



Welcome to Women's Canadian Club London's March Newsletter. We have been enjoying some days with sunshine lately! Aren't they just lovely! Even the rain seems welcome as it washes away some more snow and starts to clean some of the old winter away. Thursday March 12th is forecast to be windy and cooler again, however, we have lots happening at our March Speaker Event on Thursday March 12th, 2026, so why not come out and join the fun. We continue to accept donations for the London Food Bank, My Sisters' Place and Aluminum tabs for TVCC to assist in the purchase of mobility devices for children with mobility needs. If you have donations to share, be sure to drop them off at our Community Service Table and stop by the Spring Luncheon Registration Table to purchase your Spring Luncheon tickets before joining friends for lunch at the Luncheon Buffet in the Chelsea Room.

Memberships for 2026/2027 go on sale March 12th!!

Be sure to also stop by the Silent Auction Table and make your bid for the One Year GoodLife Fitness Membership – Feel Great and Full of Energy this summer! It is bound to be yet another interesting and energizing speaker event. Mark Daley will fill us in on the significance of “Eight Billion Geniuses” and what we need to be doing to ready ourselves for what is already integrating itself into our daily lives. Our youth speaker, Lamees Abdulla, will share with us the reason she was chosen to receive the Lewis Coray Trailblazer Award last year. Hopefully, our newsletter will provide you with the information you need to be ready and enjoy the final two events for the 2025/2026 season. We'll reflect back on last month's speaker event and get a peek at our April Speaker Event too. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Note: Single Event Tickets for our March 12th event are still available. \$30 at the door or on Eventbrite.

In This Edition

Community Service Update Report – Welcoming donations for the London Food Bank as well as Aluminum Tabs at the Community Service Table	p. 2
March 12th Lunch Options: Luncheon Buffet or a la carte from Shelly's Menu	p. 3
March's Keynote Speaker & Youth Focus Speaker	p. 4
March's Silent Auction - One Year Ultimate Membership with GoodLife Fitness	p. 4
Memberships – 2026/2027 Memberships are available to purchase	p. 5
Board of Directors Nominations and Volunteers	p. 6
Senior's Active Living Fair – WCCL Publicity Committee participation	p. 7
Thank you to our Annual Sponsors	p. 8
Coming up next month – April 9th, 2026	p. 8
Spring Luncheon and April Speaker Event – Member & Guest Registration & Program	p. 9
2026-2027 Speaker Series Flyer and 2026-2027 Publicity Card	p. 10,11
Reflections on our February 12th, 2026, Event	p. 12-14
Youth Focus Speakers 2000 to 2025 - 25 Year Anniversary – Then and Now	p. 15-19
Closing Remarks	p. 19, 20
Addendum – Registration Forms for Spring Luncheon	p. 21

March 2026 Community Service Report

Making a Difference Together!

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”
Anne Frank

Well, it seems like we are finally “*March-ing*” towards Spring!

Submitted by:

**Betty Dietrich,
Chair –
Community
Service
Committee**

Due to the extensive cold weather we have seen this past winter we held a special campaign in February for My Sisters’ Place. I’m pleased to report our Club membership response was overwhelming. We received numerous bags of warm clothing, blankets, towels, etc. My Sisters’ Place was extremely grateful as we dropped all of this off to them directly following our meeting so the items could be put to good use immediately.

In addition, many of you brought items or funds for the London Food Bank. At present over this membership year we have collected \$2999.56 in food and funds.

**On Behalf of the
Community
Service
Committee**

We also were pleased to accept numerous reusable grocery bags and aluminum pop tabs at our February meeting.

At our March meeting we will continue to collect food and funds for the London Food Bank

“We should live in a country so decently organized that food banks are unnecessary. But they are presently the humble places of generosity standing between fragile lives and utter collapse. Yet until we build that society, they are the thin, grace-filled line holding chaos at bay – proof that while our systems still fail, our neighbours have not stopped showing up for one another.”

Glen Pearson, Co-Director, London Food Bank

Items most needed by the Food Bank include:

- Canned vegetables and fruit (no salt or sugar added)
- Peanut butter
- Canned tuna or salmon
- Special diet foods (gluten free, lactose free)
- Dried vegetables (lentils, chickpeas, legumes)
- Healthy breakfast cereals
- Cash or cheques

Looking ahead to April, we will have a table set up at the Spring Luncheon to accept any remaining aluminum pop tabs or items you may still have for My Sisters’ Place or the Food Bank. We will not however be holding a formal collection where we ask members for specific items.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Let’s Continue to Make a Difference Together!

VOLUNTEER/MEET THE BOARD LUNCHEON BUFFET – MARCH 12th, 2026

If you are thinking of enjoying lunch at “The Lamplighter” before our March Speaker Event on Thursday March 12th, 2026, please note the following message:

*THIS REGULAR MONTHLY LUNCHEON, OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS,
WILL ALSO BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS*

PLEASE NOTE: THE REGENCY ROOM RENOVATION CONTINUES, SO OUR LUNCHEON BUFFET IN MARCH WILL BE HELD IN THE CHELSEA ROOM. (if the Chelsea Room fills up, the Oakroom will also be used)

Reservations are required!

