



January 2025

The COMMUNITY CHRONICLE



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SOHO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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We Welcome 2025!

Welcome to the SOHO Community Association January newsletter. This is our sixth edition of the newsletter of what is new and exciting in our neighbourhood. Our mission is to create a strong and healthy community for all SOHO residents. We are committed to embracing our past while focusing on the future.



PROUD 2B
SOHO
LONDON, ON

soho.london.ca@gmail.com

SWAG



NEW
NEW



- Zipped Hoodie - \$50
- Pullover Hoodie - \$40
- T-Shirt - \$25
- Zipped Tote Bage - \$25
- Ball Cap - \$20
- Dog Bandanna - \$10



Join Us for Our Upcoming Town Hall Meeting!

Our Town Hall meeting is the perfect opportunity to come together, discuss the issues that matter most, and share feedback on what’s working well and what plans we can make for the future... Your voice is vital in shaping the future of our community!

Location: To be determined – stay updated by following us on social media for the latest details.

We Need Volunteers!

We’re looking for volunteers to help with the first Town Hall. If you’d like to pitch in, we need assistance with:

- Flyer distribution
- Event setup and teardown
- Clean-up after the meeting

Your involvement makes a big difference—let’s work together to make this event a success!



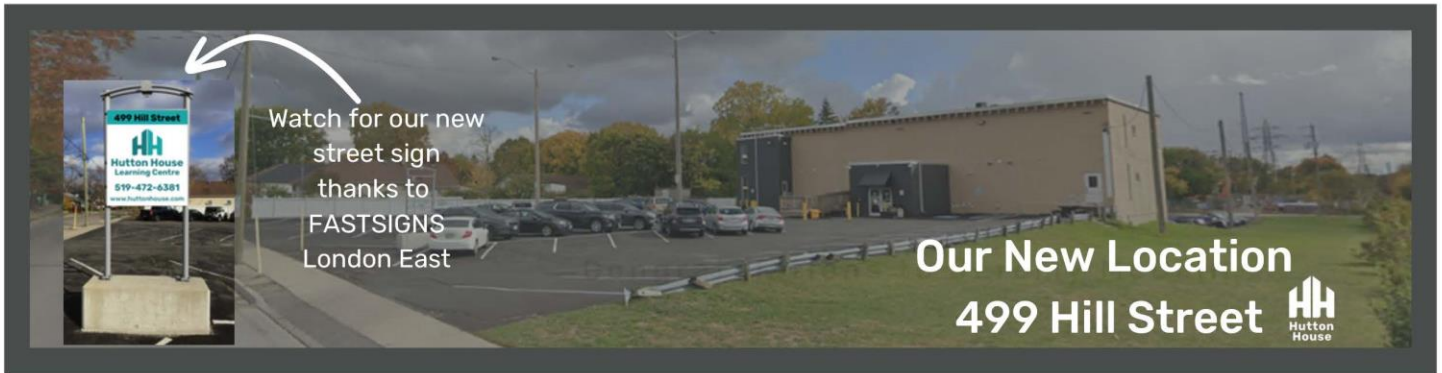


COMMUNITY NEWS

Issue #2

December 16, 2024

The Latest News on Hutton House Learning Centre's New SoHo Location



- Our new location has:
- Accessible parking spaces
 - A drop-off area for Paratransit
 - A ramp to access the building using a wheelchair, scooter, or walker
 - An accessible washroom
 - A microwave and fridge for participants to use
 - An outside space to use in nice weather with picnic tables and a garden
 - A waiting room area
 - Free parking
 - Walking distance to Meredith Park and the new Vision SoHo subsidized housing



Congratulations to Hutton House Learning Centre Employee Jeremy McCall!

Since joining the Forest City Chapter of BNI (Business Networking International) in July 2023, Hutton House Employment Services Program Coordinator Jeremy McCall has brought energy, creativity, and dedication to his role as Secretary/Treasurer. On November 1st, Jeremy's hard work and commitment were celebrated in a big way—he was named "Chapter MVP" for 2024 at the BNI Southwestern Ontario Big Breakfast! Reflecting on the honour, Jeremy shared:

"I never expected to win anything for simply putting the BNI motto of 'Givers Gain' into practice. It's been a privilege to prioritize the needs of our clients while networking with fellow chapter members I know, like, and trust."
 Congratulations, Jeremy, on this well-deserved recognition! Your passion and dedication inspire us all.

