

# WOODFIELD

NEWS

Fall 2019/Winter 2020

## HarvestFest Potluck and Auction

Tuesday, November 19, 6:30 pm

First-St. Andrew's United Church, 350 Queens Ave

HarvestFest is Woodfield's annual tradition where friends, family, neighbours gather to share a meal. The silent auction tables will be filled with many wonderful treasures donated by generous businesses and members of our community. This is our major fundraiser for the year so don't forget your cheque books! Bring your favourite potluck dish along with cutlery, a plate and cup for yourself. To donate to our auction or for more information please email: [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com).

### Streetscape Awards

We'll be voting on the Major and Minor Streetscape Improvement Awards at HarvestFest. These awards honour all the hard work and creativity that people put into the exterior of their homes. If you know of someone who deserves recognition, email your nominations by November 11 to [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com).

## Woodfield Christmas Tree Sale

Order by October 31

Pick up Saturday, December 7, 4-8 pm

The Woodfield Tree Lot is back! And it's more than just trees. Come for holiday treats, warm drinks and a campfire.

**Trees are pre-order only, so order ahead.** Pick up on Saturday, December 7 at the corner of Prospect and Princess, from 4 pm to 8 pm or have your tree delivered to your door for \$10.00.

**6 to 7 foot Fraser Firs for \$52.00**

**8 to 9 foot Fraser Firs for \$67.00**

The trees are fresh cut for the December 7 pick-up event. Please email orders **by October 31** (earlier if you can) to [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com). Proceeds go to the Woodfield Community Association.



Is a greener  
Woodfield possible?

556 Wellington Street  
High-rise Application

Victoria Park  
Secondary Plan



### 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.

Email: [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com)

Mail: P.O. Box 601, Station B  
London, Ontario N6A 4Y4.

[www.historicwoodfield.com](http://www.historicwoodfield.com)

*A member of the  
Urban League of London*

# Is a greener Woodfield possible?

By the time this newsletter hits the streets the federal election will be over and our country's leadership decided. A central theme on this year's campaign trail was the environment. Lots of dialogue around climate change, climate crisis, strikes, and community action. The election

## Victoria Park Secondary Plan

The City of London is developing a Secondary Plan to determine policy regarding how lands adjacent to the Park will be developed in the future. There have been public input meetings, the most recent was this past September. Over 100 people attended, many from outside of Woodfield. The second draft of the secondary plan is due out later this fall at which time there will be another public input meeting.

Currently zoning and the Downtown Plan allow for buildings as high as 35 storeys on the south and west sides of the Park. While the debate continues as to whether 35 storeys is OK or we should aim for a more moderate plan, the Woodfield Community Association and the Friends of Victoria Park group are hoping the second draft of the plan will support low-rise development. The reasons are many. It would be healthier for the Park by mitigating shadowing and wind tunnelling which is especially important as we face climate change; ensures continued public access and use of the Park; would be in keeping with the West Woodfield Heritage Conservation guidelines; and preserves views and vistas of important natural and built heritage such as St. Peter's Basilica and City Hall.

Please stay tuned for the announcement of the next public input meeting. For more information visit <https://getinvolved.london.ca/VictoriaPark>.

may be over, but how can we as a community help the environment on a day-to-day basis? We already do in many ways as we live downtown in an established historic neighbourhood that is a wonderful mix of old and new homes, condos, apartments and office buildings. Many of us live, work, or go to school close to home. But what can we do to move towards even greener living? There are seemingly endless directions to go with that question. What if we simply started with sharing ideas, big and small?

### Shall we try this?

There are two Facebook pages dedicated to Woodfield residents, *Historic Woodfield* and *Woodfield*

— *A letter from the Chair*

*Neighbours*. Post ideas there. If you're not on Facebook, email them to [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com). Not on email? Mail them to P.O. Box 601 Station B, London, Ontario N6A 4Y4. Let's see how much response this gets and decide what to do next! Maybe a new committee takes shape, or we publish the ideas, or start a blog, or do something completely different. Send ideas. Let's see what we can do as a community to help our future.

— Kate Rapson, Chair, WCA

**New to Woodfield?  
A long-time resident?  
Come out to one or all of  
our upcoming events!**

## News from Lord Roberts School



The students at Lord Roberts created these beautiful and colourful Stick People.

### PLANT DONATIONS WANTED

Tom Myles, the Woodfield Community Association's Rep at Lord Roberts, is looking for plants to add to the school's gardens this fall before the hard frosts or in early spring. If you split up your perennials and are willing to part with some, please drop them off at Tom's or call him and he'll pick them up. He needs hardy low-maintenance plants. Examples are Tickseed, Coneflower, Hosta, Spirea, Lamb's Ears, Asters, Day Lilies, Bearded Iris, Peonies, Lavender and Hydrangea.

If your plants are dormant and no longer recognizable, please label them.

— Tom Myles, 519 878 9285  
483 Princess Ave

### STICK PEOPLE

Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School has started a new annual tradition. This is the first year students created Stick People for display in the schoolyard. The Stick People project teaches students about diversity and tolerance and brightens up the playground.