The price for the buffet is \$20
FOR RESERVATIONS, call (519)691-3402

BUFFET LUNCHEON MENU on March 12, 2026

Doors Open at 11:30 a.m.

Butternut Squash Soup
Sensei farms Garden Salad
Classic Potato, Mediterranean
Couscous & Roasted Beet Salad
Assorted Sandwiches & Wraps
Assortment of Dessert Squares
Coffee & Tea

SHELLY'S TAP & GRILL

(prices are as listed in Shelly's Tap & Grill Menu)

Guests may choose a la carte in Shelly's dining room or the buffet menu.

12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Interested volunteers will be able to meet with Board Officers and Committee Chairs in the **Chelsea Room to ask questions about their respective committees and roles.**

If you are interested in speaking with the Chairs of a specific committee or interested in learning more about the Secretary role, but are not able to join us at 12:30 p.m. on March 12, 2026, in the Chelsea Room, Irene Butler and Sharon Miller are happy to follow up with you. Please contact Sharon Miller at wccldon.pastpresident@gmail.com or by phone at (519) 870-0544 if you have further questions about volunteering.

Sharon Miller

WCC London Immediate Past President, Speaker Chair

Our Speakers on Thursday March 12th, 2026, ... 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mark Daley: “Eight Billion Geniuses”

Keynote Speaker ...



***Mark Daley
Chief AI Officer,
Western University***

Mark Daley is the Chief AI Officer at Western University and a Professor in the Department of Computer Science with cross-appointments in five other departments, The Rotman Institute of Philosophy, and The Western Institute for Neuroscience. He is also a faculty affiliate of Toronto’s Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

Mark was named in the MacLean’s Magazine “Power List 2024” of the top 100 Canadians shaping the country and in Constellation Research’s AI150, a list of top 150 top global executives leading AI transformation efforts.

In October 2024, Mark was appointed the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Scholar in Residence in Artificial Intelligence.

Mark has previously served as the Vice-President (Research) at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), and Chief Digital Information Officer, Special Advisor to the President, and Associate Vice-President (Research) at Western.

Our Youth Focus Speaker:



Lamees Abdulla

Our Youth Focus Speaker on March 12, 2026, is Lamees Abdulla. Lamees is in her first year at Western. In February 2025 Lamees was a student at Sir Wilfred Laurier Secondary School in London when she was presented with the Lewis Coray Trailblazer Award by the London Police Services.

Named after the London Police Service's first Black officer, this award recognizes young people from the African, Caribbean and Black Canadian communities.

The top three entries will be awarded bursaries & the winner will have the possibility to obtain a full-time summer job with the London Police Service.

Please Note that presentations during the March Speaker Event will be reorganized slightly to accommodate time commitments of our Keynote Speaker.

Special Single Item Silent Auction – March 12, 2026

GoodLife Fitness has donated one 12-Month Ultimate Membership (valued at \$1,175) to be auctioned by the Women’s Canadian Club London at our Speaker Event on March 12, 2026.

The winning bidder for this silent auction item will have until February 28, 2027, to activate their membership, after which they will enjoy 12 months of access to the GoodLife Fitness club of their choice.



2026-2027 Memberships Available March 12, 2026

Memberships for the 2026-2027 Women's Canadian Club London season will be available for purchase and renewal at our Speaker Event on March 12, 2026.

**2026-2027
Women's Canadian
Club London**

Early Bird cost now until June 30th, 2026, is \$115 for our full season and can be paid by cash, cheque, e-transfer, credit, or debit card. The registration/renewal form will be available at the WCCL registration desk in the North Foyer at BW Plus Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre but can also be found on the [membership page of our website](#). **After June 30th, membership fees increase to \$125.**

**Membership
Registrations –
will be available
for purchase or
renewal on:**

For questions regarding registration, please contact wccldnmembership@gmail.com

Your 2026/2027 membership includes:

- access to seven (7) Speaker Events between September 2026 and April 2027 as well as the December musical event. *Please Note: Access to Spring Luncheon in April 2027 requires the additional purchase of luncheon ticket,*
- opportunities to network with other members,
- Free Parking, and
- a subscription to our monthly email Newsletter.

March 12, 2026.

We have just published the line-up of speakers we have scheduled to speak during our 2026-2027 season and have created the 2026-2027 WCCL Publicity Card with all Event particulars on them. The season promises to be fantastic. Be sure to check out the Speaker Series Flyer and Publicity Card included in this month's newsletter (p.10,11)

I know you won't want to miss a single event!

Women's Canadian Club London Monthly Door Prize – London Symphonia Tickets

The Door Prize winner at the Women's Canadian Club London's March 12, 2026 Speaker Event, will be taking home a pair of tickets to London Symphonia's "The Brahms Effect with Tom Allen" April 18th, 2026 at 7:30 pm, at 468 Wellington Street at Metropolitan United right here in London.

Thank you to the London Symphonia for supporting Women's Canadian Club London and providing eight pairs of tickets to London Symphonia concerts over the season for us to share as door prizes with our members and guests. We hope that February's Door Prize winner, Pamela Wilton and her guest enjoyed Symphonia's concert "An Enchanting Afternoon: Peter and the Wolf" - Sunday Afternoon, March 8th, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. - Metropolitan United, London.



