

City of London - Application for Appointment to City of London Community Advisory Committees

Application

Committee you are interested in serving on: **Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee**

Contact Information

Name: **Mary Ann Hodge**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N6B 2C5**

Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Advisory Committee, please provide dates and details. (max. 250 characters):

I was a past member of the Advisory Committee for the Environment (ACE) from 2016-2019. It was as a member of this committee that I proposed a motion that resulted in the City of London declaring a climate emergency in 2019. I was the member of ACE that spoke as the delegate to Council on this motion. The motion was approved unanimously. As part of ACE, I was also involved in the organizing of the first Green in the City series held at the Central Library. I also volunteered as a 'host' for some of the talks.

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters):

After leaving ACE, I started up a community group "Climate Action London" that focuses on engaging Londoners with the city's climate plan. Therefore, I am quite familiar with the plan and its most recent 2022 Progress Report. As part of Climate Action London, I write a weekly newsletter that has a distribution of over 650 contacts which highlights a small section of the climate plan each week.

I am also a key organizer for London's Earthfest. This year we had over 2,000 Londoners attend to learn more about environmental action and network with London organizations. This year, I facilitated a stronger connection with the Indigenous community, resulting in a press event held at the N'Amerind Friendship Centre and various Indigenous artists, performers and speakers at Earthfest.

I think I can bring to this committee an understanding of how Council works and a knowledge of the many groups and individuals working in the environmental field in London.

How will you support the work of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters):

The work of the Advisory Committee touches on all of the things that are important to me in my personal life: the maximizing of tree cover and natural areas in the city; reducing waste (including energy, water, landfill); and generally moving towards making London the Greenest City in Canada!

I have a deep understanding of the City's climate plan and a ear to the ground of what residents in London are interested in learning about, and how they like to engage.

I am willing to put the work in to researching, getting feedback, and organizing events (if appropriate) that would be in alignment with the Advisory Committee's work. I will be an active participant, not someone who will simply 'fill a seat'. As someone who has previously been on an Advisory Committee, I will be able to be effective from day one.

We value the contributions of Londoners with diverse experiences and welcome applications from individuals who share our commitment. Please describe how your work, community or lived experience will enhance these efforts through Community Advisory Committee work. (max. 3000 characters):

It is important to ensure a diversity of voices in all community work. I come to this work from a female gender bias, albeit from a white, settler perspective. As someone who has experienced how even being female can create a different experience than male counterparts, I know there are many voices that often feel unheard. That is why in my work, I try to raise up these voices, and in particular Indigenous voices.

As the Board Chair at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, I instituted a partnership with the area First Nations communities where we collaborated on an annual "First Nations Heritage Week" at camp for three years in a row as a pilot. From those learnings, the camp now integrates these teachings throughout the camp season through programming, sports and bringing First Nations campers to camp at no charge.

As a key organizer for Earthfest, I organized First Nations participation in all areas of the festival.

As a campaign cabinet member for Indwell, I am always finding ways to involve the Indwell community in climate actions - in 2022, Climate Action London hosted a plant based cooking course at Indwell, and in 2021, we orchestrated a bike share program at the Woodfield Gate residence.

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Community Advisory Committee Member. (max. 250 characters):

I have a diversity of interests, all aimed in creating a better city for all:

I am a Foster Parent with London Children's Aid.

I am currently a Toastmaster, helping to form the first "Green" Toastmasters club.

I am a fundraiser for Indwell, helping to raise over \$5M to fund supportive housing in London.

Attach resume or other document here, if needed: **Resume - Mary Ann Hodge 2023.pdf**

Attach more files here, if needed:

Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; I understand that the commitment may be up to 4 hours per month to attend meetings and prepare.; I understand that my application and any attachments will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity: (optional): **Word of mouth**

If you selected 'Other', please specify:

Submitted on: **7/7/2023 5:05:47 PM**

July 7, 2023

Mary Ann Hodge, OCT

Certified Teacher with corporate facility management and non-profit experience.
Focused on accelerating engagement in climate action at the municipal level.

Mary Ann is the founder and a team lead for Climate Action London and Greening Sacred Spaces London. Climate Action London was established in June 2019 as a coalition of concerned Londoners to find support and greater leverage for diverse projects. Climate Action London works closely with the City of London to encourage Londoners to engage with the city's programs, including the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Since June 2019, Climate Action London has:

