

Communiqué

...Heritage London Foundation

Chairman's Message

It has been a while since we last updated you on happenings at Heritage London Foundation, so we hope that you will find the information in this edition of the newsletter informative.

Our hospitality business continued to be under some stress this year, presumably due to the economy, so it became important to focus more directly on doing whatever we can to reverse the situation we have been in for a couple of years. We therefore redefined the Board's Vice-Chair's responsibilities to concentrate on Operations (the hospitality side of HLF's work), specifically with a view to increasing the revenue of Elsie Perrin Williams Estate. Vaino Einola was enthusiastically preparing to lead this effort when he recently had to retire from the HLF Board for personal reasons. We are fortunate that Susan Bentley has stepped in to take over from Vaino and keep our plans moving forward.

Another significant change in Board members occurred with the resignation last spring of Dr. Michael Grace.

Throughout this newsletter you will learn of efforts we have expended to keep the properties in fine shape, and of the progress on the exciting Red Antiquities Building project. You will also find notices of our upcoming events.

I encourage all of you to participate in the events we are planning. One of these is the 5th Annual ACO-HLF Heritage Awards will be presented at a Gala Reception to be held at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate during Heritage Week in February 2012.

This awards program seeks to recognize individuals and organization from either the private or public sector who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the preservation through project that preserve part of London's built heritage

The program seeks nominations for long-term dedication to the cause, for a single outstanding effort that made a notable difference, for strong leadership and vision in educating the public, or for actions that have brought about a positive outcome for built heritage in our City. The deadline for nominations is **Monday January 9, 2012**. More information about the

program such as the categories and the criteria used to judge these awards is available on the ACO website (www.acolondon.ca) and on our website (www.heritagelondonfoundation.org)

As well our Annual General meeting which will be held Monday March 19th, 2012. We will discuss our results for 2011, set the budget for 2012 and hear imaginative ideas from our guest speaker. This meeting really helps us to get some direction from our members.

As always, I am thankful that we have a dedicated Board of Directors to oversee our affairs, and excellent management and staff to look after our day-to-day operations.

Best wishes to all,
John Manness
President and Board Chair



Upcoming Events

"WHAT TO WEAR OR NOT" with local personality Sue Jacobs

Sunday, November 20th at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate – 1:30pm – 4:30pm – a joint partnership with EPWE and Osteoporosis Canada - refreshments graciously provided by Culinary Catering. Limited seating - to reserve tickets call 519-432-6620



A HERITAGE CHRISTMAS

Christmas Open House on Sunday
November 27th 2011

at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate
2p.m. – 4.30 pm.
Silent Auction- Festive tea-
Christmas Piano Music- House tours
Admission \$5.00 pp

Heritage London Foundation Retiring Board Members

These volunteers are essential and are a very active part of the daily life of Heritage London Foundation.

This year HLF has lost two Board members who have supported the organization for many years. Dr. Michael Grace stepped down from the Board in the spring after serving for several terms and was also Treasurer for a number of years. Dr. Mike is a neighbour of the estate and can frequently be seen walking his dogs along the trails about the grounds. He was always a welcome sight when staff was called upon to be at the Estate alone, you knew that he was always close by and would come to offer assistance if needed. As Treasurer he was in the office every two weeks to sign payroll checks and in his busy life very seldom needed a reminder. Dr. Mike continues to be a good friend of HLF and we thank him for all that he did for us for so long.

The other long time member of the Board

(he returned to the Board last year having been away from it for some time) to announce his resignation is Vaino Einola. Vaino was enthusiastically preparing to concentrate on the operations side of HLF where the goal is to increase revenues at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate by diversifying the source of revenue. Vaino led by example doing the lion's share of any project undertaken at the Estate. As the renovations were done this spring he could be found at the Estate moving furniture, stripping wallpaper, polishing floors, assembling flat-pack filing cabinets, hanging pictures and anything else that was asked of him. He put in tireless and cheerful efforts to make the Estate a better place. He also found time to enjoy many of the special events, and photos have surfaced of him enjoying a dance or two on the floor during the 60's dance. The Board thanks Vaino for all his efforts and wishes him and Linda all the best as they prepare to move to Toronto.

Save the Red Antiquities Building- SRAB

The Red Antiquities Building case is a textbook example of how a concerted joint effort between heritage activists, community groups and local government can make a difference in the ongoing struggle to preserve London's built heritage.

The project is now completing its second phase and planning for the third phase is well along.

The project's first phase was the stabilization of the structure and completion of a new full basement. This phase involved moving the building off the old foundation, building the new basement and replacing the building back on the new basement. The second phase was the restoration of the exterior which will be completed just prior to winter's arrival and the third phase will be the upgrading of the building's heating/cooling systems, plumbing and electrical systems to modern standards and refurbishing the interior for use as contemporary office space while retaining important heritage features.

