



London Region Branch Newsletter

Spring 2015

www.acolondon.ca

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Spring is here and the winter that wouldn't leave seems to be slowly moving on. A busy spring is underway for ACO London. Be sure to check the Upcoming Events page for red letter days on your heritage calendar, especially our Geranium Heritage House Tour on Sunday, June 7.

Winter, however, was not a time for hibernating for heritage events and issues.

Our Heritage Awards Gala on a very frosty February 19 evening was a great opportunity to celebrate and brag about the successes in London's built heritage. When Mike Swartz, Canadian Diabetes Association National Board Chair who travelled from Burlington to accept Banting House's award with curator, Grant Maltman, expressed his surprise and delight at our heritage architecture and declared our city a capital of heritage architecture, our chests all puffed up a little with pride. With three members of the City of London's Urban Restoration planning team in attendance it was a great message. Visitors to London do want to see our "old buildings"!

March 4 brought more winter weather for our AGM. The slate of officers for 2015-16 is listed on the last page of this newsletter. You will notice several changes from last year's and several vacancies. After many years as membership secretary, Ken Fitchett is retiring. It was worth delaying the payment of your membership dues to receive one of Ken's friendly reminder calls. We wish him well and are happy he will continue to organize volunteers for the Geranium Heritage House Tour. John Lutman will remain on the executive as a member at large and Maggie Whalley will now be our LACH representative. Mike Bloxam took over last fall as recording secretary when Vince Manzerolle took up a new position. Windsor is now fortunate to have someone with Vince's interest in heritage and tech skills.

Sharon Lunau will attempt to fill Ken's shoes as membership chair. That means that this is her last newsletter as editor. At this printing the position is vacant. If you are interested in taking on this job, Sharon would be happy to convince you to do so! The position of vice president has been open for several years. If you are interested in assuming a leadership role in heritage sometime in the not too distant future and would like to ease yourself into an organization, this is the job for you. With an experienced and enthusiastic volunteer board which can and will offer support, why not give it a try! Maggie Whalley is waiting for your call, maggiewhalley@gmail.com Our winter membership newsletter described a wide variety of opportunities for you to get involved in ACO London. We are always ready to welcome you.

"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"

ACO's new mission statement is a very accurate description of what ACO London Region has been doing for almost 50 years and will be doing 50 years from now!

http://www.arconserv.ca/news_events/show.cfm?id=330

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Executive	Page 1
Geranium Heritage House Tour	Page 2
A Heritage Call to Action	Page 3
Heritage Awards	Pages 4-5
The London Plan & Heritage Conservation	Page 6
ACO Financial Statement	Page 7
Upcoming Events	Page 8

GERANIUM HERITAGE HOUSE TOUR

Sunday, June 7, 2015
EXPLORING OLD EAST

Our Geranium Heritage House Tour is celebrating its 42nd anniversary on Sunday, June 7, 2015. After a sold out 2004 tour in the area, we are once again EXPLORING OLD EAST. Follow our tour booklet to explore homes along Lorne and Dufferin Avenues, beginning and ending at the neighbourhood's hub since 1875, Lorne Avenue School. People's Choice Great Neighbourhood 2014 winner in the Canadian Institute of Planners Great Places in Canada Contest and second largest Heritage Conservation District in Ontario are good reasons to join us for EXPLORING OLD EAST <http://www.greatplacesincanada.ca/en/winners.asp> <http://london.ctvnews.ca/old-east-village-a-finalist-in-great-places-in-canada-contest-1.2064177>.

Except for the frontage along Dundas Street, this entire area was developed as a residential area over a fairly long period, from 1860 to 1930. Many of the houses not only have survived from the time they were built but have survived, for the most part, in a good state of preservation. We are not a garden tour but you will be charmed by the boulevard gardens that line the streets of Old East Village, an initiative of the Old East Village Community Association and the community's engaged residents.

This is ACO London's only fund raising project. Proceeds from the tour are used to finance the Heritage Scholarship Award and restoration grants to qualifying property owners.

Come spend an afternoon touring this lively neighbourhood and learn about the history and architecture with our informative booklet and well informed volunteers. Better yet, tour the homes for part of the afternoon and volunteer to be a guide in one of them for the other part of the afternoon.

ACO London relies on the success of the GHHT to carry out our mandate and the GHHT relies on volunteers like you. Please consider saying yes when Ken Fitchett contacts you.

Mark your calendars now for
Sunday, June 7 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.
Tickets go on sale May 1
and are \$20.00 in advance, \$25.00 at the door on June 7
and include refreshments. Buy early!

Ticket locations:

- Tuckey Hardware at Wortley Rd. and Craig St.;
- Jill's Table on King St. across from the Covent Market;
- Gammage Flowers on Oxford St. East at Waterloo St.;
- Featherfields on Gainsborough Rd. at Hyde Park;
- London Clay Art Centre on Dundas St. East;
- Forest City Image Centre on Dundas St. at Clarence St.

