

WOODFIELD

NEWS
FALL 2017 / WINTER 2018

2017 Harvestfest

Potluck and Auction, Thursday, November 16
6:30 pm, Dufferin Hall

After an extended summer, it's time for fall! This year's HarvestFest will be on Thursday, November 16th at Dufferin Hall (453 Dufferin Avenue) starting at 6:30 pm. This event is a fantastic community tradition in Woodfield. Friends, family, neighbours gather and share a meal. Bring your favourite potluck dish with cutlery and plates for yourself and join in. And don't forget your cheque books! Our silent auction will feature lots of wonderful treasures donated by generous businesses and members of our community. This is our major fundraiser for the year.

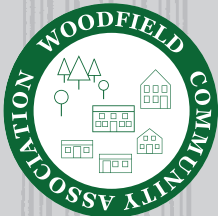
Plus we will be voting on the Major and Minor Streetscape Improvement Award recipient. This award honours all the hard work and creativity that people put into their homes. If you know of someone who deserves this recognition, nominate them! Email your nominations, with a photo, to info@historicwoodfield.com by November 14.

Then, when the nights get colder, it's time for our annual evening of Carolling. Join us at a local home where we warm up our vocals before heading out in the streets to regale our neighbours with festive song. The event is Thursday, December 14. For details or information, call 519-859-1044 or email katerapson@gmail.com. Thanks and see you at **Harvestfest!**

Trees for Woodfield
endeavours to
reinstate
white pines

Woodfield wins
Great Places in
Canada contest

A Woodfield
Welcome



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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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 your permit 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

Art in Woodfield! From the City's Ward 13 Decides project, a program that gave money towards community building initiatives. Lots of great ideas came forward and painting a selected Bell box won the day. The Bell box on the east side of Lord Roberts was chosen as the one to beautify. Woodfield artist Dawn Redskye is the artist. As I write this, she has decided on a theme: endangered species in Woodfield. It's a wonderful idea that educates and also brings public art to our streets.

At the next AGM, we will talk about making this an ongoing project for our community. How lovely would it be if these brown boxes became works of art for all to enjoy?

Speaking of art, at this upcoming

HarvestFest, we hope to expand the art offering. There are so many talented established and emerging artists in Woodfield and any opportunity to recognize their talent seems like a great idea. Stay tuned for more on that.

Art does not have to be visual art!

This summer we all enjoyed two

— A Message from the Chair

amazing porch concerts organized by David Knill and Denice Baker. The artistic talents of the musicians filled our streets with sweet sounds! Thank you to Dave and Denice for bringing this amazing event to Woodfield!

— Kate Rapson, chair

Eyes on potential developments

The following is a brief update on some of the potential developments in our area. We'll continue to watch as these progress and engage the broader community where appropriate.

560 & 562 Wellington

The application for a 22-storey (78m tall) mixed-use apartment building containing 151 dwelling units and 279m² of commercial floor area on the ground floor is pending. The proposed development includes 236 parking spaces incorporated into the building both below and above grade. In the summer, PEC sent the project back with the recommendation it be more in keeping with planning guidelines applicable on this site. The project remains on hold.

The near neighbours, many from Woodfield, the London Region Branch of Architectural Conservancy Ontario (ACO) and Councillor Tanya Park oppose this development. The central reason is that the sites are not zoned for a high-rise. Nothing supports development of this size including the Downtown Master Plan, the West Woodfield Heritage Planned, the City's official plan nor the pending the London Plan. While infill is positive and much needed for downtown London, there has to be good planning when it comes to where these buildings are constructed. Please email katerap-

son@gmail.com if you are interested in finding out more about why this application is being opposed.

510 Central Ave

After years of working with the developer, Tridon Group, a group of near neighbours and the WCA have approved plans to redevelop a small parcel of land at 510 Central. The application asks for a 5-unit dwelling. The variances were approved. Recently the developer stated they were revising the site plan.

467 & 469 Dufferin

The WCA continues to investigate the history of the houses. There is still solid evidence that the building could be from the British Military barracks making it one of the most important sites in the City. Other research confirmed that the buildings to be the site of the first Labour Council Office, the first London Library, the first newspaper and a founding home of a national political party.

At a recent LACH meeting, it was decided to hire a heritage architect to investigate further.

As a community association, we continue to pressure the owner to keep up the building and do basic maintenance. We expect this matter to go before the Planning and Environment Committee soon.

2016 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Streetscape Improvement Awards



Kate Rapson with Tom Okanski and Mary Anne Hodge



David and Ann Lindsay with Kate Rapson

Neighbour of the Year



Kate Rapson with Neighbour of the Year Bob Sutherland



Woodfield Memberships

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.

For more information please contact info@historicwoodfield.com.

Trees for Woodfield endeavours to reinstate white pines



We welcome Heather McRae as a new member of the Trees for Woodfield Committee.

This summer there have been set-backs in our endeavour to reinstate White Pines into the neighbourhood. The 3 set-backs were:

a) Where can we plant them?

They will not do well on boulevards, and in Woodfield we have no other common spaces for planting.

b) We did an unofficial (gorilla) planting

of 40 pine saplings along the railroad track, hoping that at least 10% would survive. Alas, this Fall the area was mown and the 40 saplings are gone!

c) Then we heard of the mountain pine beetle

that is killing pine trees in Western Canada, and has arrived here in London. We witnessed some pine trees ravaged by the beetle in Springbank Park. It is a devastating sight. So what to do about pine trees in Woodfield?

For our residents, please plant one in your backyard where there is room!

