

WOODFIELD COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring 2025

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Printed with the support of




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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*A member of the
 Urban League of London*

Plant Exchange and Sale

Saturday, May 10, 2025 - 8:30am



Everyone is welcome!

It's been a long winter, and many of us are ready to get outside in the garden! Spend a Saturday morning chatting with neighbours over a coffee, get gardening tips, and pick up some new plants! Even if you don't garden, there is a little something for everyone.

- The Plant Exchange. This is what started it all over 25 years ago. Tables are stocked full of plants and shrubs all from Woodfield gardens. Dig up and split annuals to exchange for tokens to use to 'buy' other plants. Don't have time or anything to bring? No worries, all plants are for sale starting at \$2. We will also have a selection of annuals, mulch and compost for sale.
- Sidewalk Chalk Giveaway. Bags of colourful chalk to kids of all ages are free for all.
- The Griddle: Volunteers will be serving breakfast sandwiches hot off the grill.
- Bake Sale: The bake table will be selling coffee, tea, juice, and, of course, baking.
- Trees for Woodfield: This incredible group dedicated to urban forests will be selling trees and available to chat and answer questions.

Watch for other updates on our website (www.historicwoodfield.ca or at Woodfield Neighbours – London on Facebook). All proceeds go to the Woodfield Community Association.

If there are high school students who need volunteer hours, email us at info@historicwoodfield.ca.

See you at Woodfield French Immersion Public School, 8:30 am to noon, weather permitting. Rain date is Sunday, May 11th., same time.

Woodfield AGM— Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Woodfield French Immersion Public School in the Library
7 pm – 9 pm | Doors open at 6:30 pm
Everyone from Woodfield is welcome!

Please join us at the Woodfield AGM. This year's guest speaker is Mr. Sean Horrell, Program Co-Ordinator for 519 Pursuit, an outreach group focused on supporting the Homeless in London.

Our WCA Board is always looking for new members! There are open positions on your executive so please come out to learn more. If you are more of a hands-on type, we have a few sub-committees that organize various events and could use some help. Email info@historicwoodfield.ca for more information.

A Wonderful Evening in November!



It was great to be back at Dufferin Hall thanks to Jeffery vanderMeer and Justin Bardawill. Excellent turnout! Jacqui Kipfer's creative painting of the new Adelaide underpass was admired by everyone. The shared Harvestfest table of entrees, sides and desserts was over the top. Thank you to all our neighbours who came out and made the Silent Auction a success. As well, we would like to thank our local politicians David Ferreira, City Councilor for Ward 13 and Terence Kernaghan our MPP for London North Centre who both made an effort to attend. Congratulations to Terence for his re-election!



TREES FOR WOODFIELD - Submitted by Hilary Moon



TREES! TREES AND MORE LOVELY TREES!

That is why our 'TREES FOR WOODFIELD COMMITTEE' get together each month of the year.... to dream and plan for Woodfield's treed streetscape.

Over the past 23 years, five residents living in Woodfield have met each month to fulfill our self-chosen mandate to work with the London Forestry Department at City Hall ensuring our streets are well-treed for the benefit of the entire Community. We educate Woodfielders about the great need for trees for the well-being of everyone living here. We like to see native varieties to sustain our birds as well as other animals and plant-life. We know the importance of shade in the heat of summer, the quality of soil and last but not east, the sheer beauty that trees provide. All these health-promoting benefits research has shown are manifold.

To accomplish this more efficiently, we now have a Facebook Page to inform and enhance our various initiatives and information. We have initiated much: new tree plantings, tree walks, tree carvings, saving trees about to be felled without good enough reason, and there is much more to do. Would you be interested to join us? We would love to have two more Tree Committee members - preferably of a younger generation to carry on this good work into the future of Woodfield.

We will have some young Native trees at the Plant Exchange for you to purchase for your garden, so please drop by. Some tree-savvy helpers will be on-hand to give you growing tips! www.facebook.com/TREESFORWOODFIELD

We acknowledge and thank our many generous donors for November's

HARVESTFEST

JACQUI KIPFER

JILL'S TABLE

PALACE THEATRE

DR. ARNOLD SPOOZAK

COPP'S BUILDALL

SOLE SCIENCE

CHURCH KEY RESTAURANT

FRAME SPACE

THE PARK HOTEL

KATE RAPSON AND FAMILY

ANNE GRAHAM

RENEE'S SANDWICH SHOP

ARTS & BARKS

DEAGLE FAMILY

SANA ANIMAL HOSPITAL

LINDA WHITNEY

TERRY WRIGHT

DEBORAH WRACK

HELEN OF JOY

DAVID LINDSAY

JOAN CLAYTON

ALIGN MVMT

MANDY MCDOWELL

And to all the many friends of Woodfield who offered gifts and support that evening.



Woodfield Porch Concerts ~ Benedict Lockwood

The house stands proud at the corner of Dufferin and Prospect. There is constant music coming from the large living room with the grand piano. Small ensembles come to play and itinerant musicians come to stay while they might be playing at the symphony concerts just down the road. It makes sense then that the house is called Harmonie House. The word "harmonie" in germanic Europe means a "wind band".

The house also has a front porch which seems to have been designed with the intent of putting on concerts. It is just the right size for a wind quintet such as the Woodfield Winds. This group consists of a Flute, an Oboe, a Clarinet, a French Horn and a Bassoon, and sometimes a Keyboard. In front of the porch is a large expanse of lawn, suitable for an appreciative audience.



