



Welcome to Women's Canadian Club London's April Newsletter. Yes, it's April and that means that Women's Canadian Club London is preparing for its culminating event, coming up later this week, on Thursday April 9th, 2026. Much planning and organizing, coordinating and good ol' work has gone into preparations for this month's Spring Luncheon and Speaker Event. We hope you enjoy it.

It's been a great year with a terrific new venue and wonderful speakers, lots of additional activities to catch everyone's imagination ... another wonderful Artisans' Fair "Art in the Atrium" was lots of fun, Silent Auctions with something for everyone, door prizes, basket draws ... even a "Guess the # of Candies in the Jar" challenge. Our new venue has been dressed up every month for the celebration of the times, and we always have smiles greeting us at the door ... Thank you for all of your support and participation over the past year. Let's celebrate a great year and look forward to another new adventure in 2026-2027.

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April 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

Making a Difference Together!

Happy Spring Everyone!

Submitted by:

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

On behalf of the Community Service Committee and the executive of your Women’s Canadian Club I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed to our Community Service campaigns over the past membership year. With the cold and snowy winter we just experienced, giving the needed items in a timely manner significantly aided our community charities. Items given to My Sisters’ Place were immediately delivered after the December, January and February meetings and I know many of these were used very quickly.

**On Behalf of the
Community
Service
Committee**

London Food Bank - At our March meeting we collected \$336 in food and funds for the London Food Bank. This brings our year-to-date total to \$3,335.56.

My Sisters’ Place - In March we collected some items and \$40 for My Sisters’ Place. Over the past membership year, we have donated \$2,346.50 in funds and bus tickets plus an extensive amount of items including toiletries, warm clothing, and general goods to My Sisters’ Place. Our additional campaign we held in January was very well received by the membership and My Sisters’ Place was so very grateful for the support as they were navigating through the coldest winter we have experienced in a long time.

Byron-Springbank Legion - In November the Club donated \$100 to the Byron – Springbank Legion Poppy Fund. Our Community Service Poppy Box also collected \$148.25 at the November event.

Aluminum Pop Tabs - We were delighted to collect countless aluminum pop tabs throughout the year. A special thank you is extended to Eleanor Leatham who takes these tabs and has them processed. The proceeds from the tabs are then used to fund mobility devices for individuals associated with the Thames Valley Children’s Centre.

April Final Wrap Up - Looking ahead to our April meeting we will not be holding a formal collection of items but if you have any outstanding items from the year (i.e. pop tabs, foodbank contributions) and you do not want to hold on to them over the summer months please bring them to the Community Service table before the luncheon.

In closing I would like to once again thank all of you for your support. Whenever I deliver items you have donated at our meetings, our charities always express how truly grateful they are for our generous, timely support.

We look forward to working with you once again in September!

Have a safe and happy Spring and Summer!

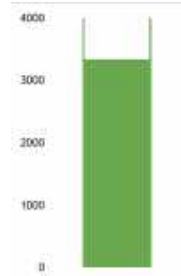
Making a Difference Together:

Making a Difference Together!

The Community Service Committee wishes to thank all of you for generously supporting:



London Food Bank Update



From September 2025 to March 2026 we raised **\$3335.56 or 83% of our goal!**

There is still time to drop off your non-perishable items and monetary donations at the Community Service table.

We can make a difference together!

My Sisters' Place

Your generosity knows no limits!

From December to March we raised **\$2346.50** in monetary contributions including gift card and **165** bus tickets!

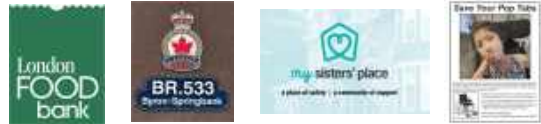
We also filled a car with requested items 3 months in a row!

This is more than double of what we collected in 2024-2025!

Thank you for making such an incredible impact!



Thank you for supporting



Poppy Box Donations – \$148.25 in addition to the Club's \$100
Thank you for your monthly Aluminum Tab donations!

The Community Service Committee wishes you a happy summer. See you all in September!

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

2026-2027 Memberships Available April 9th, 2026

Memberships for the 2026-2027 Women's Canadian Club London season will be available for purchase and renewal at our Spring Luncheon and April Speaker Event on April 9th, 2026.

2026-2027

Women's Canadian
Club London

Membership

Registrations –
will be available
for purchase or
renewal on:

April 9th, 2026

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.

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,
- Subscription to our monthly emailed Newsletter, and
- Opportunity to Support Community Agencies.

Last month we 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 Biographies included in this month's newsletter.

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 April 9th, 2026 Spring Luncheon and Speaker Event, will be taking home a pair of tickets to London Symphonia's "Beethoven, Shostakovich, and Marsh" with Canadian Conductor Tania Miller, May 2nd, 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 March's Door Prize winner, Jeannie Boynton and her guest will enjoy Symphonia's concert "The Brahms Effect with Tom Allen" coming up on April 18th, 2026 at Metropolitan United, London.



