



London Region Branch Newsletter

Fall 2017

www.acolondon.ca

ACO London's Historical House Sign Program

By: Dorothy Palmer and Jennifer Clarke

This month ACO London is launching a new fundraising initiative: Historical House Signs. The Bishop Hellmuth Heritage Conservation District (HCD) was selected for our pilot project because of its heritage designation and its architectural gems like St. John the Evangelist on St. James Street and the New St. James Presbyterian Church on Oxford Street East, which are both focal points of the Queen Anne Revival style of architecture of 1895-1910 when this unique neighbourhood was built. Because much of this district was developed after 1890, documentation should also prove easier to access for fact-checking any information needed for the Historical House Signs.



Once this new program is up and running, we will begin accepting applications for Historical House Signs from other areas of London. Each sign will provide the date of construction, the name of the building's first owner as well as her or his occupation. Sometimes we will be able to include the owner(s)' place of employment as well. Every Historical House Sign will have "ACO London" noted in smaller text at the bottom with our branch's distinctive branding colour, terracotta, as its border.

Homeowners can submit their applications to the ACO London office in Grosvenor Lodge at 1017 Western Road. Applications will be acknowledged, the house in question will be photographed and a researcher will be assigned to help create the new signage. Our Research Squad consists of over ten ACO London members ready to delve through directories, maps and assessment rolls. The squad has also been trained in best practices and given resources through a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Every House Has a Story" by local heritage expert Delilah Cummings, a retired librarian who owns a heritage property.

Each sign will cost the applicant \$75 which covers the cost of ACO London's research on historical content as well as the sign's final production by The Print Studio. Current homeowner(s) will receive a monograph containing any information that our Research Squad may uncover about the building's original owner(s).

The Historical House Signs program is not tied to heritage designation hence "signs" rather than "plaques", and is based on the success of ACO Stratford's heritage sign initiative. They have researched and displayed more than two hundred signs throughout the Stratford area in place for the past six years.

Building upon the success of the Old East Village model, the ACO London Historical House Signs initiative aims to establish signage that connects and engages Londoners with heritage buildings throughout the city and surrounding towns. Our hope is that each sign will serve as a snapshot of its building's origins, tying present day homeowners to those who first lived within its walls.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Branch Council	Page 2
Tribute to Founding Member Ann McKillop.....	Page 3
Photos of Past Scholarship Recipients	Page 3
Marshall Bros. Tea Facade Project	Page 4
2018 Heritage Awards & Scholarship	Page 5
Scholarship Article Then & Now	Page 5
ACO London Summer Events Photos	Page 6
Elsie Perrin Willams Centennial Open House	Page 7
Jennifer Grainger's Book Launch	Page 8
Upcoming Events	Page 8

ACO LONDON BRANCH COUNCIL

Mike Bloxam - President
Jennifer Grainger - Vice-President
Maggie Whalley - Past President
Heather Dundas - Treasurer
Dorothy Palmer - Recording Secretary
Sharon Lunau - Membership Secretary
Sylvia Chodas - Geranium Heritage House Tour
Genet Hodder - Member-at-large
Arthur McClelland - Programme
Sandra Miller - Communications
Bob Porter - Member-at-large
Benjamin Vasquez - NextGen

COUNCIL ADVISORS

Kyle Gonyou (Ex officio)
Janet Hunten
John Lutman
Don Menard
Nancy Tausky

Newsletter Editor - Jennifer Clarke
Newsletter Layout and 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

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 arconserv.ca/branches or contact us for more information.

Individual - \$35 Household - \$40
Student - \$12 Associate Member - \$45

From The Branch Council...

Your branch council has been hard at work since the spring newsletter, continuing to bring awareness for built heritage in London and region. The Geranium Heritage House Tour on Sunday, June 4th was completely sold out and garnered the most profit of any previous walk. It was well executed as always, so a huge congratulations to Sylvia Chodas and the rest of the GHHT committee for a job well done.

There have been a number of hotly debated developments proposed over the past few months. I spoke out for our branch in the media regarding the proposal for 150 Dundas Street, the site of the former Kresge's department store. Erecting a 25-storey 'pencil' tower on London's historic main street is a step in the wrong direction and we shall continue to speak out about bad developments while encouraging the good.

