



The ACO was incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of architecture in the province and for the preservation of its places of natural beauty.

## A Letter that Matters

**Donald Macintosh** – Letter to Mr. Mayor elect, Ms. Deputy Mayor elect, and all Cobourg councilors,

The Architectural Conservancy Ontario Cobourg and East Northumberland Branch (ACO C&EN) is very concerned about the very negative impact the Ontario Government's Bill 23 will have on Ontario communities like Cobourg.

Looking ahead, Cobourg's many architectural heritage assets need to be recognized as its economic assets which are fundamentally important for Cobourg's economic development strategies.

ACO Cobourg and East Northumberland's (ACO C&EN) mission is, "Through education and advocacy, encourage the conservation and reuse of structures, districts and landscapes of architectural, historic and cultural significance, to inspire and benefit Ontarians. As an ACO branch, C&EN can provide a treasury of experience, resources, and political advocacy as well as other benefits offered through the ACO organization.

Please take a few minutes to read through the ACO Press release, link below. Should you require additional information please send me an email.

Respectfully, Don Macintosh  
Chair, ACO Cobourg and East Northumberland Branch

Link to [Media Release](#)



Stock photo

## Media Response

**Diane Chin** - MEDIA RELEASE October 27, 2022  
Response to More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

### Undermining Heritage Conservation Won't Solve Ontario's Housing Supply Issues

According to figures discussed at the National Trust for Canada Conference in Toronto last weekend, heritage protected buildings amount to approximately 4 percent of Canada's existing building stock. Making it harder for communities to preserve places is misguided, cannot solve the housing crisis but will certainly lead to loss of heritage valued by the diverse peoples of the province, says Diane Chin, ACO President.

As one example of poorly thought-out proposals, requiring two criteria for designation, instead of one, will make it practically impossible to protect the often-humble buildings that tell the stories of BIPOC and other marginalized communities.

ACO sees a missed opportunity with the lack of emphasis on converting buildings larger than houses for new housing, absolutely the fastest way to bring new housing online compared to the environmentally destructive practices of demolition and new builds. Diane Chin, ACO President, says. We advocate KEEPING FIXING REUSING our older buildings.

ACO supports many of the Ford government's proposals which would make it easier to achieve infill (gentle) housing development such as permitting secondary suites, laneway housing. We are also pleased that overdue changes to make it easier to amend Heritage Conservation District Plans will be included. We are disappointed that the promised Ontario Building Code proposals that would permit easy conversion of commercial buildings to residential and retrofitting of Ontario's historic main-streets buildings received no mention. Such changes would make it easier to retain and convert existing buildings, build around them, as well as create a new class of small investors in housing provision.

Architectural Conservancy Ontario is the largest voice for heritage in Ontario, founded in 1933 with branches in 17 communities across the province.



Source: Town of Cobourg website

## Town of Cobourg Walking Tours

Did you know that the town of Cobourg's website features information about Heritage. Further, did you know that they highlight our heritage areas by providing unique and interesting heritage walking tours throughout our Heritage Conservation Districts?

[Here is a link to access the walking tours.](#)

As well, there is information about how to use the Story Map App.

You can view the Story Map on your mobile device and the next time out of town friends come to visit – take a walking tour.



Source: Town of Cobourg website

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Donna Londry

## Windows in Heritage Buildings

This is an excerpt of an article written in 2006 by Susan D. Turner.

Would you agree, windows are “the eyes of a building.” Both the size and spacing balance the façade. Their materials and how they operate reflect the state of technology at the time of the build. Windows are often a key character-defining element.

However, as interest in energy conservation and sustainable development increases, and building owners look for ways to improve energy performance, old windows are a common target. Window replacement is often mistakenly identified as one of the top energy-saving improvements that can be made. Yet windows are also important character-defining elements to a building’s architecture, and the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada encourage owners of heritage buildings to “repair rather than replace character-defining elements.” Fortunately, it is possible to improve the thermal performance and operation of old windows while at the same time respecting heritage character (and often even saving money into the bargain).

Repairing and Upgrading Windows: it is the ‘green thing to do’. Windows represent embodied energy: raw resources, processing, labour, and shipping energy have gone into their manufacture. Embodied energy is lost when windows are sent to a landfill. When even more energy and resources are invested in replacing them with new windows made of wood, aluminum, or vinyl—often with a shorter service life than the old windows—the cost to the environment is substantial. This is above and beyond the cost to the building’s character and heritage value when original features are lost. When properly repaired and retrofitted, early windows can usually be made to perform at a level comparable to new windows. This approach is ‘sustainable’ on many levels. (Turner, 2006) - Link to full article: [Windows in Heritage Buildings.](#)

Donald Macintosh

## Cobourg ~ Going Forward

Cobourg's growth, development and change are inevitable. Each requiring much consideration. The list of considerations is considerable: a few priorities would be investment and economic development, land use planning, infrastructure requirements, demographic impacts, housing and employment. Environmental impacts also need to be considered.

Recognizing the value of Cobourg's enviable architectural heritage needs to be another key priority. Architectural heritage is a non-renewable resource. A community's heritage resources are its economic resources. The preservation and protection of Cobourg's architectural heritage provides much in terms of long term economic, social and environmental benefits.