Is your business hiring? We can help you foster inclusive hiring practices and match the right job seekers with your opportunities! Contact Jeremy at jeremy@huttonhouse.com or 519 601 9582, or, starting in January at our new location at 499 Hill Street.



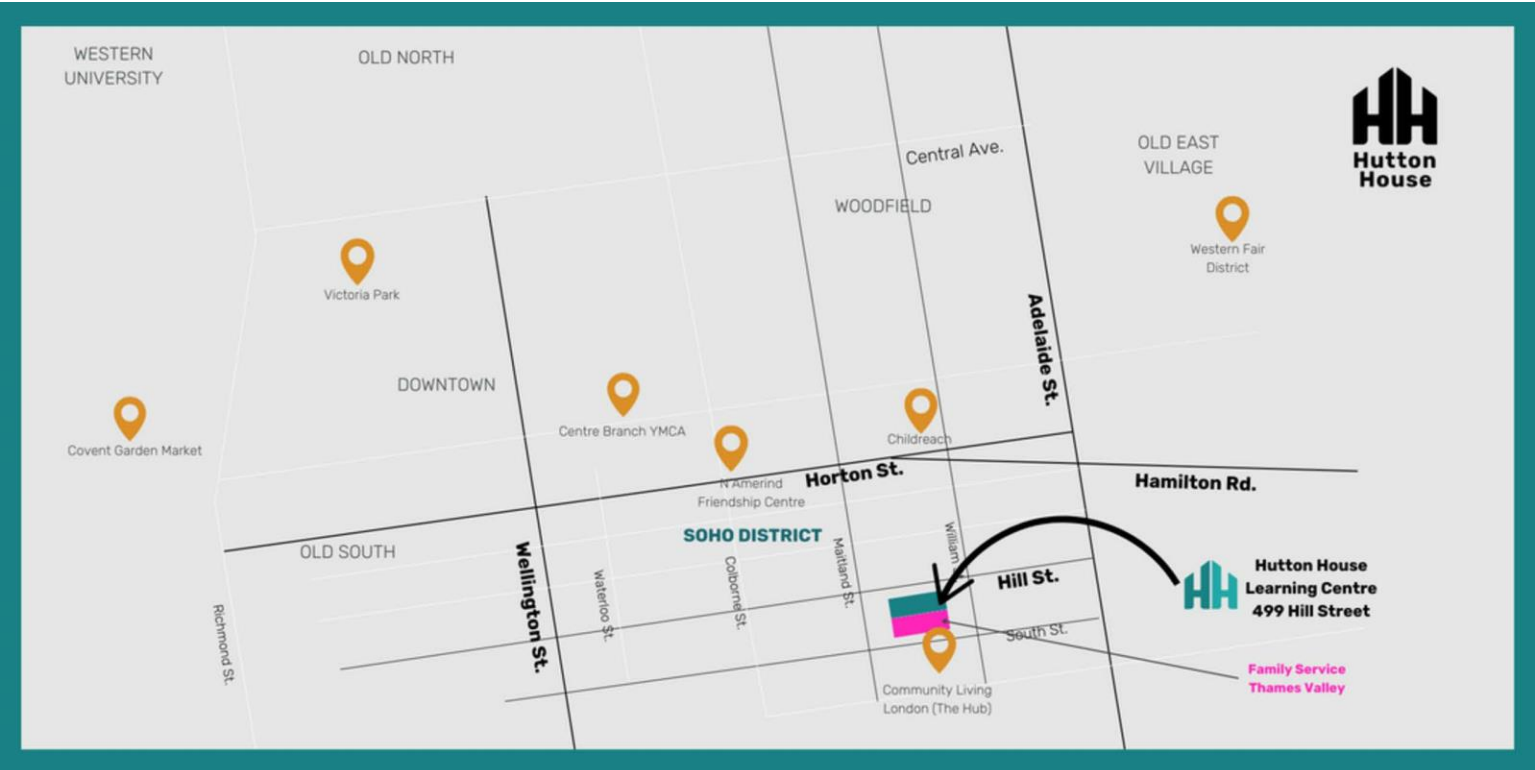
CONTACT US

<https://www.huttonhouse.com/>
hhservices@huttonhouse.com

SUPPORT OUR MOVE

Consider:
 Volunteering
 Making a Donation
 Sharing on Social Media





Would you like to tour the new location before the start of our programs?
 Let any staff know, and we can make arrangements!

Bus Routes

The following bus routes drop off and pick up close to 499 Hill St:

- #1: Kipps Lane-Pond Mills Rd/King Edward
- #3: Downtown-Argyle Mall
- #13: Masonville Place-White Oaks Mall
- #16: Masonville Place-Pond Mills

