

WOODFIELD

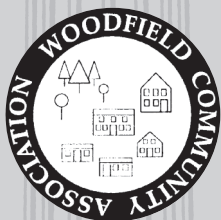
NEWS
FALL 2015 / WINTER 2016

Harvestfest
and Carolling

Introducing COW

Bobby Marriot's
labour of love

Every Tree Counts



RESIDENTIAL TO THE CORE

The Woodfield News is published twice a year and delivered free of charge within the Woodfield area.

We invite your comments, suggestions and submissions.

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A member of the
Urban League of London

2015 Harvestfest

Potluck and Auction
Thursday, November 19, 6:30 pm
Dufferin Hall, 453 Dufferin Ave



Happy Fall Woodfielders! As the days get cooler and the leaves fall from the trees it's time to start planning our Annual Harvestfest Potluck and Silent Auction! This year's event will be on **Thursday, November 19th at Dufferin Hall** starting at 6:30 pm. For those of you who have never attended our potluck, now is the time! Simply bring your favourite potluck dish along with cutlery and plates for yourself and join your neighbours while we celebrate the Fall in a social environment. And don't forget your cheque books! We will also have a silent auction featuring goods and services donated by the generous merchants and members of our community. This is our major fundraiser so please plan to attend. Also, we are always looking for new donors to our silent auction so if you know any merchants or if you want to donate something please email me at rosy@rivetsales.com or call 519-694-9460.

Soon after Harvestfest is our annual Carolling evening, so mark your calendars. Join us at a local home where we warm up our vocals before heading out in the neighbourhood to regale our neighbours with song. We wrap the whole evening up with some refreshments at a neighbour's home. The event will be on **Thursday, December 17**. For more details call 519-694-9460 or email rosy@rivetsales.com.

Thanks all and see you a HARVESTFEST!



Heritage Alteration Permits must now be visible on site

If you are receiving this newsletter, chances are you are in one of Woodfield's two Heritage Conservation Districts!

If you are planning any (even minor) exterior renovations remember – all work on the exterior of buildings in the Woodfield Heritage Districts requires that a quick and **free** Heritage Alteration Permit be acquired and hung visibly on site.

Contact Kyle Gonyou (City Heritage Planner) at 519-661-2500 (ext 5344) to get yours if you are planning any work (to avoid delays or a 'stop work' order).

Also if you see alterations without a permit visible, please give Kyle a call so that he can set the owner up with one. Thanks!



So long summer, hello Harvestfest

Here we are, summer long past, fall upon us, and we're busy planning Harvestfest! If you're new to the neighbourhood, it's a tradition in our community to come together for this potluck dinner and silent auction. It's a time when we mingle with familiar neighbours, meet new ones, enjoy a meal together, and start early on some holiday gift shopping. We're especially lucky that so many business owners and residents in the Woodfield area generously donate the wonderful items that fill our auction tables. Hope you can join us this year!

Thinking back on the summer and spring, I should comment on the 30-storey development proposed for the corner of Wolfe and Wellington. It's a building that would glower over Victoria Park, cause traffic congestion along Wolfe, and set a negative precedent for more towers around the park which would inevitably impact the health of this small parcel of public

space. While the Woodfield Executive supports infill where it is appropriate, this is far too big for this site.

Fortunately the development was put on hold and the application withdrawn. While I can only guess why the developer opted to not proceed at this time, many believe it was in reaction to the overwhelming opposition from not only Woodfield, but other communities, organizations, businesses and even individuals from across the country. In fact well over 2,000 people opposed this development. Two individuals on Wolfe Street led the opposition, and, together with a number of us from the community, we worked hard to build awareness of the issues with this development. There are more appropriate locations for such a building; many empty parking lots scattered throughout the core. The City's own Official Plan, the West Woodfield Heritage Guidelines and the Downtown Master Plan do not support something so massive at this corner. The

– A Message from the Chair

message was loud and clear: the community did not want this development. It was incredible to see how so many joined in the discussion. It was encouraging to realize that such a concerted effort and hard work impacted the path of this application. It shows what can happen when communities stand together. Thanks to all who spoke up.

Back to lighter affairs. Something new is starting up in our community: a number of kids, under the direction of Wes Kinghorn, have formed a junior executive, called COW which stands for Children of Woodfield. It's a wonderful opportunity for kids to become involved in community building initiatives and have a lot of fun along the way. You'll get a chance to meet them at HarvestFest! And all kids are welcome to join the group.

The fun starts at 6:30 at Dufferin Hall. Bring a dish of something yummy and we'll see you there!

