



Old East Village News Fall 2006

OLD EAST VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Check out
our website:
www.oevca.ca

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Get Ready - Here Comes Winterfest



FIRE AND FROST FESTIVAL

Again this year the Old East Village will kick off the Holiday Season with the Fire and Frost Festival, Saturday, November 25 at 5:00 p.m. – just prior to the Santa Claus Parade. Our Festival is positioned in the heart of London's Winterfest Weekend activities held from November 24 to 26. The Fire and Frost Festival will feature street entertainers, children's crafts and art exhibitions. Also included is the unveiling of colourful street banners in the BIA block, created by children from four of our local elementary schools with the support of Investing in Children and the BIA. Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and excitement!

Other Winterfest highlights include:

Lighting of the Lights – This popular event to formally kick off the season takes place on Friday, November 24 in Victoria Park from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Santa Claus Parade – This perennial crowd pleaser, for children and adults alike, is expected to roll

through the Old East Village corridor at about 6:30 p.m. on its way to the downtown core.

Remember: The Old East Village offers plenty of parking with easy access to the parade route which makes it especially convenient for families with young children – and because the parade moves from east to west, people here get to see the jolly guy first!

Skating at Covent Garden Market – Weather permitting, the ice skating rink will be open all weekend along otherwise children's activities will be held indoors.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Fire and Frost Festival so come out and do something for the community! To get involved call the BIA office at 519-645-7662.

Check our website (www.oldeastvillage.com) and watch for a flyer for further details and updates.

*- Todd Hutchinson, Web Developer,
Old East Village BIA*

Who should be our next Councillor?

You care about who will represent you!
You want to ask your future Councillor questions of concern!
Come and raise your issues!

The Old East Village Community Association invites everyone to attend

The All Candidates Meeting for Ward 4 Councillor

2006 Municipal City of London Election

Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Lower Level Gym/Auditorium
Lorne Avenue Public School, 723 Lorne Avenue

Join us! Bring a friend! Refreshments provided!

Old East Village Heritage Conservation District News

As we approach the six month anniversary of the passing of the by-law creating the Old East Heritage Conservation District it may be useful to update the community on matters related to it and provide some general information in response to a number of questions that have come to the heritage planners.

To date it is difficult to recognize that the status of the village has changed. However, with the active involvement of the Old East Community Association, city staff are working towards creating a distinctive street sign to place at the many entrance points into the Old East Village. There have been some unexpected delays in getting this done because of staffing changes at City Hall and summer vacation schedules.

Awareness of the existence of the District is evident from the various calls and enquiries that have been received by the heritage planners, Chris Nelson and Don Menard (519-661-2500 x0267). While many are from people currently living in the area, some are from outside suggesting that the heritage status has brought the Old East Village into wider recognition across the city.

However, the majority of calls have been from property owners inside the District asking whether a heritage alteration application is needed for particular projects and maintenance. The heritage planners are pleased people call to check in advance but it may be useful to remind owners of a few things. Check the Homeowner's Heritage Guide to review what is there. Each property owner in the District was mailed one of these brochures last spring. If you do not have one, phone the planning department and request it. For more detailed advice about restoration and maintenance you might also look at the District Conservation Guidelines prepared by our consulting team. It is still available on the city's website (www.London.ca) Look under Business – Community Reference for the Old East District. Hard copies have been placed in the Carson Branch Library, at the B.I.A office and with members of the Executive of the Community Association and Steering Committee.

A general piece of information regarding proposed changes is that our major concern is with the preservation of existing heritage features on the front exterior façade. Interior changes or additions to the back of the house are not a problem although they may need appropriate

building permits. Changes to the front exterior may require a heritage alteration application but normally, if it is maintaining and repairing what is there, such an application is not needed. Restoration is preferable to replacement. Making irreversible changes is something to be avoided. When necessary, new doors and windows should be of similar style, orientation and proportion as the original.

With respect to window replacement as a means of conserving energy be aware that in many instances greater savings can be achieved through ensuring attic insulation is improved. Caulking may eliminate drafts around windows and interior storm windows may be a more economical and practical alternative to replacing damaged or lost exterior storm windows. For more advice on this contact the heritage planners' office or use the Internet for research in this area.

