

WOODFIELD

NEWS
SPRING 2014

**Message from the
Chair**

**Neighbourhood
Awards**

**AGM Annual
General Meeting**



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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www.historicwoodfield.com

*A member of the
Urban League of London*

The Historic Woodfield Street Fair

Saturday, June 14, 10am to 3pm • (rain date Sunday June 15)

Come to the Fair! Music and fun at the Main Stage! The Woodfield Café and Big BBQ! Horse Drawn Carriage Rides! Kids Games! Mini Highland Games!

This June we will again hold our very popular Historic Street Fair in beautiful Woodfield, celebrating our unique history through music, shows, food, displays, Victorian fairground and children's games. We will be closing Princess Avenue (from William to Palace) and transforming it into a 1900s pedestrian-only fairground with free performances and activities for the whole family. We will even have a Mini Highland Games component if you want to toss a caber or hurl a shot put (both in safe foam versions). Come for all of the fun – you won't want to miss this event!

WE NEED YOU WOODFIELD! *Calling all performers or people with a great addition to our fair! If you have a talent to share, or something to do or display at the Fair please call! Also, this year we are adding a **CONTRACTORS ROW** for tradespeople with an expertise in working on our old homes to reach out directly to our community. If you'd like a spot write to us at info@historicwoodfield.com or call Wes at 519 439-0004.*

Annual Plant Exchange and Sale

Lord Roberts French Immersion School ~ 440 Princess Avenue
This is our nineteenth Annual Plant Exchange and Sale and one of our most anticipated events. Central High School students volunteer to earn community hours, the city donates mulch and compost, Starbucks donates coffee, neighbours prepare wonderful sweets and snacks and it all adds up to a fantastic day.

Here's how it works. Pot up perennials that you're thinning from your garden and trade them in for tokens. Then, exchange the tokens for something brought from a neighbour's garden or from the annuals donated by our generous nurseries.

We prefer that you pot your plants, and if possible, label them for easy identification. If you don't have anything in your garden to spare, don't let that keep you away! All of our plants are available for purchase and there is a mulch and compost for sale too. As well, Trees for Woodfield will offer a wide range of seedling indigenous trees ready for planting.

For information contact Rod McDowell at 519-434-6466 or 519-870-7879 (cell) or Rosy at 519-434-8854.

Thanks and looking forward to seeing old faces and new ones alike. Let's ALL cross our fingers for a sunny day this year.

— Rod McDowell and Rosy Loewith-Strange



Something to consider... *A Message from the Chair*

The Bag Lady has me thinking of late... is it time for some changes in Woodfield? The Woodfield Community Association has always held the motto "Residential to the Core" ...and what an important motto this is. Our Association's greatest mandate is the maintenance of a wonderful residential experience close to the core, in our beautiful historic neighbourhood, staving off (in part) poorly thought through changes in zoning.

...but when I sit in, or wander by the Bag Lady (or her counterparts in the other great cities that I love) I wonder if there is room for some careful, gentle flexibility in our neighbourhood zoning. Certainly we have seen some of this, and arguably with great success. The London Music Club was created by Pete Denomme (once of Pete's Variety fame). It has provided a wonderful opportunity to hear fantastic live music, comedy and more all within a very easy walking distance to many of our homes. Pete has considered his place in a largely residential neighbourhood carefully, with tasteful signage and little modification to the architecture of the beautiful home that his business resides in. In a neigh-

bourhood that lets me know if sound is an issue (believe me), I have not once received a complaint about the club. To my eyes this conversion has worked well, and enhanced the lives of many of our residents.

Variety stores are struggling these days, and perhaps some of these locations are ripe for conversion to neighbourhood friendly cafes. We must consider such changes carefully, especially in relation to neighbours near the location. Careful controls on architecture, hours, use, parking and noise would be needed. That said, the Bag Lady has shown us that even 'near neighbours' will rally to see zoning altered if the use is appropriate and friendly, and enhances their neighbourhood experience.

Woodfielders near Richmond have access to many services of course, and we in the eastern blocks have Mykonos and other such places within easy reach, but is there room for cafes deeper in our neighbourhood? There are some places that seem like a better fit than others, and not every type of cafe would work. This is a conversation that we should all have together. In this, as in everything, we need your

thoughts and input as we help guide future changes in Woodfield.

