



Women's Canadian Club London

Since 1910

Newsletter - October 2026

President's Message:

Hello everyone! I must say that I am genuinely happy to be writing to you today as I am still feeling quite energized from our successful September 10th event. Looking back, I remember being amazed at our first Youth Focus speaker, Inaaya Zia, her AI, music and educational presentation. How many 15 year olds develop apps over the summer? This girl will go far!

Emma Donoghue's presentation kept us entertained and many of you were excited to create a question for our Q & A period. We had too many questions for our allotted time period but Emma was interested in all of the questions and took them with her to read later.

Many thanks to Marie Peden (Assistant Chair, Speaker Committee) for being our moderator. Our moderator for the October 8th Event will be a non-board volunteer, Elizabeth Van Dongen. Thank you Elizabeth.

I wish to extend a special thank you to our September 10 Exclusive Event sponsor, Kelland Portfolio Group at ScotiaWealth Management. Your support for WCC London is much appreciated and I enjoyed meeting with your representatives.

The October 8th Event will feature Deputy Chief Treena MacSween of the London Police Service as our Keynote Speaker. I understand that Deputy MacSween was especially interested in presenting in October as she wanted to meet the winners of our Emerging Leader Awards.

We have 8 Emerging Leaders this year for the first time. Each student submitted a detailed biography and after reading them I understand why they were chosen. We as a club want to give an opportunity to students to present their accomplishments to a large audience. It is one way for WCC London to give back to our own community.

Thank you also to Cathy Cave for her Rogers TV promotion of our Oct. 8 Event. The following is a link to her recording:

[Cathy's Recording](#)

A Big thank you to the Board Members and Volunteers who work very diligently to make our meetings a success. It is a team effort. I am so grateful to everyone.

Special thanks to the makers and distributors of this newsletter – Bob and Sharon Miller.

Barbara

October Keynote Speaker: Treena MacSween

Deputy Chief, Community Trust and Frontline Operations - London Police Service

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

October 8, 2026 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

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 large scale operations for major events and critical incidents.

She is 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.

In recognition of her service and leadership, Deputy Chief MacSween was invested as a Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces in 2025 and also received the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

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.



8 Emerging Leader Awards sponsored by TD

Women's Canadian Club London has established the Emerging Leader Awards to encourage leadership skills in grade 10 and 11 students. Applications are available through the student services department at local secondary schools, beginning in February each year. Students are selected by the Awards committee at the schools.

For 2026, TD is sponsoring eight (8) Emerging Leader awards valued at \$500 each. We extend a sincere thank you to TD for its generosity and positive support of the future leaders in our community.

- Arshiaa Bhayana - London Central SS
- Caleb Cherian - Catholic Central SS
- Lydia DeActis - Lord Dorchester SS
- Yumna El Tawati - AB Lucas SS
- Violet Ens - HB Beal SS
- Erica Hannam - Mother Teresa CSS
- Luke Klassen - Medway HS
- Zoe Kudelka - London Central SS



Community Service Happenings in October:



What a wonderful start to our Community Service campaigns at our September meeting. Thank you to everyone who participated in our collections!

The Back to School campaign for the London Food Bank raised \$784.05 in food and funds.

A Book for Every Child is off to a great start as we progress towards our goal of 200 books. At the September meeting we received 119 books and \$330 (which when converted to books at the rate of \$15 per book is 22 additional books.) We therefore now have the equivalent value of 141 books!

In addition we were delighted to receive numerous summer collections of aluminum pop tabs.

Both the Food Bank and the Library were very grateful to receive these donations. The library particularly noted the number of books we had collected for older children.

Looking ahead to our October meeting we will collect food and funds for the Thanksgiving Food Drive for the London Food Bank. In addition, we will continue with collecting books and funds for A Book for Every Child.

Thanksgiving Food Drive - Did you know in 2025 on average 5,610 households per month received emergency food directly from the London Food Bank? In 2022 1 in 6 children were food insecure in London. That statistic has changed such that now in 2026 1 in 3 children are food insecure. Let's continue to support our community by donating to the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Emma Aldred, Volunteer and Events Coordinator, from the London Food Bank will attend our October meeting to accept our Thanksgiving Food Drive donations.

A Book for Every Child - We will also continue to collect new children's books or funds as we move towards our goal of 200 books. This year-long program, run through the London Public Library, distributes free books to schools and agencies serving children in our community. This program promotes awareness of the importance of books in a child's life and also supports family literacy. We will be happy to continue to receive your donation of books for this extremely worthwhile campaign.

Should you wish to participate here's some suggested items that we are collecting at the Community Service table in October:

- **Canned food – tuna and salmon, vegetables, fruit (no sugar added), canned tomatoes (no salt added), peanut butter, healthy breakfast cereals, dried vegetables (lentils, chick peas, legumes), special diet foods (gluten-free, lactose-free)**
- **Children's books (those most needed are books for the 10 to 16 year old age group)**
- **Funds for the London Food Bank and/or A Book for Every Child**
- **Aluminum pop tabs**

Making A Difference Together



Membership:

Annual memberships may be purchased or renewed at the Membership Table on Thursday, October 8 from 11:30 am to 1:45 pm, or online before the meeting.

