

Edifice Guild & Atelier - Our London Campus

By: Dr. Chistopher Cooper

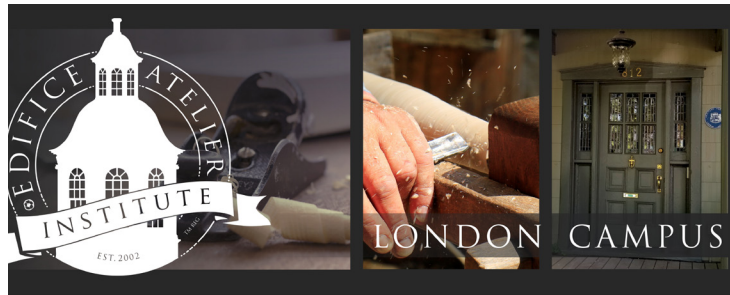
[Editor's note: Since the Middle Ages, *les ateliers* have gathered masters, apprentices, and students to produce art under the master's supervision. Since 2002, The Edifice Atelier Institute has been addressing the shortage of skills and knowledge needed to meet the current and future conservation, repair and maintenance requirements of our traditional buildings.]

The vast majority of people in Canada believe that our historic buildings should be preserved. However, despite the public's passion for built heritage, the majority don't understand the specialist skills needed to preserve them.

At a time when the entire construction industry is facing a skills shortage, we have found that there is a lack of skills to repair and maintain our heritage homes and commercial buildings, leaving property owners no other choice but to hire unskilled people.

One of the biggest complaints we have had from heritage property owners is the lack of craftspeople who can or are willing to do smaller projects. To ensure that these crucial skills are not lost and our cherished historic buildings don't fall into disrepair, a stronger pipeline of skilled talent is needed and it is important that craft skills are developed in addition to the continual promotion of professional skills, as the two skill sets are intrinsically linked to create any successful construction project, no matter how big or small.

We have found great appreciation for built heritage in London and have made the decision to search for a location for a Restoration Arts and Design school focused on our Heritage



Maintenance Program. It is very important in these times of hyper construction activities that our built heritage is often not repaired, or is maintained incorrectly with modern, unsympathetic techniques.

During the past year we have very successfully provided our Heritage

Maintenance Program in London to a select group of homeowners. The move to open the London Campus, and the establishment of the Edifice Guild of Master Craftsmen, will enable us to continue to thrive and grow our own unique identity as a leader in the field of heritage maintenance, conservation and design for the Western Ontario region.

The London Campus is central to our overall ambition of creating an environment that truly supports teaching, research and an unrivalled student experience. We are now actively searching for temporary space for a series of continuing education workshops (for heritage property owners) and short courses for our Heritage Maintenance Program, for as early as November of 2019.

As we progress over the 2019 and early 2020 season, we will be able to gauge the interest of a permanent campus for late 2020. We are excited by the prospect of working with local heritage groups, as well as private property owners to promote and maintain the wonderfully vast stock of heritage properties that are in London.

Some of the curriculum for the Heritage Maintenance Program:

- Principles of heritage design
- Principles of heritage woodworking
- Principles of heritage interiors and exteriors
- Heritage Painting and colour consultation
- Roof repair and restoration

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ACO MISSION

“Through education and advocacy, to encourage the conservation and re-use of structures, districts and landscapes of architectural, historic and cultural significance, to inspire and benefit Ontarians.”

Become a member! Join or renew online at acontario.ca/join_check.php?b_id=2 or contact us for more information.

Individual - \$35 Household - \$40

Student - \$12 Associate Member - \$45

From the President...

By: Jennifer Grainger, President

ACO London's board has seen quite a few personnel changes this summer. At our May 16th Annual General Meeting, Membership Secretary Sharon Lunau and Members-at-Large Sandra Miller, Genet Hodder, and Maggie Whalley stepped down after many years of hardworking service to ACO and London heritage. More recently, Shawn Adamsson has chosen to move on, as have Daina Cers and Julie Good. We wish everyone well in their future endeavours, both in heritage and elsewhere. Meanwhile, we have a great new team: Claire Parker has joined us as our Membership Secretary, Adam King became our Treasurer in April, and Alex Ward, Greg Nightingale, and Charles Lewis have joined the board as Members-at-Large. We do have another Member-at-Large position available, though. Looking to get more involved in ACO London? Now's your chance! Please contact us at info@acolondon.ca for more information about the position.



