

AC Advocate

Architectural Conservancy Ontario - London Region

Heritage Week 2020

ACOLondon.ca

Let's watch over our precious "Castle" Stories on page 4, 5 and 6



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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

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From the President...

By: Jennifer Grainger, President

This fall and winter, ACO London has continued to advocate for London's built heritage, communicating with the city about the deteriorating condition of Wright Lithographing, the empty former Central Library on Queen's Avenue, and the demolition request for the barn at 247 Halls Mill Road. There are signs that local media, city staff, and city council are increasingly listening to ACO and the heritage point of view. CBC Radio, CTV, CJBK, and the London Free Press have all asked for ACO opinions in recent months. Communications with city staff indicate that they are looking into creating a vacant building registry, as per the recent request of Councilor Arielle Kayabaga. And City Council did vote 12 to 3 on January 28th to designate the heritage barn in Byron, recommending that it be rebuilt by its owner. For more about the now-demolished barn, see page 3.

One of the biggest concerns in the heritage community right now is the future of 399 Ridout St. N., London's *raison d'être*, the "Old Courthouse." The recent sale of the building by the County of Middlesex to York Developments was surprising to many. Most of us agree that the building should have stayed in public hands, and what better owner than the City of London? York Developments, however, had the highest bid and now owns London's "castle." The company hasn't yet revealed plans for the structure's future, but ACO will advocate for ways to incorporate it into new development in ways respectful of its history and architecture.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Wine Cellar at Idlewyld, Grand Avenue, on April 22, 2020. The evening is being sponsored by the owner of the inn, Shmuel Farhi, and he will be one of our guest speakers. Why? Because ACO does not consider developers and property owners to be the "enemy." Rather, we believe London needs development, accompanied by respectful dialogue about where to build it. This is a chance to have a civil discussion with one of London's biggest property owners about the city's architectural future. Please come out and join us, tour the inn, and take part in the conversation.

Besides all this, ACO's 2020 projects include: more community engagement on social media; outreach to Middlesex County; contributions to the Victoria Park Secondary Plan; booths at trade shows and local events; lectures on local architecture; cooperation with neighbourhood organizations; and, of course, this year's Geranium Heritage House Tour in Blackfriars. Please contact us at info@acolondon.ca if you'd like to lend your skills to any of these projects; we'd love to have our members more involved with activities. Plus, we have spaces to fill on the board so let us know if you'd like to contribute at a higher level.

ACO London Branch and Middlesex County

ACO London Region Branch already plays an active role in promoting and protecting built heritage within the city of London. We recognize that we can step up our efforts in the surrounding region, especially Middlesex County. Whether you're an ACO member, a concerned resident, a local service provider, or someone involved in heritage, we'd like to hear from you! What could we do for your town or municipality? Which buildings can we actively work to protect? Which organizations would you like to see us partner with? Contact us at info@acolondon.ca. Or come speak with us in person at the Middlesex Centre Archives Heritage Fair at the Delaware Community Centre on Saturday, February 22nd, from 10 am-4 pm.

Directory of Heritage Practitioners

In response to requests from members of the public, ACO London is compiling a directory of local tradespeople who have the knowledge, skill, and desire to do repair and restoration work on heritage structures.

If you've hired a carpenter, plasterer, window glazer, slate roofer, stone mason, painter, general contractor, or other expert who deserves to be included in the directory, please contact Kelley McKeating (kelly.mckeating@sympatico.ca).



“The Battle of Byron”

by Jenny Grainger

Once upon a time, heritage advocates concerned themselves with regal mansions, commercial blocks, and quaint cottages. Barns were seldom of much concern. But older farm buildings are rapidly disappearing, especially within the city. This was noted in 2018, when two tile-clad barns at 660 Sunningdale Road were considered worthy of preservation. Now a deteriorating red barn at 247 Halls Mill Road has caused a major controversy.