Info:519-471-5507
ACO London website www.acolondon.ca/
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ACOLondon>
Twitter <https://twitter.com/acolondonont> - hashtag #GHHT2015



A HERITAGE CALL to ACTION

The redevelopment plan for the old South Street hospital lands galvanized London's heritage community in late February. While no one disputed the economic advantages of overhauling the old hospital lands for the SoHo community and the once-in-a-lifetime chance to revitalize a key core-area spot along the Thames River, demolishing all but two of the remaining buildings seem to fly in the face of the City's own London Plan.

Nancy Tausky's 2011 study of the buildings found the 1899-built Colborne building, the 1922-built portion of the War Memorial Children's Hospital, the Gartshore nurses' residence and the health services building were "worthy of retention" and should be protected from demolition, thus ensuring the developer who buys the land would renovate and incorporate them into the new neighbourhood. In a bid to balance the architectural value with the financial realities, city hall's planning department recommended saving just the Colborne building and the children's hospital. A closer look at the heritage block revealed that the buildings on Hill Street were excellent examples of mid-century modern architecture. One of those buildings, the forerunner of the Thames Valley Children's Centre, is a thriving day care.

Under pressure of what some members called "an artificial deadline," the end of March date for London Health Sciences Centre to receive \$6 million in Ministry of Health funding, the Planning and Environment Committee heard submissions from interested parties, including members of ACO. Maggie Whalley summed up our thoughts. "Levelling too many historic buildings — at South Street or elsewhere — runs the risk of turning London into a bland landscape. Without them we're just like any other city. It takes away our identity." Presentations were made to the PEC, ward councillors were contacted, media alerted to the issue, social media became engaged and an Old Vic Hug Rally held at the site.

Were we heard? Well, some were listening and a second PEC meeting was called for councillors to debate the issue. The members voted to preserve not only the so-called Colborne Building and a portion of the War Memorial Hospital but also the former health services building. A motion by Ward 4 Councillor Jesse Helmer to save at least the 1927 portion of the fourth building, the Gartshore Nursing Residence, failed to reach the floor for debate. The next evening the full council voted to accept Planning and Environment's recommendation.

With so many options on the table and a short time to organize we were not expecting miracles. Any additional buildings are good but the destruction of the continuous heritage streetscape creates an artificial gap that is difficult to fill in. LACH chair, Wes Kinghorn said what most concerns heritage proponents is removing the buildings, without the context of knowing what proposals might exist to redevelop the site.

New heritage issues are on the horizon but with engaged citizens and city councillors who are ready to listen to these issues we can "encourage the conservation and re-use of structures, districts and landscapes of architectural, historic and cultural significance, to inspire and benefit Ontarians."

Check the ACO London Facebook page for more coverage of our response to the Old Vic issue.
<https://www.facebook.com/ACOLondon>



A windblown but dapper James Reaney signs one of the OldVicHug valentines in front of the 1927 Gartshore Nurses' Residence



Heritage London Foundation chair Susan Bentley & SoHo historian & resident Alice Gibb say it all: Reduce [landfill waste], Re-use & Re-cycle [heritage buildings]! Behind them stands the elegant 1922 War Memorial Children's Hospital which City Council voted to preserve.



Grant Maltman, Banting House Curator, ACO London's Marlyn Loft and Canadian Diabetes Association National Board Chair, Mike Swartz



Maria Gitta presented award to Bob Porter, owner of 50 Byron Avenue



Hamoody and Sharon Hassan, owners of 142 Dundas Street, with Mike Baker



Janet Hunten was presented with her Heritage Award by ACO President, Maggie Whalley.

8th Annual
ACO London Region
London Heritage
Foundation
Heritage Awards
February 19, 2015
Elsie Perrin Williams
Estate

Photos by John Lutman and
Sandra Miller



Hazel Elmslie with Heritage Award winner, Wes Kinghorn



Eldon House Board members Maureen Spencer Golovchenko, Roxanne Lutz, John Lisowski and Joe O'Neil



ACO London's Sylvia Chodas with My Sisters' Place Coach House restoration team: Susan McPhail, Mike Posthumus and Lynn Blumas



ACO London's Sharon Lunau with Andrea and Dale Manias, owners of 64 Elmwood Avenue East



Ted Melchers of the London Homebuilders accepted the award for the Cancer Survivors Garden from Jennifer Grainger.



Hamoody and Sharon Hassan, owners of 142 Dundas St., the Chisolm Building, with LACH Chair, Wes Kinghorn



Wes Kinghorn, with Jim Yanchula, Manager for Urban Restoration, for the City of London which designated the former McCormick's Factory



Wes Kinghorn with Susan and Todd Simpson, owners of 273 Regent St.



