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## It's AUCTION Time!! Hillary House Ball Auction

If you didn't get tickets to the Hillary House Ball, you can still have fun by participating on the Online Auction!

**No tickets required! But act fast.** The auction closes on the night of the Ball, October 23rd.

Take a browse through the auction items by clicking [here](#). Click on each image for additional details. . Bidding opens on October 18th and closes after the Ball on October 23rd at 9:30pm.

### Browse items from these generous local businesses:

Jackson Events  
Eric McCartney – Century 21  
Ren's Pet Depot  
Golf Glen Veterinary Clinic  
Replenish General Store  
Mary Hope –  
IG Private Wealth Management  
Home Depot  
Canadian Tire  
Volvo Financial Services  
Aurora Home Hardware  
The Country Look  
Story of Love  
Eye Care Optical  
Vandenboshe Jewellers  
Gaspere Saracino Hair Studio  
St. Andrew's College

Brainy Games  
Topper's Pizza  
Aurora Farmer's Market  
Artistica Ballroom Dance Studio  
Aqua Grill  
Food In Motion  
Trayvino Wines  
Holiday Inn Express  
Levetto  
Café Alexandra  
Orchid Thai  
Ginger's Bakery  
Piazza Mercato  
Boston Pizza  
Romy's Restaurant  
Geoffrey Dawe  
Kelsey's Roadhouse

Tina's Grill  
Cassidy Event Management  
Market Brewing Company  
Yonge Street Winery  
Hockley Valley Brewery  
The Patrick House Studio  
Sunshine Park  
Bruce Spragg

*This issue of The Attic is generously sponsored by:*

**DELMANOR**  
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## Upcoming Events

- Speaker Series
- Wreath-Making Workshop
- A Family Christmas
- Exhibition Opening

# President's Message

Patricia Wallace, AHS President

Hi everyone. I hope you all had a lovely Thanksgiving. It's my personal favourite holiday and time of the year. We are grateful to have been able to open our doors again and resume operations. There has been great participation in tours, teas, speaker series, and all of our events!

I must give a big shout-out to our Staff for helping us successfully navigate through all the challenges thrown at us by the pandemic. Kathleen, Julie plus the summer staff and interns have done an amazing job.

It's also the time of year when we start to think about adding new Board members for 2022. We are looking for energetic and enthusiastic people with leadership and management skills and who value heritage education and community programming. If you are interested, please reach out.

We undertook restoration of the verandah deck this fall and it nears completion as I type this. Combined with a new outdoor exhibit to be launched in November, the outdoor space will be lovely in the spring when we can replant the gardens which were removed for the restoration work. Do you like to garden? (hint, hint)

The AHS wears two hats – the programming is the Aurora Historical Society – speakers, teas, workshops, events, exhibits, tours, etc. Hillary House is where we do it (mostly). Of course, the AHS has a huge duty of care as owners of the Hillary House property.

We have some big tasks ahead of us in 2022 at Hillary House. We have to tackle some much-needed repair and restoration. This is why fundraisers such as the Hillary House Ball and Auction are so important.

A virtual version of the Ball is coming up next week. Ticket sales have closed but ANYONE can participate in the online Auction by going to this link. Take a browse through the auction items by clicking [here](#).

This will be the last Attic of 2021 but we be sending out shorter AHS News updates in November and December. We hope you have enjoyed the programming we have brought you so far this year, both virtually and in person. We are very grateful for the support you have given through your attendance, donation dollars and encouraging words.

## All visitors aged 12 and older must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination along with valid ID

In accordance with the province's vaccine certificate policy, all staff, volunteers, and visitors aged 12 and older are required to show proof of vaccination upon entering Hillary House National Historic Site effective Wednesday, September 22, 2021.

In order to be considered fully vaccinated, you must have received your second shot at least 14 days before your visit. You can present either a paper or digital copy of your vaccination receipt, along with supporting ID that includes your name and date of birth.

We continue with other safety measures including screening, mandatory face masks, physical distancing, and limited capacity. Thank you for your support and cooperation.



**AURORA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
EST. 1963

The Aurora Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to heritage preservation, public education, and enrichment. The AHS owns and operates Hillary House National Historic Site.

We are seeking enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to join our volunteer Board of Directors who will use their leadership and management skills and experience to help the organization move forward in a responsible and relevant manner. Business or volunteer experience in the following areas is desired:

- General Business Management
- Fundraising
- Governance • Finance
- Property Management
- Marketing • Heritage Preservation
- Museum Management
- Community Engagement

Directors are required to be actively engaged in the work of the organization, attend monthly Board meetings and events, and support special projects

**Please send your resume to:  
president@aurorahs.com  
by December 31, 2021.**

**For more information, you are welcome to contact us at:**  
905-727-8991  
www.aurorahs.com  
15372 Yonge Street  
Aurora, ON L4G 1N8

# Upcoming Events

## Speaker Series

Our virtual Speakers Series has been a great success so far. Check out the last speakers for 2021 and first speakers for 2022. Please note, the Speaker Series will remain virtual until further notice.

