

WOODFIELD

COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring/Summer 2022

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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
or write to

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

www.historicwoodfield.com

*A member of the
Urban League of London*

The Woodfield Plant Exchange is BACK!

Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School

May 21, 2022

8:30 to noon

After a two-year pause, we are finally holding this much-loved event! Divide your overgrown annuals, pot them up, trade them for tokens, then shop for new plants! We will also be selling compost and mulch by the bag or wheelbarrow full. In the past, we've sold baking, coffee, juice and breakfast sandwiches.

Closer to the event, we'll be checking with the public health unit to see what treats we can offer this year; fingered crossed!

If there are high-school students who need volunteer hours, let us know by emailing:
info@historicwoodfield.com.



Letter from the Chair

It's been a year or two of making plans then changing them, staying at home and keeping everyone safe. As we move through the various stages of the pandemic, we're planning the return of regular Woodfield events, such as the Plant Exchange, HarvestFest and Christmas Carolling. It gives me great pleasure to say that we are holding the Woodfield Plant Exchange this May 21, 2022. It will be so wonderful to gather in the gardens at Lord Roberts and catch up with neighbours.

Then, after long two years, we will be holding an AGM on Tuesday, June 7, at 7 pm! At this meeting we will review 2020 and 2021 business and speak about what's coming in 2022.

A final thought: As the pandemic drags on in some shape or form, many neighbours are struggling with isolation, financial loss, or housing and food insecurity. Kindness and compassion go a long way. Look out for neighbours that might need a helping hand. Even small gestures can make a difference.

Stay safe everyone and hope to see you all soon!
Kate Rapson

Planning Notes

560 & 562 Wellington Street:

You may have received an email recently from the Woodfield Community Association with an update on where this project stood as well as a survey. To summarize this application, City Councillors went against Planning Staff's recommendation, which was to refuse this application, and approved the application for a 17-storey building where five storeys are permitted. There are two appeals filed with the Ontario Land Tribunal: one by the Woodfield Community Association and another by a resident of Woodfield. We expect the hearing to take place this fall or early in 2023. The survey revealed that over 90 percent of respondents supported our position in this appeal. Thank you all to all who took time to fill it out. As we move through this process, we are working closely with a lawyer and will be hiring a planner. That will be costly, but the survey also indicated that over 50 percent of you would support the appeal with a donation, big or small. We are currently working with the Architectural Conservancy Ontario (ACO) to set up an account on our behalf. Donations would go to the ACO, who will hold the funds for us and issue tax receipts to donors. You will receive an email when this is set up, or for any questions, please email info@historicwoodfield.com.

Adelaide Underpass:

A committee was formed of representatives from communities directly impacted by the underpass, including Old East Community Association, Piccadilly Neighbourhood Association, and the Woodfield Community Association. This committee has been working with the City to ensure the impact during construction is minimized and the connection between the three neighbourhoods is preserved and enhanced. Our goal is that the

underpass accommodates active transportation, such as pedestrians and bicycles, and the design is in keeping with the communities. At virtual meetings, input was gathered on the overall design.

For the latest schedule and more information, the City has assembled all the key documentation at: <https://getinvolved.london.ca/adelaide>. If you have questions, please contact Peter Kavciv, Transportation Design Engineer, City of London, pkavcic@london.ca.

566 Wellington St.:

Great West Realty (Canada Life) owns the parking lot immediately to the north of Centennial Hall and has the City's approval 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 bylaw regulations and therefore required no public participation meetings and no zoning amendments. The only opportunity for input was regarding the Heritage Alteration Permit as the property is within the West Woodfield Heritage Conservation District.

Despite the planning staff, the Planning and Environment Committee, and the London Heritage Advisory Committee (LACH) recommending that the permit application be refused, at a meeting in the fall of 2020, Council voted to let the development proceed. We have no further updates on the start date of this development.

Victoria Park Secondary Plan:

An updated draft has been made public by City Hall. For more information, <https://getinvolved.london.ca/victoriapark1>

467/469 Dufferin Ave.:

This building was torn down a few years following a ruling by the Ontario Land Tribunal which overturned a decision by the City to refuse the demolition application. The original proposal was for 12 micro-units to be built on this site. There is a new site plan filed with the City.

Heritage Alteration Permit

If you are planning any exterior renovations, such as window and door replacements, porch replacements, refacing, etc., please call the City Heritage Planning department at 519 661-4980 or email 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.

Woodfield AGM

**Bishop Cronyn Place, 442 William Street
Tuesday, June 7, 2022
7 pm**

If this newsletter lands in your mailbox in time, then please join us at the Woodfield AGM either in person or via Zoom! If you're reading this after June 7, sorry about that! But we hope the news reached you in other ways such as email or on social media. For more information, go to www.historicwoodfield.com/events.

Our board is looking for new members! Open positions include co-chair, as well as treasurer and communication chairs. Or, if you're more of a hands-on type, we have a few sub-committees that organize various events and could use some help. Email info@historicwoodfield.com for more information.

The Comfort of Reading and Sharing Through a Pandemic



Last Spring, my husband built and installed a “Little Free Library” (LFL) for my birthday. LFLs are meant to “Build Community, Inspire Readers and Expand Book Access for All”, as shared on the website, littlefreelibrary.org. People can “leave a book, take a book” or just take a book that they’d like to read. Our LFL has also become a bit of a community cupboard. As the pandemic continued, my husband and I started leaving canned goods and other items in the LFL. Our Woodfield neighbours began to do the same in order to support each other during such trying times.

