



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.

Annual General Meeting 2023



ACO Cobourg and Northumberland Branch

Date: Monday, May 15, 2023
Location: Barnum House Museum
10568 County Road 2
Grafton, Ontario K0K 2G0
Time: 6:45 p.m.

All members of the ACO Cobourg and Northumberland Branch are welcome.

New Book

Cobourg and Northumberland County, Sense of Place

Photographer and publisher John McQuarrie is about to send his book: Cobourg and Northumberland County, Sense of Place off to the printer. The book will be a 176-page, colour coffee-table book looking at the growth of our community through over 300 photographs, along with a lively text contributed by several Northumberland County writers including Rob Mikel and Dan Buchanan.

Readers will be parachuted into our local history with its background on the First Nations People in Northumberland who beat the Europeans to this land by some 5,000 years.

Further, readers will then be introduced to Eliud Nickerson, the first non-native person to build a log cabin by the small creek which formed the modern harbour bay and which now flows through conduits under King Street.

By the end of the 18th century, Eliud had been joined by several others who took their cue and built near him. Their little grouping near today's King and Division intersection had unknowingly formed the centre of the future town of Cobourg.

For anyone interested in meeting the author, John will be leading a "Jane's Walk" on Saturday, May 6th, starting in the Marina parking lot. The walk will look at various aspects of the Harbour and Victoria Park.

John McQuarrie Photography, Ottawa Ontario
Email: mcq@magma.ca



Jane's Walk

Jane's Walk was founded in Toronto in 2007. It is a festival of free, community-led walking conversations inspired by the writer, urbanist and activist Jane Jacobs (1916-2006).

Jacobs' seminal 1961 book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, introduced ground-breaking ideas about how cities function and evolve that have become common sense for today's architects, planners, policymakers, activists and city builders.



For updates on Jane's Walk Cobourg, check out their Facebook page. As of this publication the time of the walk has not been confirmed.

https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1000693883531775&_rdr

ACO C&EN Board

(Annual General Meeting - May 2023)

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Introducing our Town of Cobourg's
Heritage Planner

Hello, my name is Marina Smirnova. I have been the Town of Cobourg's Heritage Planner since October 2022. As the town's Heritage Planner my responsibilities are all aspects of the Heritage Permit approval process, working closely with the Cobourg Heritage Advisory Committee.

I worked with the City of Quinte West as a development review planner. I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Environmental Science from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Planning from Toronto Metropolitan (formerly Ryerson) University.

I helped developed a tourism strategy for the Municipality of Prince Edward County to protect and enhance the County's natural and cultural heritage while celebrating its existing small-scale farm vernacular and promoting the revitalization of its small-town main streets.

With a great interest in history, I am fascinated by the connections between heritage, community identity, and the sense of place. Heritage properties - both landscape and architectural - are major community assets. As valuable assets they need to be at the forefront of discussions around managing a community's change and growth.

In particular with the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings and sites as a means of building sustainable and resilient communities.

By working collaboratively together as a Heritage Planner I help facilitate connections by building relationships to protect Cobourg's cultural heritage.

For any inquiries, I can be reached at email: msmirnova@cobourg.ca phone: 905-372-1005 x4455.

**ACO C & EN's
Barnum House Events
Committee's**



**Saturday, May 27th 2023
9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

To reserve your spot, contact us at BarnumHouseEvents@gmail.com

\$20.00 per auto, you keep the rest
Hosted by the ACO C&EN Branch



1. Monday May 15th, 2023, ACO C&EN's Annual General Meeting ACO C&EN members welcome
2. Saturday, May 27th, 2023, ACO C&EN's Car Trunk Sale ~ Limited spaces. Reserve your car's spot today
3. Saturday, June 24th, 2023, ACO C&EN's Strawberry Tea ~ Many Volunteers are required. Thank you to those who volunteered last year. Please consider volunteering again - you did a great job!
4. September 2023 ACO C&EN's Corn Roast ~ More details to follow.
5. Saturday, October 21, 2023 "The Memoirs of Eliakim Barnum" ~ A Northumberland Player's production. Two performances, each complete with dinner ~ More details to follow.



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What's Happening

A Hall So Grand

Celebrating 160 years of Victoria Hall in Words, Images and Song

Victoria Hall Volunteers present a gala concert on **Saturday, May 13, 2023, at 7.30 pm**, which will pay tribute to one of Ontario's most beautiful and historic public buildings, Cobourg's Victoria Hall. Created and narrated by historian Hugh Brewster the evening will tell the remarkable story of how Cobourg came to have "a hall so grand" and give highlights from its 160 years - from the opening royal ball in 1860 to its rescue from the wrecker's ball in the 1970s.

Brigitte Robinson will co-narrate with Hugh Brewster, accompanied by a multi-media screen show of archival images and film clips, highlighted by music performed by the Oriana Singers, guest soloists, and accompanist, James Bourne. The concert takes us from the "very pretty ball" that the Prince of Wales described to Queen Victoria in 1860, to the gala 1899 opening of the Opera House with the cream of America's social register in attendance to the gallant group of volunteers who saved the building from demolition in the 1970s.

