

# THE CHRISTIE ANTIQUE SHOW (A Pop-up Village)

BY ALEX TEMPORALE OAA, FRAIC



ALL PHOTOS: ALEX TEMPORALE



**THE CHRISTIE ANTIQUE SHOW HAS** become a bi-annual pilgrimage for my family. When my daughter Kirsten was living in Toronto, I would receive weekly “Christie Countdown” phone calls from her, announcing the number of days remaining until the show. The hunt, as we like to call it, has never failed to yield vintage treasures and has even provided celebrity sightings.

My history with the Christie Antique Show probably dates back to my early years of practice and marriage, when collecting Canadiana was a sympathetic means of furnishing a heritage home. Our own collection gradually grew to include a wide variety of items from small items such as folk art, textiles, chairs and tables to large-scale cupboards and armoires. At the same time, we

periodically supplemented our heritage finds with modern design classics.

For Kirsten, the perpetual student, the neutrality of her IKEA furnishing had to be mixed with a personal statement of place. The Christie Show was the ideal solution. Located at the Christie Lake Conservation Area, the show consumes 10 acres (four hectares) of the site. Over 300 exhibitors congregate for the one day. The grassy field in front of the lake is transformed into a village of tented shops, arranged in a grid of pedestrian streets. Streams of vehicles are ushered into three large parking areas surrounding the central grounds. The public is well supported by a park pavilion, an endless row of portable toilets, mobile bank machines, coffee brewers and a range of food services. The presence of the Lions Club is an Ontario tradition at events.

The journey through the park, if you are conscientious, takes at least half a day, usually longer if you constantly reassess your options. Early arrival

**The Christie Show was the ideal solution. Located at the Christie Lake Conservation Area, the show consumes 10 acres (four hectares) of the site. Over 300 exhibitors congregate for the one day.**

*continued on page 33*

## ONTARIO PLACES

continued from page 34



ensures the certainty of that special prized find. The enormous variety of unique items being sold and the range of people hunting, including HGTV personalities, “Canadian Pickers,” collectors and those with a passion for interior design, make it one of the year’s best experiences. In this market village, bargaining is an accepted means of making that treasure yours. But wandering through the grassy streets from tent to tent can be tiring, so eventually we stop to rest at the rows of picnic tables for a back bacon sandwich and a Popsicle.

As the day wears on, the bargains increase, the best finds disappear and the crowds diminish. It’s time for us to make the journey home. The back of the truck holds the eight-foot-long red seed box that will be a bench in Kirsten’s apartment or the Adrian Dingle painting of Newfoundland. Whatever piece is in the back, it represents a special day in a special place that has been part of the culture of thousands of Ontarians for over 25 years. ■

