

# Communiqué

## ...Heritage London Foundation

[www.heritagelondonfoundation.org](http://www.heritagelondonfoundation.org)

### Chairman's Message FROM WHERE I SIT

The Chinese have an expression; "May you live in interesting times". And I think it applies to Heritage London Foundation of late. Grosvenor Lodge and Elsie Perrin Williams Estate have been exceedingly well cared for by the City of London and our staff. The Estate has received considerable effort in the restoration of all the windows, particularly including the large lead glass window in the Great Hall, new copper eaves troughs, replacement of old knob and tube wiring with modern wiring and switches, upgrade to the lower floor washrooms and entrance ramp to improve handicap access. The Lodge now sports a new roof and the Property Committee and staff are sprucing up the trim with fresh paint.

We decided to accept the proposal made to us by one of our major caterers. They asked for the permission to become the exclusive caterer at the properties, In exchange, they provided some guarantees on the business we would do together and a donation of money for this privilege; an idea we felt was worth trying. This collaboration would begin in 2011. We intend to try the idea for 3 years and may renew if it shows to be beneficial. This comes at a time when we are having difficulties "making ends meet", therefore we hope it will be beneficial to both organizations.

We held another successful ACO-HLF Heritage Awards event in February where we recognized several private projects; residential, commercial and outstanding contributions to London's built heritage by Maggie Whalley, John Lutman and the reporting and editorial staff of the London Free Press.

At the AGM we regretfully said farewell to Mary Jane MacKenzie, a truly enthusiastic supporter of our work and Secretary to the Board for the past 3

years. We will miss her wisdom and the ease with which she helped us face some obstacles. At the same meeting we welcomed, actually welcomed back, Vaino Einola. Vaino had left the Board about 4 years ago due to a busy schedule and we are happy to have his creative ideas, excellent business experience and knowledge of HLF back with us. He has quickly gotten active on the Board by taking on the challenges of the Treasurer's position.

I think one of the most significant ventures we have initiated recently is the project to save the Old Antiquities Shoppe at 129-131 Wellington Street. It is a truly unique adventure for us. This collaborative effort with our partners, Pathways Skill Development and Placement with their Board and Executive Director, Paul Hubert, will not only result in saving this valuable heritage asset but may establish a roadmap for similar future projects.

I am blessed to have a wonderful Board of directors who bring wide experience, creative ideas and true effort to the work we do, both on the hospitality side of the organization and on heritage preservation projects. We, thankfully, are supported by terrific staff, both full and part time, under the great leadership of Jan Dickinson. We absolutely could not be as successful as we are without them.

I wish all of you, particularly our members, the very best. To those of you who are not members of Heritage London Foundation, I encourage you to support us by joining as members.

Respectfully,

John Manness  
President and Board Chair

### Upcoming Events

(cultural and built heritage events of interest)

#### LANTERN LIGHT MYSTERY TOURS

July 7 - 16, 2010

Six fiendish criminals from London's past converge on Fanshawe Pioneer Village to tell their tales of infamy and then - they escape

1424 Clarke Side Road, London, ON

Location: Fanshawe Pioneer Village

COST: \$ 15.00

TELEPHONE: (519) 457-1296

WEBSITE: <http://www.fanshawepioneervill..>

#### PUBLIC ART WALKS

Tuesdays, July 13, 20 & 27<sup>th</sup> meet at the lawn of the Museum London for a guided tour of public art in the city core followed by the tea at Eldon House.

Tour is free, tea at Eldon is \$7/person

<http://www.museumlondon.ca>

July 31 – August 2: Imadon Street Painting Festival - [www.imadon.org](http://www.imadon.org)

August 13 – 15: AfroFesta

<http://afroFesta.org/>

August 20 – 21: East Coast Festival

<http://www.coventmarket.com/events.php>

August 21 – 22: Harvest Fest

<http://www.harvestfest.on.ca/>

August 27 – 29: Festa Italiana

[www.festaitaliana.ca](http://www.festaitaliana.ca)

September 11: Festival of Poland at Covent Garden Market

<http://www.coventmarket.com/events.php>

#### LOST BUILDINGS III LECTURE with John Lutman

September 15

Organized by London and Middlesex Historical Society

<http://www.londonhistory.org/>

#### DOORS OPEN LONDON

September 18 – 19: DO London

[www.doorsopenlondon.ca](http://www.doorsopenlondon.ca)