THE LONDON PLAN AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION

At our AGM on March 4, our guest speaker John Fleming, Managing Director of Planning and City Planner for the City of London had a ready audience for the community engagement the city is seeking with The London Plan, its 20 year blueprint for the city's growth. Mr. Fleming referred to sections of the plan which would give built heritage supporters hope that the goal to create a culturally rich and diverse cosmopolitan city with exceptional places and spaces and strong healthy neighbourhoods accepts the principle that heritage architecture is an asset and gives strength to a community.

A survey of The London Plan <http://thelondonplan.ca/full.php> which is relatively easy to navigate and relatively free of politcspeak reveals that built heritage plays a significant role in this master plan. "Heritage buildings and distinctive historical elements will be conserved as focal points in the neighbourhood," (section 98). Urban regeneration is a key element in the plan (sections 152- 161) and is considered vital to the sustainability of London as a city.

A recent article in the London Free Press about the growth of tech companies in the downtown core <http://www.lfpress.com/2015/03/29/london-hi-tech-firm-all-revved-up-with-few-places-to-grow> highlights the importance of regeneration in older business districts. The final item (161) in this section of the plan gives hope that built heritage will be preserved. "Important heritage resources will be protected through designation under the Ontario Heritage Act." The recent designation of the former Robinson Memorial United Church and the former McCormick's factory are signs that London is intending to follow through on this policy.

Sections 630-680 on Cultural Heritage are must read items for all heritage enthusiasts. Cultural heritage includes tangible elements such as buildings, monuments, streetscapes, landscapes, books, and art, and intangible aspects such as folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge.

Fleming said that our heritage resources have cultural and economic value for the City and enhance the value of our urban areas. London's seven Heritage Conservation Districts are assets that cannot easily be replicated providing a unique living environment and quality of life. Six more areas are awaiting official studies. This is the first time Heritage Conservation Districts and Cultural Heritage Landscapes have been included in London's official plan. Western Counties Health and Occupational Centre Grounds on the old Westminster Hospital site is London's only designated cultural heritage landscape.

The City's intentions to promote, celebrate, and raise awareness and appreciation of London's cultural heritage resources, to protect, restore, sustain, and maintain those resources so they can be passed on to our future generations and to ensure that new development and public works are undertaken to enhance and be sensitive to our cultural heritage resources seem like a natural opportunity for all of London's heritage organizations to work cooperatively to see that this vision becomes a reality. The City's own official plan will give us support to hold its elected councils accountable. However, the London Development Institute wants the planning department to start all over which could delay implementation for another two years. Seasoned city hall observers predict a tough fight ahead but if you believe The London Plan is good for our built, cultural and natural heritage then let your city councillor know. <https://www.london.ca/city-hall/city-council/Documents/Council-Contact-List.pdf>



ACO London Financial Statement

ACO London's treasurer, Anita Frew, has provided a financial statement for the Branch. With each membership, the London Branch submits \$18 to support the activities of the Provincial ACO. In 2014, our income was down slightly from 2013, however our expenses were also less than 2013. The Provincial ACO office, which holds the Charity Status number, encouraged all branches to purchase QuickBooks in 2011. With branches using the same software, it allowed for easier auditing at year end. Please note that there may be a delay in receiving your income tax receipts, as all receipts are printed at local branches and mailed to Toronto for signing and validation by the Treasurer of ACO Provincial.



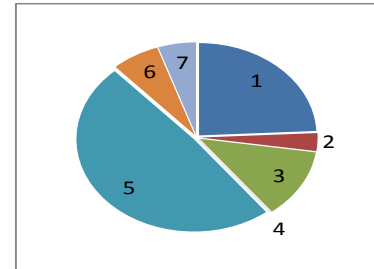
Architectural Conservancy Ontario - London Region Branch
c/o Grosvenor Lodge 1017 Western Road London ON N6G 1G5

Year Ending 2014 Year Ending 2013

Income

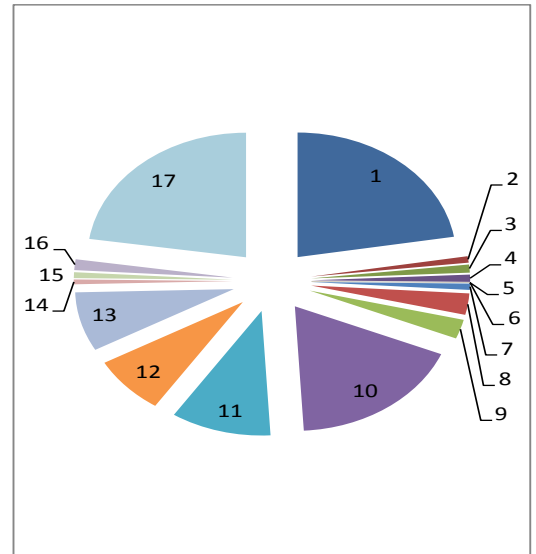
1 JB Fund	5,000	8,161
2 Donations	645	355
3 Membership Dues	2,500	2,789
4 Grants	0	1,500
5 Geranium House Tour	10,060	8,385
6 Investment GIC Interest	1,360	672
7 Miscellaneous Revenue	1,074	1,520
Total	20,639	23,382

