



London Region Branch Newsletter

Fall 2016

www.acolondon.ca

President's Report on the Summer of 2016

This summer has been no vacation for heritage, as we have seen an ongoing threat to a number of grand buildings in London's core; however, we in the heritage community are all up for the challenge to keep these buildings from meeting the wrecking ball, and instead be a selling feature to be integrated with new developments.

June held a lot of excitement for ACO London. The 43rd annual Geranium Heritage House Tour (*Sydenham Saunter*) was on Sunday June 5th and a marvellous success, despite multiple thunderstorms throughout the afternoon. Congratulations to Sylvia Chodas and the rest of her team for yet another great tour.

We also held a fabulous party at Grosvenor Lodge to kick off our 50th anniversary celebrations on Friday, June 10th. Kudos to Maggie Whalley and everyone else who helped make the evening such a success!

Our NextGen member, Benjamin Vazquez, organized a field trip for Wednesday, August 10th to meet with ACO Ingersoll on their home turf to discuss the future of their Carnegie Library. Those attending were treated to an impromptu walking tour of downtown Ingersoll, which included learning about adaptive reuse of a former school and visiting the old train station.

An annual summer retreat for the executive board on Saturday, August 20th was indeed a "treat"! Genet Hodder was gracious in opening her home to us, and a wonderful pot luck lunch came together. We discussed a number of "big-picture" topics that all need more attention. We even got to examine the pulpit from the Fugitive Slave Chapel, and learn about the former mill chase that occupies Genet's backyard.

Our 50th anniversary neighbourhood walks continued throughout the summer months, allowing interested folks to learn more about various historic neighbourhoods in the city.

September continued the momentum of our 50th anniversary events with the ACO provincial meeting taking place at Eldon House alongside a picnic on Saturday September 17th. We were honoured to host ACO members from across the province and pleased that, despite the weather, the weekend went splendidly.

September was also a contentious month regarding the heritage buildings on Talbot and Dufferin Streets and Camden Terrace in particular. The final decision on Camden Terrace did not go as we had hoped, which was that heritage and development could work together in preserving our past alongside new architectural designs and usage.

Mike Bloxam
ACO London President



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

June Anniversary Party	Page 2
G.H.H.T.	Page 3
Motor City Heritage	Page 4
Call for Nominations/Applications	Page 5
What's in a Name?.....	Page 5
Guest Column	Page 7
In Memoriam	Page 7
Upcoming Events	Page 8
Treasurer's Report	Page 8

*ACO LONDON
BRANCH COUNCIL*

President Mike Bloxam
Past President Maggie Whalley
Vice-President Jennifer Grainger
Treasurer Anita Frew
Recording Secretary Dorothy Palmer
Membership Secretary Sharon Lunau
Communication Coordinator Sandra Miller
Newsletter Editor
Newsletter layout / Web Site

Marty Peterson
 Benjamin Vasquez
Next Gen
Advisors on the Executive
 Janet Hunten
 Anne McKillop
 Don Menard
 Kyle Gonyou
 Nancy Tausky

Representatives to Urban League LACH
 Marlyn Loft
 Maggie Whalley

Members-at-Large
 Bob Porter
 Genet Hodder

Heritage Scholarship
 Kyle Gonyou
 Nancy Irons- Murray
 Mike Lunau

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Program Arthur McClelland
Geranium Heritage House Tour
 Sylvia Chodas
ACO/ HLF Heritage Awards Marlyn Loft
Restoration Grant Committee
 Don Menard

**Architectural Conservancy
Ontario - London Region**

c/o Grosvenor Lodge
 1017 Western Road
 London, ON N6G 1G5

519.645.2845
 info@acolondon.ca

www.acolondon.ca
 Twitter: @ACOLondonOnt
 Facebook: ACOLondon

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of ACO London a membership form can be downloaded at www.acolondon.ca/acoLondon/Membership OR you make a payment and/or donate to ACO London online at www.arconserv.ca/branches

Our Membership Secretary, Sharon Lunau will send out a renewal notice to members in early January.

ACO London's 50th Anniversary Celebrations

On June 10th we held our ACO London 50 event at Grosvenor Lodge. It was a beautiful evening with at least 100 people in attendance enjoying the gracious rooms and surroundings of Grosvenor Lodge. There were wonderful refreshments, a live jazz band and a display of our five panels detailing the history of ACO London. We also had three display boxes and an honour roll of former Presidents - we were pleased to see some of those people present! Many thanks to Sue Wilson and Marlyn Loft for loaning us artifacts for our displays.