Concerned Byron neighbours complained to the city that the barn owner was removing approximately half of the barn’s roofing material without a valid demolition permit in September 2019. On December 10, the remainder of the roof beams collapsed. At their January 20 meeting, the Planning & Environment Committee passed a motion requesting City Council to designate the property. Councilor Anna Hopkins recommended that, in addition, the city a) evaluate more properties in Byron for possible designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and b) that the Civic Administration should undertake an evaluation of barns located throughout the city for possible designation. The issue went to the full council on January 28 where city councillors voted 12 to 3 for designation. Despite this, the owner demolished the barn during the night of January 30. At the time of writing, the city’s response is not yet known.

A number of issues arise from this debacle: 1) What kind of penalty does a property owner deserve who ignores a city council decision? 2) To what extent does heritage trump property rights? 3) How many city residents support heritage designations or understand what changes can be made to a building that’s been designated? 4) Should buildings be preserved *in situ* or be moved to other locations like Fanshawe Pioneer Village? 5) Would including the barn on a city heritage inventory that was periodically inspected have prevented the barn’s neglect and eventual destruction?

One thing is for certain: the more neighbours and groups like ACO speak up, the more the city pays attention. There were a large number of concerned Byron residents and ACO members sitting in the council chamber gallery on January 20 and 28. ACO and many others wrote letters to the city expressing concern about the barn and many spoke about the barn’s importance to Byron and the need for designation. The city’s resulting decision may well indicate the importance of letter writing and attendance at city committee meetings for heritage preservation. ACO encourages all its members to get involved like this. Meanwhile, we wait to see what happens next in Byron.

Volunteer Opportunities

By: Kelley McKeating, Vice President

ACO London has no paid staff. Year in and year out, everything that we accomplish is the result of the time and effort donated to the organization by its Board members and other volunteers.

Want to become more involved? Here are some options:

Community Outreach -The least demanding – in terms of time commitment – of our volunteer opportunities is to spend a couple of hours at the ACO London booth answering questions about heritage conservation and our organization. If you’re uncomfortable going solo, we’ll team you up with a more experienced volunteer. And, we have a “cheat sheet” of useful facts to help you out. Soak up the atmosphere at the Gathering on the Green (Saturday, June 6), the Old East Village Block Party (July), or the Woodfield Fair (Saturday, September 12) from the shaded comfort of the ACO London tent! Sign up when you see the email call for volunteers a month or so prior to the event, or send a note to info@acolondon.ca and ask to be put on our Community Outreach volunteer contact list. Put “Community Outreach” in your subject line.

Another way to help us engage with the larger London community is to help out with the Geranium Heritage House Tour. The 47th version of our largest fundraising event will take place on Sunday, June 7. Almost 80 people help out each year. Volunteers can take a 2.5-hour shift in one of the houses on the tour, deliver posters to local businesses in the weeks leading up to the event, or help with the overall organizing and marketing of the tour. If you want to be part of the team, email info@acolondon.ca and put “GHHT” in your subject line. Or, stay tuned for our call for volunteers later this winter.

Member Engagement - The Programme Committee organizes up to four or five events for ACO members each year. These range from lectures to house tours to a full-day bus tour to the Annual General Meeting. If you’d like to be part of this team, email info@acolondon.ca and put “Programme” in the subject line. The time commitment will vary based on which events you decide to help out with.

Advocacy - If you want to write letters, do research, and/or speak at city hall meetings in support of threatened heritage buildings and streetscapes, please contact the Board through info@acolondon.ca. Please put “Advocacy” in the subject line and remember to include a telephone number. A Board member will call you to provide details about the advocacy process. With that information, you can decide what level of involvement would work best for you.

Policy - ACO London’s Policy Committee does research and drafts recommendations regarding policies and initiatives to better support and encourage heritage conservation in the City of London. The committee currently has five members, and would welcome one or two more. Many hands make light work! No experience or specialized knowledge necessary. The time commitment would be four to five hours per month. If you’re interested, please email info@acolondon.ca and put “Policy” in the subject line. The committee chair will contact you.

