



## *AUCHMAR ADVOCATE*

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### **BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR**

**Inside the Auchmar Manor House: Friendships**

**ANCASTER, ONTARIO, 1935.** They gathered together for a family dinner on this July weekend. Harry and Gladys Greening, Edna and Alan Young, and Alan's sister Elsie and her family. Edna's sisters, Hattie (Hattie and Charles Bull), and Mabel (Mabel and Norm Braden) would be there by four o'clock.

They looked back on the years, recalling school years so long ago, and their family homes Oak Bank and Fonthill. Bill had a picture of their place in the library. They recalled instructors, marks, and hi jinks. The friendships forged, the careers carved out in commerce and industry and other enterprises brought smiles and laughter. Harry was a Ridley Old Boy, Class of '96.

Their children, most of them now in their late teens or early twenties, had almost completed their studies or were considering various universities. Ridley College, Hillfield and Strathallan, Trinity College School, and Upper Canada College. The school crests and colours would stay with them.



Oak Bank

Dave Ambrose, “Harky” Bull, Bill Young, Ridley Doolittle and Bill Braden had come through the high school years together. Hillfield for Bill and Harky and Dave. Trinity College School for Bill Braden. Ridley College and Upper Canada for some of their friends. They would remain friends they said to one and other.

There was time to consider their futures during this interlude, time to be with friends, play sports, sail, pursue hobbies and travel.

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*“All kidding aside, Rid, that was the most marvelous trip, I ever hope to make.”*, Bill Braden wrote in his journal while in Switzerland.

One month earlier, in June, Mabel and Norman Braden waved goodbye as Bill set off for England and Europe. He would meet up with a school friend, Ridley Doolittle, and together they would chart a course. Bill returned to visit the school he attended, Le Rosey, at Rolle which had a great view of Lake Geneva.

On the motorcycle trip through Europe, Bill purchased his first Ariel motorcycle. With youthful abandonment, they rode into Mussolini’s Italy (where a strong anti-American sentiment prevailed) and crossed into Germany.

Upon returning home, Bill and his friend, Fred Southam, travelled through western Canada and the west coast of the United States.

## **FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR**

### **News, Events, Partnerships**

#### **TheNational Trust for Canada Heritage Conference**

The National Trust for Canada Heritage Conference will be held on October 26-28, 2023 at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa Ontario.

The Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals and the Indigenous Heritage Circle are among the leading organizations which will be present.

The theme of the conference is Transforming Heritage.

Plan to attend the many workshops and symposiums.

Check the National Trust website for upcoming details.



## McMaster University Partnership

The Friends of Auchmar once again partnered with McMaster University and its History Department. The Friends acted as outside advisors to students participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Community History Practicum.

The spring term ended with the presentations of the students' works.

Five students selected Auchmar as their subject. Among the topics presented were Architecture, the Cultural Landscape, James Buchanan and Elsie Buchanan, and the Royal Canadian Air Force at Auchmar.

Their presentations included unseen photographs from various sources such as the Bishop Farrell Library and Archive and the Archives of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

Throughout the practicum, students were required to reflect upon their projects. Some of these were publicized in the McMaster University History Department.

The following is an excerpt.

For my project, I worked with the Friends of Auchmar and my fellow classmates to develop a photo essay book about the history of the Auchmar estate. My chapter of the book focused on the cultural landscape of Auchmar and government legislation pertaining to the protection of heritage sites.



Grace Wilcox, Abbey Leonard, Dr. Dent, Aislinn Huang

This was a valuable experience because we got to work hands-on with primary source materials and develop our research skills through our work with community members and local heritage professionals to create an informative and engaging final product which illustrates the unique history of this home which now sits largely abandoned and unknown.

It gave us the opportunity to see how historical research is conducted in a practical setting outside of academia and helped me envision what a career in history could look like when I leave university.”

*Grace Wilcox, fourth-year history student*

## Doors Open Hamilton- Auchmar

In early April, members of the Friends of Auchmar Board met with city officials and Culture and Heritage staff to discuss the weekend event. The Board presented an overview of the program.

Doors Open Hamilton was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2023. Auchmar proved once again, to be significant draw. The media coverage included interviews with CHCH TV, The CBC, and articles and photographs in the Mountain News.

Among the exhibits on display during the weekend were the following: a) memorabilia of Elsie Buchanan and family, b) R.C.A.F. correspondence of Dr. Voelker who created the physio-rehab program, c) first day accounts of the Lusitania sinking and the loss of James and Georgina Young, and d) photos and memorabilia of Auchmar from the Young family.

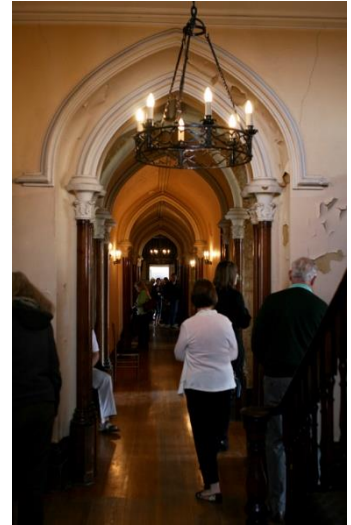
As visitors walked the grounds, toured the rooms, read the history, asked questions, and watched videos about life at Auchmar, they had the opportunity to meet local artist, Elizabeth Hanna, and view her exhibit.

Congratulations to Kristin Raab and Marilyn Coleman who were the winners of the Heritage Hamilton Foundation Heritage Window Contest. Out of a total of 25 local heritage windows, they identified the greatest number.

Thank you to the Vasseur and Martin families for making available their Elsie Buchanan memorabilia, to the Young family for their archive about the Lusitania and Elizabeth Hanna for her art exhibit.

Thank you to all who visited and enjoyed Auchmar. Thank you to the many passionate volunteers without whom this couldn't be done and the stories shared with all.

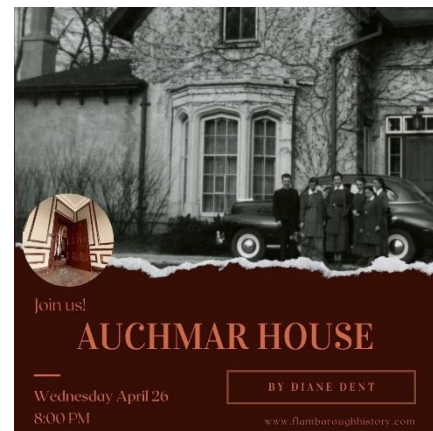
See you next year!



## Auchmar Talks

The Flamborough Heritage Society held its Annual General Meeting in April 2023.

The guest speaker was Dr. Diane Dent, Chair of the Friends of Auchmar. She gave a well received presentation about the Auchmar Estate.



# THE PHOTO GALLERY

This issue, the photo gallery is dedicated to Doors Open Hamilton – Auchmar.



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(2)



(3)



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## 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

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Page 6: Auchmar Spring Garden Stonewall (Fotograf Geissler).

## REFERENCES

Kelly, John Joseph, [A Taste for Speed: The Biography of Will Braden: Canada's Top Raceboat Driver 1915-1958](#), 2010.

Wansbrough, Barry, [Echoes That Remain](#), 2001.

