

Communiqué

...Heritage London Foundation

Valentine's Masquerade Ball at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate

This year's winter fundraising dinner and dance actually takes place on Valentine's Day, Friday February 14th in one of London's most romantic locations. It should, once again, be a lively and fun, (if not riotous!) evening. Masks may be worn or not as you like, but there will be a contest for the most creative, the most beautiful, the wackiest, masks etc. We will have a small selection of masks available for purchase at a modest fee if you have no time to make or buy your own. With a lovers' quiz, wonderful food, prizes, and dancing till midnight - what better way could there be to spend a winter's evening with friends or loved ones? Attire is formal or semi-formal and it is a chance to get all glammed-up and party!



A limited number of intimate tables for two are available in the library.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. when you can purchase a cocktail or glass of wine. Wine will be available for purchase at the bar, and many people buy a bottle for their group. The formal dinner, generously provided by our exclusive caterer **Culinary Catering** will start at 7 p.m.

Tickets cost \$55.00pp. \$50.00 each for members. Private tables for 2 are \$130.00.

Why not plan to come with friends and book a table for six for \$300 (all members? \$275) or a table of eight for \$400 (all members \$375). Call the Estate at 519-432-6620 for tickets.

Upcoming Events

The Annual ACO- HLF Heritage Awards Gala takes place during Heritage week on **Thursday 20th February** at the **Elsie Perrin Williams Estate at 7 p.m.** All our members are invited to come to this evening which celebrates local heroes and achievements in the Heritage community.

ACO London Region Annual General Meeting

Wednesday March 12, 2014
7:30pm
Grosvenor Lodge
ACO members and general public are welcome.

Guest Speaker: Gary Smith of Friends of Meadowlily Woods, a not-for-profit community association dedicated to protecting and preserving this natural area and the 2013 winner of the Margaret and Nicolas Hill Cultural Heritage Landscape Award through ACO Provincial

Heritage London Foundation Annual General Meeting

takes place on Monday March 24th at a new time 7 p.m. This year it will be held at Grosvenor Lodge. More information to follow.



Valentine's Masquerade Ball

Friday February 14th, 2014

THE ELSIE PERRIN WILLIAMS ESTATE

Come join us for a magical night of dining and dancing

Semi-Formal Attire
6pm Cocktails
7pm Gourmet Dinner
Dancing till Midnight

Tickets \$55pp
\$50 for members of HLF
Private tables for 2 - \$130 couple
Fabulous Door Prizes

All proceeds go towards the preservation of this beautiful heritage estate
Charitable tax receipt for \$20pp available

For Tickets: 519-432-6620
info@elsieperrinwilliamsestate.com
www.facebook.com/elsieperrinwilliamsestate
101 Windermere Road W. London, ON



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Message from the Chair

As we look back on the past year, we are pleased with the success we have had with the hospitality part of our work. Grosvenor Lodge and Elsie Perrin Williams Estate, owned by the City of London, are real live examples of adaptive reuse, an important strategy for heritage preservation, giving our old buildings contemporary purposes while maintaining the structures and their architectural features. We are proud to have the opportunity to manage these properties and to make them available to Londoners for a wide variety of uses, including weddings, family celebrations, courses and seminars and as offices for small and not-for-profit organizations.

It takes thousands of hours by our manager, staff, board of directors, volunteers and members to bring to life the magic of these two venues. From time to time there are changes to our crew. Sadly we say farewell, thank you, and best wishes to Jason Latta, as he moves on to new opportunities. Jason has been one of our key team members and we will miss his geniality, enthusiasm and fine work on behalf of the organization. He really has been an outstanding example of the way that so many of our staff members go above and beyond the call of duty and volunteer their time and energy to ensure that we succeed as an organization. We welcome Sarah, the newest member of our staff, and wish her much success in her new position with us.

On the Board front, HLF recently welcomed Kathy Bowering. Her experience with the Home County Folk Festival brings very useful skills and we look forward to working with her. We also hope to fill the vacancies on the Board as some of our committees could do with a membership boost. We are looking for people who have gifts or expertise in the area of property maintenance, communications or Special Events planning.