Do you need help planning your bus route? Contact us at (519) 472-6381!




Do you have a scheduled appointment or class in the new year?
 Call now to change your Paratransit bookings to the new location beginning in January!



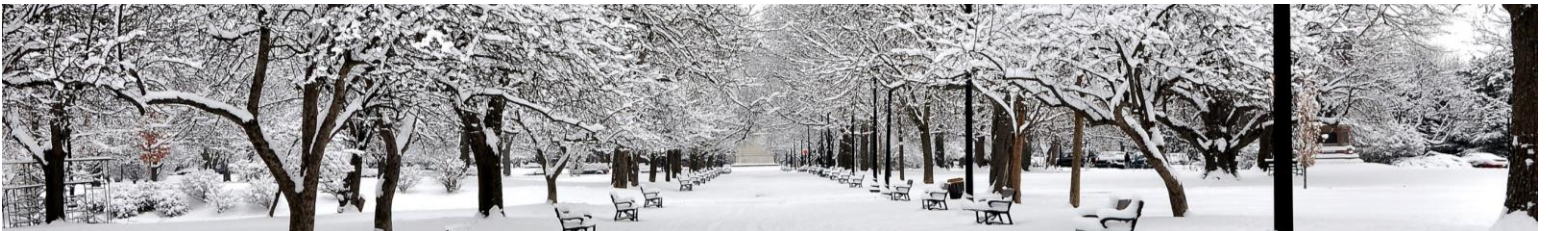
SOHOSQ – London

375 South St, London, ON N6B 2M1, Canada



375 South St.

Located in London's desirable SoHo neighbourhood, discover a modern rental community with enviable amenities inside and out. Offering modern 1 to 3-bedroom suites. Surrounded by lush nature, live steps to the Thames River while being so close to the vibrant downtown core, work, schools, and everything London has to offer.



Rental Office:

Rental Office: SOHOSQ

Office: (519) 840-5855

Rental Office: SOHOSQ

(519) 840-5855

375 South St.

London, Ontario

Leasing Office located in the trailer at South St. and
Colborne St.

