



**ARCHITECTURAL  
CONSERVANCY  
ONTARIO**

**London Branch**

**February 2024....What's Happening in London?**

**Big News!!**

Congratulations to our own Jason Hick on being named to the 2024 Mayor's New Year's Honour List, in the category of Heritage.



Jason is the Communications Co-ordinator for the Architectural Conservancy Ontario London Region Branch. He has changed the profile of heritage issues in the locality through reaching out to the community in a very effective and informative way. Through social media, Jason has engaged with a larger group of interested people and keeps everyone involved with local, provincial and even country-wide heritage issues and events. His technical knowledge has been invaluable. Jason has also contributed significantly to the Heritage House Sign initiative which has done so much to illuminate our neighbourhoods and heightened the heritage awareness and profile in the city. For these reasons and more, Jason Hick is named to the 2024 Mayor's New Year's Honour List.

**Mark Your Calendars**

**Thursday, April 11... 17<sup>th</sup> Annual London Heritage Awards at Museum London.** Doors will open for a reception in the Atrium at 6.30 p.m. featuring finger food and a cash bar. The Awards ceremony starts promptly at 7.30 p.m. ACO members receive free tickets to this special occasion which celebrates accomplishments in the Heritage sector. **Watch for your invitation in early March.**

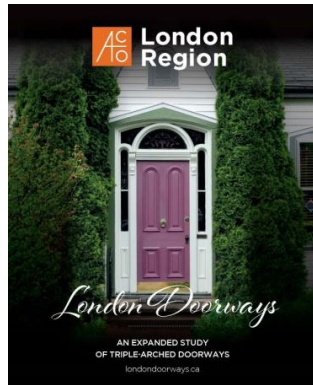
**Thursday May 16 AGM 6 pm, Grosvenor Lodge  
Guest Speaker to be announced!**

**Sunday June 2 Geranium Walk,** (this year it will be in London South); "It's never too early to volunteer". If you can help, please Contact Sylvia Chodas at [schodas@hotmail.com](mailto:schodas@hotmail.com)

**New Members**

One of the goals for ACO London is to invite new members to join. If you know someone you think might be interested in becoming part of this organization, please forward their name to Ellen Harries, ACO Membership Secretary, [harriese@execulink.com](mailto:harriese@execulink.com)

**“London Doorways: An expanded study of triple-arch doorways”.... It aims to celebrate this**



**beautiful and uniquely London doorway!**

So many people were intrigued by our own triple-arch 'London' doorways, that we decided to expand on our first short publication (2014) about them. This was inspired by the research undertaken by

long-time architectural historian and ACO London member Julia Beck.

We wanted to learn more about these unique Victorian architectural features....are they truly unique to London?.....what are their architectural design underpinnings?....how were they made and who crafted them?....where are they found?....and on what style of house?....and who were the people who chose them for their front doorways?

We discovered that there are at least 73 still extant in the city and close environs and most have been carefully conserved by their owners.

The book is generously illustrated with professional photographs. Our own ACO team of Kyle Gonyou, Dorothy Palmer, Nancy Tausky, Genet Hodder, Mike Bloxam and Maggie Whalley conducted the new research and wrote the illuminating commentary. Cost of this beautiful book is \$50. To order, go to <https://acolondon.ca/store>. Also available at Attic Books, 240 Dundas Street and Oxford Book Shop, 262 Piccadilly Street.

**Historical House Sign Program** A dedicated team of volunteers continue to work on this project. Each property takes between 10 and 20 hours to research. The package includes a sign featuring the name of the original owner and their occupation as well as the year of construction, and a print monograph including history on the home and its owners that is uncovered by our volunteer research team. Due to the popularity of this project, orders are taking longer to process. **It's a great glimpse into your neighbourhood's history!**



To date we have delivered 637 HHS packages, with many more in-progress. We reinstated ordering last September on a limited basis which is released quarterly following the lengthy "PAUSE" which took place during the later pandemic years.