On any given day you can find books, food, hygiene products, toys, fabric, games, DVDs, CDs or other treasures that are looking for a new home. Similar to the neighbourhood’s Buy Nothing group on Facebook, the LFL allows items to be reused which is not only helpful to reduce spending, but it reduces the waste that our society generates.

I have met more neighbours this past year than in any other year. The socially distant conversations helped to ease the isolation felt during the pandemic and I am grateful for that sense of community. Thank you to all who have helped to make our LFL a neighbourhood success and I look forward to chatting with you when you come to find that perfect book.

Dawn-Marie Deagle

Board Members



Kate Rapson, Chair
Heather McKay & Dawn-Marie Deagle, Membership Co-Chairs
Donna Smith, Finance Chair (stepping down as of April 30)
Stephanie Bergman, Planning Chair
Marcus Coles, Newsletter Chair
Laura Wherry, Secretary
Tom Myles, Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School, School Council Representative
Sandra Black-Evans, Newsletter Editor, member at large
Barry Francis, member at large
Judy Elliott, member at large
Trina Mohan, member at large
Tim Turner, member at large

If you are interested in volunteering, please raise your hand! There are lots of ways to get involved.

London Cares

If you encounter someone experiencing mental health concerns, you can contact the **London Cares** team **519-667-CARE** to send their Response Team 24/7.

Please note this number is NOT for any situation that may be an emergency. If in doubt call 911.

If you find syringes, or other drug paraphernalia on your property, or in a public area, please call the **Syringe Recovery** team **519-661-2489 ext. 4965**.

This number is answered 24/7.

Online Police Reporting

Increasingly, people who live in Woodfield have become concerned with the level of crime. Below are some tips for keeping your property safe.

File an online police report for any suspicious or concerning activity. The incident being reported does not need to involve damage or loss of property. www.londonpolice.ca/en/services/online-reporting.aspx

Include photos or still views from videos/security cameras in the report.

If you cannot make a report online, you can phone the non-emergency line 519-661-5670.

Reporting is important! Police presence in neighbourhoods is “data driven”, meaning they rely on online reports and other crime statistics to know where to focus.

How to help

While homelessness was a London-wide crisis before the pandemic, it has only become worse over this past year. Here are a few organizations working hard to support these vulnerable people and who also can respond to specific situations.

City of London - London Homeless Prevention, Coordinated Informed Response

If you come across someone experiencing homelessness, whether it is on your property or someone else’s, call **519-661-HOME** or email homelessprevention@london.ca. Provide the team with the address or location and they will send someone out to talk with the individual and help facilitate accommodations. For more information, please visit <https://london.ca/CIR>.



For The Love Of Trees

Reflecting on the past year, many of us have felt alone, isolated, and in need of more companionship, maybe from a dog, a cat, or even goldfish! But what about a tree?

Through recent research, we have learned that trees communicate with each other and even with us.

There's a lovely, recently published, book by Peter Wohlleben, 'Can You Hear Trees Talking?' which is written with children in mind, but adults also learn much about trees from this book.

Today, on page 20, I was reading the section on 'What do "Tree Children" learn at school?' This is what I learned. Young trees in the forest have parent trees, brother and sister trees, they are protected and cared for, and they learn the language of trees.

Young trees in the city, especially on our boulevards, don't have a family. They are planted many metres away from each other. They have no parent trees around, no brothers and sisters, no family members to boost their connectedness or their safety, and generally no shade from larger trees.

We plant and love city trees for all they do for us: reduce air pollution,

increase storm water control, alleviate climate change, improve neighbourhood image and beauty, and boost our physical and mental health. They benefit wildlife, insects, and birds. Small animals make their homes and find food in them. But what do we give back to the city trees on the Boulevard?

These trees rely on us to water them, and, sometimes, keep them company. In days gone by, we used to climb trees, sit under them, and even build treehouses. Now, the trees depend on us to make sure they are taken care of.

In the months ahead, spring, summer and fall - would you adopt a Boulevard Tree and be its parent? Its family member? The one nearest your home?

Would you water it each week, let's say every Monday or Tuesday evening, whatever works for you, but make it EVERY week? Would you watch it through the seasons, make sure it is HEALTHY; and if you stop and talk to it, we know now - it WILL hear you!

Hilary Moon, Trees for Woodfield

Membership Update

Become a member of the Woodfield Community Association! A life-time membership per household is only \$50. For the first time in a very long time, we are raising the price of an annual membership from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

Membership fees help fund community events such as the Street Fair and the sidewalk chalk giveaway, but also enable us to help others. For instance, for many years we have contributed to Lord Roberts school to help with upgrades to the play yard or other special projects. Another key mandate is to monitor developments and other planning activities in the neighbourhood with the goal of upholding the West and East Woodfield Heritage Conservation Districts. This mandate can mean that we simply attend meetings at City Hall, but sometimes it means we object to an application and need the support of a lawyer or planner to help us navigate the process effectively. A prime example is our current appeal regarding Council's decision to approve a high-rise at 560/562 Wellington Street. Given the cost of the appeal and the lack of opportunity to raise money via events over the last few years, membership fees, and donations are very much needed! For more information, please email us at info@historicwoodfield.com.

Holy Roller Restoration Project

This prominent landmark and distinguished survivor of WWII is currently being restored and will be reinstalled in Victoria Park. Donations can be made at: www.holyrollermemorail.ca

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 per year, 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.

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