Governance - At the Annual General Meeting (April 22), ACO members will elect several new Members-at-large and a new Vice-president to the Board. If you’re interested in learning more about these leadership opportunities, please email info@acolondon.ca and put “Board” in the subject line. The Nominations Committee chair will contact you.

In Defence of the Old Courthouse

by Sylvia Chodas

I've always loved the Old Courthouse. I remember walking by the "castle" as a teenager when I had a summer job next door to it in the old Middlesex Social Services building. I looked up at its battlemented towers and wondered whether soldiers had ever peeked out over them. I wondered what the jail looked like, behind that tall stone wall.

But it was Peg Leg Brown who made me really fall in love with the Old Courthouse. Or rather, the unknown actor who played Peg Leg Brown one year in the Lost Soul Stroll, London's annual ghost walk. It was a cold October evening. We followed our otherworldly tour guide through the dark streets of downtown listening to tales of London's murders and mysterious deaths. As we approached the Old Courthouse, a burly figure limped out from behind the bushes on a wooden leg, wearing a tattered overcoat and leaning on a cane. He was silhouetted against the courthouse spotlight in such a way that we could barely make out his face, and he recounted in a gruff voice the story that led to his hanging on that very ground. I was enchanted. Only in that setting could history come so alive.

Jumping ahead to this past November 28th, I was dismayed to pick up a copy of the London Free Press and find that the Courthouse, London's oldest public building, had been sold by Middlesex County council to a land development company. I discovered that a month earlier, on Oct. 16th, Middlesex County had released an "Expression of Interest" document for the potential sale of 50 King St. (the Health Unit property) and 399 Ridout St. N. (the Old Courthouse). Bids would be evaluated on criteria which included, among other things, 75 points out of 100 for "the higher the price proposed to be paid for the purchase of the properties collectively" and a mere five points out of 100 for expressed interest in heritage.

Although the City of London had put in a bid, "Middlesex County instead inked a conditional deal with London's York Development, which is vowing to build a 'very large-scale mixed-use development' on the site" the Free Press reported. The beautiful old building would soon belong to a private corporation, and the potential impact of that scenario was frightening to me.

My concern was echoed in the same Free Press article where our president Jenny Grainger responded, "It's shocking to think that a building of this nature would end up in the hands of a private developer".

Our New Membership Secretary

Please allow us to introduce our new Membership Secretary, Claire Parker. A proud London native, Claire has a deep appreciation for local history and visual culture. As a student of art history at Western University, she was interested in the intersections between gothic revivalism and the 20th century avant-gardism. Claire currently lives in the Woodfield heritage district with her husband Rodney. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening at home and in her community garden plot.

Claire looks forward to engaging with ACO London's membership, recruiting new members, and working with like-minded Londoners to conserve the city's architectural heritage. Sharon Lunau, ACO London's previous Membership Secretary, left big shoes to fill – but Claire is looking forward to the challenge! Do you have questions about your ACO London membership? Would you like to volunteer with ACO London? Contact Claire at membership@acolondon.ca

As the news spread, I witnessed the affection Londoners have for the "castle". Everyone I spoke to was concerned for its future. Emails began flying throughout the heritage community questioning the validity of the sale and whether there was a chance it could be blocked or at least delayed. After all, the property had been gifted, not sold, to Middlesex County by the province of Ontario in 1979. Did they now have either the legal or moral authority to sell it into private hands? It is a National Heritage Site. It is the oldest building in London, and one of the most important heritage buildings in Southwestern Ontario.

With less than two weeks until the conditional sale of the two properties would become final, ACO members and other heritage activists sprang into action. With Jenny Grainger's guidance we formed a plan to research pertinent documents, seek legal advice, and contact ACO provincial. We elicited letters from ACO members and the public to be sent to London and Middlesex County councillors, area politicians, the London Free Press and to be posted on social media. I emailed the clerk of Middlesex County requesting to speak at the Dec. 11 council meeting where I made an eleventh-hour plea for a delay. I knew it my words would fall on deaf ears, but I also knew it was the only opportunity for a voice from the public to be heard. Nevertheless, after I spoke they voted to finalize the sale of 50 King Street.