Women's Canadian Club London – Easter Basket Draw

The Social Committee is having a draw this month at our Speaker Event on March 12th, 2026. Tickets will be available to purchase from members of the Social Committee at the Welcome Table from 11:30 a.m. until 1:45 p.m. Be sure to check out the Easter Basket on Thursday. Tickets - \$2 each or 3 for \$5



Contents of this pictured Easter Basket DO NOT represent actual contents of the Easter Basket Draw at the March 12th Speaker Event

WCC London Board of Director Nominations

Volunteers

YOU are encouraged to become a volunteer on the Women's Canadian Club London Board of Directors or on Non-Board committees. Check out our [website](#) for more information about Volunteering.

We welcome Non-Board Volunteers on many of our committees at any time during the year. These volunteers do not attend Board meetings and will serve a term of one year, which may be renewed annually. * Non – Board volunteers are welcome on the starred committees.

For further details about committee positions and time commitments please refer to the [Women's Canadian Club London Committee/Officer Descriptions](#) available on our website.

Nominations remain open for the 2026/2027 WCC London Board until May 1st, 2026.

Are you looking for a new opportunity to contribute your skills and experiences to the community? The Women's Canadian Club London Board wants you!

Board of Directors

As a Board member, you will work with people who are talented, dedicated and committed to fulfilling the WCC London's purpose and mission. You just need to attend 3 Board meetings during the year and give one hour of your time before each of our monthly meetings (September to April). You may choose to work on a variety of different committees.

Submitted by:

Volunteer Coordinator &

Nominations

Chair -

Sharon Miller

WCC London Board is especially looking for volunteers for **Secretary**, and as committee members on **Membership, Publicity, Silent Auction, Social and Welcome Committees**. Please contact Sharon Miller, Nominations Chair, at wccclondon.pastpresident@gmail.com or by phone at (519) 870-0544 if you have any questions about these specific volunteer openings or would like to volunteer for these positions.

You may also make contact for any volunteer positions using the following options:

1. Email Sharon Miller, Volunteer Coordinator @ wccclondon.pastpresident@gmail.com or call Sharon at (519) 870-0544
2. [Contact Form](#) available on our website.
3. Stop by the Community Service table in the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn and Conference Centre in the north wing foyer at our events and leave your information with Betty Dietrich, Chair, who will forward the information to Sharon.
4. At our March Event on March 12th, 2026, come out to meet your Board Officers and Committee Chairs in the Chelsea Room to ask questions about Committees and Roles. They will be available from 12:30 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. to answer questions.

Senior's Active Living Fair

On Thursday February 26, 2026, three of our Women's Canadian Club London Publicity Committee members, Pat Hammerton, Chair of our Publicity Committee along with Sharon Miller and Betty Dietrich, took part in the **Senior's Active Living Fair** at the Boys & Girls Club on Horton Street here in London. This Seniors' Active Living Fair was hosted in partnership with the OACAO and the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. By all accounts, it was a very full and enjoyable four hours – there were 48 vendors (or organizations) and over 200 attendees!

Our Publicity Committee Members were very busy speaking with people who came by our information kiosk, sharing information about Women's Canadian Club London, answering questions, sharing details about our two remaining speaker events this year as well as our line-up of speakers for next year. Information was available about the upcoming Spring Luncheon and April Speaker Event with Speaker Series Flyers and our fresh off the printer Publicity Cards available for interested people to take away with them. Sharon had prepared a special Spring Luncheon handout with contact information that was also available. Several familiar faces were greeted as some of our current and past members dropped by. Others not familiar with Women's Canadian Club London were encouraged to consider joining us. There were even a few people that inquired about becoming a sponsor of the organization.

Forty-five attendees filled out entries for a draw for two guest passes to our March 12th, 2026, speaker event. The winning entry was drawn at the end of the event and Susan Godin was the winner of two guest passes for Thursday's event. Hopefully, Susan and a friend will be able to come out on March 12th, to check us out.

Several vendors also dropped by to learn more about us and to leave their business cards.

Thank you to Pat, Sharon and Betty for sharing their time on February 26th to publicize our organization.



*Sharon Miller and Betty Dietrich at the Women's Canadian Club London Information kiosk at the Senior Active Living Fair, February 26, 2026
(Photography Credit: Pat Hammerton)*

Our Annual Sponsors

**Women's
Canadian Club
London
Wishes to Thank
our Annual
Sponsors
for their Support**



Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor

Coming Up on April 9th 2026 ...



