



AUCHMAR ADVOCATE

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BEYOND THE FRONT DOOR

Inside the Auchmar Manor House: D. Day Vignettes

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, June 6, 1944. Those out early for a walk this morning looked down from the Wentworth Street steps, upon the bayfront, the waters calm with a slight breeze; a harbinger of a beautiful late spring day.

It would be a warm day, with the day hitting 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 Celsius) before cooling a bit after the dinner hour.

Below, in the industrial sector, shift change occurred. The men had left to enlist and serve overseas in the army, navy and airforce. Women left their homes to work in munitions factories. Vi Connolly was one. Veronica Foster was another.

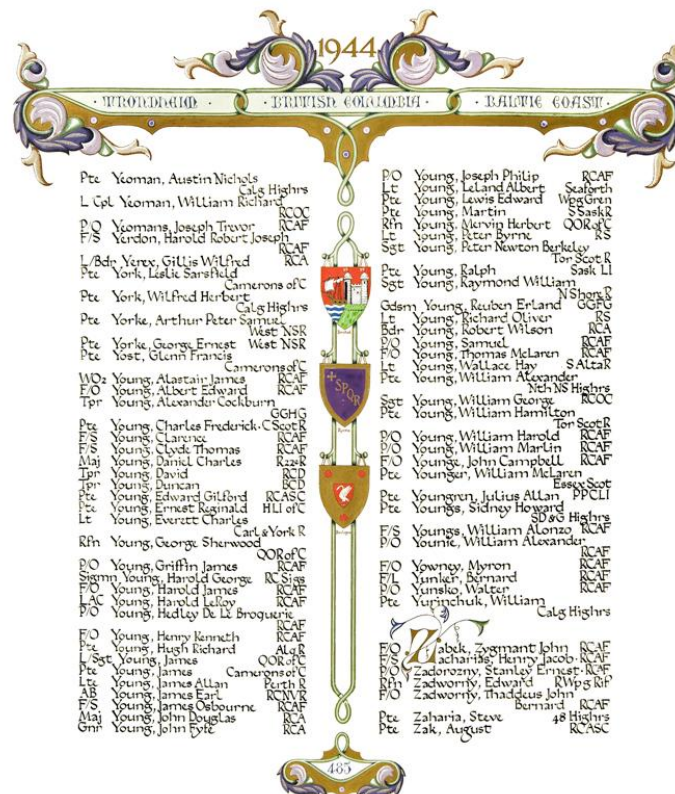


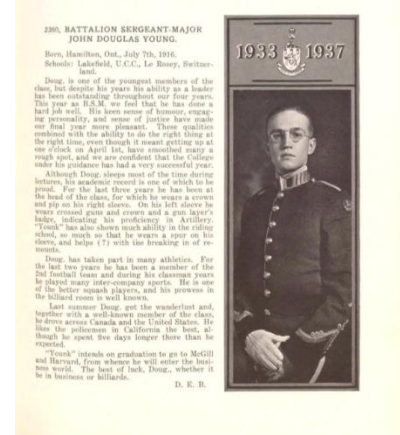
Otis Fensom, Canadian Westinghouse, Sawyer Massey, Hamilton Cotton Company, and Cosmos Imperial Company Ltd shifted and retooled for wartime production when war broke out in Europe 5 years ago.

At about the same time Major Douglas Young and his party, made up of three gunners from the 13th, were in their own landing craft and also seeking to negotiate a landfall. But before they

could set foot on Juno disaster struck them as well. One of the party's survivors later described what happened to his major and his comrades that lacerating day. "We crossed the Channel on a LCT [Landing Craft Tanks]", Gunner George Lacey reported on 17 June 1944,

The effects were devastating. Doug and Lacy's comrades were grievously wounded, one gunner suffering a badly mangled arm. His wounds could be treated with a tourniquet, however, which was supplied by the LCT's crew, who also furnished morphine for the stricken soldier. Unfortunately Doug, who had also borne the brunt of the exploding shell, was beyond even this kind of help. His upper right leg was shattered and he was bleeding heavily, so much so that within a matter of minutes he was dead. The wounded survivors were transferred to a hospital ship while Lacy was obliged to return to England but only after he had unavailingly sought to get ashore and report the fate of his major and the gunners. On being queried later, he could not recall the "time [or place] of Major Young's burial". Like Lieutenant Robert Dorsey [HR] his war had ended almost before it began..... "





D DAY JUNE 6, 1944

THE STAINED - GLASS WINDOW

Ex-cadets are named on the Memorial Arch at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario and in memorial stained glass windows to fallen comrades.

2360 Major John Douglas Young (R.M.C. 1933) was the son of James V. Young and Wilmot M. Young of Ottawa Ontario.

He served with the Royal Canadian Artillery. He died on June 6, 1944 at 28 years of age.

His name is listed on the Bayeaux Memorial in Bayeux, Normandy.

