



AUCHMAR ADVOCATE

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Writer/Editor: John Kajaste

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BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR

Inside the Auchmar Manor House: Days Long Ago

SUMMER '42

THE VICTORIA DAY CELEBRATIONS brought the crowds down to the Parliament Buildings to listen to the Prime Minister, William Lyon MacKenzie King. The weeks passed by. Dominion Day was just 10 days away.

As May gave way to June, the weather stayed warm and dry. Today, June 22, the temperature was 78 degrees Fahrenheit (26 C). Major General James V. Young left the National Defense Headquarters building to walk along the Rideau Canal.



Major General James V. Young

ROCKCLIFFE PARK. Young men and women line up, waiting to climb to the diving platform and leap into the Ottawa River. From the top, the Parliament Buildings were easily viewed to the northeast,

Below, people lounged on the deck of the large dock. On the river, a fleet of paddlers adeptly handled their canoes. Several of these people were the next generation of their families to spend summer days at the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club.

Later, the parents, aunts and uncles who were the Charter Members of the Club, recalled the opening decades over cocktails and dinner in the dining room.



It was the Roaring 20s. Canadians had just come through the Great War and were eager to resume their lives. Some of the scars of that conflict were now fading. It was era of straw boater hats, fascinators, and striped bathing suits. It seemed that every table had a copy of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.



In 1929, the Ottawa New Edinburgh Club brought the Canoe Club “war canoe “championship trophy home. The lads were victorious that year.

Ottawa New Edinburgh Canoe Club 1929 Champions



WINONA BEACH.

The summer seasons at Hamilton Beach, Winona Beach and Grimsby Beach were changing. The old Hamilton families who first summered on the shores of Lake Ontario, close to their businesses, sold their summer homes. They purchased property and built new summer estates amidst the Precambrian Shield pine forests on Lake Muskoka, Lake Rousseau and Lake Joseph.

In the 1920s, they commissioned Bert Minett and Herb Ditchburn to build wooden boats for them. Some remain within the same families over 100 years later.

By the 1940s, the change was complete. At the Winona Beach Park Summer Resort (the old Willson Estate), conversations among the guests were about the boys and girls overseas in England and Europe.

STRATHALLAN FARMERETTES.

The school year was over. The girls looked forward to the summer social scene, tennis matches, weeks at the cottage, boating on the lake and dancing to the Big Bands on Saturday nights.

Joyce Ferrie was 16 years old in 1942, heading into her final year at Strathallan, when she would be School Captain for 1942-43.



Joyce Ferrie

Many of the Strathallan girls had family members who enlisted and were overseas. And, they knew of many others who answered the call of duty.

The war was always in the background. Conversations at stores and shops, gas stations, restaurants and coffee shops, and front porches and backyard fences happened daily. With men enlisting in great numbers, taking basic training and eventually sailing overseas to Europe, women filled the void, working in munitions and arms factories. Others learned how to farm and till the fields.

Joyce Ferrie, along with her friends Joan Peat, Jeannie Henderson, Mary Crerar, and Martha Gilles went to work on a farm in Winona. They did such tasks as thinning peaches, planting vegetables and greens such as celery, and packing fruit in Larken baskets.



(L-R) Joan Peat, Jeanie Henderson, Mary Crerar, Martha Gilles, Joyce Ferrie

The Government of Ontario created the Ontario Farm Service Force to ensure there was sufficient food production. Hundreds of young women went to work on farms in the Niagara fruit belt and southwestern Ontario.

Known as farmerettes, they were paid \$1.75 per day for a 7a.m. – 6p.m. workday. They were billeted in bunkhouses in converted barns on the farms. Staff from the Y.W.C.A. oversaw the girls and acted as housemothers.



A young woman, Janet Pete worked at a Niagara-on-the-Lake farm near the camp where Basic Training was conducted. She picked cherries and peaches in the orchards of what would later become Inniskillin Winery.

Emma Stitt worked at the E.D. Smith Farms and billeted in the bunkhouse at the factory on Highway 8.

Emma and her friends loved to dance. On weekends, they would head to Hamilton or Prudhommes in Vineland. They would listen and dance to the Big Band Orchestras of Tommy Dorsey, Louis Armstrong and Glenn Miller.

The bands travelled the summer circuit which took them from The Stork Club in Port Stanley to the Forum in Hamilton and then the resorts of the Muskoka area.



Perhaps, Joyce, Mary, Jeannie and the others met Emma and Janet as Glenn Miller played “In The Mood” on summer night during the middle years of the war.

As the years passed, many of the Farmerettes kept in touch with each other through letters and photographs.

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

Major General James V. Young walked along the bank of the Rideau Canal for a half hour. He was aware of the status of the troops in Europe. He wondered how John Douglas, Bill and “Babs” were. Also, he thought about his nephews and nieces. Operational plans prevented some from writing frequently. He would call Harry Crerar and ask him to look over his kin.

