

WOODFIELD

NEWS
SPRING / SUMMER 2016

AGM
April 14

**Solar Power in
the Forest City**

**Neighbours
Come Together
for Syrians**



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, and suggestions.

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*A member of the
Urban League of London*

The Historic Woodfield Street Fair

Saturday, June 18, 10am to 3pm • (rain date Sunday June 19)

Come to the Fair! Music and fun at the Main Stage! The Woodfield Café and Big BBQ! Horse Drawn Carriage Rides! Kids Games! The 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 games & children's games. We will be closing down Princess (from William to Palace) and transforming the street into a 1900 pedestrians-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 idea for our fair! If you have a talent you are willing to share, or something to do or display at the Fair please call! Also, we are looking for sponsors and vendors to help us offset the cost of the fair this year. If you would like a spot or could be a named sponsor for the event – please contact me – help keep the Fair going! (Wes at 519-439-0004).*

Annual Plant Exchange and Sale

Lord Roberts French Immersion School ~ 440 Princess Avenue
Donations acceptance from 8 am, Open for business at 8:30 am

This year's 21st annual plant exchange will be held at Lord Roberts School on Saturday May 21st. Last year's event was a huge success with the addition of tasty breakfast sandwiches and we plan to do the same this year. We will be offering our usual assortment of compost, mulch, annuals, and donated plants.

How it works: Dig up your perennials, throw them in a pot and come on down to the exchange (include plant names if you can). Trade you plants in for tokens and then go shopping for something new for your garden. If you don't have perennials to donate, that's ok. You can still purchase our compost, mulch, and all the beautiful plants including many donated annuals.

We look forward to mingling with our neighbours at this great event! Trees for Woodfield will be there as well selling their native trees.

For more information contact Rosy at rosy@rosysellslondon.com or 519-434-8854. Thanks all and please LIKE us on Facebook (Historic Woodfield) for more up to the minute updates about what is going on in our neighbourhood!



Memories of Woodfield: “the old order changeth, yielding place to new...”

I moved to this neighborhood 42 years ago, in the spring of 1974. Way back then I was not aware of the Woodfield Community Association (WCA), but I was aware of heritage issues. At the north east corner of Hyman and Richmond, there was a beautiful, but much abused home, with a turret that I loved. There was a great to do about the demolition to make way for the Ivest development.

It was not until 1987, when I bought my first home and moved a little deeper into Woodfield, that I got to know the WCA better. I joined in 1989 and started delivering the Newsletter, sat as a member at large, moved on to Membership Chair, and now I am moving out of the area, and I must resign my position as Vice Chair.

I remember canvassing for the East Woodfield Heritage Conservation District (HCD); chortling with glee when the heritage consultant spoke about the “vernacular architecture of

Palace Street” in his presentation, rather than expound on the much grander homes on Princess and Dufferin.

I was not here for the pig roasts at Lord Roberts, or the Morris Dancing on Prospect Ave., but helped develop Harvestfest, and the Plant Exchange; watched the greening of Lord Roberts playground; helped Woodfield win the “Best Community In Canada” title; had fun at the Victorian Street Fair. I still deliver the newsletter. I have really enjoyed living in this community.

I have also watched the growth of London’s HCDs, now totalling 7, with at least two more being studied. I see this grass roots process as a successful strategy to deter poorly conceived

redevelopment of our neighborhoods. I believe HCDs strenghten and enrich their communities. This is why I have voiced my opinion at City Hall many times. This is why two other London HCDs have also earned the “Best Community in Canada” title.

So as I leave this wonderful neighborhood I challenge those who are new here to take my place; remember and respect what has gone before; get involved with what works; fight like the dickens against what doesn’t. In the process you will get to know some wonderful people, have fun, and rest easy that you have helped to make Woodfield a great place to call home.

– Hazel Elmslie, Vice Chair

2016 Annual General Meeting Thursday, April 14, 6:30 pm, Dufferin Hall, 445 Dufferin Ave

The WCA Annual General Meeting is coming. 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’ for our Streetscape Improvement Awards and Neighbour of the Year! We invite all Woodfield Members to come out, hear about and comment on what we have been up to this past year. This is a non-voting year, but we will have lots to talk about.

Call me Ma’am

Former long-time Woodfielder, Margaret LeBas Howe, M. A., who celebrated her 100th birthday last year, has written a book. *Call Me Ma’am* tells of her experiences in the Canadian Women’s Army Corps during World War II. Congratulations Marg!

