

45th Annual Geranium Heritage House Tour: Wortley Walkabout

By: Sylvia Chodas, GHHT Committee Chair

Take a short jaunt southward from London’s downtown, past the railroad tracks and over the river, and you are in Old South. Turn down any side street and you’ll find yourself surrounded with houses and streetscapes from another era. This early suburb of London was part of Westminister Township annexation in 1890, and had developed its own “village centre” along Wortley Road’s commercial blocks. Luckily for Londoners who today flock to its pubs and unique shops, Wortley Village has retained its village character, due in no small part to the heritage buildings that provide the backdrop. Indeed, Old South as a whole has maintained a residential character throughout the years.

You are invited to explore the Wortley neighbourhood on this year’s Geranium Heritage House Tour, taking place on Sunday June 3, between 1:00 and 5:00pm. Tickets cost \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 on the day but are limited - so get yours early! “Wortley Walkabout” will begin at the London Normal School (now Wortley YMCA) where you will exchange your ticket for a keepsake guidebook featuring a tour map and notes on history and architecture. Armed with your guidebook you are welcome to spend the afternoon on a walkabout of this charming heritage neighbourhood. The walk takes about two hours and includes interior visits to the London Normal School and 7 homes (marked by red potted geraniums). Refreshments and a tour will be provided at St. James Westminister Church.

The neighbourhood was officially designed as the Wortley Village - Old South Heritage Conservation District on June 1, 2015. The walk explores the east portion of this district and includes houses on Wortley



Photograph by Jessie B. Gussack Photography

Road, Duchess Ave, Elmwood Ave., and Ridout Street. Architectural styles are varied and include Italianate, Queen Anne, Edwardian, and “eclectic”.

For charm and history look no further than the featured house at 37 Ridout Street. “Glenbrae” as it was called when first built in 1900, is the first house south of the river and the plentiful use of river stone in its design makes it blend in well with the setting. Glenbrae, its name embedded in the front iron gate, was home of London building contractor Andrew Durand and his wife Mary, who had received the property upon the death of her father Police Magistrate E. Jones Parke. The style is a unique combination of Queen Anne and Edwardian, and as you tour the interior combination you will see the detail and pride of workmanship of a bygone era.

Get your tickets today! acolondon.ca

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ACO MISSION

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

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

Individual - \$35 Household - \$40

Student - \$12 Associate Member - \$45

From The Executive...

By: Jennifer Grainger, President

A new council was elected at our AGM in April and I'm pleased to accept my new role as president of the London branch. A few other changes have taken place: Bob Porter, Benjamin Vazquez, Sylvia Chodas and Arthur McClelland are stepping down from the board, Mike Bloxam is now Past President, and Shawn Adamsson and Matthew Robertson are now new members-at-large. A big thank you goes out to everyone for your past and future contribution to ACO London.

The AGM itself was held April 11 at Design House London, the historic 1908 McMahan-Granger block, once home to Gardner Galleries at 186 York Street. Business owner and designer Rebecca Courey shared her experiences renovating and restoring the building into an award-winning landmark. Afterwards, those in attendance explored the inspiring interior of the four-storey retail store and design company - that conveniently for us - included a large event space on the third floor. Congratulations Rebecca!

This spring ACO London has continued to advocate for London's heritage, submitting letters to City Council and the London Advisory Committee on Heritage regarding the request for demolition of two historic barns at 660 Sunningdale Road East and potential development pressure along the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors. While the barns will be incorporated into a new subdivision, the BRT's impact on heritage remains to be seen.

It is always better to know sooner rather than later that a building that deserves conservation is under threat due to redevelopment plans or neglect. I would encourage ACO members to develop a "Neighbourhood Watch" in many heritage neighbourhoods as possible, including downtown. Once members spot an endangered building, they can advise the ACO board. If the building is not designated or listed, our local council can then conduct research on the building and its former occupants in order to develop support for protection and potential designation. This "Early Warning System" may allow us to halt the process of neglect or redevelopment before it becomes advanced.

Meanwhile, now that spring is here, we can look forward to this year's Geranium Heritage House Tour on June 3rd, featuring a variety of lovely homes in Old South London's wonderful Wortley Village. See you there!



Mike Bloxam congratulated Jennifer Grainger as the new branch president at our 2018 Annual General Meeting at Design House London.

(Photograph by Sandra Miller)

Kilworth United Church

By: Martha Sellens, M.A. Public History
2018 London Heritage Scholarship Award Recipient

This past fall I conducted research on Kilworth United Church to see if the property was worthy of designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. Kilworth United Church is a modest vernacular stone church located at 2442 Oxford Street West in the former village of Kilworth, near London's current western most limit. Through my research I discovered that it was of significant cultural heritage value. Properties can be designated under the act if they meet any of the three criteria - physical/design values, historical/associative values, and contextual values. Kilworth United Church meets all three.