Popularity for this service continues to be very high, with orders selling out in a matter of minutes each quarter. We are considering if there is another option for sales which is less frustrating for our interested customers; where there appears to be a panic to secure an order before they sell out. Our volunteer research committee is also strong with many volunteers assigned to research our property orders. If you're interested in joining this volunteer community, please reach out to us at [info@acolondon.ca](mailto:info@acolondon.ca).

ACO London participated at the **LHBA Lifestyle Home Show** again this past January. This was our 4th year setting up our community outreach display at this huge event at the Western Fair Agriplex.

This event is a great opportunity for the London Region branch of Architectural Conservancy Ontario to engage and interact with a broad audience of home owners and property managers. Our display includes features of our branch's annual and ongoing initiatives in the community which highlights our signature annual events

ACO London frequently receives requests from the public for skilled professionals to repair or restore older homes, and no more so than at this home renovation-focused trade show. This event is a great opportunity to help make heritage homeowners aware that the same types of skilled craftspeople who built their cherished homes are still out there, and that they don't have to resort to lesser quality skills and materials when it comes to maintaining the signature character of their homes.

There are **over 5000 buildings with heritage designation in London**, including **seven heritage conservation districts** that are primarily residential. Add to that thousands of other houses not currently designated, and you realize that London has a huge inventory of older homes and owners who want to maintain their original character with the expertise of trained professionals! ACO London has maintained a healthy partnership with the LHBA Lifestyle Home Show team, and we will continue to request participation in the coming years.

**From our President, Wes Kinghorn**

I'm excited to write to you as 2024 starts out with the ACO London Region Branch poised for a challenging, but exciting year. Your Board and advisors have been working hard for the last couple of years to stabilize the organization financially and structurally, and to rebuild some of our longstanding projects and events to pre-pandemic levels. This looks like the year we will see the fruits of these labours and at last have the capacity to refocus on our core mandate once again in a more direct way – that of preserving and highlighting our region's beautiful heritage resources. It's been a few tough years, but it's been a joy to be a part of. This return to form won't happen overnight, and we can't do it alone, but with your involvement and input we will get there.

You can see the excitement building throughout this newsletter. After a re-launch last year, the team behind the Geranium Heritage House Tour is back to its original form, and ready to welcome you all. Spread the word and join us at our flagship event!

Our most successful outreach, **the Historical House Sign program** is going gangbusters and selling out in minutes each time a block comes available. This project not only draws eyes to our important homes but catalogues the heritage features and histories of these places for generations to come. The **London Heritage Awards** team is hard at work preparing for an exciting evening honouring those who do the hard work of maintaining and protecting these assets. Our beautiful book on London Doorways is gracing the coffee tables of more and more homes (hopefully yours!)

**The Ontario Heritage Conference**  
Last year London hosted the flagship Heritage event in Ontario – **The Ontario Heritage Conference** (which I was privileged to Co-Chair alongside Dr. Michelle Hamilton and Mike Greguol). This wonderful weekend-long event shone the spotlight on London in the eyes of Heritage thinkers and professionals around the

province and beyond. This excitement continues to build in its wake. I encourage you to attend this year in Gravenhurst – it is sure to be another year of big ideas and nothing quite renews your love of this work like being around so many with a shared vision for our province.

Locally, please join us for our live ACO London Region Branch AGM at Grosvenor Lodge on Thursday May 16 at 6pm to hear more of what we have planned as the year continues. We are hoping to bring you together more often in the coming years, and your input into what interests you and what sorts of events you would like to see would be of great help as we do this.

**Come on out to meet each other and help us plan!**

There are big challenges alongside the positives, and we want to hear your thoughts on them. Heritage preservation is tough in the best of times, but the winds against us are particularly strong now. Provincially, the ACO is working hard to keep on top of the changes impacting us all at the municipal level, and to keep us all informed and ready for the changes, but they need your support. When you get their outreach notices, please join the campaigns where you can.

So please come out, to the AGM, to the Awards, to the Geranium Tour. Talk with us, let us know what your hopes are for this branch as the coming years unfold, and join us as we rebuild.

**We can't wait to see you again!**

Wes Kinghorn, President ACO

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