Details on how to complete your registration can be found on the Membership page on our website. [Membership Page](#)

Single event tickets are \$30 and are available:

- through Eventbrite until October 7 at 5:00 pm – purchase here, don't wait until day of meeting as there may be none available
- [Eventbrite - Treena MacSween](#)
- at the Membership Table (if available) from 11:30 am – 1:45 pm on October 8

Note: credit and debit card purchases are subject to a processing fee.

*Attention Past Presidents - Bob Miller has designed a new life-long membership card. Please stop by the membership table on October 8 to pick up your new card.

Art in the Atrium:



**WOMEN'S CANADIAN CLUB LONDON
2026 ART IN THE ATRIUM
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2026
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Welcome all vendors.

We have a good start for our 2026 market.

Please feel free to tell your Friends and other Artisans that might be interested in joining.

The fee for this year remains the same as last year,

\$75 per 8' table.

If you wish or need two tables or anything else, please let me know.

E Transfers are welcome and appreciated. Please send to:

wcctreasurer10@gmail.com

We expect to have another excellent event and are so happy to have you as an Artisan and vendor in the Atrium.

Have Questions? Email Nancy at blueparrott5@gmail.com

Celebrating 200 Years: London's Bicentennial

getinvolved.london.ca

Women's Canadian Club London is excited and honoured to join in London's Bicentennial celebrations in 2026. The City of London, the London- Middlesex Historical Society (President James Stewart Reaney) and Western's Public History Department are organizing multiple Bicentennial events, with a focus on Forest City Facts as London has the official designation: Forest Capital of Canada. This team of dedicated historians is working to develop 200 facts about London for the Bicentennial.



Our November 12 speaker, Professor Michelle Hamilton, Western Public History department, will present on "Forest City Facts: Using Public History to Celebrate London's Bicentennial". Thank you to the City of London for promoting on their Bicentennial website, getinvolved.london.ca our Community Service's collection of 200 books for "A Book for Every Child" campaign in partnership with the London Public Library.

We look forward to welcoming representatives from the London Public Library as special guests for our November 12 event to accept the books, monetary donations and arrange for their distribution to children in the community.

The City of London is contributing Bicentennial merchandise and a history of London for each of the tables at our November 12 event. This is very much appreciated.

In addition, we will have a surprise reading of a 'London Proud' story composed by a member.



Forest City Facts (200) is an initiative created in partnership by the City of London, the London and Middlesex Historical Society, and Western University Public History.

The Women's Canadian Club London is proud to participate in London's Bicentennial celebrations and the Forest City Facts.

Forest City Facts



Library opens first branch

On Dec. 23, 1915, the London Public Library opened its first branch, the East Branch in the corner store of the old East London Town Hall at 795 Dundas St. But within 10 years, larger quarters were needed and the East Branch was moved to a former school at 465 Quebec St. In 1961 it was officially renamed the William Oliver Carson Branch in honour of the chief librarian of the London Public Library from 1906 to 1916. In 1977, the old Quebec Street School was demolished, and a new library building was erected on the site.



London and Middlesex
Historical Society



Contributed by Arthur McClelland. (Does Arthur have a link he wants us to place here?
Visit www.London.ca for all things City of London

Learn more about London's Bicentennial at
getinvolved.london.ca/london200



Our September 10 speaker, Emma Donoghue, has contributed a very intriguing Forest City Fact and it is shared here.

Forest City Facts



Merchant's death a mystery

Mara's Dry Goods store was a fixture on London's Dundas Street for 93 years. But its founder, Thomas A. Mara, died under mysterious circumstances less than three years after the store's 1891 opening. His wife Clara Long Mara, mother of his five children, was five years his junior. In November 1893, Thomas and their four-year-old daughter Mary caught cold. Was it Clara who gave them what was supposed to be quinine (a common treatment for malaria) for their fever? Mary got worse, but pulled through. Thomas died, just 49. The "quinine" was discovered to be morphine; the druggist's clerk was blamed for the mistake. Clara buried Thomas in Mount Pleasant under a headstone – In loving memory – where she would join him, but not for another 34 years.



London and Middlesex
Historical Society



Contributed by Emma Donoghue, emmadonoghue.com
Visit www.London.ca for all things City of London

Learn more about London's Bicentennial at
getinvolved.london.ca/london200



Sponsorship:

Women's Canadian Club London Annual Sponsorship 2026-2027

The support of these corporations assists us in achieving our mission each year.

Thank you; your support is very much appreciated.



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Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Silver Sponsor

Sponsor Kiosks in Atrium: 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Meet Our Sponsors - Visit the **Sponsor Kiosks** in the Atrium from **12:30 pm - 2:00 pm** on October 8 to meet our **Annual Sponsors**, learn more about their organizations and the work they do, ask questions, and show your appreciation for their support.

London Symphonia:



London Symphonia has graciously decided to continue to donate two concert tickets to each of Women's Canadian Club London events. We are very pleased as the Symphonia concerts are extremely popular. Our members and single ticket purchasers are very happy to participate in a draw for these tickets.