Physically, Kilworth United Church is a rare and early example of a stone church in the London area. It was built in 1850 - 1851 making it the second oldest extant church in London. Only St. Paul's Cathedral, built 1846, is older. Kilworth United Church was constructed using local granite field stone and porous limestone known as "Wishing Well Rock." This limestone was likely quarried locally at the Wishing Well Falls and has unique fossil features. In 1876 the congregation replaced the original plain glass windows with simple Gothic-style stained glass. The coloured glass features etched and enamelled patterns which were purchased from local businesses.

Kilworth United Church was originally Episcopal Methodist, and as the second Methodist church in the village of Kilworth it demonstrates the popularity and growth of Methodism in nineteenth century Ontario. It also has direct associations with early pioneer families including (but not limited to) the Kilbourn, Uptigrove, and Woodhull families, who were some of the first settlers in the former Delaware Township. Members of these families are among the first trustees of the church and are listed as donors for the installation of the existing windows in 1876. One hundred years later the congregation installed a memorial bell in 1976 honouring another member of the Woodhull family, Marjorie Mae Woodhull Doan, who was a local historian and active member of the church.

A relic of nineteenth century Kilworth, Kilworth United Church is the only remaining public building from the village and it has been isolated from its surroundings by the Komoka Provincial Park. It is essential for conserving the character of Kilworth as an historic settlement.

Kilworth United Church is the setting for countless individual stories, some of which I was able to uncover during my research. It was famous locally for its tea meetings which attracted sleigh-loads of visitors who braved the February snow from miles around to attend.



*Martha Sellens at Kilworth United Church.
(Photograph by Kyle Gonyou)*

Kilworth was and is an active congregation fond of music, food, and community. Its physical, historical, and contextual values make it a prime candidate for designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. And it is my hope that designation will ensure that Kilworth United Church continues to tell their stories and create new ones for centuries to come.



Kilworth United Church (Photograph by Kyle Gonyou)

London's Blackfriars Bridge

By: F. Michael Bartlett, Ph.D., P.Eng

Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Western Ontario

On 27 November 2017, Blackfriars Bridge was successfully lifted, lowered, and removed from its abutments. It will be re-installed later this year after restoration of its 1875 structure (Figure 1) including the Phoenix Column elements of the compression chord and the lattice elements of the verticals. The refurbished bridge will feature new truss and floor members.

The 1875 structure was designed and built by Wrought Iron Bridge Company (WIBC) of Canton, Ohio. It was indicative of an era in Ontario when wood bridges were replaced by metal bridges.

1870s-era structural innovations

The 1875 structure was a product of an era of intense competition amongst wrought-iron bridge fabricators and represents the zenith of wrought-iron bowstring arch-truss technology. This is reflected in the WIBC 1874 book of designs (WIBC 1874), which recognizes that pedestrians are the governing live load, and, based on credible literature reviews, specifies pedestrian loadings that are consistent with those in modern codes. It also contains other information that clearly distorts engineering science, perhaps to ensure the economy of WIBC products in a very competitive market.

The 1875 structure contained eight features of 20 patented in WIBC's most significant U.S. patent dated 11 February 1873. It also featured a double-panel web diagonal arrangement that was patented in America, (Figure 2) by Job Abbott (Abbott, 1876). The web diagonals at midspan each cross two panels at an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the horizontal, making the diagonal structure for efficient. The patent was filed 10 months after Blackfriars opened to traffic, perhaps because the state of structural analysis in 1870s was insufficient to compute accurately the forces in the web members.



Figure 1. Photograph of Blackfriars Bridge taken shortly after the bridge was erected, with foundations of the centre pier of the previous bridge still visible. (Photograph courtesy of Stanford University Libraries, Department of Special Collections).

