



Auctioneers Association of Ontario

AUCTIONEERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO ANNUAL CONVENTION & COMPETITION BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 1, 2026

Held at the Hampton Inn and Suites by Hilton in Waterloo / St. Jacobs at 55 Benjamin Road, Waterloo, ON N2V 0C6 (519-514-0090)

A block of rooms has been reserved for those attending (at a discounted rate) from February 26th to March 2nd

Speaker Events & Trades Tables will be held during the day on February 27th at the Hampton Inn and Suites. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held later in the afternoon (time to be announced)

2026 Ontario Auctioneer Championship (Live Public Auction) to be held at:
Gerald Bowman Auctions & Appraisals Ltd
7213 Line 86, Wallenstein, ON N0B 2S0
Saturday, February 28, 2026

AAO Banquet to be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites, Waterloo / St. Jacobs
Saturday evening on February 28, 2026



Auctioneers Association of Ontario



100 Likes

I Attended

Convention 2025!

AAOPro

CONVENTION & COMPETITION 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

To the Membership of the AAO:

It is with pleasure to provide the information you need about the upcoming: Auctioneers Association of Ontario Annual Convention & Competition 2026!

This is the first of about 3 or 4 bulletins that will be shared with you - as events, dates and times are organized and confirmed. I will do my best to keep you informed in a timely fashion. But certainly, don't hesitate to contact me if needed.

Our hope is that we can enjoy visiting and networking with old friends as well as welcome and encourage new friends.

Anna Fierling

auctioneersontario@gmail.com

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Joanne Carncross with a mystery box from the Fun Auction on Friday night.

AGM FEBRUARY 2026
AAO Annual General Meeting
Please be advised that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Auctioneers Association of Ontario will be held at the **Hampton Inn and Suites by Hilton in Waterloo / St. Jacobs, Berlin Room 1 at 55 Benjamin Road, Waterloo, ON.**

The date and time of the AGM is Friday, February 27, 2026, to begin at 4 PM.

PROPOSED AMMENDMENT TO THE ASSOCIATIONS BY-LAWS:

Proposed Handbook Amendments

The Board of Directors wishes to advise the General Membership that a proposed amendment to the Association's By-laws and will be brought forward for a vote.

An email was sent to the membership with the Proposed Handbook Amendments for your review prior to the AGM which includes::

- some amendments, plus the modernization of the wording to make the association work in a more technological age and removal of some outdated terminology.

In accordance with By-law 58 (AAO HANDBOOK 2019.REVISED), any change to the By-laws must first be enacted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and subsequently sanctioned by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at a meeting duly called for this purpose. This notice serves to inform the membership that such a vote will take place at the 2026 AGM.

All members in good standing are encouraged to attend and participate in this important decision regarding the future governance structure of the Association.

We thank you for your attention and for your continued support of the Auctioneers Association of Ontario.

AAO AWARDS/NOMINATION INFO:



THE AAO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Doug Jacob received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2025 for his outstanding contributions to the auction industry.

The AAO Lifetime Achievement Award is given each year to an individual, or individuals, in recognition of significant and enduring contribution to the Association and the Auction Industry.

The Association would like to formally recognize those members who have rendered exceptional services to the profession, whose achievements in their careers and/or whose contributions in the community have earned them distinction and brought honour to the profession. Within this community of professionals, there are a few exceptional individuals whose dedication, commitment and extraordinary contribution include achievements of such significance across a broad range of areas that the Association wishes to recognize these exceptional individuals by awarding them a Lifetime achievement Award.

The AAO is honoured to have the opportunity for its members to select and recognize a person who has given outstanding support and service to the Association over the years. Nominations should be submitted to the AAO secretary before January 30th of each year.

Documentation should accompany this nomination. All nominations can be sent to our secretary at auctioneersontario@gmail.com (Nomination Form is attached to this email)

Selection Criteria

Nominees for the Lifetime Achievement Award should meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated exceptional service/leadership over a significant period of time. This award is for lifetime achievement rather than a single contribution.
- Promotes excellence within themselves, their community and the Association. Encourages learning, passion, leadership, and enthusiasm within the Association and industry.
- Displayed a wisdom and depth of service/leadership that has made a significant difference to individuals.
- Demonstrates the core values of the AAO.