On an upbeat note, several new trees were planted on the Cartwright Street boulevard around Lord Roberts School which — in their maturity — will give welcome shade to the playground on the west side of the property. Many boulevard trees have been planted in Woodfield in the past 2 years but recently the City announced that they will be slowing down for the moment. We count our blessings for every tree we have and hope that residents will become tree guardians by adopting a boulevard tree and watering stressed trees.

As road re-construction began on Colborne Street we had calls from Woodfielders apprehensive about what would happen to the pine tree on the corner of Dufferin and Colborne. It looked in serious danger of being felled to allow for the roadwork. Thanks to Rick Cosby and Andy Beaton, a fence was secured around the tree, it still stands, new soil has been applied and sod is coming soon. Thanks to those who watered the tree roots while it was

undergoing its most challenging days.

The Woodfield Tree Committee tagline is: **Woodfield, where every tree counts.** The Colborne Street pine gave us an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment that **every single tree counts.** Research shows that large and older trees give at least 8 times the environmental and financial benefits of smaller trees. We need to do our best to maintain and guard those wonderful old trees. Please google *The Large Tree Argument: The Case for Large-Stature Trees vs. Small-Stature Trees* published by the Center for Urban Forest Research.

If you have a story of a boulevard tree you have helped or saved, please let us know and we will acknowledge your 'Tree Guardian' status!

We welcome Jill-Anne Spencer as the new London Urban Forester, and look forward to working together with her on behalf of Woodfield.

— by Hilary Moon

2017 Annual Plant Sale and Exchange



We had great weather for our Plant Sale and again we raised nearly \$1,100. It's no wonder Woodfield has so many beautiful gardens when you consider that neighbours and friends have been trading plants at this event for more than 20 years. Special thanks to Starbucks, Superstores, Springtime Garden Centre, A&B Party Supply and Try Recycling on behalf of the City of London for your generous donations and support.

All photos left to right. 1. Grace, Mike and Joe O'Connor. 2. Gabriele Sanio, Ann and David Lindsay. 3. Heather MacEachern with Michael Harkins. 4. Lauren Thomson with son Hudson and dad Brant Baldwin. 5. Leo with Emily Abrams Ansari. 6. Trees for Woodfield members Heather McRae and Burton Moon with Rob Rice.



Woodfield wins Great Places in Canada contest

— by Lincoln McCardle



On a beautiful June morning a small but proud group of

Woodfield residents, friends and well-wishers gathered at the northeast corner of Victoria Park to unveil a plaque that recognized our neighbourhood as amongst the greatest in Canada. Joined by representatives from the city and The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) we further enhanced our reputation, following up our 2012 success as the People's Choice in the same category.

Late last summer the CIP invited Canadians to nominate a place in their community for their annual Great Places in Canada contest. The contest is a way for Canadians to show their local pride by recognizing the places and spaces that make their community unique. A panel of jurors review submissions from all across Canada. The criteria include planning best practices that consider social, economic, and accessibility and safety factors, and elements such as design, cultural history and landscape.

In a decision that will surprise few who live here, the CIP announced Woodfield as 2016's Great Neighbourhood and was joined by Water Street in St. Andrews, New Brunswick for Great Street and Great Public Space went to Patrick's Island in Calgary, Alberta. Quite a list to be sure and while the great neighbourhood award was hotly contested it was also, in our humble opinion, well deserved.

In a statement, the jury explained their decision this way: "Woodfield is a vibrant historic Victorian neighbourhood located in the heart of London. The picturesque neighbourhood showcases many homes and rustic Ontario cottages, many built in the 1840s. Woodfield features walkable and well-frequented commercial and public spaces, including Victoria Park, and is the location of many community events including a street fair, plant exchange and Harvestfest. The balance of historic preservation and community vibrancy made this a unique entry."

Eleanor Mohammed of CIP added, "A great place is one where citizens can enjoy a healthy and inspiring environment." "All of the 2016 Great Places in Canada winners are demonstrative of what planners try to create: a space that is functional, safe, and enjoyable for the community."

While this is clearly a great honour I suspect it simply validates what many of us have known for some time — our neighbourhood is amazing! From a strong community association, events and a spirit of co-operation we certainly have a lot to be proud of. A sincere and heartfelt thanks not only to those who took the time to vote and encouraged others to do the same but more importantly to all of you who use your time and energy to make this neighbourhood deserving of this award. Going forward I hope and trust that we can all strive to ensure that Woodfield is a place worth celebrating for years to come. Congratulation neighbours!

A Woodfield Welcome

— by Sara Steers, Woodfield Resettlement Group member

On June 1st the Woodfield Resettlement group welcomed a refugee family of five. Originally, from the Aleppo area in Syria, they had been living in Lebanon. Our group and the Woodfield community had been waiting patiently for well over a year. And then, we had only a few weeks notification of their arrival and we shifted into high gear. We found an apartment in Woodfield and the family has been enjoying their new home and surroundings. Parents and three children have been studying English diligently and the active and enthusiastic children are at St. George's Public School. We are so fortunate that our group of volunteers has access to many resources in London and expertise in areas that are helping the family to resettle. We are immensely grateful



This photo was taken shortly after landing at Pearson Airport. Photo by Bob Bozak.

for the volunteer interpreters that have come forward to help us and the family to navigate their new lives. We have invited the family to join us at the upcoming Woodfield Potluck in November, where two years ago our drive was launched.

Christmas Caroling



Thursday, Dec. 14
at 6:30 pm

Come join us in this
Woodfield Holiday tradition!

Details will be announced at Harvestfest, or drop Kate an email (katerapson@gmail.com) for info. Bring the whole family – kids love this night even more than the adults!

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