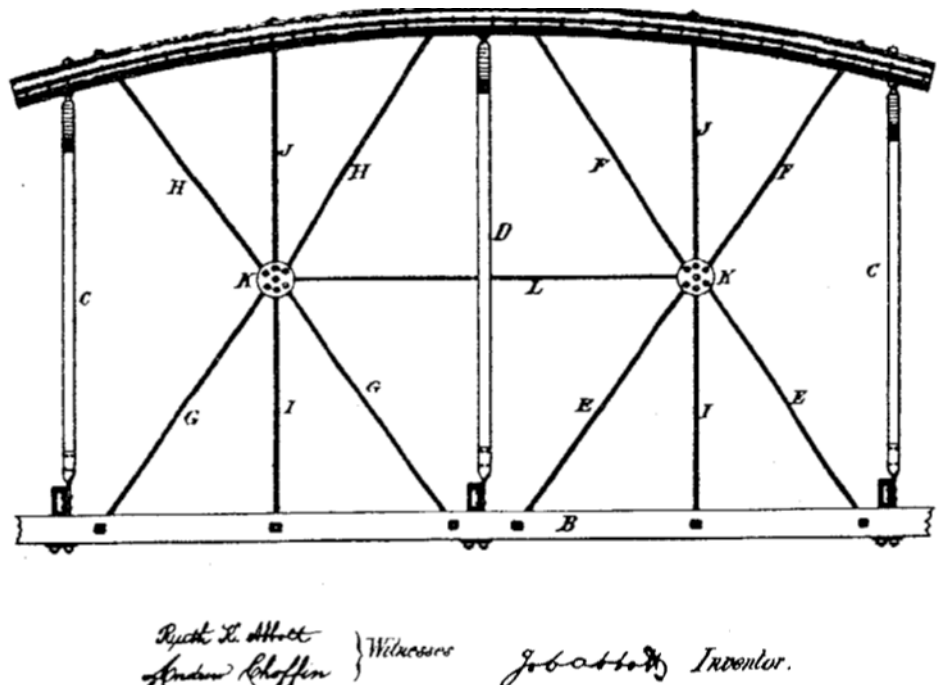


Figure 2. The bridge has a double-panel diagonal arrangement that was patented in America by Job Abbott. (Image from United States Patent Office)

Job Abbott and Dominion Bridge
Sir John A. Macdonald's National Policy created tariffs that prevented WIBC from selling bridges in Canada. With a new Canadian railway to the Pacific Ocean proposed, Job Abbot created a branch plant of the firm in Toronto names the Toronto Bridge Company in 1878. The first contract, "a 180-foot span of 42 tons, for London, Ontario, (at a price of \$4,000) was dropped into the river during erection, and the company was held liable for its repair and replacement" (Shearwood, n.d.). In 1882, Abbott, as president, secured funding from three Scottish investors for a new venture titled "Dominion Bridge Company" to be sited in the vicinity of Montreal, which subsequently became the most significant Canadian steel bridge company in the 20th century.

Contribution to London's Cultural Fabric

Blackfriars Bridge has been a key piece of the cultural fabric of London. It has been widely photographed, drawn, and painted, and in particular a series of stained glass images was created by London artist Ted Goodden that is exhibited in Centennial Hall in London. These artistic creations should continue to resonate with the geometry and massing of the replacement structure.

Commemorative Efforts

A bridge artifact monument will be constructed near the east bridge approach that will include artifacts from the bridge and commemorative plaques designating the bridge as a City of London Heritage Property and a Canadian Society for Civil Engineering National Historic Site.

An Ontario Heritage Foundation

Provincial Historical Plaque will also be reinstalled in this area. Other artifacts have been delivered to the Structures Laboratory at Western and will be used in displays in the Engineering Buildings at Western and elsewhere.

References

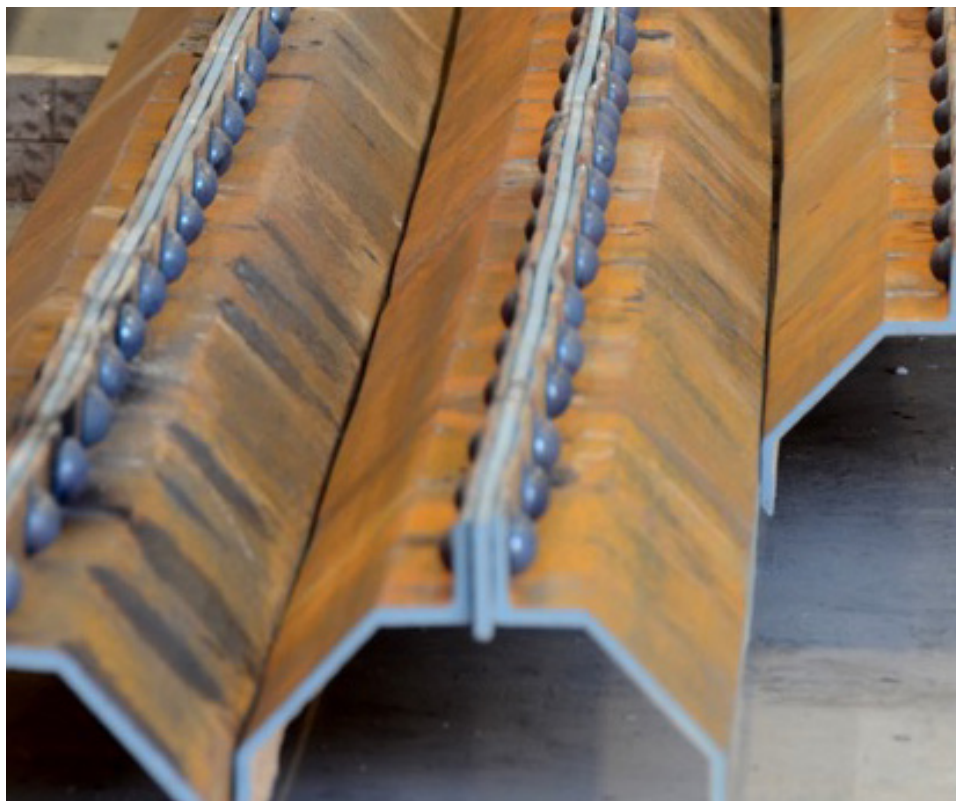
Abbott, J., 1876. *Improvement in metallic arch-bridges*. United States Patent 184490, November.