WCC London Board of Director Nominations

Board of Directors

Board of Directors' Nominations:

Please contact Sharon Miller at: wcc london.pastpresident@gmail.com

The Women's Canadian Club London, open for 116 years, is a very active, involved organization in the community with a focus on providing excellent and interesting monthly speakers on a variety of timely topics and recognizing the talents and leadership skills of youth in the community by providing speaking opportunities, and scholarship awards.

Nominations remain open until May 1st for 2026-2027. We are still in need of a **Secretary** on the WCC London Board. Also, if you enjoy reading about, and researching interesting speakers, please join the Speaker committee and/or the Youth Focus Committee on the Board! We enjoy socializing at these meetings too!

Volunteers

Volunteers on the Non- Board and Board Committees:

<https://www.womenscanadianclublondon.com/volunteer/>

Questions about Volunteering? Email Sharon Miller at wcc london.pastpresident@gmail.com

As Volunteer Coordinators, Irene Butler (Welcome Committee Chair) and I (Immediate Past President, Speaker Chair) extend a special thank you to the interested members who volunteered after the presentations by Board officers and Committee Chairs on March 12. The Chairs of the Community Service, Membership, Silent Auction and Social/ Welcome committees obtained new volunteers and are very appreciative that these volunteers are willing to devote their time and talents for the Women's Canadian Club London.

For further details about committee positions and time commitments please click on the following link:

<https://www.womenscanadianclublondon.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/WCC Committee Web Descriptions 2026-Final-2.pdf>

* Non-Board volunteers are welcome on the starred committees.

Submitted by:

Volunteer
Coordinator
&
Nominations
Chair -
Sharon Miller

Our Keynote Speaker:

KELLY DRENNAN:

*"How Fashion Impacts People
and the Planet"*

April 9, 2026



Spring Luncheon & April Speaker Event – April 9, 2026

WCC London looks forward to greeting over 315 of our members, sponsors and guests who are attending the Spring Luncheon this year. Your tickets were mailed on March 18th or are available for pickup on April 9, 10:30-11:45am., at the Welcome Table outside the Crystal Ballroom doors if you did not enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If you have any questions about your registration, please contact me at: wccclondon.pastpresident@gmail.com

Submitted by:

**Sharon Miller-
WCC London
Spring
Luncheon
Registrar**

WCC London's keynote speaker, **Kelly Drennan**, Founder of Fashion Takes Action and the Youth Education School Program, "My Clothes, My World", is an exciting speaker to look forward to hearing! Her topic is "How Fashion Impacts People and the Planet". The program begins at 11:00a.m. – 11:45 a.m. with a social hour in the Atrium (cash bar) and the Crystal Ballroom. Also, a Silent Auction with over 30 items will be available for bids from 11a.m. - 3:30p.m. in the Crystal Ballroom.

The buffet lunch is from 12p.m. – 1:45pm., followed by Greetings from President Judy Farrell and Greetings from the City of London by Mayor Josh Morgan.

Members who are not attending the lunch are invited to attend the speaker presentation from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be chairs at the back of the ballroom for 60 people. Members of the Welcome Committee will greet you at the doors of the ballroom at 1:30 p.m. Have your membership card ready to show the committee member. No food allowed at the chairs. *No single tickets are sold for this event.

You will have received an emailed copy of the Spring Luncheon Program from WCC London President, Judy Farrell last week.

Past Presidents have been invited by the President to a reception in the Atrium which I hope you will be able to attend!



Women's Canadian Club London

Wishes to Thank



Exclusive Event Sponsor

for

April's Speaker Event – April 9, 2026

April 9, 2026 Spring Luncheon and Speaker Event Schedule

<i>10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Pick up of Spring Luncheon Tickets in North Foyer</i>
<i>11:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Social Hour – Doors to Ballroom open; Cash Bar in Atrium</i> <i>Silent Auction Opens in Crystal Ballroom in front of the stage</i> <i>Membership Registrations for 2026-2027 available in North Foyer</i> <i>Past President's Reception in Atrium</i> <i>Community Service Table in North Foyer for Final Collections for London Food Bank, My Sisters' Place and Aluminum Tabs</i>
<i>12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Buffet Lunch is available in the Atrium</i>
<i>1:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Greetings from Judy Farrell, President,</i> <i>Introduction of Head Table and Sponsor Representatives and</i> <i>Greetings from the City – Josh Morgan, Mayor</i>
<i>2:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Keynote Presentation: Kelly Drennan: "How Fashion Impacts People and the Planet".</i>
<i>3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>London Symphonia Door Prize Draw</i> <i>Appreciation and Closing Remarks</i> <i>Bidding on Silent Auction Items Closes at 3:30 p.m.</i> <i>Membership Registrations for 2026-2027 available in North Foyer</i>

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

WCCL 2026-2027 Speaker Series

Submitted by:

***Sharon Miller-
Speaker Chair***

The bios of the speakers for the 2026-2027 Speaker Series are included as an addendum to this newsletter. I hope you find the speakers to be interesting, informative, thought-provoking and entertaining. It is my pleasure to recognize and extend a sincere thank you to the committee members, Marie Peden (Co-Chair), Cathy Cave, Barb Dmitrienko, Judy Farrell, Jean Parish, Mary Randall, Pat Skelton, Leslie Smith, and Renny Thomson for their commitment of time, knowledge, and interest in attracting excellent speakers for our WCC London. The seven (7) speaker presentations and musical presentation (December) will be live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn and Conference Centre beginning on Thursday September 10th (second Thursday of the month) with **Emma Donoghue**, Novelist, Screenwriter, Playwright.