HAMILTON ONTARIO 1946



Frances Joyce Ferrie

When the war ended, the soldiers arrived home over the ensuing months.

Joyce Ferrie met Bill Young at a dance in Toronto.

They were married on May 4, 1946 in Central Presbyterian Church.

The Hamilton Spectator described the event in the following words: “a wedding of exceptional interest.”



William H. Young

2025

The contribution of The Farmerettes, at times, a forgotten yet vital element of Canada's homefront wartime efforts is receiving recognition. Books and memoirs written by Farmerettes, some in their nineties, have come forth. One is "Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz, Memories of Ontario Farmerettes."

A touring production, titled "We Lend A Hand" criss-crosses the province, playing to full houses in small towns such as Goderich and Southampton.

Their slogan was "We Can't Fight if We Don't Eat."

Canada Post issued a commemorative stamp set which includes The Farmerettes and Soldiers of The Soil.

Lastly, there are several Facebook Groups dedicated to the Farmerettes and administered by them.



Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz

Memories of Ontario
Farmerettes

Shirleyan English and Bonnie Sitter



FRIENDS OFAUCHMAR

News, Events, Partnerships.

Upcoming Events.

Currently, there are no upcoming events. Visit the website www.friendsofauchmar.ca for more information.

THE AUCHMAR CHALLENGE FUND



*AUCHMAR
CHALLENGE
FUND*

The Auchmar Estate was retained by the City of Hamilton as a Community Restoration Project. Heritage Hamilton joined the community with an Auchmar Challenge Fund in which the Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar donations from the community for an approved restoration project at the Auchmar Estate up to \$25,000.00.

Donate today by following this link → [Donate to the Auchmar Challenge Fund](#)

After clicking the above link, please include a “message to charity” on the donations page, indicating that you are donating to the Auchmar Challenge Fund. A charitable donation tax receipt will be issued by Heritage Hamilton Foundation for all donations.



National Trust of Canada -APT Joint Conference 2025.

The conference will be held in Halifax Nova Scotia October 23-25, 2025. Among the topics this year is The Power of Place and Story: Voices, Built Heritage and the Land.

Participating in the conference are the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals and the Indigenous Heritage Circle

A call for papers and presentations is posted the National Trust of Canada website.

For more information, visit info@nationaltrustcanada.ca



THE PHOTO GALLERY

The issue is dedicated to the Doug Embleton Private Family Collection and highlights the R.C.A.F. years at Auchmar.

It was known from 1943-1945 as R.C.A.F. Convalescent Hospital No. 2, Young Division.



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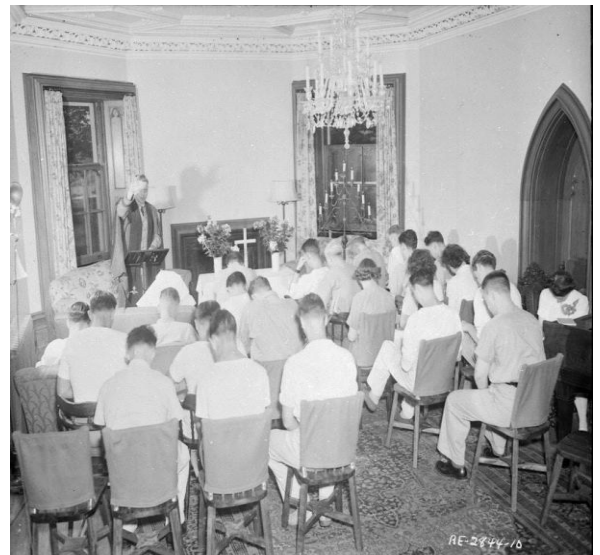
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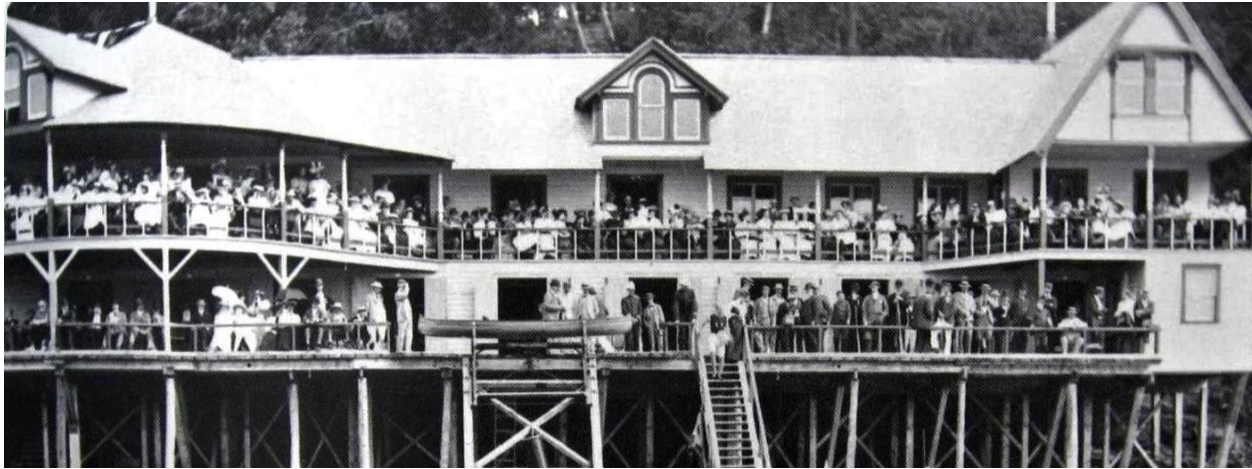


