Enclosed for your review is the summer 2008 “Ground” magazine from the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects.

The magazine includes the 2007 Canadian Society of Landscape Architect’s regional awards and on page 10, they recognize the Forks of the Thames project as submitted by the lead consultants, PMA and Jim Vafiades. They cite that the project “makes an important connection with the river” and is “a positive addition to London”.

They also voted an Award of Excellence to the Central Library Rotary Reading Garden, (pages 14/15) noting the involvement of the steering committee and the interesting spaces created for multiple uses.

It is great to see national recognition of these important civic spaces and congratulations to all those involved in these award-winning projects.

cc: Pat McNally, General Manager, Environmental and Engineer Services
Ross Fair, General Manager, Community Services
Vic Cote, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
Susanna Hubbard-Krimmer, C.E.O. London Public Library
Margaret Mitchell, Director, Quality Improvement, London Public Library
Bill Campbell, Division Manager of Facilities
Andrew Macpherson, Manager Parks Planning and Design
The City of London, Ontario, has been revitalizing the downtown core for a number of years. Part of this revitalization included the renovation of a vacant department store into the city's new Central Library. With the acquisition of the building, the city also acquired an 18,000-square-foot parking lot. Through a series of public consultation meetings conducted by the Library Board, it became apparent that there was a strong desire to see the parking lot converted into a public garden.

Working with a Garden Steering Committee, the design team prepared a series of guiding principles. These principles included the creation of a space that would emphasize the library's goal of being a place of discovery for all ages, showcase the diverse plants of the Carolinian forest in an urban setting, and provide a variety of large and small outdoor spaces for community events, reading, and relaxation.

Judges' Comments: A great re-invention of a parking lot, which sets a precedent for outdoor reading spaces. Liveable and warm.