

## Woodfield's Precious Eastern White Pine Tree



More than a hundred years ago, pine trees were common to this area. A few can still be found in Woodfield, for instance, on the southeast corner of Lord Roberts schoolyard, close to the outdoor classroom, there is a lovely young White Eastern Pine. Can you spot the others?

The Eastern White Pine has many qualities that give it enormous value to us humans. They are beautiful year-round, they have a lovely scent that refreshes us, and they offer a home and protection to many varieties of wildlife from insects to birds, fungi, lichens, and four-footed furry creatures!

There are also many medicinal properties of trees. Diana Beresford-Kroeger is an Irish-born botanist and biochemist now living near Ottawa. She has identified the active medicinal components in trees and is collecting the knowledge of trees, cultural practices, and the wisdom of healing as practiced by Indigenous Peoples. 'Call Of The Forest – The Forgotten Wisdom Of Trees' is a documentary featuring much of her work. The film follows Diana as she investigates human's biological and spiritual connection to forests.

At this time of year, when we need to boost our immune system, consider sipping a cup of Pine Needle Tea. Note that tea should not replace medical advice! Pine Needle Tea is a simple tea that is delicious, healthy and a great immune booster. Search YouTube for 'How to make Pine Needle Tea.' The tea contains four to five times the Vitamin C of fresh-squeezed orange juice and is high in Vitamin A. It is also an expectorant (thins mucus secretions) and can be used as an antiseptic wash. Each varietal of pine has its own flavour, but White Pine Needle Tea is this season's go-to for a refreshing, warm beverage!

If you have room to plant an Eastern White Pine on your property and want to know if one would be suitable for your space, please get in touch with the Woodfield Tree Committee by calling (519) 438-8648.

## 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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

New member \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00 for 4 years, Lifetime Membership \$50.00)

Complete this form and mail with payment to PO Box 601, Station B, London, ON N6A 4Y4. For more details contact [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com).

## Adelaide Street Underpass

By Kate Rapson

The City is reconstructing Adelaide Street from Central Avenue to McMahan Street in 2021/2022 to accommodate an underpass. This includes intersection alternations and active transportation connections with wide multi-use paths added on both sides of the roadway.

Over the past few years there have been several public input meetings to discuss the function and design of this underpass. A group of representatives from three affected communities (Old East Village, Piccadilly, and Woodfield) met with City of London staff to review their communities' concerns.

During the pre-construction stage, in recent months you may have noticed several changes, including the removal of the car wash, the gas station, the auto body shop, and the jewelry store, to allow the City to realign Central Avenue. There has also been work on the tracks and utilities have been moved.

Next steps will include removal of trees in McMahan Park, installation of traffic calming measures on side streets (more have been requested), and the finalization of the design of the streetscape.

The City is asking for public input on urban design preferences. The feedback the City receives will help in the selection of final materials and finishes.

For the design survey and more information, please go to <https://getinvolved.london.ca/adelaide>.

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# WOODFIELD

COMMUNITY NEWS

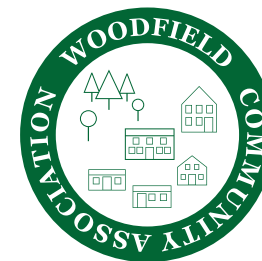
## Fall/Winter 2020

### In This Issue:

Adelaide Street Underpass

Great West Realty Tower

Lower your greenhouse gas emissions



### RESIDENTIAL TO THE CORE

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

We invite your comments, suggestions and submissions.

Please email [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com) or write to

PO Box 601, Station B,  
London, ON N6A 4Y4

[www.historicwoodfield.com](http://www.historicwoodfield.com)

A member of the  
Urban League of London

## The Woodfield Tree Lot is Back!

Over the last few years, neighbours have volunteered their time to sell Christmas trees. And, it's happening again this year! These are fresh cut trees that stay gorgeous throughout the holiday season. Trees are by pre-order only. Please place your order by December 1, 2020 by emailing [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com).

Your tree will be available for pick up on December 5th at the corner of Prospect and Princess, from 5 pm to 8 pm.

We have a few more sizes and species to offer this year. Here are the 2020 options and prices which include HST.

Premium Fraser Firs  
8 foot \$70  
9 foot \$80  
10 foot \$100



Fralsam Fir (Fraser Balsam cross)  
6.5 foot \$52  
7-8 foot \$58  
8-9 foot \$70



Quantities in the varying sizes are limited, so order soon! Delivery to your door by our friendly volunteers is available for an additional \$10.

*All proceeds go to the Woodfield Community Association.*

## Letter from the Chair

2020 has not been the year any of us expected. Covid-19 has changed everything. Everyone is missing connections with family and friends and that's when close neighbourhood connections can make a difference. There are a number of ways we can support each other and show solidarity in these trying times. We've seen so many examples of this already in our community: neighbours delivering freshly baked goods, picking up groceries, or simply offering a friendly 'hello' on the street. People are kind.