The AGM itself was held at London Music Hall of Fame, formerly Nash Jewellers, at 182 Dundas Street. James Reaney and Rena O'Halloran of the Hall of Fame provided us with great stories about the building's past and present. While Nash Jewellers has relocated to 655 Wonderland Road North, London Music Hall of Fame still lures Londoners downtown for live music as well as displays about London and area music history. This is Canada's only city-specific Music Hall of Fame so, if you haven't seen it yet, do brave the construction on Dundas and take a look.

ACO London held the 46th Geranium Heritage House Tour, "Encircling Victoria Park", on Sunday, June 2. The tour was another sold-out success this year. It was an extra hour long, starting at 12:00 p.m., so everyone would have time to see all the gorgeous buildings around historic Victoria Park and wonderful Woodfield. Thanks to all our volunteers for making the tour a triumph, especially Dorothy Palmer who took on the big job of GHHT Chair. We are looking for a chairperson for next year's committee, however, as well as committee members, so please contact Dorothy at j.d.palmer@sympatico.ca if you'd like to contribute.

The board met at Innovation Works, 201 King Street, for our annual Retreat on July 14. Perhaps it was the attractive heritage space, or the direction of Claire Crossley of Crossley Consulting, or just being a great team — but the group came up with lots of projects to work on over the coming months. Stay tuned!

Continued from page 1...Edifice Guild

- Heritage cladding repair and fitting
- Masonry Repair, brick and stone
- Plaster repair
- Porch design and replication
- Proper insulation techniques for a heritage building

- Window repair and restoration
- Timber framing repair and restoration
- Wooden flooring repair, restoration and replication
- Building replacement wooden windows and storms
- Building wooden replacement doors.

For more information: www.edificeguild.com

Victoria Park Secondary Plan Update

By Jennifer Grainger

As many of you know, the City of London has initiated the Victoria Park Secondary Plan to consider the future of development around London's favourite downtown park. It would be difficult to overstate the significance of Victoria Park to London. Not only is it one of the most noteworthy public parks in our increasingly dense city, it is also an important landmark in the development of London. What began as a military encampment has become a preferred gathering place for Londoners and people from across the region.

ACO London supports many of the Draft Secondary Plan Principles, including identifying opportunities for intensification, opening up view corridors to Victoria Park, continuing to protect and enhance the park as a downtown amenity, and protecting West Woodfield as a Heritage Conservation District. We also share the vision of many Londoners who wish to protect the park's environment and trees from too much intensification, instead preserving open sunlight vistas. Part of the charm of London's Victoria Park is that it remains open and spacious because of the low-rise character of the areas that surround it.

The significant shortage of affordable housing across the city, along with the need to stop suburban sprawl, makes intensification a priority. Yet it is important to reiterate that the park is within the West Woodfield Heritage Conservation District. Over-intensification would damage the HCD and set a disturbing precedent for inappropriate intensification in other Heritage Conservation Districts across the city.

Furthermore, hyper-intensification of the park perimeter while so many core parking lots are available is irresponsible and unnecessary. There are many opportunities for intensification of surface parking lots throughout the downtown core. ACO cannot support highrises around Victoria Park when there are so many other places on which to build!

Therefore, in response to the Draft Principles for the Victoria Park Secondary Plan, ACO will recommend:

- a one-block buffer of low and mid-rise buildings surrounding Victoria Park to protect the value and appeal of its historic and ecological vistas.
- development of multi-family, high or mid-rise infill on surface parking lots at least a block away from the park.
- new infill development proposals address any potential impact on the park and West Woodfield heritage resources, and ensure that new development avoids or respectfully mitigates that impact.
- existing heritage structures surrounding the park — including City Hall, the Canada Life buildings, St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica — and their historic views be conserved and protected.
- an innovative new vision for Reginald Cooper Square that will revive this important civic square adjacent to City Hall and strengthen its connection with Victoria Park.
- Kent Street be extended through to Victoria Park, creating a much improved and enticing view and access corridor into the green space to replace Angel Street.

