

2013 ACO PROVINCIAL AWARDS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominate the person, group or project you think should be honoured.

March 1, 2013

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is this province's principal non-government volunteer organization dedicated to the conservation of built heritage. ACO's awards honour preservation leaders, projects and initiatives that are worthy of provincial recognition for their contribution to architectural conservation in Ontario.

ACO strives to bring province-wide attention to the achievements of its award nominees. Their work provides models for others and is marked by innovative strategies, long-term leadership, significant restoration work or any service in the cause of heritage conservation that are worthy of being honoured.

How to Apply

Download a copy of the fillable nomination form at the link below and mail, fax or email it to us.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN JUNE 30th, 2013.

For more information email us at: info@arconserv.ca or phone us at 416-367-8075 ext. 201 or 1-877-264-8937 (toll free).

Eligibility

Award nominees may be individuals, groups or organizations that are actively involved in heritage conservation in the Province of Ontario. Award nominators need not be ACO members but they may not nominate themselves, nor may they be either the client of the nominee or the professional engaged to design the project.

The work of some nominees' careers is ongoing, including that which might be honoured by ACO for lifetime achievement, special contributions, advocacy, support of heritage in the media or for careers that deserve nomination for ACO's Post-1945 Award.

ACO Awards Criteria

- 1 significance of the heritage issue or project.
- 2 difficulties that the project and/or persons faced and overcame
- 3 impact of the project's success on the immediate community
- 4 innovation, commitment, and leadership demonstrated.

Time Limit

Recognition is accorded to activities that have occurred within the five years prior to the nomination deadline date, June 30th. The Awards Committee prefers that built projects be complete within that time frame. You may resubmit unsuccessful nominations in subsequent years.

ACO's awards are presented at ACO's Awards Dinner in November.

If there are no nominations or no appropriate nominations in a particular category, the Awards Committee may not issue an award that year, in that category.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

(1) A. K. (Alice King) Sculthorpe Award for Advocacy

The A.K. Sculthorpe Award for Advocacy recognizes an individual, group, or established non-profit organization which at a critical point has achieved exemplary success in a significant heritage crisis. The people involved have demonstrated leadership in the field, integrity, and the ability to be inclusive and communicate the value of heritage conservation to others.

This award honours Alice King Sculthorpe, a former ACO president, beloved for her spirited and indefatigable will to preserve our valuable heritage. AK lived her life to the fullest as wife, mother, community advocate, and formidable campaigner for Port Hope's wealth of historic architecture. She led the fight to save—among other key sites—the 1856 Grand Trunk Railway station, the atmospheric 1930 Capitol Theatre, St. Mark's 1822 Church, and Walton Street, Port Hope's main street and the spine of its commercial heritage conservation district.

L 6-3

AK embodied the meaning of advocacy. She had the gift of persuasion, mobilizing others through her willingness and enthusiasm to do anything for the cause: speeches to council, fundraising campaigns, as well as the unglamorous task of sitting through long planning meetings and making name tags. She was inclusive, inspiring, and dedicated. A cartoon of AK that appeared in the Port Hope Evening Guide depicted her as a caryatid supporting a classical building, a lengthy scroll of her projects unrolling from her hands. She was one of a kind and has become a legend in her own right.

(2) Eric Arthur Lifetime Achievement Award

This award recognizes individuals or groups that have made an outstanding contribution to the heritage conservation movement in Ontario over a sustained period of time. The state of the province's architectural heritage today would not be the same without the significant activities of this recipient.

The award honours ACO's founder, Eric Ross Arthur, who initiated and inspired the preservation movement in Ontario with his visionary leadership and professional expertise. Born in Dunedin, New Zealand, in 1898, Eric Arthur graduated in 1921 with a master's degree from the School of Architecture in Liverpool, England, whose curriculum was still modelled after the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He worked briefly for the firm of Sir Edwin Lutyens before moving to Canada in 1923 to begin his teaching career at the University of Toronto. Here, Eric Arthur came into his own as an inspiring professor, respected architect, noted author, and preservation activist.