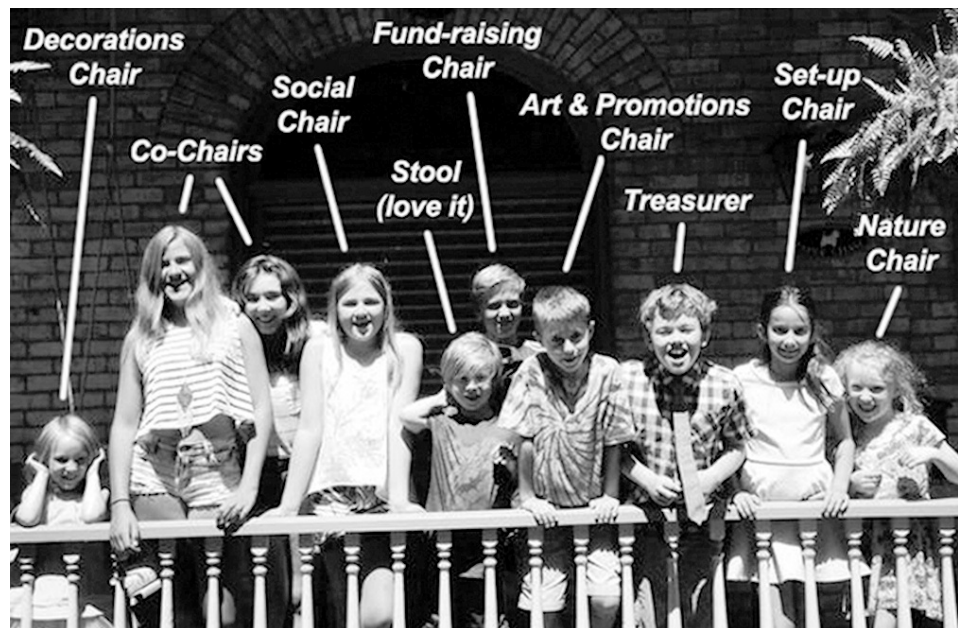
– Kate Rapson, Chair

The Children of Woodfield Junior Executive (COW)

An exciting new group of leaders have emerged in Woodfield. They are the Children of Woodfield Junior Executive. Late this summer, the kids (pictured) came together for their first meeting. They created Chair positions for themselves (Stool is a personal favorite) and discussed responsibilities, goals and their mandate.

The group will be given seed money to help them to get their own fundraising ideas going. They will concentrate on just a few meetings, resulting in one or two events, and one or two fundraising efforts per year to start (to make sure that the workload is realistic and manageable). Parents and members of the adult executive will be on hand to assist with any bumps in the road at meetings, but I doubt that we will be needed. This is a thoughtful and motivated group of kids.

The Executive ranges in age from 4 to 13 at this time and all Woodfield kids are welcome to join. The older kids will likely take the reins in planning, while the younger ones get at the busy work.



We believe that this is a first for London – a Junior Executive that mirrors the adult version and allows kids to guide and make change in their own neighbourhood. They have even run their first event – Outdoor Walk-in Movie Night in late August. The kids organised Alice in Wonderland

costumes, decorations and treats – and it was a big success. This is all just beginning so we will see in time where it goes, but I can tell that the Children of Woodfield Junior Executive is ready for big things! Call Wes at 519-439-0004 if you have any thoughts, or a child that would like to take part.

Call for nominations

Streetscape Improvement and Neighbour of the Year

Each year the WCA presents Streetscape Improvement Awards (SIA) that recognize home or business improvements. Harvestfest attendees get to vote for the winners from a selection of Nominees.

We also recognize someone who goes above and beyond to make a difference in our community with a Neighbour of the Year award. The Neighbour of the Year is selected by the WCA executive from nominees suggested by our membership.

Make your nominations for these awards by contacting *Kate Rapson* at info@historicwoodfield.com.

2014 Awards



Wendy Dickinson

At April's AGM, the 2014 Neighbour of the Year award went to Jane Graydon and Wendy Dickinson received a Lifetime Contribution

Award.

Dr. Kloth's rebuild of her offices at 416 Central Avenue was given the Major Streetscape Improvement Award, and owners, Nancy and Chris, of 316 Hyman Street were given the Minor Streetscape Improvement Award. *Congratulations!*

Good luck to Dorothy and Mike.

They are closing the Woodfield Variety and Laundromat at the end of October, after twelve years.



They have definitely contributed to and promoted our community by making the *Woodfield News* available and displaying and selling our book *Residential to the Core*.

We will miss their cheerful greetings and support. Dorothy says that "we will miss all of the nice people, and I mean that."

2015 Plant Exchange raises nearly \$1,200



Clockwise from top left (left to right): The fabulous mulch and compost volunteer team; Linda Whitney tending the Trees for Woodfield table with Judy Fentin; newlywed and former Woodfielder Gabriele Davey (nee Robbins) with Claire Parker, new to the Woodfield neighbourhood; the formidable breakfast sandwich team Rosy Loewith and Julie Tibbet; COW Treasurer Joe; Peggy Curnoe selecting her purchases and Adam Strange enjoying the day.

Bobby Marriott's labour of love

In Woodfield we often see houses rented out, then let go beyond repair and a demolition permit applied for. But at Maitland St. and Queens Ave., a high quality renovation is in progress.

Months ago scaffolding went up around the house and we assumed it was for safety while the house was taken down. After all, it had been empty after a fire and neglected for some time. We became intrigued when we saw signs of renovations beginning. It became clear that this was no quick makeover as during sunsets, burnished glints gave an almost ethereal life to the upper stories as sheets of copper were applied.