I was also interviewed widely about downtown surface parking lots getting yet another three-year "temporary" permit when we already have a shortage of land worth developing in London's core. Building on vacant land is every developer's dream. "We will keep this issue on our radar when it comes up again."

We also wrote letters to city council and LACH regarding the historic barns at 660 Sunningdale Road East, the proposed tower over Victoria Park at 560/562 Wellington Street, and the proposed demolition of the former McEachran school at 4402 Colonel Talbot Road. One really good piece of news is that city council voted in favour of designation of the former McEachran school partly in thanks to our lobbying.

The successful mounting of the Marshall Bros. Tea Co. façade at the Central Branch of the London Public Library is cause to celebrate! This incredible work was co-ordinated by Dorothy Palmer and is a badge of honour for our branch. We also exhibited at the Gathering on the Green and the Home County Folk Festival this summer sharing our message that the greenest brick is the one already in the wall.

On Saturday, October 14th, an energetic group of ACO London members united for the final official celebration of our branch's 50th anniversary. We joined in the planting of over two hundred trees through ReForest London at Thames Park, a lesser-known sliver of parkland between Horton, Wortley, the CN Rail, and the Thames River. Fifty of the trees were specifically designated to ACO London to represent each of our fifty years of existence.

We're delighted to welcome Heather Dundas to our Branch Council as the new Treasurer and express our great appreciation to out-going Treasurer Antia Frew for her expertise and help over the past five years. We're also excited to introduce our new Newsletter Editor Jennifer Clarke who has previously worked with Heritage London Foundation.

Sadly, with the passing of Ann McKillop on May 10th, we lost one of our branch's founders and one of our heritage heroines. I am certain that we will all carry her passion with us as we continue with our battle to conserve London's built heritage.

Mike Bloxam
President, ACO London



Ann McKillop: Heritage Heroine

By: Maggie Whalley

Ann McKillop was a powerhouse in London's heritage community. As a co-founder and executive board member of the Architectural Conservancy Ontario (ACO) London Region Branch over fifty years ago, Ann began her conservation career by literally climbing ladders at the site of the Ridout Street buildings which were protected, and ultimately saved, by the efforts of the newly-formed ACO London.

In her many attempts to save pieces of local heritage, Ann was extremely active in planning talks and information sessions about the Geranium Heritage House Tours from their infancy in 1973. She was also a major player in the organization and execution of the Hands Around the Block conservation project in 1987 to try and save the Talbot Street block opposite the Covent Garden Market.

Ann's amicable conservation efforts continued when she became one of the founding members of the Heritage London Foundation which formed in 1981 in order to operate and manage the city-owned Elsie Perrin Williams Estate through adaptive re-use as a wedding and events venue.

The McKillop family, who often found themselves recruited as volunteers for Ann's heritage initiatives, lived in a beautiful historic house in Woodfield for many years. Ann naturally found herself becoming instrumental in helping to form London's very first Heritage Conservation District in East Woodfield in 1992. She would also become very persuasive in getting people to designate their houses at a time when many homeowners were still learning about what that meant.

Ann spoke out against the desecration and demolition at City Hall that threatened local heritage. I can remember her saying many times, "Well, we'll just have to lay down in front of the bulldozer!" She was also one of the early members of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH). As a member of this committee, Ann was one of the "Gang of Four" who travelled and combed the streets of London and region in the early 1990s in order to draft the first Inventory of Heritage Resources.

Ann is remembered for her determination and dedication to the cause of heritage conservation, one which she persevered in with a keen eye, a persuasive tongue, and often acerbic wit. We will forever respect the fact that heritage conservation in London, Ontario would not be where it is today without Ann McKillop.



Ann McKillop passed away peacefully on May 10 in her 87th year. Photo courtesy of the McKillop family.



Gerry Wilson and Ann McKillop in front of the historical marker for the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate on Windermere Road, 1986. (London Free Press files).

Scholarship Recipients: Where Are They Now?

See the full story on page 5.



Scholarship founder Ann Riddell with the first recipient Michael Bonk, 2007.



Kent Jones, Heritage Trades Scholarship recipient for 2016.



Past scholarship recipients Kenneth Davies, 2009; Issac Kirwin, 2010; and Sylvia Nagy, 2017.