Please make sure you pick up a copy or several to share with friends, of our 2026-2027 Publicity Card at the tables in the north wing foyer on April 9th.

2026/2027 Memberships are Available Now

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 wcclndpresident@gmail.com

<p>SEPTEMBER 2026</p> <p>Thursday September 10, 2026</p> <p>EMMA DONOGHUE Novelist, Screenwriter, Playwright "Shaping Stories for Stage, Page and Screen" • plus a Youth Speaker</p> <p>Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>	<p>OCTOBER 2026</p> <p>Thursday October 8, 2026</p> <p>DEPUTY CHIEF MacSWEEN "Grit and Grace: Respectful Disruption and the Path to Authentic Leadership" • plus 8 Emerging Leader Awards </p> <p>Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>
<p>NOVEMBER 2026</p> <p>Thursday November 12, 2026</p> <p>PROFESSOR MICHELLE HAMILTON "Forest City Facts: Using Public History to Celebrate London's Bicentennial" • plus Artists' Market in the Atrium • plus a Youth Speaker</p> <p>Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2026</p> <p>Thursday December 10, 2026</p> <p>LONDON CHORUS SWEET ADELINES "Jingle and Mingle" • plus a Silent Auction</p> <p>Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>
<p>JANUARY 2027</p> <p>Thursday January 7, 2027 (*** Note - first Thursday this month ***)</p> <p>ADAM SHOALTS Adventurer, Explorer, Author of <i>Where the Falcon Flies</i> "Wilderness Adventures With Adam Shoalts" • plus a Youth Speaker</p> <p>Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2027</p> <p>Thursday February 11, 2027</p> <p>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</p> <p>Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>
<p>MARCH 2027</p> <p>Thursday March 11, 2027</p> <p>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</p> <p>Live at the Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn</p>	<p>APRIL 2027</p> <p>Thursday April 15, 2027</p> <p>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</p> <p>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



On April 9th, we will honour Women's Canadian Club London's Past Presidents

Women's Canadian Club London

APRIL 9TH, 2026

HONOURING OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

1989-1991

CLAIRE FIDLER

1993-1995

AUDREY WELD

1997-1999

SANDRA PEARSON

1999-2001

CATHY CAVE

2001-2003

MARILYNN HILL

2003-2005

DEBBIE SCHRAM

2007-2009

ELEANOR LEATHAM

2009-2011

VICKI HOLMES

2013-2015

DALE MCEWEN

2015-2017

MICHELLE BARNES-COLPITTS

2017-2018

ELAINE COUGLER

2018-2020

KAREN LOWRY

2020-2024

SHARON MILLER

Thank you for your years of service & support

SPRING SILENT AUCTION – APRIL 9TH, 2026

WHY NOT TREAT YOURSELF TO AN EXPERIENCE ...

It's Spring and that means Outdoor Activities ...



\$25 Gift Certificate



A Round of Golf for 4 with carts

After all that gardening...you may need a massage or just some pampering



\$100 Gift Certificate Plus Toiletries



Massage with V. Robinson



Signature Pedicure & skin products

Theatre Experiences ...



Two tickets for 2025-2026 Season



Two tickets for Come from Away



Two Tickets for 2026 Season

Who wants Dinner ??



\$25 Gift Certificate



\$100 Gift Certificate



\$75 Gift Certificate

Who wants More Dinner or Perhaps Lunch ??



\$50 Gift Certificate



\$50 Gift Certificate



\$100 Gift Certificate

Gift Baskets ...



Deluxe Gift Basket



Deluxe Gift Basket

Music ...



Two Tickets to May 23rd Concert



Two tickets to May 30th Concert



Two tickets to Pressgang Mutiny May 31st

... and much more



"Favourites" Cookbook by Jill Willcox



White and grey plush knitted quilt 60" X 50"



Cobble Hill Backyard Wildbirds of North America Puzzle

Reflections Back on Our March 12th, 2026, Event



Andréa Paturel and Eleanor Leatham
Membership Table



A full ballroom of WCCL members and their guests for the
March Speaker Event



Cathy Cave, Founder of the Youth Focus Program



Bonne Brandies and Irene Butler, Chair Welcome Committee



Easter Basket



Nancy Hawkins, Chair Social Committee selling
tickets for the Easter Basket Draw



St. Patrick's Day Decorations



Barb Dmitrienko and Charlotte Cleland



Keynote Speaker: Mark Daley



Keynote Speaker Mark Daley and Marie Peden - Assistant Chair, Speaker Committee



Lamees Abdulla, Youth Focus Speaker



Lamees Abdulla – Youth Focus Speaker and Barbara Dmitrienko, Chair Youth Focus Committee