Among many achievements, Eric Arthur led the charge to save Toronto's St. Lawrence Hall and the Gooderham flatiron building, established a student program of measured drawings that became an invaluable record of the province's finest architecture, and together with others, founded the ACO in 1933. One of his strongest passions was Ontario's early vernacular architecture, which eventually led to the Conservancy's purchase in 1939 of the 1817 Barnum House in Grafton. Today, the restored Barnum House is a museum owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust; it also serves as the ACO's defining logo. In 1964, Eric Arthur expressed the pride he had in his adopted city through his book, *Toronto, No Mean City*, a seminal work which was expanded and revised by Stephen Otto in 1986.

(3) Peter Stokes Restoration Award:

The Peter Stokes Award recognizes those responsible for the exemplary restoration of significant heritage structures, undertaken in accordance with the accepted policies and practices of heritage conservation in Ontario.

The award honours the ACO's pioneering restoration architect, Peter John Stokes, best known for bringing international standards of heritage conservation to Ontario and eastern Canada. All his projects—including his writing, lectures, and volunteer activities—attest to the premium he places on saving historic buildings, no matter how challenging the work.

Born in England in 1926, Peter came to Canada during World War II, and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1953 with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. He began his career in 1958 as the restoration architect for Upper Canada Village, where he stayed till 1961. Subsequently he became known first for the restoration work he did in his adopted hometown of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and then throughout Ontario for such projects as Sandyford Place in Hamilton, Victoria Hall in Cobourg, and the Grange in Toronto.

Peter's career coincided with the pioneering era of architectural conservation in the province. When the Ontario Heritage Act first passed in 1975, countless communities called on him for his much-needed expertise, his valuable advice in the face of crises, and his unwavering commitment to authenticity, at a time when few people understood the true value of preservation. He enlightened many a community as to the value of its own heritage. For his many contributions to Ontario's heritage, Peter was the recipient of ACO's first Eric Arthur Lifetime Achievement Award.

(4) Paul Oberman Award for Adaptive Reuse

The Paul Oberman Award recognizes those responsible for projects that highlight and incorporate significant heritage structures in fitting and imaginative ways, thereby conserving them for future use and enjoyment.

The award honours the late Paul Oberman, a master of adaptive reuse, whose company, Woodcliffe Landmark Properties, was responsible for some of the most important examples in Ontario.

L 6-5

From his biography:

Paul believed that neighbourhoods thrive when architectural heritage is preserved and repurposed as a backdrop for healthy community interaction. Heritage properties, he advocated, could be developed in harmony with cutting edge modern design to yield financial viability while contributing to the vibrancy of the city. This led him to focus on the adaptive reuse of many historically significant buildings, repurposing these structures and incorporating them into the fabric of 21st-century Toronto. He wanted to respect the past, make contemporary architecture in the present, and build a legacy for the future.

Paul's projects received many honours, including the Governor General's Award for Architecture in 1992 for King James Place in Toronto. As well, he was the recipient of the ACO Special Achievement Award in 2010.

(5) Margaret and Nicholas Hill Cultural Heritage Landscape Award:

Named for Margaret and Nicholas Hill, this award recognizes an individual, group, or project that has heightened awareness and appreciation of Ontario's significant landscapes, or endeavoured to preserve a noteworthy example of the product of human interaction.

Nicholas and Margaret Hill contributed extensively to the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, from the early 1970s until Nick's untimely death in 2001 and Margaret's recent retirement as provincial secretary. The couple were among the second generation of those who shaped and helped expand the organization. Nick was ACO's President from 1986 to 1987, and initiated the Huron County Branch, which was active in Goderich for two decades. Both he and Margaret were later involved with the Cambridge branch, and Margaret continues to serve as secretary of the Guelph and Wellington Branch.

Nick received a degree in Architecture from the University of Leicester in Britain, another in Urban Planning from the University of Toronto, and later, yet a third, in Landscape Architecture at the University of Guelph. He is the only person known to have simultaneously held professional licences in Ontario in all three disciplines. As a planner and subsequently a partner in Hill & Borgal Architects, Goderich, he was a pioneer in heritage conservation district planning, and the author of the second and third such plans written for Bayfield and Goderich.

In 1983, he moved to London to work in private practice until being hired as heritage planner for the City of St. John, New Brunswick. The illustrated guides he produced there are still in use and continue to be cherished. A superb pen-and-ink renderer of

L 6-6

heritage buildings and neighbourhoods, his drawings are unexcelled in representing the character of communities and landscapes. He was the author of several books illustrating the heritage and character of his beloved Huron County.

