



AUCHMAR ADVOCATE

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BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR

Inside The Auchmar Manor House: Brushes with History

ELSIE BUCHANAN SETTLED into her new home, Bellevue, and its surrounding grounds. It was a short carriage ride from Auchmar and provided views of Dundas Valley, the harbour and the growing city below. Known by some as “The Lilacs”, it was close to the Mountainview and the Lookout Inn.

Auchmar Estate changed ownership in 1926. Once the home of two generations of the Buchanan family, it was purchased by A.V. Young, who was President of the Hamilton Cotton Company. The Young family would call Auchmar home for almost 20 years.

Leaving Edgecliffe for Auchmar was a change for both Alan and Edna and their young children. The manor house and grounds were well suited for their social and business interests and Edna’s passion for elite horses and riding. Their daughter, Gwyneth developed her own passion for riding and Gypsy became her favourite.

Eileen Vollick moved to Hamilton with her family as a young girl. Upon graduating from high school, she went to work at the Hamilton Cotton Company as a textile analyst and assistant designer. Her passion was to fly. From her home on Van Wagners Road, she could see Jack Elliot’s flight school. Never wishing to compromise her employment, she took flying lessons in the early morning at 6:00 am. Eileen made sure that she was riding the bus and at the Hamilton Cotton Company to start at 8:00 am.

Eileen Vollick passed her flight examination, received Pilots License No.77 and became a pioneer in Canadian aviation history. “When Alan V. Young, President of the Hamilton Cotton Company, gave me leave of absence to try my examination tests, the time had been well earned.”

Edna Greening Young may have had cause for concern. Her brother- in-law, Norm Braden, was rising quickly through the executive suites at Canadian Westinghouse, as was George Kerr who was a vice president. George Kerr’s brother Ben, had a lucrative side line. He `ran rum` across Lake Ontario into New York state. Did George and Norman talk about Ben and those fast boats with the Liberty engines?

Gwyneth Young spoke about her childhood memories with writer Paul Wilson a few years ago.

She spoke of music throughout the house, orchestras playing, and ladies in long gowns.

There was laughter in the kitchen when Nellie Ewan, the cook, prepared the meals. There are memories of Nellie singing along to Harry Lauder’s music as the record played on a stand up Victrola in Nellie’s sitting room.

There was Mr. Scott who was the gardener and placed a ladder the apple trees.

There was the Embleton family, Harry and Mary and the children who lived in the Gatehouse. Harry was the stable master and kept the horses in top shape. The stables and carriage house was home to the horses, Atlas, Gypsy, Mac, Larkspur and Highlight.

And there was Frank Panabaker.

Frank Panabaker gave Gwyneth lessons in art and painting. There is a photograph of a landscape painting of the manor house and part of the grounds which she accomplished herself.



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Gwyneth loved ponies and horses, something she inherited from her mother. The fact that the Auchmar estate provided plenty of room to ride and keep horses has much to do with why the Young family bought the property.

VOICES FROM AUCHMAR

Familial Narratives and Memories

THE FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR hosted its Spring/Summer Meeting at the Auchmar Manor House on June 23, 2018. The theme of the meeting was “Voices from Auchmar” which included oral histories, reminiscences, stories and memories from friends such as Gwen Vasseur, Ken Watson and Rod Douglas.

Ken Watson regaled the audience with stories about his relative, John Henry Watson, who received the colours from Lady Buchanan, when the 13th Battalion was formed. John Henry Watson would see action at Ridgeway. Ken recounted in detail some of the early days of the 13th Battalion, how John Henry came to Hamilton and the subsequent travels of John Henry after the 13th Battalion.

Gwen Vasseur spoke eloquently of her family connection to Elsie Buchanan, describing vividly the day to day life of Elsie and her friends Marie Ratte and Miss Wiggins, and Elsie’s years after Auchmar. Gwen shared family memories of those days with those present.

Rod Douglas, who is the son of Gwyneth and the grandson of Alan Vernon and Edna Young, was unable to attend. Via email, he shared a couple of stories including one about the summer residence, Vernon Island and one about Frank Panabaker and his mother's art lessons, which were read to the audience.

Ken and Gwen, respectively, brought family memorabilia and photos which they shared with the audience afterwards.



Elsie Buchanan Archive (Vasseur Family)

Elsie Buchanan Archive (Vasseur Family)



John Henry Watson Portrait (Watson Family) 13th Battalion Photograph (Watson Family)

AUCHMAR OPEN HOUSE

Gothic Windows, Picturesque Landscape

THE CITY OF HAMILTON held Auchmar Open House on the weekend of June 23rd, and June 24th, 2018 from 12:00 noon to 4: 00 p.m. Both sessions were well attended. Those who came were able to tour the manor house, enjoy music and presentations, participate in an Auchmar Walk, view memorabilia from the Elsie Buchanan Archive, ask questions of Ken Watson, speak with the author of Buchanan of Auchmar, learn about the history of the families and the estate, and imagine what could be.