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OTTAWA NEW EDINBURGH CLUB
NATIONAL CAPITAL RIVER PAVILLION
Built Heritage and Adaptive Reuse

THE OTTAWA NEW EDINBURGH CLUB Boathouse was designed by well known local architect Colborne Powell Meredith and constructed in 1923.

Built in the Quenn Anne Revival style, the two and half storey building with a gabled roof and cantilevered veranda overlooked the Ottawa River and the Gatineau Hills and forests.

Located in the Rockcliffe neighbourhood, it soon became the centre of summer seasons with boating, canoeing, tennis and swimming. The swim dock washed away in 1973. By 2010, the doors closed on the Boathouse due to updated fire codes which limited the types of use such as dances and weddings.

In 2010, it was recognized as a Federal Heritage Building for its' link to Canadian canoeing history, and its' architecture. It is one of four (4) remaining Queen Anne Revival style boathouses in Canada.

The National Capital Commission undertook a 3year restoration in 2018, with the intention of reconnecting the community to the riverfront and augmenting the uses of the Boathouse space. The Ottawa New Edinburgh Club would remain in the newly named National Capital River Pavillion.

THE COMEBACK was well received by heritage advocates, club members and the community. Repurposed as a four- season venue, with all the club activities included, it contains more event space and several outreach programs.

The Outreach Programs will be the purview of the Ottawa Riverkeeper Stewardship Agency.

The restoration conserved many heritage elements such as the tongue and groove floor, wooden cladding, and windows. A sprinkler system and elevators addressed some of the needs. Also, the bridge from the shoreline to the Boathouse was replaced.

Carleton University students digitally catalogued the Boathouse and drafted 13 proposals for future uses which were submitted.

The Grand Re-Opening was in 2022 after the landscaping concluded. Attended by dignitaries, club members, Carleton University, and the community, it was a Gala Event.



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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

General Information Email: info@friendsofauchmar.ca

Membership: membership@friendsofauchmar.ca

X: @FOAuchmar.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofauchmar

OR

Just come up and speak with us.

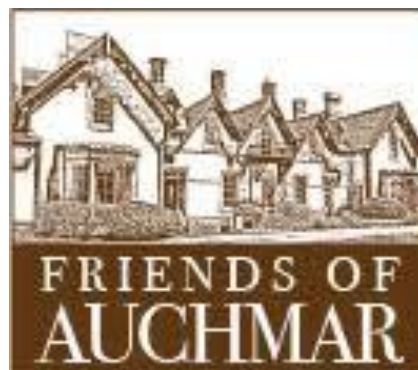


PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1: (1) Ceiling Light Fixture (J. Kajaste). (2) Auchmar Manor (www.militarybruce.com) (3) Wall light fixture (J. Kajaste).

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Page 3: (1) Joyce Ferrie (www.legacy.com).

Page 4: (1) Strathallan Farmerettes (Hamilton Spectator, June 22, 1942.) H.S.C Review 2024 pg. 21 (www.issue.com/hillfiedstrathallan). (2) Farmerette Patch (Bonnie Sitter Photograph Collection).

Page 5: (1) Emma Stitt Letter (www.niagarathisweek.com) Courtesy. Carla Carlson (nee Stitt). (2) Joyce Ferrie (www.legacy.com). (3) Willam H. Young "Bill" (www.legacy.com).

Page 6: (1) We Lend a Hand (Farmerette Show Poster) (Bonnie Sitter www.farmerettesforever.com) (2) Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz Book Cover (Bonnie Sitter Photograph Collection) (www.farmerettesforever.com).

Page 8: (1) Auchmar Estate (University of Toronto Library Archives). (2) National Trust of Canada Poster (National Trust of Canada).

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Page 10: (5-8) R.C.A.F. Convalescent Hospital No 2. Young Division. (Doug Embleton Private Family Collection). (9) Stablemaster Harry Embleton (Doug Embleton Private Family Collection).

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Page 14: (1) Auchmar Manor House (Hamilton Public Library, Local History and Archives).

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