

Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Sustaining Heritage: Successful Restoration of the Little Station – an 1850s Former Train Station*



Pictured left to right: *Philip Goldsmith (Architect & Project Supervisor), Debbie Beattie (Critical Mass Art), and Ian McKay (2023 Chair, ACO Port Hope). Debbie presents a cheque to the ACO Port Hope Branch for \$39,271 made possible by funding from the Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces Fund.*

**Port Hope, January 15, 2024** – The Little Station, an 1850s former train station, has undergone a successful restoration through a collaborative effort between Critical Mass Art and Architectural Conservancy Ontario's (ACO) Port Hope chapter. This project was pivotal in preserving and revitalizing a significant heritage cultural gem in downtown Port Hope.

Immediate attention was given to critical roof restoration to prevent further deterioration, coupled with exterior carpentry work and a fresh coat of paint to restore the building to its historic appearance. A soak pit was also installed to address basement flooding issues, safeguarding Critical Mass's vital arts space.

Recognizing the importance of this project, Critical Mass Art and ACO Port Hope jointly applied for and secured a grant of \$39,271 from the Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces Fund. This financial support played a crucial role in offsetting the total restoration costs (which were \$77,176.09) and ensuring the continued use of this heritage building for arts and cultural programming.

Architect Phil Goldsmith, who led the project, highlighted the historical significance of The Little Station and its journey from a railway building to a central hub for Critical Mass's downtown programming. The restoration efforts included replacing asphalt roofing with eastern cedar shingles, wood repairs, and repainting, to stabilize the building for years to come.

The Port Hope Branch of ACO, actively involved in the restoration, owns The Little Station, adding to its commitment to preserving historical landmarks. The successful restoration of the Port Hope Grand Trunk railway station aligns with the organization's track record.

The Little Station stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of ACO Port Hope, Critical Mass Art, and the investment from Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces Fund. The completed project ensures the continued legacy of this heritage site, contributing to a vibrant and engaged Port Hope for generations.

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### ***About Critical Mass Art:***

Critical Mass is a not-for-profit arts organization located in Port Hope, Ontario. We believe that art challenges how we see the world and our place in it. We believe in making art accessible

and use contemporary art to build a vibrant, connected and more inclusive community for all. Through education, production, exhibition and promotion of contemporary art, Critical Mass creates engaging experiences for the community that redefine and expand the cultural vibrancy of Port Hope.

***About Architectural Conservancy Ontario (ACO) Port Hope:***

Through education & advocacy, ACO Port Hope encourages the conservation & reuse of structures, districts & landscapes of architectural, historic & cultural significance, to inspire & benefit Ontarians.

***About the Canadian Heritage Cultural Spaces Fund:***

The objectives of the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) are to contribute to:

- improved physical conditions for professional arts and heritage related collaboration, creation, presentation, preservation, and exhibition; and
- increased and improved access for Canadians to arts and culture.

The CCSF achieves these objectives by supporting:

- the construction and/or renovation of arts and/or heritage facilities, including creative hubs; the acquisition of specialized equipment; and the development of feasibility studies for the construction or renovation of arts and/or heritage facilities, including creative hubs.

The expected results:

- Artists, creators, and heritage practitioners have access to professional cultural facilities; and
- A variety of arts and heritage experiences are available in a wide range of communities.

Ultimately, the long-term results of the CCSF will allow Canadians to value and access arts and heritage spaces in their community for creation, collaboration, presentation, preservation, and exhibition.