As for the sale of 399 Ridout, the Courthouse, the conditional sale became final on Dec. 16 with no opportunity at all for public input.

The fact that Middlesex County had insisted on selling the two properties together seems puzzling. They could have chosen to sell the Health Unit property on its own. It was already zoned for high-rise development, and its current building has little heritage interest. The Courthouse property could have been offered separately, with further bids sought from entities more interested in maintaining public access.

In the end the deed is done. As part of the sale agreement, Middlesex County can remain in the courthouse building for up to four years. Thankfully they have taken excellent care of it throughout their time there. Hopefully York Developments will show the same respect. But it will be up to all of us to hold them to task and keep an eye out for the plans they put forth over the next years. Let's watch over our precious "castle".



The Old Courthouse's Designation as a National Historic Site

From 1826 to 1829, the Middlesex County Courthouse was constructed at the Forks of the Thames River. It has stood for almost 200 years at the forks. It was recognized as a National Historic Site of Canada on May 10, 1955 under the statute of the Historic Sites and Monuments Act.

The Parks Canada Directory of Federal Heritage Designations describes the Old Courthouse as:

"... an imposing structure located on a 1.6-hectare parcel of land in London, Ontario. Built in 1827, it is a very early example of the Gothic Revival style, pre-dating the earliest important Gothic Revival public building in England, the Houses of Parliament (1840-1865). Although significant alterations were made in the 1880s, the building retains its original Romantic Gothic Revival character. It features a central tower and Gothic Revival elements such as corner octagons, crenellation, pointed-arch openings and label mouldings. The designation refers to the building on its footprint." https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfnd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=415

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada explains why the Old Courthouse was designated as one of the only four National Historic Sites of Canada in London:

The Middlesex County Court House was designated a national historic site of Canada in 1955 because: it is associated with the early administrative organization of the province, the site of the building having been proposed by Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe for the provincial capital. The building was constructed in 1827 as the District Seat under the leadership of Colonel Thomas Talbot, founder of the Talbot Settlement; and, it is a nationally significant example of the Gothic Revival Style of architecture in Canada.

Sale of the Old Courthouse Timeline

1826-29 – the Middlesex County Courthouse is constructed at the Forks of the Thames River

1955 – the Courthouse property becomes a National Historic Site of Canada — this designation can be said to apply to the *whole block*, as the designation speaks of the area “bounded by Ridout, Dundas, and King Streets” and of the building’s “siting, setback from the street in a park-like setting”.

1979 – the Courthouse property is “gifted” to Middlesex County by the Province of Ontario.

1980 - the City of London designated the courthouse under the Ontario Heritage ACT and, in 1981, the Ontario Heritage Trust secured a heritage easement on the building. Easements do not prohibit change, they ensure that change is managed in a manner consistent with sound conservation principles. The easement runs with the title of the property, the conditions for the property’s conservation remain in place should you sell or bequeath the property, thereby ensuring its long-term preservation. The Trust is then responsible for monitoring the site to ensure that the easement’s original conservation intentions are followed.

2018 – On March 23 the property, now with two separate addresses, 399 Ridout (the Courthouse) and 50 King (the Health Unit building) is severed, a move considered a bit of a legal novelty.

2019- October 16 – Middlesex County releases an Expression of Interest document for the “potential sale of 50 King St. and 399 Ridout St. N,” in which an “evaluation criteria” outlines 75 points out of 100 are awarded for “the higher the price proposed to be paid for the purchase of the Properties

In 1793, John Graves Simcoe, the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada reserved an area at the forks of the Thames for the proposed capital of the province. Although York (Toronto) was eventually chosen as the capital, the government retained the site for public purposes. The London district was created in the south-western part of Upper Canada in 1800. A year later, Thomas Talbot, who had accompanied Simcoe as his private secretary during his tour of inspection of the province in 1793, immigrated to Upper Canada and received an extensive land grant in the new district. Talbot spent the next 40 years promoting the settlement of a huge area of present-day south-western Ontario along the north shore of Lake Erie, known as the Talbot Settlement.