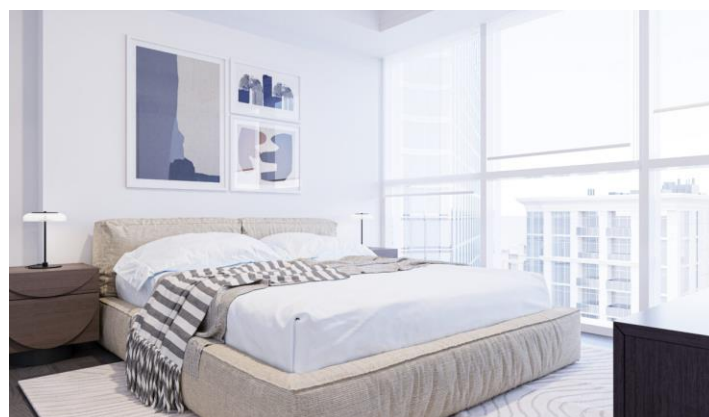
Monday to Thursday - 9am to 6pm

Friday - 9am to 4pm

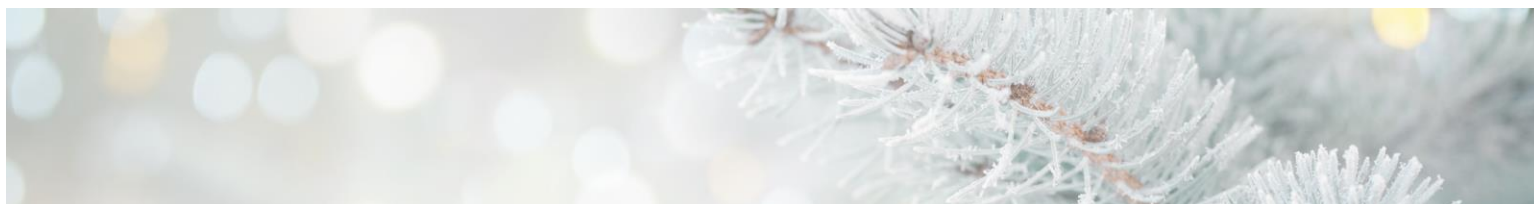
Saturday - Closed

Sunday - Closed

Website: www.sohosq.ca



MEDALLION



JANUARY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Households looking to dispose of their Christmas tree are asked to drop them off at a City of London EnviroDepot this winter. There is no special curbside collection of Christmas trees and winter greenery this January, either as a separate pickup or with regular garbage pickup.

The City operates a number of EnviroDepot locations across London. To assist with Christmas tree drop off and other items generated over the holiday season, three additional drop off days are available (in addition to Wednesdays and Saturdays at EnviroDepots):

Sunday, January 7, 12 to 5 p.m.

Visit the EnviroDepot webpage for locations and regular winter hours of operation. Fees apply to some items (e.g. bagged garbage is \$1.50, \$2.00 effective January 1st, 2024, per bag). Before visiting, please remove all decorations, tinsel, garland, skirts and lights from your tree.

Residents can also place their Christmas tree in their backyard if they have space and it will become a habitat for birds. In the spring, trees that are three metres or shorter can be placed at the curb for regular yard waste collection. Please check your 2025 Spring collection schedule.



There are rules for large furniture & bulky item collection

Booking requests must be completed at least 5 business days in advance, online at service.london.ca or by phone at 519-661-2489. Collection will occur on your next scheduled garbage day. Large items are over 1 metre wide, 1.5 metres tall and require 2 or more people to safely place at the curb.

There is a four item limit per collection.



Learn more about large furniture & bulky item collection at london.ca/garbage



Working for You!



TERENCE
KERNAGHAN
MPP for London North Centre

Community Office
#105–400 York St. (facing Colborne)
London, ON N6B 3N2
519-432-7339
tkernaghan-co@ndp.on.ca

Terence Kernaghan is the Member of Provincial Parliament for London North Centre. He is passionate about social justice, health care, housing, and education. Before politics he was an elementary school teacher-librarian, focusing on critical literacy, digital citizenship, media literacy, and social justice. As MPP, Terence represents his community's needs and interests at Queen's Park.

Community Office
#105 - 400 York St. (facing Colborne)
London ON

<https://www.terencekernaghan.ca>
Phone: 519-432-7339
Email: TKernaghan-CO@ndp.on.ca



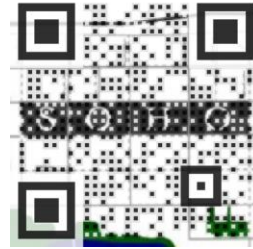
Facebook



Instagram



X



SoHo CA Website



Take our Survey

SO HO ANOVA

Our donation centre is open during construction on Wellington Rd.

Best route for access is to enter off Bradley behind the LCBO.

You can also access the area from Montgomery Rd that runs along the back of the building.

Please don't hesitate to call us if you are having trouble finding access.

519-642-3003 ext 2266

anova

Anova Donation Centre

Location: 1067 Wellington Road near Bradley (between Swiss Chalet and M&M Food Market)

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12pm to 3pm
Please note that we cannot accept out-of-season clothing due to storage limitations.