**October 27th**

"Archaeology and the Aurora United Church" with *Brian North*

Tickets are \$7.35/person



**November 24th**

"Rush to Danger: Medics in the Line of Fire" with *Ted Barris*

Tickets are \$7.35/person



## 2022 Speaker Series Sneak Peek

**January 26th**

"The Opium Wars (1839-1860)" with *Olivier Courteaux*

**February 23rd**

"Digger, Teacher, Soldier, Spy" with *Amy Barron*

**March 23rd**

"Embedded: Two Journalists, a Burlesque Star, and the Expedition to Oust Louis Riel" with *Ted Glenn*

## Christmas Programming

### Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop

**November 27th** – 1:00 – 3:00pm

\$42/person

Create your very own traditional holiday wreath with a hoop, wire, fresh greenery, ribbon, and other decorations guided by Garden Aurora. Taking place in the beautiful Hillary House National Historic Site Ballroom, the decorated house offers a cozy historic ambience for this seasonal craft. Enjoy light refreshments, a short tour of Hillary House, and shop in the Gift Shop.

Please note, the Ballroom is located on the second floor of Hillary House and is not accessible. **Proof of vaccination is required for all participants over the age of 12.** One wreath per person. No refunds. COVID-19 safety procedures in place. Pre-registration is required.

Click [here](#) or call the AHS Office 905-727-8991 to book a spot.

### A Family Christmas

**December 5th** – 10:00am to 4:00pm

\$5/adults, \$3/children

Step back in time and visit Hillary House National Historic Site, traditionally decorated for the holidays. Enjoy activities for the whole family throughout the house and grounds. Visit with Santa Claus in his sleigh, listen to a Christmas story, make a craft, enjoy a holiday treat, and learn all about how Christmas was celebrated in the past.



Please note, **proof of vaccination is required for all participants over the age of 12.** No refunds. COVID-19 safety procedures in place.

Pre-registration is required.

Click [here](#) or call the AHS Office 905-727-8991 to book a spot.

# Event Wrap-up

## Strawberry Tea

All the way back in June, we hosted a Strawberry Tea at Home! Guests picked up their delightful Tea package and joined us on Zoom from home for an entertaining lesson on the history of tea. Thank you to everyone who attended and for the volunteers who helped us make this event possible.



## Victorian Harvest Tea

On September 18th, the AHS hosted the 2nd Annual Victorian Harvest Tea on the beautiful grounds of Hillary House. Thank you to all of the AHS supporters who came out to enjoy afternoon tea and treats and to the volunteers who made this event another smashing success. Thank you to sponsors Catharina's Kitchen and North South Management.



# A Wander Through Time

## A very unique Scotch tasting event

*Geoffrey Dawe, AHS Treasurer*

On Thursday, September 9th, the Aurora Historical Society, in collaboration with the Aurora Whisky Society, hosted a very unique Scotch tasting event, titled "A Wander Through Time."

This was not our first such event – the AHS has held tasting events in the past with CHATS, all of which were rather cozy! This year, due to the COVID-19 regulations, we held a virtual event which yielded 2 major advantages – first we were able to increase the number of participants (the seating in the ballroom is limited); and a virtual tasting event is much safer (no drinking and driving worries!)

Our Tasting Master (as in our previous events) was Keith Scott. Not only is Keith knowledgeable about all-things Scotch, he is incredibly enthusiastic and most engaging. Also assisting with technology was Stephen MacLeod of the AWS.

Each brand of Scotch was paired with a room in Hillary House. In total we tasted 5 products with AHS Curator, Kathleen Vahey, describing the room and Keith leading the tasting with his reasoning for selecting that particular Scotch.

It was a most unique tasting experience and we raised over \$10,000.00!

Our sincere thanks to: our Event Sponsor, Bazil Developments; our Bottle sponsors: ERA Architects, Geranium, Groundswell Urban Planners, the Kerbel Group, and Thomas Food Canada; the gang at the Aurora Whisky Society; and of course all the participants!

The 2021 Hillary House Ball – House Party Edition is generously sponsored by:



Soaring Beyond Expectations

Assurance | Accounting | Tax | Advisory



Jack Laurion B.A. LL.B.