Nancy Hawkins, Chair Social Committee



Frances Theilade, Dianne Wietz, Mary Ellen McDermott



Veronica Heffernan, Linda Freeman, and Dorothy Miller



Jane Williams and Dianne Hetherington



Elizabeth Van Dongan and Joan Wolfe



Elfriede Munroe, Maureen Tipping and Friend



Members Luncheon Buffet

Photo Credit for all March 15th, 2026 Event Photos: Bernarda Norwood, Photographer

Looking ahead to the 2026-2027 Season ...

Welcome to our new Annual Sponsor

We are very pleased to welcome Chartwell as our newest annual sponsor. Chartwell will be a Platinum Annual Sponsor for our 2026-2027 season beginning in September 2026.

Welcome and Thank You for your support!



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 ... get a glimpse at what they have been doing since joining us at our Speaker Events and see what they are up to now. Here is a look back at a few more Youth Focus Speakers along with a glimpse of the years in between.

Adam Purdy

Then ... February 8, 2001 – Regina Mundi College, London – Youth Focus Speaker

Adam had been recognized in the press and on television following his outstanding performance at the Paralympics in Australia in the fall of 2000. There he earned two gold medals and was named athlete of the year by the Canadian Amputee Association 2000. Adam entered his first competition at the age of nine and had competed internationally in Malta, Holland, France, New Zealand, the United States and Canada. His other interests included skateboarding, surfing, rock climbing and music. In 2001 he would be the spokesperson for “Bunny Bundle” and would appear in the Thames Valley Fashion Show. Adam highlighted the history of the Paralympics for athletes with a disability and related his experience at Sydney Australia, competing as a world class athlete. He had won a total of 48 medals – 24 of which were gold. Adam broke two world records, but his goal was to do his personal best in competition. He promoted the TVCC Fashion Show in which he would be a model. (Found in WCCL General Meeting Notes for Thursday February 8, 2001)

On that day in February 2001, when Women’s Canadian Club London first met Adam Purdy, he was a 20-year-old young man, a Paralympian and a champion swimmer. Adam had been born with arthrogryposis, a congenital disease affecting his joint and muscle development and leaving him with significant physical limitations. He was involved with a youth physiotherapy rehabilitation program and hydrotherapy at the YMCA in conjunction with TVCC. He began playing with the London Bolts, a paralympic swimming team and at the age of 13 years, was invited to his 1st international competition in Malta which he later described as a life changing experience. From that point onward, Adam continued competing and travelling the world. Adam came to WCCL’s attention in late 2000 after he had competed at the Paralympics in Sydney Australia that fall.

What has Adam Purdy been doing during the past 25 years since he was WCCL’s Youth Focus Speaker?

Adam swam with Swimming Canada until January 2016 when he retired, for a second time, as a competitive swimmer. He continued being a member of Team Canada competing at all major events, including the IPC World Championships in 2002 and 2006 and the Paralympic Games in 2004 in Athens.

Adam attended Wilfred Laurier University from 2001 to 2006 studying and graduating with a BA in Philosophy. In 2007, after competing in Durbin South Africa, he retired from competitive swimming, feeling exhausted and burnt out.

Adam then attended the University of Prince Edward Island from 2008 until 2010 studying Applied Health Services Research. In 2009, he was a Sport Director for the Canada Summer Games Host Society in Charlottetown PEI and was a Games and Event Management Senior Consultant with GEMS.pro KIMIK iT from October 2009 until November 2024 - over 15 years.

Since January 2013, Adam has been a regular keynote speaker for the “We’re All Stars” Campaign with TVCC.

In 2014, Adam returned to competitive swimming and took part in the 2015 Para PanAm Games in Toronto. He performed well, gaining three more medals to his collection: a silver medal in the 100-m backstroke, and added a pair of bronze medals in the 50-m butterfly, and as a member of the bronze winning mixed 4 x 50-metre freestyle relay.

In 2016, Adam decided it was time to move forward and view his sport from a different perspective, a sport that he said develops, fosters, and coaches the next generation of Canadian swimmers (Jason Marsteller (January 12, 2016) Swimming World: "Paralympian Adam Purdy returns to Retirement"). Adam was by this time, focused on his career.

In 2017, Adam was inducted into the Ontario Aquatic Hall of Fame.

2018 – 2021 Adam studied at Western graduating with a Master of Arts in Kinesiology – Sports Leadership and Management. He was also inducted into the London Sports Hall of Fame in 2018.

In January 2024, again studying at Western University, Adam began working towards his Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology Sports Leadership and Management. He is involved in research and expects to attain his PhD in May 2028.

Today – What is Adam Purdy doing today?