Finally, now that the District has been established, property owners there can apply for small grants made available through the London Community Foundation's Endowment Fund for

Heritage. These grants, it should be pointed out, are not automatically given upon application. Given the limited funds available a committee composed of members of the Heritage Advisory Committee makes the determination as to which application may be approved in a particular year. The deadline for the 2007 grants is Monday, April 2nd. Grant application forms are available online through the London Community Foundation's website (www.lcf.on.ca) or from the heritage planners' office. Keep in mind that grants can not be given for work that has been done. The focus of these grants is to assist property owners with the maintenance of the heritage features of the property.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact one of the heritage planners. If you would like more information on a particular topic let us know and perhaps we can address it in future editions of this newsletter.

– Don Menard, Heritage Planner,
City of London (519-661-2500 x0267)

Queens Park

The redevelopment of Queens Park was identified as a priority project in the Planners Action Team (PACT) April 2003 report entitled "Re-establishing Value – A Plan for the Old East Village". This report recognized that there is a need for more open space in the neighbourhood and that an improved park landscape would provide a positive and visible enhancement to the Dundas Street corridor.

The goals and objectives for the design of the park were identified in an August 2005 report to City Council:

- To set aside a portion of the space to be continually used as a park;
- To share the park space between park usage and Western Fair events;
- To give priority to pedestrians within the park;
- To upgrade the look of the park and improve its functionality;
- To add attractive recreation elements within the park;
- To reconnect the park with Dundas Street and the residential neighbourhood.

Taking direction from the PACT Report, City Council and through a series of meetings with the Old East Village Community Association, Old East Village Business Improvement Association and the Western Fair Association, work began in the spring of 2006 on Phase I renovations to Queens Park meet these goals. Work was completed for an August 11th unveiling ceremony.

Improvements include, the removal of unused driveways, installation of a new pedestrian entrance and planters along Dundas Street, a new park sign, new trees and benches and large banner poles that define the park frontage.

Before making any decision on future park improvements, a Master Planning process is needed to determine the best way to accommodate on-going Western Fair needs while offering an interesting and stimulating park environment for the community. The Phase II master planning process will begin later this fall.

— Mark Henderson, Director of Business Liaison, CAO's Office,
Corporation of the City of London



OEVCA Garden Club



Are you still thinking about gardening, making plans for next year? We too who are in the Garden Club! This spring and summer we held our Green Day Plant and Compost Sale, an Annual Garden Crawl, the Boulevards are Beautiful Contest and set-up the Tree Nursery. Now its time to start to plan for next year! So if you love gardening and socializing, this is the neighbourhood club for you. No experience necessary, just the desire to share ideas and have outdoor fun! But Garden Club and/or OEVCA membership is required (Cost is \$10.00 annually)

Let me know by leaving your name, telephone number and email address if you have one by phone (519-850-1667) or email chair@oevca.ca. I'll be contacting all interested gardenistas for the November planning meeting.

P.S. For the more experienced gardeners, don't forget to collect and save your seeds for an evening of Wine and Seed Swap in February!

— *Annecke Somann, OEVCA President and fellow Gardenista*

Boulevards Are Beautiful

Old East's Boulevards Are Beautiful contest wrapped up in mid-September with an awards presentation at the Western Fair. First prize, a \$450 Nikon Coolpix L3 digital camera, and accessories, donated by the Western Fair, went to Reid Barret of 657 Lorne Avenue. Reid, whose boulevard placed second last year, filled his garden with tall annuals including castor beans and rudbeckias. Reid also created boulevard gardens for two of his neighbours, making Lorne Avenue near Adelaide a favourite destination for evening strolls. Bob Blaikie at 468 Elizabeth Street moved from third to second spot this year with an eye-catching arrangement of red celosia, yellow marigolds and purple sage. His prize was a \$50 gift certificate from Van Luyk Greenhouses and Garden Centre. With its towering cosmos, yellow zinnias, and red coleus, 932 1/2 Lorne Avenue took third prize. Gardener Michelle Dupuis won a home weather station donated by Old East Village Hardware.

