

13th ANNUAL LONDON HERITAGE AWARDS HELD MARCH 5th, 2020

ACO London and Heritage London Foundation (HLF) hosted the 13th annual London Heritage Awards at Museum London on March 5, 2020. The awards are given out each year by the two organizations to recognize outstanding leadership in heritage conservation across the London region. Emceed by past award recipient Wes Kinghorn, the ceremony awarded certificates to the individuals and organizations in both the private and public sector who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to London's built heritage. Attendees enjoyed a reception in Museum London's atrium before the awards were presented in the adjoining Centre at the Forks overlooking the Forks of the Thames. While not a heritage building itself, Museum London is situated in a beautiful location overlooking the Forks of the Thames where London began. What a more fitting site in which to celebrate London's heritage?

This year the awards committee revamped the categories. The awards now include recognition of smaller projects that might seem insignificant to some, but that nonetheless help to ensure the historic character and ambiance of our neighbourhoods is preserved. Last year we recognized an archive project that was not architectural in nature, so this year, we decided to add an Archival History Award to the roster. The award recognizes people who preserve our local heritage using documents or raise awareness through writing or photography.

Heritage Professional Award - John Nicholson

John is recognized for his stellar career as an architect in London during which he had a leading role in designing many adaptive re-use and renovation projects for older buildings. Some of those buildings were not exactly historic but nevertheless required upgrading. The room the awards were held in is an example of John's talent for imaginative redesign of an existing structure. Another example is the Roundhouse conversion which received a London Heritage...

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John Nicholson



Lincoln McCardle and his mom Judi



Award Winner, Lincoln McCardle with city councillor Arielle Kayabaga, Gerald Gallacher and awards MC Wes Kinghorn.

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Geranium Heritage House Tour -

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Policy - Jennifer Grainger

Program - Arthur McClelland

Newsletter Editor - Brian MacAskill

Newsletter Layout - Marty Peterson

Website - Marty Peterson

info@acolondon.ca

519-645-2845

c/o Grosvenor Lodge

1017 Western Road

London, ON N6G 1G5

Facebook: ACOLondon

Twitter: @ACOLondonOnt

Website: acolondon.ca

Instagram: [instagram.com/aco_london](https://www.instagram.com/aco_london)

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.”

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Individual - \$35 Household - \$40

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From the President...

By: Jennifer Grainger, President

During times as unusual and worrying as these, it's not surprising that ACO London has had to postpone events. Not only has our board not been able to meet in person, but we've had to delay the Geranium Heritage House Tour and our Annual General Meeting. We've tentatively rescheduled the GHHT, to be held in Blackfriars, for August 30. We hope that date won't be too hot or cold, doesn't conflict with other city events, and, most importantly, will be well past the last case of COVID-19! As for our AGM, we'll let everyone know the new date just as soon as we can arrange it. For now, everyone just needs to stay safe.



Meanwhile, many of us are wondering what the “new normal” will be. Will London and the world be too distracted by health and economic problems to focus on heritage architecture and urban design? If so, ACO will do its best to make sure our built heritage isn't forgotten. During the post-pandemic recovery, we'll need to remind our politicians that heritage conservation is a powerful economic stimulus. Not only are heritage buildings an important part of tourism, but restoration projects create even more jobs than new construction!

When the lockdown ends, ACO will still be seeking ways to highlight and preserve London's built heritage. Now is the time to ask ourselves questions like: What kind of development do we want near designated heritage sites? Can we prevent Victoria Park from being surrounded by skyscrapers? How can we encourage the adaptive reuse of the older buildings that constitute our architectural inheritance?

In the future, the past will be as important as ever. Let's remain vigilant.

ACO London's New Event Furnishings

This year ACO London refreshed a few of our event booth furnishings; one new branded tablecloth, and one new branded pop-up tent roof. It should now be easier for you to find ACO London in the sea of display tables, or pop-up tents at future events!



We recently showcased our updated display at a few public events before COVID19 sent us all into isolation. We participated in this year's LifeStyle Home Show, the London Heritage Fair, and the Middlesex Centre Heritage Fair, with plans to engage in other events throughout the Spring and Summer. Unfortunately, these events have either been canceled or postponed, so stay tuned to hear about some new dates.

Thanks, from all of us, for doing your best to abide by the public health guidelines during this unprecedented time of social isolation, and we hope to see you again soon!

The Julia Hunter Fund

The Julia Hunter Fund, based in London, supports public gardens and community outreach in the London area as well as opportunities for collaboration with other groups.

Founded in 2005, the Julia Hunter Fund offers grants from its investment income and its current donations to undertake a variety of projects to support public gardens. The Fund holds its endowment within the London Community Foundation; its mailing list now includes about 300 donors and supporters.

