

LONDON ROAD NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm honoured the membership has chosen me as the new president, and I have gone to work trying to understand the desires of the community and where the LRNA needs to go in the future. Needless to say, the summer has been busy.

First, I want to personally apologize to London Road Market. Last fall, they graciously donated food to the Bright Lights Festival, which the LRNA served to festival-goers as a fundraiser. We mistakenly gave acknowledgement to a different grocer. Our relationship with London Road Market is a long one and we value it deeply. We are sincerely sorry for our mistake, and we look forward to continuing our relationship with them in the future.

Second, I met with most of the businesses in the neighbourhood over the summer (not counting home-based businesses). For many, it was the first time they've received an official visit from the LRNA. I felt it was important that they feel a part of the community. Many of our residents are their clients, and many of these business owners live in the neighbourhood. We hope to keep an open line of communication between the LRNA and our neighbourhood businesses.

Third, I met with representatives from four other neighbourhood associations in the city, and we formed an umbrella organization called Community

Organizations of Lethbridge, or COOL for short. The idea of COOL is to encourage the creation of neighbourhood associations within the city and support them once they are set up. Building pride in Lethbridge starts with building pride in our neighbourhoods. Fourth, we have created several board committees within the LRNA (events, communications, governance, nominations, membership, and finance). A board member chairs each one, but several will be open to contributions from London Road residents. These committees will reduce the workload of the LRNA executive, make the work of the LRNA more collaborative and effective, and get London Road residents more involved. Finally, several events over the summer have been a great success.

In June, we had our annual summer festival, which saw amazing entertainment and fabulous vendors. Thanks to all the performers, vendors, volunteers, donors, and festival-goers.

In September, we had our first annual home tours, details of which are elsewhere in this newsletter. It was a hit, and we received phenomenal feedback. Thanks to the hosts, volunteers, and guests, and a special thanks to Jasmine Room for coordinating ticket sales.

A week after our tour, LRNA board members and residents volunteered in



building the Kinsmen Park community garden, which you can also read about in more detail in this newsletter. Thanks to Beyond Your Front Door, Urban Grocer, Lethbridge Sunrise Rotary, and Lethbridge Urban Farmer's Guild for making this a reality.

We have lots planned over the next few months, so be sure to check out the events section of this newsletter. If you're interested in volunteering on projects or committees, email us at more@londonroad.org. Also, don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Happy Holidays!

-Kim Siever, President

PRESIDENTIAL FAREWELL

Sharon Hudemka reflects on her past presidency of the LRNA.

My last four years as President of LRNA have been exciting and rewarding. Here is a brief recap of our achievements:

- LRNA was consulted by the City (and sometimes developers), on over 20 proposed developments. One of these is the just-completed Regal site, with a restored historic building and a new office block.
- We now have a good working relationship with the City, who notify us of all proposed developments and alley closures.
- LRNA Board and residents are being consulted by the City Planning Department on the updating of our 33 year old Area Redevelopment Plan (expected completion 2015)
- We have worked with local residents to ensure that Civic Centre Field remains as a Green Space.

- Through volunteerism and donation, we have been closely involved with Community events such as Pitch In, Janes Walk, Shelter Me and Target Hunger.
- We were selected to take part in Beyond Your Front Door's pilot project for inclusive neighbourhoods. www.byfd.info
- We have established modest, but secure funding for LRNA through: Annandale Christmas Home tour (thanks to the Bland Family), Bright Lights Concession revenue (Food and drink generously donated by Duane Gurr of London Road Market) and Participation in Milk River Kinsman Car Raffle ticket sales.
- Our major annual event for the past two years has been our very successful 'Party in the Park' in Kinsman Park, where rides,

entertainment and snacks are all provided free by LRNA.

- During my presidency, LR was recognized as one of the Top Ten Best Old House Neighbourhoods in Canada in 2011, by This Old House Magazine www.thisoldhouse.com

For the last four years, I have had the pleasure of working with an energetic, active committee, and seeing the enormous steps the Association has taken: now, as Past President, I am excited to see the next years' challenges and successes!

Sharon Hudemka



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 21



NOV 17-23
PARK PLACE MALL



DEC 5-7



2014 FALL HOMES TOUR

2014 HOUSE TOURS A GREAT SUCCESS.

This September, the London Road Neighbourhood Association organized the first annual home tours. Owners of five historic London Road houses opened up their homes for our inaugural event, graciously hosting dozens of guests, both residents and nonresidents of the neighbourhood. Technically, this was the second time we've done house tours, but it's been about a decade since the last one, so it feels like we started from scratch this year.

The homes featured were Annandale, the General Stewart home, the E. B. Hill home, the Jamesford home,

and the Knitel home. These homes are architecturally and historically significant, and tour attendees learned a lot about the first residents, as well as the homes in general.

Over 60 people participated in the tours, hopping from home to home over a three-hour period. We received such positive feedback from everyone, and many seemed enthusiastic regarding our continuing to offer home tours in the future. Some of them even offered great ideas for future tours.

Jasmine Room was gracious enough to manage ticket sales, and without their help, we wouldn't have been able to see the success we did. We extend our sincere gratitude to all the hosts, volunteers, donors, and attendees for making this tour event a fabulous success. We look forward to providing an even better tour next year.