In 1826, Upper Canada’s parliament situated the new District Seat at the forks of the Thames and had a town plot surveyed for the town of London. In 1827 the Court House Building Committee under Talbot’s leadership undertook to build a new courthouse and jail in the District Seat at London. Designed by John Ewart of York, the impressive Gothic Revival style structure was completed early in 1829. In 1846, a separate jail building was attached to the west side. By 1878, an eastward extension and a massive central tower were added. A law library was added to the south side in 1911.

(HSMBC minutes, July 2007; Record Number: HSM HS)

collectively (and five points out of 100 for expressed interest in heritage).

Nov. 28 – News release on the Conditional sale of the Courthouse property (399 Ridout St.) and the Health Unit property (50 King St.) collectively to York Developments for a “large-scale mixed-use development”. ACO President Jenny Grainger responds in the media “It’s shocking to think that a building of this nature would end up in the hands of a private developer”.

Nov. 28 – social media begins to light up with concern for the fate of the courthouse.

Dec. 3 – ACO member Sylvia Chodas contacts Middlesex County Council requesting to speak at the upcoming Dec. 5 Council meeting, despite the fact that no input was sought from the public. The meeting is deferred to Dec. 11.

Dec. 8 – ACO president Jenny Grainger calls an emergency meeting of all interested persons to brainstorm ways to delay or stop the sale. Letters are elicited from ACO members and the public to be sent to London and Middlesex County councillors, area politicians, the London Free Press and posted on social media.

Dec. 11 – Meeting of Middlesex County Economic Development Corporation is held to finalize the conditional sale of 50 King Street. Sylvia Chodas addresses the council to petition for the sale to be delayed. Nevertheless, a vote is taken and the sale of 50 King is finalized.

Dec. 16 – the sale of 399 Ridout Street (the Old Courthouse) becomes final. Middlesex County may stay in the building for 4 years, after which its fate is unknown.

Address to the Middlesex County Economic Development Corporation

By Sylvia Chodas, December 11, 2019

(NOTE: The County Clerk Ms Kathy Bunting warned me that I am only allowed to speak on the sale of 50 King Street at this meeting. Therefore I must refer to The Old Courthouse property at 399 Ridout Street, which is MY REAL CONCERN, as "the adjacent property".)

My name is Sylvia Chodas. I live at 82 Ridout St. South, London, Middlesex County.

Firstly, let me congratulate you Warden Burghardt-Jesson, on your new position as Warden for 2020. I attended the Inaugural Council Meeting last Thursday, here in this beautiful courtroom, and I was impressed with the ceremony and Medway Choir's singing. I listened carefully to your speech where you referred to: 1. the need for fiscal responsibility of government (upon which everyone agrees) and 2. "the importance of relationships with our residents... so that they can love and appreciate Middlesex County as all of us that govern do". Those were inspiring words that speak to respect between government and citizens.

I am here today as a concerned citizen to speak, respectfully, about your sale of 50 King Street (and its adjacent property) to a private land development company.

I'll speak on: 1. history of the site 2. public vs private ownership 3. the sale itself

The LAND at 50 King Street is a historic site, as you know, one of the most historic sites in Southwestern Ontario. This site was chosen in 1793 by John Graves Simcoe and has been in public hands up until today. I remind you and today's guests that this parcel of land was gifted to Middlesex County from the Province of Ontario in 1979 for public use.

Middlesex County Councils over the years, including yourselves, have been excellent stewards of the historic land and buildings, and you are to be commended for your stewardship. It is understandable that you have now made the decision to move your offices to a new location closer to your constituents. What is not understandable to me is your decision to sell this land into the hands of Private Enterprise, a realm where The Public Good is not top priority.

I'm sure the land developer in this case has fine plans for the property, however the manner in which heritage will be honoured remains unknown. Even with the company's assurances, even with heritage designations which offer a fair

amount of protection, even with the easement which exists on a portion of the land,in the end "all bets are off" when public property goes private.