It was inevitable then that there should be porch concerts to entertain the neighbours, and so it has been for several years now. Sunday afternoons on the lawn to listen to an eclectic selection of pieces, from the old to the new, from the classics to movie tunes. A popular potpourri of audience favourites. Hence the series came to be known as "Pops on the Porch". Audiences of fifty or sixty would sit on the chairs and blankets and listen to the music.

At the same time an enterprising neighbour managed to get a grant from the city for music events and the porch was volunteered. This was a step up from the 'Pops on the Porch'. These concerts would be in the evening, with professional sound and lighting set ups. And, just in case, a Porta-Potty.

These shows were, singer-songwriters, folk songs, new wave; usually guitars, fiddles, drums. Well known performers with their fans would descend on Harmonie House and entertain the concert goers, often as many as a couple of hundred seated about on the lawn. Inevitably, there was a musical hiatus during the Covid years, but gradually the scene is coming back. There have been concerts in the past couple of years and it is hoped and anticipated that there will be concerts again this year. There are also other porch concerts around the neighbourhood, so watch for those too. Keep look out for announcements from Harmonie House.

Woodfield Resiliency Project - Mary Ann Hodge

Woodfield is a great neighbourhood (which is why you live here, right?). But how prepared are we for when disaster strikes? A group of Londoners is spearheading a project to determine how we can make neighbourhoods in London more resilient to the turbulence around us. They have the backing of the Tamarack Institute who are guiding/coaching them in creating a neighbourhood resiliency project designed for the residents of Woodfield, by the residents of Woodfield. More information will be presented at the upcoming AGM. In anticipation of this, could you kindly respond to a survey about how prepared you feel to withstand adversity in Woodfield: <http://tiny.cc/WoodfieldResiliencySurvey> (ideally by April 14).

Thanks for contributing to making Woodfield stronger!



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR - Barry Francis

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and the New Year finds you well.

I want to thank all of our residents who attended Harvestfest. We had a great turnout and a very successful event.

Your Committee has been working hard on events this Spring which includes the Plant Exchange on May 10th, and the Garden Tour on May 31st, 2025.

We also have your Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for April 16th in the Library at Woodfield French Immersion Public School, doors open 6:30pm., meeting begins 7:00pm. We have Guest Speakers Sean Horrell, Outreach Co-Ordinator for 519 Pursuit, plus our elected Officials. This is a very important meeting and I urge you to attend if at all possible. We do have some openings on Our Board of Directors and would welcome new Members.



The London Food Co-Op was created in 1970 and has been established close to our neighbourhood since 1984. Conveniently located at the corner of Adelaide and Princess Ave. making it a short walk for Woodfielders to enjoy the benefits of a full service grocery outlet focusing on locally grown produce and organic foods. All are welcome to become a member (\$40.00 per year) or non-members pay 10% more. Loretta McHenry (pictured) has been the manager for over 30 years and is dedicated to nurturing the Co-op's close relationships with local farmers and suppliers.

WCA Executive Committee

- Chair**—Barry Francis
- Vice Chair**—Shane O'Neill
- Past Chair**—Kate Rapson
- Secretary**—vacant
- Planning Chair**—Stephanie Bergman
- Treasurer**—Jean Hewitt
- Membership Chair (Acting)** — Mandy McDowell
- Newsletter Chair**—Rod McDowell
- Web/Communication Chair**—Leif Harmensen
- Merchandise Chair**—Sandra Black Evans
- Social Chair**—Vacant
- Woodfield F.I.P.S. Rep**— Kate Rapson
- Urban League Rep**—Vacant
- Members-at-Large**—Dawn Marie Deagle, Mandy McDowell, Lesley Wright



Saturday May 31, 2025 ~ 10am-Noon WOODFIELD GARDEN TOUR

We had an amazing turnout from the community last year touring gardens in Woodfield. It was a bright sunny day and the tour ended with lemonade, sweets and socializing. Please join us at our second annual Woodfield Garden Tour to get gardening tips, design ideas and meet your neighbours! The garden route is still being determined but please look for updates on our website. If you would like to participate on the garden tour or volunteer please call or text Mandy McDowell 519-701-1383.

NEW WEBSITE!

WCA launched our new website at <https://historicwoodfield.ca>. New features include the ability to purchase or renew your membership online and a shop with our WCA merchandise. Existing features include WCA Events, News & Updates, a Walking Tour of Woodfield, an archive of our newsletters and a scrapbook Gallery. The new site was built in-house by Communications Chair Leif Harmensen using free open-source technologies. To report a bug or make a suggestion contact Leif@historicwoodfield.ca

We're also on Bluesky Social at our own domain [@historicwoodfield.ca](https://historicwoodfield.ca). Join Bluesky if you haven't already to follow the WCA (and each other)!

Do check our website <https://historicwoodfield.ca> and our Bluesky [@historicwoodfield.ca](https://historicwoodfield.ca) for up to date WCA news and event information; they are our only official publications between these biannual newsletters.



Woodfield Membership

If you have received this newsletter, you are living in the Woodfield neighbourhood. Your membership to the WCA is important for the preservation of our neighbourhood. To join the WCA please visit historicwoodfield.ca. Renewals can be done online too!