The panels designed by our NextGen member Frank Smith, are now touring the city in our libraries so that the public can have the opportunity to see them and learn of our work over the past 50 years when they arrive at a nearby venue.

To celebrate our special year with the Provincial ACO we invited them to hold their Council Meeting here at Eldon House on September 17th. After the meeting historian Mike Baker gave us some fascinating insights into the site of our inception: the Ridout Street restoration. Local members joined us for this part of the day and took the opportunity of tours of Eldon House too. We had hoped for our 'picnic' to be on the lawns there, but inclement weather meant we enjoyed it indoors instead.

For this special year, Board member Sandra Miller contracted graphic designer Andy Ratz to create our 50th anniversary logo and she designed book marks and buttons for our community outreach events. Sandra also purchased custom-made 50th anniversary cookies for our Awards ceremony in February and the June party.

NextGen member Benjamin Vasquez put together a series of walks of historic neighbourhoods of London that have taken place twice a month from April to October.

The ACO London 50 Committee members are: Genet Hodder, Sharon Lunau, Rachel Pennington, Frank Smith, Benjamin Vasquez and chaired by Maggie Whalley. Many thanks to these people for 18 months of planning, creative ideas and high energy participation.

Maggie Whalley
 Past President

Photos by Sharon Lunau & Lindsay Kernohan



Frank Smith, Panel Designer...



Viewing the panels at the 50th party ...



Enjoying the party .

Sydenham Saunter

The 43rd annual Geranium Heritage House Tour, *Sydenham Saunter*, took place on Sunday, June 5 in the lovely St. George-Grosvenor neighbourhood, northwest of the Oxford and Richmond Street intersection. The decision to hold this year's GHHT in that location coincided with a proposal to designate St. George-Grosvenor as the city's eighth Heritage Conservation District. Despite a weather forecast predicting a day of thunderstorms, the tour very nearly sold out. The rain did come in the form of two heavy downpours, however tour-goers were armed with both umbrellas and patience as they waited inside houses or on verandas for the sun to re-emerge, which thankfully it did.

Eleven sites were featured in the tour including a stop for tea at St. James Presbyterian Church, two side-hall plan cottages, two impressive homes built by London architect O. Roy Moore and a former Lutheran Church adapted for use as an optometry office.

After the tour a "thank you reception" for volunteers and home owners was held at McCabe's Irish Pub on Richmond Street, giving those involved in the tour a chance to celebrate and share their experiences after months of preparation.

Kudos to everyone who contributed to the success of *Sydenham Saunter*: the home owners, the businesses that sold tickets or advertised in the brochure, Janis Wallace who promoted the tour in the London Free Press, our army of faithful volunteers (approximately 90), our social media friends, and everyone who bought tickets. At the end of the day, after expenses, approximately \$9,000 was generated to fund ACO London's projects. Particular thanks go to my partners on the organizing committee, Marlyn Loft, Sharon Lunau, as well as Communications co-ordinator Sandra Miller and ACO member Kelley McKeating for their help with promotion.

We look forward to another great tour the first Sunday in June 2017. If you would like to join our organizing team, we would love to hear from you.

Sylvia Chodas, GHHT Chair

photos by John Lutman



189 College Ave. O. Roy Moore's home



177 St. James Street



783 Richmond St., Old North Optometry, originally a Lutheran Church



160 Sydenham Street (Victoria Carter Dance Centre)

Motor City Heritage

The Urban League of London along with four partner organizations: Pillar Non-profit Network, ACO London, London Heritage Council, and London Arts Council organized a sold-out bus trip to the Motor City.