Many books, essays, and articles have been written about the benefits of public vs private ownership of historic properties. Example: When a public site is owned by a federal, provincial, or municipal government or even not-for-profits it serves as a place where people can meet, where non-commercial interactions take place, and where people have a sense of shared "ownership."

I am concerned about the manner in which the sale of 50 King Street and the adjacent property has unfolded – it is puzzling to me, and to everyone I have spoken to.

1. The seemingly short time frame between the Oct. 16 release of the Expression of Interest to the Nov. 26 announcement of the sale.
2. No opportunity for public input.
3. "Evaluation criteria" for bids where 75 points out of 100 were awarded for the financial offer and only 5 points out of 100 for showing heritage interest.
4. The decision to sell the two properties collectively.

I feel it would have been more respectful of the residents of both Middlesex County and London to sell the two properties separately, with a different bidding criteria and process for each. That way the sale of the one property (50 King) could be source of revenue for the County - and the sale of the adjacent property could be opened up for public input, creative ideas and scenarios, negotiations with museums, schools, colleges, the university, and ideally with the City of London who, by the way, I feel are equally at fault in failing to come up with a way to keep the property public.

Lastly, I realize as we all do that the conditional offer on 50 King Street will become final today. As for the sale of the adjacent property however — I know it's the 11th hour — but my greatest wish would be for the ratification of the sale on December 16 to be postponed to make way for further discussion. ... For the sake of present and future citizens of London and Middlesex County.

Thank you once again for your stewardship of this property and for allowing me to speak to you today.

A Tale of Two Theatres, by Arthur McClelland

Joint Meeting between ACO London and the London & Middlesex Historical Society

7:30 pm, Wednesday, March 18, 2020

2nd floor Council Chambers, Old Courthouse (Middlesex County Building), 399 Ridout Street North.

A talk on the architecture and history of two theatres in downtown London which opened within a week of each other. Loew's Theatre (later the Century) opened on February 16, 1920 and Allen's Theatre (later the Capitol) opened on February 23, 1920.

Logistics - Please enter on the south side of the building and arrive before 7:30 p.m.. There will be no access to the building once the meeting commences.

Parking is available in the parking lot behind the Old Courthouse (to the southwest, off King Street). To enter the lot, press the button for Visitor parking. A Historical Society member will let vehicles out of the parking lot after the meeting so that there is no charge for parking. If an event is taking place on the same evening and they are charging for parking, just tell the attendant on duty that you are there for the Historical Society meeting and they will allow access to the parking lot if space is available. Early arrival is recommended.



ACO London Region Branch and Heritage London Foundation in partnership with Museum London present

The 13th Annual London Heritage Awards Gala

Thursday March 5th, 2020 at Museum London

Reception at 6:30pm in the Atrium with hors d'oeuvres & a cash bar

Awards Ceremony 7:30pm sharp in the Centre at the Forks.

Tickets are \$25.00 inclusive of fees and include a complimentary bar drink.

*ACO and HLF members receive an admission and drink ticket free of charge as part of their members, so watch your index for an invite from Paperless Post in order to R.S.V.P.

Tickets and Registration through EventBrite. Some tickets will be available at the door. For further information please email Susan Bentley at awards@acolondon.ca

Fahri and “The Restoration”

by Jenny Grainger

Recently, Farhi Holdings Corporation proposed a new development to be built behind 435-451 Ridout St. N., a group of buildings known variously as the Ridout Restoration, Labatt Restoration, or Bankers’ Row. ACO has a special connection with these buildings, since our branch was initiated in 1966 to fight their proposed demolition. While Mr. Farhi has no apparent intent to demolish, his proposal does raise a number of concerns, which I mentioned in a recent letter to city staff and council’s Planning & Environment Committee:

