

Communiqué

...Heritage London Foundation

An Historic Day in London for The Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation Project

She's off!



(photo SEB)

The fugitive Slave Chapel starts on her historic journey on November 12th

And she arrives!



Photo courtesy of Joe O'Neil

The Slave Chapel arrives at Grey Street, where she will take her place beside her daughter church, Beth Emanuel.

On Wednesday November 12th, the Fugitive Slave Chapel left her long-time base on Thames Street and was gently and carefully transported to her new home on Grey Street. It took almost a year and a ton

of work and fundraising to get to this exciting moment. But now the hard work of restoring and refurbishing the building begins. A decision also has to be made about the best use of the building and how it will be maintained for the future. The steering committee (which has three HLF members amongst its number) is anxiously awaiting the result of a grant application to the Trillium Foundation. Funds are still needed for the restoration work, and anyone who



(photo SEB) Mayor-Elect, Matt Brown shown with Todd Millar was on hand to bring greetings



A rare (& small) photo of Joe O'Neil who is usually taking the photos, as he talks with Sylvia Chodas of ACO!

is interested in helping out with donations can go to the website to find out how to give time, money or materials to this exciting project. www.fscpc.com

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Message from the Chair

This has been another busy summer and fall for our organization. From the Gatsby Gala to Doors Open in September (with the Grosvenor Country Arts and Crafts Fair) and then to the enormously successful Haunted Mansion, we have worked hard to fundraise and have been blessed with a great team of helpers. Several projects at Grosvenor Lodge have been undertaken by the enthusiastic leaders of the Society for Learning in Retirement. We were delighted that Mrs. Drake and members of her family were able to attend the Gatsby Gala in early July where Ruth formally opened the Ruth Drake Gazebo and stayed to party, dancing till late into the night. We were all sad to bid farewell to Jean Robertson at this summer. She worked for HLF for so long and so diligently at the Lodge and everyone (especially Jan and all our long-term members) misses her. Luckily she has imparted most of her knowledge and lore about the building and its idiosyncrasies to Jean Spencer, who we know will do wonderfully as she takes over more and more duties re running the Lodge. We welcome Urmi Dwivedy to the full-time staff. We also welcomed Joanne Off as a short-term member of our team in late September and she worked miracles with the Haunted Mansion. We thank all our member groups at the Lodge who put up with a week's worth of disruption as the house was transformed into a very scary place.

You will read more elsewhere in this issue about the various projects undertaken to improve both the Lodge and the Estate, as well as a report on our special events; you will therefore see details of the work done by many different people. I would like to thank Jan and our loyal and hard working staff, all our Board members and all our wonderful volunteers, whose work contributes significantly to making the adaptive re-use of these two buildings so effective.

I would like to announce that the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has awarded the Lodge a grant for the Greening of Grosvenor Project that will take place in the spring. This is an undertaking that will see native species trees and shrubs planted around the newly extended parking lot at the rear of the property.

To end the year we have our volunteer dinner on November 20th at which we gather to thank all the many people who help us out in different ways. Culinary Catering, as always, is helping us out by graciously providing the delicious food for this event. We thank George and Sally and their team for all their many contributions this year.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Susan

P.S. Don't forget to renew your membership in January !! See James Beynen's article on that.

Estates Manager's Report

Flying Time

As Susan said in her report, we have had a busy season. Time has literally flown past us!

At the wonderful Gatsby Gala in July, we had our official opening of the gazebo – and this has seen many happy couples start their new lives together. Please take a moment to check out the beautiful photos on the Elsie Facebook page, from One-21 Photography and see for yourself how glorious this historic venue can be.

Saying goodbye to our wonderful Lodge assistant, Jean Robertson in June, was a sad event. However, having just seen her I must say retirement is suiting her well. Jean Spencer and Urmi Dwivedy are now holding the fort at Grosvenor Lodge.

We have had many staff changes this year and with help from several granting organizations, we have found some great people.

Fall has past and winter is now upon us....Christmas parties are booking for December and we are busy preparing for bridal shows and new adventures for 2015.

Merry Christmas to All!

Jan Dickinson
Estates Manager

Property Committee Report

As always, the upkeep and refurbishment of the two properties we manage consumes a large part of our resources, both human and financial. This year the focus was on the Lodge, and we have been fortunate to find willing helpers and financial supporters amongst the leaders of the Society for Learning Retirement. As far as HLF is concerned there is nothing retiring about these people (!) they are a source of energy and creativity and they have developed a passion for the Lodge.

First came the drapes. After design advice was given by Nancy Evans of Inside Inc, a team of needlewomen headed by Diana Lloyd made six pairs of gorgeous white damask drapes which now grace the windows of the downstairs reception rooms. They make a stylish and elegant addition to the décor and do provide the much longed-for acoustic enhancement which caused them to be made in the first place. We are most grateful to the ACO and to the Urban League of London who each contributed a third of the cost of the fabric, thus making the financial burden on the Lodge a very light one.

Second came the summerhouse project, and Doug Bell, the Vice-President of SLR, went to work with a will and repainted this charming little structure, much of which is original. He was helped a by young couple who were married at the Lodge, Matt and Tanya Kuenenen who painted the window frames. Diana Lloyd produced some very pretty curtains from donated fabric, and voilà! We have a space that will be put to use next summer as a place to have tea and relax, and that can possibly be the focus of future fundraisers.

A warm thank you to Gloria Gilbert for her gift of the wonderful sofa, a family heirloom. We shall treasure it.

Diana Lloyd, Linda Thornborrow and her son Brandon also worked on the gardens this summer and a delightful Western student, Corinne Qureshi, spent many hours painting the trellis, the fence and the benches in the kitchen garden. Leslie Coates donated and planted the rest of the cedars to finish her project of lining the driveway and screening the ugly chain-link fence. Pete Vanderley of Vanderley Landscaping once again sent us a clean-up crew to help us out as no charge. Thank you to all these hardworking volunteers who help to keep Grosvenor Lodge looking its best.