46th Annual GHHT Victoria Park Promenade

by Dorothy Palmer, GHHT Chair

On Sunday, June 2nd the weather cooperated brilliantly for ACO London's 46th annual Geranium Heritage House Tour. For the first time since 1982, the focus of the tour was Victoria Park. Tour goers were encouraged to really explore the Park itself and ponder how perimeter development might affect this "downtown jewel."

This year's GHHT theme was "adaptive re-use" — how heritage buildings can be adapted to accommodate modern life, while preserving the character and charm of the streetscape. Several Promenaders enjoyed the opportunity to see the infrastructure of repurposed buildings, such as the Picton Street pool house and the Hyman Street pottery studio. There were many compliments as well for the renovations done at Waterloo Street, Wolfe Street, and Wellington Street.

We had over 600 people proceed along the GHHT route; we actually sold out just after noon. A special thanks to First Baptist Church for their hospitality and scrumptious tea treats.

This is ACO London's premier fundraiser: after expenses, we raised approximately \$9,000 to support our local initiatives. Much appreciation to our very supportive homeowners, the ticket outlets, Janis Wallace for her always-engaging article in the London Free Press, our numerous and faithful volunteer corps... and especially our loyal tour-goers!

A personal thank-you to fellow ACO London board members for their support, and especially to the Committee: Anna Arestova, Diane Bell, Mike Bloxam, Louanne Henderson, Alexandra Jimenez, Sharon Lunau, Susan Smythe.



420 Wolfe Street

“Disaster” foreseen if City of London fails to buy Middlesex County’s historic core properties

by; JONATHAN JUHA & NORMAN DE BONO , London Free Press, October 9, 2019

The City of London must seize the opportunity to buy valued downtown real estate, the site of London’s birthplace, from Middlesex County so that it can control how two sites are developed, downtown and heritage observers say.

Middlesex is looking at the possibility of selling its lands at 50 King St. and 399 Ridout St. N., seeking “expressions of interest” after county council rejected unsolicited offers on the land.

“It would be a wise decision (for the city),” said Gerald Gallacher, Downtown London board chairperson, saying whatever project is built on the lands overlooking the forks of the Thames River would have a tremendous impact on the downtown.

“It’s a key piece of property and, if they don’t own it, they are sort of at the mercy of a developer,” Gallacher said.

“They can control some things through site plan and zoning, but if they own it, they can lead by example and they can go ahead and do something there that can be fantastic.”

The building at 50 King St. is now the home of the Middlesex-London Health Unit, while 399 Ridout St. N., the 19th-century former London courthouse building now used as the county’s administration building.

Discussions about the future of 50 King St. and the adjacent former courthouse, which also includes a restored historic jail at the back, began earlier this year after the health unit officially notified the county that it will vacate its building and move to a new location at Citi Plaza on April 1, 2020.

Middlesex had several unsolicited offers to buy or lease the properties, but council decided on Tuesday to not move ahead with any of them.

Though neither county nor city officials would confirm it, it is something of an open secret the city has been in talks with county to buy the land. It remained unclear Wednesday why an agreement hadn’t been reached, but some suggest city hall was moving slowly.

“We are hearing the farmers got tired of the city’s dance,” said one businessperson, with knowledge of the talks. “The city is being difficult; they’re approaching it as a real estate transaction. It isn’t.”

What it is, is an opportunity to buy the single most important piece of land in the city’s downtown, the person said.

“It will be a disaster if the city does not acquire this. It is a magnificent location and should not fall into someone else’s hands.”

If the property hits the open market, as it appears it will, it will receive several bids and will be snapped up unconditionally, the businessperson added.

“This is a decision that will resonate for 100 years. The city will not get this opportunity again.”

Mayor Ed Holder and some city officials were seen leaving the county building in July following a closed-door meeting in which county politicians discussed the future of the properties.

Asked about it on Tuesday, Bill Rayburn, the county’s top bureaucrat, said he could not comment on whether the city had made an offer since county council dealt with all the offers as confidential property matters.

