

First St. Andrew's United Church, a growing community hub

This prominent Woodfield landmark, located at Queens and Waterloo, offers critical support to individuals and community groups all over London.

- Ark Aid: shelters up to 40 people each night from December 1 to March 31
- ELUCO: United Churches join together to offer aid to underserved East London residents
- Meditation Garden, Indigenous plant landscape, and a community stage: all open to the public
- El Sistema: with a 10-year lease, this program provides music instruction and dinner to children and youths, primarily from the new Canadian community
- White Squirrel Golf Tournament, Annual Bazaar & Rummage Sale: supports a variety of community organizations and outreach programs
- Weekly donations from the congregation to St. Paul's Daily Bread
- Rehearsal and performance space: available to groups such as the Pride Choir, Pro Musica, and Amabile
- Men's brown bag lunches, movie nights, and book clubs
- Youth programs, including camps and fun-nights, with the emphasis on faith, service, and the arts
- Meal on Wheels: local headquarters housed on the property

For bookings and more information, please call 519-679-8182 or email mail@fsaunited.com

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.

Membership Update

Become a member of the Woodfield Community Association! A life-time membership per household is only \$50 and yearly memberships are \$10. 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. Given 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.

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.

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WOODFIELD

COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring/Summer 2023

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Woodfield AGM

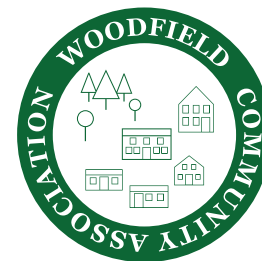
560/562 Wellington St.
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RESIDENTIAL TO THE CORE

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

Saturday, May 27
Everyone is welcome!

This annual event just keeps getting better! First, an important announcement: we are breaking with tradition and moving the event from the May long weekend to Saturday, May 27. This way, more of the volunteers will be available and at the ready! See you at Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School, 8:30 am to noon, weather permitting. *Rain date is Sunday, May 28.* Here's what to look forward to at this year's event:

1. Artisans and makers will be selling their original creations. For information on reserving a space, email info@historicwoodfield.com
2. The Woodfield Sidewalk Chalk Demonstration and Giveaway. We will be giving away bags of colourful chalk to kids of all ages. Plus, there will be a special guest at 10 am who will be leading an interactive creation!
3. The bake table will be back and we also hope to be serving up hot-off-the-grill breakfast sandwiches.
4. Trees for Woodfield will be selling locally grown seedlings. Come early for the best selection.

And of course, what started it all, the plant exchange. If there are high-school students who need volunteer hours, we can find work for you, let us know by emailing: info@historicwoodfield.com.

Letter from the Chair

Effective at this year's AGM, after 9 years, it's time for me to officially step down as Chair of the Association. I've been humbled by the support and many words of encouragement over the years. The current board is excellent and more than capable of absorbing my role.

The pandemic has taken its toll on our group. We've been challenged by lack of fundraising opportunities, which is reflected in our bank account balance. I promise to personally continue to working hard to rebuild funds by helping organize the plant exchange, the holiday tree lot event, etc. Plus, the board has lots of ideas for more new fundraising opportunities. The pandemic also took its toll on our community. We have not been able to gather, to hug, to share stories. Community building will be a key focus for the board in the coming years.

Stay tuned and raise your hand if you want to help. The more the merrier. I'll stay on as past chair and help where I can. And you'll see me walking my two dogs around the 'hood. I'm hardly gone!

It's been an honour. Thank you.
Kate Rapson

Planning Notes

560 & 562 Wellington Street Appeal Update :

This file has been ongoing since 2016. Auburn Developments' application to build a 17-storey (plus mechanical), on a site where only six were permitted was approved by City Council in 2021. Woodfield Community Association (WCA) board, with the support of a member vote at an earlier AGM, submitted an appeal to this decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). ThinQ Technologies also did submitted an appeal.

However, on December 22, 2022, the board members of the association held a vote to withdraw from the appeal. The vote passed. Considerations centred on the financial burden: with a seven-day trial set by the OLT the cost of representation was estimated at \$50,000+.

In addition to the financial issues, developments within the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) translated into more bad news. In talking with professionals in the field, changes at the OLT have been occurring over the past five years designed to deter appeals, particularly appeals from individuals and community groups

like ours. It is no longer sufficient to simply represent ourselves, as the WCA has done in the past.

The odds against a successful appeal are staggering: out of 178 decisions issued by the OLT as of September 2022, only six decisions went against developers. In other words, there is critical value in defending the existing City policies and designated heritage, the financial cost coupled with very low success rate made the appeal prohibitive and irresponsible to pursue.

The materials we paid for while we were an appellant were repurposed into participant statements in preparation for the March 2023 hearing, which was to be led by the other appellant on the file, ThinQ Technologies. However, on the Friday before the hearing was to start, ThinQ Technologies settled with Auburn. The height will not change but the design will be more in keeping with the heritage features in the neighbourhood. The trial therefore did not occur.