Cobourg's historic neighborhoods, its four heritage conservation districts as well as more than a few architecturally significant buildings. (E.G. Victoria Hall, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Victoria College, Cobourg's harbour and beach, the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre, the Marie Dressler House) are just a few of Cobourg's key assets

The richness and diversity of Cobourg's architectural heritage along with the quantity and quality makes our community unique and a very interesting place to visit. The preservation and promotion of Cobourg's architectural heritage can create unique economic opportunities for visitors while helping to promote a continuing sense of place for residents.

Most specifically, retired University of Waterloo professor Robert Shipley - a much published author of heritage issues - is adamant; architectural heritage should not be recognized as a community cost but rather as an investment with real economic and measurable returns. The preservation and promotion of a local architectural heritage is recognized to have many economic advantages. However, as a community strategy there are planning issues that need to be considered and managed.

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# What's Happening

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A flyer for the ACO Christmas Party. The top left features the ACO logo (an orange square with 'ACO' in white) and a black and white photograph of a large, classical building. Below the logo, the text reads 'ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY ONTARIO' and 'COBOURG & EAST NORTHUMBERLAND'. The main title is 'CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE ACO CHRISTMAS PARTY!' in orange. The event details are: DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH; TIME: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM; VENUE: RAVENSWORTH, 7 FITZHUGH LANE, HOME OF VIRGINIA & PETER MCLAUGHLIN (PARKING LIMITED, CAR POOLING SUGGESTED). Ticket information: TICKETS: \$25 PER PERSON; PAY BY CHEQUE OR CASH TO ESTHER ROBSON'S MAILBOX: 132 ONTARIO STREET, COBOURG; TEL: 289-252-0991. The deadline is: DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30TH. The right side of the flyer is decorated with a close-up photograph of a green evergreen branch with red berries, gold stars, and a pinecone.

**ACO**  
ARCHITECTURAL  
CONSERVANCY  
ONTARIO

COBOURG & EAST  
NORTHUMBERLAND

**CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON  
AT THE ACO CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

**DATE:** TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH  
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**VENUE:** RAVENSWORTH, 7 FITZHUGH LANE  
HOME OF VIRGINIA & PETER MCLAUGHLIN  
(PARKING LIMITED, CAR POOLING SUGGESTED)

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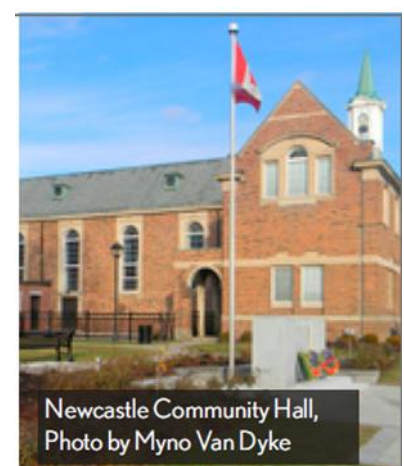
## A Bus Tour Again, at Long Last!

The last highly popular Annual April bus tour was in 2019, to Lakefield and Warsaw. Three and a half years ago! We think you'll agree it's high time to start up again. So, we're working on a bus tour to Newcastle, Bond Head and Bowmanville on April 24, 2023. Yes, we pass these towns all the time on our way to and from Toronto, and perhaps we think we know them. But do we?

No doubt you'll be as staggered as we've been on discovering the plethora of splendid heritage homes they both contain. In addition, we will visit the former POW camp in Clarington, which housed important high-ranking German officers in the last war.

As members of longer standing may recall, our branch used to alternate with the Port Hope branch in organizing bus tours. Their branch was fast out of the gate in organizing this one planned for April 24th. Currently, there is not a set the price. If you are interested in joining the tour please read below.

- **How to get on the "I am interested list"** - email Patsy Beeson [pbeeson@eagle.ca](mailto:pbeeson@eagle.ca) telling her of your interest, and copy Gail Rayment [gail.rayment@sympatico.ca](mailto:gail.rayment@sympatico.ca).
- **Next steps** - When the price is known and you are notified about it and the payment method, we strongly suggest you pay quickly to secure your spot. The bus tours do sell out quickly. **Your place on the bus won't be confirmed until your payment has been received.**



## Rob Mikel was asked ~ Why heritage matters?

**His response** ~ I would like, as my input into this question, to provide several links to good articles on the importance of heritage preservation. These various resources provide proven information on the importance of heritage preservation particularly on the social, economic and climate change benefits. Further, they explain how communities like Cobourg can develop strategies to implement workable, sustainable plans.

Cultural tourism builds on the unique assets a community has to draw people to it. Rather than building “attractions” a cultural tourism strategy is about enhancing the community and celebrating its uniqueness. Instead of marketing, *Come to the beach in Cobourg*, - reframing the wording to ***Come visit Cobourg with its museums, beautiful heritage buildings, beach etc.*** The town becomes the draw. This approach works to enhance the community which in turns creates more interest resulting in people visiting.