Over the two days, many Friends of Auchmar members volunteered their time.: Norris Podetz was on the grounds-sketching, the Vasseur and Watson families shared their families' stories and memorabilia, Leanne Pluthero lead the Auchmar Walk, Bill King signed copies of Buchanan of Auchmar, and Dennis and Patricia Baker and Diane Dent who spread the word about the Friends of Auchmar. They and the many others contributed to a successful weekend.

To all, who volunteered, a well earned Thank You.



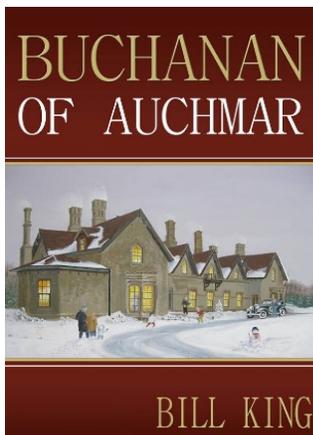
OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND
Auchmar Estate
JUNE 23 - 24 | 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM | FREE

Saturday June 23	Sunday June 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none">12:30 & 2:30: Walking Tour with Leanne Pluthero (please meet at Garden Archway)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">12:30 & 2:30: Walking Tour with Leanne Pluthero (please meet at Garden Archway)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">12 -1pm: Black History and the Emancipation Movement in Canada with Dennis Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none">12 -1pm: Black History and the Emancipation Movement in Canada with Dennis Scott
<ul style="list-style-type: none">2-3pm: Walled Gardens with Historic Garden Demonstrator Victoria Bick	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2-3pm: Walled Gardens with Historic Garden Demonstrator Victoria Bick
<ul style="list-style-type: none">3-4pm: Victorian Servants with Fieldcote Coordinator Daryl MacTavish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">12-4pm: Gothic Revival Interior Decoration with retired Senior Curator Ken Heaman
<ul style="list-style-type: none">12:30 - 3:30pm: Celtic music by band Mountain Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none">12-4pm: Author Bill King will be on site to discuss his book "Buchanan of Auchmar"

Hamilton www.hamilton.ca/events

BUCHANAN OF AUCHMAR

Curtain Rises on a Fascinating Chapter of Hamilton's Past



LONG AWAITED AND much anticipated, by many who have an interest in Auchmar and Hamilton's history, Buchanan of Auchmar by local author Bill King, received its official launch in April 2018 at the Hamilton Club.

The launch of Buchanan of Auchmar, which was hosted by the Friends of Auchmar, was well received and appreciated by the overflow crowd.

In his address, Mr. King, the author, spoke to the audience about how the book came about and later, sat down with Mr. Paul Berton, Editor of The Hamilton Spectator, for a question and answer session. Graciously, Mr. King spent much time signing personalized copies and speaking with the audience.

At the time of the book launch, Buchanan of Auchmar was in its second printing and looking forward to a third.

Thank you to Mr. Douglas McCalla, Mr. Marvin Ryder, Mr. Jim Scarfone, Mr. Paven Bratch and many, many others who participated in various roles and supported the successful book launch.



PHOTO GALLERY

The following pictures were taken during Voices of Auchmar and the Auchmar Open House weekend. Do you have a favourite?



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.

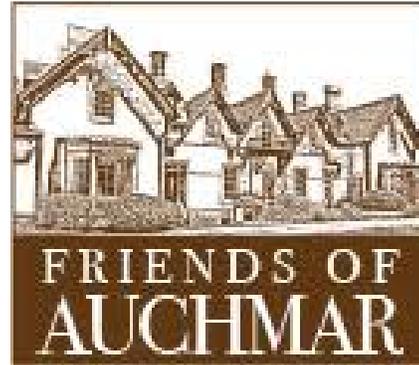


PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1. Hallway, Roof and Chimney (Terrance Geissler), Window (Sourced at Friends of Auchmar Facebook page).

Page 2: Gwyneth Young Riding (Gwyneth Young McColl Private Collection)

Page 3. Voices of Auchmar: Broach (Vasseur/Martin Family Collection), Silverware (Vasseur/Martin Family Collection), John Henry Watson Portrait (Ken and Mae Watson Collection), 13th Battalion Photograph (Ken and Mae Watson Collection).

Page 4. Auchmar Open House Poster, City of Hamilton, (Sourced at Friends of Auchmar Facebook pages), Buchanan of Auchmar (Sourced at F.O.A. Events/ Facebook page).

Page 5 Bill King and Paul Berton in conversation (Friends of Auchmar). The Photo Gallery: Roof and Finial (Terrance Geissler), Hallway. Lights, Table Display (Sourced at Friends of Auchmar/ Facebook)

Page 6. Mountainview and Clairmont Avenue (Sourced at Friends of Auchmar)

