



## Annual meeting sets the stage for a busy spring in the Village



**ACCEPTING HERITAGE** citations from Greg Thompson (far right) are (from the left) Jamie Tedesco, Angela Rivard, Maria and Leo Parras — full story on page 5.

Photo: Don Menard

## School safe for now, hub plan consultations next

It's time to take down the "Save the Heart of Old East" signs, says the Lorne Avenue Collaborative — Lorne Avenue Public School will remain open for the foreseeable future.

The collaborative is the neighbourhood committee that's been working for more than a year to keep the school out of the accommodation review process that could lead to closure.

Lorne Ave. has now dropped so low on the list of future reviews that it is in no immediate danger,

says Shelly Happy, the London InterCommunity Health Centre representative in the collaborative.

The collaborative is working with the school board and the City of London on a long-term plan, and the community will be asked for ideas on firming the school's role as a community hub.

As for the lawn and window signs, "they send a message that the school is still threatened," says Ms. Happy. "We have no guarantees, but we're moving from saving the school to growing the school."

The annual general meeting of the Old East Village Community Association has been set for 7 p.m. April 16 at Lorne Avenue Public School.

Membership is open to everyone in the area from Central Avenue south to the railway tracks below Florence Street and from Adelaide Street east to the tracks that pass the Kellogg's plant.

New memberships and renewals for 2009 will be available at the door at \$10 per household.

Cookies, coffee and juice will be served.

Barring last-minute surprises, the main business will be:

- updates on neighbourhood issues and opportunities,
- a motion to create a social committee, and
- elections to the board for two-year terms — vice-president, secretary and one of the three directors.

The annual meeting launches a busy season in the Village — see page 8 for a list of key dates.

### Community group will store signs

The Old East Village Community Association is offering to pick up and store "Save the Heart of Old East" signs that have been removed from windows and front yards.

Email [pulseale@hotmail.com](mailto:pulseale@hotmail.com) or call 519-601-5876 to arrange pickup.

**The president's corner**

# Old East needs its community association and it needs you

by **Greg Thompson**

*President, Old East Village Community Association*

Several years ago when a group of residents – frustrated by a generation of neglect by City Hall and the mindless stereotyping of our neighbourhood by Londoners in other parts of town – got together to form the Old East Village Community Association, we knew we had our work cut out for us.



We've made real progress, I think, thanks largely to the efforts of residents working together, within the association and outside of it. Long-standing challenges associated with poverty, drug use, prostitution and absentee landlords still exist in Old East, but they no longer define it.

**WE'VE BEEN THERE**

We've made progress because we've made sure that we have Old East people in the seats at every committee, task force and municipal department that might affect our neighbourhood – for good or ill – holding them accountable, do-

our homework, demanding change, even showing them how to do it when that's called for.

We've built a reputation as a no-nonsense but reasonable partner in any of the projects in which we have been involved with the City or any other organization.

It's rewarding work. I urge each of you to think about getting involved in whichever way your available time or interests allow.

**WILL YOU BE THERE?**

Attending the upcoming annual general meeting of the community association is an easy way to start making sure, first, that you have a voice in your neighbourhood and, second, that your neighbourhood continues to have a strong voice when and where it counts.

So . . . April 16, 7 p.m., at Lorne Avenue Public School – I look forward to seeing you there.

**There's more  
to see at  
[www.oevca.ca](http://www.oevca.ca)**

The Old East Village News is published by the Old East Village Community Association.  
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**Our yesterdays**

## Our deputy reeve was world famous

John Standfield, who served at least one term as deputy reeve of London East when it was still an independent village, was one of the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Major figures in labour history, the martyrs were six English farm workers transported to Australia in 1834 for taking an illegal oath when they banded together in a form of trade union.

After their release, most settled in Western Ontario, and John Standfield, as a London East hotel-keeper, won election in 1877 as deputy reeve.



## FOR AN EVEN BETTER OLD EAST !

We support the work of the Old East Village Community Association, making our neighbourhood an even better place to live. Please enrol my household as a member for the year 2009. Our membership fee of \$10 is enclosed.

Name ..... E-mail address .....

Address ..... London ON ..... Telephone (optional) 519- .....

I am/we are willing to take on volunteer tasks

Mail to OEVCA, 817 Lorne Ave., London N5W 3K9



**THE FREAKY FRIDAY** dance-a-thon at Lorne Avenue Public School raised \$2,771 for the school council and classroom use this year, up nearly a third from \$2,118 in 2008.