ACO - London "Resurrects" A Piece Of Victoriana Retail Architecture

By: Dorothy Palmer

A piece of Victorian era architecture has been "resurrected" from amidst the rubble of all that was lost when the Talbot Streetscape was demolished in 1987 as part of Cambridge Developments' plans for residential towers and a large mall.

Just over two years ago, the Regional History Registrar at Museum London Kevin Zacher discovered untagged pieces in the Marshall Bros. Tea Co. collection. Fortunately Mike Baker, renowned heritage advocate and Curator at Elgin County Museum, recognized the façade he'd helped rescue during the demolition in the 1980s. Museum London recently approached ACO London and asked if we would facilitate moving and reinstalling the Marshall Bros. Tea facade.

The London Public Library was very responsive and supportive; today we are almost finished with the installation of this charming remnant of Victorian retail architecture. It is thanks to the original members of ACO London, as well as the integrity of the Museum London vault, that the remaining pieces of the Marshall Bros. Tea Co.'s façade are in relatively good shape.

Before the Marshall Bros. Tea Co. was founded in 1873 by Robert and George Marshall, the charming Victorian façade served a few previous businesses as well. According to research done by staff at the London Room, the building at 67 Dundas Street was probably constructed after the fire of 1844. It originally housed an organ manufacturer followed by a stained glass workshop for London mayor Robert Lewis who quite possibly designed and created the building's beautiful "67" door transom. Plants 'N Pleasures and Peter Vickers' The Framing Place were the final businesses to enjoy the façade.

Fortunately, Julia Beck, the president of ACO London in 1987, along with renowned heritage advocate Mike Baker, who was Museum London's Regional History Curator at the time, teamed up to ask Cambridge Developments if the façade could be saved. The pieces were initially stored in the Public Utilities Commission substation on Carling Street. They were exhibited in Museum London before being stored in their extensive vault.



The Marshall Bros. Tea Co. at 67 Dundas St. July 12, 1968.



A London mayor Robert Lewis had a stained glass workshop at 67 Dundas St. He likely created the building's "67" door transom.



Untagged pieces of the 67 Dundas St building façade UWO Archives.



The Marshall Bros. Tea Co. UWO Archives

2018 Heritage Awards & Scholarship: Call for Submissions

By: Sharon Lunau

London has seen a number of exciting heritage restorations and adaptive re-use projects in recent years and many of those have been honoured by our annual ACO - HLF Heritage Awards. Some have gone on to win provincial and even national awards. We are proud to partner with Heritage London Foundation for these joint celebrations recognizing outstanding excellence in heritage work across the London region. If you know a neighbour or a business or a client who has contributed to our community's heritage, please consider nominating them for a Heritage Award.

ACO London's Heritage Trades Scholarship was established in 2007 by the late Ann Riddell. It encouraged students in southwestern Ontario to enter heritage trades programs whose graduates will be the ones to ensure that the traditional skills needed to conserve and restore our architectural heritage will not become lost arts.

The scholarship was originally available only to students from this region who were enrolled in either the Heritage - Carpentry and Mill Work Diploma or the Masonry - Heritage and Traditional Diploma programs at Algonquin College Heritage Institute in Perth, Ontario.

Over the past decade, the grant has evolved into the ACO London Heritage Scholarship which is now open to post-secondary students from all types of programs and disciplines, including applicants from outside of London and surrounding areas, so long as the scope of the applicant's project has a clear connection to built heritage within the London region. Part-time and international students are eligible to apply.

The 2018 recipient will be announced prior to the ACO - HLF Heritage Awards Gala on Thursday February 15, 2018. He or she will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and a one year membership to ACO London heritage community and have the opportunity to network with future clients and employers through our annual Awards Gala.

The deadline for submissions is noon on December 31st, 2017. For further details and an application form see the Awards and Scholarship pages at acolondon.ca

Heritage Scholarship Recipients: Where Are They Now?

By: Sharon Lunau

Since its inception in 2007, the ACO London Heritage Scholarship has been awarded to five post-secondary students. The very first recipients were: Michael Bonk in 2007, Kenneth Davies in 2009, and Isaac Kirwin in 2010. These three recipients were all students in the Masonry - Heritage and Traditional Diploma program at Algonquin College Heritage Institute in Perth, Ontario.

Michael has since apprenticed at the West Block restoration of the Parliament Buildings before moving on to establish his own business in the Ottawa Valley, one that specializes in natural stone applications such as dry stone walling including retaining walls, pathways and patios.