Nomination Criteria

- The nominee need not necessarily be a practising auctioneer, nor a current member of the AAO. The AAO may also choose to make the award posthumously if the circumstances are appropriate.
- All submissions for this recognition are considered in confidence by the Committee, and nominations will not be publicly disclosed. The President and members of the Board are not eligible for this award while in office.
- Nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award should be forwarded no later than January 30th, 2026, by email to the Secretary with a short explanation of the reason for nomination.
- All nominations will be assessed on their comparative merits by the standing Committee, who will decide the eventual recipient(s) by majority vote. This is an important award but is necessarily subjective. It should not be viewed to be in any way competitive.

CONVENTION & COMPETITION 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Association would like to express its appreciation and recognize a member that exhibits a prominent commitment to the AAO by their time, talent and resources invested, who has given outstanding support and service to further the goals and objectives of the Association. Nominations should be submitted to the AAO secretary by January 30th, 2026. Documentation should accompany this nomination (Form attached to this email). All nominations can be sent to our secretary at auctioneersontario@gmail.com

Selection Criteria

Nominees for the Member of the Year Award should meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrated exceptional service and leadership over the past year.
- Promotes passion, leadership, enthusiasm and excellence within themselves and the Association.
- Nominees cannot have won the award in the past two years.

Nomination Criteria

- All submissions for this award are considered in confidence by the Committee, and nominations will not be publicly disclosed.
- All nominations will be assessed on their comparative merits by the standing Committee, who will decide the recipient by majority vote.
- This is an esteemed award but is necessarily subjective. It should not be viewed to be in any way competitive.
- Nominations for the Member of the Year should be forwarded no later than January 30th, 2026 by email to the Secretary with a short explanation of the reason for nomination.

BARBARA RICHARDS EDUCATIONAL BURSARY

In 2003, the AAO founded an educational bursary aimed at promoting advanced professional development and continuing education for established auctioneers. The bursary has been renamed the Barbara Richards Educational Bursary, after the late Barb Richards.

Barb and her daughter, Krista Richards, have been staunch supporters of the AAO. Barb believed 100% in the auction method of marketing, the need for constant upgrading of professional knowledge and skills, and maximum effort in the auction ring. She was the founder of the Canadian Auction College, encouraging each graduate to become a member of the AAO. Barb was also a President (2006) of the AAO and served on the AAO Board of Directors for many years. She was an Ontario Women's Champion and Member of the Year recipient. One of her proudest moments with the AAO was receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020.

The Barbara Richards Educational Bursary is presented annually to a deserving member in good standing who has applied for continuing education and professional development in an auction or auction-related field. The Bursary is for higher-level academic knowledge and/or skill-based education. The recipient of the Bursary is announced at the President's Banquet at the Annual AAO Convention and Competition. The Bursary award shall not exceed \$1000.

Past recipients have used the Bursary to go towards various courses, including The CPPAG (Canadian Personal Property Appraisers Group), CAI (Certified Auctioneers Institute, provided by the NAA/National Auctioneers Association), BAS (Benefit Auctioneer Specialist by the NAA), extra educational opportunities and classes provided by the Canadian Auction College and more. There have been many recipients of this Bursary since its inception and there have been years where there have been no applicants. The Board of Directors would be pleased to direct the allocated funds to a deserving AAO member.

Applicants must be members in good standing and active in the auction industry. The Educational Bursary application form must be completed in full (incomplete applications will not be accepted) and should be forwarded no later than January 30th, 2026 by email to the Secretary at auctioneersontario@gmail.com. All funding from other sources must be declared on the application. The Bursary is not retroactive and cannot be applied against courses already completed. The application, all written reports, submissions and supporting documents become the property of the AAO.