Women's Canadian Club London

Since 1910

Speaker Presentation - April 9, 2026

- Kelly Drennan *"How Fashion Impacts People and the Planet"*
Kelly is the Founder of "Fashion Takes Action" and Oversees "My Clothes, My World" youth education school program



Spring Luncheon Registration

- Spring Luncheon April 9, Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn, 591 Wellington Rd.
 - Members - \$45, Guests - \$60, Menu - Mama Mia Buffet
- Doors Open at 11:30 a.m for Lunch, and 1:30 p.m. for the Speaker (Members Only)
 - Register In Person March 12, or Mail-In by March 13
- pay by cheque, cash, credit or debit card, or e-transfer to wcctreasurer10@gmail.com
 - For more information - wcclondon.pastpresident@gmail.com

Thank You to our Event Sponsor for April 9th 2026 - TD Bank Group

Community Service: Making a Difference Together

Member & Guest Registration for the April 9, 2026 Spring Luncheon

You will be able to register for the Spring Luncheon on March 12th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:55 p.m. in the North Foyer outside the Crystal Ballroom at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn and Conference Centre.

Submitted by:

Please bring your completed luncheon registration form and one of the following payment options - cheque, cash, e-transfer, credit, debit card, together with a stamped self-addressed envelope.

If you wish to sit with others, please have all names and cheques together in one envelope.

**Spring
Luncheon
Registrar –
Sharon
Miller**

Luncheon cost: Members \$45.00 – Guests \$60.00

- Single tickets will not be sold.
- Members may bring more than 1 guest.

NOTE: If you do not wish your tickets to be mailed, they will be available for pickup on April 9th 2026 in the North Foyer from 10:30am. to 11:50am.

Questions? Contact Sharon Miller- Spring Luncheon Registrar wcc london.pastpresident@gmail.com

April 9, 2026 Spring Luncheon and Speaker Event Program

10:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

Pick up of Spring Luncheon Tickets in North Foyer

11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Social Hour – Doors to Ballroom open; Cash Bar in Atrium

11:00 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.

Silent Auction Crystal Ballroom in front of the stage

11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Membership Registrations for 2026-2027 available in North Foyer

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Past President's Reception in Atrium

Community Service Table in North Foyer for Final Collections for London Food Bank, My Sisters' Place and Aluminum Tabs

12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Buffet Lunch is available in the Atrium

1:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Greetings from Judy Farrell, President,
Introduction of Head Table and Sponsor Representatives and
Greetings from the City – Josh Morgan, Mayor*

2:00 p.m.

Keynote Presentation: Kelly Drennan: "How Fashion Impacts People and the Planet".

3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Membership Registrations for 2026-2027 available in North Foyer

Questions? Contact Sharon Miller- Spring Luncheon Registrar
wcc london.pastpresident@gmail.com

Introducing the 2026-2027 Speaker Series Flyer



Women's Canadian Club London

Since 1910

2026 - 2027 Speaker Series Calendar of Events

Join us at 2:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month (first Thursday in January), September to April, to experience a variety of topics presented by entertaining and dynamic speakers. Our program provides an excellent forum which will expand your awareness of local and international subjects.

Members pay an annual fee of \$115.00 (\$125.00 after June 30, 2026) to hear seven speakers plus a musical program in December. A Spring Luncheon is held in April for an additional fee. Non-members are invited to **hear any single speaker for \$30.00.** We welcome everyone.

Email questions to wccldnpresident@gmail.com

<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">SEPTEMBER 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday September 10, 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EMMA DONOGHUE Novelist, Screenwriter, Playwright "Shaping Stories for Stage, Page and Screen" • plus a Youth Speaker Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">OCTOBER 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday October 8, 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEPUTY CHIEF MacSWEEN "Grit and Grace: Respectful Disruption and the Path to Authentic Leadership" • plus 8 Emerging Leader Awards Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">NOVEMBER 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday November 12, 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROFESSOR MICHELLE HAMILTON "Forest City Facts: Using Public History to Celebrate London's Bicentennial" • plus Artists' Market in the Atrium • plus a Youth Speaker Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">DECEMBER 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday December 10, 2026</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LONDON CHORUS SWEET ADELINES "Jingle and Mingle" • plus a Silent Auction Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">JANUARY 2027</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday January 7, 2027 <i>(*** Note - first Thursday this month ***)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ADAM SHOALTS Adventurer, Explorer, Author of <i>Where the Falcon Flies</i> "Wilderness Adventures With Adam Shoalts" • plus a Youth Speaker Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">FEBRUARY 2027</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday February 11, 2027</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DR. MONIQUE BERTRAND "How to Prevent and Screen for Cancer of the Cervix: HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Testing and Vaccination" • plus the Kiwanis Festival Kathryn Sells Award Winner Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">MARCH 2027</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday March 11, 2027</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PAM TOBIN CEO of CMHA, Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services "From Surviving to Thriving: A New Road Map for Women's Support" • plus a Youth Speaker Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">APRIL 2027</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday April 15, 2027 SPRING LUNCHEON (at extra cost) ROMA ROTH Creator, Showrunner, Executive Producer Sullivan's Crossing and Virgin River "From Small Town Stories to International Hit Series: Storytelling that Resonates with a Global Audience" • plus a Silent Auction Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>

MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE:

Application form available on the website:

www.womenscanadianclublondon.com

Mail-in or in-person prior to each meeting at the Lamplighter Inn



Be sure to pick up a copy of the Publicity Card on Thursday March 12, 2026



We are a not-for-profit, non-political, non-partisan and non-sectarian organization where all are welcome.