The J. Douglas Young Sword of Excellence at the Royal Military College of Canada was donated by the Class of 1933 in memory of their Classmate #2360 John Douglas Young (R.M.C. 1933).





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 in married in 1951.



D.DAY, JUNE 6, 1944

THE HOMEFRONT

(R.C.A.F. CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL NO. 2)

Flight Lieutenant Dr. Philip A. Voelker had many things to consider on this Tuesday.

People unknown to him were heading into Normandy. James “Stocky” Edwards was in his Spitfire. John Douglas Young landed at Juno Beach.

R.C.A.F. Convalescent Hospital No. 2 (Young Division) had been operational for nine months. Among the items on his desk was the monthly return covering all patients treated at C.H. No.2.

Each of the six facilities was required to submit these returns to the R.C.A.F.

Dr. Voelker oversaw the treatment, physiotherapy and rehabilitation of airmen injured during battle. The men came from England, Australia, New Zealand and from across Canada. All passed through the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

All Canadians, passed through one of the Manning Depots. Did Dr. Voelker look back on those days?

After graduating from the School of Medicine, University of Toronto and prior to joining the R.C.A.F. and reporting for basic training at Manning Depot No.1, Toronto, Dr. Voelker married Viva “Curly” Macdonald from Carlyle, Saskatchewan.

Together, they established a home and family practice in Waterloo.

The nurse tapped on his desk, a reminder that he was required. Was the camera ready? Dr. Voelker documented the physio regimens. Also, the men were looking forward to this week's dance.

Being far away from home and injured can take its toll on men. When Dr. Voelker learned that one of the recovering airmen was from Carlyle, he brought him home to dinner. They talked the evening away about the towns, prairies and home.

Friendships were forged during these years. Men from around the world, men and women from Canada, sharing the wartime years. Letters and memories were exchanged long after V.E. Day and many were thankful.

Thank you to Maggie Voelker for sharing a family story.



MEDICINE

REGINALD G. TAYLOR
Toronto, Ont.
Was born at Dorchester, England. Matriculated from North Toronto C.I. Activities consisted in seeing movies, sleeping and reading. Summers were spent in manual labour. Hopes to be a G.P. with modern improvements.

J. W. TOMLINSON (ΦX)
Toronto, Ont.
Born in Toronto. Matriculated from Bloor C.I. Was a member of the Senior Intercollegiate Tennis Team four years. President of the University Tennis Club VI. Was President of the Intercollegiate Tennis Club meeting at Kingston, 1937. Played baseball for Meds for three years. Summer occupations were bell hop, waiter, purser, camp physician. Future is indefinite.

E. BRUCE TOVEE (AUA)
Hamilton, Ont.
Born in Hamilton. Matriculated from Central Collegiate. Obtained Canadian General Hospital's War Memorial Scholarship IV. Was President

378 III; Vice-President Medical Society V, President VI, Chairman, Meds. Art-House V, President South House V. Was a member of Athletic Directorate VI and S.A.C. VI.

GEORGE X. TRIMBLE (ΦAE)
Toronto, Ont.
Entered Medicine via Biological and Medical Sciences and an Edward Blake Scholarship. Is intensely interested in physical culture, gymnastics and wrestling. Dislikes people who ask him what the X stands for, or who tell him that many doctors are on relief now. Intends to remain a bachelor for the next decade, during which he hopes to improve his knowledge of things medical.

B. W. VALE
Toronto, Ont.

P. A. VOELKER
Kitchener, Ont.

HAROLD L. WANLESS, R.A.
Glendale, Cal. (N2N)

MURIEL E. WILFORD
China

MALCOLM F. WILLIAMS
Fort Erie North, Ont. (N2N)
Born in Vancouver, B.C. Attended Fort Erie H.S. Obtained Johnny Copp Memorial Trophy. Resided in South House I-VI. President VI. Was President 378 IV. Played Intermediate Rugby II, III, Senior Rugby IV, VI, Canadian VI. Interfaculty Hockey III-V. Was a member of Athletic Directorate V, VI.

DAVID KHAIM WISE (ΦAE)
Toronto, Ont.
Entered Medicine after graduating from Biological and Medical Sciences, the value of which course he never discovered. Ambition is to be a good surgeon. Interested in the brotherhood of mankind and the pasteurization of the milk of human kindness; also the imperishable equanimity of complacent old age.

RALPH WOLFE
Toronto, Ont.
Born in Toronto. Graduated from Parkdale C.I. Was an undergraduate interne at the Ontario Hospital, Toronto, and spent the summer of 1937 at the Ontario Hospital, Orillia. Other summers were passed with the T. Eaton Co. Plans on Psychiatry.

ISOBEL LOUISE WRIGHT
Andersburg, Ont.
Played Interfaculty Basketball and Tennis II-V. Holds Junior "T" and "M". Served on Athletic Directorate V and was President M.W.A.A. VI.

