

Everyone's a winner

The Ontario Professional Planners' Institute has presented their 2005 Award of Excellence in Planning to the Planners Action Team (PACT).

The team put in 1,500 volunteer hours over the course of four years to create *Re-establishing Value: A Plan for the Old East Village*. The results, according to London's Land Use Planning Manager John Fleming, "have been extremely positive – leading to what many are calling a re-birth or renaissance in Old East London."

The project also raised the profile of the planning profession, says Fleming, showing they are capable of providing the leadership needed to transform communities.

Message from the Chair

Congratulations to the PACT Team for their great achievements. Their recognition is wonderful and much-deserved; their work helped bring about a host of changes, including the community association, the new Heritage Conservation District, the discussions around re-establishing Queens Park as a community space and changing the traffic flow on Queens Avenue.

The Old East Village BIA has worked in partnership with many groups, such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), London Police Services, the City of London and others to accomplish a remarkable amount in the past few years: the Convert-To-Rent program, the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), the financial incentives to bring buildings up to building and fire codes and improve façades, the local Clean and Green and the Business Police Academy are just a few of the initiatives we are proud of.

There's more in store. Stay tuned.



Phil Singeris, Chair



Bargains galore!

More than 35 businesses took part in the Old East Village Sidewalk Sale July 22-24.

It all started when Michelle De-Veau realized she needed to make some room at her shop, Mitch's Treasures, and started planning a sale. One neighbour did the same, then another, then she decided to phone around and see who else was interested. She was amazed at the response.

Some things do snowball in July.

Colour us heritage

London Paint Service introduces the Old East Heritage Colours Saturday August 13. The unveiling will tie in with their annual neighbourhood barbeque. Visit them at 796 Dundas Street.

Class of '05 graduates

The Business Police Academy held its graduation ceremony July 4. This is the third year of the program, part of the Old East Village BIA Crime Prevention Initiative, which was developed specifically to address issues faced by the business community.

Fire inspections coming

Starting in September, London Fire Services will be conducting fire safety evaluations of all Old East commercial buildings.

More than a dozen landlords attended an information session June 27 at the Aeolian Hall, where they learned what inspectors will be looking for, the costs, what their own responsibilities are, and what programs can help. For those of you who were not able to attend, please contact us; we have information available.

Upcoming events

Aeolian Hall, 795 Dundas Street
672-7950 or www.aeolianhall.ca

Hot Buttered Politics Film Festival

August 8-13, 8:00 p.m.

Entertaining, hard-hitting, thought provoking documentaries.

Summer Music Festival

August 14-19, all shows 7:30 p.m.

Tranby Croft and The Sirens; Clark Bryan and Marion Miller; Karyn Ellis, Carolyn Mark and Her New Best Friends; Spirit of the Drum (Rob LaRose and Bob Hughes) and Animus (Jeff Culbert, Penn Kemp, Brenda Muller, Wave Weir); Ian Gifford and David Essig; Jessie Ross and the Alex Pangman Quartet

Summer Rocker Concert

August 20, 8:00 p.m.

Bobnoxious

Reclaiming Creativity

September 17, 18

Panel discussions, workshops and entertainment.
Information: 432-6917 or londoncreative@coollist.com

The Block Party

Rectory Street between Dundas and King, August 26
Organized by the Eastern Bloc Collective, this features local musicians Carole Allison, The Blighters, Frank Ridsdale and Staylefish. Films will be screened on the outside wall.

Palace Theatre, 710 Dundas Street

432-1029 or info@londoncommunityplayers.com

Move Over, Mrs. Markham

September 23 through October 2

Local history

We always hear from people who remember what this area was like back in the day. A lot of the places that were part of the scene then are still around.

The establishments below are listed based on how long they've been in the neighbourhood. So while the London Curling Club dates back to 1848, it was at the Western Fair from 1911-1914 and moved to Lyle Street in the 1920s. And even though the St. Regis Hotel was part of the Duke of York Hotel in 1867, it wasn't until 1931 it became the St. Regis.

We've also left out places with gaps in their résumés, like the Palace Theatre (1929) and the Aeolian Hall (1885), even though the Palace was always an entertainment venue and the Aeolian mounted the occasional outdoor concert in its early days.

The continuous uses include:

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| Centennial United Church | 1875 |
| Western Fair | 1887 |
| London Curling Club | 1911 |
| St. Regis Hotel | 1931 |
| Anthony's Men's & Boys' Wear | 1934 |
| LacMac | 1949 |
| Melody Restaurant | 1950 |
| McHardy's Vacuum | 1952 |
| London Paint Service | 1955 |
| Embassy Hotel | 1957 |
| Tony's Pizza | 1961 |
| Semco Paint | 1964 |
| Discount Appliances | 1967 |
| G&A Book Exchange | 1966 |

Are you a veteran Old East Village business that we missed? Please let us know.