Lord Roberts Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Adults Only Cocktail Reception
Friday, May 27, 2016, Lord Roberts Gym

Tickets: \$40 (includes one drink) before April 14, \$50 after April 14. The evening will include an Art Show & Auction (with pieces by current Lord Roberts students), display of Lord Roberts memorabilia, and music. Go to their Facebook page to purchase tickets online.

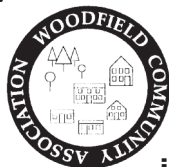
Other events include a time capsule being buried during Gathering in the Garden in early May and an Open House, Fun Fair and Art Show planned for Saturday, May 28th.



Community Clean-Up Day

Saturday
April 23
9:00 am - noon

Spring is here, and we earned it! To kick it off let’s clean up our beautiful streetscape. Meet up at the corner of Princess and Maitland. We’ll have supplies on hand. – See you then!



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.

Solar Power in the Forest City

– BY GIL WARREN

Are you a keen environmentalist ready to save the planet? Do you want to put solar electric panels on your Woodfield roof but it is shaded by your trees! Do you think that this is an impossible situation? If you cut down your shade trees your neighbors will get very mad at you. Besides, we are supposed to be planting trees to suck up carbon dioxide (CO²).

Lucky for you some very creative people have solved your problem. The answer is: viola! Virtual solar panels. There is virtual everything else on your computer so why not solar? This idea also applies to apartment dwellers and roofs that slope the wrong way.

If you buy solar panels and put them somewhere else you solve the problem. If you do it with a bunch of people in a co-operative (co-op) you can do bigger projects, control it democratically and keep the profit in our community.

Ontario residents, if they have \$1,040 or more, can invest in a solar co-op called SolarShare. You buy Bonds that last for 4 or 5 years and give you 5% interest per year. When the Bonds mature, you can renew them or cash them in. The projects have already been built and financed by friends so that eliminates construction risks. The Co-op has 20-year contracts with the Ontario Government at a fixed price.

SolarShare projects are scattered all over Southern Ontario usually on commercial or industrial building roofs. They are medium sized (1/2 to 1 megawatt) and they do not do residential roofs. SolarShare has a web site with more details. It is based in Toronto but has over a thousand members across Ontario and has been going for many years. They have raised more than \$15 million dollars and have 34 projects.

We, the fine reporters of the

Woodfield News, are not financial advisers. We are neither telling you to invest or not invest in solar co-ops. Any money invested in stocks or bonds is vulnerable to bankruptcy or bad governments that break contracts (and get sued). You should never put money in a business that you cannot afford to lose and never put all of your money into one thing.

Having scared you silly maybe you will do your own due diligence and read all of the material that the government provides before you buy. Look especially at the Prospectus.

To put solar panels on your roof, it would cost roughly \$50,000 to \$100,000 to replace all of the energy you currently use. This includes all electricity, gas heating and gasoline depending on how much you consume and prices. Investing that much in a solar co-op gets the same result.

We are very lucky in Woodfield to have Shane O'Neil (519-435-1527) who has been working on another solar co-op called The Green Energy London (GEL) Co-op. They are interested in solar hot water collectors (Shane had the first one in Woodfield), solar electricity and geothermal heating. The GEL Co-op also has a Website.

Bill Browett is a new Woodfield resident on Princess Ave. who has just finished renovating his house and has installed geothermal space heating and is planning to add solar electric panels to create a net 0 energy house.

Don't forget that the best and most efficient way to save money and energy is conservation. Also, most home energy retrofits can save you money and energy in the long term.

For further information but no financial advice please contact me (Gil Warren) at 519 645 3108.

Kids of Woodfield (KOW) Artists



A Woodfield kitchen transformed into an Art workshop for KOW was an opportunity to make paintings for a KOW Art Stall at the upcoming Woodfield Fair. The kids chose ideas for the paintings by thinking about what we

see in Woodfield. Birds, trees and snakes(!) were the most popular subjects. We started off with the idea "There are no mistakes in art" because nobody knows what you had in mind for your painting, so it doesn't matter how it comes out. The kids learned about mixing colours, many of which were gleefully announced by Rowan as she concocted pinks and oranges. They also learned to put on light colours and backgrounds first and how to cover a whole canvas for a professional look. The kids were an enthusiastic bunch and turned out some fantastic art.

Max, a KOW member, has created his own company Fork+Toaster Comics. His *Peter Drumstick* comics were produced in time for Harvestfest as a donation from Astley Gilbert printers on Maitland Street.



KOW held their second meeting in the Fall 2015 and are holding \$250 in seed funds from the Association for future fundraising and fun efforts. Watch for them at upcoming events.