On March 10th, 2026, Western News published an article authored by Justin Zadorsky, titled: "From Competitor to Researcher, the Journey Back to the Paralympics" – about Adam Purdy, PhD candidate and lecturer in Kinesiology at Western University. Zadorsky reported in that article, that "Adam returned to the Paralympic Games this year in Italy – this time with the lens of a researcher and official member of the Canadian Paralympian Committee (CPC). In this role with the CPC, he is looking at anything that can impact and support an athlete while they compete at the games. Things like accommodations, transport and daily training environments can have an impact on an athlete. Adam was stationed in Cortina, assisting athletes competing in alpine para snowboard and para curling. His PhD thesis is titled "Recognizing Paraspport Impacts: Ripples, Waves and Echoes"."

Adam has been a swimming coach at the London Aquatic Club since September 2023, and he has been an Officer of Paralympic Performance with the Canadian Paralympic Committee since August 2025. He has volunteered with the Athlete Selection Committee since April 2016; has been a volunteer swim coach with the TVDSB since September 2016 and is a founding member of the London and Area Accessible Sports Council.

Adam and his wife and family live in London, Ontario.

(Information Source: numerous online articles provided by the Canadian Paralympic Committee, Swimming Canada, Adam Purdy's Linked In profile...in addition to the two published articles sited in this update).

Pencilla Lang

Then ... February 13, 2003 – A.B. Lucas Secondary School – Youth Focus Speaker

When Pencilla spoke to the Women's Canadian Club London on February 13th, 2003, she spoke of her love of science and her aspirations from an early age. At the age of three, she wanted to be a doctor, at age eight, an astronaut, at age ten, a mathematician and at age twelve a neurosurgeon. In the two years preceding her presentation to WCCL, she had participated in four science fairs and had talked to over one hundred people. Pencilla said that "The best part of science fairs is meeting people from all over Canada". (Found in the WCCL General Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2003).

What has Pencilla Lang been doing during the 23 years since she was WCCL's Youth Focus Speaker?

Pencilla competed at the Thames Valley Science & Engineering Fair for Grades 4 to 12 with her project titled: "Fiber Optic Pressure Sensors". She was a student at A.B. Lucas Secondary School. She won the Silver Medal in Engineering and a Western Scholarship for \$1000.

2004 – Pencilla competed in a Canada Wide Science Fair in St. John's Newfoundland with her project "Optical Tactile Sensors for a Medical Palpitation"

Also in 2004, Pencilla was the recipient of the Governor General's Academic Medal: Bronze – (A.B. Lucas S.S.)

2007 – As a 3rd year mechanical and materials engineering student, Pencilla Lang placed 1st in the communications category at the Canadian Engineering Competition in Saskatchewan.

Pencilla studied to attain a Bachelor of Engineering – Mechanical Engineering

Doctor of Philosophy – Pencilla graduated with a PhD in Mechanical Engineering (2014) – her PhD studies focused on image-guidance of medical devices. Her research interests include prediction models in oncology and translation of research tools into the clinical environment.

Doctor of Medicine – MD, Medicine

2014 – 2019 Radiation Oncology Resident at University of Toronto

2019 – 2020 Clinical Fellow London Regional Cancer Program

July 2020 Radiation Oncologist

March 8, 2023 - London Health Sciences Foundation wrote that "Dr. Pencilla Lang is a leader researching Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to help improve patient treatment and outcomes. Dr. Lang is leading the way for how we approach cancer care in Canada".

Today – What is Pencilla Lang doing today?

Pencilla Lang, MD, PhD, FRCPC is described today on Western's Schulich Medicine and Dentistry Centre for Translational Cancer Research site as:

- Assistant Professor in the Department of Oncology, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University.*
- Radiation Oncologist, Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre, London Health Sciences Centre.*
- **Her Research Interests / Specializations are identified as:** Clinical: specializing in head and neck, sarcoma, and lungs. Research interests: translational imaging, predictive modelling, applications of AI to oncology, clinical trials and quality of life.*

There is an interesting article written and published by London Health Sciences Foundation about work Dr. Pencilla Lang and her colleagues are involved in titled: ["All the Right Data: AI Helping Innovate Cancer Care"](#). It is exciting to know they are using AI to help them personalize patient care and treatment. Click on the article title if you would like to check out this short but exciting article.

Dr. Lang has also authored or co-authored more than 100 articles related to her research and clinical practice.

Nicholas Busch

Then ... November 14, 2019 – Western University – Youth Focus Speaker

Nicholas Busch had completed a Bachelor of Music Honors in Performance degree from Western University while studying with Tina Yanchus and was working on his Master of Music degree specializing in Collaborative Piano with Dr. John Hess. He had been working as a freelance pianist, band director and accompanist in the Windsor-London area for the preceding 7 years. His main area of interest was contemporary music, and he had recently had the honor of premiering several new works through his connections at Western. He had also had the privilege of performing in masterclasses for Angela Park, Jean Marchand and Brigitte Poulin, as well as representing London in the Kiwanis Festival Provincials in Niagara. (Found in WCCL records for November 14, 2019)

What has Nicholas Busch been doing over the past 6 years?

