

**LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD  
HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE**

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2010**

**Mission Statement**

The Historic Sites Committee researches and promotes London's heritage to its people and to visitors.

**Committee Mandate**

The Committee provides value-added services in support of the London Public Library's core services in Collections, Reference & Information, Learning & Support, and Community Information.

The Committee's work supports the Library's Vision:

*London Public Library is the Community Hub that strengthens individuals, families, and neighbourhoods by connecting them to people and to relevant information, collections, programs and resources.*

The Committee:

- \* identifies and commemorates sites that have played a significant role in the city's history that would otherwise not be recognized;
- \* compiles documentation on historic sites, and makes this research, speeches made at unveilings, and collateral materials available to other researchers through the London Room;
- \* liaises with other heritage organizations in London;
- \* promotes an appreciation of London's past to individuals and groups by sharing knowledge and expertise;
- \* advocates for the preservation and interpretation of London's historic sites;
- \* advises federal and provincial historic sites agencies on local sites of mutual concern;
- \* makes the collective expertise of the committee available to London's heritage tourism sector;
- \* enhances public use of the London Room through its community outreach.

## **Background**

The London Public Library Board established the Historic Sites Committee in 1970 at the request of municipal council. The Committee consists of eight members appointed by the Board to represent citizens at large, as well as a representative from the Board and the Library Administration. The Secretary for the committee is a member of Library staff (London Room Librarian).

## **Responding to Community Needs**

London has a strong heritage community. There is a growing interest among people of all ages in learning more about local history. The great response to Doors' Open London is one example of public participation in heritage events, and the annual ACO Geranium Walk is another. The Historic Sites Committee contributes to the recognition and interpretation of London's history, and collaborates with many community organizations in fulfilling this role..

## ***Heritage Tourism in London***

The HSC designates sites of local historical interest in London and broadens public knowledge by providing extensive research about their historic significance. Such recognition of places of historic importance both stimulates broader public involvement in heritage preservation locally, and attracts visitors to our city who wish to learn about our distinctive past. The committee's recently published *Walking Guide* enables tourists and residents to know their city better.

London's history is of interest to citizens in other parts of Canada. Local information regarding historic sites can be publicized to a national audience, thus strengthening London's heritage tourism initiatives.

Provincial and federal government agencies, such as the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, have welcomed the advice of the Historic Sites Committee on the recognition of local sites.

## ***Local History in the School Curriculum***

Educators include the study of local history in the elementary and secondary school curricula. The London Room is a well-used resource for students at all levels of historic inquiry. The research done by the Committee is available to students and the general public through the London Public Library's Ivey Family London Room.

## ***Partnerships for the Preservation of Heritage***

London is home to many organizations and municipal agencies dedicated to the study of local history and the preservation of heritage buildings, landscapes and sites. The HSC works in partnership with these organizations and agencies to share knowledge, enhance public understanding of our common goals, collaborate on joint projects, and strengthen advocacy efforts. The Committee has successfully partnered with many local groups in the public and private sector to erect plaques, and this raises community awareness of our history.

## **Goals and Tasks (2007-2010)**

### **1: Identify and mark sites of historic interest in London**

- 1.1: Work in partnership with the Diocese of Huron to erect a plaque commemorating the first election of a bishop by clergy and laity in the Anglican Communion. This will be part of the celebrations of the sesquicentennial of the Diocese of Huron in July 2007.
- 1.2: In cooperation with the City of London plan the erection of a plaque at City Hall to honour Margaret Fullerton. Select a date, plan the unveiling ceremony, prepare and mail invitations, and publicize the event.
- 1.3: Set priorities for new plaques for 2008-2010, and establish tasks for their development. Begin research for plaques planned for 2008. The Committee will undertake to develop two plaques per year.
- 1.4: Promote the recommendation made by HSC to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to recognize Edward Richmond and the Noble and Wolf v. Alley court case in London.

### **2: Redefine the Mill Project and plan its completion**

- 2.1: Establish goals and tasks associated with a redefinition of the Mill Project.
- 2.2: Identify local partners for the Mill Project.

### **3: Work in collaboration with the Library and community partners to enhance public knowledge about London's historic sites and local history.**

- 3.1: Inaugurate a new HSC web page. Establish tasks to maintain this page and keep its information about HSC publications and sites current. Assess the use of this page.
- 3.2: Organize the HSC archives to ensure that research materials about historic sites and the history of the Committee's involvement in heritage recognition are accessible to researchers.
- 3.3: Make the expertise of the Historic Sites Committee available to the Library to enhance the development of programming in and displays on local history. Plan and co-sponsor with the Library one public program per year to highlight an aspect of local history.
- 3.4: Cooperate with other organizations in London to promote local historic sites through projects such as walking tours, site interpretation, and publication projects.
- 3.5: Support efforts of other heritage bodies to recognize historic sites in London.

**4: Work with the Library to sustain the work of the Historic Sites Committee through resource management and development.**

- 4.1: Maintain an annual inventory of all sites plaqued by the Committee.
- 4.2: Develop with Library staff a protocol for ensuring the security of plaques, and for dealing with missing plaques or threatened sites.
- 4.3: Develop with Library staff a template agreement between the London Public Library Board and property owners of potential sites to be plaqued which describes the relationship between the Board and the owner regarding an historic plaque.
- 4.4: Work with Library staff to secure grants from foundations and other funding bodies to support projects relating to plaque development, publications, site interpretation, and research activities of the Committee.