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 or Kyle Gonyou (City Heritage Planners) 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!**

Neighbours Come Together for Syrians

Late last year many of us were intently following the news of the Syrian refugee crisis. The scale was overwhelming and as conditions in the camps deteriorated, neighbours in Woodfield began to mobilize. This neighbourhood has many circles of connections and when private sponsorship became an option, a dedicated group began to coalesce.

The seeds were planted when Christine Troughton made an announcement at Harvestfest asking that anyone interested in pursuing the idea of sponsoring a family meet. That resulted in a flurry of emails and a meeting was soon held at Lord Roberts School. At that gathering it became obvious that the ad hoc group was very serious and wanted to continue the sponsoring process.

A core group came together and provided funds to initiate the goal of settling a refugee family in Woodfield. The group has structured into committees that oversee the critical areas of resettlement. There has been much to learn along the way and much more

yet. The group is preparing for the challenges and rewards that lie ahead as they embark on this yearlong commitment to the family upon arrival. Raising the funds needed is well underway.

Learn more or get involved by contacting the Woodfield Resettlement Group (woodfieldsettlers@gmail.com). Please spread the word and like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/woodfieldresettlementgroup/).

– Sara Steers and Bob

Fundraising Pasta Dinner Friday, May 6, 2016 First St. Andrews Church

Please help the Woodfield Resettlement Group reach our goal to sponsor a Syrian family. To attend our Pasta Dinner please contact Rosy (rosy@rosysellslondon.com or 519-434-8854) to arrange for tickets. To learn more or to donate please visit www.woodfieldresettlementgroup.ca.



Trees for Woodfield

– BY HILARY MOON

The trees must be as confused about the weather as we are! Warmer, then a cold snap, then spring-like weather again. Unless we have a whole lot more precipitation, we will need to water the boulevard trees on a bi-weekly basis.

Please take charge of a tree near your home, and regularly throw a bucket of water on the roots – not the best way to water, but easy, and better than nothing! Please remind neighbours to do the

same. Every tree counts in our neighbourhood (in our world) and watering helps the environment to flourish.

Healthy, flourishing trees are one of the essential ingredients for re-claiming a healthy, sustainable environment. Don't know how to help the environment? Plant a tree. Water a tree. We don't have to wait for governments to make a difference, we can do it right outside our front door.

'Trees For Woodfield' will have our great stock of trees to purchase at the Plant Exchange. Look for us, talk to us, buy a tree or two for your backyard – or to do some Guerrilla Planting where the city is slow on the boulevards.

We have always relied on our relationship with the Forestry Department at City Hall and persist to keep the line of communications open.

Our boulevards trees have always been an essential infrastructure and important aspect of our neighbourhood. Together with the City, we hope to improve our health and well-being and that of the trees.

See you all at the Plant Exchange!

Glen Curnoe Receives Heritage Award

London Mayor Matt Brown's 2016 Honours List awarded Glen the Heritage award. Glen was commended for his role as former Head of the Ivey Family London Room at the London Public Library. He is an active member of the Brick Street Cemetery restoration and preservation group, the London and St. Thomas Railway group, Port Stanley Terminal Rail and supporter of WCA.

Harvestfest 2015

Many thanks to our donors who helped us achieve a very successful event with over \$2,100.00 raised! It was a wonderful evening with amazing silent auction items.

3M

Auto Spa

Bloomers of London

Boombbox Bakeshop

Boxwoods

Central Cat Hospital & The Cat Hotel

Chuck Hoch

D'Arcy Lane Incorporated

Frame Space

Grand Theatre

Hippe Trippie

HRM Photography

Jill's Table

Joe Kools & Jim Bob Ray's

Lampe Berger Canada

Palace/London Community Players

Pulse Spin Studio

Quantum

Strange Ideas

The Bag Lady

The Church Key Pub and Bistro

The Morrissey House

Trees for Woodfield

Woodfield Automotive

Residents and Friends

Patricia Zachos, Kate Rapson

Alexandra Harkins, Rod and Joey

Jacquie Kipfer, Rosy Loewith

Pat and Penny, Michael and Lorraine

Wendy and Wes



Woodfield Gold

A special thanks to Jacqui Kipfer who donated a gorgeous original painting of Lord Roberts School titled *Woodfield Gold*. It is a lovely piece and it was an exciting part of the auction!

Thanks to all for helping to make this a great evening. If you have ideas of who may be interested in donating to our 2016 event, please contact Rosy: rosy@rosysellslondon.com or 519-434-8854.