Kenneth is now involved in projects using the traditional masonry skill of dry stone walling here in Ontario as well as overseas in Britain. He is a part-time instructor both in the Landscape Design program at Fanshawe College in London, Ontario, and at the Willowbank School of Restoration in Queenston, England. Kenneth also manages his own business, restoring old brickwork and stone alongside building new projects here in London, Ontario.

Like Michael, Isaac also apprenticed in the West Block restoration of the Parliament Buildings in our nation's capital. He then spent several years learning the intricacies of dry stone walls. Last year he was the masonry foreman at a construction site in Kitchener where the restoration of old brickwork satisfied his passion for preservation of heritage masonry. In June 2017, Isaac opened his own company, Southwest Stone Masons, based in Ingersoll does exterior and interior restoration projects along with new builds. Isaac's contact information is 226-208-6656/ www.swstonemasons.com

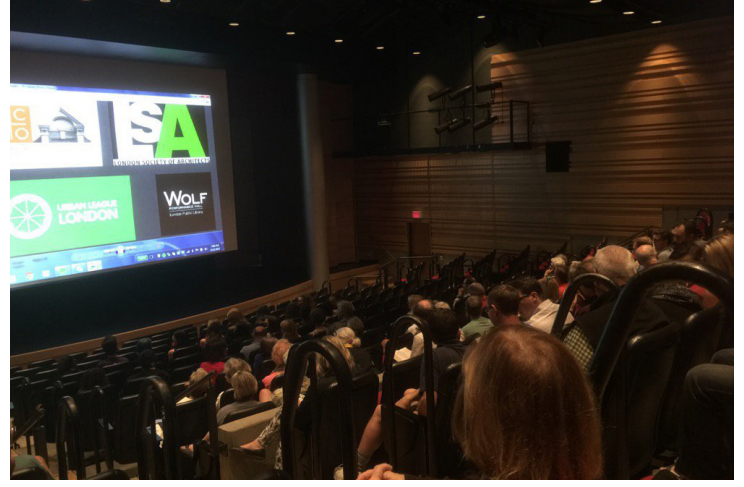
Our 2016 scholarship winner Kent Jones graduated from the Heritage Carpentry and Millwork program at Algonquin College. He returned to London to work with master carpenters Chris McKaskell and Chris Haindl at McKaskell Haindl Design Build. The lure of 'beautiful British Columbia' was too strong, however, as Kent is today living in Whistler, B.C. enjoying the Rocky mountains while working for a custom home builder.

This year saw the Heritage Scholarship's first female recipient Sylvia Nagy. Sylvia has completed her degree in social work from King's University College and is working in her field. She is looking for new projects to follow up on her article for LondonFuse Reincarnating London's Heritage Buildings: Part One. <https://londonfuse.ca/author/sylvia-nagy>.

ACO London Summer Events Gallery



The 44th annual Geranium Heritage House Tour: Piccadilly Promenade. June 4. 336 Piccadilly. Photo credit: Sandra Miller.



ACO London's screening of Citizen Jane: Battle for the City at Wolf Hall in partnership with London Society of Architects and Urban League of London, June 22. Photo credit Karen Oldham.



ACO London's booth at the Home County Festival, July 14-16. Home County Festival. Photo credit: Sandra Miller.



The ACO London and London Middlesex Historical Society joint bus tour to Vittoria and Backus Mill, September 23. Inside Backus Mill. Photo credit: Cindy Hartman.



Planting fifty trees in Thames Park with ReForest London in honour of ACO London's 50th anniversary, October 14. (Photographer unknown)

Elsie Perrin Williams Estate: 1917-2017

By: Jennifer Clarke

The Elsie Perrin Williams Estate (EPWE) is hosting an open house throughout November in celebration of its 100th birthday. The moment that guests open the country estate's wooden front door they are transported back in time to Elsie and Hadley's heyday.

While the Williams men were abroad during The Great War, Elsie constructed a Spanish-Colonial house with white stucco exterior walls and a red tile roof most likely based on a beloved Florida golf clubhouse pictured in one of Elsie's family photo albums, according to Susan Bentley, chair of the centennial committee for Heritage London Foundation (HLF). HLF members recently dug up some treasures from the Williams' attic as part of ongoing efforts to preserve the heritage home's interior.