Currently, one area of interest to me is the importance of **cultural and heritage tourism**. This approach to tourism in an enhancement to the community, its residents and brings real economic benefits for all.

Here are several resources in support of Why Heritage Matters.

<https://www.snclavalin.com/en/beyond-engineering/7-ways-heritage-preservation-can-contribute-to-sustainable-urban-development>

<file:///C:/Users/mikelr1/Downloads/Social%20Benefits%20B12.20.pdf>

<https://communityedition.ca/why-heritage-conservation-matters>

<https://www.flame.edu.in/in-the-media/world-heritage-why-preserve-conserve-and-protect>

### Economic Benefits

<https://www.heritage-matters.ca/articles/nine-ways-that-heritage-conservation-is-good-for-the-economy>

<https://globalurban.org/GUDMag08Vol4Iss1/Rypkema.htm>

### Cultural Tourism

[https://tourismns.ca/sites/default/files/page\\_documents/cultural\\_heritage\\_tourism\\_handbook.pdf](https://tourismns.ca/sites/default/files/page_documents/cultural_heritage_tourism_handbook.pdf)

<https://heritagebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/TBE-Guide-Cultural-and-Heritage-Tourism-Jan2014.pdf>

**About Robert Mikel** ~ he has been awarded the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Lifetime achievement in Heritage work. In 2016, he received the Mary Millard Award from the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario for contributions to heritage. He has the following publications · Cobourg: Spirit of the Place · Ontario House Styles: The Distinctive Architecture of the Province's 18th and 19th Century Homes.

### Upcoming Book

*“Books give us some place to go when we have to stay at home.”*

John McQuarrie

Ottawa-based photographer, author and publisher of the widely acclaimed "Then and Now Series." is also the author and publisher of the "Spirit of Place" series primarily focusing on the unique architectural heritage found in Ontario towns.

Recently, Mr. MacQuarrie was in Grafton and Cobourg taking additional photos for his soon to be published Cobourg Spirit of Place (2023)



### ACO C&EN Board

(Annual General Meeting - May 2023)

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Deputy Chair	
Past Chair	Esther Robson
Secretary	James Young
Treasurer	Christine Bayer
Membership	Peter McLaughlin
Board Member	Denise Johnson
Board Member	Robyn Mumford
Board Member	Douglas Syrota
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Newsletter	Donna Londry

# Closing Comments

## Bill 23 My concerns – A Letter from the Chair

Donald Macintosh

The Government of Ontario tabled an omnibus bill labelled as the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, most often referred to as Bill 23. (Royal Assent received November 3, 2022)

It is likely the extent and consequence of omnibus Bill 23 might be difficult to fully comprehend. After all, omnibus bills are wide ranging in scope from being innocuous to being very controversial. To paraphrase the Associated Municipalities Ontario (AMO) which suggests Bill 23's economic, social, and environmental implications cannot be ignored. [Source: <https://www.amo.on.ca/advocacy/health-human-services/unpacking-bill-23-more-homes-built-faster-act-2022>]

Due to its scope and complexity, Bill 23 stifles opportunities for debate and scrutiny. To paraphrase a Laval University Political Science Professor, Louis Massicote, "omnibus bills may be used by minority governments to ensure their survival."

Bill 23's purpose is to help ensure 1.5 million homes will be built in Ontario over the next ten years. That is a considerable number of houses, roads and infrastructural as well as social resources. Consequently Bill 23 outlines many, many changes.

One Toronto law firm suggests Bill 23's changes "would be seismic." Another Toronto law firm explains how Bill 23 "...will have an immediate and significant impact on developers and provides policy frameworks significantly benefiting developers."

Today [2022-11-15] the Globe and Mail (G&M) reported, "The province proposes to expedite conservation authorities' processes for selling their lands for housing developments." The G&M also reported, "developers and land speculators are the biggest winners."

As an ACO member and a concerned Ontarian, Bill 23's assault on the Ontario Heritage Act is alarming. No less alarming are the considerable changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. To have a better sense of Bill 23's assault on Ontario's heritage please read the ACO Press Release (2022-11-10). Bill 23 is deliberately assaulting the many significant and positive impacts that heritage can have on local economies.

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## Heritage Day 2023

Preparations are now underway for ACO's eighth annual Heritage Day. Taking place during Ontario Heritage Week (February 20-26), we are excited to once again be hosting the day in person at Queen's Park in Toronto. Heritage Day is an opportunity to advocate directly to MPPs on important heritage issues and highlight the work of ACO members, volunteers and heritage professionals across the province.

At our last Heritage Day in February 2022, ACO delegates met virtually with 22 MPPs, highlighting the vital role conserving our built heritage and landscapes has to play in combating climate change, as well as the wide-ranging positive benefits it has for housing, economic growth and tourism..

This year ACO will continue delivering this message and the importance of Keeping Fixing Reusing. While we intend to hold as many meetings as possible in person, there may also be the option to attend virtually, so all are welcome to wherever you are in the province!

If you would like to participate as a delegate or have any questions about the day, please contact Alex MacKinnon at [alex@acountario.ca](mailto:alex@acountario.ca).