Ultimately, he returned to Guelph, where he became renowned for his work on a variety of sites and heritage districts. After 1985, he and Margaret worked together on numerous heritage district studies and plans. Those most concerned with cultural landscapes include the Village of Blair in Cambridge, and the Village of Doon and the Victoria Park Neighbourhood, both in Kitchener. All were illustrated with Nick's superb drawings, creating some of the most complete and artistic documents representing the character of communities and landscapes.

(6) ACO Award for Special Contributions:

The ACO Award for Special Contributions recognizes members of ACO who have made a significant contribution to advancing its goals. The award recognizes that the most dynamic force in furthering the cause of historic preservation depends on the initiative and intelligence of its dedicated volunteers.

(7) James D. Strachan Award for Craftsmanship

This award is given for outstanding craftsmanship on a restoration project in Ontario. It recognizes projects for which, along with the historic fabric, the intangible heritage of artisanal craft and material has been preserved.

The award was established in memory of Jim Strachan, who died in the summer of 2010. Jim Strachan built up one of the province's most respected construction firms specializing in heritage conservation. Among his many restoration projects were Osgoode Hall, buildings at Fort York for Heritage Toronto, the George Brown House for the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Old Stone Church in Beaverton, and renovation/restoration of numerous buildings at the University of Toronto. Importantly for the future of conservation, Jim Strachan provided many opportunities for apprenticeships in numerous trades. The firm has its own woodworking shop, and keeps several heritage carpenters and masons employed full time.

Jim was a leader in the nascent field of heritage conservation in Ontario, volunteering his valuable time in the broader construction industry to help expand its restoration capabilities. He served as chairman of the Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA), president of the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants (CAPHC), and chairman of the Township of King local architectural conservation

advisory committee (LACAC). He was also a member of the Association of Preservation Technology and of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

(8) ACO NextGen Award

Heritage-related awards have traditionally been given primarily to those with long track records in conservation. But just as ACO is breaking with tradition by recognizing contemporary work, so too, is it breaking with tradition by recognizing the contributions of students and young, emerging professionals to the ever-expanding and increasingly complex field of heritage conservation.

ACO's NextGen Award is the brainchild of its NextGen group, which began in 2009 when Clark Morawetz and Kayla Jonas Galvin launched online and in-person consultations around the province to determine the needs of students and emerging professionals in heritage-related fields. The group held its first face-to-face meeting in November, 2010. Its goal is to provide students and young professionals with opportunities to learn about and contribute to the preservation of Ontario's heritage.

The award's recipient will be an emerging professional who has made a significant contribution to heritage conservation in Ontario and/or to the engagement of students or professional peers in heritage work.

(9) ACO Media Award

For almost 80 years, the ACO has endeavoured to spread a strong message about the value of our built heritage. It has done so through print and in person. It has encouraged the formation of local branches, and it has worked with property owners to restore valuable heritage resources, with municipal governments to create heritage registers and designate buildings and districts, and with the Province of Ontario to develop the tools needed to conserve our patrimony.

Throughout this time, the organization has relied heavily on the media to make these efforts known to the public. Now, with the launch of ACO's Media Award, we have a way of paying tribute to the eloquence of the journalists, editors, bloggers, and other writers or creators of new media who have researched the facts, collected opinions, and diligently told the stories that have promoted a greater understanding of heritage significance and controversies.

(10) Post-1945 Design Award

ACO's new Post-1945 Design Award is given to an architect, engineer, planner, or landscape architect whose body of work is esteemed by professional peers and the general public alike as being outstanding, enduring, and worthy of preservation for future generations. It recognizes that because architecture, planning, and landscape design are lively arts, constantly changing, drawing inspiration from the past and looking ahead to the future, there will come a time when modern and postmodern work will be deemed of great heritage value as much pre-1945 "modern" architecture already is.

By honouring contemporary designers whose work is largely extant, ACO hopes to broaden appreciation of the ways in which design has and will always blend utilitarian demands with aesthetic inventiveness. As newer buildings become increasingly subject to disfiguring alteration and vulnerable to thoughtless demolition, it is imperative that the best exemplars of contemporary work be acknowledged as having a place in the heritage of the future.

Associated Document:

Fillable Nomination Form (Word document)

Incorporated in 1933 to help communities preserve buildings and structures
of architectural merit and places of natural beauty and interest.
