Women's Canadian Club London

Since 1910

Newsletter - November 2026

Lest We Forget

President's Message:

Hello Everyone,

Fall has finally come to London and it is wonderful to drive around the city enjoying the beautiful foliage. The WCCL October monthly meeting had an extremely busy schedule to follow starting with the Emerging Leader Award Winners' Presentations. Some of you may have thought that the Youth Focus part of the program was too long; however each student talked for only 2 minutes and this special event only happens once a year. Thanks to TD for supporting this Emerging Leader Program and allowing us to expand from 4 awards of $250 to 8 awards of $500 each. What an excellent group of young Canadians standing at our podium. They deserve to be recognized by our membership!

Our October keynote speaker, Deputy Chief Treena MacSween, was extremely popular and received a standing ovation from the members! So much of what Treena said

obviously resonated with most of the women in the ballroom. Treena's speech ran a little overtime so that we were not able to have the Q&A afterwards. I am sure many of you were disappointed and we will try to rectify this situation in our future meetings.

Welcome new members and returning members! We on the board have worked hard to make sure you have top notch speakers each month and a variety of other experiences. Please continue to tell your friends about our club and invite them to come with you to a meeting. I mention this only because we have not made our membership goals for this season. Our costs are high - especially the rental of the hotel. Most members would be shocked to learn that our beautiful Crystal Ballroom costs over $4,000 a month to rent. That is why we had to revise our fees last June. Reduced membership means that we must rely more on our sponsors. Thank goodness for all our sponsors and their support.

Thursday November 12 is approaching quickly. This month's event features Professor Michelle Hamilton from Western. She will be helping us celebrate London's Bicentennial with her presentation about Forest City Facts.

Artists will be in the atrium - including many new vendors. Start your holiday shopping early!

Barbara

As always, many thanks to Sharon and Bob for the newsletter.

November Keynote Speaker:

Professor Michelle Hamilton - Department of History at Western University

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

November 12, 2026, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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.

Community Service Happenings in November:

I am beginning this report with a huge thank you to all club members, guests and sponsors who supported our Community Service campaigns at our October meeting.

- **With your overwhelming support we raised $2006.00 in food and funds for the Thanksgiving Food Drive for the London Food Bank**
- **A Book for Every Child has also proven to be very popular with our Club and at the end of our October meeting we had reached 213 books (or equivalent funds)! We have reached our goal of collecting 200 books to celebrate London's 200 birthday.**
- **We continued to receive numerous containers filled with aluminum pop tabs.**

November Happenings:

Past president Judy Farrell will place our Club Remembrance Day wreath at the Cenotaph for the City of London Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Our Club provides the Poppy fund at the Byron-Springbank Legion with a club donation of $100 in the month of November. In addition, should you wish to participate, we will also have a Poppy Box at the Community Service table for any additional monetary donations.

For those who may be interested please find a link below detailing a recent project completed by the Byron-Springbank Legion:

Monument to the Fallen

Lastly, we will wrap up A Book for Every Child in November. Although we have reached our goal many members have said to me they wished to contribute books or funds in November. At our November meeting we will be delighted to welcome three London Public Library staff members: Elizabeth Sutter, Manager Customer Service and Branch Operations, Lisa Manax Skikos, Coordinator Children's Services, and Christine Walker, Fund Development and Special Projects. Elizabeth will be presented with the proceeds of our 3 month collection at this time.

Should you wish to participate this is what we are collecting at the Community Service table in November:

- **Monetary funds for the Byron-Springbank Legion – look for the poppy box on our table**
- **Children's books or funds for A Book for Every Child (most needed books are those for the 10 to 16 year old age group)**
- **Non-perishable food or funds for the London Food Bank**
- **Aluminum pop tabs**

Thank you so much for your generous support. We are:

Making A Difference Together

Emerging Leader Awards and November Youth Focus Speaker:

At our October event, we were thrilled to introduce eight Emerging Leaders chosen from grades 10 and 11 in the Thames Valley District School Board and the London District Catholic School Board for their outstanding leadership in their school and community. All of these award winners were interesting, active and kind.

We recently learned that TD, who sponsored this year's winners, has offered to sponsor the next 8 leaders in 2027.

Wonderful news!

Our November Youth speaker is Raine DeVries, a grade 12 student at Parkside Collegiate Institute in St. Thomas.

Raine is on the Parkside Robotics team, the Thunderstamps, who came in second in the first Robotics Canada Tech Challenge Provincial Championships.

Membership:

Annual memberships may be purchased or renewed at the Membership Table on Thursday, November 12, from 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., 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 November 12 at 9:00 am

  Eventbrite - Michelle Hamilton

- at the Membership Table from 12:45pm – 1:45 pm on November 12

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

If any Past President has not picked up their new Lifetime Membership card, please see Eleanor Leatham at the luncheon in November.

New Members:

We are pleased to welcome 52 New Members to Women's Canadian Club London. Many joined the special lunch at Crabby Joes on October 8. This gathering offered the chance to meet other new members, alongside any of their friends who wished to attend.

On November 12 at 12:15 p.m., there will be reserved tables for the new members (and friends) who wish to have the buffet lunch in the Regency Room. New member pins and speaker publicity cards will be given out.