**Alex Temporale** is principal of *ATA Architects Inc.*, in Oakville, and a member of the *OAA Perspectives Committee*.

## INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

### ACOUSTICAL DISTRIBUTORS

OAS ..... 31  
www.oasinc.ca

### ACOUSTICAL ENGINEERS

Acoustic Solutions ..... 33  
www.acousticswithdesign.com

HGC Engineering Ltd. .... 32  
www.hgcengineering.com

Valcoustics Canada Ltd. .... 32  
www.valcoustics.com

### ALUMINUM DOORS/WINDOWS/CURTAIN WALLS

CommDoor Aluminum ..... 25  
www.commdooraluminum.com

### ARCHITECTURAL ACOUSTICS

Valcoustics Canada Ltd. .... 32  
www.valcoustics.com

### ARCHITECTURAL WOODWORK

Baywood Interiors Ltd. .... 29  
www.baywoodinteriors.com

### BRICK MANUFACTURERS/SUPPLIERS

Brampton Brick Limited ..... 8  
www.bramptonbrick.com

Hanson Brick Canada ..... Inside Front Cover  
www.hansonbrick.com

Thames Valley Brick & Tile ..... 29  
www.thamesvalleybrick.com

### BUILDING CODE CONSULTANTS

LMDG Building Code Consultants Ltd. .... 32  
www.lmdg.com

### BUILDING SERVICES

Options Engineering Ltd. .... 32  
www.optionsengineering.ca

### BUILDING SYSTEMS

BuiltOne Enterprises Ltd. .... 3  
www.builtone.com

### CARPET

Tandus Canada ..... 30  
www.tandus-centiva.com

### CLAY BRICK & MASONRY

Hanson Brick Canada ..... Inside Front Cover  
www.hansonbrick.com

### CLAY PAVING BRICKS

Thames Valley Brick & Tile ..... 29  
www.thamesvalleybrick.com

### CODE ENFORCEMENT

Ontario Building Officials Association ..... 32  
www.oboa.on.ca

### CONCRETE WALL SYSTEMS

BuiltOne Enterprises Ltd. .... 3  
www.builtone.com

### CONSTRUCTION LAW SERVICES

Aird & Berlis, LLP ..... 32  
www.airdberlis.com

### CONSULTING ENGINEERS

M & E Engineering Ltd. .... 8  
www.me-eng.com

### CONTRACTORS

Ottawa Commercial Contractors Ltd. .... 26  
www.ottawacommercialcontractors.com

### ELEVATOR/ACCESSIBILITY CONTRACTORS

Motion Elevating ..... 29  
www.motionelevating.com

### ENGINEERED WOOD MANUFACTURERS

Nordic Engineered Wood ..... 31  
www.nordicewp.com

### EXTERIOR INSULATION & FINISH SYSTEMS (EIFS)

Dryvit Systems Canada ..... 29  
www.dryvit.ca

### FLOORING - INFORMATION RESOURCES

Concrete Flooring Association ..... 24  
www.concretetfloors.ca

### GALVANIZING

Corbec ..... 25  
www.corbecgalv.com/rust

### GARAGE DOOR MANUFACTURERS

Steel-Craft Door Products Ltd. .... Inside Back Cover  
www.steel-craft.ca

### GLASS BLOCK & GLASS FLOOR SYSTEMS

Thames Valley Brick & Tile ..... 29  
www.thamesvalleybrick.com

### GUTTERS

Precision Gutters Ltd. .... 26  
www.europeangutters.ca

### JOIST SYSTEMS

iSpan Systems LP ..... 4  
www.totaljoist.com

### MASONRY SUPPLY

Maxwell's Landscape and Masonry Supply ..... 32  
www.maxwellstone.com

### MODULAR BUILDINGS

NRB Inc. .... 7  
www.nrb-inc.com

### NOISE & VIBRATION CONTROL

Valcoustics Canada Ltd. .... 32  
www.valcoustics.com

### ONLINE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS

Ontario General Contractors Association ..... 29  
www.ogca.ca

### ORNAMENTAL IRON FENCING

Iron Eagle Industries Inc. .... 31  
www.iron eagleind.com

### ROOFING

Classic Roofing Systems ..... 26  
www.classicroofing.ca

Duro-Last Roofing, Inc. .... 10  
www.duro-last.com

### ROOFING/CLADDING/FOAM PANELS

VICWEST ..... 30  
www.vicwest.com

### SOFTWARE - BUILDING INFORMATION MODEL

Graphisoft North America ..... Outside Back Cover  
www.MyArchCAD.com

### STRUCTURAL PRECAST CONCRETE WALL PANES

Fabcon ..... 11  
www.fabconprecast.ca

### TESTING SERVICES (LAB & FIELD)

Can-Best ..... 32  
www.can-best.com

### VIN BUILDING SYSTEMS

BuiltOne Enterprises Ltd. .... 3  
www.builtone.com

### WINDOWS

Azon ..... 31  
www.azonintl.com

### WINDOWS & DOORS

Strassburger Windows and Doors ..... 26  
www.strassburger.net

## ACOUSTICS

WITH DESIGN

Improve the acoustics AND enhance the look of corporate, commercial or residential spaces, with decorative sound absorbent panels from Wobedo of Sweden. Beautiful designs, easily installed.

**416-818-6569**  
www.acousticswithdesign.com