

WOODFIELD

SPRING 2026 COMMUNITY NEWS

historicwoodfield.ca

Woodfield Annual General Meeting

Thursday April 23 Doors open at 6:30, Meeting starts at 7:00pm
453 Dufferin Ave - London Masonic Centre

This is a great opportunity to meet new neighbours, meet the Executive Committee, and **learn how you can get more involved in the Woodfield Community Association**. We also have a few open positions on the Executive Committee, including Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Woodfield French Immersion PS Rep, and Members at Large!

Email info@historicwoodfield.ca or reach out to a member of the Executive for more information.



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NeighbourGood
LONDON



Plant Exchange and Sale
Woodfield Public School
Saturday, May 9th - 8:30am-Noon
Rain date: Sunday May 10th

Who is excited for Spring? It's been a long winter, and many of us are ready to get outside in the garden! How it works: dig up and split overgrown perennials (I'm looking at you hostas!), bring them the day of the plant exchange, and trade them in for tokens to shop for new plants. Tables are always stocked full of a variety of plants and shrubs. Don't have time to dig up your plants, or don't have anything to bring? That's OK too! All plants are for sale starting at \$2. We will also have a selection of annuals generously donated from Springtime Garden Centre, mulch, and compost for sale. A few things to note:

- If you are bringing in plants to exchange, **please bring them before 10am**
- Please avoid bringing any invasive or noxious plant species

Trees for Woodfield will also be there with an assortment of flowering trees and shrubs! Species will include Nanny Berry and Southern Arrow wood (a viburnum). We will also have an assortment of non-blossoming trees for planting at this year's Plant Exchange—Cherry Birch, Bur Oak and other deciduous species.

Not a big gardener? There's something for everyone! We will have a bake table with coffee and goodies, and the famous breakfast sandwiches!

We are looking for volunteers to help at the plant sale (great opportunity for students who need volunteer hours!) If you'd like to volunteer, please reach out to: info@historicwoodfield.ca.

In our community, many of our neighbours are facing challenges such as homelessness, mental health struggles, and addiction, and in this issue we would like to highlight a few local agencies that are providing vital support and compassionate services to those in need.

LONDON CARES - Looking Forward to Spring

As we come out of a very challenging winter, we want to thank our neighbours for their patience and support. London Cares has worked hard these past months to keep people safe—our outreach teams have been checking on individuals outdoors in severe weather, and we have opened 602 Queens Avenue overnight to provide warmth for 25–30 people each night.

With spring approaching, you may notice more activity around our building and some extra cleanup needs as the snow melts. We have hired an additional cleaner and are doing our best to keep the property tidy. We appreciate your understanding as we continue serving a large number of people in need.

If anyone is interested in helping with gardening or landscaping this spring, we would be grateful. Please reach out at volunteer@londoncares.ca. We also hope to host a small meet and greet soon so neighbours can learn more about the services offered at the Commons.

Thank you again for your kindness and patience. With over 2,300 people experiencing homelessness in our community, your support truly makes a difference. If you see someone who may need help, our outreach team can be reached at **(519) 667-2273**. You can find out more about the work they do at londoncares.ca.

Chris Moss - Executive Director



MY SISTER'S PLACE, London Coffee House 566 Dundas Street

On December 1st, 2025 My Sisters' Place expanded services to include overnight resting spaces on the 3rd floor. Being largely unfunded, it meant asking the community to support our efforts to make this important addition a reality.

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in helping us with monetary gifts, donations of warm gloves and winter coats and other items needed to help unsheltered women.

In December and January alone, we welcomed women into overnight safety 620 times. We offer a hot shower, something to eat and a safe space to close their eyes and rest. Skilled, compassionate mental health and addiction staff offer support and help with system navigation.

Our social enterprise, selling hand-crafted goods that directly support our community, is located in our beautiful, historic coach house is open Tues-Thurs from 10am-2pm. Please drop by!



LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

What makes Woodfield extra special is our many local businesses nestled within our residential community. **The Bag Lady (Pall Mall and Maitland)** - a local staple here in Woodfield (despite technically being in the Piccadilly neighbourhood!), is now under new ownership and are committed to keeping the tradition alive. They've also recently opened Off Licence - our very own Irish Pub right here in Woodfield. Check out their Instagram [@bagladysofflicence](https://www.instagram.com/bagladysofflicence) for current opening hours!



Did you know that **Variety Cafe (Dufferin at Maitland)** now has a Puzzle Library? Do a Puzzle, Take a Puzzle, Leave a Puzzle - What could be more perfect on a lovely spring day than doing a puzzle with a delicious latte?

If you are a local business in the Woodfield community and would like to be featured in a future Newsletter issue, email us at info@historicwoodfield.ca

HARVESTFEST 2025

Thanks to all that joined us for Harvestfest in November—a pot-luck style community dinner. We had a great turnout! It was a fun evening of food, fun, and meeting new neighbours.