The judges this year were Arlene Kennedy Director of the Macintosh Gallery at UWO, Shirley Lorimer and Marilyn Loft both on the London Advisory Committee on Heritage. Contest organizer Sean Hurley was encouraged by the level of support for Boulevards are Beautiful. "There were more than 60 entries this year. Basically, we counted anything that looked like it had been planted with something other than grass" said Sean. The contest is an annual event open to all residents, homeowners and tenants alike, of the OEVCA area. For contest photos visit www.altlondon.org/bb/2006/Winners

— *Sean Hurly, Contest Organizer*

The Old East Tree Nursery

The Old East Tree Nursery is officially established and looking great. This community project was started in order to re-establish the aging and depleted tree canopy of the Old East neighbourhood, and generally add greenery and nature back to the concrete jungle. We have thirty-seven trees kindly donated by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, which will be grown on to larger sizes and eventually donated to area homeowners. The species we have are: Butternut, Red Oak, White Birch, Green Ash, Shagbark Hickory and Sugar Maple. We will be assessing the growth and health of the trees next spring to determine if any are ready for transplanting into back yards. Look for our sapling tree assessment and how you can adopt a tree in the spring issue of the OEVCA Newsletter.

The Old East Tree Nursery became an approved Creative City Neighbourhood Initiative project for 2006 with the help of Shelly

Happy and Kathryn Watson of the East London Community Centre. The OEVCA was able to cover most of the cost for the Tree Nursery this summer as a neighbourhood project which benefits the environment with this one-time funding of \$300.00.

Many thanks go out to all who helped out on this project, including past and present members of the OEVCA, UTRCA (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority), the City of London, Van Horik's Greenhouses Ltd. and the Old East community in general for your support and eventual adoption of the trees!

— *Laura Macnamara, Horticultural Technician,
OEVCA Tree Nursery Committee Chair*



Closing the Gap in our Boulevard Tree Canopy

As Thanksgiving approaches, the OEV Community and especially the families and individuals whose front lawns were blessed with tree plantings this summer, by the City, under the "ReForest London" program can give Thanks to their Creator for such successful results. Of the 60 trees planted, 58 are flourishing - that's a 97% survival rate.

The City reforestation program planted in our "hood" the following trees: Birch, Red Oak, Hackberry, Serviceberry, Red Maple, Linden, and the desirable Tulip Tree. With the help of volunteers like you, ReForest London, in less than a year, has planted over 3,500 trees and shrubs native to London. Remember, tree cover helps to clean our air, absorb, filter and reduce storm water run-offs and lower temperatures (saving us energy) - basic infrastructure roles at a minimal capital and operational cost - not to mention the fragrance and beautification benefits.

This Thanksgiving, before the family gathers around the turkey table and utters a prayer of appreciation and thanks, perhaps we might discuss and plan to phone City Hall (ReForest London) the next business day and reserve a tree for the vacant space on your front lawn.

— *Greg Anthony, OEVCA Director at Large*

Communities in Bloom

This is the second year for London to participate in the Communities in Bloom project that is judged by equal-sized municipalities and also on a national level. In 2005 we received four blooms, this year we received five blooms which now allows us to participate on the national level. The one award of five that we did win was for the tree/urban forest management award! Very exciting to be able to compete on the national level for 2007!

Sarah Merritt (OEVBIA Manager) and Donna Currie welcomed the two judges to the Old East Village on the morning of August 15th for a tour around our lovely newly designated heritage Old East Village. We proudly showed off the neighborhood's community spirit, the historical homes, the tree nursery, the boulevards are beautiful entrants, the innovative tree planting initiatives along the Dundas corridor by the ReForest London group, as well as the newly completed phase one of Queens Park.

Along the way we chatted with the judges about the wonderful accomplishments of the Old East Village residential and the BIA communities and the changes that have come our way since the heritage designation in May, 2006. The judges were most impressed with the obvious amount of hard work the community has done and the pride of ownership obviously displayed throughout the area. Check out the website: www.communitiesinbloom.london.ca for more details.