- This proposed tower and the one proposed by York Developments at 50 King Street are a “slippery slope,” setting precedents for more towers to be built along the Thames, a Canadian Heritage River. When highrises crowd the waterfront, they detract from the ambiance of the river forks, Harris Park, walking path, and river view.
- This is a floodplain. The overflowing Thames has been known to cover Harris Park and its adjacent parking lot. How will the water impact a building perched on the park’s edge?
- Will Bankers’ Row be able to withstand construction disturbances, including excavations and vibrations?
- The current zoning limits the height of construction on the property to the height of the existing structures – three storeys. Should zoning changes or “bonusing” really allow buildings nearly ten times taller than what’s already there?
- The proposed highrise and its podium are not in keeping with the style of the current heritage buildings, a National Historic Site. The Ridout Restoration provides a capsule view of the appearance of mid-19th century Ontario communities. It cannot continue to do so with an unsympathetic contemporary development behind.
- Besides the Ridout Restoration, this part of Ridout Street contains: Eldon House, London’s oldest house; Museum London, the city’s best-known gallery; the Old Courthouse, the city’s oldest building. Together, this streetscape constitutes the heart of London, an area we should be promoting to tourists. A highrise development will overwhelm and diminish the other structures, making this area look less like London, Ontario and more like bland modernity everywhere.
- Why build on this site at all? Twenty percent of the downtown core consists of surface parking lots, according to the city’s planning department. Developers should be encouraged to build on these available spaces, rather than on sites where there are already heritage buildings.

A Heritage Homeowner on a Family Home

1 Clenray Place was built in 1932 and is currently owned by the third generation of homeowners from the same family.

The house is an example of the Tudor Revival style. Clenray Place is believed to have been built by noted London homebuilder Roy James. The story in the family is that Mr. James built it for his own use, but he went bankrupt in the Depression and was forced to sell the house.

The city directory of 1932 notes a neon sign salesman named Lawrence living at 1 Clenray Place, who is believed to have been a renter while Roy James was finishing with the construction. Sometime in 1933, Julius and Rose Cohen purchased the home. The family previously lived at 919 Waterloo St. in London, and prior to that, had been residents in the Hamilton area. Julius Cohen (1900-1974) originally came to London having bought Liberty Ladies Wear on Richmond St. He and Rose ran that business for a few years, but by the end of the 1930’s they had opened a business known to generations of Londoners: Young Canada.

The home at 1 Clenray changed little from its construction through the years, apart from the addition of an attached garage facing Regent St. that was built sometime in the early 1940s. In 1968, Julius passed away, and Rose Cohen (1902-87) sold the house that summer to her daughter Geraldine (1926-2016) and her husband Joseph Pfeiffer (1926-2019). Gerry and Joe had both worked at Young Canada over the years, but they ultimately struck out on their own in 1965, opening the clothing retailer Tweens N Teens at 246 Dundas St, the first store in London aimed to the burgeoning teenage girl market. Joe and Gerry lived at 1 Clenray Place until her death in 2016. Joe carried on in the home, but eventually moved to the Oakcrossing retirement home in November 2017.

After 49 years in the same home, it was important to Joe to carry on the family tradition, and the home was sold to his granddaughter Julie and her husband Kevin Jordan, who moved in in early 2018. Kevin and Julie were both history majors at Western, and it is important to both of them to carry on both the family traditions and that of the house. Apart from a kitchen renovation in 1988, the home is fully original on the inside, with wedding cake plaster ceilings, gum wood trim, original windows, marble tile floors in the main bathroom, and nearly all of the house’s original polychrome and brass with icicle crystal lighting fixtures.

The house is not listed on the city’s heritage register yet, because Kevin & Julie are trying to finish restoring the exterior to its original condition before listing it.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Day at the Museum

February 17, 1:00pm

A fun-filled and free day at the Museum! Get inspired by our exhibitions, make art, listen to music and take a pop tour.

Cost: Free

Museum London, 421 Ridout Street North, London ON

London Middlesex Historical Society Meeting

February 19, 7:30pm

Topic: Wilberforce Colony, by Lucan Area Heritage and Donnelly Museum.

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

The London Architecture Series: Alex Josephson, co-founders of PARTISANS

February 20, 7:00pm

Alex Josephson co-founded Partisans in 2012 after studying architecture at the University of Waterloo, the University of Rome and the Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA).