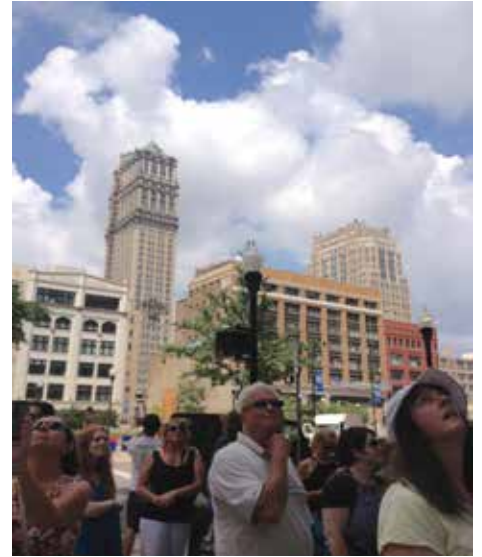
Our tour of downtown Detroit began at the spectacular Guardian building. Opened in 1929 this Art Deco masterpiece designed by Wirt C. Rowland is a National Historic Landmark. Our guide was Detroit architect Dorian Moore leading us on a walking tour of the downtown core where so much exciting renewal and adaptive re-use is happening. Surrounded by a remarkable array of pre-war WW11 high rises we negotiated busy downtown blocks buzzing with construction crews while Dorian pointed out one after another historic building undergoing interior and exterior renovations/restorations. After being hit hard by a shrinking manufacturing sector, downtown Detroit is experiencing a renaissance that was obvious in the crowded farmer's market, the busy food trucks and the lively urban parks full of thriving trees, music and strolling families.

After lunch our tour continued with a visit to the storied Heidelberg Project in the historic inner-city neighbourhood of McDougall-Hunt. Marking its 30th anniversary, this remarkable outdoor art project is the creation of artist Tyree Guyton who grew up in the area. The Project began with Tyree and his grandfather painting a series of houses on Heidelberg Street, each with different themes and patterns, in an effort to combat urban decay and blight. The iconic Dotty Wotty House was the first and remains probably the best known of the Project's houses.

In part a protest statement, part neighbourhood rejuvenation, part community art environment, Tyree uses discarded and found objects to create pieces that highlight modern social issues. The Project has experienced destruction several times including demolition by the City of Detroit and arson. Despite these catastrophic set-backs the Project continues to grow and evolve, to attract visitors from around the world, and to show the power of creativity to transform lives.

We came home already making plans for an ACO London return tour of Detroit's architectural gems - stay tuned!

Sandra Miller,
Communications Co-ordinator



Detroit Walking Tour



Heidelberg Project



Detroit Park

Photos by Sandra Miller

10th Annual Heritage Awards - Call for Nominations

Save the date **Thursday, February 16, 2017**, for our Heritage Awards Gala at the Delta Armouries, which is itself a wonderfully creative example of adaptive reuse.

This program, jointly sponsored by the London Branch of ACO and Heritage London Foundation, recognizes projects and individuals that demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to the conservation of London's built heritage. Next year's gala reception will be special - the 10th anniversary of the program during the 50th year of ACO London as well as Canada's sesquicentennial.

Please consider making a nomination. Perhaps a neighbour has lovingly restored her Ontario cottage or you know of someone who has advocated, over the years, to save heritage buildings at risk? Simply **go to the website, www.acolondon.ca and click on Awards to see the evaluation criteria and how to nominate.** Past award winners are also listed.

Conserving London's irreplaceable built heritage is an ongoing challenge. Plan now to celebrate with our 10th anniversary Award nominees during Heritage Week 2017.

The deadline for nominations to be received is Friday December 16, 2016.

Marlyn Loft,
ACO/HLF Heritage Awards Chair

P.S. Jean Ramer was honoured at our 2016 Awards for her newsletters *Old South News* and she has now compiled 40 of these into a book, *Old South Tales...Historical Stories of Wortley Village & Old South London*. You will have the opportunity to purchase (\$25.00 incl. tax) at *Wordfest* on November 5th, held in Museum London. And her books are available from Tuckey Home Hardware and Westland Gallery in Wortley Village or through the website: www.oldsouthtales.com.

London Heritage Scholarship - Call for Applications

Encouraging students to consider professions and trades related to heritage conservation is an important advocacy role for ACO London. Many heritage conservation roles are filled by "old masters" of the art and therefore it is essential to support the next generation of roof slaters, wood workers, and land registry researchers etc.. Financial assistance through the London Heritage Scholarship Program helps to lighten the costs often associated with obtaining higher education.

Available annually, the \$1,000 scholarship has been typically awarded to students studying heritage trades and all post-secondary students are eligible. Creativity is encouraged and projects must demonstrate a connection to London's built heritage. Scholarship recipients are showcased at the ACO-HLF Heritage Awards Gala to be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017.

More information can be found on the ACO London's website: <http://acolondon/acoLondon/Scholarship.html>. **Applications are due by noon on Friday, December 16, 2016.**

Kyle Gonyou,
Scholarship Committee Chair

What's in a Name?