- Supported Fridays for Future by participating in climate strikes every Friday since 2018
- Helped students organize the Student Climate Strike which drew about 4,000 Londoners to march in the streets on the Global Climate Strike day of action in 2019;
- Key organizer in London's Earthfest celebrating environmental action in London, drawing over 2,000 attendees
- Spoke at the City of London's Multi-year budget public participation meetings regarding the need for Climate Action initiatives
- Staffed the trade show booth for the London Environmental Network at Seedy Saturday on March 7, 2020 promoting composting
- Published article in London Free Press on hybrid vehicles
- Several Letters to the Editor published
- Co-hosted a Green and Just Recovery Townhall in collaboration with the London Environmental Network, For Our Kids and several other partner organizations
- Co-hosted the workshop Collaborative Calls to Action and developed a letter template for attendees to communicate to the members of London Council
- Hosted a 6 week online Climate Conversations workshop which provided an opportunity for people to learn, to ask questions, and discover ways they can take actions big and small.
- Established pollinator gardens at the offices of ReForest London and at Meredith Park
- Established Greening Sacred Spaces London (est. Sept 2021) which hosts monthly information meetings about greening initiatives for faith communities and quarterly solstice/equinox celebrations
- Brought 4 London non-profits together to host an online native plant sale (3 years running), selling over 3,000 native plants and increasing knowledge of nature based climate solutions.
- Public Outreach: ReImagine Holiday Market, promoting public transit and native plant pollinator gardens, speaking engagements with Kiwanis, Rotary, various London churches.
- Created a website with action ideas and resources for greater climate action at www.ClimateActionLondon.ca
- Publish a weekly newsletter to over 650 subscribers that focuses on education, action and advocacy around the climate emergency

Mary Ann is passionate about using her skills to make a difference in her community. She has run as a candidate for the Green Party of Canada in four federal elections (2008, 2011, 2019, 2021).

Professional Achievements:

- Member, Advisory Committee on the Environment, City of London, 2015-2019
 - Successfully advocated for the City of London to declare a climate emergency April 2019
- President, Toronto Chapter of the International Facility Management Association 2001-2003
- Won International Award of Excellence as member of IFMA Community Events Committee 1998
- President, Student Council, International Academy of Design 1988
- Founder, International Academy Alumni Association, 1989-91

Certifications:

Climate Reality Corps Leadership Training, 2020

Ontario Certified Teacher (OCT), 2007 - present

Certified Facility Manager, 1997 – 2005 now again April 2023-present

Toastmaster Silver, 2005

Toastmasters, Competent Leader 1999

Food Handler Training Certificate, 2019

Work Experience:

Teaching Experience:

Thames Valley District School Board, Occasional Teacher 2008 – present

Has completed several long-term/occasional contracts to teach in both elementary and secondary schools, with a current focus on teaching within the French Immersion elementary program. Received ETFO Faculty of Education Award upon graduation.

Humber College Continuing Education, AutoCad Instructor 1999-2001

Facility Management:

SAS Canada, Toronto 2001-2005

Cyberplex, Toronto 2000-2001

National Trust/ Scotiabank, Toronto 1990 – 2001

Responsible for the day to day operations of head office and regional sales offices across Canada, including negotiating real estate leases, service agreements, buying contracts and office services. Managed construction projects and was part of the team to construct the first LEED certified office building in Toronto.

Wrote project proposals for Senior Management approval. Created monthly and annual status and financial reporting updates. Managed up to 7 staff including Facilities Services, Reception, Catering and Travel.

Reports created:

- Environmental Policy and Procedures for National Trust in 1994, as Manager of Facilities and Environmental Matters
- SAS Canada Real Estate Strategy, 2004

Published Articles:

- “Becoming Environmentally friendly through green design” published in the Facility Management Journal, May/June 1996
- Editor of “IFMA Network” a quarterly publication for the IFMA Toronto Chapter 1996-1998
- “Thinking Green” column in Greenferd Construction newsletter, 1997

- “National Trust takes steps to Reduce, Re-use, Recycle”, National Trust Regulatory Alert 1995

Non-Profit Experience:

Camp Kee-Mo-Kee

- Member of Board of Directors, 2012-present
- Board Chair, 2018-2021 - responsible for the financial health of the organization, including the updating of financial systems and reporting, the transition to Quick Books and a CRM database; and the transition from a volunteer working board to a paid staffing model.
- ReVitalize Kee-Mo-Kee Campaign Chair, 2018-2020 – Raised over \$1M for capital improvements and established an endowment fund
- Developed new programming, a new strategic plan and vision, including
 - First Nations heritage week – a program of reconciliation in response to the 94 Calls to Action, bringing First Nations, and non-First Nations youth together for shared experiences
 - LGBTQ2+ day at camp
 - Greater focus on community connections
- Build a Better Board training, Pillar Network 2018
- Selected courses in Non-Profit Management, Western University Continuing Education 2018-2019

First-St. Andrew’s United Church 2007-present

- Founded Climate Action London, June 2019
- Established first Environment Sub-Committee, 2009
 - Hosted an Environment Week with speakers, native plant sale
 - Hosted and Environmental Day Camp for children 6-12, Summer 2009
 - Hosted “Awakening the Dreamer” day long conference, 2010

Indwell 2020 -present

- Member of the Fundraising Cabinet to raise \$7M to construct 4 supportive housing communities for adults with mental health challenges