As I leave the Association in 2015, this issue will be handed to my successor. I encourage you all to think about our community, and whether there is room for cafes in creative places. In the end it is you who will decide, and we who will follow your lead. Let us know what you think, perhaps over a coffee.

— Wes Kinghorn (Chair)



This past Groundhog Day, Woodfield's own mascot and weather forecaster "Woodfield Wallace" was taken to Woodstock, Illinois to visit the town in which the movie "Groundhog Day" was filmed. He toured film locations and even had his picture taken with Danny Rubin, who wrote the movie!

Neighbourhood Awards at the AGM



Our 'Neighbour of the Year Award' this year will be given to Judy Bryant for her tireless work on behalf of our community as our (now outgoing) Councillor. Judy was always there to hear the concerns of our executive over the years, and worked hard to bring our thoughts into the picture at City Hall. We are losing a great ally on Council this year, but she has put in many years of service and we fully support her decision. We will miss her advice and assistance of course, but happily Judy will remain here in Woodfield and I am sure will have an amazing next 'act' as she follows other endeavors. Congratulations Judy!



26 Prospect Street



7 Prospect Street



570 Waterloo Street

At the AGM, we will be presenting our two annual awards. The Streetscape Improvement Award this year will recognise two beautiful homes on Prospect Avenue – 26 and 7

Prospect. For the first time ever there was a tie in our 'minor' category (minor only in comparison to the much larger projects like the one below)! This award recognises the

efforts of home owners to beautify their houses and our shared streetscape. A small plaque will be presented to the homeowners at the AGM.

Also winning this year in the 'major' category is the excellent overhaul of the home (now multiple homes) at 570 Waterloo. Tom and Lynn Okanski spearheaded this effort, and acted with a great deal of consideration for the neighbourhood throughout. Great work on this huge undertaking that has become a true gem in our community!

Heritage Alteration *Permits!*

If you are receiving this newsletter, you likely live in one of Woodfield's two Heritage Conservation Districts! If you are planning any (even minor) exterior renovations remember to call Don Menard (City Heritage Planner) at 519 661-2500 Ext.0267 to see if you require a 'no fee' Heritage Alteration Permit before you start (to avoid delays or a 'stop work' order). The call is quick, easy and FREE!



Scenes on a wintery day in Woodfield.

Now put your shovels away and get ready for another Woodfield Plant Sale and Exchange on May 17.



2014 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 16 ~ 6:30
Dufferin Hall, 445 Dufferin Ave

We invite all Woodfield members to come out to hear about and comment on what we have been up to this past year. This is a non-voting year, but we will be voting on a new Recording Secretary to replace our outgoing one. As usual we will gather for a dessert pot-luck, then 'get down to business' with a quick report on the activities of the executive, plans for the coming year and our annual Awards Presentation.

Our 'speaker' this year will be our very own Councillor Judy Bryant! As Judy wraps up her last year in office, she will share stories about her experiences on Council, and give us her thoughtful perspective on urban design and more. This will be a unique opportunity to hear Judy's personal thoughts on our fine city, our ward and our neighbourhood!

Home is where the hearth is



National Heritage Day falls in February, the coldest month of the year. So your Woodfield Heritage Committee (WHC) decided to warm folks up with a bright poster of Woodfield fireplaces for the display at the Central Library.

Viewers commented on the unique tile work and original styles of the marble or wood mantles. Twice as many fireplaces as those on the poster were shown in a continuous loop on a TV display.

For Doors Open London earlier last fall, we exhibited photographs of the one-story houses that dot our neighbourhood. People realized that they were significant and well worth protecting.

The WHC is dedicated to making Woodfielders aware of the unique charms and styles of our heritage community. Keep the home fires burning.



Hey Woodfielders, join the Woodfield conversation on Facebook. You don't even have to be on Facebook yourself to look around. Here is the link: www.facebook.com/pages/Historic-Woodfield/264907583575268 or search for Historic Woodfield if you are a Facebook user.