Graphs for 2014



Expenses

1 Advertising & Promotion	2,955	1,408
2 Other Business Membership Fee	110	110
3 Postage Mailing Service	138	166
4 Printing (Newsletter)	123	171
5 Supplies	0	108
6 Computer/Software	0	0
7 Website	108	96
8 Rent for Special Events	366	257
9 Travel / Conferences	330	901
10 Rent Monthly Board Meetings	2,353	2,290
11 ACO Provincial Membership Fee	1,350	1,458
12 *Grants / Restoration / Other	1,000	5,250
13 Gala and Other Events	1,016	1,006
14 Bank Charges	82	82
15 Speakers / Honoraria	100	93
16 Outside Services	184	615
17 Geranium House Tour	2,989	2,780
	13,204	16,792



Net Income (Loss)

	7,434	6,590
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Balance Sheet

Bank Account at year end	22,193	16,570
HST Receivable to ACO Provincial	1,646	1,079
*Investments GIC	28,830	27,869
Total	52,668	45,519

2014

* GIC29-28	14,766
* GIC29-30	7,725
* GIC29-32	6,339

***Grants, etc.**

Heritage London Foundation (Curtains)	1,000	1,500	Hamilton Road Stained Glass
			1000 Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation
			2500 Red Antiquities Chimney
			250 LCF / St Thomas Railway
	1,000	5,250	

UPCOMING EVENTS

**42nd Annual Geranium
Heritage House Tour
EXPLORING OLD EAST
Sunday, June 7, 2015
Old East Village beginning at
Lorne Ave. School
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Tickets are \$20.00 in advance,
\$25.00 after June 6 and include
refreshments.

Info: 519-471-550

ACO London website

www.acolondon.ca/

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ACOLondon>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/acolondonont>
- hashtag #GHHT2015

**2nd Annual Tweed Ride
Saturday, May 9, 2015
Queens Park**

**930 Dundas Street
11:00 am to 2:00 pm**

2nd Annual London Tweed Ride
Don your favourite vintage (or
brand new) tweeds, hop on your
bike, and ride in style with some
of London's most spirited cyclists
through some of London's historic
neighbourhoods and best bike-
ways. In style, of course, and the
style is tweeds. There are prizes
for best-dressed, so don't be afraid
to go all out!

Free!

Contact:

London Tweed Ride

info@londontweedride.ca

**Victoria Day Picnic
Monday May 18, 2015
Eldon House**

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Meet royal guest Queen Victoria at
Eldon House and enjoy Victorian
games, lemonade and cookies on
Eldon House grounds and gardens.
Events will be held indoors in the
Interpretive Centre if weather is
inclement.

Cost: \$8.00 (incl. HST) per person.

**Gathering on the Green
Saturday, June 6
Village Green (Wortley Road
and Elmwood Avenue)**

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Local entertainers, food, games,
Silent Auction, craft and plant ven-
dors, community and environmental
organizations

ACO London will be there!

Free event supported by the Old
South Community Organization and
local businesses

**Historic Woodfield Street Fair
Saturday, June 13 (Rain date
Sunday, June 14)**

**Princess Avenue closed from
William to Palace and pedes-
trian only for this event**

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Music, drama, horse and carriage
tours, food, heritage games, dis-
plays and speakers

ACO London will be there!

**Canada Day
Wednesday July 1, 2015
Eldon House**

12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy a tour of Eldon House and
its grounds. Special entertainment,
activities for children and adults
are planned to celebrate Canada's
birthday and the 50th Anniversary
of the flag.

Cost: Free

**Annual Bus Trip
Saturday, September 19, 2015**

Mark your calendars now for a
nostalgic trip to explore London's
and St. Thomas' railroad heydays!
Check the Fall 2015 newsletters for
details.

Keep an eye on:

ACO London website

www.acolondon.ca/

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ACOLondon>

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Vice-President Vacant
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Membership Secretary Sharon Lunau
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Sylvia Chodas

ACO/ HLF Heritage Awards Marlyn Loft

Restoration Grant

Don Menard

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario - London Region Branch

c/o Grosvenor Lodge
1017 Western Road
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www.acolondon.ca

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR
2015** was included with the January
2015 newsletter. Please download
the form at www.acolondon.ca
and return it along with your cheque to
our Membership Secretary as soon as
possible.

Individual - \$35 Household - \$40

Student - \$12 Associate Member - \$45