Lunch Options provided by Shelly's Restaurant on November 12 2026

1. Buffet lunch in Regency Room - $24 per person plus tax and tip.
2. Select from Shelly's Restaurant Menu in restaurant.
3. Reservations are recommended: Call Ashley at *(519) 691-3402*

Art in the Atrium:

Welcome all vendors.

Thank you to Nancy Hawkins, for originating and organizing this popular Holiday Market!

ARTISTS' MARKET IN THE ATRIUM

SPONSORED BY:

WOMEN'S CANADIAN CLUB LONDON

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2026

BEST WESTERN PLUS LAMPLIGHTER INN

591 Wellington Rd., London, ON

From: 12:00 to 4:00 pm

over 25 vendors

SHOP EARLY for HOLIDAY GIFTS

knit goods, jewellery, food, decorations,
art, wood items, and more

EVERYONE WELCOME

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.

November 12 2026 Draw for 2 Tickets to a Concert of Your Choice:

https://www.londonsymphonia.ca/concerts

London Symphonia's third concert, Messiah with the Elora Singers will be performed on December 5 2026, 7:30pm at Metropolitan United Church, 468 Wellington Street London.

Celebrating 200 Years: London's Bicentennial

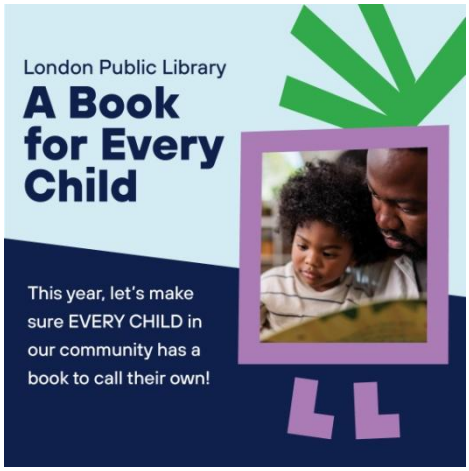
getinvolved.london.ca

WCC London welcomes Jennifer Martino, Manager, Neighbourhood Development and Support Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services, City of London, and three guests from the London Public Library for the A Book for Every Child 200 campaign that has been coordinated by WCC London's Community Service committee. They are Elizabeth Sutter, Manager Customer Service and Branch Operations, Lisa Manax Skikos, Coordinator Children's Services and Christine Walker, Fund Development and Special Projects.

Donations from the City of London's Bicentennial Committee will be used in SPECIAL DRAWS on November 12. All present have a chance to win a keepsake of London's Bicentennial.

Each table will have a table topper with a Forest City Fact, an initiative created in partnership by the City of London, the London and Middlesex Historical Society, (under the leadership of James Stewart Reaney) and Western University Public History.

Learn about the history of the old courthouse, Blackfriars Bridge Spans the Centuries, Peony, The Pride of the City…



Forest City Facts

LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA
BICENTENNIAL

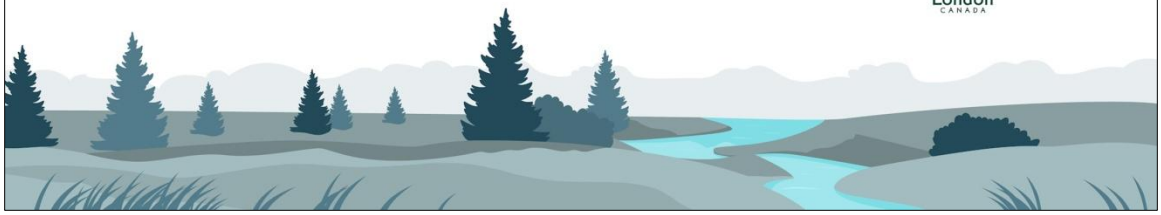
Western PUBLIC HISTORY

London CANADA

It's always Fair weather

Two agricultural societies merged to form The Western Fair Association in 1867 and a London fall classic followed. The first Fair was held in 1868 as a livestock event and gradually expanded to its present site in Old East London to include industrial, art, and agricultural exhibitions. As farming modernized, horse competitions gave way to tractors and new technologies. Rebranded as Western Fair District in 2011, it draws more than four million visitors annually, supporting the market, agri-business hub, ice pads, a harness horse racetrack, various industry and consumer events, and Gateway casinos.

Contributed by Grace Lazzuri, Western MA Public History Field. For more information visit: https://westernfairdistrict.com/ Image: Courtesy of Tourism London.
Visit London.ca for all things City of London