Cost: Free

Museum London, 421 Ridout Street North, London ON

Middlesex Centre Archives Heritage Fair

February 22, 10:00am to 4:00pm

2652 Gideon Drive, Delaware, ON

Magisterra at the Museum: Masterworks

February 27, 7:00pm

Magisterra Soloists brings to you the fabulous playing of legendary guest pianist, Walter Delahunt, in this program of timeless and adored chamber music.

Cost: \$30.00, <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/magisterra-at-the-museum-masterworks-tickets-64389197824>

Museum London, 421 Ridout Street North, London ON

The Artist Sketchbook

February 29, 9:00am

Explore the sketchbook as a place to develop new ideas, learn fundamentals, improve technique and both document and express yourself in your day-to-day life.

Cost: \$190.00, <https://app.etapestry.com/cart/MuseumLondon/default/item.php?ref=759.0.675045399>

Museum London, 421 Ridout Street North, London ON

Upstairs, Downstairs

February 29, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Registration Required

Learn about the relationship between the servant and the served at Eldon House on this in depth tour featuring the servant quarters and the daily life of a servant. Through images and diaries, as well as hands on activities. Guests will explore what it would be like to live and work at Eldon House throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

Eldon House, 481 Ridout Street North, London, ON

Heritage Gala & Awards

March 5, 6:30pm

ACO London Region and Heritage London Foundation in partnership with Museum London present the 13th Annual London Heritage Awards Gala, at Museum London. Reception at 6:30pm in the Atrium with hor's d'oeuvres & cash bar. Awards ceremony starts 7:30pm start in the Centre at the Forks.

Tickets are \$25.00 inclusive of fees and include a complimentary bar drink.

Museum London, 421 Ridout Street North, London ON

PA Day Camp

March 6, 8:30am

Explore the worlds of colour and emotion. Does yellow make you happy or do you really get green with envy?

Cost: \$50.00, <https://app.etapestry.com/cart/MuseumLondon/default/item.php?ref=759.0.665196672>

Museum London, 421 Ridout Street North, London ON

London Advisory Committee on Heritage meeting

March 11, 5:30pm

London City Hall

300 Dufferin Street. London, ON.

March Break Camp: Crazy for Canada

March 16, 8:30am

Join us for this mixed media camp which will include discussions and activities inspired by the Canadian art on display.

Cost: \$250.00, <https://app.etapestry.com/cart/MuseumLondon/default/category.php?ref=759.0.668820601>

Museum London, 421 Ridout Street North, London ON

London Middlesex Historical Society Meeting

March 18, 7:30pm

Joint meeting with ACO London Branch.

Topic: A Tale of Two Theatres, by Arthur McClelland

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

March Break Family Drop-in Day

March 19, 10:00am to 3:00pm

Spend some time exploring heritage and discover the history of Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

Cost: Free

Fanshawe Pioneer Village, 1424 Clark Road, London, ON.

The London Architecture Series: "Architecture of Infinity" Film Screening

March 19, 7:30pm

Schaub explores, together with the architects Peter Zumthor, Peter Märkli and Alvaro Siza Vieira, the artists James Turrell and Christina Iglesias and drummer virtuoso Joja Mayer, the magic of sacred spaces.

Cost: Free,

Museum London, 421 Ridout Street North, London ON

History and Sign Design

Pick one of the Arbour's Attics carefully curated sign options. No artistic ability necessary, all supplies provided, paint and stain chosen the evening of the event. Brittney will walk you through the steps to complete your wood sign - the perfect piece to add to your home. Limit spots available, advance registration required. Presented in partnership with the Arbour's Attic. Hosted in the Modern Trillium Community Gallery, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, 1424 Clark Road, London, ON. More details coming soon.

London Middlesex Historical Society Meeting

April 15, 7:30pm

Topic: Farmerettes with Bonnie Sitter

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

ACO London Branch Annual General Meeting

April 22,

Idylewyld Inn, 36 Grand Ave, London, ON

ACO London Branch Geranium Heritage House Tour

June 7, - Watch for more details