We believe the work that we do is important and we welcome everyone's participation. One way to do this is to support our events, such as the Valentine's Masquerade Ball at Elsie Perrin Williams on February 14th – it'll be great evening!! or join Heritage London Foundation as a member and receive discounts for events and venue rentals as well as news about the organization.

One important event for you to put on your calendars is our Annual General Meeting which this year will be held on Monday, March 24, 2014. In addition to the regular review of our accomplishments, audited financial results and election of the board for the coming year, we will also ask you to approve a change in Board leadership. Over the past couple of years we have experienced a number of changes to the board with several new members. The main concern is that both Susan Bentley and I have completed our maximum tenure on the Board and we are concerned that the Board could face significant challenges without some depth and experience with the organization. To reduce this impact, we suggest that Susan be elected as the Board Chair and I participate as the past Chair of the organization, with the view to preparing other Board members to replace us in the next year or so. This proposal needs a little more thought and would need to be passed at the AGM. We will send a proposal out to you prior to the meeting, but we wanted to let you know of our thoughts now. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact either myself or Susan.

Well that's all from me, I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

John

Board of Directors

Chair - John Manness
Vice Chair - Susan Bentley
Secretary - Maggie Whalley
Treasurer - Whitney Cottingham
Executive Member at Large - Ann Martin
Diana Coates Nicholas Baker
Gerry Dearing Peter Fragiskatos
Sue-Anne Richardson-Siarto
Kathy Bowering
Don Menard - Heritage Planner
Jan Dickinson - Estate Manager

New Directors Welcome

Heritage London Foundation has openings on our volunteer Board of Directors. We are looking for members of the community who want to be part of our vision and growth and are able to contribute their experience and skills to our organization, including our plans for expansion.

Board Member Role:

- Attend regular board meetings and participate in:
- The process of governance
- Strategic planning
- Monitoring and measuring
- Maintaining fiduciary responsibilities

Time Commitment: is expected to average out at less than 10 hours a month - 2-3 hours of Board meetings, 2-3 hours of committee meetings, and 2-3 hours of networking within your own personal connections on behalf of HLF.

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.

Heritage London Foundation

101 Windermere Road West

London, ON N6G 2J4

519-432-7961

www.heritagelondonfoundation.org

Elsie Perrin Williams Estate

101 Windermere Road West

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

The Gatsby Gala continues to grow...

The Gatsby Gala is an event which continues to grow, so the Special Events Committee has voted to keep it as our main summer fundraiser. Increasingly we are finding that people like to dress up in period costume. Croquet on the lawns, badminton games and lawn bowling take place outside while we are entertained on the terrace with live music. Cocktails are served and the fabulous hors d'oeuvres provided by Culinary Catering satisfy the appetite. Later on, as dusk falls, there will be dancing in the great hall. Watch for ads!



Glamour and great costumes at Gatsby Gala.



Young guests at Gatsby try the hula hoop contest.



Jason Latta with friend at the Gatsby Gala - The Yellow Rolls Royce sits in the background (brought for the evening by Ted Fitzgerald).

The Gazebo is now installed at the Estate.

YES! We are so delighted that this structure will now provide a focal point for outdoor weddings and shelter for musicians for intimate concerts. A modest amount of landscaping will be needed early in the spring and then it will start to be used this summer. We shall

be having a ribbon cutting and opening party later in the Spring. Our next goal is to raise enough funds to put in electricity so that a microphone can be used for weddings and small concerts and the gazebo can be lit at night.

Where does all the money go? \$\$\$cc

The City of London has a line in its budget each year to carry out major maintenance work on its heritage buildings. There is a rotating list of properties needing major repairs and maintenance, and this budget is stretched to the limit. Last year the City paid for a new retaining wall at the front of the Estate house and carried out essential emergency work on the plumbing in the basement. At the Lodge the City paid for new accessible entrances and had the shed repainted. As these were unbudgeted expenses we are extremely grateful that they found the money to do this. Our warm thanks go to Don Menard, the Heritage Planner who always seems to persuade the powers that be to come up with the money.