The music selections range from stirring anthems by Mozart and Haydn to operetta favourites once performed in the Opera House, songs from both world wars to modern tunes by Marvin Hamlisch and Leonard Cohen.

Hugh Brewster is an author, historian and playwright who has created many productions that combine narration with choral music and a multimedia screen show, including Cobourg's Great War which launched *Armistice 18* in 2018. His play, *LAST DAY, LAST HOUR: Canada's Great War on Trial*, enjoyed a sold-out run in Cobourg's Old Bailey Courthouse in the fall of 2018, the scene of the original trial, and received national media coverage.

Brigitte Robinson is an accomplished actor who has appeared in theatre, film and television across Canada. She was a member of the Shaw Festival for thirteen years and has also worked in most of Canada's major theatres. Her many film and TV credits include *Murdoch Mysteries*, and the title role in the feature film *Punch and Judy*.

Oriana Singers have been singing inspiring music since 1969/70 for audiences in Northumberland County and beyond. Their Christmas concerts, including Handel's *Messiah*, are seasonal favourites and they also perform repertoire in a wide range of styles both classic and modern. Their conductor, Lynn Janes, says that the choir is delighted to be a part of this wonderful celebration of Victoria Hall.

James Bourne began piano studies as a boy in Cobourg before embarking on a career as a celebrated accompanist. For this historic concert in his hometown, he has assembled an outstanding group of professional soloists.

Victoria Hall Volunteers is a registered charity, founded in 1975 to support the continuing restoration of Victoria Hall through fundraising and educational events. As successors to the original group of volunteers who championed the restoration in the 1970s, the group raised in excess of \$365,000 to fund a variety of projects.

Tickets are \$50. For tickets call the Box Office, 905.372.2210, or visit www.concerthallatvictoriahall.com (a service charge will apply)

For more information visit: www.vhvcobourg.ca



Photo credit: Flickr.com Photographer: Jean Smith 2012

You are Invited
Historic Barnum House (c. 1820)
Annual **Strawberry** Social
Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 1:00 pm



Strawberry Tea will be Served 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Hosted by the Cobourg East Northumberland Branch ACO

Adults \$15 Children \$10



House tours on the half hour starting at 1:00 pm
with Rob Mikel and Des Conacher

HISTORIC BARNUM HOUSE - Ontario Heritage Trust

10568 County 2 Road

Grafton, ON K0K 2G0

Designated National Heritage Site in 1959

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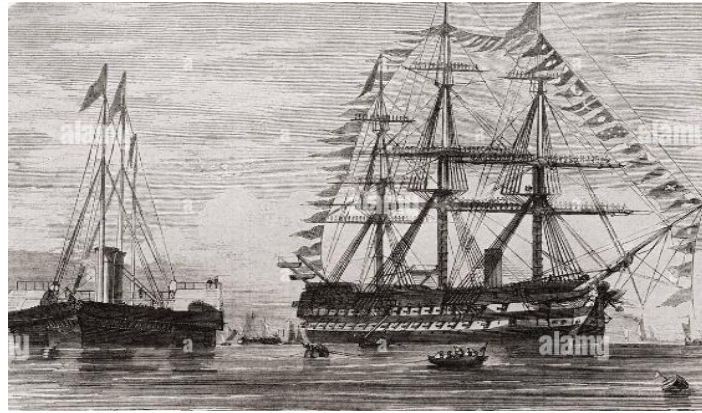
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A Royal Glance Back in History ~ Prince Edward Albert visited Cobourg

Contributed by: Donald Macintosh

Edward Albert, Prince of Wales, known by his family as Bertie, would later become King of the United Kingdom and of the British Dominions, Emperor of India. When Edward Albert was eighteen ("of age") he was sent across the Atlantic on a royal tour.

After landing in St. John's in late July 1860, he travelled on to Halifax, St. John, Fredericton, Charlottetown before travelling into the Province of Canada. The prince visited Quebec City, Trois Riviere and Montreal. The impetus for Edward Albert's royal visit to North America had been the construction of a Montreal railway bridge (Victoria Bridge) across the St. Lawrence that was referred to as "the eighth wonder of the world." Edward Albert trip was to represent his mother, Queen Victoria.



The HMS Ariadne and 91-gun HMS Hero

Going on first to Ottawa and later to Kingston in Canada West (after confederation known as Ontario in 1867.) The 1860 royal tour was mostly a whirlwind of official engagements. After Kingston, Brockville was the prince's next port of call. At Brockville the Prince boarded the steamer Kingston intending to visit the town of Kingston. With discretion being the better part of valour, the prince's entourage moved further along Lake Ontario - originally to go to Belleville but at the last moment the destination was changed. Instead, late in the day of September 7th, 1860 Prince Albert Edward disembarked the steamer Kingston at Cobourg. Prince Edward would take part in the grand opening of the opulent town hall which had been named in honour of his mother.



