



## ***AUCHMAR ADVOCATE***

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## ***BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR***

### **Inside The Auchmar Manor House: Despair and Celebration**

**1945. JANUARY. THE FIRST DAYS AND WEEKS** of the New Year witnessed the city still adjusting to the great amount of snow which fell a month earlier and covered the city. The wartime industries were back to normal production schedules.

Janet Marchildon and Helen J. Root (nee Ferguson) recalled that storm in a 2011 interview with The Hamilton Spectator.

*“I was a young woman of 18 and working at the Otis Fensom Ordinance during the storm of 1944.... Many of our young men were overseas fighting for our country and the other men and women were working at the Otis where the Bofor guns were assembled, painted and shipped overseas.*

*On that day in December 1944, I was working the 7p.m. – 6 a.m. at the Otis. The snow had already started to fall during the afternoon. By evening the cars and trucks in the lot were completely buried under deep snow” (J.M.).*

Helen Root recalled walking to her grandparents’ home that day after leaving work.

*“I was 20 years old and working at the Hamilton Munitions Office located in the Westinghouse building at the foot of Sanford Ave. N. and my home was in Westdale. ... By the middle of the morning ‘the powers that be’ dismissed us for the day.*

*I can’t remember why I didn’t catch my ride home but decided that I could walk. My grandpartents lived on Victoria Avenue South, just down from Hunter Street and I made it there before lunch.”*

Our young men fighting overseas were in the hearts and minds of many families this January.

Letters and photographs were read and looked at time and time again by parents over breakfast in the morning, or after reading the evening edition of the paper. All hoped and prayed that ‘their young men’ would come home. All hoped that they wouldn’t receive a telegram from C.N. or C.P.

Alan and Edna Young looked at a photograph of their son, James Mason, with his outfit, the 41<sup>st</sup> A/A Battery R.C.A. as they awaited the arrival of Harry and Gladys Greening.



They recalled the past year and the success of D. Day and the blizzard last month.

At Auchmar, the recovering airmen were busy. They had cut out the deadwood from the woodlot and stocked the many fireplaces in early November. There was a rumor that the men (those able to) had taken to cross country skiing.

## MAJOR J. D. YOUNG IS NOW REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION

Son of Major-General Young, C.B.E., of Ancaster—Two Local Soldiers Succumb to Wounds, Seven Wounded, One Missing

Major John Douglas Young, previously reported missing, is now listed as killed in action. Major Young is a son of Major-General J. V. Young, C.B.E., Master-General of Ordnance, whose home in civil life is in Ancaster, and who is now residing at Ottawa. In to-day's casualty list two Hamilton soldiers are reported to have died of wounds; five Hamilton and two district men are wounded and a local soldier is missing in action.

### KILLED IN ACTION

Major John Douglas Young, Ancaster.

### DIED OF WOUNDS

Gnr. John Scott, 114 Frederick avenue.

Pte. Edward G. Young, 547 Wellington street north.

### WOUNDED

Pte. Albert Vancise, 58 East 24th street.

Pte. John Reilly, 114 Strachan street east.

Lieut. David G. Johnson, 2 Hyde Park avenue.

Lance-Cpl. Arnold E. Hayes, 312 King street east.



James Young was stationed in Ottawa but was able to return home on occasion while inspecting the Bofors gun facility. He may have thought back to 1942 when he was able to enjoy a visit from his sons, Doug and Bill. On June 6, 1944, he was informed that Doug was lost during D Day on Juno Beach. He let Bill and the family know before the official telegram.

Norman and Mabel Braden may have read again the letters that Bill sent them. In January of 1944, he had spent time with his cousin, Owen Greening, while on leave. They hoped that the fighting would end soon.

Bill’s brother-in-law, John McColl was a R.C.A.F. pilot flying in the skies of Europe.

May 8, 1945. The newspapers and telegraph services championed victory. Germany had unconditionally surrendered its’ armed forces. The war was over. The country celebrated.

Mike, James, Bill, Owen, “Babs” John McColl and Bill Braden who all enlisted in 1941-42, would be coming home.

