

# Communique



## ...Heritage London Foundation

### Message from the Chair

#### To All Friends in the Heritage Community

Once again we start by telling you how busy we have been during the late summer and fall season and once again it is true!

From the new and highly successful James Bond Event (007 on 07/07) at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate this past summer to the upcoming Candy Cane Luncheon on December 14th, the Estate has hosted many lovely events.

Our Catering Contract Committee worked hard all summer and after much soul searching we have decided to go back to having multiple caterers serving our two locations. This decision was taken in light of our responsibility as trustees of a charity. While the single caterer contract worked superbly and the service and professionalism of Culinary Catering was indeed outstanding, we have now widened the group to include North Moore Catering and Blackfriars Bistro and Catering. Thus we now have THREE of London's top caterers for our clients to choose from when planning their special events. We would like to take this opportunity to thank **George and Sally Anastasiadis** for six years of exemplary service and generosity to Heritage London Foundation and our staff. We are delighted they have agreed to stay on as part of our new team of catering experts.

Our Halloween event "**Do You Dare? The Haunted Mansion**" held at Grosvenor Lodge in late October, took an enormous amount of planning and effort and it paid off. We did very well financially and I would like to thank Linda Pistor, the visionary behind the revamped event, without whose energy, organizational skill and drive, the event wouldn't have got off the ground. We partnered with a new game outlet in London call **The Hood Archery Games**. Run by Glen Gorman, this activity is enormous fun and he brought his team of staff to run this exciting outdoor zombie hunt. Glen was a very generous sponsor (report inside this issue).

**In 2017 we will celebrate the centennial of the building of the Estate house.** Called Windermere (which is inscribed upon the stone pillars at the entrance gates), **Elsie Perrin Williams Estate** gave that name to the road it sits beside, and subsequently Windermere Manor took the name as well.

In 1916, during the First World War, Elsie and Hadley Williams were in England where Dr. Williams served as a medical officer in Orpington, Kent. They returned to Canada in July 1917 and moved into their new home which had been constructed in their absence. The beautifully drawn plans for the house, designed by architect John Moore will be on display during the centennial events we have planned (find an outline of our plans and more inside this newsletter).

Please look inside for the nomination form for the **ACO-HLF Heritage Awards**. You will need to act soon on this as the deadline is fast approaching. This year the Awards Committee has planned a bigger, more glamorous and more prominent celebration of local achievements in built heritage. The gala will be at the Delta Armouries Hotel, and we are seeking corporate sponsors for the event. Details on page..2.

Lastly let me wish all of you and your families the very best for the upcoming festive season. Be safe if you travel, and be merry if you stay in London.

With best wishes

Susan



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**Architectural Conservancy Ontario - London Region and Heritage London  
Foundation  
10th Annual Heritage Awards Program: Call for Nominations**

This awards program 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 31, 2016**

Please submit nominations to: ACO – HLF Awards Committee,

By email to [info@acolondon.ca](mailto:info@acolondon.ca) or [info@grosvenorlodge.ca](mailto:info@grosvenorlodge.ca)

By mail: Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road, London, Ontario N6G 1G5

By Fax to 519-645-0981.

The evaluation criteria and the nomination form are available at

<http://acolondon.ca/acoLondon/Awards.html>.

The awards will be presented at a reception to be held at Delta Armouries Hotel on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm during Heritage Week.

## *Do You Dare? The Haunted Mansion*

After missing 2015, this year's event had a six-night run, which was a major challenge, and Linda planned several more activities outside the house to justify a rate increase. We had 1200 visitors come through and we found that the large sign beside the road was the main reason people came. As a theme the Haunted Sorority proved to be a real hit and we had both a fraternity member and a sorority member from Western on our team of volunteer actors. The King's Players drama group from King's College was a great source of help and talent, and they kindly loaned us their props as well.



I would like to thank **Eric Deckert** for his amazing woodworking help. From the large sign at the roadside to the beautifully turned candlesticks and the fantastic levitating séance table, his help was invaluable. **Eloisa Sebbler Leite** came out of the blue, taking on the coordination of our volunteers along with **Carlos Salgado**. This is a challenging task and they did it beautifully and then volunteered for anything else we threw at them - including acting! **Jude Henry** and her family undertook to transform the shed into a nightmare of terrifying proportions, and **Rob Jesseman** came and helped

with graveyards and the haunted garden, working long hours for several weekends. The **Vickers family** helped to build, then came every night to haunt our visitors outside. Board member **Michael Wojtak** and **John Therriault** helped us with the fencing. **Joanne Off** and **Paul Murphy** stepped in for the last two weeks and transformed the dining room into the centre of a ghoulish feast with all sorts of mannequins. Paul featured for several nights in the starring role of "the head"!! **Sidney Vickers** stepped up when he couldn't be there and was a delight. Students from **Oakridge Secondary School** provided a photo booth and painted a superb spooking backdrop for the photographs.