Photo: Jalena S.

## Lorne Ave. asking what you want to see on its east wall

by **Jacalyn Grabowski**  
*Chair, Lorne Avenue School Council*

The English Street side of Lorne Avenue Public School will get a new look in the fall when four big banners are hung on the outside wall.

Measuring 12 by 6 feet, they will be designed by pupils working with local artists.

Before the work starts, however, the school would like members of the community to help pick themes

and a questionnaire is being circulated asking:

- what should the banners reflect?
- what makes this community special or unique?
- what is there about this neighbourhood that calls for celebration?

Questionnaires are available at the school office, with an April 9 deadline for responses.

The school would also like to hear from artists who would like to help – call 519-452-8340.

## Farmers market going back outside as soon as warm weather permits

Local produce and some other stalls at the London Farmers Market will be moving outdoors again, into the fresh air, as soon as the weather is reliably good enough, says owner Dave Cook.

Open from 8 am to 3 pm Saturdays at the Western Fair's Confederation Building, Dundas and Ontario streets, the market offers live music through the lunch hour along with fresh produce and meat, crafts and collectibles of all kinds.

## Bargain mulch, compost goes on sale May 2

The Old East Garden Club's seventh annual sale of compost and mulch, Green Day in the Old East Village, takes place May 2, rain or shine.

The location, as usual, is the playground behind Lorne Avenue Public School and the hours are from 9 am until supplies run out, expected to be around midday.

Composting bins and rain barrels will also be on sale, for later pickup.

"Our prices are unbeatable," says garden club chair Donna Currie.

- \$2.50 for a 30-litre bag of compost or mulch, discounted to \$2 for those who bring their own bags – something like half the price of compost at some garden centres,
  - \$50 for a rain barrel,
  - \$30 for a composting bin.
- How much is 30 litres? Ms Currie estimates that about two 30-litre bags will fill a garden wheelbarrow.

### **BUSINESS, CITY SUPPORT**

"It's the great support we get from the City and business partners that lets us offer these prices," says Ms Currie.

The compost is donated by Try Recycling a local firm that processes yard waste picked up by the City, so "you could be getting your own autumn leaves back – at a price, it's true, but in a useful form."

The discount price on rain barrels is made possible by Summers Home Hardware on Hamilton Road.

Mulch is supplied by the City, at no charge to the club.

Proceeds of the sale support the work of the Old East Village Community Association. Last year's sale brought in \$1,996.

**Recreation, learning, fitness****Here's what's on for you in Old East**

**BAC:** Boyle Activity Council at the Boyle Community Centre, 530 Charlotte Street, 519-951-9158 or [jasonahrens@hotmail.com](mailto:jasonahrens@hotmail.com).

**CL:** Carson Library, 465 Quebec Street, 519-438-4287

**LIHC:** London InterCommunity Health Centre, 659 Dundas Street, 519-660-0875 or mail@lihc.on.ca.

**TODDLERS/PRE-SCHOOLERS**

**Drop-in crafts** (with caregiver), 9 am-noon Wednesdays to June 24. CL

**Drop-in storytime**, 10:30-11 am Wednesdays, April 15 to May 6 (children under 3 must be accompanied by an adult). CL

**Tot drop-in** (with caregiver), craft, story and a variety of play areas, 9:30-11:30 am Thursdays to June 18, BAC

**Young Artists** (ages 3-9), 9:30-10:30 am Saturdays, May 2 to June 20, painting, sketching and crafts, \$15. BAC

**LATE REGISTRATION**

Late registrations are being accepted for BAC programs — call Tracy at 519-951-9158 or email [jasonahrens@hotmail.com](mailto:jasonahrens@hotmail.com)

**Mini Soccer** (ages 3-4), co-ed and non-competitive, 6:30-7:30 pm Mondays, April 27 to July 6, \$20. BAC

**SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN**

**PD day movie**, 2-4 pm April 24; voting to April 18 on the choice of movie, at the library or Facebook's Carson Library group. CL

**PD day activity**, using a decoder ring to discover a secret message, ages 12 and under, drop-in, 9 am-noon, 1-5 pm April 24. CL