What has the Woodfield Community Association been doing during this pandemic? First and foremost, we've been looking after loved ones and staying safe, but we've also managed to arrange a few special things for the community. Although we had to cancel our Spring Plant Exchange, we ran a scaled back virtual version. A lot of clippings from Woodfield gardens found new homes! We assembled goodie bags filled with chalk, gave them away to kids of all ages and watched as our sidewalks were transformed with rainbows of colour. And, we are selling Christmas trees again this year. We've also been involved in the Adelaide Street underpass project, have been following the Victoria Park Secondary Plan, and representing the community at various City meetings (all virtual of course!).

Stay safe everyone.  
Kate Rapson  
Chair, Woodfield Community Association

## Did You See Them?

By Heather McKay

It started one warm, early summer morning. A car pulled up and lowered the passenger side window.

On the sidewalk, perched on the edge of a tapestry covered footstool with chalk in hand, was the first of many. This self-taught artist was focused on transforming the previously dull grey sidewalk into a piece of art. The driver gently asked if he could take a picture. She hesitated, then nodded in agreement. As the car left, the wheels were set in motion.

Woodfield Community Association purchased and distributed free chalk to the young, and not-so-young, sidewalk artists in the neighbourhood.

Dawn-Marie and her family set up a table and handed out chalk on Colborne Street, Arlene, with some very enthusiastic children, did the same on Princess Avenue, along with Janet & Glen on Hyman Street.

So that is how the many of colourful sidewalk drawings appeared throughout Woodfield! As the weather allows, please, continue to add your own artistic renderings.



## Heritage Alteration Permits

If you are planning any exterior renovations, such as window and door replacements, porch replacements, etc., please call the City Heritage Planning department at 519 661-4980 or email [heritage@london.ca](mailto:heritage@london.ca) to see if you require a 'no fee' Heritage Alteration Permit. Avoid delays or a 'stop work' order and get your permit before you start.

# Victoria Park Secondary Plan

The City paused work on this secondary plan during the height of the pandemic, but has restarted the process this fall. At the time of the printing of this newsletter, there was a virtual public meeting held on November 11.

The last draft of the plan showed almost the entire south end of the park, all along Dufferin, as far north as Wolfe Street on the east and as almost as far as the site where William's Cafe is currently, lined with high-rise buildings.

There has been no environmental impact study to look at how this level of intensification will impact the health of the park, in terms of shadowing, wind, vehicular traffic, rain, and so on. The City has said that such a study can not be done.

Environmental studies can only be requested once there is an application. However Friends of Victoria Park have asked for there to be a full study before this plan is finalized so as to best inform the public and the City council on this important matter.

Please forward your concerns or questions to manager, City Building & Design, Britt O'Hagan, [bohagan@london.ca](mailto:bohagan@london.ca) as well as Ward 13 Councillor, Arielle Kayabaga, [akayabaga@london.ca](mailto:akayabaga@london.ca).

For more information, please go to <https://getinvolved.london.ca/victoriapark1>



# Great West Realty Tower

by Mary Ann Hodge

Great West Realty (Canada Life) owns the parking lot immediately to the north of Centennial Hall and has been working with the City for over a year on a proposal to build an 18-storey residential and commercial complex at that site. The zoning on this site allows for 100 percent lot coverage and a 30-storey structure. The application put forward by Great West Realty was within the zoning bylaws and therefore required no public participation meetings, no zoning amendments, and no public site plan approval process. The only approval the proposal needed was a Heritage Alteration Permit as the property is within the West Woodfield Heritage Conservation District.

Earlier this fall, both planning staff and the London Heritage Advisory Committee (LACH) recommended refusal of the permit application. The opinion was that the heritage impact

assessment provided by the developers did not clearly address heritage concerns in terms of massing, traffic, shadowing impacts on Wolfe Street and on the park.

At the Planning and Environment Committee (PEC) on September 21, the public had their only opportunity to voice either their concerns or support for this development in respect to the Heritage Alteration Permit. Several Londoners attended the meeting and submitted written comments. PEC voted to recommend to Council that the Heritage Alteration Permit be refused. The matter then went to the next Council meeting where the members of PEC upheld the PEC recommendation to refuse the application, and yet Council voted to let the development proceed.

At this point there is some discussion about whether there are opportunities to appeal, but it looks as if the decision will stand as is.