TOGETHER WE ROLL

# A Look Outside Hillary House – Exhibition Opening



**BIG NEWS!** Under the direction of AHS Curator, Kathleen Vahey, the AHS is proud to launch a permanent, outdoor, interactive exhibit on the grounds of Hillary House National Historic Site. This exhibition showcases the important Gothic-Revival architecture of Hillary House and explores how the outdoor spaces were used in the 19th and 20th century by showcasing the various activities the Hillary family took part in on their grounds. In addition to informative panels, visitors can scan imbedded QR codes to access interactive games and take a deeper dive into the history of Hillary House and it's occupants.

Join us on November 16th at 5:30pm at Hillary House National Historic Site, 15372 Yonge Street Aurora, ON for the official opening and reception.

## AHS Road Trip!

*Ontario's historic sites and museums have so much to offer the history buff and the tourist. Take a virtual road trip and explore these two featured sites. Enjoy!*

### **Oakville Museum at Erchless Estate**

The historic buildings of Erchless Estate were once home to Oakville's founding family but are now the setting for Oakville's community museum. Colonel William Chisholm, an enterprising merchant and shipbuilder, founded the town and built Erchless overlooking his new harbour and Lake Ontario.

Learn more about this site and take a virtual tour here <https://www.oakville.ca/museum/>

### **Bytown Museum**

Housed in Ottawa's oldest stone structure, the BYTOWN MUSEUM explores the city's history from its First Peoples through the early years of Rideau Canal construction, the rough and tumble days of Bytown, to its emergence as Canada's capital and beyond.

Learn more about this site and take a virtual tour here <https://bytownmuseum.com/virtual-tour/>

## Hillary House Verandah Restoration Update

*Alan Lambert, AHS Vice-President*

If you've been past Hillary House in the last few weeks, you will have noticed we are "under restoration!" We are very excited the planned restoration of our Verandah is well underway and scheduled to be complete (weather permitting) in mid-November. Our restoration includes work on the underside of the verandah, to make sure the underpinnings are strong, along with the floorboards and lattice. Once complete, including a fresh coat of paint, our prized verandah will be back in shape and ready to welcome our members and visitors. We will send along pictures of the completed project, hopefully in the next edition.



# Garden Discoveries

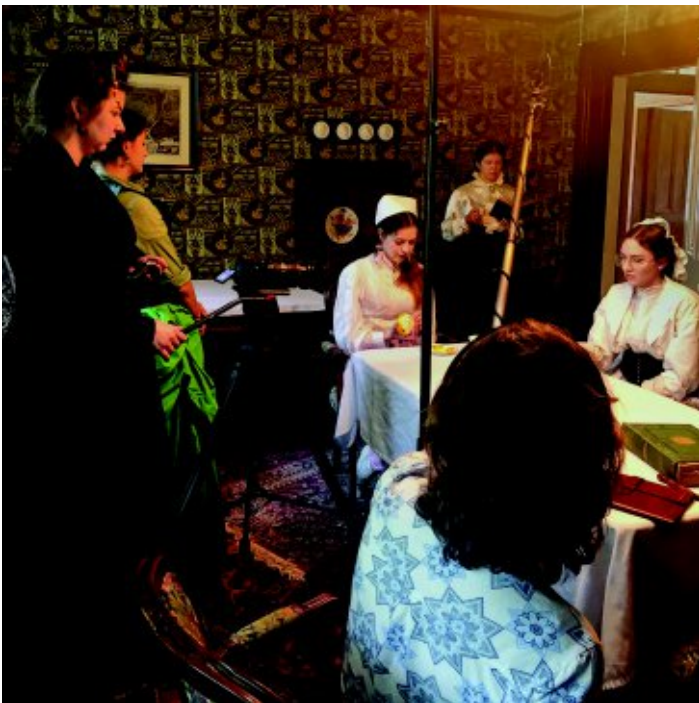
Have you ever been gardening and happened upon something strange in the dirt? Well, that's exactly what happened when Landscape Committee volunteers were gardening at Hillary House this summer! In preparation for the restoration of the verandah, the flowers and plants around the front of Hillary House needed to be removed. While digging out the plants, two strange discoveries were made. Amongst all the dirt was a long nail and an old knife. We cannot be sure who they belonged to, how long they've been there, or how they got there, but they've probably been waiting to be found for a while. Both the nail and the knife are significantly corroded

and there is very little in the way of distinguishing marks. There is one visible marking on the knife which tells us that it is a "Premier H 13" knife. With this information we were able to discover that the knife was likely made in Sweden in the 1940s.

Next time you visit Hillary House make sure to keep an eye out; there's always new pieces of history waiting to be uncovered.