We do not have any more details at this time.



Woodfield AGM

11 May 2023
Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School in the gym
7 pm – 9 pm | Doors open at 6:30 pm
Everyone is welcome!

If this newsletter lands in your mailbox in time, please join us at the Woodfield AGM, either in person or via Zoom audio. For more information, go to www.historicwoodfield.com/events.

Our board is looking for new members! 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.

A Word from Lord Roberts

My name is Sophie Strange and I think Woodfield is an amazing, warm neighbourhood. This community does a lot to keep these streets clean and safe. Woodfield also includes the school in lots of activities: during the plant exchange, some kids at Lord Roberts are able to help out with selling and exchanging plants, which encourages us kids to step out of our comfort zone.

I've lived in this neighbourhood almost my whole life, and not once have I ever felt unsafe, unless we're talking about the ice patches, but that's another story. The school and the people of Woodfield work close together, like when a few classes would go out into the neighbourhood and draw everyone's houses as art projects or go for a garbage clean-up day around the block. Going to a French immersion school will always be beneficial, especially if you have some amazing teachers teaching you and going into detail about how to pronounce a word correctly, or how to conjugate a French noun. As a 14-year-old in grade 8 going to Lord Roberts and living in Woodfield, I have made many amazing friends and memories with my teachers and my neighbours.

Sophie Strange
Woodfielder

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.

Trees for Woodfield: Mini Urban Forests

Today, as I write this, it's International Day of Forests. During the past couple of months, your 'Trees for Woodfield Committee' has been learning about mini urban forests, which are gaining momentum and popularity throughout many countries.

Mini urban forests are a way of managing small urban spaces to bring the benefits of natural forests into our cities and towns. A natural, nature-created forest takes about 200 years to reach full maturity, but a mini urban forest takes about 20 years to mature! The benefits are extensive: they can help to buffer climate change, provide habitat for urban creatures, and beauty to our urban settings.

One of the pioneers of this idea was a Japanese botanist, Akira Miyawaki. Miyawaki introduced his method for planting indigenous micro forests in the 1970s for more temperate or tropical climates. After the three years of establishing a mini forest, there is no more need for 'gardening', nature will take care of it.

If you can create a mini urban forest in your yard, it's important to remember that leaf litter and fallen branches are important parts of the habitat.

For more tips and information about starting a mini urban forest in your yard, the Trees for Woodfield committee will be at the Woodfield Plant Exchange on May 27. In addition to have a selection of trees for sale, we will have more information about mini urban forests. Come see us!

Hilary Moon - Trees for Woodfield Committee Member



ACO Geranium House Tour Returns to Woodfield

Following a three-year hiatus, London's premier heritage tour returns. This year it will explore the architecture and backstory of Woodfield.

Woodfield Ramble
ACO London's 47th annual walking tour
Sunday, 18 June, 2023, 12 - 5 pm
Tour starts at Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School,
440 Princess Avenue

We plan to have Woodfield Cooks books and aprons for sale at this event. For more information, go to <https://acolondon.ca/events>. The ACO will also be looking for volunteers for this event! Email info@acolondon.ca.

Welcome to Woodfield

To get to know each other a little better and meet new people, we're adding a new feature to our newsletter. We hope you enjoy hearing from our inaugural contributors, Jesse and Lindsay!

- Who are the members in your family (including furry members)?
Jesse, Lindsay, Theo (soon-to-be 3-year-old), Javi (2 weeks), and Morty (6-year-old Basset hound)
- When did you move to Woodfield?
We moved to Woodfield in Summer 2019. Prior to buying our house we rented an apartment in the Piccadilly neighbourhood...not sure if that is considered Woodfield or not! :)
- Where else have you lived?
We moved to Canada in 2018 from the United States, so London (Woodfield) is the only place we've lived in Canada. Lindsay is originally from Phoenix, Arizona and I, Jesse, am originally from Chicago, Illinois. We met while we were both attending graduate school in Florida. We've lived in lots of different places in the USA. Prior to moving to Canada, we were in Chicago.
- If you have out-of-town visitors, where would you take them to eat?
Haven's Creamery: Our favourite place to get ice cream. We've liked all the flavours we've tried so far! The Bag Lady: It is so cute and unique. We love that it is in the neighbourhood. We love living in Woodfield and being close to all the restaurants downtown and along Richmond Row. We try to go to as many different local places as we can. A few places we've taken out-of-town guests are Toboggan, Church Key, and Grace.
- What is your favourite movie or book?
Too many good ones to choose from. My favourite author is Stephen King and usually I enjoy horror or psychological thriller films (e.g. Silence of the Lambs). Lindsay prefers romantic comedies. But since I have a hard time staying awake for movies longer than two hours, we end up watching more TV than movies. We enjoy watching cooking competition shows (e.g., Top Chef).

Thank you, Jesse and Lindsay for being our first family featured in this new column! If you see this Woodfield family out an about, be sure to say 'hi' and welcome them to the 'hood.

If you want to recommend someone for this column, email us at info@historicwoodfield.com