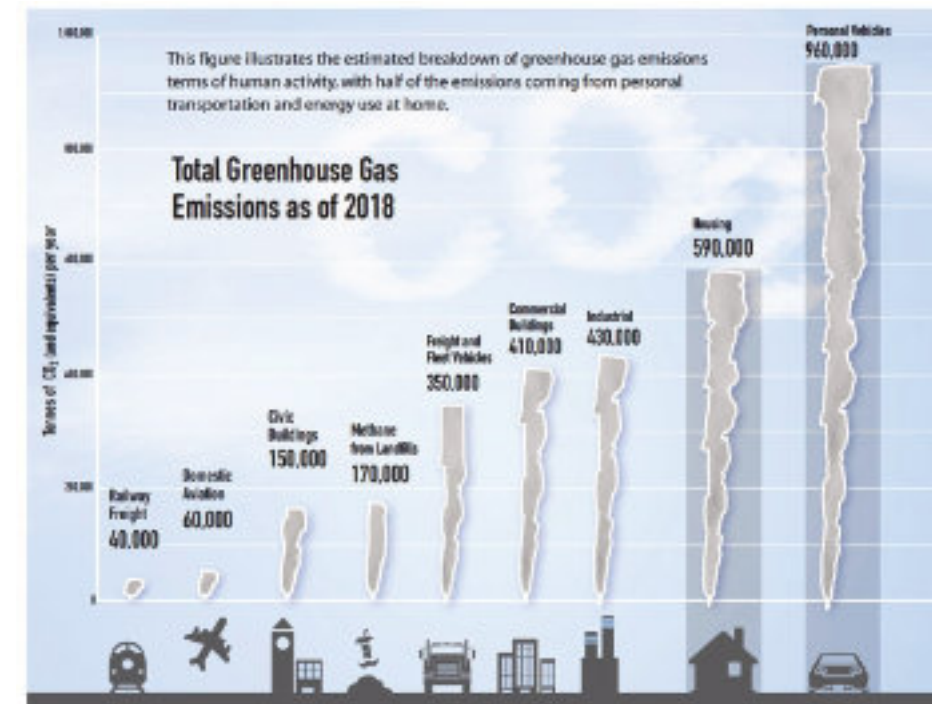
# Lower your greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for your grandchildren

By Michael Bancroft, *Climate Action London, Professor Emeritus, Western University*

In 2019, due to the increasing severity of climate events such as floods, storms, and fires, London and many other cities declared a Climate Change Emergency. To partially mitigate these events in the future, Canada and London have set a target in 2016 to decrease GHG emissions by at least 30 percent from 2005 to 2030. So far there has been very little progress.

The graphic below is from the City of London website ([https://getinvolved.london.ca/climate?tool=news\\_feed#tool\\_tab](https://getinvolved.london.ca/climate?tool=news_feed#tool_tab)). It shows the sources of the GHG emissions in London.

Until December 18, 2020 you can participate in a survey and share your ideas on what can be done with City of London staff.

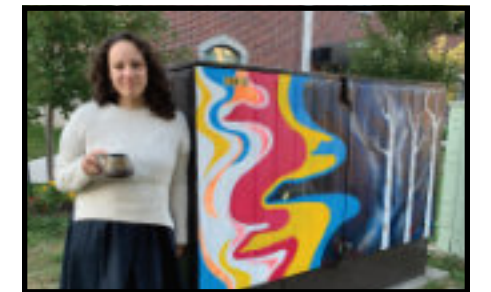


The graph shows that emissions from personal vehicles and housing are the largest emissions and make up 49 percent of the total emissions in London. How realistic is it to reduce our own emissions by 30 percent? Some suggestions from the website include choosing to walk, cycle, use transit, or carpool over driving your car; improve your home's energy efficiency; reduce food waste; and buy local. Did you know that you can reduce your vehicle's city emissions by 40% if you drive a hybrid? Our children and grandchildren are counting on us, just as we are counting on everyone to wear a mask during the pandemic!

## New Art in Woodfield

Another Bell box art piece was finished this past summer! Check out the beautiful work of local artist Dawn Redskye, who had some help from her 4-year old daughter with the finishing touches on the backside, at 380 Princess Avenue, in front of the Woodfield Commons Apartments. "I like to explore the idea of entities being viewed through a lens that disperses the different colours/wavelengths of their being. I use animals and trees that are important to my Anishinaabe and Irish heritage," explained Dawn Redskye.

This latest installation of public art was made possible with funds donated by Hillary and Burton Moon and the Woodfield Community Association. Thank you Hilary and Burton for your generous donation.



Dawn Redskye beside her latest public art installation at 380 Princess Avenue.

## Be a Snow Angel

Yes, it may seem early but, as they say, 'Winter is coming'!

Snow Angels London was started in 2015 to help the people of London. Earlier this year the decision was made to make the program available nationwide: going forward, the program will be known as Snow Angels Canada. We hope the kindness shown here in our city will be replicated across Canada.

Snow Angels Canada is an experiment in kindness, a way for Canadians to request help shovelling or to find others in need of such assistance. If you need help clearing snow, are willing to volunteer, or would like more information, please go to: [www.snowangelscanada.ca/](http://www.snowangelscanada.ca/)