**Basketball** (ages 9-13), 6:30-7:30 pm Fridays, May 1 to June 19, \$5. BAC

**Mini Soccer** (ages 5-6), co-ed and non-competitive, 6:30-7:30 pm Mondays, April 27 to July 6, \$20. BAC

**Mini Soccer** (ages 7-9), co-ed and non-competitive, 6:30-7:30 pm Tuesdays, April 28 to June 30, \$20. BAC

**'Reading Rocks: Eat it Up!'** — games, crafts, food and prizes for school-aged children and their families, 2-3:30 pm, May 2, sponsored by EDPRO Energy Group. CL

**Young Artists** (ages 3-9), 9:30-10:30 am Saturdays, May 2 to June 20, with painting, sketching and crafts, \$15. BAC

**AGES 12-18**

**'Read away Your Fines,'** May 1-7 — every 15 minutes of reading reduces outstanding library fines (except for lost or damaged items) by \$1. CL

**Movie**, May 7, voting April 21 to May 2 on the choice of movie, at the library or Facebook's Carson Library group. CL

**ADULTS**

**Yoga**, introduction by a certified instructor (ages 19+), 7-8 pm Wednesdays, April 29 to June 17, \$20. BAC

**Ball hockey** (ages 19+), 8-9 pm Wednesdays, April 29 to June 17, \$20. BAC

**Volleyball** (ages 19+), 7:30-9 pm Fridays, May 1 to June 19, \$20. BAC

**SENIORS**

**Weekly drop-in**, 1-3 pm Wednesdays (Polish and Spanish translation available). LIHC.

**Tai Chi**, drop-in, 9:30-11:45 am Saturdays. LIHC

**WELLNESS**

Please turn to page 7 for wellness programs offered by the London InterCommunity Health Centre



**MINI-SOCCER COACH** Jason Ahrens watches Gabriel Ahrens, Jamieson McCann and Ethan Wood zoom in on goalie Alexandra Kitzen — she made the save, by the way.

Photo: P. Seale



**ODAA STAFF ON the verandah of the Hayman House (inset), which the association renovated after buying it in 1992 for use as its provincial headquarters.**

Photos: P. Seale

## Renovations in Old East earn heritage plaudits

Two Queens Avenue couples and a provincial association headquartered in Old East have been honoured for their “outstanding contribution to the preservation of London’s built heritage.”

Presented citations on February 18 at the second annual Heritage Awards of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, London Region, and the Heritage London Foundations were:

- Maria and Leo Parras;
- Angela Rivard and Jamie Tedesco; and
- the Ontario Dental Assistants Association.

### HOUSE NUMBER 5

Among them, Angela Rivard and Jamie Tedesco and Maria and Leo Parras have restored four Old East houses, including the two they live in on Queens Avenue, and they are currently at work on their fifth, also on Queens Avenue.

The dental assistants have their provincial offices in the Hayman House, located on the southwest corner of Dundas and Ontario streets.

Dating from the 1890s, it was built by contractor John Hayman – whose firm remains active to this day – for his own family.

Among other Old East landmarks built by John Hayman are St. Mary’s Church and the Aeolian Hall.

## Plans afoot for Old East heritage day in June – room for more on the team

Plans are being laid for an Old East Heritage Day on June 21, the first of what organizer Carroll Halford hopes will become a growing, annual event.

A number of ideas were generated at a first meeting of interested residents, and a further meeting is slated for 7 pm on April 23 at the East Village Coffee House, 785 Dundas Street – anyone who’d like to get involved is welcome.

For more information email [redshawlwoman@rogers.com](mailto:redshawlwoman@rogers.com) or call Carroll Halford 519-433-7792.

## Design changes will preserve heritage look

The way has been cleared for work on three Old East houses after plans were revised to meet guidelines aimed at preserving the look of the streetscape.

A fourth project is under review by bylaw enforcement officers, reports City heritage planner Don Menard.

People planning renovations can see the guidelines at [www.london.ca](http://www.london.ca) and get advice from Mr. Menard at [dmenard@london.ca](mailto:dmenard@london.ca) or 519-661-2500, extension 0267.

One general alert from Mr. Menard – there will be no grants for heritage projects this year because the current economic turmoil has eroded earnings by the Endowment Fund for Heritage.

Meanwhile, City Council will soon be asked to act on recommendations by the London Advisory Committee on Heritage that three Dundas Street buildings get heritage designation. They are:

- The “Arts Building” at Queens Park (opened in 1913),
- The former McCormick’s plant (1914), and
- The Ruggles truck plant (1921, now occupied by Dundas Auto Sales).

With heritage designation, major alterations would require City approval.