Forest City Facts

LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA
BICENTENNIAL

London and Middlesex Historical Society

Western PUBLIC HISTORY

London CANADA

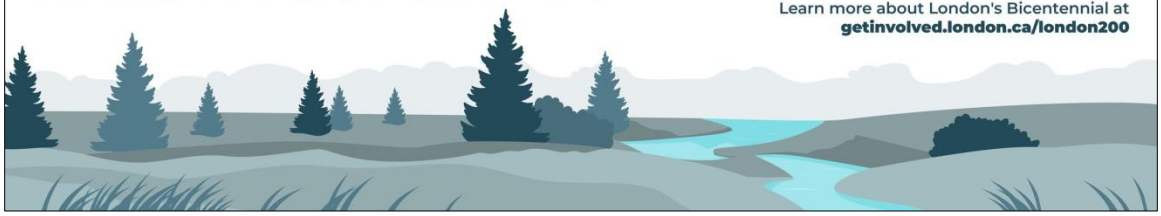
The (former) naked city

ReForest London 20 Years

The bicentennial year's Forest City is blessed with seven million trees, so it may be surprising that 155 years ago, so many trees had been cleared that London was described as "oddly naked." This treeless city inspired citizens to action. Soon, council purchased and planted 15,000 trees along streets and throughout Victoria Park. Today, the City of London plants 7,000 trees annually, giving thousands more to residents. Complementing those tree gifts is the independent charity ReForest London. With its Community Tree Nursery and environmental education, it strengthens London's urban forest for a more climate-resilient future.

Contributed by Alex McKay drawing on Orlo Miller, Image: Reforest London Logo.
Visit www.London.ca for all things City of London; Visit reforestlondon.ca

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



Sponsorship:

Women's Canadian Club London

Wishes to Thank our Annual Sponsors for their Support

Platinum Sponsor

Platinum Sponsor

Gold Sponsor

Silver Sponsor

Silver Sponsor

We are pleased to announce that TD has renewed their Annual Sponsorship for the 2026-2027 Speaker Season as well as confirming their support for our 2027 Emerging Leader Awards and TD will once again, be the Exclusive Sponsor for our April Speaker Event.

Thank You

A Few Photos From Our October Event:

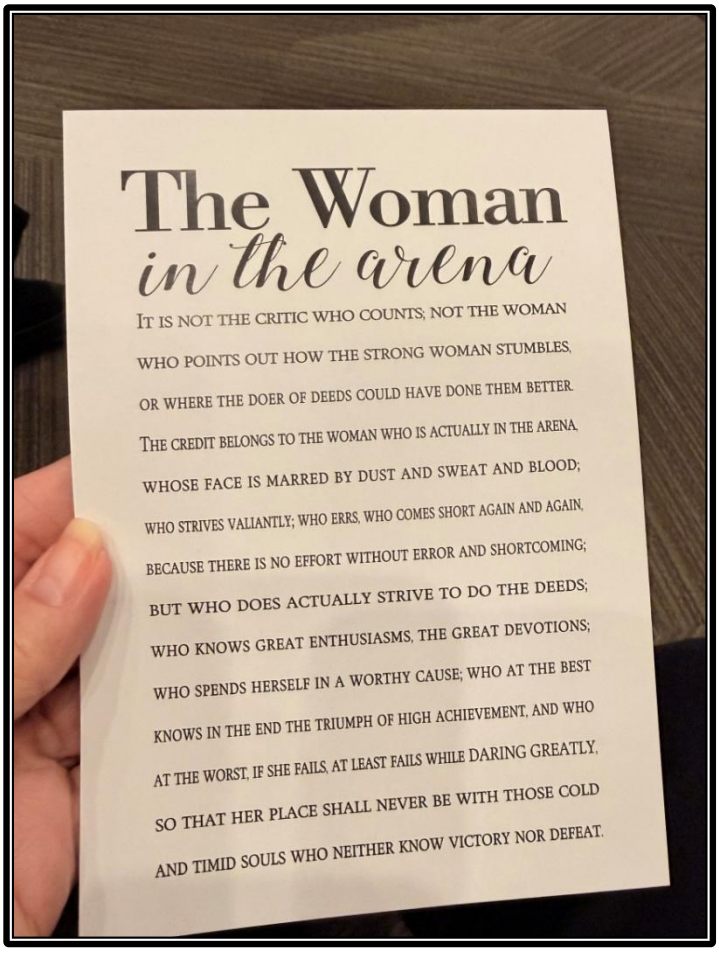
New Members

Helen
New Members

Western Sponsors

Welcome
to
Women's Canadian Club London
October 8, 2025 Event

Emerging Leaders with Deputy Chief MacSween



The Woman
in the arena

It is not the critic who counts, not the woman
who points out how the strong woman stumbles,
or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.
The credit belongs to the woman who is actually in the arena,
whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood;
who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again,
because there is no effort without error and shortcoming;
but who does actually strive to do the deeds;
who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions;
who spends herself in a worthy cause; who at the best
knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who
at the worst, if she fails, at least fails while daring greatly,
so that her place shall never be with those cold
and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

DEBIT
Women's Canadian Club, London
Single Tickets
for This Month's Present
Cost: $30.00
Cash, E-Transfer
or
Credit Card or Debit Card
Pat
Eleanor
Membership
Helena

THE WOMEN'S CANADIAN CLUB
Deputy Chief MacSween
President Barb D.

Chartwell Sponsors

COMMUNITY SERVICE
"MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER"
Thank you for your support
Save Your Pop Tabs
London Public Library
A Book for Every Ch
A Book For
unds
Connie
Betty
Diane
Community Service

Louise
Kathleen
April
London Symphonia

Members at Lunch

Members at Lunch