Nicholas Busch completed his master's degree specializing in collaborative piano from Western University, where he studied with Dr. John Hess and Professor Mariana Chibotar-Rutkevich. He is a Registered Music Teacher in Ontario. He is an Associate of the Royal Canadian College of Organists and is a recipient of the Willan and Wayne C. Vance prizes from the Royal Canadian College.

He held the position of Director of Music at Kanata United Church from 2022-2025 and has been the collaborative pianist for the Canadian Centennial Choir, and the All-Voices Community Choir.

In 2023 Nicholas founded the Beaverbrook Community Concert Series in partnership with Kanata United Church, a series that brings paid concert opportunities to early career musicians in a community with limited concert venues.

He has collaborated with choirs, orchestras, and soloists in recitals, competitions, festivals, and recordings throughout the NCR and southwestern Ontario. Ensembles Nicholas regularly works with include the Canadian Centennial Choir, All Voices Community Choir, ACCORD Choir, and Joyful Sound Ottawa.

As a composer, he has had his music premiered by professional performers throughout Ontario, including Duo Mezzopiano and Andy Busch. He is a member of the Adams-Busch Piano Duo along with his wife Olivia and performs throughout Ontario.

Today – What is Nicholas Busch doing today?

Nicholas is currently the Director of Music for the St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Ottawa Ontario. Nicholas began his position at St. John's in February 2025.

Closing Remarks

I hope you have enjoyed reviewing the April 2026 Women's Canadian Club Newsletter. Hopefully you have all the information necessary to relax and enjoy our season's culminating event on April 9th or have the necessary contact information to have any outstanding questions answered. Women's Canadian Club London thanks many people, namely, our Board and Non-Board Volunteers for their contributions toward making April 9th, 2026, a wonderful luncheon, speaker event and season finale. While wanting to thank everyone, it's difficult not to highlight the extreme commitment, dedication and ... you've got it ... hard work put into preparing for this event by Sharon Miller and her husband Bob Miller. Sharon is the Spring Luncheon Registrar along with holding several other roles on the Board of Directors including, Immediate Past-President, Chair - Speaker Committee, Chair - Nominations Committee, and Volunteer Coordinator as well as being a member on several other committees. As Spring Luncheon Registrar however, Sharon and her husband, Bob work tirelessly to ensure that every t is crossed and every i is dotted to ensure that this event comes off without a hitch.

Thank you, Sharon and Bob.

Hopefully, you have also been able to catch up on your collective generosity, our members this year with donations to the London Food Bank, My Sisters' Place, the Byron-Springbank Legion and contributions to the collection of aluminum cans to support the purchase of mobility devices for children needing assistance. As our Community Services Committee members are fond of saying, we are ... "Making a Difference Together". Congratulations! Your final donations for the 2025-2026 season can be dropped off at the Community Services Table on Thursday April 9th.

We would welcome your participation as a Volunteer on our Board of Directors or as a Non-Board Volunteer for the upcoming 2026-2027 season. Check out the article by Sharon Miller on page 5 of this newsletter and follow up to learn more if you have even a small interest. You never know, it may be just your thing! This process is open until May 1st so there is still time to be in touch if you are interested or just want to learn more.

We have enjoyed and appreciated amazing support this year from our Annual Sponsors ... thank you so much! Each of our Annual Sponsors is highlighted in our newsletters, social media posts and at each of our Speaker Events. Check out who they are. We rely on both our Annual Sponsors and our Event Sponsors for their assistance in helping us to fulfill our mission and goals each year. Please join us in thanking TD, our Exclusive Event Sponsor for our Spring Luncheon and Speaker Event this month.

Be sure to check out the Silent Auction opportunities. I heard from many of you during the recent survey that you don't need more "stuff". This silent auction should therefore, be "just what you needed" ... while there are a few things in this auction you might consider "stuff" or ... great gifts for family, friends or yourself ... there are far, far more items that I would describe as experiences. Have a look and be sure to bid on some of these experiences that will get you out enjoying culture and the arts or relaxing with a spa treatment or just enjoying the outdoors. Have a look!

This month we thank our Past Presidents for all they have done over the years to lead and support Women's Canadian Club London. It's not easy to maintain an organization for 116 years ... these leaders have made an impact.

I hope you enjoy the photo reflections of last month's Speaker Event ... hopefully, these photos will bring back some happy memories for you.

... and I hope you have enjoyed getting caught up over the past few months, with what some of our past youth focus speakers have been doing, where they are in their journey or where they have landed, at least for now. They have been busy since they spoke at Women's Canadian Club London and I am very impressed with both the insight that invited them to originally present, as well as the commitment they have put into becoming who they are today!

Thank You and I hope to see each one of you on Thursday April 9, 2026.