The project has received much attention including a 2011 Green Brick Award from the Urban League of London. This award was established in 1985 and is given annually to recognize developments that take community concerns into account at both the planning and development stages of the project.

Pathways Skill and Development, the lead partner on the project has been awarded the A.K. Scultorpe Award for Advocacy from the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. This award recognizes an individual, an informal group or an established non-profit organization, which at a critical point achieved exemplary success in a significant heritage crisis. The people involved have demonstrated leadership in the field, integrity and the ability to be inclusive and communicate the value of heritage conservation to others.

The project has received hundreds of donations from individual Londoners and revenue from fundraising events like the Mad Hatter's Tea Party at Woodholme (the former Lawson Estate). In addition the project has also been the recipient of some generous grants from the Good Foundation, the City of London and the Ontario Trillium Foundation, including a recent announcement of \$70,000. While things are progressing well, further funds are needed and we would welcome your donation to this extremely important project.

For more information, or to follow the progress of the restoration you may sign on to www.reantiquitiesbuilding.com or "like" Back From The Brink on Facebook.



Board of Directors

Heritage London Foundation is an innovative non-profit corporation founded in 1981 that advocates for the preservation of significant heritage properties. Created when the wrecker's ball was rapidly destroying many of London's architectural treasures, Heritage London Foundation now provides viable contemporary uses for two beautiful properties, the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate and Grosvenor Lodge, and is open to future projects. Revenue from Grosvenor Lodge and Elsie Perrin Williams Estate assist Heritage London Foundation to preserve, protect and promote London's built heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

John Manness - Chair
Jan Dickinson - Estate Manager
Susan Bentley
Diana Coates
Kathryn Awde
Joe O'Neil
Don Menard
James Baker
Stefan Andrejicka
Ann Martin - Secretary
Peter Innes - Treasurer
Maggie Whalley

Heritage London Foundation

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www.heritagelondonfoundation.org

Elsie Perrin Williams Estate

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London, ON N6G 2J4
519-432-6620

www.elsieperrinwilliamsestate.com

Grosvenor Lodge

1017 Western Road
London, ON N6G 1G5
519-645-2845

www.grosvenorlodge.com

Fundraising Committee report

We had a higher revenue target this year for our projects, with a total of \$7,000 put in the budget for Board fundraising. I am glad to say we reached our goal, and it was not an easy year to be doing that as we also have the SRAB campaign trying to reach a very similar audience. We are truly grateful for all the support we have received from our very loyal group of members and friends.

We started the year's efforts with a fundraising dinner in March featuring guest speaker, Professor David Bentley, who spoke on the life and times of William Morris and his circle.

In April we held our first Spring Arts and Crafts Sale which went extremely well for a first time event and which is one we shall be repeating next April on the weekend of the 13th and 14th. With top quality craftspeople and artists in attendance, and holding it to coincide with the London Artists Studio Tour, we feel it is a really good project that will develop over the years to become an important event on London's artistic calendar. It is a great place to buy all sorts of unique hand-crafted gifts for weddings, baby showers, Mothers' Day, Father's Day, graduations etc. So mark it on your calendar for 2012!

We held our annual summer fundraiser, the Gatsby Gala, in July and this was the best one ever. With more people in attendance, more activities, great food donated by Culinary Catering and with the gorgeous decor, care of Steve Selmenci, it was a night to remember. We had help from a great team of volunteers, including Katherine Walmsley, Andrew Murphy, Fred Zamostny, Carla Caragozza, Judy Lusk, Linda Hawker, June Watt, Helen Mason, Janet Crozier, Maggie Whalley, Stefan Andrejicka. Next year's gala will probably have a different theme, and we are considering moving it back into June to attract even more guests.

Our last event of this year will be the Christmas Open House (A Heritage Christmas) at Elsie Perrin Williams Estate on November 27th. We would like to thank all the artists and florists who have donated items for the silent auction that will take place that afternoon. Once again, it is a great place to do some bidding for festive items and help fund the projects of HLF. Please watch for the notice elsewhere in this newsletter, and come and join us - we would love to see you!

Watch out for the Valentine's Dinner & Dance on February 11th and come and have a really romantic evening dining and dancing in the beautiful Great Hall.