## Filming at Hillary House



Check out the web-series on Youtube!

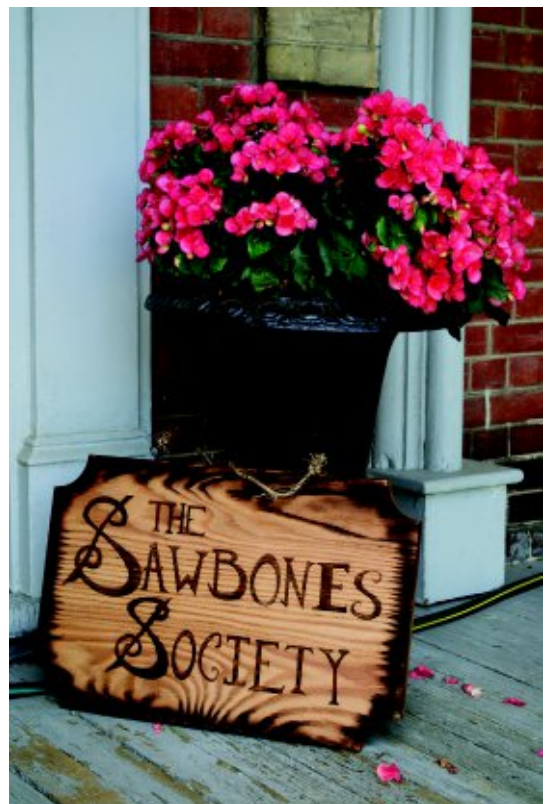
Season 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kEcZJU6xoE&list=PLqxiWh3vUcE0q2qDOfxkf0TbAHkJFqrpB>

Season 2, Episode 1 (filmed at Hillary House):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ozwtvq-cSs>

In July, Hillary House was the backdrop for the second season of a short web-series called the Sawbones Society. Connected to the Coldwater Steampunk Festival, the dark-comedy series depicts the work of a fictional group of malpracticing medics; including the uptight physician Dr. Morphine, the eccentric surgeon Mr. Ether, the snide alienist Dr. Heroin, the uncanny apothecary Abby Sinthe, and the mysterious Nurse Clara Form. It was great fun for staff and volunteers to watch to the production process.



## Hillary House Fall/Winter Hours

Monday to Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm, by appointment only. Call or email to book a tour.

# C You in Aurora



In late August, the Study at Hillary House became the backdrop for the Town of Aurora Economic Development Corporation's new storytelling project 'C You in Aurora'. Keep an eye out for it over the new few months.

## Check out Hillary House in the Daily Commercial News

Thank you to journalist, Don Proctor, for your interest in Hillary House and heritage preservation.

[https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2021/10/auroras-hillary-house-facelift-aims-to-draw-interest-as-a-main-street-marvel?fbclid=IwAR177qyaivAZqaonwSYRIC74j9MC9kBJqEQG-d\\_hZ1nrTIRc-JVx0WpIcCk#.YV9WFwXVhZQ.facebook](https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/projects/2021/10/auroras-hillary-house-facelift-aims-to-draw-interest-as-a-main-street-marvel?fbclid=IwAR177qyaivAZqaonwSYRIC74j9MC9kBJqEQG-d_hZ1nrTIRc-JVx0WpIcCk#.YV9WFwXVhZQ.facebook)



## Headlines From History Evening Star – September 1899

"In the General Sessions to-day John Glen was convicted of stealing an overcoat owned by A. Harris, of Aurora, from a livery in Aurora."

## Toronto Daily Star – September 1902

"Aurora and Newmarket played a game of baseball on Saturday, in which a record for that part of the country was established. Reid and O'Brien of the St. Mary's of Toronto were in the points for Aurora. Only 28 of the Newmarket men faced Reid, who struck out 23 batters. He only allowed two scratchy hits, never gave a base on balls, and never struck a man. The score was 11 to 0 in favour of Aurora."

## Thank You to Our Summer Staff

The AHS was fortunate to have two summer employees join our team for the summer season, thanks to a federal grant from Canada Summer Jobs.

We thank Grace and Simone for all of their hard work during the summer and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

# AHS Thanks the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Government of Ontario

In 2021, the AHS received a \$36,000 Capital grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to partially fund restoration work on the verandah deck of Hillary House, a 159-year-old National Historic Site. The project will be completed in November and will provide improved structural safety to the verandah space, allowing for increased programming space and public access to the museum for years to come. With its reputation as one of the best and most complete examples of Gothic Revival architecture in all of Canada, the verandah at Hillary House is one of the most important features.