## Theatre and music

# Entertainment your feet can take you to

### THEATRE

**London Community Players** at the Palace Theatre, 710 Dundas. Box office: 519-432-1029

May 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 at 8 pm and May 3, 9 at 2 pm, *Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun*, by Norm Foster, "a warm and humourous look at real people facing real problems."  
June 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at 8 pm and June 21, 27 at 2 pm, *Stepping Out*, a "good-natured comedy" about a beginner's tap dance class.

### MUSIC

**AH:** Aeolian Hall, 795 Dundas. Performances at 8 pm except as indicated. [www.aeolianhall.ca](http://www.aeolianhall.ca) or 519-672-7950

**LCMT:** London City Music Theatre, Western Fair Grounds. [www.londoncitymusictheatre.com](http://www.londoncitymusictheatre.com) or 519-432-0888

April 3, 17, 18 at 8 pm, and April 15 at 2 pm, *Memories of Hank Williams and Patsy Cline*. LCMT

April 4, concert and networking event for Me to We, featuring Louise Kent with guests Luke Nares and Catherine McInnes. AH  
April 17, blues artist Ndiri Onukwulu. AH

April 18, Ensemble Vivant with Dave Young and tango dancers Roxana and Fabian. AH.

April 24, jazz with Phil Nimmons, clarinet, and Dave Braid, piano. AH

April 25, Dynamic Divas, classical and opera selections by sopranos Rachel Snow and Eeva Sierwalt, 7:30 pm. AH

May 3, London Community Orchestra, 3 pm. AH

May 1, 15, 16 at 8 pm, and May 13 at 2 pm, *Memories of Vegas Knights*. LCMT

May 3, Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas. AH.

May 7, 8, 9 at 8 pm, *The Sunlight Zone*. LCMT

May 8, Marimba Nacional de Concierto de Guaramale. AH

May 9, Prime Time Big Band. AH

May 15, Tribute to Bruce Cockburn, Home County Folk Festival's annual fundraising concert and silent auction. AH

May 16, Jazz Sisters with Jenny Nauta, Catherine McInnes and the Aeolian House Band. AH

May 23, jazz with Hendrik Meurkens. AH

May 24, London Youth Symphony, 3 pm. AH

May 28, Sylvia Tyson. AH

May 30. Broadway Singers, 7:30 pm. AH

June 5, Harry Manx AH



**DANIEL CASTILLO** at work in his studio

Photo: P. Seale

## Old East artist featured in '09 edition of annual studio tour

Daniel Castillo's Old East studio is one of 27 city-wide in this year's edition of the London Artists Studio Tour.

Located at 538 Adelaide Street, at Princess Avenue, the studio will be open to visitors from 7 to 9:30 pm on May 1, 10 am to 5 pm on May 2 and noon to 5 pm on May 3.

Mr. Castillo works in glass and is in the last stages of creating a 9x9-foot Holocaust memorial for the

London Jewish Community Centre, a commission he won in a competition that drew entries from Israel, Germany, Italy and the United States as well as Canada.

Among other works, he has made stained-glass windows for a few Old East homes, replacing originals lost in earlier renovations.

For more information, go to his website at [www.glasswaystudio.com](http://www.glasswaystudio.com).

## Wellness programs at the health centre

For more information, contact the London InterCommunity Health Centre at 519-660-0875 or mail@lihc.on.ca.

**Children's Obesity Prevention Program (COPS)**, second Monday of the month. Call 519-660-0874, extension 274, to register.

**Black Canadian Diabetes Self-Management Group**, 6-8 pm on the last Monday of the month.

**Live Well with Diabetes** (English-language), first Monday of the month, 6 pm.  
**"Put a Spring (Back) in Your Step!"** —living well with chronic illness, 1:15-4 pm Thursdays, May 21 to June 25, childcare available if needed. Call 519-660-0874, extension 254, to register.

## Theatre camp registration open

Applications are being accepted now for registration in two-week theatre camps this summer at the Palace Theatre on Dundas Street in Old East.

There will be sessions for ages 7 to 9 with classes July 6 to 17, for ages 10 to 12 from July 20 to 31 and for ages 13 to 15 from August 3 to 14. In each case, there's a day-after performance for family and friends.

The fee is \$75 per session (to inquire about for subsidies, call 519-432-1029).

Applications forms are available at the Palace office, 708 Dundas Street, and at the website, [www.londoncommunityplayers.com](http://www.londoncommunityplayers.com).