# Save the Red Antiquities Building- SRAB

We are all getting used to this acronym and the only problem is that it does not roll easily off the tongue. That being said we are so delighted with the progress made to date and wish to share with our members the current state of things. Back in the fall when we at HLF decided to partner with some ACO members to try and save the Red Antiquities Shoppe building we were taking a first step that was mandated by our revised Strategic Plan. The Plan states that we should be more proactive in the Heritage Field and try to use our resources and contacts to actually save a building or two rather than just moaning when one is torn down. The committee, which is a sub-committee of HLF, has ACO and other members and is called the SRAB Committee.

Unfortunately Heritage just doesn't seem to have the urgent need that is commanded by many other charitable undertakings. Health issues, poverty issues, educational issues and environmental issues all seem to be so much higher on people's radar, and rightly so. We therefore hit a roadblock before we even really got started and that was a dire lack of funds. Buoyed by the generosity of many heritage enthusiasts such as yourself we offered to purchase the building, and tried hard

over several months to raise enough to cover the asking price, but this was not to be.

When in need ask! We needed, and by great good fortune we found, a partner. This partnership was made in heaven as it provides two disparate groups with the opportunity to do something extraordinary that suits each organization's mandate. The partner we found is called Pathways Skills and Development. They are a not-for-profit organization that provides training and retraining for people who have lost their jobs. Under the agreement reached with HLF and SRAB, Pathways will actually purchase the building and will use the renovation of the structure as a training scheme for people in many different trades. There will be so many opportunities for learning on this job that it is a very exciting project. The

idea is to purchase the Red Antiquities Shoppe, render the building safe, and then renovate it to code while maintaining the exterior heritage features. When this is done the building will be sold.



Pathways has a bigger bank balance than HLF but that does not mean that we can sit back and let them take on the full financial burden for this project, The HLF Board has undertaken to try and raise \$100,000 towards

the cost of renovating the building and we now have to start some very heavy duty fundraising indeed. For many of you reading this you will be able and willing to reach for your cheque book once again, but for others it will not be possible to make a donation just yet. We do urge you all to look out for events that will be geared towards fundraising for SRAB, but as you do so please do not forget that HLF is an organization that also needs ongoing financial support if it is to continue to function as a voice for the preservation of London's built heritage.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Heritage London Foundation has relied on the support of its members for its activities. We would like to invite all members and non-members to become more active participants and offer their time as well.

We hope to offer you the following categories within which you will be able to further your skills, animate your interests, utilise your talents and have loads of fun in the process. One feels that more active contribution can bring about greater change and affect more individuals. So take matters into your hands and join our group!

**Heritage London Foundation accepts volunteers in the following areas:**

- **Property maintenance (gardening, repair)**
- **Education (research, lecture series, workshops)**
- **Advertising and marketing (marketing strategies, promotional material)**
- **Communication (website & newsletter)**
- **Events (assistance at social, fund raising and business events)**

Each of these areas are essential and very active part of the daily life of Grosvenor Lodge and Elsie Perrin Williams Estate.

Volunteers of various interests, skills, knowledge and talent are more than welcome to choose any of the above categories. You will be able to use your talent and skills in an area of built heritage, but most importantly you will give back to the community and be proud to have a chance to help preserve some of the London's most beautiful historic buildings.

Become a part of our family!

Enjoy the vibrant rhythm of our activities!

Get connected to others who share your interests!

**For details, application and an interview please contact:** [info@elsieperrinwilliamsestate.com](mailto:info@elsieperrinwilliamsestate.com)

Submitted by Tanja Zec-O'Neill

## *Estates Manager Report*

The last few months have been quite busy for the staff at Grosvenor Lodge and Elsie Perrin Williams Estate and they are now into their busy season.

Since the last newsletter a few events that proved to be very successful have been held.

The Second Annual Murder Mystery Dinner was held last November. It was a riot! The acting was done by Murder for Hire, and they put on a great show and got the guests involved. Everyone enjoyed the evening at the Estate. Thank you to Culinary Catering and The Catering Company for donating the food, it was elegant and delicious.

In December a Christmas OPEN HOUSE provided the neighbours an opportunity to come and visit the Estate. The Board of Directors and staff enjoyed visiting with the members of the community who attended. It is hoped that this year's event will be twice the success.