On Wednesday, Nathan Smith, the mayor’s director of communication, said in response to a request for comment



from The Free Press that Mayor Ed Holder “is not in a position to comment on this story.”

Jenny Grainger, president of the London branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO), called city hall buying the county-owned properties the “best possible” scenario, given its heritage value to both London and Southwestern Ontario.

“It would be great to have the City of London buy the property at the forks of the Thames because they might be more likely to look after it and ensure that its heritage is preserved than a private owner,” she said.

Core-area businesses, especially retailers, are paying close attention to the possible sale.

If it is not developed properly, it could be disastrous, said Jonathon Bancroft-Snell, a downtown activist who owns a gallery that bears his name.

“The city should own it. It makes no sense whatsoever for the health unit and old jail to go to the public. It does not make sense,” said Bancroft-Snell.

“There are cities around the world that would give their eye teeth for the possibility London now has. To throw it away is ridiculous.”

Dundas Place, the reconstruction of Dundas Street downtown into a community space, will flow directly to the sites in question and the city must keep that continuity, he added.

“It is prime municipal land and it is absurd it could fall into the hands of someone else.”

Tanya Park was the downtown city councillor when the county received rezoning to build a 28-storey highrise residential tower at 50 King St., zoning which still stands.

“It is a prime piece of real estate not only from a community perspective but from a heritage viewpoint too,” said Park, who now works as community development co-ordinator for the Parkinson’s Society Southwestern Ontario.

“A development there will be a focal point for the downtown. It is a critical piece of land.”

If the cost is out of the city’s budget, it must then place restrictions on it from a zoning standpoint so it can influence what is developed there, added Park.

Coun. Maureen Cassidy, who sits on the city’s planning committee, said she would need to hear from staff first before making up her mind about whether the city should pursue buying the lands.

“I would definitely be open to hearing whatever staff would recommend,” she said. “I would defer to staff and their expertise . . . before I could make any decision one way or the other on that.”

The Untold Stories Walking Tour

By Genet Hodder

A friendly gathering of people attended each of the four ACO walking tours held on Doors Open weekend, highlighting “untold stories” around Victoria Park and five interesting people from London’s history.

The historic characters, fully developed in an entertaining script and fully costumed, were Rachel Gadsby, an entrepreneurial widow; the Reverend John Proudfoot of the First Presbyterian Church; Major Vere Bowles, second in command at the British Garrison on the grounds of today’s Victoria Park; Cy Warman, a writer and entertainer famed for the poem and song, Sweet Marie; and Mother Clare Gaulkler, founding head of Brescia College in a mansion on Wellington and Wolfe Streets.

The walks were led by Fan Fan Blackburn, a columnist in the early London Free Press.

The Tours were coordinated by ACO London and Fuse Magazine, with support provided by the London Heritage Council. The script was written by Aimee and David Adler, the production co-directed by Marina Sheppard and David Adler. Attendance for the four performances was 155.



Register of Cultural Heritage Resources

By Kyle Gonyou and Laura Dent, Heritage Planners

London is rich with many cultural heritage resources and keeping track of them is an important task. With various inventories dating back to the 1960s and 1970s, the Inventory of Heritage Resources was consolidated and last updated in 2006. In 2007, the Inventory of Heritage Resources was adopted in its entirety as the Register pursuant to Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Since then, thousands of properties in London have been added to the Register as heritage listed properties, individually designated properties, or properties located within one of London’s Heritage Conservation Districts. The Register will identify if a property is listed or designated, the applicable heritage designating by-law, the date of designation, as well as an architectural style and date of construction if known.

On July 30, 2019, Municipal Council received the updated Register of Cultural Heritage Resources which includes heritage listed and designated properties in London – a total of 5,939 properties are included on the Register. The Register of Cultural Heritage Resources can be accessed on the City’s website www.london.ca/About-London/heritage/Pages/Register.aspx or by contacting one of the City’s Heritage Planners (heritage@london.ca or 519-661-4980). CityMap also includes the cultural heritage status of properties in London (www.maps.london.ca).