As well as our leaders, we had a very large team of amazingly enthusiastic volunteers, most of whom were high school students earning their volunteer hours. Many of them earned their entire year's worth over the life of this event.

We could not have managed all this without the leadership of **Linda Pistor** and the support of her entire family; **Peter**, her husband deserves special credit for his patience and his help, and **Nicole** deserves a "Standing O" for her acting skills. Linda's sons also helped out and her friend Louise. Their passion for Halloween as a family is what enabled us to do so well.

### *Staff News*

The HLF Board announces that Janis Dickinson has stepped down as Executive Director and Estates Manager of Heritage London Foundation.

We would like to thank Janis for her many years of service and wish her all the very best for her future.

### *Thank You*

To the volunteers who helped Joanne Off decorate the Estate this year, Nicole Caskanette, Helma Davis and Brenda McQuaid. "A talented trio."

### *Centennial Events for 2017*

**January** - Press conference & announcement of photo and art contest.

**February** - Valentine's Gala fundraiser - February 11<sup>th</sup>

**March** - High School History Projects - Display (on the First World War and the Battle of Vimy Ridge). The Elsie Perrin Williams Award and the Hadley Williams Award for the two best projects will be given out following the business part of our Annual General Meeting.

**Summer** - Centennial Ball (Annual Gala Fundraiser); date TBA

**November - Open House** at the Estate for two and a half weeks. We shall endeavour to re-create what the house would have looked like in Elsie's day. Photo & art contest: display and awards ceremony. N.B. Volunteers will be needed for this!

For more information on any of these events please call 519-432-6620

### *Board of Directors*

Chair: Susan Bentley

Past Chair: John Manness

Vice-Chair: Maggie Whalley

Secretary: Christine Teston

Treasurer: Kathy Bowering

Executive Member at Large:

Louanne Henderson

Board: James Beynen, Wooi Koay, Jake McNiven, Brenda McQuaid, Marty Peterson, John Therriault, Anne Warren, Michael Wojtak

My thanks go to all on the Board who have worked hard this year to ensure that HLF thrives and does effective work as always.

I would also like to thank our wonderful staff, Jean Spencer (Acting Lodge Manager), Joanne Off (Acting Estate Manager), as well as Stephanie Anderson and Marie Rioux, their assistants, who do so much to keep the houses running smoothly and keep our clients happy.

## Advocacy

As advocates for the conservation of the best examples of London's built heritage, we presented our comments to the City on the fate of **Camden Terrace**, a priceless row of late Victorian townhouses on the very edge of Downtown. Designed, and even lived in for a short time by the same Samuel Peters who designed Grosvenor Lodge for his uncle, Camden Terrace was especially dear to HLF members. The travesty that is the "commemoration" of the now demolished terrace within the lobby of the new structure defies belief. That in this day and age with all the design skills developed over millennia architects couldn't see a way to preserve Camden Terrace AND build a residential tower is a sad comment on our city's lack of imagination and determination to preserve charm and character that could set London apart from more "generic" cities with their mass of boring and dehumanizing towers.

Toronto has finally seen the light after years of architectural vandalism and is finding ways to incorporate older structures alongside the new. Why not London? Creativity is needed and yes, it costs more...but what price is the loss!??



Camden Terrace (1988 Lois Marshall)

## BE MINE, DANCE & DINE

Saturday February 11th, 2017

6:30pm - 11:30pm

at the

Elsie Perrin Williams Estate

101 Windermere Road

London, ON

3 course dinner and dancing

Seating in the Great Hall

\$60.00 per person

(with a \$25.00 tax receipt)

Private tables in the Library

\$70.00 per person

(with a \$25.00 tax receipt)

For more information or tickets call

Joanne at the Estate

(519) 432-6620 or

Email: [info@elsieperrinwilliamsestate.ca](mailto:info@elsieperrinwilliamsestate.ca)

*Thank you for your generosity*

**As the end of the tax year approaches, (all too fast!) I would like to put in a plea for any of you who might find it in your hearts (and wallets) to make a financial gift to HLF. Our needs are many this year: floor refinishing at the Estate, new folding chairs, professional stainless steel tables for the kitchen, new outdoor event fencing, a shed to store it in and a whole host of small repairs and "fixing ups" for the Estate to shine in its centennial year.**

**For those of you who have given already and who may wonder, your annual tax receipt will be processed and mailed out in early January.**