Steamer Kingston

Sourced from a local newspaper which read, *"The Cobourg folks rang out their huzzahs loudly and freely."*

Prince Edward and his entourage were accompanied by an honour guard of Upper Canada's Volunteer Militia Rifles, he travelled by carriage from the harbour to Victoria Hall. After delivering a formal address, the Prince of Wales opened the grand ball, and by 11 o'clock that night, the teenage Prince was dancing with the gleeful ladies of Cobourg. The next day the royal party travelled north to Peterborough before returning to Port Hope where the prince reboarded the Kingston on route to Toronto.

For additional information please refer to:

- 1) https://www.therecord.com/local-northumberland/news/2023/04/05/gala-concert-celebrates-160-years-of-cobourg-s-victoria-hall-on-may-13.html?itm_source=parsely-api
- 2) http://www.richardgilbert.ca/achart/public_html/articles/publications/cobourg.htm
- 3) <https://mysteriesofcanada.com/ontario/legends-of-cobourgs-victoria-hall/>

ACO President Update

Update provided by: Diane Chin, President ACO

The President of ACO reports the government is making changes quickly that will impact our sector. Please check the ACO website as letters, media releases and ERO submissions are posted at <https://acontario.ca>.

Each issue will cover the latest news from the Board and specifically highlights from the Executive and Board meetings. For more detail, you can go to the website, <https://acontario.ca> and sign in as a member. Enter your email and set up a password (your postal code.)

Please note: Your postal code must include the space in the middle.

continued on page 6.

The ACO Branch newsletter has timely information on ACO tax receipts, the ACO's Executive Committee, ACO's Strategic Plan - please forward your suggestions, comments or thoughts regarding the Strategic Plan to a Committee member or to ACO's President. The link to the complete Strategic Plan is https://acontario.ca/show_res.php?r_id=55, as well as highlights of the latest Executive Meeting including the Chair's Report, the COO's Report, the Education Committee Report as well as information from the Ontario Place AD Hoc Committee, the Government and Community Relations, the Human Resources Committee, the Governance and Nominating Committee and the Finance Committee.

Closing Comments

Cobourg's Downtown Buildings have Significant Value

Comments by our Chair - Donald Macintosh

The time has come to actively protect Cobourg's downtown buildings. Why? Having two downtown Heritage Conservation Districts provides Cobourg and East Northumberland with local examples demonstrating the viability and sustainability values of architectural preservation. As well as providing significant opportunities for contextually appropriate growth and adaptability.

Sustainability means being able to meet downtown Cobourg's current and future needs by using what is already on both sides of King Street and by not compromising future needs. Importantly, the majority of King Street's buildings have unique features - often characterizing a building as heritage. Research indicates that heritage contributes to a community's social value.

A building's heritage value is predicated on its historical and architectural attributes as well as its community context. Combined, each of these predications can be defined as downtown Cobourg's social valuable assets. Downtown Cobourg's valuable social assets should not be viewed as the simple economics of the buying, demolition and replacement of buildings. Environment values also need to be considered.

Carl Elefante, FAIA wrote, *"The greenest building is one that already exists."*

The conservation and adaptive reuse of Cobourg's downtown buildings will help achieve our community's environmental and social goals. At the same time heritage conservation reinforces Cobourg's unique identity, its storied history and can be the catalyst for many new economic benefits.

Heritage building conservation and their adaptive reuse, rather than their demolition and replacement will divert tonnes of demolition waste from going to local landfills. Additionally, by retrofitting heritage buildings far lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions are produced compared to the emissions of new construction.

Hassan Saffarin CAHP. Principal wrote, *"We are the custodians of this heritage, and the best way to conserve it is to use it successfully."*

William Westhafer, Vice President NORR wrote, *"Preserving and restoring our existing structures are paramount to a sustainable future."*

It is important to note downtown's sustainability is indeed about, but it is not only about, being environmentally conscious. Sustainability needs to be more than just "green" buildings. It also requires economic and cultural stability. The former is about contracting locally as much as possible. The latter is about maintaining as much of Cobourg's downtown building's unique features as possible. For Cobourg the conservation of its downtown buildings is a vital component for our community's sustainability, but it is more than just being environmentally responsible.

Cobourg's downtown buildings have significant value, take a long look.

Local Ontario examples of adaptive reuse:

- Canadian Architect Heritage + Adaptive Reuse
www.canadianarchitect.com/category/heritage-adaptive-reuse/
 - Newmarket Today
<https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/remember-this/remember-this-re-purposing-heritage-buildings-builds-bridge-between-old-and-new-6080532>
 - Heritage Matters
<https://www.heritage-matters.ca/articles/second-chances-for-peterboroughs-priceless-heritage>
 - Heritage Matters
https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/user_assets/documents/HM-Volume-6-Issue-3-2008-ENG.pdf
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