Shearwood, M.H., n.d. (mid 1930s?). *Whence Came this Dominion Bridge that Spans the Dominion of Canada*. Publisher and place of publication unknown. 57 pp.

Wrought Iron Bridge Company, 1874. *Designs of Wrought Iron Bridges Built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton Ohio*. Hartzell & Saxton Printers, Canton, OH.



*Hot riveting work on the Blackfriars Bridge.
(Photograph courtesy of City of London, photographer MJ Idzerda)*



*Pieces of the original phoenix that have been riveted together with new rivets.
(Photograph courtesy of City of London, photographer MJ Idzerda)*

11th Annual Heritage Awards

Presented by ACO London and Heritage London Foundation at the Delta London Armouries, February 15, 2018. Congratulations to all Honourees and thank you to our sponsors and nominators!



>Welcome remarks from Heritage London Foundation president Brenda McQuaid and ACO London (now past) president Mike Bloxam. (Photograph by Antony Chodas.)



From left to right: Honourees Ken Demelo and Rebecca Courey of Design House London with nominator Sandra Miller



From left to right: Honourees Lore Wainwright of Innovation Works London and Lina Bowden of Pillar Nonprofit Network, with nominator Mauricio Bernal. (Photograph by Antony Chodas.)



Honouree Vanessa Demelo giving thanks for an Award recognizing heritage renovation work done on three properties in historic Woodfield. (Photograph by Bree Caspi)



From left to right: Honourees Bev Hughes, Carol Small, Linda Kaiser, and David Zavitz from Middlesex Centre Archives with nominator Sharon Lunau (second from right). (Photograph by Antony Chodas)



From left to right: Nominator Marion Raycraft with honourees Ann & Ron Walker of North Middlesex Historical Society. (Photograph by Antony Chodas.)

London Advisory Committee on Heritage

By: Maggie Whalley, Member at Large

One of the biggest tasks undertaken by LACH this year was checking the recommendations of the report of the WSP Consultants on the heritage implications of the BRT proposals and plans. LACH looked at the lists of properties that fall within 1 km or 100 m of bus routes. This actually comprises 421 properties that need to be looked at to determine whether they have 'heritage value or interest' based on guidelines supplied by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. If it is considered that they do have HVI then they will have a CHER (Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report) carried out. Those that are Designated or Listed on the Inventory of Heritage Resources are already excluded from evaluation, but may need an additional HIA (Heritage Impact Assessment).

Stewardship, augmented by the whole LACH committee, roamed far and wide to visually check

whether the identified properties met these criteria - and more especially to ensure none of the value were missed.

LACH was heartened by the report on the barns threatened with demolition on Sunningdale Avenue are to be retained and incorporated into the new development there.

There is some concern over the future of the former 'Fugitive Slave Chapel' restoration process now that the community group of the preservation project has been taken over by the Beth Emanuel Church trustees. LACH confirmed that a renewal of the chapel's designation status should proceed (this was repealed when the chapel building was moved).