— *Donna Currie, OEVCA Director at Large*

Website News

Make sure to check the www.oevca.ca website regularly for upcoming events, to learn about the tree nursery, and the Heritage designation, find out information about this fall's all candidates meeting etc. The photo gallery has pictures of past social events like the garden crawl. You can also read past newsletters (as PDF files). If you have ideas for social events, please email sofa@oevca.ca. If there are things you'd like to see added to the website, please write to me at admin@oevca.ca.

– Heather Phillips, OEVCA
Web Maven & Secretary

Membership in the OEVCA

Joining an organization like the Old East Village Community Association can help you to feel more connected to your neighborhood, take a greater interest in things affecting our area, and increase your pride in the Old East. It doesn't take much funding, but it does take a little. Your \$10 annual membership dues allow the non-profit OEVCA to support local activities such as the upcoming children's Halloween party, fund the tree nursery, and allow the production of this newsletter so you can stay informed of Old East news.

Haven't joined yet? It's easy. Call or email Christina Breen. I'll email or drop a membership form by your residence and I'll happily pick up your form and dues at your convenience. Alternatively, you can feel free to drop by my house. You can reach me at 519-858-2687 or ckp6@hotmail.com.

– Christina Breen, OEVCA Treasurer
and Membership Chair

London InterCommunity Health Centre

659 Dundas St. 519-660-0874

The London InterCommunity Health Centre offers health and social services/programs to individuals, families, and communities. Currently, a number of programs are open to the community, and we would welcome participation from neighbourhood residents.

Men's Support Groups

- Dealing with Anger Wed. 7-9pm
- Understanding Feelings Sat. 9:30-11:30am. For more information, call John at 519-660-0874 ext. 227.

Multicultural Women's Support Groups

Offered in a number of languages and communities. For more information, call Vindu at 519-660-0874 ext. 251.

Seniors' Drop-In – Wed. 1-3:30pm

Tai Chi classes – Sat. 9:30-11:30am

For more information, call Sarah at 519-660-0874 ext. 275.

Children's Nutrition and Learning Project

Includes a variety of programs run out of Lorne Ave. Public School, Monday – Friday. Volunteers are needed in our nutrition programming; childcare is provided. For more information, call Shelly at 519-660-0874 ext. 254.

Art Group

Runs every other Thursday from 1-3:30pm. Languages spoken include English, Spanish, French, Polish. For more information, call Wanda at 519-660-0874 ext. 248.

Clinical Services

For information on clinical services, call Liz, our Intake Worker, at 519-660-0874 ext.255.

– Shelly Happy, Community Worker

Community Oriented Response Unit – C.O.R. Unit

The C.O.R. Unit:

- Interacts with the community to resolve these problems/issues;
- Encourages a shared responsibility with the community for preventing and dealing with local problems;
- Works to enhance community/police relations;
- Works to enhance public safety and security thereby enhancing the quality of life.

Contacts: Constable David Payette and Constable Chris Churney

Office: 661-5983 or 661-2457

Cell: 933-1502

Email: coru@police.london.ca

Web: www.police.london.ca/AboutLPS/UD/UDCorU.htm

When to call: To advise your C.O.R. Unit officer of a non-emergency or chronic problem.

– Constable David Payette,
London Police Service

Neighbourhood Watch HELP WANTED!

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

Only job requirements are an interest in working towards a crime free environment and a genuine interest in working with your neighbours & community.
TIME REQUIREMENT: Minimal once we get it in place

REMUNERATION: Pride in the neighbourhood, meeting wonderful people etc. To apply call Caroll at 433-7792 or e-mail: redshawlwoman@sympatico.ca

If you are interested, please talk to your neighbours.

OEVCA presents...

Haunted Hallowe'en

join in for a fun-filled community event with friends & neighbours

Saturday Oct. 28

Boyle Community Centre

ALL AGES: 4-6 pm • Gr. 7+: 7-10 pm