



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.

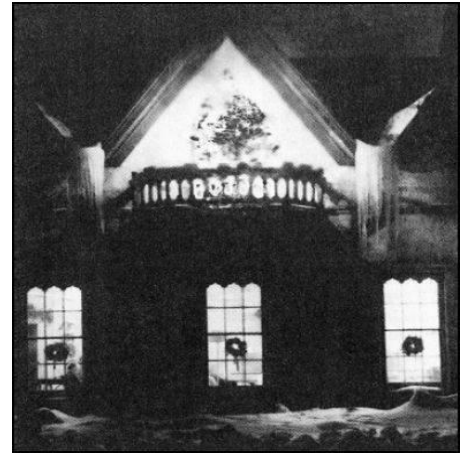
In the summer of 1943 after visiting with the Farwell family in Beaumaris, Mr. A.V. Young arranged with the R.C.A.F. for Auchmar to be used as a convalescent hospital for airmen who returned from service overseas. Mr. F.F. Dalley agreed to a similar arrangement. From October 1943 to the end of war, Auchmar 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.”



(left to right) Harry Embleton, Mr. Carey, Mr. A.V. Young, Mrs. Francis Farwell

FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR

News, Events, Partnerships.



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.

Friends of Auchmar Annual General Meeting.



The Friends of Auchmar Annual General Meeting was held on October 27, 2025, at the Chedoke/Balfour Estate.

The meeting consisted of a brief business meeting followed by a presentation about the Auchmar Manor restoration plan.

Lisa Abbott, Director of Heritage and Culture, Jen Anisef, and Sydney Kerr-Wilson gave the presentation.

Emma Cubitt graciously filled in for her husband Graham Cubbitt. Emma provided an update on Indwell's restoration plan for Century Manor and work already accomplished.

Lesia Mokrycke provided a very interesting presentation about the Monument Trees on the Auchmar Estate. Lesia showed photos of trees across Hamilton and raised awareness concerning the degradation of the urban forest.

Councillor Rob Cooper, our new councillor for Hamilton's Ward 8, was introduced and was thanked for attending. A citizen of Ward 8 for 22 years, Councillor Cooper told us about his work in Hamilton and his support for the restoration of the Auchmar Estate. He asked questions and chatted with guests at intermission and at the end of the evening.

Business Meeting Highlights.

- a) Cameron Nolan and Bill King presented the slate of officers which was approved.
 - Diane Dent provided the Chair's Report for 2024-2025.
 - Graham Carroll gave the Treasurer's report.
 - Debra Mills provided an update for Doors Open 2025. – We await confirmation from the ACO of the dates and theme for Doors Open Ontario 2026.
 - The lengthy minutes from the 2024 AGM were distributed.
 - The Reports will be posted on the Friends of Auchmar website.

We apologize that some members and guests did not receive the invitation to attend the Friends of Auchmar A.G.M.

DOORS OPEN ONTARIO 2026

The Friends of Auchmar was proud to act as the host for Doors Open Hamilton -Auchmar during the weekend of May 4 and May 5, 2025.

For information and updates about Doors Open Ontario, Doors Open Hamilton and specifically, Auchmar, visit the following website in March of 2026. www.doorsopenontario.ca and www.friendsofauchmar.ca

Look out for a Call for Volunteers during the early Spring of 2026.

It is one the best ways to walk the Great Hall, climb the staircase to the Servants Quarters, peak into the Vault, visit the exhibits in the Sunroom, ask questions about Elsie Buchanan to the owners of her private memorabilia collection, stroll throughout the Grounds and Kitchen Garden behind the Stonewall, and inquire about the Dovecote and Gatehouse.

Just a little bit of time and plenty of imagination.



Visit AUCHMAR Manor
"The Castle On the Mountain"
May 2nd & May 3rd
88 Fennell Avenue West L9C 1E7
10am to 4pm
(parking on side streets only ~ drop off available)

LEARN ABOUT THE CITY'S
10-YEAR REHABILITATION PLAN
FOR AUCHMAR ESTATE.

DOOR PRIZES EACH DAY
SELF-GUIDED MANOR TOURS
JANE'S WALK OF GROUNDS

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
Help guide visitors through the manor and learn more or pass on what you know about Auchmar
Please contact doorsopen@friendsofauchmar.ca

DOORS OPEN HAMILTON 2026

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DOORS OPEN HAMILTON 2026



THE GATEHOUSE AUCHMAR

PROVINCIAL PLAQUE



The gatchouse is situated at the original formal entrance to the estate, on the escarpment brow at 63 Claremont Dr. It was built in the Gothic cottage style to compliment the Manor House. It was sold into private hands in the 1980's. Advocates for its preservation have lobbied for designation status to protect and conserve this heritage building. It is in great need of restoration as an integral part of the Auchmar Estate cultural landscape and should be moved closer to the Manor House.



1980



WEST SIDE

2024



1980



NORTH SIDE



1980



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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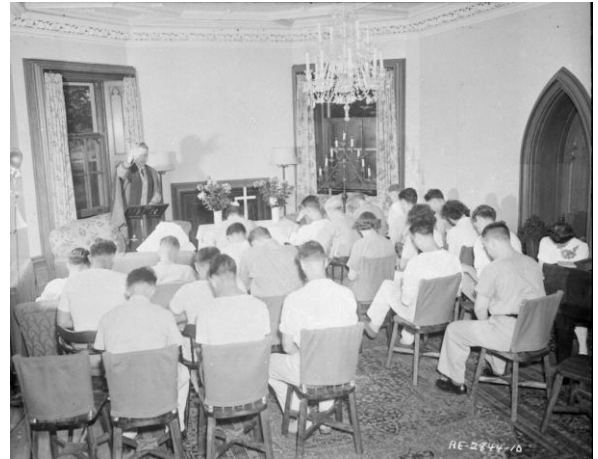
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CONTACT US

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) Auchmar Hallway (A.V. Young Family Private Collection) (2) Window Grand Ballroom (Sourced at F.O.A. Facebook). (3) Window, Radiator, Golf Course, Terry Geissler, Fotograf Geissler) (4) Gwyneth Owen Young Bridal Photo (Gwyneth Young Family Private Collection) published in Urbanicity May 2011.

Page 2: (1) Christmas Tree at Auchmar (P.A. Voelker) (Sourced at F.O.A. Facebook. (2) Carriage & Horse, (Auchmar Tonic Vol 1. No. 4, February 7, 1944) (Sourced at F.O.A.).

Page 3: (1) Auchmar Estate (University of Toronto Library Archives).

Page 4: (1) Friends of Auchmar (F.O.A.).

Page 5: (1) Doors Open Hamilton 2026 (F.O.A. Events).

Page 6: (1) Doors Open Hamilton 2026 Volunteer (F.O.A. Events). (2) Auchmar Gatehouse Poster (Carol Priamo) (F.O.A. Events)

Page 7: (1-4) R.C.A.F. Convalescent Hospital No.2, Young Division (Doug Embleton Private Family Collection).

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

Page 10: (1) Auchmar Estate (F.O.A. Facebook, Hamilton Public Library Local History & Archives).