The Executive Board is challenging our readers to suggest a title for the ACO London Newsletter.

Newsletter names usually reflect the publication's mission: Neighbourhood News, for example. The name should evoke what ACO London does in the community. But unlike media publishers whose publications have serious names, newsletters can be a little more playful with names. We are not sure where the line is drawn at playful. There was once a group of plumbers who named their publication "Poop from the Group." In Timmins the Porcupine District Scouts newsletter was titled "Porcupine Quills". Creative, what? But, for example, if you had a Colorado humour newsletter, you could easily call it "Boulder Dash". (As it happens this is also the name of a game.)

You don't always have to look for a pun or something cute for the name of your newsletter. In fact, sometimes thinking of a straight forward name saves a lot of time and effort. **Can you suggest a better name than this?**

The Advocate.

If you wish to suggest an alternative name, please contact ACO London at: info@acolondon.ca or call the office 519-645-2845 and leave a message with your own name and your suggestion for newsletter name before November 30, 2016. The executive board will make the final decision.

London Advisory Committee on Heritage

LACH continues to work hard for London's heritage and of course there are wins and losses. On the positive side several houses were saved by the designation process, most notably the historic farmhouse in Hyde Park (1656 Hyde Park Road) owned and built by the Routledge family who were founding settlers in the area.

Riverview School on Wharncliffe Road in London was added to the LACH register and Life*Spin at 864-872 Dundas Street, London has also received designation.

Strong efforts are being made also to designate and retain the oldest front portion of MacEachren Public School in Lambeth which, as a 'continuation' school (incorporating both an elementary and secondary school commonly found in rural areas) has been a landmark in the village.

Depth is gradually being added to the heritage scene in London by plaques. New ones went in this year for the Hunt's Mills site just south of the river off Wellington St. and a new one for 'Richmond Row' - the strip of Richmond St. between Oxford St. and Dufferin Ave which has been such a commercial success.

Unfortunately 175/179/181 King St. downtown is scheduled for demolition, but LACH is making every effort to make sure that it does not take other buildings with it. Other sites to watch for are Regina Mundi - LACH is hoping to at least see the Mid-century Modern chapel retained there - and the St. Peter's Seminary - some changes there as they plan to sell off some of their land.

The most prominent story of the year is of course the very significant and unique Camden Terrace. It seems the city is intent on making a 'blandscape' of historic lower Talbot St. and ignoring the fact that the heritage community has constantly insisted that the new development should incorporate rather than eliminate the old.

Maggie Whalley,
ACO London representative on LACH

Ontario Heritage Conference held in Stratford, May 2016

In May I had the privilege of attending the Ontario Heritage Conference, a joint conference hosted by Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and the Community Heritage Ontario.

The conference theme was "Preserving Heritage in a Changing World". This incredibly important and timely topic was highlighted in all of the panels that I had the opportunity to attend on the Saturday. The first of which was "Modern Construction Integrated with Heritage Buildings", with speaker Marianne McKenna of KPMB Architects. Her talk highlighted how incorporating modern design principles can be respectful of historical integrity, and included many examples of her own work.

In the afternoon, the highlight was the "Accessibility Legislation and Issues with Heritage Buildings" panel, whose speakers included Dr. Georgiana Stancu from The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum in London, Jill Taylor from Taylor Hazell Architects, and ACO manager Rollo Meyers. The panel discussed how heritage buildings can present difficulties with accessibility, and the applicable legislation.

The next day I attended the ACO Provincial's AGM at the Stratford Art Gallery. It was wonderful to learn about what the organization is doing on a provincial level.

I am incredibly grateful to ACO London, without whose student bursary support I would have been unable to attend this wonderful conference.

Lindsay Kernohan,
ACO London member



Dr. Georgiana Stancu ... photo by Lindsay Kernohan

Reflecting on Heritage Conservation in London



There are three different areas where the planning committee and city council have been involved in preserving heritage. The first is the public assets such as the Normal School in Wortley Village and the lands and buildings known as Victoria Hospital. These assets that are of such value to the community that the city itself paid for their preservation. I fully expect that the cost of doing this will exceed 20 million dollars but it is a cost that the majority of Londoners support. I expect the city will continue to look for opportunities to do this in conjunction with both the federal and provincial governments.