Additionally, the AHS received a \$21,300 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to start the pandemic recovery process and begin rebuilding in response to the impacts of COVID-19. With this grant, the AHS was able to adapt and reimagine fundraising initiatives and heritage programming that follow COVID-19 safety protocols in order to raise revenue to ensure the financial viability of the Historical Society in 2021 and beyond.

Thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Government of Ontario for their continued support.



The Aurora Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of:



Canadian Heritage  
Patrimoine canadien

Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



## Thank You To Our Volunteers!

*The continued support of our dedicated volunteers and local businesses is an integral part of the Aurora Historical Society and we appreciate all that they do!*

A big thank you to our many volunteers of 2021: Allison Collins-Mrakas, Angela Trevivian, Brenda Snape, Christine McLure, Helen Burlanyette, Joan Gardner, John Girvan, Lissa Dwyer, Marjorie Bare, Mike Norris, Nathan Lambert, Owen Norris, Sandy Bundy, Sonia Koczekan, and more.

A special thank you and welcome to two new volunteers who helped out for the first time this summer: Alisa Ruzhynsky and Arshia Ahir

Thank you to Rent Source, Nutrilawn, and Aurora Home Hardware for their support. We receive many great comments on our beautiful grounds.

The Town of Aurora again helped in keeping Hillary House beautiful this Spring by providing us with our annual hanging baskets.

Thank you to our Transcription Project volunteers: Bernadette Preyde, Betsy McIntyre, Edward van Nostrand, Elizabeth Nisbet, Faygie Noble,

Guillaume Jean, Hilary Oosterhof, Jacqueline Stuart, Jennifer Zsolt, Kate Tarini, Kathee R, Kathryn O'Dwyer, Lissa Dwyer, Nadia Gargaro, Pamela Pal, Patti Schneider, Roy Budd, Sharon Mitchell, and Tarryn Andrews.

A special thanks to new volunteer Jennifer Bulmer at GreatMemories.ca for her extensive assistance with graphic design.

Thank you to Committee Chair John Bare for maintaining our grounds and to Committee Chair Bob McRoberts for his coordination of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame/AHS collaboration.

Thank you to our Board Members who tirelessly step up to take on new projects, in addition to providing strong leadership as Directors. A special mention to Ronen Grunberg who has put in numerous hours behind the scenes ensuring technology at the AHS is always working and that our website is kept up to date.

THANK YOU!



# Membership Update

By Julie Preston, Administrative Assistant

It is time to renew your membership for 2022! It's easy. Contacting the office, mail in the membership form below, or pay online from our website here [aurorahs.com/become-member](http://aurorahs.com/become-member)

For more information contact the AHS office by email at [community@aurorahs.com](mailto:community@aurorahs.com) or call 905-727-8991.

Your AHS Membership not only entitles you to voting rights at the AGM, but also grants you special **members' discounts** and invites to **members-only events**.

A strong membership base is extremely important to successful grant applications. Having a strong membership base allows AHS to successfully apply for grants for operations or capital projects. For example, without the Town of Aurora's annual grant and the annual Community Museum's Operating Grant, AHS would not be able to keep Hillary House open to the public for tours, exhibits, programs, etc.

**Annual memberships are valid from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year.**

**Please help us in 2022 by becoming a member or renewing your annual membership.**

**Thank you to all who are Life Members - your continued support is a valued asset.**

## AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2021

### Board of Directors 2021

President.....	Patricia Wallace
Vice President.....	Alan Lambert
Treasurer .....	Geoffrey Dawe
Interim Secretary .....	Geoffrey Dawe
Director .....	Ronen Grunberg
Director .....	Dan McGeown
Director .....	Martin Paivio
Director .....	Michelle Primeau
Director .....	Jan Stainer-White

### Committees

Landscaping Committee Chair .....	Dr. John Bare
TOA Heritage Advisory Committee Rep .....	John Green
Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Rep .....	Bob McRoberts

### Staff

Curator .....	Kathleen Vahey
Administrative Assistant .....	Julie Preston

Newsletter Production .....	Julie Preston
Newsletter Editor, Volunteer .....	Christine McLure
Newsletter Layout, Volunteer .....	Brenda Snape

We invite members to submit suggestions for inclusion in the newsletter. Please email [community@aurorahs.com](mailto:community@aurorahs.com).

## Membership Application or Renewal

### Annual Fees (January 1 to December 31)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fees	One Year	Two Years
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$30.00	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40.00	\$70.00

Payment can be made by cash, cheque, credit, or debit.  
Please make cheques payable to the Aurora Historical Society.  
**15372 Yonge Street, Aurora, ON L4G 1N8 (905) 727-8991**  
**community@aurorahs.com www.aurorahs.com**