In February 2010 a Swinging 60's Dance was held. It was a fun filled evening of friends, fun and dancing and plans are already underway for next year. The staff wishes to say a special thanks to Culinary Catering for donating the food for the evening, to Music Central for providing the wonderful music, as well as the many donations of prizes.

The Third Annual ACO/HLF awards night was held February 17 2010. The evening was a great success

thanks to all the planning done by the Board of Directors of Heritage London Foundation and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario London Branch and the organization committee. Way to go!

In May the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate held another successful annual Bridal Show. There were over 200 attendees and 25 vendors. This gave brides and potential brides an opportunity to view the Estate set-up, as it would be for their big day. Thank you to everyone who made this event a success.

In other news, weddings are booking up quickly for 2010 at both locations, and 2011 bookings are filling up nicely. Of course always call to see if your date is open, you maybe in luck.

In September 2009, there was a bittersweet farewell to the construction workers, who after 7 months, had finished up the work being done by the City of London at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate. In March 2010 the Estate was again closes as more updates were done. Everything looks beautiful.

At Grosvenor Lodge there are more weddings booked for 2010 then ever have before, and bookings are still coming in.

The Greening Up With Grosvenor Day Camp started at the beginning of July. This year there is only two sessions running.

The Lodge now has two working fireplaces and the beginnings of a rose garden for photos. Many thanks to Ron Benner and his crew for all the work they have done to get the Rose Garden started.

There is a wonderful new staff member names Lynn Davis, who is a genius with fundraisers and HLF is very grateful to have her join the team. The staff and Board of Directors are looking forward to Gatsby Gala to see what wonderful surprises Lynn has in store for us.

The staff and Board of Director hope to see everyone out at the upcoming events, which can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

Jan Dickinson

## *HERITAGE PLANNING REPORT*

We would like to inform you of many activities that Heritage Planning Department and LACH have gone through in the past two months. Our main goal is to monitor properties of historic, cultural and architectural value and do our very best to acknowledge and preserve them.

### HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF INTEREST

- Wortley Rd
- Raise awareness of infill housing project at 162 Wortley Rd
- Raise awareness of ORC Normal School RFP
- Downtown

### RECENT LACH DISCUSSIONS

- Environmentally Significant Areas – impact on infrastructure and issues regarding accountability. The process is being clarified at present.
- War of 1812 Commemoration
- Revisions to Property Standards By-law regarding Designated Properties
- LACH request to consider Delegating authority regarding Heritage Alteration Applications

### HERITAGE ALTERATION APPLICATIONS – either approved or approved with conditions

- 477 Colborne St
- 491 – 493 Ontario St
- 802 Hellmuth St
- 642 Waterloo St
- 848 Hellmuth St
- 332 St James St
- 285 Hyman St
- 294 Central Av

### AREA PLANNING PROCESS IAS UNDERWAY

- Meadowlilly Woods & Meadowlilly Bridge South West Area
- LPH McCormic Factory area

### HERITAGE PLANNING DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

- Preparation of New Condition Reports for Heritage Buildings
- Renovation of east Retaining wall at Pumthouse Site
- Fire Suppression System Study by CCI for Eldon House
- Heritage Assessment for South Street heritage buildings
- Ongoing downtown and Old East incentives projects
- Delegated authority Draft By-law for Heritage Alteration Approval
- St Joseph's Hospital Renovations – effort to stop the demolition or older wings
- HPD website linked to city webpage at [www.london.ca](http://www.london.ca)
- Updating the Archeological Potential Map.

Submitted by: Don Menard, Heritage Planner, City of London.

## **Heritage London Foundation**

101 Windermere Road West  
London, ON N6G 2C4  
519-432-7961  
[www.heritagelondonfoundation.org](http://www.heritagelondonfoundation.org)

## *The Properties*

### **Elsie Perrin Williams Estate**

101 Windermere Road West  
London, ON N6G 2C4  
519-432-6620  
[www.elsieperrinwilliamsestate.com](http://www.elsieperrinwilliamsestate.com)

### **Grosvenor Lodge**

1017 Westerm Road  
London, ON N6G 1G5  
519-645-2845  
[www.grosvenorlodge.com](http://www.grosvenorlodge.com)



## Membership Report

Throughout all these years of Heritage London Foundation existence, your support and loyalty have kept the rest of us motivated to fight harder for the preservation of the built heritage of this city. This support you have given us really has made great difference in the life of both Grosvenor Lodge and Elsie Perrin Williams Estate. They are captivating destinations for tourists, children and brides alike. All of them come here to remember London's past and be reminded of the architectural beauty and uniqueness which strongly contrasts some of the contemporary 'cookie-cutter' trends. London's architectural past is unique to the pulse of city's growth, and has captured attention and admiration of many Londoners and newcomers alike.