ONTARIO AUCTIONEER CHAMPIONSHIP/COMPETITION 2026:

In 2025 we were thrilled to announce the winners of the Auctioneering Competition: **Novice Auctioneer Champion** Elam Ebersol (who also won the **Aaron Kates Crowd Favourite Award**) and **Experienced Auctioneer Champion** Dan Stenning. Their skill, energy, and passion for the craft truly impressed everyone in attendance. Who will be this year's winners?



The Auctioneer's Association of Ontario (AAO) invites all auctioneers to participate in the competition which will be held in conjunction with the Auctioneer's Association of Ontario's annual convention hosted at the Hampton Inn and Suites by Hilton in Waterloo / St. Jacobs at 55 Benjamin Road, Waterloo, ON February 26 – March 1, 2026. Please note that the Championship Competition will be held at: Gerald Bowman Auctions & Appraisals Ltd
7213 Line 86, Wallenstein, ON N0B 2S0

Saturday, February 28, 2026 @10:00am (Preview at 9:00am) (Competitors arrive at 8:30 to draw for positions)

All Auctioneers in Ontario will be eligible to compete for the competition. There will be two divisions: Champion and Novice.

Experienced Division Rewards include:

- 1st place will receive AAO Champion trophy, a gold ring and a \$1000.00 cash prize.
- 2nd place will receive a plaque and a \$500.00 cash prize.
- 3rd place will receive a plaque and a \$300.00 cash prize.

Novice Division (two years or less experience) Rewards include:

- 1st place will receive a plaque and a free years membership to the AAO
- 2nd place will receive a plaque.

Note: If there are 5 competing Women, a Women's Championship will be awarded. The Women's Champion will receive a trophy plus \$500, Reserve will receive \$250.

Competition Rules:

- All contestants must be present at 8:30 am. on Sat, Feb 28, 2026 at Gerald Bowman Auctions, 7213 Line 86, Wallenstein, ON.
- The competition will consist of 5 judges from different areas of the auction industry. The top and bottom scores will be dropped, and placements will be based on the average of the 3 remaining judge's scores.
- First round contestants will sell 3 items consisting of 2 items supplied by the competitor, valuing over 50 dollars total. Auctioneers will sell their own supplied items.
- The top 4 contestants in each division will be brought back for the final round selling 2 items that will be supplied by the Association.
- The winners will be announced at the end of the competition and given free passes to our banquet on Saturday evening night where presentations will be made.
- Entry fee for the champions division is \$150.00 payable to The Ontario Auctioneers Association and free for the novice division for AAO members, \$100 for non members.
- Former Champions in any given category are not eligible to compete in divisions they have already won for five years.
- ALL competition winners MUST attend the President's Banquet to collect prizes.
- Entries will be accepted up till February 20, 2026.
- To make this a fair and impartial competition, no member of the Competition Committee will compete in the competition. No competitor will be allowed to use the mic before the competition. Each auctioneer is invited to the mic for a pre-sale mic check.
- Registration Form is attached to this email.

CONVENTION & COMPETITION 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

Get ready for one of the most anticipated nights of the AAO Convention—the **Friday Evening Fun Auction!** After last year’s high-energy bidding, surprise twists, roaring laughter, and thousands raised for the association, we’re gearing up to do it all again. The Fun Auction is only as great as the items our members bring, so don’t forget to pack something to sell—fun, unique, quirky, or irresistible all welcome. With talented auctioneers, enthusiastic bidders, and a room full of AAO camaraderie, this is always a highlight of the convention. Bring an item, bring your bidding paddle, and be ready for an unforgettable night!



BOOK YOUR ROOM AT THE HAMPTON INN & SUITES

55 BENJAMIN ROAD, WATERLOO, ON
One king standard - \$154.00 per night
(Plus 4% MAT and 13% HST)

Book online:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Select the dates (between February 26 - March 2, 2026) -> “Special Rates” -> under “Group Code” please enter 90B and press “Check Rooms & Rates”

Book by phone: 519-514-0090

Mention: Auctioneers Association (between February 26 - March 2, 2026) /or the group code 90B their Front Desk Agents will be able to book the reservations for you.

All 2025 Convention & Competition Photos by: Christopher Drost