A special thank you to everyone who donated to our silent auction:

JACQUI KIPFER, LOCAL ARTIST
JILL'S TABLE
COPP'S BUILDALL
THE BAG LADY (UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!)
MCMANUS CONTRACTING
RENEE'S SANDWICH SHOP
GLEN CURNOE
COVENT GARDEN MARKET
INN ON THE HARBOUR
REED'S UPHOLSTERY
PALACE THEATRE
LONDON BREWING CO-OP
AMANDA SEAVERS AND JOSEPH DEY
VARIETY CAFE
FRIENDS OF WOODFIELD
BARRY AND AUDREY FRANCIS

MARYANN HODGE
MANDY MCDOWELL
COLIN DOMBROSKI—SOLE SCIENCE
LINDA WHITNEY
THE CHURCH KEY BISTRO PUB
BARBARA LANDSTREET
WOODFIELD AUTOMOTIVE
D. DELANEY, LOCAL ARTIST
MARY HINTON—BACK TO THE FUCHSIA
DR. ARNOLD SPOOZAK
THE PARK HOTEL
MICROENVIRONMENTS
KATE RAPSON AND JEFF CARSON
BIRCH TREE HAVEN
Hope to see you next year!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR ~ Barry Francis

As my two-year term comes to an end at the 2026 AGM, I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue serving on the Committee as Past Chair. It's been a rewarding experience, and I'm proud of what we've accomplished together. I would like to sincerely thank Jean Hewitt (Treasurer), Kate Rapson (Past Chair), Rod McDowell (Newsletter), and Sandra Black-Evans (Merchandise) for their dedication and many contributions to Woodfield.

Please join me in welcoming our newest Committee members: Kara Rijnen, Wendy Sperry and Aidan Clark. They are eager to get involved and take on leadership roles on the Board. Over the past year, the Committee has worked hard to become more engaged in the community, but we can't do it alone. **Woodfield is strongest when more neighbours get involved.** If you have an idea, some time to volunteer, or are considering a role on the board, please reach out to anyone on the Board. We would love to hear from you. Thank you for your continued support, and I wish the new Executive every success in the year ahead.

The Woodfield Resiliency Project

Climate Action London, a volunteer-run community organization focusing on advocacy, education, and promoting local action to meet climate objectives, has started this project to explore how a neighbourhood can create resilience through long-term care, environmental stewardship, and mutual support among residents—it's all about helping one another and fostering community.

Next Event: Help clean up the neighbourhood during London Clean and Green: **Sat April 18** (meet at BDO office parking lot at 633 Colborne St. at 10am).

Want to get involved: the next organizing meeting for the Woodfield Resiliency Project is **Wed April 8, 7pm** at First-St. Andrew's United Church, 350 Queens Ave.



If you would like to learn more about the Project, reach out to **ClimateActionLondon@gmail.com**

Proposed WCA Executive Committee (to be confirmed at our 2026 AGM)

Chair—Shane O'Neill

Vice Chair—VACANT

Past Chair—Barry Francis

Secretary—Dawn-Marie Deagle

Planning Chair—Kara Rijnen

Treasurer—VACANT Jean Hewitt (acting)

Membership Chair—Mandy McDowell

Newsletter Chair—Aiden Clark

Web/Communication Chair—Leif Harmsen

Merchandise Chair—Wendy Sperry

Woodfield French Immersion PS Rep— VACANT

Urban League Rep—VACANT

Members-at-Large—Stephanie Bergman

As you can see, we have a number of open positions! If you've ever wanted to get more involved in your community, now's the time! To learn more, reach out to any member of the Executive, or email info@historicwoodfield.ca

Woodfield Garden Tour 2026

Saturday June 13

Rain or Shine

Discover the beauty of our neighbourhood at the 3rd annual **Woodfield Garden Tour**, where neighbours open their yards to share inspiration, creativity, and a love of gardening. Stroll through a variety of unique outdoor spaces, gather fresh ideas for your own garden, and learn tips and tricks directly from your neighbours. It's a wonderful chance to connect, explore, and celebrate the green thumbs in our community!

We are still looking for new gardens this year—if you are interested, or know someone who might be, send us an email at info@historicwoodfield.ca

Woodfield Membership!

Did you know that you can purchase or renew your Woodfield Community Association Membership right on our website? Visit historicwoodfield.ca and click on "Memberships"

Memberships are \$10 a year, or \$50 for a lifetime membership!

You can also follow us on Bluesky [@historicwoodfield.ca](https://bsky.app/profile/historicwoodfield.ca)



Please visit his website www.davidferreira.ca for newsletters, ward meetings, current city initiatives and other resources.