In the interest of making visits to these important rooms less of an Arctic wilderness adventure this winter, the washrooms at the Lodge have recently been re-insulated, and storm windows will soon be installed; the heating system has also been upgraded. It is to be hoped that all this work, undertaken by Tradition builders at the City's expense, will make life at the Lodge more comfortable for all. Our thanks go to Don Menard and Daryl Diegel for ensuring that this project was undertaken and completed this summer.

Just recently the SLR design team went once more into action and redesigned the rear lobby at the Lodge at their own expense to try and make it a more attractive and hospitable place for changing out of winter clothes, for gathering to get coffee and chat, and for borrowing books from the SLR library. The Lodge staff appreciated being part of the consultation process, and are grateful for the SLR decision to move the coffee focus from the kitchen and the front hall so that "social noise" is less of a factor for our upstairs tenants as well as for the staff in the office.

The Society for Learning in Retirement has now been with us for a year, and adjustments have needed to be made by our staff, our other members and the SLR team. It is great to see how much they love the building and want to help make it more beautiful and accessible for all who work in it or who visit. We are pleased that they have signed on for another two years and look forward to a happy working relationship.

Although the Lodge was the main focus this year, Elsie's house did not get totally overlooked, and we are glad to report that the "grungy" kitchen floor referred to in the last newsletter has now been replaced, thanks to the generosity of Brad Hall of Hall's Carpet Services Ltd. on Exeter Road. Introduced to us by Board member Ann Martin, Brad's firm not only donated the new floor but the labour to install it. After Fred kindly painted the kitchen a lovely peaceful shade of light blue the room looks marvellous and is a lot more pleasant to work in!

Submitted by John Manness: Chair, Property Committee

Membership Secretary's Report

We are looking into monthly donations by both credit card and bank account, more details coming soon. Also, we will be contacting residents of HCDs to see if they would be interested in a HLF membership. And lastly, membership is up from last year, thank you all and let's continue to grow our membership in 2015!

Submitted by James Beynen

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Heritage London Foundation 8th Annual Heritage Awards Programme: Call for Nominations

This awards programme seeks to recognize individuals and organizations from either the private or public sector who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the preservation of London's built heritage. Nominees may be proposed for their 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 awards also seek to honour projects that have actually preserved part of our built heritage. The awards will therefore be given in two broad categories:

1. To individuals in the fields of education, awareness or advocacy.
2. Projects that have conserved built heritage.

The number of awards given each year will be at the discretion of the Awards Committee.

How to Nominate:

Any person may make a nomination. To do so, please fill in a nomination form found online at one of the websites below, or submit (via surface mail, fax, or email), the name and address of the individual, project or organization you are nominating, give a description of their achievements (no more than one page in length), and contact information including phone numbers for the nominator and for two further supporters of the nomination. Nominators and supporters may be contacted by the Awards Committee.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, December 19, 2014

Please submit nominations by mail to:

ACO – HLF Awards Committee, Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road, London, Ontario N6G 1G5
By Fax to 519-645-0981 or by email to info@grosvenorlodge.com.

In order that members of the public may get an idea of what sort of person or project to nominate, it is possible to view the evaluation criteria that the Committee will be using by going to the ACO or HLF websites.
www.acolondon.ca or www.heritagelondonfoundation.org

The awards will be presented at a Gala reception to be held at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate during Heritage Week on Thursday, February 19th, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

Special Events Committee Report ...Submitted by Maggie Whalley

This has been a year of very successful events for HLF – truly an eventful year! At the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate, the Gatsby Gala, our 'divine' mid-summer 1920s dinner dance, was a sell-out. We kicked off with live jazz accompanying drinks on the terrace, and proceeded to a gourmet dinner in the huge tent in the gardens, and went on to dance in the Great Hall. Many people enjoyed having a chance to grab a bargain at our 'very select' Silent Auction.

We followed this with the Grosvenor Lodge Country Arts and Crafts Fair as a 'Doors Open' event in late September. Over 650 people came to this and almost all did a tour around this historic mansion with our guides, many bought beautiful hand-wrought items and all enjoyed, once again, live music on the lawns. Susan Bentley ran a super country lunch and Linda Pistor a very imaginative array of kids' games. Fred Zamostny ran the parking for us with his usual cheerful efficiency. Several students from Western Serves joined us to help out as well.

Grosvenor Lodge, although a stately historic mansion, can take on many guises from school room and country fairground to, this time, an extremely scary haunted house. On a dark night in October it provides a perfect stage, with its looming darkened rooms, spooky corridors and hidden corners for ghostly encounters and very creepy scenes. The entire house was decorated, draped and darkened and many screams echoed through the misty night. There were over 950 visitors who braved (except I have to say some timid souls amongst our more mature volunteers) our 'Haunted Mansion' and 'Garden of Fear' and came out overwhelmed by the experience. A newcomer to our staff, Joanne Off, brought the whole event together and attracted a record crowd with only three weeks advance time. Well done!

Speaking of volunteers, ALL these events were such successes because of our wonderful volunteers. Without them, none of this would have happened, and HLF would be much the poorer. We run our Foundation, whose main purpose is to keep two very important heritage sites operating to the community's benefit, on a shoestring with a skeleton staff! We rely heavily and very gratefully on all those who donate their time, muscle, brains, craft, imagination and perseverance to helping in this endeavour. HLF Board, staff, members, local history and heritage groups, the University, the local High Schools, heritage lovers and supporters and people who just seem to love to come out and get stuck in: thank you all most heartily!