The second area is in the creation of heritage districts and heritage conservation areas. This involves identifying an area that is so historically significant that the buildings must be preserved. The city provides the seed money to create the district and then citizens do the everyday important work of preserving their own heritage. This is by far the best way to preserve heritage. The rules are clear and an entire neighbourhood is invested in ongoing preservation.

The last way of preserving heritage, and the most challenging is the preservation of privately-owned buildings. This is where we often hear the term "demolition by neglect" or "development versus heritage". This is where we hear the most passionate voices of heritage on the council floor. I also think this is where the limitations of heritage conservation are clear. As a council we do not have the tools to require private owners to maintain a property. If we order them to be preserved we have no ability to order their renovation and preservation. I would suggest that preservationists need to turn their attention to being pro-active in this area by identifying buildings that are presently not beyond repair and start discussions with the city and owners to preserve and renovate today. Go beyond mere designation and create attention around the need to start today on saving buildings. Not an easy task but a necessary one.

The city *also has to start down a new road* by creating a heritage fund, using development money and bonuses, to allow our heritage groups to put real money on the table. Create a group to administer this fund on behalf of the citizens of London. Let's make sure our heritage community has some "skin in the game"!

by Councillor Phil Squire

NextGen ACO London

Over the past six months we've been working to create an ACO NextGen branch in London. The NextGen movement was founded in Toronto as a way to bring young heritage advocates together, and over the course of its existence has promoted the cause through social gatherings, walking tours, design competitions, and an annual award.

The first event hosted by London's group was a gathering at the Morrissey House Pub on the 23rd of June attended by a diverse group of young heritage advocates. The evening was an enjoyable one, marked by good food and even better conversation in a heritage venue. Accordingly, there was broad agreement that we needed to do something similar again. On the 10th of August, London's ACO NextGen took ACO Ingersoll up on their generous offer of a tour of the town's heritage. Highlights of the trip included Ingersoll's former Carnegie Library, a building which ACO Ingersoll is currently fighting to conserve, and the town's historic railway station.

Benjamin Vazquez, NextGen Rep.

In Memoriam

Gene Corbet 1931 - 2016

R.E. (Gene) Corbet, an ACO Supporter for more than 30 years, died on July 22, just 3 days short of his 85th birthday. He served as president of ACO London in 1971-72. This was a tumultuous period that saw the demolition of the old Custom House (Richmond St. at Queens Ave.), Beechwood mansion (Ridout where the Gartshore apartments now stand), and Hotel London (SE corner of Wellington & Dundas). Many years later Gene jokingly said that he stepped down to stem the tide of destruction.

Gene helped with the Geranium Heritage House Tour for many years and sometimes acted as photographer, and distributed posters and tickets with the help of his young daughter.

In the early 1990s, Gene served as Vice President of ACO London and in more recent years donated several publications from his extensive library, relevant to heritage preservation in our Branch.

Away from the ACO, Gene was a secondary school teacher for 32 years, retiring in 1989. Gene co-wrote with G.W.H. Bartram the epilogue to *London Heritage* published in 1972 and reprinted in 1991. In it they wrote "Buildings provide us with enduring links between the present and the past. They speak of their own time and thus give us some raw materials for our social and cultural history - our identity." Well said.

Kelley McKeating, ACO Member

Fred Armstrong 1926-2016

Frederick H. Armstrong born March 27, 1926 in Toronto, died on April 15, 2016 at University Hospital here in London.

After completing his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Toronto, Fred came to London as a professor at Western University where he influenced and inspired many students in the fields of Canadian, Ontarian and urban history between 1963 and 1991. He wrote/co-wrote and edited/co-edited several books and booklets related to Ontario in general and Toronto and London areas in particular, as well as dozens of articles.

In 1968 Fred joined the London & Middlesex Historical Society and in 1969 became a member of ACO London. He served as councillor in 1970 - 71 and remained a member until 2014 when in failing health he decided not to renew his membership.

Fred's interest in urban history and his active involvement in the ACO led to his becoming a member of London's Historical Sites Advisory Committee in 1973. In 1979, he was chairman of what had become LACAC, the forerunner of LACH.

Fred is survived by his wife Joan, his son Dale and daughter Irene, her husband Gintaras and their daughter Simone.

Dan Brock, ACO Member

UPCOMING EVENTS

London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH)

Meetings are open to everyone
Oct, 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, 2016
Jan. 11, 2017

www.London.ca/city-hall/meetings-advisory/Pages/default.aspx

The Midnight Village: A Tragical History Tour

Fri, Oct. 14 - Sun, Oct. 30
Registration Required.