HLF also created an anniversary logo featuring the great hall's windows to mark every authentic item within EPWE. "We want to make more Londoners aware of this estate and its importance to their city's heritage," Bentley explained. Thousands of milestone events have been hosted at the Williams' homestead. "People become quite enmeshed in the property," Bentley described of London's most romantic wedding venue.

A relative of the estate's last owner Harriet Corbett recently contacted HLF because of EPWE's centennial celebrations. Harriet's great niece has shared photographs and memories including the fact that Harriet was "very generous in hosting a big family Christmas." Additional anecdotes can be found in Susan Bentley's new booklet *Elsie's Estate: the Life, Love, and Legacy of Elsie Perrin Williams* available at both EPWE and Grosvenor Lodge.

As for the future of the city-owned heritage home and 68 acre public park, Bentley confirmed that "as long as HLF continues to manage (the estate), it will continue to be used as an events venue" for future Londoners to tour and book for the biggest day(s) in their own history, and in doing so they also aid in preserving this unique piece of London's heritage.

Centennial Celebrations

Throughout November, EPWE is hosting FREE tours: weekdays 1pm - 4pm and weekends 11am - 4pm. Mornings are reserved for school or group bookings (by appointment).

Wednesday November 15

7pm — The "Cityscape 150" Art and Photo Contest winner will be announced. This is also a heritage quiz night.

7:30pm — "London In 1867", an illustrated talk on London architecture by local historian Dan Brock.

Saturday, November 25

7:30pm — "Soirée à Quatre Mains", a piano duet by Clark Bryan and Marion Miller.

Admission: \$15 per person per evening event. All funds raised will go to the preservation of the historic estate house. All events take place at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate, 101 Windermere Road West. For more information visit www.elsieperrinwilliamsestate.ca.



The Elsie Perrin Williams Estate celebrates its 100th anniversary throughout November 2017. Photo credit: Jennifer Clarke.

ELSIE'S ESTATE: 1917-2017
EXPERIENCE THE ESTATE AS IT WAS IN ELSIE AND HADLEY'S HEYDAY LEARN MORE ABOUT LONDON'S RECLUSIVE HEIRESS

OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY 8TH - WEDNESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2017

FREE TOURS WEEKDAYS 1 P.M. - 4 P.M.
SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.
(MORNINGS ARE RESERVED FOR GROUP OR SCHOOL BOOKINGS BY APPOINTMENT)

SAT NOV 11TH 7:30 P.M. REMEMBRANCE DAY
"POETRY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR" BY D.M.R. BENTLEY, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

SUN NOV 12TH 2 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
MEET JENNIFER ROBSON, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF WWI FICTION "MIDNIGHT IN PARIS" "SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE".

WEDNESDAY 15TH 7:30 P.M.
"LONDON IN 1867" ILLUSTRATED TALK ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF LONDON BY DAN BROCK
HERITAGE QUIZ NIGHT. "CITYSCAPE 150" ART AND PHOTO CONTEST: PRIZES AWARDED AT 7 P.M.

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 7:30 P.M.
CONCERT: "SOIRÉE À QUATRE MAINS". GEMS OF THE FRENCH PIANO DUET REPERTOIRE FROM THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES. CLARK BRYAN AND MARION MILLER.

SINGLE EVENT TICKET \$15 SERIES TICKET \$50
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM EVENTBRITE.COM

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE ELSIE PERRIN WILLIAMS ESTATE - 101 WINDERMERE ROAD WEST.
ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORIC ESTATE HOUSE

519-432-6620 INFO@ELSIEPERRINWILLIAMSESTATE.CA
WWW.ELSIEPERRINWILLIAMSESTATE.CA



From the Vault: A Photo-History of London

By: Jennifer Clarke

ACO London Vice President Jennifer Grainger will see her fourth local history book *From the Vault: A Photo-History of London* hit the shelves of local bookstores November 29th with an official launch event from 7pm to 9pm in the Covent Garden Market's Labatt Lounge.

Biblioasis Publishing, based out of Windsor, Ontario, began a From the Vault book series based on the Windsor Star's archived photographs. "(Biblioasis) was looking to do the same series with the London Free Press's negatives collection," Grainger explained. "They were looking for a local historian to (spearhead) the project."