WCC London is a membership-based speaker organization:

- providing monthly meetings on topics dedicated to preserving our Canadian identity.
- increasing our interest in matters affecting the welfare of our community and country.
- informing us about Canada's part in world affairs.
- acknowledging the outstanding accomplishments of young people in our community.

Join us at 2 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday** of each month

September 2026 through April 2027, at the
BEST WESTERN PLUS LAMPLIGHTER INN
and CONFERENCE CENTRE
591 WELLINGTON ROAD, LONDON

to experience a variety of topics presented by
interesting speakers. (** 1st Thursday in January)

Your \$115 (\$125 after June 30, 2026) membership includes
7 speakers and the December Musical Presentation.

Single Event Tickets are \$30, available on Eventbrite or at the door.

For More Information:

womenscanadianclublondon.com/membership
or email: wcclnpresident@gmail.com



WEBSITE



MEMBERSHIP

www.womenscanadianclublondon.com

Front

2026-2027 Speaker Series Calendar of Events

Join us at 2 pm on the 2nd Thursday (**1st Thurs. in Jan.) at the
BEST WESTERN PLUS LAMPLIGHTER INN AND CONFERENCE CENTRE
591 Wellington Road, London,
to experience a variety of topics presented by interesting speakers



Thursday September 10, 2026

Emma Donoghue

"Shaping Stories for Stage, Page and Screen"

- + Youth Speaker
- + Community Service Collection for London Food Bank



Thursday October 8, 2026

Deputy Chief MacSween

"Grit and Grace: Respectful Disruption and the Path to Authentic Leadership"

- + Emerging Leader Presentations / Awards



Thursday November 12, 2026

Professor Michelle Hamilton

"Forest City Facts: Using Public History to Celebrate London's Bicentennial"

- + Youth Speaker
- + Artists' Market in the Atrium



Thursday December 10, 2026

London Chorus Sweet Adelines

"Jingle and Mingle"

- + Silent Auction
- + Community Service Collection for My Sisters' Place



**1st Thursday January 7, 2027

Adam Shoalts

"Wilderness Adventures With Adam Shoalts"

- + Youth Speaker
- + Aluminum Pop Tab Collection for TVCC



Thursday February 11, 2027

Dr. Monique Bertrand

"How to Prevent and Screen for Cancer of the Cervix: HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Testing and Vaccination"

- + Kiwanis Festival, Kathryn Sells Award Winner



Thursday March 11, 2027

Pam Tobin

"From Surviving to Thriving: A New Road Map for Women's Support"

- + Youth Speaker



Thursday April 15, 2027

Spring Luncheon (extra cost for lunch)

Roma Roth

"From Small Town Stories to International Hit Series: Storytelling that Resonates with a Global Audience"

- + Silent Auction

www.womenscanadianclublondon.com

Back

Reflections Back on Our February 12th, 2026, Event



Women's Canadian Club London: A very full ballroom readying for the Speaker Event February 12th



Helena Steinmetz and Betty Dietrich at the WCCL Community Services Table Collection Donations for London Food Bank, My Sisters' Place and Aluminum Tabs for TVCC Mobility Devices for Children



Betty Dietrich and Helena Steinmetz delivering collected donations to My Sisters' Place following WCCL Event on February 12th, 2026.



Members and Guests at Women's Canadian Club London's Speaker Event on February 12th, 2026, in the Crystal Ballroom at BW Plus Lamplighter and Conference Centre, London Ontario.



Alzheimer's SW Partners – Information Kiosk



Lawson Research Institute Information Kiosk.



Louise Good and April Voht; London Symphonia – WCCL Supporter Information Kiosk



Glenda Cummings and Julie Stewart of VENVI – Gold Sponsor Information Kiosk



Barb Dmitrienko, Chair – Youth Focus - introducing Daniel Thiessen, Kiwanis Festival Winner of WCCL's Kathryn Sells Memorial Award



Dr. Michael Borrie, Keynote Speaker "REDUCING YOUR RISK of DEMENTIA: Alzheimer's Disease Biomarkers and Disease Modifying Therapies"

**Thank you to Event Sponsor of WCCL's February 12th, 2026, Speaker Event
Lawson Research Institute and the Cognitive Clinical Research Group**

Spring Luncheon Registration & 2026/2027 Memberships are Available Now.

Celebrating 25 Years of Youth Focus Program



Cathy Cave, Founder of WCCL's Youth Focus Program with Danish Mahmood (2018 Youth Speaker) and his Mother



Mrs. Mahmood, Danish (2028 Youth Speaker), Cathy Cave (Founder of Youth Focus Program in 2000) and Judy Farrell, WCCL President



Dr. M. Borrie (Keynote), Jean Parish, Judy Farrell - President, Barb Dmitrienko - Vice-President & Leslie Rand (Alzheimer's SW Partners) at Lunch



Guess the Number of Candies in the Jar!