\$11+tax : Ages 14+ yrs.

www.fanshawpioneervillage.ca

London Architecture series

Oct. 20, Nov. 24, 7 - 9 pm, FREE
Museum London, Lecture Theatre

www.museumlondon.ca

Grosvenor Lodge

Do you dare 2016?

Haunted Sorority \$10.00

The Hood Survival Game \$10.00

Oct. 22-23 & Oct. 27-30

7:00 10:00 pm

www.heritagelondonfoundation.ca

The Grand Theatre/Eldon House

Ghost Hunt

Sun, Oct. 30 6:30 - 9:30 pm Reg req;

\$20 in advance for both sites,

\$15 at the door, per site

www.eldonhouse.ca

Terrific Tales of London & Area

Tuesdays, 7 - 8:30 pm

Nov. 22 & Dec. 6

London Public Library, Byron Branch

www.londonpubliclibrary.ca

Victorian Christmas - Eldon House

Sat, Nov 26 - Sun, Jan 1st

www.eldonhouse.ca

Christmas Tea at Eldon House

Sun, Dec 4, 1:00 pm

Reg. req. Adults \$35, Children \$15

www.eldonhouse.ca

New Year's Levee at Eldon House

Jan 1, 2017 1 - 4 pm

Cost: By donation

www.eldonhouse.ca

Save the date!

Heritage Awards Gala

Thurs. Feb 16, 2017

Delta Amouries Hotel

Free for ACO/HLF Members

RSVP Required

more information to follow

info@acolondon.ca

519-645-2845

Treasurer's Mid-Year Report Jan. - June 2016

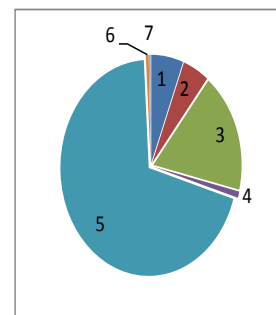


Architectural Conservancy Ontario - London Region Branch
c/o Grosvenor Lodge 1017 Western Road London ON N6G 1G5

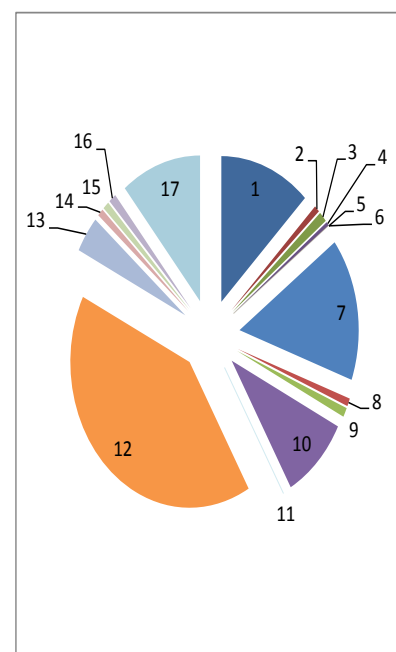
Jan to June

2016

<u>Income</u>	
1 JB Fund	1,000
2 Donations	825
3 Membership Dues	3,063
4 Donations Non Tax Received	161
5 Geranium House Tour	11,832
6 Investment GIC Interest	89
7 Miscellaneous Revenue	62
Total	17,032



<u>Expenses</u>	
1 Advertising & Promotion	1,828
2 Other Business Membership Fee	110
3 Postage Mailing Service	169
4 Printing (Newsletter)	64
5 Supplies	0
6 Computer/Software	0
7 Website	2,339
8 Rent for Special Events	130
9 Travel / Conferences	153
10 Rent Monthly Board Meetings	1,372
11 ACO Provincial Membership Fee	0
12 *Grants / Restoration / Other	6,000
13 Gala and Other Events	595
14 Bank Charges	123
15 Speakers / Honoraria	128
16 Outside Services	150
17 Geranium House Tour	1,607
Total	14,768



Net Income (Loss) **2,264**

Balance Sheet

Bank Account	31,252	* GIC29-28	14,965
HST Receivable to ACO Provincial	2,889	* GIC29-30	8,160
*Investments GIC	29,480	* GIC29-32	6,356
Total	63,621		

*Grants, etc.

Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation	5,000
Scholarship	1000

6,000

Prepared 2016 Anita Frew Treasurer **Unaudited Statement**