Bill Braden, Acting Major Mechanics Officer, was discharged five months later on November 6<sup>th</sup>. He intended to return to work at B. Greening Wire Company where he started after completing McGill University.



D DAY JUNE 6, 1944

### ROMANCE AND MARRIAGE

Flight Lieutenant and Squadron Leader James “Stocky” Edwards was posted back to England after two years in Africa and Italy.

On D Day, at 23 years of age, he flew his Spitfire over the beaches of Normandy.

Alice “Toni” Edwards (nee Antonio), like “Stocky” was from Saskatchewan. She was training to be a nurse when she joined the R.C.A.F. “on a dare” in October 1942.

Stocky and Toni had met years earlier but then lost touch.

Toni began her training at Rockcliffe, Ontario, and worked in Communications from October 1942 until December 1946. Her postings included Alymer, the No. 1. R.C.A.F. Convalescent Hospital in Muskoka and No. 2 R.C.A.F. Convalescent Hospital (Young Division) in Hamilton.

After the war, Toni completed her medical training and worked as a nurse until her marriage.

When the war ended, Stocky remained in the R.C.A.F. He raised a family and lost his wife at a young age.

As the years passed, he reconnected with Toni who was working as a nurse at Grace Hospital. They married in 1951.

# THE PHOTO GALLERY

Auchmar Throughout the Decades



# A LIFE IN HERITAGE

## The Friends of Auchmar Annual General Meeting

**THE FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR** Annual General Meeting was held at the Hamilton Club on December 4, 2019.

Prior to the Keynote Address, a brief business meeting was held. Reports were received from the The Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Co-ordinator. Diane Dent gave the Chair's Address which highlighted the activities of the Friends of Auchmar during the past year and included **Auchmar-The War Years**.

The Amendment to the Friends of Auchmar Constitution was presented by John Kajaste. The Amendment was approved by the membership at a Special Members Meeting in June 2018. It was noted that all Boards undergo change. The current Friends of Auchmar Board is not the Charter Board when the group was formed.

Mr. Ian Kerr-Wilson, (Retired) Manager of Heritage Management for the City of Hamilton was the Keynote speaker. He was introduced by Richard Allen who is a Friends of Auchmar Board member.



Mr. Kerr-Wilson's address and presentation about heritage management in Hamilton and Auchmar specifically, was well received and numerous questions were posed after the presentation.

Carrie Brooks-Joiner, Director of Heritage and John Summers spoke briefly and congratulated Mr. Kerr-Wilson.

The Friends of Auchmar celebrated Mr. Kerr-Wilson's contributions with a festive cake in his honour.

Many guests and members stayed a little later after the formal conclusion of the meeting to speak with Mr. Kerr-Wilson.

## 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](http://www.friendsofauchmar.ca)

General Information Email: [info@friendsofauchmar.ca](mailto:info@friendsofauchmar.ca)

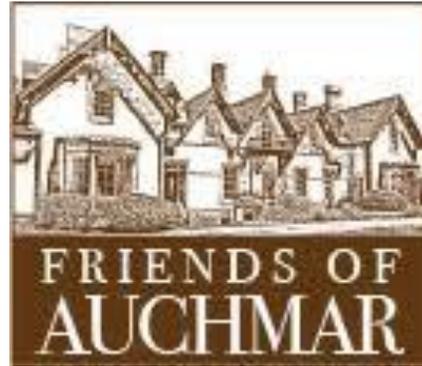
Membership: [membership@friendsofauchmar.ca](mailto:membership@friendsofauchmar.ca)

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 Wynnstay Estate, Auchmar Estate, Auchmar Gatehouse (Sourced at F.O.A.) (Hamilton Public Library Collections).

Page 2 Canadian National Telegram (thememoryproject.com) J.D. Young (The Hamilton Spectator, June 1944).

Page 3 James “Stocky” Edwards, “Toni” Edwards (elinorflorence.com)

Page 4 Photo Gallery (Sourced at Friends of Auchmar ) (Hamilton Public Library Collections).

Page 5 Mr. Ian Ker-Wilson (F.O.A. Events).

Page 6 Auchmar Estate during the War Years. (Sourced at Friends of Auchmar).