Cathy Leeming, Vivien and Eleanor Leatham at the Membership and Single Ticket Sales Table



Barb Dmitrienko and Marg Noble



Shelly's Buffet



Maureen Tipping, Bernarda Norwood & Elfriede Munroe

Photo Credit for all February 12, 2026 Event Photos: Bernarda Norwood, Photographer

Youth Focus Then and Now

Over the last few months, we have looked back at a few of the past Youth Focus Speakers to remind ourselves what these young people were doing when we first met them ... learn what they have been doing since joining us at our Speaker Events and what they are up to now. Let's Take a Look Back at a few more outstanding youths who spent a short time with us as Youth Focus Speakers over the past 25 years and see what they have been doing and where they are today.

Dan Alferov

Then ... October 9, 2014 – AB Lucas Secondary School, London -

The October Youth Speaker in 2014 was Dan Alferov, a grade 11 student at A.B. Lucas Secondary School. He spoke about how he became interested in science and especially about his experience of winning first place at an international science fair. (*This was the notation in the Women's Canadian Club London archives*).

Western University's "The Brain and Mind Institute" (BMI) reported in its' Highlights from 2014 – "Dan Alferov, a local high school student who worked with Li-Ann Leow and Lars Strother at the BMI, won the first-place \$2500 Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology Award, at the prestigious Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. In exciting work crossing the fields of visual perception and music, he showed that the perception of facial emotions is sensitive to changes in the individual's emotional state induced by music." (p 4 of BMI 2015 Annual Report, September 2015. Western)

What has Dan Alferov been doing over the past 11 ½ years?

In *May 2015* – Dan was awarded three awards at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Fredericton, N.B., where nearly 500 students in Grades 7 to 12 competed. Dan was in grade 12 at A.B. Lucas secondary school, one of 10 students from the Thames Valley District school board at the fair. His project focused on finding a better way to diagnose mood disorders and autism. Dan's awards included:

- a gold medal,
- the Manning Young Canadian Innovator Award by the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation and
- the Senior Discovery Award.

His research was made possible through Western University's Brain and Mind Institute, which had mentored him since Grade 9.

In *September 2015* Dan attended the University of Toronto as a National Scholar. His goal was to study life sciences and economics. He continued his University of Toronto studies until 2021, in the Bachelor of Applied Science Program. He graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science with a focus in Neuroscience and Economics¹

From *January 2022 until June 2024*, Dan was Head of Empathy Analytics at Heartbeat Ai where he led the product development and analytical team for Heartbeat 3.0, a multifaceted SaaS research platform that seamlessly integrates NLP techniques, machine learning and proprietary empathy analytics to inform strategic action in healthcare and human resources applications.

¹ Source: www.linkedin.com/dan-alferov-27022813a/?originalSubdomain=ca

Dan managed projects in NLP research spanning embedding semantic context, topics modelling, sentiment analysis, behavioral construct modelling, accuracy validation and multidimensional data visualization. He led analytical projects and grew client relationships across 3 verticals: market research, healthcare and human resources increasing analytical project revenue by 25% and designed proprietary "Empathy Analytics" methodology combining discriminant/factor analysis, linear algebra, and conditional probability theory to simultaneously represent sentiment and context domain dynamics.²

Today – What is Dan Alferov doing today?

Since *September 2023* until the present, Dan has been working full time under contract as a **Research and Innovation Manager for Youthful Cities in Toronto**. Within this role, he states that he has implemented a national employment and skills community research initiative, engaging 3,000 plus Canadian youth to measure pandemic impacts and inform workforce development strategies; designed methodologies for surveys and a work ecosystem index assessing city performance.

He has managed and mentored an 8-person data team, overseeing data collection, engineering (Python, SQL), statistical analysis, and visualization, delivering actionable insights on aligning educational and organizational practices with evolving workforce needs, centering inclusivity and equity perspectives.

He also co-built Youth Data Lab (YDL): an open data platform showcasing insights, visualizations and a proprietary chatbot using LLM architecture to investigate youth testimonial data.³

Madison Wilson-Walker

Then ... February 12, 2015 – Lord Dorchester Public School and King's College University

Madison was a bilateral amputee from a small town outside of London. At three years of age, Madison contracted a rare form of meningitis. As a result, both her legs were amputated above the knee as well as four fingers from her left hand. That experience has never daunted this amazing young lady. She had continued participating in such sports as swimming, golf, horseback riding, figure skating and blade running as a track and field competitor. Madison competed wearing carbon fibre running blades as this enabled her to run as fast as possible. *(This was the notation in the Women's Canadian Club London archives)*

What has Madison Wilson-Walker been doing during the 11 years since she was WCCL's Youth Focus Speaker?

In 2015 at the age of 17 years and in her final year of high school, Madison was selected for the Canadian Track & Field Team competing at the World Championships. She competed in the 100, 200 and 400-metre in Doha, Qatar, having a 6th place finish in the 400-metre race. She missed out on being selected for the Paralympic Team that year when the number of females to be selected was reduced to just eight.

During her first year at Western, Madison ran for the Mustangs but suffered a freak accident resulting in a significant injury dislocating her kneecap. This injury forced her out of sports for one month. Unfortunately, she subsequently suffered a second injury in which she tore her right hip flexor that ended up pausing her participation in sports for an additional five months! At this point, she suffered a lot of psychological stress and began to be very negative about

² Source: www.linkedin.com/dan-alferov-27022813a/?originalSubdomain=ca

³ Source: www.linkedin.com/dan-alferov-27022813a/?originalSubdomain=ca

herself and her sport. Thankfully, family and friends were very supportive and with the help of a sports psychologist she got through this tough patch and eventually got back to sports again. It took a long time and a lot of physiotherapy however, to get there.