If you have any questions about a needed item, please call: 519-642-3003 ext 2266 or email donations@anovafuture.org

SO HO VOLUNTEERS

Are you passionate about our SoHo community?

We are looking for volunteers to help with our community events throughout the year.



Benefits include:

- Making a tangible difference
- Using their skills and talents for good
- Meeting and networking with others in the community
- Working to elevate a cause they believe in
- Helping others/lending a hand-up

Contact us @ soho.london.ca@gmail.com

Stories of SoHo

Written by Professor Michelle Hamilton of the Public History Masters program at Western University.



Bondi's family restaurant. Vincent Jr., sits in his office top left.

Courtesy of the Bondi family.

During a busy dinner time in the 1960s, customers of the iconic Bondi's Italian Restaurant on Horton Street might find themselves seated upstairs at the family dining room with the Bondi grandparents eating their own meal. The Bondi family – Vincent and Concetta, Vincent Jr., his siblings, and his wife Pietra – immigrated from war torn Sicily in the 1950s. Concetta, who had run a bakery in Sicily, began the family business by selling homemade pizzas out of her own kitchen. Vincent Jr. then opened the famous Italian Restaurant, which he eventually expanded into a large family dining experience, with live music on the weekends, and pickup and delivery franchises as customers increased. Vincent Bondi Jr.

employed many of his immigrant family members coming from Italy, to help them get started on a new life in Canada. The restaurant was family-run. As the backbone of the family and a large part of her husband's success, Pietra both tended to the home and five children during the day and worked in the kitchen at the restaurant most evenings. Vincent Jr.'s siblings helped in the early stages to build the empire. As kids, the third generation of Bondis worked there from early ages, checking coats, bussing and waiting tables, washing dishes, cooking pizzas, and learning every aspect of the business.

This is just one of the stories my students and I have heard over the past three years, since the Vision SoHo Alliance partnered with Western's [public history program](#) to tell the stories of the SoHo neighbourhood through historical signs. Each year, I lead graduate students through a collaborative community-based historical project, and I was excited by the Alliance's vision to adaptively reuse two of the heritage buildings, the Faculty of Medicine (1921) and the War Memorial Children's Hospital (1922), and create new housing on the old Victoria Hospital site.

This Hear, Here signs marks a story at the original location of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on Thames Street. Courtesy of Cody Groat.

Just before Covid hit, we launched the project *Hear, Here* which places orange street signs in locations where Londoners can listen to stories on their cell by dialling a phone number. Over fifty signs are posted in SoHo, so I knew the neighbourhood had a fascinating history.

Since 2021, twenty-six students have researched the London General Hospital (later Victoria Hospital) and the wider history of St. David's Ward, the area now nicknamed SoHo. As part of our research, we spoke with dozens of former residents, business owners and employees, medical and nursing students, and hospital staff and patients. One of my favourite anecdotes recounts how a mischievous med student rode a horse through the underground tunnels of the hospital, up the stairs of the medical school, and into the auditorium.



We are now drafting eight interpretative signs to be posted around the perimeter of the Alliance's housing block, and another which will be mounted inside the old medical school auditorium. Three of the signs will interpret the architecture of the heritage buildings, medical education and innovations, patient care, and the life of students.

Two more will present daily life. Victoria Hospital employed many people. SoHo also had many factories – McClary's Manufacturing, Hunt's Mills, Brener Brothers' cigars, Holeproof Hosiery, Canada Bread, London Soap, and of course Labatt – although few traces remain. Former residents described to us the smell of baking bread and yeasty beer in the neighbourhood and how, as kids, they used factory whistles to tell time.

Life was also shaped by the Thames River and by the railroads that dissected the neighbourhood. Finding fun along the river, children swam across to Chelsea Green, fished, hunted snakes, played ice hockey, and even [sailed on floating chunks of ice](#) under the Wellington Street bridge. Kids rode the London and Port Stanley railway to spend a day at the beach or daringly hopped on the back of train cars for a quick ride home from school.