2014 Woodfield Calender of Events

- Apr 16 AGM
- Apr 26 Clean and Green
- May 17 Plant Sale/Exchange
- Jun 14 Historic Woodfield Street Fair (rain date June 15)
- Nov 20 Harvestfest Pot Luck
- Dec 18 Carolling



Community Clean-Up Day

Saturday
April 26
9:00am
to noon

Hello fellow Woodfielders! Spring is here and boy, have we earned it! To kick it off let's clean up our beautiful streetscape. Meet us at the corner of Princess and Maitland where we will supply you with all of the tools you need.

Trees for Woodfield



Spring is close at hand, and our committee has ordered the trees that will be available for sale at the Plant Exchange on Saturday May 17th.

We have an interesting variety of smaller and large trees at very favourable prices, and we'll be there with good advice on the planting and caring for your new tree.

Many new boulevard trees continue to be planted, and we work closely with the Forestry Department to keep that momentum going – there are many demands from all over the City to have boulevard trees, and we make sure to keep our Woodfield Community's needs as much front and centre as we can.

However, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** and this is what we need: when boulevard trees have been planted, they need your care – watering a new tree throughout the spring, summer and fall months, twice each week. Yes, we'd love the City to do it but there is no budget for that yet. So it is up to us to be sure that the trees planted on our boulevards are watered to ensure their survival in their early years. Please find a way to Adopt a Boulevard Tree near you, and keep it watered. Don't assume that someone else will do it. Please put aside a half hour each week to water a tree – or maybe two. Make a date with a couple of neighbours and make it a joint venture!

As a committee we are constantly looking for ideas that will make sure that all our new boulevard trees are watered. Got any ideas? Please let us know.

There will again be some road construction in Woodfield and that will again effect some trees. Unfortunately we'll lose some.

We are grateful to the City and the contracting company for their forwardlooking communications with us, advising us as to which trees will need to come down. We are questioning the need for some of those trees to be felled, and are working closely with them to save what can be saved.

If you are living on a street where road construction is taking place, please keep a very close eye on what is happening with the trees. Trees for Woodfield will be doing that too. We have learned that communications can go wrong and decisions are made "in the moment" which can damage a tree when a little more thought and discussion could save it. Watch your boulevard trees closely during road works and keep us informed immediately if you see that trees are not being properly protected. A cup of coffee and some cookies for the construction crew now and again to thank them for their hard work (and they do work hard) builds good relationships and thus better communications.

See you at the Plant Exchange!

— Trees for Woodfield Committee
Woodfield, Where Every Tree Counts

Trees for Woodfield Committee Members

Elizabeth Drewlo	434-1407
William Funston	433-5618
Chuck Hoch	432-6231
Hilary & Burton Moon	438-8648
Linda Whitney	434-9574

Thank you

The Woodfield Community Association would like to thank our local businesses, neighbours and friends for your support of the 2013 Annual Pot Luck Dinner and Goods and Services Auction!

Andrew Douglas Clothier
Auto Spa
Boxwoods
Central Cat Hospital & The Cat Hotel
Chez Cheveux
Copp's Buildall
Covent Garden Market
Crabtree & Evelyn
D'Arcy Lane Incorporated
Delta London Armouries Hotel
Entrenous Hair & Beauty
Eyes on Richmond
Frame Space
Garlic's Restaurant
Gift of Art
Good Life Fitness
Grand Theatre
Insomniac Press
Jill's Table
Joe Kools & Jim Bob Ray's
Kingsmill's
Mastermind Toys
MPP London North
Orchestra London
Palace/London Community Players
Roto-Static
Sunripe
The Bag Lady
The Cat's Bark
The Church Key Pub and Bistro
The Morrisey House
Woodfield Automotive
Woodfield Bed and Breakfast
Woodfield Farm

And residents of Woodfield

Glen Curnoe
Alexandra Harkins
Rod and Joey
Kate Rapson
Rosy Loewith
Gabriele Sanio
Jessie Gussack
Lincoln McCardle
Linda Palmer
Patricia Zachos
Judy Elliot
Melissa Rice
David and Ann Lindsay
Wendy and Wes
Pat and Penny
Michael and Lorraine



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.

For more information, please contact **Hazel Elmslie at 519-434-4629** or write to **info@historicwoodfield.com**.