In 2019, Madison competed in the Parapan American Games on the Canadian Team in Peru and took 2nd place in long jump and 4th place in the 100-metre, breaking a world record. Also in 2019, she was selected as a member of the Canadian World Team and competed in Dubai in the 100-metre, taking 5th place and the long jump, taking 10th place.

Madison also met her boyfriend in 2019 who is also a Paralympian competing in high jump for Ireland. At this point in time, Madison was considered the 3rd best Para-long jumper in the world.

In 2020, Madison was anticipating competing at the 2020 Paralympics. Unfortunately, these Olympics were eventually cancelled due to the pandemic.

On April 21, 2021, Madison was once again speaking to the Women's Canadian Club London; this time during the pandemic and on Zoom.

In 2021, Madison was studying year 5 of the Disability Studies Program at King's University College at Western. She was a member of Western's Track and Field Club and hoped to one day, work with children with disabilities. She was working at a therapy riding centre and was hoping to make the Paralympics Team again later that year. She was also studying to become a certified fitness trainer.

In March 2022 Madison became the recipient of the 2022 Jeffrey Reed Courage Award. A member of Western's track and field team, Madison is an internationally ranked para-athlete. The courage award was created by veteran sports journalist Jeffrey Reed and his wife Elizabeth to recognize a Southwestern Ontario athlete who inspires others on and off the playing field.

Madison has even ventured into modelling. She models athletic apparel for the company Lululemon. Over the years, she has served as an ambassador for Thames Valley Children's Centre, and as an athlete representative on the board at London Western Track and Field Club. An ambassador for Meningitis Research Foundation of Canada, Madison has helped in the cause of spreading awareness of the disease.

Today – What is Madison Wilson-Walker doing today?

Madison was in touch with Cathy Cave in November 2025 and let us know that she was currently still training but taking the year away from competition to focus on training and staying injury free. She has been living in Ireland since 2022 with her boyfriend, Jordan, who is from Ireland and is also a paralympian. Madison and Jordan were visiting in Canada in November when she updated us but were heading back to Ireland at the end of that month.

Madison is currently a personal trainer in Ireland and coaching many different types of people – athletes, moms and dads and people with disabilities. Earlier today, March 7, 2026, a story was posted about Madison in the Irish Independent news: "*Canadian Paralympian Maddie Wilson-Walker has swapped Toronto for Killorglin, finding love in Kerry and a new challenge in the Killarney 5 Mile as she aims to inspire others through her story ...*". Madison Wilson-Walker continues to impress and inspire others.

Dylan Baker

Then ... January 9, 2020 – Tecumseh Public School – Youth Focus Speaker

Dylan Baker was a sports-minded 13-year-old with a big voice. He played baseball in the summer and was captain of the London Tecumseh's baseball club bantam team. His interest in sports led him to host his own baseball podcast, along with his dad, and he did Facebook broadcasts for the London Majors. In the winter months, Dylan was the play-

by-play voice for the home games of the Komoka Kings Junior B hockey team. CTV News London did a feature on him in the summer of 2019, and in January 2020 we had the opportunity to meet Dylan in person. He spoke on “Breaking into Broadcasting” and his dream of becoming a full-time professional sports broadcaster. (*This was the notation in the Women’s Canadian Club London archives*).

What has Dylan Baker been doing over the past 6 years?

2017 to 2023: Ecole Secondaire Gabriel-Dumont (*secondary school education*)

August 2019 until September 2025:

In August 2019 Dylan Baker was 13 years old when he was hired to be the play-by-play voice for the Komoka Kings home games. Calling his first game on September 14, 2019, Dylan had called 136 Kings games in regular and play off seasons before leaving this position in September 2025.

August 2019 to the Present:

Colour Commentator London Majors Baseball Corporation

September 2023 until Present: Toronto Metropolitan University studying in the Bachelor of Arts Sports Media Program; graduation will be in 2027 (*post-secondary school education*)

2024:

USports – provided French Coverage for Men’s Hockey National Championships, Radio Canada; Hosted the 2024 USports Awards Breakfast. Dylan also hosted the 2024 USports Men’s Hockey Awards banquet and live-translated interviews conducted on the broadcast during the tournament

2025:

USports – Provided play-by-plays for all games of the 2025 National Men’s Soccer championship and colour commentary for all University Cup (USports men’s hockey national championship) games. These roles included comprehensive coverage of a combined 19 games in 8 days, through three rounds of competition in each tournament.

May 2024 until November 2025:

Bilingual Public Address Announcing for the inaugural Canadian Hockey League/USA Prospects Challenge in London and Oshawa.

- PA Announcing for each game of the 2024 Memorial Cup
- Emcee of the Arrival of the Cup parade and banquet in Saginaw, in 2024.