Kathryn Awde: Chair Special Events and Fundraising Committee

Excitement at Elsie Perrin Williams Estate! An Update

This has been another busy year for our committee and we are so proud of our achievements. We undertook another major renovation project in the spring and the results are very satisfying. We have redecorated the offices upstairs and got rid of one office which now functions as a sitting room that can be rented out, either during weddings as family changing /resting room, or used for small business meetings etc. HLF now has one large and one small office; we reclaimed a small bedroom that was full of junk in order to do this. In the two large front bedrooms we stripped off the old wallpaper which was a legacy from the Interiors show held in the early 1980's (all this done by Vaino Einola and myself with a super team of volunteers) and washed and prepared the walls for painting. Professional Bill Beeks painted the three rooms for us at an incredibly low rate, understanding that we had very little money, and Hyde Park Paints and Paper gave us a generous discount on the supplies. Jan Dickinson asked us for light yellow walls and funnily enough it turned out that it was the colour we found on the walls of the main bedroom when we stripped off the wallpaper! We oiled (on our hands and knees) and paste-waxed the floors to help them last a little longer (refinishing was estimated to cost well over \$10,000). We did have some re-upholstery done and Peter of London Re Upholstering on Springbank Road gave us a wonderful deal. So the famous "Hadley" sofa has been re-covered in a regency stripe fabric very similar to the original, but in a slightly different colour scheme. Two other rather drab Victorian arm chairs have been given an update too and look lighter and brighter. All sorts of bulky and useless items of furniture and several moth-eaten rugs were kindly removed for us by Don Menard and have been given house room at the museum. We found a large carpet in the attic that looks warm and cosy but which is badly stained so really needs to be replaced (when we are rolling in money we can do this!) but it has been put to good use. We also found a painting which may well have been done by Elsie herself and we have had it framed and hung in the new room where it looks perfect. We bought new office furniture to give the new offices a more professional and streamlined look and to help boost staff morale as the space would now be shared.



With donations from various people, including three lamps from Kathryn Awde, a gift of framing, and the many, many hours of volunteers labour we have accomplished this huge renovation for approximately \$5,000.

Apart from Vaino who has been thanked elsewhere, there is Freddie, who came daily for about three weeks and stripped wallpaper and washed and polished and willingly moved heavy furniture and happily took on any tasks we gave him...and Brad and Dave... furniture movers and wallpaper strippers extraordinaire, and Mary Ann who took junk to the dump, Sharon in the office who willingly put up with all the disruption we caused and, last, but not least, Jan, who allowed us to steal her big office in the hope we could raise more funds by having another room to rent. Thank you all. Phew!

Renae Berven has recently joined the team at EPWE and has learned the ropes very fast. She is proving to be a valuable asset to Jan, and we welcome her.

In June we partnered in an event held by the Easter Seals Foundation - a Summer Solstice Event which was great fun, and will be repeated next year. Come -and try the handwriting analysis -it was spot on! (She told me I was brilliant, of course)

To our surprise and delight the City crews showed up in the heat of the summer and installed a new air conditioning system in the upstairs of the house. This is transformational for our staff, who, on several days every summer, were working in 30 degree offices. I can imagine that there will be many brides in the future who will also find the house a lot more comfortable on their special day. September was a busy month for weddings- evidently September is the new June, so we were brimful of brides. We owe a debt of thanks to Alexandra who works for the Parks Department and is charge of the plantings around the house. Alexandra designs them each fall (I found her with sketch pad in hand last week) and orders the seeds and plants from special nurseries, seeking out new and interesting varieties. We are so lucky to have the benefit of her trained eye, as she has a degree in horticulture from her university in Poland. I think many people agree that this year the gardens at the front were a fabulous riot of colour and full of shape and interest. Now we are planning to fill the urns with dogwood and greenery for the festive season which is almost upon us.

Now to our members and friends- Come to the Christmas Open House on November 27th and take a tour and see what we have accomplished- your membership fees and entrance-ticket money to special events have helped to pay for this. Our thanks go to you, as well.

Susan Bentley: Chair, EPWE Property Committee

MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR

ELSIE'S VALENTINES BALL

Saturday February 11th 2012

A romantic dinner and dance at London's premiere location for weddings and parties.

5th ANNUAL ACO-HLF HERITAGE AWARDS GALA

Tuesday February 21, 2012

The presentation of the annual ACO-HLF Heritage Awards
Elsie Perrin Williams Estate

SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS SALE

Friday April 13th, 2012 and

Saturday April 14th, 2012

A high quality show and sale featuring a wide variety of artists and craftspeople. It is the perfect place to find gifts for weddings, Mothers' or Fathers' Day, baby showers, graduations or simply to find gorgeous objects to enhance your own decor.

THE ANNUAL GATSBY GALA

Wednesday June 27th, 2012

High Upon the Hill Top

Since 1916 I have sat upon this hilltop watching the changes passing me by. First, I was quite alone and then through the mid 30's thru 50's I found I had many companions. Of course, none as grand as I. I am a 68 acre estate. I had my own mistress and horses and stable and oh so much more - a golf course. No one else had that.