The mission focuses on design, community and the natural environment, all in the public realm. Considering the long term, the Fund is currently developing a portfolio of successful projects whose nature will guide its future decision makers in their grant making.

Examples of past work include research on dementia and gardening, with the McCormick Home; a nomination-only citywide garden contest; and the founding of 30 pollination gardens across Southwestern Ontario, including its continuing "Gardens4Bees" project, whose sign you might have seen at Richmond and Queens Avenue on the Fibonacci-series based garden at St Paul's Cathedral.

For this year of unusual need, the Fund is contacting past grant recipients to offer a top-up grant to help maintain their projects. In addition, one new idea for these times is the offer of houseplants to be distributed to currently locked-in residents of a seniors-housing apartment in Woodfield.

Potential for joint projects

It was thanks to Councillor Phil Squire that the ACO and the Fund met in January of this year to explore options.



St. Anne's pollination garden (1344 Commissioners Road W., Byron)

As we reviewed past work, two Julia Hunter Fund projects offered inspiration for collaboration. A 2006 symposium, "Heritage Landscapes", was held at University College's Conron Hall at Western, with Yves Gosselin, the president of RAIC, as keynote speaker. The symposium included a panel of civic planners, four guided tours of the Western campus, a specially curated exhibition at the McIntosh Gallery, and a brass quintet in the Ivey Garden.

More recently, a project with Eldon House researched and provided new ornamental plants that would have been available and popular during the House's mandate period.

A word of caution: experience has shown that for garden-related projects to endure it helps to have both ownership of land and also a capable group of committed volunteers that have control of that land's management. Does such a situation exist in London? Are there heritage locations where people and land come together? Could a past situation be revived, or a new one created?

We would be open to a discussion with ACO members to consider these and other ideas, including but not limited to awareness, symposia, awards and collaboration with landscape architects.

Murray Hunter, Director of the Julia Hunter Fund, is a management consultant, a member of the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, and his volunteer work includes serving on the boards of the heritage-related organisations, Banting House and the Canadian Club of London.

...Award in 2016. Several buildings on Western's Campus have also benefitted from John's visionary approach, including the recently expanded and redesigned Don Wright Faculty of Music. John's outstandingly generous gift of his time as volunteer on countless boards and committees, including a stint on both LACH and the HLF board, is also much appreciated.

Local History Award - Joan Sam

For raising awareness, through research and photography, of London's rich visual heritage through postings on social media. Joan Sam is an enthusiastic contributor to the heritage fabric of London. She captures pictures of heritage homes and buildings, researches their history and then shares on social media in a most millennial way, thus enticing a younger demographic to appreciate our city's heritage.

Heritage Hero Award - Lincoln McCardle

Lincoln is given this award for recognizing the historical importance of Blackfriars Bridge and energetically advocating for its restoration. Both during and after the bridge's recent refurbishment, Lincoln McCardle systematically drew attention to the bridge and its historical importance to London and the Blackfriars neighbourhood. He advocated for its restoration on television, radio, Twitter, in person and on t-shirts, thus demonstrating the power of an individual to influence change.

Small Scale Restoration Project - 437 Victoria Street, London ON. - Mary Jo Crawford

For the careful restoration of important exterior elements of this Arts and Crafts bungalow. Through work on this house, the purlins (exposed rafters) and custom gutters were restored to their original condition showcasing a significant example of the Arts & Crafts bungalow.

Small Scale Restoration Project - 8 Alfred Street, London ON. - Chris Morgan and Eva Lambkin

Saving the remaining original elements of this yellow brick cottage, combining them with a creatively hand-crafted porch, Eva and Chris made this house an outstanding blend of old and new elements. The front porch was clad in vinyl and the posts and floor boards were badly deteriorated. Owner Chris Morgan's carpentry skills shine through in the beauty of the new porch, restored after many hours of planning, research and hand-milling of the decorative elements.

Major Restoration Project - 465 Waterloo Street, London ON. - Allan Komenda

The sympathetic and thorough restoration of this historic Italianate house included modernizing the interior to function as a contemporary office space.



The Iron Works Building - Lee Greenwood



465 Waterloo Street - Valerii Oleksiienko and Allan Komenda



8 Alfred Street - Chris Morgan



Century Mews - 194 Dundas Street

No longer "down at heel," this building, now owned by 465 Group, fits into the streetscape of office conversions along Waterloo Street.

Adaptive Re-Use Project - The Iron Works Building, 627 Maitland Street, London ON. - Lee Greenwood

This was the original home to London Bolt and Hinge Works from the early 1900s. The site was occupied from 1950 to 1978 by Eberhard and Shrives, an iron and steel company, and more recently by the D'Arcy Lane Institute of Massage Therapy. Now called the Iron Works Building, the original had been added to over the years resulting in four distinct buildings constructed from a variety of materials. In this adaptive reuse executed by Zedd Architecture, building systems were completely upgraded and the space divided into several attractive office and commercial units where glass storefronts provide a welcoming exterior under perforated steel canopies.