July 2024 to the Present:

Director of Media for Komoka Kings overseeing all aspects of web, broadcast and social media. This includes photographers, broadcasters, social media managers, and more.

August 2024 to the Present:

519 Sports - Freelance Play-by-Play Commentator throughout Ontario and Canada providing play-by-play for OHL, GOHL, OUA Men’s and OUA Women’s Hockey, Minor Hockey games among others. In the past year and eight months, Dylan has provided play-by-play for 290 hockey games for 519 Sports.

April 2025 until September 2025:

Events and League Programs Team (Fulltime Contract) – Event support for the 2025 Memorial Cup and CHL Awards Hosted the Canadian Hockey League Awards Summer 2025 in Downtown Toronto celebrating achievements of the best talent in junior hockey.

Provided bilingual Public Address Announcing during the 2025 Memorial Cup.

September 2025 up to the Present:

Freelance Play-by-Play Broadcaster with Corus Entertainment – providing play-by-play broadcasting for all home and away games for the Guelph Storm Hockey Club (OHL).

On September 17, 2025, it was announced that the longtime voice of the Komoka Kings (Dylan Baker) was moving on to call the play-by-play for the Guelph Storm Hockey Club (OHL) on 1460 CJOY

Today – What is Dylan Baker doing today?

Toronto Metropolitan University – (2023 – 2027) - currently in year three of his studies in the Bachelor of Arts Sports Media Program

Director of Media for Komoka Kings overseeing all aspects of web, broadcast and social media. This includes photographers, broadcasters, social media managers, and more.

London Majors Baseball Corporation – Dylan has announced the play-by-play for the London Majors for the past seven (7) seasons and will be coming back again this summer *“for at least one more season” (April 2019 – present)*

Play-by-Play Broadcaster with Corus Entertainment (Freelance) – providing play-by-play broadcasting for all home and away games for the Guelph Storm Hockey Club (OHL). On September 17, 2025, it was announced that the longtime voice of the Komoka Kings (Dylan Baker) was moving on to call the play-by-play for the Guelph Storm Hockey Club (OHL) on 1460 CJOY.

Freelance Broadcaster

“If we think back on Dylan’s presentation to Women’s Canadian Club London in January 2020 and specifically, recall the title of his presentation ... “Breaking into Broadcasting” and his dream of becoming a full-time professional sports broadcaster it is my perspective that Dylan Baker is “Living His Dream”! Congratulations Dylan! “(Editor’s comment)

Closing Remarks

I hope you have received the information that you need to navigate your way to and through both our March Speaker Event next Thursday March 12th, 2026, and our Spring Luncheon and April Speaker Event on April 9th, 2026.

&

Caught Up on What Three more of our Youth Focus Speakers from the Past are Doing Today.

If you know any of our past Youth Focus Speakers and can provide their contact information to me, I would be happy to contact them to see if they would like to be included in our Then & Now.

***Our Community Service Table will be accepting donations for
the London Food Bank and Aluminum Tabs for TVCC and Mobility Devices***

Check out p. 2 for Details

Coming for Lunch on Thursday March 12th? Remember you need Reservations!

The Luncheon Buffet will be held in the Chelsea Room this month.

Check out p. 3 for Details

***Considering Becoming a Board Director or a Non-Board Volunteer?
Come out for lunch and stay to learn more about volunteering for WCCL.
Can't join us for lunch? ... That's okay, just join us at 12:30 pm to learn more about
volunteering with Board or Non-Board Committees.***

Have you Registered for our Spring Luncheon yet?

***Be sure to stop by the Spring Luncheon Registration Table on March 12th to Register and Purchase your
Luncheon Ticket***

***Women's Canadian Club London's 2026-2027 Speaker Series Flyer
Is Now Available***

Check it out on p. 11 for all the details

***Women's Canadian Club London's 2026-2027 Publicity Card
Is Now Available***

Check it out on p. 12 for all the details

***Publicity Cards are also available at our Membership, Welcome, Spring Luncheon and Community Tables
Be sure to pick one or more of them up while you are at our March 12th Speaker Event on Thursday.***

Thank You! ... I hope to see you at our next event! ... Judy

Addendum

Spring Luncheon Registration Forms

SORRY, NO REFUNDS

Member Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Membership Number: _____ Email Address: _____

I will also bring one guest for \$60.00 _____ Guest's name: _____

My Dietary Restrictions: _____

My Guest's Dietary Restrictions: _____

Payment: Cash Cheque Money Order Bank Draft _____
 Credit/Debit _____ E-Transfer _____

NOTE: Please note that the WCC London Board has selected a Buffet luncheon called Mama Mia for this year's lunch. Please see the menu in the attached letter above.



SORRY, NO REFUNDS

Member Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ City/Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Membership Number: _____ Email Address: _____

I will also bring one guest for \$60.00 _____ Guest's name: _____

My Dietary Restrictions: _____

My Guest's Dietary Restrictions: _____

Payment: Cash Cheque Money Order Bank Draft _____
 Credit/Debit _____ E-Transfer _____

NOTE: Please note that the WCC London Board has selected a Buffet luncheon called Mama Mia for this year's lunch. Please see the menu in the attached letter above.