In 1934, my beloved mistress passed away, her faithful housemaid and friend stayed on to take care of me. Oh, they were glorious days, I had garden parties, high teas and visitors galore. Dogs were running about everywhere. Those were the days! A sad day in 1979, Harriet the housemate, fell ill and I was left all alone. The will of my mistress was read and then taken to government to be pulled apart. My lovely Elsie's fortune was given to others. Not much was left for me.

All was not well. And then the wonderful neighbours not wanting me to fall into disrepair formed a group - a Charity - Heritage London Foundation! I was to be saved. And used for parties, and functions - weddings too - oh my dear Elsie would be so pleased. For many years, I hosted over 10,000 people per year. They were glory years for me. Heritage London kept me clean and polished for my visitors. Many came year upon year.

However, times are not the same now. I have much competition and it is very expensive to keep my floors and rooms warm. My insulation is not the best. There are a few spaces here and there. I need some attention. My caregivers are forever trying but it is a big task. I hear costs are skyrocketing. We need to have more supporters, allies to help me continue to be useful in my old age. How can you help you ask? Well, become a friend of Elsie. Simply send a donation to my charity... elsieperrinwilliamsestate - a tax receipt will be offered. Or come and visit me and my caring friends - have a tour, book an event, come and enjoy my one of a kind beauty. History and estates like me can not ever be replaced. Come in and hear more of my interesting stories and find the hidden ghosts.

Submitted by
Jan Dickinson
Estate Manager

GROSVENOR LODGE HAPPENINGS

The Foundation is responsible for interior maintenance of this building and the day-to-day details of house and office management. For twelve years the smooth running of Grosvenor Lodge has been in the capable hands of Estates Manager, Jan Dickinson, and her trusty sidekick Jean Robertson, who have, with great efficiency, overseen the rental of office space, staffing, hosting of weddings, interior renovations and the development of the beautiful gardens. Jean, who is deeply devoted to the wellbeing of Grosvenor Lodge has a wonderful calm and warm presence and her hand guides the daily running of the house with quiet efficiency. It is a thriving and happy place. We have wonderful tenants who fill the offices upstairs and the coach house. Children's voices ring out in the halls from Monday to Friday from 4-6 pm when twenty-five Chinese speaking children gather for classes which they attend from September to June each year. They really bring the house to life!

The Lodge is becoming a more and more popular venue for weddings and family parties and we have begun to host memorial gatherings too, as the tranquil setting and gracious atmosphere offer a welcoming place to visit with family and friends after a funeral.

We welcome Sherry Freeman who recently joined the staff as Jean's assistant. Sherry is also on hand at week-ends when wedding receptions occur. Grosvenor's excellent computer technician, Art Webster, has just left us for a year of travel before pursuing further educational opportunities. Art also worked as an event host and was very generous with his time as a volunteer. We wish him good fortune.

Every once in a while a distinctive personality comes along who inspires others. Andrew Murphy, a student at Fanshawe College, studying computer programming, arrived this summer as a volunteer. His energy, imagination and willingness to do many suggested tasks, both routine and unusual, served as a true example. His contribution in man-hours was invaluable and inspirational.

We are ever indebted to Ron Benner and his own team of volunteers for the artistic and creative gardens he has designed, (recently noted and admired by a curator of the Kitchener Art Gallery). Next summer, come and visit us - stop and gaze in wonderment at the beautiful blue morning glories clambering over one of Ron's large trellis constructions, and wander in the old kitchen garden, now planted with native species from Central America. The gardens have seldom looked better than they did this summer.

Leslie Coates planted 33 cedars along the fence at the entrance to the Lodge, and with Andrew Murphy she edged all the beds. Andrew Carmichael, Rebecca Small and her father, John Small, each assisted in planting and weeding. Grosvenor Lodge cannot continue to be a jewel in London's heritage crown without dedicated volunteers. Grosvenor Lodge's annual Halloween Haunted House had to be cancelled for lack of helpers.

We are so grateful for all the help of the volunteers we do have, but more are especially needed to work in the gardens, and to paint and provide carpentry skills.

Culinary Catering, our exclusive caterers generously provides staff and food and extra services beyond their contractual agreement. We thank them for their involvement.

Please support this beautiful house, so little known to the community, with your personal involvement. Please come and make a contribution. Heritage London Foundation is always looking for corporate sponsors to support our work. We welcome you.

Diana Coates: Chair Grosvenor Lodge Property Committee

For an excellent history of Grosvenor Lodge, please visit the Heritage London Foundation website www.heritage-londonfoundation.org.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Heritage London Foundation accepts volunteers in the following areas:

- **Property maintenance (gardening, repairs)**
- **Communication (website & newsletter)**
- **Special Events (assistance at social, fundraising and business events)**

Each of these activities is an essential and very active part of the daily life of Grosvenor Lodge and Elsie Perrin Williams Estate.

For details please call Jan Dickinson at 519-432-7961