Adaptive Re-Use Project - Kingsmills Building - Fanshawe College - 300 Dundas Street, London ON.

Fanshawe College's strong presence downtown has been augmented by this redevelopment of the former Kingsmill's Department Store, one of London's landmark buildings, into the campus for the Schools of Information Technology and Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts. A number of memorable Kingsmill's artifacts have been retained in the seven-storey building (designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects), including the store safe in the basement, the elevator cab and the pneumatic tube system. The preserved historic façade retains the unique canopy. The yellow brick, wood beams and restored tin ceilings inside the building add historical interest and contrast to this state-of-the-art educational facility, with its modern information-technology classrooms, gleaming spacious culinary labs, campus store and restaurant.

Adaptive Re-Use Project - Century Mews, 194 Dundas Street, London ON. - Paul Dugsin & David Brebner - Magnus

For the adaption and restoration of the former Loew's Century theatre, refurbishing the decorative theatre lobby and enhancing the rich history of Dundas Street. The building had deteriorated over many decades, needing significant repairs and refurbishment. The original sloping lobby was outfitted in terrazzo and brass floors, ornate plaster moldings on the walls, curved ceilings, custom display frames for production posters, large mirrors and crystal chandeliers. It is now restored with a leveled floor that exposes the original through two glass cover vignettes. Today the old theatre has a new life and a promising future as a co-working space for tech business. Tillmann Ruth Robinson were the architects on the project.

Adaptive Re-Use Project - Y.O.U. Building, 333 Richmond Street, London ON. - Youth Opportunities Unlimited

For the redevelopment and adaptive reuse of 333 Richmond Street for youth programming while retaining and refashioning significant heritage elements of the façade. Planning for this project was done by Cornerstone Architecture, with Graceview Enterprises doing the renovations. These included bringing the structure up to compliance with current building code and accessibility standards. The renovation has given the building a new life with fresh paint on the exterior and new fibreglass windows designed to mimic original wood windows in the floor above. Inside the space is warm and welcoming, with hardwood floors, exposed brick and high ceilings. New interior walls of glass bring natural light far into the building. This is the first of a two-phase development project to establish a youth wellness hub and additional housing.

The recipients are just some of the people who deserve our hearty thanks and congratulations. Our gratitude also goes to the Awards Committee, chaired by Susan Bentley, for all their hard work and to our many sponsors, including Culinary Catering, Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants, Hassan Law, INVEST Properties and Skinner Architects, among others. It couldn't have been done without you.

All London Heritage Award photos courtesy of Sylvia Chodas



Kingsmills Building - Fanshawe College



Y.O.U. Building - Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Dougald McKillop has a few words to say about his father's contributions to the ACO and heritage preservation in London.

"Ian was quite involved in the ACO London chapter right from the early years. Whether it was helping to board up the windows from the then vacant Labatt restoration buildings on Ridout Street, preventing further decay in the battle to save them, or visiting a recently demolished house on Peter Street at night to save a historically important wrought iron gate and rose tiled fireplace, Ian was on the front lines.

"He was always available to lend a hand to whatever project needed to be done as he realized, like his wife Ann, the importance of being involved in the preservation of architecturally important buildings and structures.

"Ian was a perennial helper with the Geranium walking tour, leaving the cottage and the boats (that was a big sacrifice!) so he could help with the setting up of the homes for the tour, sometimes laying down sheets of plastic throughout if the weather was to be inclement. Following the tour Ian and Ann would have people back to the house for a post-walk bite to eat and a refreshment. Ian could be found tending the bar, making sure everyone's drink was full!

"Ian was a strong believer in family, friends and community. Together with Ann they had a full and impactful life."



Ken Fitchett (1937-2020)

ACO London Region was sad to learn that Ken died on March 30 after a courageous struggle with Parkinson's.

He joined the Board of ACO London Region in 2004 as a member-at-large and was membership secretary from 2006-2015. Board members remember his kindness and sense of humour.

Ken recruited and organized the many volunteers for the Geranium Heritage House Tours during his time on the board. New members and others responded positively to his friendly phone calls and emails urging them not to miss out on the amazing opportunity to volunteer for the GHHT. On the first Sunday in June his cheerful greeting and warm smile would welcome walkers as he sold tickets, answered questions and distributed brochures.

Throughout his time with ACO he actively participated and assisted in many of the activities.

Ken was a well-loved history and economics teacher at Beck and Saunders secondary schools. He was a past president of the London and Western Ontario United Empire Loyalists and a member of the London and Middlesex Historical Society.



