



PETERBOROUGH HERITAGE REVIEW



A Newsletter of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

Spring 2006

PACAC Holds Two Free Events

Insuring Heritage Properties – March 2nd

A special workshop sponsored by PACAC will be held on **Thursday March 2nd at 7pm** in the Auditorium of the Aylmer St. Public Library, on the topic of insuring commercial and private historic properties.

Erik Hanson, Heritage Preservation Officer for Peterborough and Danny Sgro, P. Eng. from Jones DesLauriers Insurance Mgmt in Toronto will present information about insurance issues and coverage.

Free admission, light refreshments. Please RSVP: Sue Schappert at City Hall, 742-7777 ext. 1491

A. C. O. and Heritage Districts in Peterborough – April 20th

Everyone is invited to an information meeting for supporters of heritage. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 20th, 7pm** at historic St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Water and Murray Streets.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) is a charitable organization that advocates preserving our architecturally significant landscapes and structures. There are now 12 ACO chapters across Ontario. Come learn more about the benefits of the ACO; help decide if Peterborough needs a chapter. Rollo Myers, Director of the ACO, and a representative from another chapter will relate their experiences.

Catherine Nasmith, well-known architect, author, and heritage consultant, will also speak on heritage districts. This will be a very engaging session, especially for residents of potential heritage districts in Peterborough.

The **meeting is free**. Refreshments will be provided. See you there!

J-P Pawliw, Chair, PACAC

ECLECTIC EDWARDIAN STYLE

Many Peterborough homes before World War One were taken from standard plan books, and some were even built from kits supplied by Eaton's. But there were a number of interesting architect-designed houses built as well. A particularly interesting group of four houses is found off Hunter Street West, which was extended from Belmont to Walton about 1912 and divided the former George Cox estate into new lots for development.

408 Belmont Avenue, erected in 1905 for Claude Rogers, head of the Peterborough Canoe Co., was an exact copy of a house in Toronto that he admired. Its half-timbered gables typify the Tudor Revival style in vogue at this time. Two similar examples exist in the immediate neighborhood. The house's large size is disguised by the long sloping gable over the entrance and its asymmetrical massing.



The very different 404 Belmont was built about the same time to the design of a Toronto architect. Its Colonial Revival style was more popular in the United States than in Canada, and this fine example is perhaps the only one in the city. The symmetry of the facades, the louvered shutters, the fine cornice mouldings, and the six-over-six paned windows are characteristic of the style.



The long sloping twin gables and stucco exterior of 492 Homewood Avenue betray the influence of the architect, C.F.A. Voysey. His Arts and Crafts designs were very popular in Britain at the time this house was built, about 1914.



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The Heritage Preservation Office

In 2003, Ontario passed legislation allowing municipalities to offer property tax rebates to owners of historic properties. Peterborough decided to institute the program and in Fall 2003 hired its first-ever staff member dedicated to promoting heritage awareness in the city. Originally charged with designing and implementing the Heritage Property Tax Relief Program (HPTRP), the Heritage Preservation Office or HPO has very quickly taken on responsibility for most heritage initiatives here. It also oversees archaeology projects, provides building management for the Market Hall, advises owners on heritage conservation issues, is creating an inventory of heritage buildings in the city, and provides Council with expert advice on heritage matters.

Right now we are lucky to have Susan Schappert with the HPO as a heritage researcher. Sue writes heritage designation briefs and is working on nominating all Peterborough's designated heritage buildings to the Canadian Register of Historic Places, a new database of heritage sites across the country. This February, Peterborough got an award of appreciation from the Ontario Minister of Culture, the Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, for its leading role in promoting the Canadian Register project.

2006 will be busy for the HPO as we push ahead with the creation of the City's first Archaeology Master Plan, implement Council direction on creation of the Wall of Honour, advocate for the wise re-use of several major heritage buildings and integrate the heritage inventory into the City's computer land information system, so that every City staff member has a clear understanding of a property's heritage value, before decisions are made about its future.