October 8 Draw for 2 Tickets To A Concert Of Your Choice:

<https://www.londonsymphonia.ca/concerts>

London Symphonia's second concert, performed on November 14 at Metropolitan United Church, 468 Wellington Street London.

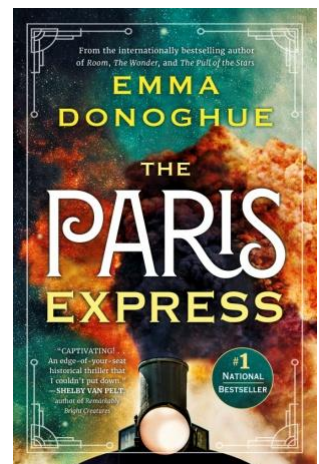
It is called "*Caribbean Sublime*" with *Lido Pimienta*

Selections from La Belleza Caribenya

Orchestrations by Owen Pallett

Western Bookstore Donation:

Thank you for the generous donation of a copy of Emma Donoghue's book, ***The Paris Express***. All members, guests will be eligible to win this book in a draw on October 8th.



A Few Photos From Our September Event:





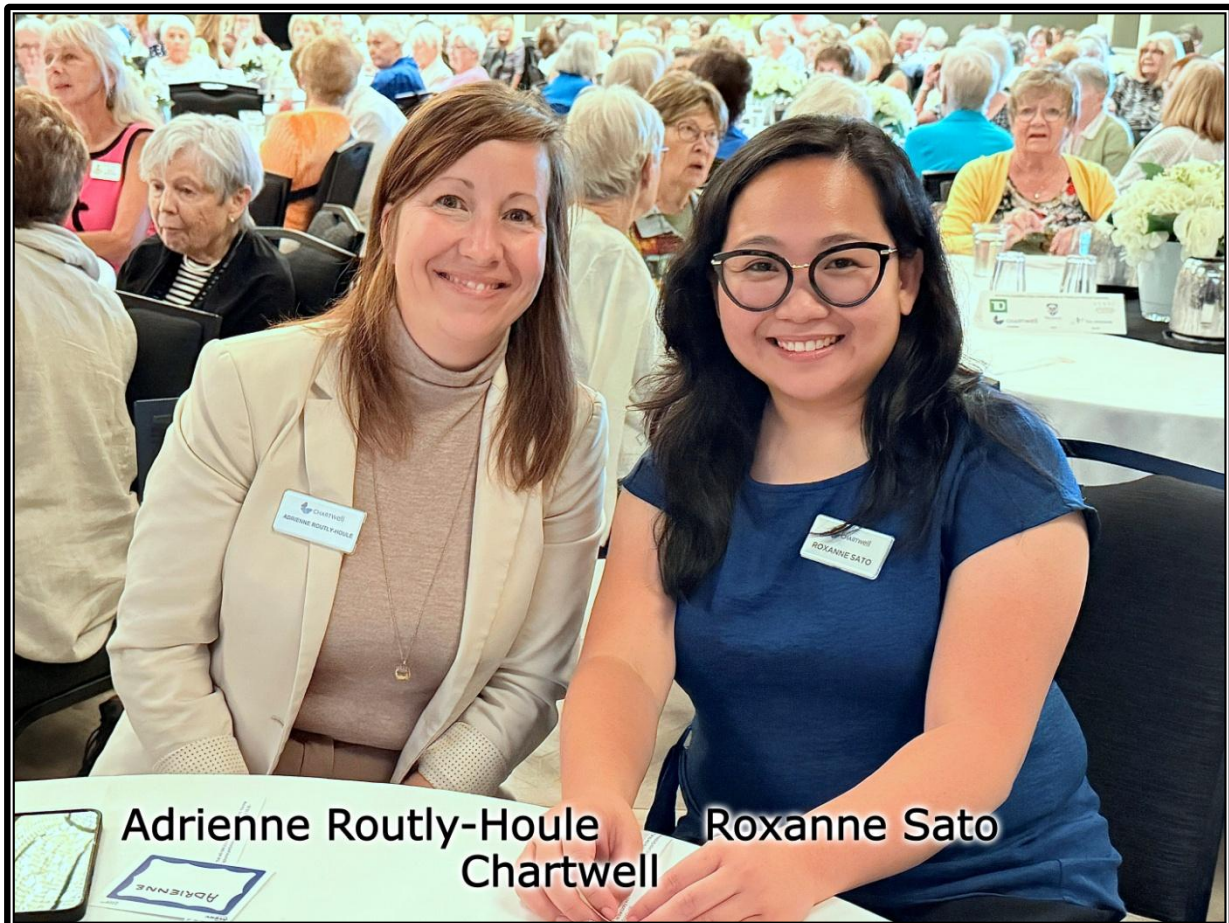
The Event Sponsor Representatives with Emma Donoghue



Exclusive Event Sponsor Representatives
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Past President Judy Farrell with Emma Donoghue



Adrienne Routly-Houle Chartwell
Roxanne Sato