If you're interested in hosting a tour in your historical home or volunteering with the next tour, email us at more@londonroad.org.

LRNA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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MILK RIVER CORVETTE RAFFLE TICKET SALES

CALL FOR
VOLUNTEERS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

NOV 17-23, 2014

AT PARK PLACE MALL

EMAIL

[MORE@LONDONROAD.ORG](mailto:more@londonroad.org)

TO VOLUNTEER

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Christmas at Annandale

is looking for London Road residents to assist with the annual showing of the Annandale Historic Home in all of its lit-up Holiday glory to visitors and residents. There are Volunteer Opportunities on the 5th, 6th & 7th of December from 6:00pm to 8:30pm.

Various positions available.

Please email more@londonroad.org for more information by November 10th.

[YARN] BOMBS AWAY!

Chinook High School Fashion Studies students, in collaboration with Downtown LA and enthusiastic community volunteers, is organizing an interactive project to transform Galt Gardens into a large scale public textile arts work display to celebrate Bright Lights Festival on November 21st.

Knitters, crocheters, stitchers, and fabric arts are going to create an array of yarn bombing trees, lamp post, street lights, meters and even benches in Galt Gardens. Yarn bombing is defined by Wiki as “a type of graffiti or street art that employs colorful displays of knitted or crocheted yarn or fibre rather than paint or chalk”. This community project will showcase textile arts at all levels, from children, middle and high school students, university students, teachers, seniors, artists, clubs, anyone that wants to learn or create something from textiles.



Yarn Bombing Example

40 YEARS OF LRNA

A salute to the Founders

Although the ‘London Road’ area didn’t acquire this name till the 1970’s, it was always a very important part of Lethbridge. Its north-west portion was one of the first residential areas to be developed, and experienced a significant building boom and population growth from 1890-1914.

Many of the beautiful historic homes that still stand today were built in this period. Another building boom after WW11 gave us the ‘newer’ homes in the south and east sections of London Road. In the 1970’s, because of our proximity to the downtown, there were significant pressures for demolition and large-scale redevelopment. At that time, a zoning bylaw allowed for the development of high density apartment buildings in most of the neighbourhood – at the discretion of the Municipal Planning Commission.

In 1974, in response to these pressures, the London Road Neighbourhood Association was established by a group of concerned residents. This group included Don Read as President, with Bernd Ebel, Robert and Heidi Dyck, Lynne Dewhirst, Andy Ogle and Candy Cain. Don Read moved to Victoria many years ago, but still has very fond memories of a tumultuous time when the neighbourhood was in real danger of unbalanced over-development .

Would-be developers tried to portray the new group as an elitist minority, until a huge turnout of concerned residents at a Town Hall Meeting in Fleetwood-Bawden school gym revealed just how many people cared for the neighbourhood. Anyone who knew Don Read would remember him as courteous and soft-spoken – but he recalls that an article in the Herald in the 1970’s portrayed him as a ‘street-fighting man’! Don mentions the bruising battles over rezoning, the debates about traffic flow on 6th Ave., and the saving of the unique Regal

Grocery Store, which was slated for demolition. After the smoke cleared, the LRNA worked amicably with the City Planning Department to produce the 1980 Area Redevelopment Plan, which is still in use today.

In more recent years, the pressure for large-scale demolition and redevelopment in London Road has lessened, as newer parts of the City have shared in the building of multi-family housing; but without the foresight and dedication of the 1974 founders of the LRNA, our neighbourhood might look very different today, perhaps lacking many of the beautiful historic homes that give it such a distinctive character.



Regal Grocery Store

2014-2015 LRNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Siever (President)	Kate Connolly Grace Duff
Garfield Bland (Vice President)	Windy May Evangelista
Julia Baranec (Secretary/ Treasurer)	Lisa Gonsalvez Joe Gryszczuk
Diane Horvath	Marko Hilgersom
Sharon Hudemka	Kirsten Jones Carol Sekiya

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KINSMEN COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT



**Want to share your message
with the London Road
community? Advertise with us!
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On September 20th, 2014 the Community came together to build Lethbridge's first Community Garden complete with raised beds and some personalized touches right here in Kinsmen Park.

Farmers Guild, and Urban Grocer. Many members of the local community came out to lend a hand (and get a little dirty), and even Lethbridge's own Mayor Spearman paid a visit.

Located in the park beside the Lethbridge Fish and Game Hut (9 Ave S and 11 St S), the project was a collaboration with the London Road Neighbourhood Association, the City of Lethbridge, the Beyond Your front Door initiative, Lethbridge Urban

There are plans to plant the beds as early as Spring 2015. Thank you to everyone who came out to participate and support this amazing community initiative.

The new ingredient in town!



London Road market.

www.londonroad.ca
538 13 Street South

ANNOUNCEMENT

**2014 HOME TOUR
DRAW WINNER IS: Honour Sauve**

Congratulations Honour! You have won a \$25 gift card from the Jasmine Room.
Please email more@londonroad.org to claim your prize!

the Jasmine Room

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