HERITAGE LONDON
FOUNDATION



Architectural Conservancy of Ontario - London Region & Heritage London Foundation. In partnership with Museum London

13th Annual London Heritage Awards: Call for Nominations

This awards program seeks to recognize individuals and organizations from either the private or public sector who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the preservation of London's built heritage. Nominees may be proposed for their long-term dedication to the cause, for a single outstanding effort that made a notable difference, for strong leadership and vision in educating the public, or for actions that have brought about a positive outcome for built heritage in our City. The awards also seek to honour projects that have actually preserved part of our built heritage. The awards will therefore be given in the following three categories:

1. To volunteers in the fields of education, awareness or advocacy.
2. Projects that have preserved built heritage.
3. Professionals, who were crucial to the success of a project or who have gone above and beyond their professional role.

The number of awards given each year will be at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

How to Nominate:

Any person may make a nomination. To do so, please fill in a nomination form that can be found on the awards website, <http://londonheritageawards.ca>. The list of awards and the evaluation criteria that the Committee will use can be found on the same website.

Alternatively, nominations may be sent by mail to ACO – HLF Awards Committee

Grosvenor Lodge, 1017, Western Road, London, Ontario N6G 1G5

By Fax to 519-645-0981 or by email to awards@acolondon.ca

Deadline for nominations is **Friday November 1st 2019**

The awards will be presented at a Gala ceremony to be held Thursday March 5th, 2020 at Museum London. Tickets for the Gala can be purchased on Eventbrite after November 1st.

E. Ann McKillop Architectural Conservancy Fund

Ann McKillop was a wife, mother, grandmother, educator, heritage preservationist and cottager. Passionately involved in heritage preservation for over 50 years, Ann was a founding member of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, London Branch. She was keenly involved in the preservation and restoration of many significant London heritage buildings, including the Labatt Building Ltd. Ridout Street Restoration at the forks of the Thames River.

Ann received a number of honours for her dedication to heritage preservation including the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Award of Excellence, the Heritage London Foundation Award of Excellence, and a spot on the Mayor's Honour List. As a testament to Ann's commitment to educating Londoners about heritage preservation, she co-founded the Annual Geranium Heritage House Tour, which has been running for more than 40 years.

To honour Ann's legacy, her family established the E. Ann McKillop Architectural Conservancy Fund at London Community Foundation in 2017. This forever fund supports the efforts of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, London Branch in promoting, conserving and interpreting the architectural heritage of the London area.

Please join us in honouring Ann and supporting heritage preservation with a gift to the E. Ann McKillop Architectural Conservancy Fund. A charitable tax receipt will be provided for any donation of \$20 or more. Visit www.lcf.on.ca/donate to give online, or mail a cheque to London Community Foundation, Covent Garden Market, 130 King Street, London, ON N6A 1C5. Want to learn more about other ways to give? Visit www.lcf.on.ca/giving-strategies.



Milling Around - Annual Bus Tour Highlights

This year's bus tour took a short driving tour of historic Tilsonburg. Visits included Annandale House, a museum and National Historic Site built in 1883 in the Victorian style known as the Aesthetic Art Movement.

A buffet style lunch was served at the Mill Tales Inn, a former 1878 pea mill along Otter Creek, followed by a guided tour of the Village of Otterville. This tour included a water-run mill (1845), the site of 1856 African Methodist Episcopal Church and Black cemetery, a blacksmith shop, two Quaker cemeteries, an Octagonal house and gazebo (1861) and a museum in a former Grand Trunk Railway station (1875). After leaving Otterville the tour had the opportunity to stop at Coyle's Country Store in Tilsonburg before returning to London.



Photos by: Cindy Hartman

UPCOMING EVENTS

London Middlesex Historical Society Meeting

October 16, 2019, 7:30pm

Topic: London Tecumsehs with Chip Martin
2nd Floor Council Chambers at Old Courthouse (Middlesex County Building), 399 Ridout Street North, London, ON.

The Morbid and Macabre

October 27 - 31, 2019

7:00 to 11:00pm (one hour house tours offered every half hour)

\$15.00 - registration required

Visit London's Oldest house rumoured to have ghosts and learn about Victorian rituals of death, traditions surrounding the afterlife and paranormal phenomena during this one hour guided tour.