We do need your support in order to be able to continue our activities. We work hard at fundraising, but it is the steady support of members that gives us a secure base for our work. This year we have reviewed membership benefits and wish to offer you more social activities. We would love to meet you and hear your ideas about new ways of fighting for our city's past. We will inform you of these new activities through HLF Communiqué newsletter, so keep an eye on it when it comes.

We would like to remind you to use this opportunity to renew your membership for the upcoming year at our Gatsby Gala fundraiser. Membership brochures will be available for you.

Don't forget the new corporate category of membership !

If you have a business, or work for someone who is sympathetic to this cause, we welcome you to join at either the Silver level of \$500 per year or the Gold level of \$1000 per year. These corporate members also receive the facility rental discount, a tax receipt for the portion of their donation above the basic \$25.00 and public recognition of their membership if they so desire.

We would like to thank you for all your time, support and loyalty through time, and invite you to join us in our efforts to educate and preserve the values of our built heritage.

Please mail in your membership form to:  
Heritage London Foundation  
c/o Elsie Perrin Williams Estate,  
101 Windermere Road West  
London ON N6G 2C4

Submitted by Tanja Zec-O'Neill

## Property Committee Report

The Property Committee has had a much quieter year this year but there have still been major tasks undertaken at the house at **EPWE**. The City of London has undertaken some very necessary renovations. These include completely redoing the downstairs washrooms to render them fully accessible. They do look wonderful and the new exterior ramp is more elegant than the previous one. New wiring to replace the old "knob and tube" has been installed, and we now have splendid new copper eavestroughs (not cheap!). The most recent job was to remove and repair the large perpendicular-style window in the Great Room, which had bowed and was becoming a liability. Anxious moments occurred when we were not sure if this renovation would be done in time for the spring season's first bookings. The staff is now able to relax a bit as the window is now back in its place and does look lovely - and safe - they have all been so patient with all the dust which accumulates every time a renovation is undertaken, and indeed we are all grateful to Jan, Krista and Lynn for their endurance.

We are delighted that the Infrastructure money from the Federal Government came through and enabled these very expensive repairs to be done.

The **gazebo** is now at the design stage but we still need more funds if we are to complete it this year. We hope very much that the splendid architect's drawings will be unveiled at the upcoming Gatsby Gala on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Brad Skinner of Skinner and Skinner is

the architect who has been asked to come up with a design that echoes the original gazebo that graced the grounds in Elsie's day. It has to be larger than the original to accommodate wedding parties and also has to be very durable as it is in a public park, so these are design constraints that Mr. Skinner has to work with.

The **Grosvenor Lodge** roof has been re-shingled and there is some maintenance work currently being done on the verandah. It is our intention to address the issue of grounds maintenance at the Lodge and to try and improve its plantings to make it even more attractive as a venue to visit. Ron Benner does an amazing job of keeping the potager looking magnificent, planted with many species native to the Americas. This year we are also fortunate to have the help of Mackenzie Smith who is doing a great job of edging beds and helping to plant the annuals, but he and Ron need help if we are to make the whole garden as lovely. As before, we are looking for gardening enthusiasts to help with some of the preparing of beds, pruning and planting that need to be done.

The annual house inspection will take place in early July and the Property Committee will be looking keenly at both properties, inside and out, to make sure that they are looking their best.

Respectfully submitted  
Susan Bentley

## Board of Directors

Heritage London Foundation is an innovative non-profit corporation founded in 1981 that advocates 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 our heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

John Manness - Chair  
Jan Dickinson - Estate Manager  
Vaino Einola - Treasurer  
Dr. Michael Grace  
Susan Bentley  
Diana Coates

Kathryn Awde  
Joe O'Neil  
Don Menard  
Kevan Ashworth  
Tanja Zec - O'Neill - Newsletter Editor  
Jonathan Townsend