

Communiqué

...Heritage London Foundation

Chairman's Message

It is with trepidation that I dare to follow the previous Chairs of HLF, Ruth Drake, Genet Hodder and John Manness, all tireless supporters of London's built heritage and of our two beautiful buildings in particular. My thank you to John at the AGM is printed elsewhere in this edition.

I intend to build on their work, and dedicate my three-year term to continue enhancing HLF's profile in the community and reminding Londoners what true gems they have in Grosvenor Lodge and Elsie Perrin Williams Estate. I also hope to solicit more corporate sponsorships and help our staff get the Estate filled with bookings day in day out. This was part of the strategic plan back in 2005, the year I joined the Board and continues to be an elusive goal.

I would like to welcome new Board members, Cristine Teston, Louanne Henderson, James Beynen, James Bulbrook and Iva Braunstajn. I am sure we will find plenty for them to contribute as we try to reach out into the London community and inform them of all we have to offer.

The revived Communications Committee is tasked with the goal of reaching a wider audience with our information. Marty Peterson, a former strategic planning advisor to HLF (and designer of the newsletter) is taking on the challenge of revamping the website, so watch for this down the road.

Apart from our primary concern with the two buildings we manage for the City, we are also helping to support the Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation Project. This project is nearing its goal of having the Slave

Chapel moved from Thames Street to its new home on Grey Street next door to the Beth Emanuel Church. The sod turning for the Chapel took place on Saturday May 17th. www.fscpp.ca is the website

for the project and you can find out there how to donate. Once the chapel is moved a lot of work will need to be done to renovate the building and make it habitable as a museum of Black history in London - so funds are still being solicited.

I hope very much to meet as many of our members as possible at the Gatsby Gala this year, it is our biggest fundraiser, and we need your support. Buy tickets -come and enjoy a lively and fun evening -and support the Silent Auction- bring lots of money!

The Ruth Drake Gazebo

Grand Opening at the Gatsby Gala on July 3rd.

Thanks to the generosity of Ruth Drake, our founding Chair, we now have a splendid addition to the grounds at the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate. The gazebo was a dream of our manager Jan Dickinson for many years, but maintenance of the house seemed to suck up any extra money we raised each year. It took a major gift to get it built. It is in a perfect spot to provide a setting for wedding ceremonies, and we also envision it being used for small concerts and perhaps even summer theatre.

We shall have a short opening ceremony at 6.30 p.m. during the cocktail hour of the Gatsby Gala, and we hope that many of our supporters will come out and share in our delight that this structure has now finally been constructed for us by Aeon Gazebo.

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

Special Events Committee

Maggie Whalley has taken on the Chairmanship of this committee, and after the Gatsby Gala and a short summer break we return to work with a vengeance organizing the Grosvenor Country Arts and Crafts Fair. Designed to take advantage of the fact that the Lodge will be on the DOORS OPEN circuit this year, we are staging this fundraiser to bring attention to the fact that the Lodge was formerly a farmhouse. Look out for this new event on September 27th . It runs from 10.a.m. - 5 p.m. and we will need lots of volunteers and ideas for fun and games!

Other News

HLF attended the Old South Community Organization's Gathering on the Green on June 1st and the Woodfield Fair on June 7th. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario London Branch graciously offered to share a table with us(it helps that our Vice-Chair, Maggie Whalley, is their current President!)

Thank you to John Manness

This is the new chair's thank you to John Manness at the AGM.

John and I joined the Board the same year and I have been privileged to work with him now for 9 years. To say John loves London's built heritage, knows a lot about it, and works happily to preserve as much of it as possible, is perhaps to understate his passion.

We were both on the founding committee of the joint ACO -HLF Heritage Awards programme and from the beginning John undertook to produce the wonderfully professional booklet that is printed to showcase the projects and personalities receiving the accolades. He has remained as a member of this committee for the whole of his term as Chair. (One of this year's honorees is with us tonight). John started the Buildings on the Brink publications and produced several excellent reports on the most severely threatened of London's historic structures.

Without John's leadership, HLF would very likely not have got involved with the SRAB project on which he worked so

enthusiastically, and which ended up being such an exciting and satisfying project.

John is patient, John is kind (do I sense a II Corinthians 13 quote coming on here?) and John is wise, always a source of good advice and sensible suggestions.

John has given 5 years of his time to the Chair's job and in the middle of his tenure he suffered a deep sadness when his lovely wife Liz died so suddenly. Many people would have abandoned ship in the face of this awful loss, but John loyally carried on and we are all so grateful to him for his gift of his time and his talents in the service of London's heritage community. He is now a representative on LACH as well as doing his HLF work, and I don't know how he finds the time! I am incredibly relieved to know that John is willing to stay on for a while as Past Chair in order to give me his support. I feel blessed to have it.

Our former Chair Genet Hodder then presented John with a small token of our gratitude and appreciation.

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.

Chair - Susan Bentley

Vice Chair & Special Events & Fundraising Committee - Maggie Whalley

Secretary - Christine Teston

Treasurer - Whitney Cottingham

Executive Committee Members-at-large - Ann Martin

Past Chair - John Manness

Board Members

James Beynen, Kathy Bowering

Iva Braunstajn, James Bullbrook,

Diana Coates, Peter Fragiskatos,

Louanne Henderson,

Sue-Anne Richardson-Siarto

Estate Manager - Jan Dickinson

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.