Addendum



Women's Canadian Club London

Since 1910

(2026-2027) SPEAKER SERIES

1. September 10, 2026

Emma Donoghue - "Shaping Stories for Stage, Page and Screen"

Emma Donoghue is a novelist, screenwriter and playwright. Her novel *Room* has sold almost three million copies, won the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and was shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prizes. Emma scripted the film adaptation, which was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture. *The Wonder* was shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and she co-wrote the screen adaptation of the Netflix film which starred Florence Pugh. *The Pull of the Stars* was nominated for the Trillium Book Award and Scotiabank Giller Prize. In 2025 she wrote the #1 National Bestseller *The Paris Express*, a historical thriller. Emma's fiction ranges from the contemporary to the historical and includes two books for young readers.

Emma Donoghue turned a set of 19th-century immigrant love letters into a folk musical, *The Wind Coming Over the Sea*, at Blyth Festival in the summer of 2025 and she is the screenwriter for the film *His for Hawk* in 2026.

2. October 8, 2026

Deputy Chief MacSween - "Grit and Grace: Respectful Disruption and the Path to Authentic Leadership"

Deputy Chief Treena MacSween began her policing career in 1998 with Peel Regional Police before joining the Hamilton Police Service in 2001. In April 2024, she was appointed Deputy Chief of the London Police Service, bringing more than 28 years of experience in operational, investigative, and administrative leadership. An accomplished Critical Incident Commander and Public Order Unit Commander, Deputy Chief MacSween has led numerous largescale operations for major events and critical incidents. She is deeply committed to building collaborative partnerships that shape effective community safety strategies and is a steadfast advocate for inclusive workplaces and the wellness of police service members.

Recognized as a trailblazer in Canadian policing, her promotion to Deputy Chief marked a historic milestone, making her the highest ranking Black female officer in Canada. Beyond her operational responsibilities, she serves as Co-Chair of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and is an active member of the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement Advisory Council.

Deputy Chief MacSween is also a proud mother to two daughters, Taylor and Alexis, and shares a strong commitment to public service with her husband, Mike, a firefighter.

3. November 12, 2026

Professor Michelle Hamilton - "Forest City Facts: Using Public History to Celebrate London's Bicentennial"

Michelle Hamilton is a Public Historian interested in historical and contemporary issues surrounding museums and heritage, often in regards to Indigenous peoples. She is also the director of Hear, Here London which brings first-person stories to the street at the location of that story. She leads a collaborative project to curate interactive historical signage for Village SoHo, applying concepts of heritage to health and wellbeing.

Michelle is also a vocal heritage advocate involved in the rescue of the former Victoria Hospital Archives, preservation of historical buildings, and supporting museums under threat.

4. December 10, 2026

London Chorus Sweet Adelines - "Jingle and Mingle"

The London Sweet Adeline Chorus is a vibrant, award winning group of women who love to sing four (4) part a cappella harmony. Our chorus chartered as a member of Sweet Adelines International Inc., in 1954 making us the oldest Ontario Chapter and the second longest running Chapter in Canada.

Sweet Adelines International is a world-wide non-profit organization of women singers committed to advancing the art form of Barbershop Harmony through education and performance. It is one of the world's largest singing organizations for women with more than 600 chapters spread over four continents. Choruses compete in one of 33 regions of the world to qualify for International Competition. London Chorus has proudly represented Ontario at International Competitions, placing as high as third (3rd) in the world.

We are one of London's premier choruses and perform under the direction of Master Director, Julia Beadle. Regularly, we produce exciting shows and cabarets to entertain throughout London and surrounding communities, either as a full chorus, in smaller groups or in quartets at a variety of venues. All we require to perform is a pitch pipe and our voices blended in four parts – lead, bass, baritone and tenor.

5. January 7, 2027

Adam Shoalts - "Wilderness Adventures With Adam Shoalts"

Adam Shoalts is a professional adventurer and Westaway Explorer-in-Residence at the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. His expeditions range from mapping rivers to archaeological projects, but Adam is best known for his long solo wilderness journeys, including crossing alone nearly 4,000 km of Canada's Arctic.

Named one of the "greatest living explorers" by CBC and declared "Canada's Indiana Jones" by the Toronto Star, Shoalts's latest quest was retracing the route of a lost explorer, the subject of his new bestselling book *Vanished Beyond the Map*.

His other books include *Where the Falcon Flies*, *The Whisper on the Night Wind*, *A History of Canada in 10 Maps*, and *Beyond the Trees: A Journey Alone Across Canada's Arctic*, all of them national bestsellers.

He has a PhD from McMaster University in history, and in his free time, enjoys long walks in the woods.

6. February 11, 2027

Dr. Monique Bertrand- " How to Prevent and Screen for Cancer of the Cervix: HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Testing and Vaccination"

Dr. Monique Bertrand was a practicing Gynecologic Oncologist in Canada for over 40 years and a Professor of Medicine and academic researcher in the medical schools at the Universities of Ottawa, British Columbia and, most recently, since 2004, here at Western University. Recently retired, she maintains a position as Professor Emeritus in the faculty of Medicine at Western and has taken on various advocacy positions in efforts to combat cancer of the cervix nationwide.