# The 2019 Woodfield Fall Street Fair

On Saturday September 7th we held our second 'Fall' version of the Woodfield Street Fair. Once again there was scarecrow decorating, straw bales, Highland games, and the return of the amazing 'BBQ Blokes' (led by our own Jeff Carson) to complement our Woodfield Café (led as always by Alex

and Mike). Woodfielders and Londoners were out in droves celebrating our unique history through music, shows, food, displays, Victorian fairground games and more while serenaded by the clomping sounds of the horse-drawn wagon taking riders around the neighbourhood.

Big thanks to all of our volunteers and performers. This year our perennial favorites, The Woodfield Winds, were complemented by Pete Denomme and Pat for an amazing musical afternoon. Big thanks also to the Western students who generously volunteered their time throughout the day — and painted the colourful doors that will form our Pride float next summer.

See you all next year on Saturday September 12, 2020!

## Bell Box art unveiled



There's another Bell Box art piece just finished this past fall! Check out the vibrant work of Emily Cervinka, former student at Catholic Central High School, at the northwest corner of Colborne St. and Queens Ave. This latest installation of public art was made possible with funds donated by Rachel and Andy Berdan who moved to Woodfield and made a donation through Earmark, a social impact real estate initiative that donates Realtor's commission for community good. Thank you Rachel, Andy and Marla, founder of Earmark!

## 556 Wellington Street high-rise application

Earlier this year, Great West Life (GWL) submitted a site plan approval application for an 18-storey mixed-use building at 556 Wellington Street, with commercial spaces on the bottom floor facing Victoria Park, and about 500 parking spaces, two levels of which are below grade. Parking access is off Wolfe Street. The City has provided initial feedback to the developer. The Woodfield Community Association and near neighbours have met with the GWL to express concerns over the height, massing, and traffic on Wolfe Street. The group also talked to the de-



Team members of the BBQ Blokes hard at work preparing food during the Fair.

veloper about replacing the commercial spaces with residential. This is the first major development to take form around the Park, and while the current zoning will restrict what changes can be made to the proposed plans, it is important this new build is respectful to the neighbourhood. GWL has been very open to the WCA's concerns and they are taking them under consideration. There will be a public meeting during the site plan approval process, although there is no date yet.

## 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 the City Heritage Planning department at 519 661-4980 or email [heritage@london.ca](mailto:heritage@london.ca) 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!



## Carolling

**Thursday, December 19, 6:30 pm**

Another annual tradition in Woodfield! Each year, a Woodfielder opens their home for neighbours to gather and enjoy a few treats, join in a sing-along led by a pianist, then walk the neighbourhood in song! We usually meet at 6:30 pm, then head into the streets around 7:30. Email [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com) to get the location of this year's host.



# This Copper Beech has many admirers

The Trees for Woodfield Committee presents to you a little story of an outstanding American Copper Beech tree here in our midst overlooking a beautiful home on the northwest corner of William and Dufferin Avenue.

This majestic Copper Beech stands well over 100 feet and about 8 feet wide. It is thought this Copper Beech is well over 100 years old and can expect to have the typical lifespan of 150 - 200 years, though sometimes up to 300 years.

The Granger family lived in this home many years ago, and a long-time Woodfield resident recalls climbing this tree as a child. The same resident related a whimsical story... the children used to imagine that smooth silver grey bark and shape of the trunk was that of an elephant's outstretched foot.

It is highly recommended to bring along visitors to Woodfield, relatives and children of all ages to see this wonderful tree while on a Woodfield Nature Walk! It's lovely to feel the smooth texture of the bark and better yet, press your cheek to the bark while fully embracing its massive trunk. (Do however, get permission from Jeff or April — the owners of

the house — to step onto their property to get close to the tree; otherwise admire it from the sidewalk!)

Take a look way upwards to the sprawling branches of the Beech tree in each season to see the leaves unfurl as soft green in the Spring, to a rich russet colour in Summer and change to a tawny bronze colour with a mix of yellow, orange, and brown in the Fall. Interestingly the bronze leaves remain on the Beech tree throughout the winter until the Spring, while the small burr-like beechnuts of the tree drop to the ground in the Fall.

Although it does not have a known link to any historic events in Woodfield, this Copper Beech is a giant treasure to behold ... and to protect.

— Heather McRae  
Trees for  
Woodfield Committee



# A look back



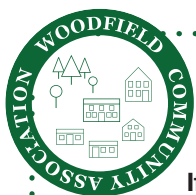
A Woodfield neighbour shared this photo recently. She remembers visiting at this house when she was a child. Directly in front of the beautiful Copper Beech at the corner of William and Dufferin (see article at left), this house was replaced by the “checkerboard apartments” (a nickname adopted by neighbours) that stands there now.

# Eco-Meditation Garden

The FSA-Woodfield Eco-Meditation Garden, located at the corner of Waterloo and Queens, was dedicated on June 23, 2019. The garden includes Indigenous healing plants, a meditation labyrinth, a bench from which to view and study chimney swifts, and an organ pipe sculpture.



Tim Turner represented the Woodfield Community Association and said what a positive contribution the garden makes to the neighbourhood. He also helped dedicate the native species trees, the rain garden, and the pollinator garden.



## 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 today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

New member \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Renewal \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Lifetime \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.00 for 4 years, Lifetime Membership \$50.00)

Complete this form and bring it with you to HarvestFest on November 19.

For more details email [info@historicwoodfield.com](mailto:info@historicwoodfield.com).