Looking back over the last few years, HLF has done a fair amount of renovating of the interior of the EPW Estate house, but each year

brings a new challenge and this year is no exception. We need to replace the kitchen floor which has become very grungy, we must refurbish the wood floor in the Great Hall and also enhance the wood trim throughout the ground floor rooms (all the window sills need to be stripped and re-stained and varnished). Ideally the foyer and the dining room should be painted this year.

All this interior refurbishment is HLF's responsibility as it is counted as "wear and tear" under our contract with the City of London. Membership fees all help towards the cost of this ongoing maintenance work.

Both the floors are a professional (and expensive) job but we hope to do the wood trim with help of volunteers. Please call the Estate if you have skills in this area and would like to help.

Some of Our Volunteers

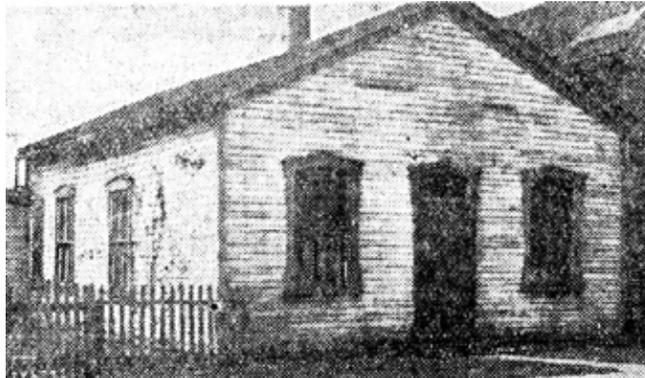
HLF volunteers are from diverse areas across London. The one commonality the volunteers share is interest in preserving London's built heritage. They have enlivened Heritage London Foundation with their enthusiastic energy and creativity.



The Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation Project - update.

The "2 cents worth" campaign, instituted in early December, was designed to help increase the bottom line of the Phase One campaign, and it really helped. The fund now sits at \$60,000. At the outset it was thought that \$65,000 would be needed to complete Phase One, but City's building division has now added another requisite - namely that the building be stabilized which will cost another \$45,000. So on it goes.

The fundraising campaign was given a boost in December with the City Council voting a grant of \$50,000 and agreeing to waive all sorts of fees and permit costs, but a lot more money is still needed. Construction of the



basement at the Beth Emanuel site will begin very soon and the actual moving should take place in the Spring.

www.fscpp.ca will take you to the website where you can check the fundraising progress and also donate online.

A concert by Karen Schuessler Singers with guest artist Denise Pelley called The Road to Freedom was held at Wesley Knox United Church on Saturday February 8th. Featuring stories and songs associated with the Underground

Railroad, the concert was held to celebrate Black History month. The proceeds were shared with the Slave Chapel project

A reminder to all that both our beautiful heritage building are available for rent for a modest fee. They are suitable for weddings, parties, memorial services, seminars, musical events etc. Please mention that you are a member and a small discount will be applied to the fee.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____ Phone _____

Membership Levels

Individual: \$25.00 _____ Sustaining: \$100.00 _____ **Elsie's Circle of Friends: \$250.00 _____**

I would like to make a donation of _____ towards the work of HLF.

Members receive a vote at the AGM, the newsletter, and advance notice of special events. Sustaining members also receive a 10% reduction off tickets to our events. Please note that sustaining members and members of Elsie's Circle will receive a small gift. On top of the previous benefits, members of Elsie's Circle are entitled to one mid-week facility rental at a 20% discount from Monday through Thursday year round (subject to availability).

Please make cheques out to: Heritage London Foundation, 101 Windermere Rd. W. London, ON N6G 2J4
Members' contributions **in excess of the basic membership of \$25.00** are tax deductible and a charitable receipt will be issued, or check here to decline all the benefits of membership except your vote _____

Privacy issues: information you provide will only be used to inform you of events, for membership contact, to send the newsletter for information gathering, and for fundraising activities. We do not pass our list to any other organization. If you do not wish to be included, please call 519-432-7961