ALBERT S. ZARSKY (ΦAE)
Toronto, Ont.
Born in Providence, R.I. Matriculated from Jarvis C.I. Played basketball for Meds I-VI and managed Senior Meds Basketball V. Played volleyball and baseball on Meds Team I-IV. University activities were kaleidoscopic. During summers was a playground supervisor and lifeguard. Future plans—to do post-graduate work and to make a million in the United States.

FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR

News, Events, Partnerships.

FRIENDS OF AUCHMAR 2026 Spring Meeting

The Friends of Auchmar Spring Meeting was held on April 8, 2026, at the Lister Block Tourism Centre in Hamilton.



This was a Special Meeting open to the public at large. The Keynote topic was an update on the Auchmar Estate Restoration Plans.

Doors Open Hamilton 2026 was presented and the call for Volunteers was reiterated. Auchmar Estate will once again participate. The hours on the weekend of May 2nd, and May 3rd are 10:00 am. – 4:00 pm.

The Friends of Auchmar is pleased to act as host at this site.

Graham Cubitt of Indwell provided an update on the Century Manor restoration.

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.

DOORS OPEN HAMILTON, MAY 2nd – MAY 3rd, 2026

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

DOORS OPEN HAMILTON 2026



THE PHOTO GALLERY

This issue of the Photo Gallery highlights some of the architectural details of the Auchmar Estate.



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) Window Auchmar southside (www.militarybruce.com) (2) Hallway (J. Kajaste) (3) Window Auchmar westside (Doors Open 2022) (4) Otis Fensom Building (www.industrialhamilton.com)

Page 3: (1) D.Day Remembrance Scroll (Veterans' Affairs Canada)
(www.veterans.gc.ca/remembrance/memorials)

Page 4: (1-4) John Douglas Young Original Source: John Douglas Young Photo (top left corner)
Hamilton Spectator, November 12, 1944

The numbers correspond to the photos left to right and top to bottom.

1. John Douglas Young 26268824_7
2. The Stained Glass Window 2628824_8
3. John Douglas Young R.M.C. 2628824_13
4. The J. Douglas Young Sword of Excellence 2628824_12
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Page 5: (1) Toni Edwards (original source R.C.A.F. Archives,) (Elinor Florence) (2) Wedding Photograph (sourced at Elinor Florence) (3) Stocky Edwards 16. Stocky-with-JFE-Spitfire-feature (Sourced at Elinor Florence) (www.elinorflorence.com)

Page 6: (1) Book Cover My Favourite Veterans (Sourced www.elinorflorence.com) (2) James & Toni Edwards (sourced at elinorflorence.com) (3) Stocky Edwards Portrait (sourced at www.elinorflorence.com)

Page 7: (1) Manning Depot No. 1, Toronto (postcard-toronto-manning-rcaf) (2) Philip and Viva Voelker (17426257_151299656206695_7374506636900686724_n (original source Voelker Family Collection) (3) B.C.A.T.P. sign (www.rcafarchives.com)

Page 8: (1) R.C.A.F. Convalescent Hospital No 2. (Doug Embleton Private Collection) (2) Physio Room Auchmar (Doug Embleton Private Collection) (3) Philip Voelker, School of Medicine, Torontonensis38

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Page 12: (1-6) Auchmar Manor House (Sourced at F.O.A.) (Sourced at J. Kajaste)

Page 13: (1) Auchmar Estate (F.O.A. Facebook, Hamilton Public Library Local History & Archives).

REFERENCES

1. John Douglas Young Source: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual.../ 2628824_7 2628824_8 2628824_13 2628824_12
2. John Douglas Young (McMaster University Alumni Archives) (www.alumni.mcmaster.ca)
3. James Francis “Stocky” Edwards Source: Stocky Edwards Fighter Ace, Family Man www.elinorflorence.com/blog/stocky-edwards
4. James “Stocky” Edwards (www.canadasaviationhalloffame.com)
5. James Bradburn, “I could hardly believe my ears” How Ontario Responded to new of the D.Day invasion, June 6, 2024, (www.TVO.today.com)



Photographs (Left to Right, Top to Bottom)

1. Wedding Photo 6._wedding-photo feature[1]
2. Book Cover My-Favourite-Veterans-Front-cover-small-[1]
3. Stocky and Toni Stocky-Toni-Edwards-September-10-2016-feature[1]

Photographs (Left to Right, Top to Bottom)

1. Manning Depot No 1. Toronto postcard-toronto-manning-depot-rcaf (1)
 2. Dr. Philip Voelker and Viva Voelker
 3. B.C.A.T.P Sign rcaf-arc-forces.gc.ca
4. P.A. Voelker, School of Medicine. Torontonensis38univ_109(2)
5. No. 2 R.C.A.F. Convalescent Hospital (R.C.A.F. Collection 1943-45)
6. Auchmar (treatment room) (R.C.A.F. Collection 1943-45)