Auchmar Tonic*.

There is an undated photograph of Santa Claus in his sleigh in the round driveway at Auchmar.



*The Auchmar Tonic, Vol. 1, No 4 dated February 7, 1944 lists those in the photograph. The stable master, Harry Embleton is dressed as Saint Nicholas and chatting with Mr. Carey. Mr. A.V. Young and Mrs. Francis Farwell stand on the stairs.*

*From The Auchmar Tonic, Vol. 2, No.1, 1945: "The music room transformed on Wednesday evening to Monte Carlo, with Roulette, Blackjack, and Cribbage. The house appeared to win each evening."*



## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ISAAC BUCHANAN

### Spirited Debate Highlights His Legacy

**IN 2006, AS PART OF THE** Hamilton Memory Project, readers of The Hamilton Spectator were asked to vote for the Greatest Hamiltonian. From the initial 50 nominees, the Honourable Isaac Buchanan made the final round of 20. The winner was Lincoln Alexander.

Why Isaac Buchanan? Was it a single crowning achievement or a portfolio of accomplishments that endure long after his death in 1883? Perhaps his lasting presence comes from laying the foundation for Hamilton's emergence as a major centre for mercantile trade and manufacturing?

Was he a true Renaissance man or merely a multitalented entrepreneur with many pies baking at the same time?

Which field of his endeavour- architecture, business, military, politics, religion or transportation- stands out? Or are they equally significant?

To help answer these questions, The Friends of Auchmar hosted a good natured debate style event. The evening was a special Canada 150 tribute to Buchanan on December 6, 2017 at the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Officers Mess hall in the historic John Foote Armoury on James Street North.



The Officers Mess was at capacity as the audience appreciated the music and spirited give and take as each speaker presented his or her case for Isaac Buchanan's most enduring legacy.

How has the passage of time treated Isaac Buchanan? He continues to inspire professional scholars and amateur historians. His papers are with the Library and Archives Canada. The City of Hamilton has honoured him through the naming of Buchanan Street, Buchanan Park and Buchanan Park Elementary School.

Moreover, there are Buchanan's legacy buildings, organizations, and institutions such as Auchmar, MacNab Presbyterian Church, The Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce), The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion (now the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry) and the Hamilton Club.



Thank you to the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, the Hamilton Club and everyone who gave of their time to organize and participate enthusiastically to ensure that the evening was indeed a memorable one.



**Back Row: Brian Buckle, Honorary Colonel Peter Young, Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Don Cranston**

**Jeff Feswick, Marvin Ryder, Les Smith Richard Moll**

**Front Row: Shannon Kyles, Diane Dent, Marilyn Repchuck, Mark McNeil, Larry DiFanni**

## **2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **A Year in Review**

**THE FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR** held its' Annual General Meeting at the Terryberry Library in October 2017. Mr. Robin McKee was the Keynote speaker and his address covered the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid.

The reports of the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Co-ordinater were given and accepted by the membership. The proposed Amendment of the Friends of Auchmar Constitution was presented in general and questions were addressed by the Secretary. More information will be provided to the membership at a later date.

Board member, Richard Allan, gave reports on The This Place Matters Campaign and the upcoming Canada 150 Event.

In July of 2017, the Friends of Auchmar participated in the national campaign This Place Matters. The Board decision to participate in this endeavour provided valuable exposure to



crowdfunding among many other valuable experiences. The Friends of Auchmar Save the Dovecote did not win monetary awards but did raise money for the eventual restoration of the Dovecote at Auchmar.

In May 2017, the Friends of Auchmar submitted an application to the City of Hamilton to hold a Canada 150 Celebration Event. The application was successful. The theme of the Canada 150 Event will be a celebration of The Life and Times of Isaac Buchanan.

Robin McKee gave the keynote address entitled the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid. Robin was able to travel with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and visit the sites where the R.H.L.I saw battle. His presentation was well received by the audience.

Carolyn Samko, Senior Planner with Culture and Heritage provided an update on the current restoration work undertaken at Auchmar and gave an overview of the past work conducted at Auchmar.

### THE PHOTO GALLERY

The photo gallery in this issue highlights The Canada 150 Event, The Life and Times of Isaac Buchanan.



## 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 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. Hallway (Private Collection, F.O.A.Facebook), Bay Windows (Sourced at F.O.A. Facebook), Window and Radiator Terrance Geissler. Gwyneth Owen Young Wedding Photo (Gwyneth Young McColl Collection) Published in Urbanicity, May 2011.

Page 2: Christmas Tree (unknown: sourced at F.O.A.); Carriage and Horse (Auchmar Tonic)

Page 3. Portrait of Isaac Buchanan (Musee McCord, Montreal); Keanin Loomis with portrait of Isaac Buchanan (F.O.A. Events)



Page 4. The Life and Times of Isaac Buchanan Group Photograph (F.O.A. Events); This Place Matters (F.O.A. Events)

Page 5 Honorary Colonel Peter Young, Shannon Kyles, Marvin Ryder, Larry Di Ianni, Marilyn Repchuck., Richard Moll, Don Cranston, Brian Buckle (F.O.A. Events, Terrance Geissler)

Page 6. Mark McNeil and Les Smith (F.O.A Events)