Eldon House & Interpretative Centre
481 Ridout Street North, London, ON.

"Do You Dare" Grosvenor Lodge Haunted Mansion

October 25 to 30, 2019

Evening performances - 5:00pm to 10:00pm

Daytime performances - Noon to 3:00pm (October 27, 2019)

\$10.00 - \$15.00

This self guided tour of our historical property will have you locked in the mansion left to complete tasks and find clues to help you escape. Evening performances not recommended for young children.

Grosvenor Lodge
1017 Western Road, London ON.

Culture Club: Up, Up & Away: Training Local Pilots in WW2

Wednesday November 13, 2019

2:30pm to 4:00pm

Speaker: Mike Baker, Elgin County Museum Curator

Cost \$8.00 or \$10.00 for 2 people

Mike Baker will talk about the impact that the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan had on our region as it prepared thousands of young men for combat overseas.

Museum London
421 Ridout Street North, London ON.

London Middlesex Historical Society Meeting

November 20, 7:30pm

Topic: AGM and Show & Tell

2nd Floor Council Chambers at Old Courthouse (Middlesex County Building), 399 Ridout Street North, London, ON.

Pillar Community Innovation Awards

Wednesday November 20, 2019

6:30pm to 9:30pm

RBC Place, London

Cocktail reception with cash bar and hors d'oeuvres followed by awards reception.

ACO is booking a table - let us know if you want to go!

Contact info@acolondon.ca

The Christmas Truce of 1914

November 22 -23, 2019

Performances 6:30pm, 7:00pm, 7:30pm, 8:00pm, 8:30pm, 9:00pm each evening

\$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 at the door

Fanshawe Pioneer Village
2609 Fanshawe Park Road, East, London, ON.
Enter at 1424 Clark Road

Table Setting for the Holidays with Charles MacPherson

Saturday November 30, 2019 at 1:00pm, and 3:30pm sessions

In preparation for the holidays, Charles the Butler invites you to join him in the dining room of historic Eldon House to learn the art of table setting.

Eldon House & Interpretative Centre
Ridout Street North, London, ON.

Victorian Christmas

Free

Sunday December 1, 2019 to Wednesday January 1, 2020

Wednesday through Sunday 12:00 to 5:00pm

Enjoy the sights and scents of the Victorian Christmas tradition. Visit London's oldest family residence and experience the beautiful decorations of the past.

Eldon House & Interpretative Centre
481 Ridout Street North, London, ON

Christmas Tea

Saturday December 7, 2019

\$20.00 - \$40.00

12:00pm, 1:30pm and 3:00pm seatings

Registration required

Get in the holiday spirit with live entertainment, tea, and an abundant menu of savouries and sweets before touring Eldon House decorated for Victorian Christmas! By Reservation only

Eldon House & Interpretative Centre
481 Ridout Street North, London, ON.

Meet Father Christmas

Sunday December 8, 2019

Drop in between 12:00pm and 5:00pm

Enjoy self-guided tours of our Victorian Christmas exhibit with hands-on activities for children as well as a picture with Father Christmas in the Drawing Room. For a small donation, Eldon House can provide staff to take family photos using your camera or device. A limit of 3 pictures per group for large groups.

Eldon House & Interpretative Centre
481 Ridout Street North, London, ON.

The Ghost of Christmas Past

\$20.00, Registration Required

Saturday December 14 and Sunday December 15, 2019

1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm

Learn about real ghost stories of Eldon House with this 50 minute guided tour by a costumed Historical Interpreter.

Including a history of age old traditional and a 'link' to all things 'Dickens' this tour will get you in the spirit of Christmas past.

Eldon House & Interpretative Centre
481 Ridout Street North, London, ON.

New Year's Levee

Free

Wednesday January 1, 2020

Drop in 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Celebrate the New Year with a visit to Eldon House and enjoy musical entertainment in the elegant drawing room. Exchange greetings and gather with friends for hot cider and treats.

Eldon House & Interpretative Centre
481 Ridout Street North, London, ON.