Grainger, who works at Attic Books, was chosen because of her previous local history book with Biblioasis, a book about the Orr family photograph collection which was donated to Museum London. "I have always had a passion for the local history of whatever spot I happen to be in," she explained of her own history with the genre. The successful local history author has also published two books with Dundurn Press about the ghost towns and "vanished villages" of Middlesex and Elgin Counties.

Although she had less time to write this latest 416 page book with a price tag of \$39.95, the project involved in depth research into each of the Free Press's archived photographs. "Unfortunately, some of the photos could not be identified, nor could the events going on within them," Grainger noted of the hurdles she faced during the writing process.

As for the next chapter in her writing career, Grainger remains hopeful for a second book to make London's From The Vault photo book into an official series. She also has a "historical-fantasy novel in the works."

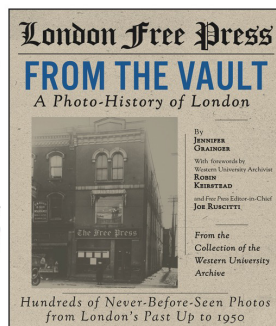


Hyatt Avenue United Church was featured by the Free Press Saturday, June 8, 1946. The building that still stands is empty and deteriorating. Source: London Free Press archives.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
JOIN US FOR THE BOOK LAUNCH OF:

The London Free Press
FROM THE VAULT
A Photo-History of London
By JENNIFER GRAINGER
FOREWORD BY JOE RUSCITTI, EDITOR, THE LONDON FREE PRESS

WED., NOVEMBER 29TH, 2017
Labatt's Lounge, Covent Garden Market
(130 King Street, London, Ontario)
7p.m. - 9p.m.
Public Book Launch & Signing
Free Admission | Books for Sale: \$39.95



BIBLIOASIS | READ INDEPENDENTLY
519-968-2206 | BIBLIOASIS.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Terrific Tales of London and Area

Central Library, Stevenson & Hunt B.
Tuesdays, 7pm, London Public Library
Nov. 21: Kym Wolfe "The Story of Old East Village"
Dec. 5: Caoline Whippey "Brescia @ 100"

Columbus

Starting Nov. 17, various times
Hyland Cinema
Award-winning drama set against backdrop of Columbus, Indiana's wealth of architectural landmarks.

Dickens' Dinner: An Upper Canada Christmas Carol

Fanshawe Pioneer Village
Fri. Nov. 24 - Sat. Dec. 9
Tickets \$53 + HST, registration required.
fanshawepioneervillage.ca/events/dickens-dinner-upper-canada-christmas-carol

Season's Greetings at Longwoods

Ska-Nah-Doht Village
Sunday Nov. 26, 12-4pm
Tis the season for horse-drawn wagon rides, carollers, food, holiday shopping and more.
londontourism.ca/Events/Seasons-Greetings-at-Longwoods

Victorian Christmas

Eldon House
Sat., Dec 2 - Mon., Jan 1.
Christmas Past Tours: Sat., Dec., 16 tours run hourly from 1-3pm. Adults - \$10; Children under age 12 - \$6. Registration required.
Meet Father Christmas: Sun., Dec. 17, 12-5pm
New Year's Levee: Mon., Jan 1 1-4pm

Visit with St. Nicholas

Fanshawe Pioneer Village
Saturday, Dec. 2 & 9; Sunday, Dec. 3 & 10
Admission is \$13 per person. Breakfast is served at 9:30am, 11am and 1pm Registration required
fanshawepioneervillage.ca/events/visit-st-nicholas-3

London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH)

Wednesday at 5:30pm; Dec. 13, Jan. 10 and Feb. 14
City Hall, 2nd Floor meeting Room, open to everyone
london.ca/city-hall/meetings-advisory/Pages/default.aspx

A Story Behind Every Street

Central Library
Mon., Feb. 12, 2018 from 7-8:30pm
Everything about every human-designed space comes down to human decisions. Who makes them?
jamesshelley.com/event/a-story-behind-every-street.

ACO London - HLF Annual Heritage Awards Gala

Thursday, Feb. 15
Delta London Armouries
Celebrate outstanding people and projects of London area heritage! ACO & HLF members free, guest \$20. Stay tuned for details and honourees.

Heritage Fair 2018: Celebrating Women in London

Saturday, Feb 17, 9am - 3pm
Central Library