Four signs focus on SoHo residents. Surveyors carved the land of St. David's Ward from the London Township Treaty signed in 1796 by Anishnaabe groups. In the 1800s, Indigenous people from nearby Anishnaabe, Munsee-Delaware, and Haudenosaunee communities lived in the city to work, or to escape enforced government policies such as residential schooling. Community members still stayed together. In the early 1900s, John and Lucy Schulyer and their children lived in a large house on Clarence, and boarded young single men from their shared home community, Oneida Nation of the Thames. Their four sons all volunteered for the First World War. Indigenous men enlisted at a greater rate than all others during the war.



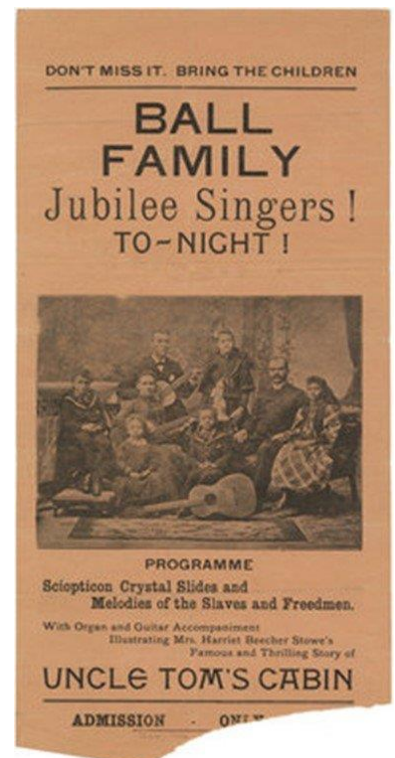
Paya-Mint, a digestive aid made from papaya enzymes and peppermint oil, once belonging to Dr. Hyman Wilensky. Papaya was also used to loosen membranes in the throat as a treatment to diphtheria. Courtesy of the [Medical Artifact Collection](#).

Unlike bigger cities, London did not have a Little Italy or a Chinatown. Instead, immigrants from different countries lived next to each other. The Londoners we talked to described the variety of ethnicities and languages of their neighbours. One woman, [Jean Hough](#), told us about walking down Grey Street as a child, enjoying the smells of all the different traditional suppers cooking.

The earliest arrivals escaped Ireland during the potato famine in the 1840s-50s, or enslavement in the United States, often via the Underground Railroad, before slavery was abolished in the 1860s. German and Russian Jews followed because of political revolutions and religious persecution in Europe. Before the First World War broke out, poverty motivated immigration from Italy and the Middle East. Polish immigrants came in several waves, before and after the Second World War, and then out of communist Poland in the 1980s.

Prejudice made finding a job difficult. Instead, many started their own businesses. Barnett Wilensky, a Russian Jew, established a peddling business on Clarence Street. His son Hyman became one of the first Jewish doctors in the city, graduating from medical school in 1930. Not able to find a placement at Victoria Hospital due to prejudice, he interned at the Queen Alexandra Sanatorium for tuberculosis. Hyman's daughter, [Beryl, and her husband Noam Chernick](#) also graduated from medical school in the 1960s, and become ground-breaking couples' therapists known throughout North America.

Ad for the Ball Family Jubilee Singers. Courtesy of the Grimsby Public Library. Community and organized religion provided a measure of resilience. In the 1840s, the Black community built a modest African Methodist Episcopal church along the river on Thames Street, a building recently rescued and restored at Fanshawe Pioneer Village. Sixty years later at its daughter church, Beth Emanuel on Grey Street, the Reverend Richard Amos Ball formed the Ball Family Jubilee Singers, and toured Canada to raise money to pay the mortgages of Black churches. Today, *Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church and the Polish Hall are at the centre of the Polish community.*



We are partnering with the City of London on the design and installation of the signage, most of which will be along the public sidewalks surrounding the development. Once our signs are installed, we hope Alliance tenants and neighbourhood residents will pause, read, and re-read the stories of the place where they live.

Our full research report:
https://www.history.uwo.ca/public_history/Soho_Jan24_fullbook.pdf