I sought out new owner Bobby Marriott and asked him: "Why are you doing this when others would do a cheap cover over or apply for a demolition permit?"

"It's a labour of love," Bobby responded.

"Why all the copper?" I asked.

"Because it will last over a hundred years, won't need painting, and copper is a good price right now."

Bobby has renovated before but

nothing of this magnitude. He's done a lot of the work himself but the new roof was installed by Charles A. Murray Roofing and D.J. McRae Contracting's master mason Greg has done the brick restoration. The building will have four apartments as it did before he bought it and he anticipates that it will be finished in early 2016.

"How long before you see a return on your investment?" I asked.

Bobby laughed and told me he had no idea but that it will get a good return in time.

"Then Bobby what do you want to get out of this?" I asked.

"I want to sort of jump start the streets around here. I want to inspire others to bring their houses back to their original beauty. There are so many lovely old houses around and often people don't take good care of them. I want this house to be an encouragement to others to do the best for their own houses."

Bobby, we applaud you, and are thrilled that you chose Woodfield to practice your labour of love.

– Hilary Moon

Every Tree Counts

— by Hilary Moon, Trees for Woodfield



Nice new babies! Yes, we have some nice new babies in our community, and we love seeing the young ones grow, knowing that they have a wonderful opportunity for a rich community experience here in Woodfield.

But the nice new babies are the boulevard trees that have been planted in the past 2 years. Like all babies, they need special care in their delicate early years, and the only care they will receive is from us, the residents of Woodfield. As the old African Proverb says: 'It takes a village to raise a child' and in a similar manner, it takes the whole community to grow a streetscape of thriving trees!

It matters little how many trees we plant if we neglect them and don't watch their progress closely. The most important caretaking we can do is to water young trees.

The City does not yet have a maintenance and watering programme for trees. We need to take care of them ourselves, until the City has the funds to take over the watering of new trees.



In June, residents enjoyed an informative stroll in Woodfield with London's Urban Forester Ivan Listar (second from right). Who knew there could be so many stories and such a variety of trees in just a few blocks.

'But' you ask "how do I know when the tree in front of my house needs watering?" To be on the safe side, give it a bucket of water twice a week from May through November. Easy. Done. It just requires noticing the tree and making a friend of it.

Young trees without enough water have upper- and outer-most small branches without leaves. They look like dry sticks and they are calling to us "I haven't had enough water – please adopt me – no-one else seems to care." We at

Trees for Woodfield echo that plea.

Each tree benefits everyone, so by watering your boulevard tree, you are contributing to everyone in Woodfield. We'll breathe cleaner air, enjoy healthier bodies, calmer minds and more beauty around us. Apart from environmental benefits, there'll be more homes for birds, bees and other fauna. Let's create a Woodfield with the most flourishing trees in London! Be part of that goal without signing up, without even meetings to attend. You can make a difference and be a big player in Woodfield's residential community!

HOW TO MULCH TREES

Mulching helps stop soil from drying out and keeps the weeds down. **BUT REMEMBER**, don't mulch up against the trunk of a tree or you risk damaging or even killing it. Always apply mulch in a donut shape, with the center empty and the trunk fully exposed.

Trees are still available from the Plant Exchange (Hackberry, White Oak, Sugar Maple, Silver Maple, White Birch) at good prices. There is still time to plant them. Contact Chuck Hoch at (519) 432-6231 to purchase a tree.

If you notice a boulevard that could use tree, call Ashley Strock at City Hall at (519) 661-5783, give her the address of the adjacent house and suggest a native tree that may suit the space.

Alternatively get in touch with a Trees for Woodfield member.

– Hilary Moon

Trees for Woodfield Committee

William Funston	433-5618
Chuck Hoch	432-6231
Hilary & Burton Moon	438-8648
Linda Whitney	434-9574

Christmas Caroling



Thursday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 pm
Come join us in this Woodfield Holiday tradition!

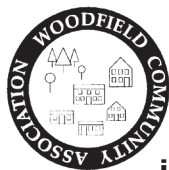
Details will be announced at Harvestfest, or drop Rosy an email (rosy@rosy@rivetsales.com) for details if you miss us there. Bring the whole family – kids love this night even more than the adults!

Chip finds a home



Last year Woodfield's own Dr. Chris Mackie jumped off the porch mid conversation and darted to the rescue of a lost domestic bunny. He managed to outpace and catch the little guy, and other neighbours joined in to get him a bed for the night. Soon he was cuddled up and munching on a mixed salad (Chip, not Chris). He was dehydrated, but by the next morning was already chipper and friendly.

The 'hoppy ending' to this story is that the great people at Hoppy Hearts Rabbit Rescue found Chip a home. If you ever find a stray bunny in Woodfield, call them at 519-859-1211. They can even tell you who to contact for an injured or orphaned wild rabbit. Thanks Hoppy Hearts, from Chip and his rescue team!



Woodfield Membership

If you have received this newsletter, you are living in the Woodfield neighbourhood. Your membership to the

Woodfield Community Association is important for the preservation of our neighbourhood. We invite residents not already members to join. \$5.00 for 4 years, Lifetime Membership \$50.00.

Please contact info@historicwoodfield.com for details.