Volunteer Opportunity - Historic House Signs Coordinator

ACO London Region is looking for a Coordinator for our Historic House Signs Program. This position involves a commitment of approximately 8-10 hours per month. The skills required:

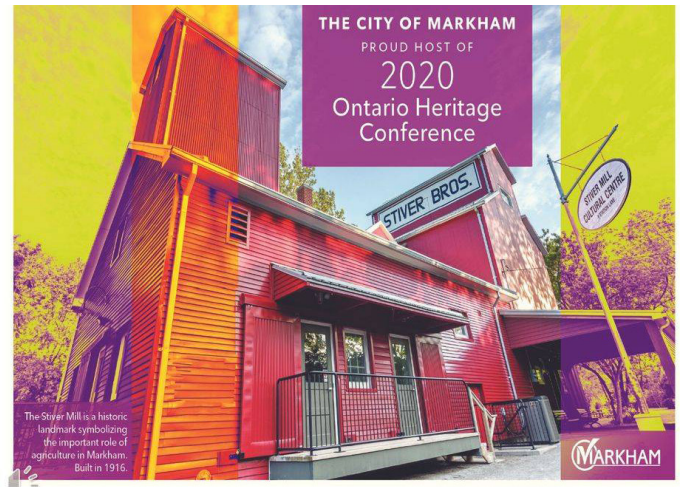
- Good attention to detail because the person has to keep track of enquiries, confirmed orders, amounts paid, etc. and delegate to various researchers
- Willingness to commit to a couple of hours per week
- Trustworthy beyond question as this role involves handling PayPal invoicing and funds
- Existing track record as an ACO Volunteer, with enthusiasm for our objectives
- Good communication skills, for communicating with HHS purchasers and for editing/proofreading the material gathered by the researchers.

If interested contact President Jennifer Grainger or Vice President Kelly McKeating to express your interest.

2020 Vision – Clarity for a new Decade

Due to current events the 2020 Ontario Heritage Conference originally scheduled for May 28-30, 2020 has been postponed to October 22-24, 2020.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and we hope to see you all in Markham this fall. The Local Organizing Committee has been working very hard to offer a very diverse and professional program.



Promoting Heritage During the Pandemic - Kae Elgie, ACO President

As the pandemic lengthens, the need to promote heritage deepens. If ever people needed a boost to their feeling of well-being and connectedness, it's now.

But how can we make people aware of the value of heritage?

Some organizations, like ACO Toronto, have created virtual walking tours that people can explore on their physically distanced walks. ACO North Waterloo Region created virtual architectural Jane's Walks to celebrate the 104th birthday of noted urbanist Jane Jacobs on May 4th. Shane Edwards created an online jigsaw puzzle of Carleton Place's heritage murals to entertain the housebound. ACO Toronto and Old Toronto Series collaborative heritage documents on YouTube are example.

What other virtual heritage treasures have you found? Please let us know so we can share them. The newly launched Ontario Live website is looking for virtual heritage content. So is the National Trust's Canada Historic Places Day on Saturday July 4th.

Looking ahead post-pandemic recovery, we need to remind our politicians that heritage conservation is a powerful economic engine. Heritage restoration and renovation projects create 50% more jobs than new construction. Rehabilitation projects are 75% labour while new construction is 50% labour and 50% materials.

The National Trust for Canada has sent a powerful letter to federal Ministers Morneau, Wilkinson, McKenna, Guilbert and Joly calling for at least \$200 million in stimulus funding to unlock billions in capital constructions and other investments in older/heritage buildings. Architectural Conservancy Ontario was one of the signatory organizations to this letter. Please join ACO by contacting your MPs to encourage them to support this initiative.

Membership Renewals

We continue to receive renewals via the online ACO Provincial Portal and by mail-in cheques. Thank you for supporting Architectural Conservancy Ontario London Region year after year!

We understand there continues to be some confusion generated by the online ACO Provincial Portal membership record keeping whereby your membership renewal is based on the previous year's membership payment date, and not the calendar year.

ACO London has always based our membership renewal campaign on the calendar year, reminding our membership in the first quarter of the year that renewals are upcoming.

After receiving notification from ACO London Region that it's time to renew and logging into your Provincial Portal, you might see that your membership is still active for months (the expiration date will be shown). The website will not offer the user a path for renewal, unless you are within 30 days of your previous membership.

ACO London Region out and about...



Maggie and Charlie at the ACO London Region Booth at the London Heritage Fair at HMCS Prevost



Marlyn and Jason at the ACO London Region Booth at the Middlesex Centre Heritage Fair



The ACO London Region Booth at the LHBA Lifestyle Home Show



Genet and Maggie at the 2020 London Heritage Awards Show