**JOE SEUL AND FELLOW** volunteers Shirley Andersen and Monica Rendon prepare tacos for the day's hot lunch. Photo: P. Seale

### Cooking for Kids

## This Lorne Ave. alum hasn't forgotten, back as volunteer

Although he was at Lorne Avenue Public School for only two years, it was Joe Seul's first school when his family moved to Canada from the United States and it still feels like home to him.

Nearly 20 years after moving on, now a teacher himself, Mr. Seul gets back to "Lorne Ave." when his schedule permits, as a Cooking for Kids volunteer.

A program of the London Inter-Community Health Centre, Cooking for Kids provides snacks three days a week for all the pupils at "Lorne Ave." as well as breakfasts daily and hot lunches once a week to those who sign up for them. Last year it served 2,866 breakfasts, 1,698 lunches and no fewer than 27,320 snacks.

Cooking comes to Mr. Seul by inheritance — when the family came to Canada it was to help run a Dundas Street dining room and often as not,

when he wasn't in class he was in the kitchen there with his mother.

For information about volunteering opportunities, contact the health centre's Shelly Happy at [shappy@lihc.on.ca](mailto:shappy@lihc.on.ca) or 519-660-0874.

## Cards need more careful reading

When there's a card in the mailbox to say something has to be picked up from the post office, the location needs to be checked with care.

Old East Village Hardware is no longer the place to go — the postal outlet there has closed as Chris Reid moves his business operations to Granton.

Depending on the home address, pickups could be at the Market Tower, the Oxbury Mall or 1905 Dundas Street.

## The Old East Garden Club

# It starts with Green Day

by Donna Currie

*Chair, Old East Garden Club*

Will April showers bring May flowers. You just bet they will! My forecast calls for more flowers than the Village has ever seen before, right into fall.



It all starts with the Green Day sale of compost and mulch on May 2 (see page 3) — and I don't want anyone to think I'm fooling when I say we want vol-

unteers for bagging the night before and clean-up the day after.

I'd also like to hear from more Queens Avenue people to be part of gardening on their new traffic calming extensions (I call them "bumps").

We really do welcome newcomers to share the fun along with the work, so get in touch with me at [donna.currie@oevca.ca](mailto:donna.currie@oevca.ca) or 519-439-7120 – don't be sorry afterwards that you missed out!

## Neighbourhood yard sale set

Villagers with plans for a yard sale this summer may want to schedule it June 6-7 when a neighbourhood-wide sale will be advertized in the media.

Organizer Donna Currie envisions a series of neighbourhood sales on the first weekend of every month through the summer.

To help with her planning, families that mean to take part in the June sale are asked to register at 519-601-5876 (ask for Lewis).

The pay-off for registration is a package of pre-printed price stickers for use at the sale.

## Coming events for the calendar

- April 9, deadline for comment on Lorne Avenue Public School banners (story on page 3).
- April 16, annual general meeting of the Old East Village Community Association (page 1).
- April 19, first day of programming by the Boyle Activity Council (page 4).
- April 18, Clean and Green (this page)
- April 21, Old East Garden Club meeting, 6:30 pm, Carson Library.
- April 21, annual general meeting of the Old East Village Business Improvement Area.
- April 23, open meeting for everyone interested in arranging a Heritage Day in June (page 5).
- May 1-3, artist Daniel Castillo's Old East studio open to visitors (page 6).
- May 2, Green Day sale of compost and mulch (page 3).
- June 6-7, neighbourhood yard sale – registration starts now (this page)
- June 11, Old East Live!, the annual showcase for musical talent at Lorne Avenue Public School and the community.



THE OLD EAST GARDEN Club's annual wine tasting and seed exchange took place on February 21 — from the left above, hostess Sarah Brooks, Charlene Quirk, Arlen Horrell, and Linda Obermaier.

## Clean and Green campaign needs volunteers for Dundas litter pick-up

The annual litter pick-up along the commercial corridor, Old East's share in the city-wide Clean and Green Day, is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 9 am to noon, and volunteers are wanted.

"Last year we had 75 volunteers," says Sarah Merritt, manager of the Old East Village BIA (Business Improvement Area), "so come on out – it's a great way to meet some good neighbours."

Volunteers can register at the starting point on April 18, the Longo store at 812 Dundas Street, or in advance at [www.cleangreen.london.ca](http://www.cleangreen.london.ca).