ACO London Financial Statement

By: Heather Dundas, Treasurer

	Jan - Dec 17	Jan - Dec 16
Income		
Donations and Grants (1)	10,988.50	2,085.75
Membership Dues	3,184.00	3,474.68
Geranium Heritage Homes Tour (GHHT)	14,726.00	12,232.00
Miscellaneous Revenue (2)	3,093.12	1,102.81
Total Income	31,991.62	18,895.24
Expense		
Advertising & Promotion (3)	310.00	1,923.36
Postage, Mailing, Printing, Supplies	1,142.37	1,288.34
Website	134.11	2,473.21
Rents (3)	3,214.53	4,055.94
ACO Provincial Membership Fees	990.00	1,476.00
Grants (4)	1,150.00	6,000.00
GALA and Other Events	677.09	2,125.20
Other Expenses (5)	3,098.22	731.57
GHHT Expenses	2,494.04	2,446.81
Total Expense	13,210.36	22,520.43
NET INCOME	18,781.26	(3,625.19)
Assets		
Bank & PayPal Deposits	44,461.04	26,548.71
HST Receivable from ACO	4,308.39	3,417.30
Investments	29,851.69	29,716.85
TOTAL ASSETS	78,621.12	59,682.86

Notes:

- 2017 - donation via London Community Foundation.
- 2017 - bus trip and house signs.
- 2016 - 50th anniversary event rental fee.
- 2016 - Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation Project.
- 2017 - Marshall Bros. Tea project and Vittoria Bus Trip.

These figures are unaudited. ACO London, like all branches, reports year-end financials to ACO Provincial.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fanshawe Pioneer Village Summer Events

Check out FPV's garden party for *Queen Victoria's Birthday* (Monday, May 21); *A Woman's Work is Never Done*, an exhibit celebrating the lives of women in London and Middlesex County from 1820 - 1920 (on now until October 4); *Herstory: Celebrating Women's Histories*, a weekend-long commemoration of the histories of women in London and Middlesex County, including mini tours and play about the Famous Five (July 21 - July 22, 10am - 4:30pm); and *Welcome to Bon Echo*, a play by Aimee Adler and AlvegoRoot Theatre about a revolutionary member of Canada's suffrage movement, Flora Denison MacDonald. For more information: fanshawepioneervillage.ca/events.

Gathering on the Green

Free - Saturday, June 2
The Green at London Normal School,
165 Elmwood Ave East
gpbrown3.wixsite.com/oscogog

45th Annual Geranium Heritage House Tour

Advance tickets \$20 - Sunday June 3 at 1:00pm
London Normal School / Wortley YMCA
165 Elmwood Ave East
eventbrite.ca/e/45th-annual-geranium-heritage-house-tour-tickets-45543505852

50 Years of Storybook Gardens

Free - Wednesday, June 13 at 2:00pm
Sherwood Branch Public Library,
1225 Wonderland Rd. N.
For more information, call Sherwood Library at 519-473-9965

London Advisory Committee on Heritage

Open to all - Wednesdays, 5:30pm (June 13, July 11, Aug 8) City Hall, 2nd Floor
london.ca/city-hall/meetings-advisory/Pages/default.aspx.

London & Middlesex Historical Society

Free - Wednesday, June 20 at 7:30pm
Old Courthouse, 399 Ridout St. N
Jennifer Grainger presents *London Free Press From the Vault: A Photo History of London*
For more information: londonhistory.org/lmhs-meetings

Eldon House - Summer Events

Catch performances by female musicians with the London Arts Council every Sunday Tea in July and August, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in Canadian federal elections. Eldon House is also hosting a *Lemon-Yellow Party* (Saturday, June 23). Guests are invited to dress for the 1920s, sip cocktails, taste hors d'oeuvres and dance to jazz and ragtime music on the beautiful lawns of Eldon House for this fundraiser event. For more information: eldonhouse.ca/events

History Tours and Writing Walks

\$8 - Saturdays at 10:30am and 1:00pm
(July 7 - August 25)
Museum London, 421 Ridout St. N.
Join ACO member Sylvia Chodas and London Arts Council Poet Laureate Tom Cull for various heritage and literary walking tours around London's historic core. To register: museumlondon.ca/walking-tours

Artifact Day

Cost for admission - Sunday, July 15 from 1pm - 4pm
Ska-Nah-Doht Village and Museum,
8348 Longwoods Road
londontourism.ca/Events/Artifact-Day

2018 Ontario Heritage Conference

Registration required - June 7 - 9, Sault Ste. Marie
The Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee invites you to the 30th annual Ontario Heritage Conference. This year's theme "What have we well achieved?" will ask attendees to reflect on past efforts with the goal to inspire us all to continue our work conserving heritage. Featured speakers include Richard Moorhouse, Chair of the Board of the National Trust; John K. Stephenson, President of the Ontario Association of Architects; and Mitch Case, Metis Nation of Ontario Youth Council. If you're looking to learn from colleagues, share successes and challenges, a trip to the "Soo", this weekend may be for you! ontarioheritageconference.ca