Although her career largely focused on the care of women with gynecologic malignancies, it was in the areas of prevention and screening of cervical cancer that she was especially engaged from the beginning of both her clinical and academic careers. This interest eventually led to her involvement with a national society, the Society of Colposcopists of Canada (SCC), with whom she initially participated in setting educational programs across Canada, and eventually served as President. Subsequently she represented the SCC at various provincial and national organizations, such as the Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Network (CCPCN). She was also involved in establishing national guidelines for cervical cancer screening in Canada and was a Canadian representative for the setting of international screening standards, at a convention in Bethesda, USA. Furthermore, she was asked to directly participate in setting up a Cervical Cancer Screening Program in the country of Ecuador.

Dr. Bertrand has been a strong advocate for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. As such, she co-chaired the Pan-Canadian Cervical Cancer Screening Network (PCCSN) HPV Vaccine Working Group and represented this group on the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). She was also involved with the Federation of Medical women of Canada (FMWC). In addition to having been a past President of the FMWC, she was involved in its presentation to the members of parliament in Ottawa to designate an "HPV Prevention Week" and in Toronto, to speak to Members of the Legislature to advocate for the school HPV vaccine program to include both boys and girls. In 2021 Dr. Bertrand was appointed to the position of Expert Advisor, Cervical Cancer Screening at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), a position she held until early 2025. Her involvement at CPAC included Co- Chair of the Pan-Canadian Cervical Cancer Screening Network (PCCSN). In this role, she continued to advance both the goals of the WHO with respect to the Elimination of Cancer of the Cervix globally and more specifically the goals of the Partnership as set out in an Action Plan for the Elimination of Cancer of the Cervix in Canada.

7. March 11, 2027

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

Pam is the CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services. Leading the largest CMHA branch in Ontario, she is responsible for advancing priorities such as supportive housing, Indigenous mental wellness, and improving access to programs and services to all individuals wherever they are in their journey to wellness.

Pam has over 25 years of strategic leadership experience in community health and wellness, program design and implementation. Prior to joining CMHA, she was the CEO, Oneida Nation of the Thames where she negotiated with all levels of government to secure funding for clean drinking water, public safety, and enhancing program and service delivery.

In 2023, Pam was awarded the London Leading Women Leading Girls Award for exceptional leadership that improves the lives of others. Additional awards include Change Maker of the Year and Impact Awards (2018) awarded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer for successfully leading change management in the organization and for developing and implementing cultural awareness training for all staff.

8. April 15, 2027

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

Creator, Showrunner, and Executive Producer, Roma Roth is an extraordinary creative force who has dedicated her career to bringing meaningful, female-centric storytelling to a global audience. Through the development of complex, layered female characters with themes of resilience, professional identity, and emotional healing, Roma's work connects and resonates deeply with a global audience allowing it to build a loyal fan following.

Roma is dedicated to elevating the female voice both in front of and behind the camera which is why over 50% of the creative positions on *Sullivan's Crossing*, including Producers, Directors, and Writers were held by individuals who identify as female. Under Roma's leadership, *Sullivan's Crossing* has taken the world by storm. The #1 drama series on CTV in Canada for three consecutive years, it has also topped Crave's streaming charts. The series also reached #1 on Netflix and The CW Network in the U.S., #1 on Stan in Australia, and it was one of the Top 10 series on TF1+ in France. Airing in over 180 territories, *Sullivan's Crossing* continues to top ratings globally. Roma's work has been heralded as being a "life-preserver" during tumultuous times. With positive messages, inclusive and diverse characters, and emotional and realistic storylines, Roma's work focuses on community, self-discovery, resilience, and healing.

But Roma's global success extends well beyond *Sullivan's Crossing*. She is also the visionary executive producer behind Netflix's longest-running #1 original series, *Virgin River* which Bloomberg recently named as one of the top 5 shows of the decade with 40+ billion minutes streamed worldwide.

Roma's incredible success with both *Sullivan's Crossing* and *Virgin River* has not only revitalized the romance drama genre but has pushed broadcasters and streamers to re-evaluate their position on developing and supporting female-centric programming thereby paving the way for other female creatives interested in telling female stories.

Based on best-selling female author Robyn Carr's bestselling novels, and executive produced under Roma's Reel World Management banner, *Sullivan's Crossing*, follows the life and struggles of neurosurgeon Maggie Sullivan, and her journey of self-discovery as she reconnects with her roots as well as her friends, Sydney Shandon, Edna Cranebear and Lola Gunderson, while trying to rebuild her life after returning to her father's rural campground in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Roma is an inspirational female Producer, Showrunner, Writer and Director who has dedicated her career to championing female-driven stories while supporting women across the industry. She has executive produced and co-financed more than 70 TV Movies centered on women, has been nominated for a Canadian Screen Award and is a member of the Alliance of Women in Media, WGC, DGC, PGA, CMPA, The Television Academy and the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.