Erik Hanson, Staff

Peterborough Heritage Review is a publication of the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (PACAC) through the City of Peterborough. For more information, contact Erik Hanson, Heritage Presentation Officer at 742-7777 ext 1489 or email him at: ehanson@city.peterborough.on.ca

Rivulet Courtyard Adaptive Re-use Revealed

Dignitaries attended the grand opening of the Rivulet Courtyard apartments, in the recently designated Former Post Office & Customs House, in January. Mayor Sylvia Sutherland cut the ribbon, with MPP Jeff Leal and MP Peter Adams (in his last official ceremony) thanking Ross Smith, President and CEO of AON Inc., for preserving the Former Post Office building, which is Peterborough's first post-war structure to be given heritage designation. AON staff gave tours of the model suites and fitness room.



Once hailed as the beacon of modernity and technological advancement, the building sat empty for several years waiting for an energetic property owner to take it on. AON preserved many heritage attributes of this 1950s-era structure including the exterior curtain windows and interior pink granite lobby, while providing 91 new one and two bedroom housing units to re-energize the downtown core.

Sue Schappert, Staff

A Word from the Designation Subcommittee

It is my pleasure to serve as Chair of this Subcommittee again and I am thrilled to work with a strong and dedicated team.

We have recently reviewed new heritage designations for 2006. Six properties await approval of designation by City Council. Three buildings are in the downtown core, with two of them in the same block on George Street (see page 4).

The committee couldn't get out to install the plaques for previously designated properties before winter. Up to 26 properties can look forward to being decorated by beautiful designation plaques in the spring. If you haven't received a plaque yet, expect to be contacted by a member of the Designation Subcommittee shortly. For more information, you may also contact the Heritage Preservation Office at 742-7777 ext 1489.

Geoffrey Eve, PACAC



5th Annual Doors Open Peterborough September 30th, 2006

Free tours of more than 15 heritage properties and interesting buildings (*including Class Connections, above*) will take place on Saturday, September 30th, 2006 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Brochures and maps will be available at the Tourism office of the Chamber of Commerce, Peterborough City Hall, the Centennial Museum and the Library beginning in May. Information is also available at the website: www.doorsopenontario.on.ca where our event is listed along with building descriptions and photos. Help celebrate our heritage at Doors Open Peterborough!

Sheryl Smith, PACAC



Auburn Generating Station

Photo Courtesy of Lakefield Heritage Research, G Young, Editor

More Than Just Homes

Not all of Peterborough's heritage rests with our homes, commercial buildings or schools. PACAC member Gordon Young is fascinated by the area known as Auburn Woollen Mills, originally located on the east side of the Otonabee River and north of Parkhill Road. Today only a few wooden workers' cottages are left on Lisburn Street. On the west side, the Auburn Generating Station is one structure that contributes to our sense of that original district.



Courtesy Su Murdoch

The Auburn Generating Station was part of the Kerry Electric System that controlled much of the upper Otonabee River in the days before Ontario Hydro. "They were working under the name of Auburn Power Company and were affiliated with the Peterborough Radial Railway Company and the Auburn Woollen Mills, run by a mainly Peterborough-based group of investors of whom Senator George Cox was the best known", says Gordon.

Gordon notes that the Auburn Generating Station's architect was the same man who, in 1889, designed Toronto's third city hall (known today as 'Old City Hall'). Edward James Lennox (1854-1933) also built Casa Loma and many other prominent buildings. Among his commissions were three local power stations - Auburn Generating Station, Nassau Mills Generating Station and his last, the Lakefield Generating Station. The Auburn Station was built in 1910 and the equipment in it was installed in 1911 and 1912, where it still runs today. Gordon is always looking for more historical information to add to PACAC's body of knowledge about our past.

Sheryl Smith with Gordon Young, PACAC

