

**Committee: Non-Voting Post-Secondary Student on LACH**

**Organization/Sector represented: University of Western Ontario**

**Name: Mary Spinks**

**Address:**

**266 Cheapside St. Unit 2  
London, Ontario  
N6A 2A1**

**Occupation: Master's Student UWO**

**Work experience: I was first hired in the heritage sector as a historic interpreter at Fort Malden National Historic Site in Amherstburg Ontario. My role was to guide visitors through the site, informing them on the history of the historic structures. I provided visitors with quality visitor experience, while reenacting the life of a soldier in the 19th-century. After four years of working and volunteering at Fort Malden NHS, I took a position as an archaeological field technician in the Cultural Resource Management Sector during my second year of university. I have done archaeological survey and excavation throughout Southern Ontario, learning about the provincial legislation process regarding cultural heritage. In my third year of university I was accepted to the Vindolanda field school offered out of the Classical Studies department at Western University. I received the Global Opportunities Award to represent my school internationally on the excavation in Northern England. Through this experience, I gained skills in research, presentation, archaeological excavation, as well as interpersonal skills. Currently I am a research assistant on the Franz Boas Project in the Anthropology department at Western University, doing various tasks such as the transcription of letters sent to and from Franz Boas, who is considered to be the founding father of the discipline of Anthropology.**

**Education: I completed my Honours degree at the University of Western Ontario in Bioarchaeological Anthropology and Classical Studies in 2016. Currently, I am attending the University of Western Ontario for a Master's degree in Public History.**

**Skills: I have a strong background in the interpretation and conservation of heritage, as I have worked in both the field of archaeology and historical interpretation. During my time as an archaeological field technician, I gained an understanding on provincial legislation regarding the Cultural Resource Management Sector, which is specialized knowledge that can assist in work conducted by the advisory board. In my Master's degree I am developing archival skills, as well as learning how to prepare reports for heritage structures in the process of heritage designation.**

**Interest reason: I am particularly interested in serving the City of London on the London Advisory Committee on Heritage because I have a passion for local architectural heritage, both its preservation and public education. Public engagement is at the heart of the public history program, so it is important for me to get involved in local initiatives to share local heritage with the London community.**

**Contributions: As a post-secondary student in the Public History Master's program, I can provide the committee with a youth perspective on heritage conservation.**

**Past contributions: N/A**

**Interpersonal: During my undergraduate degree I was the vice-president of the Anthropology society which required me to consider various views for event creation and decision-making. These stakeholders included the undergraduate students, graduate students and department faculty. It was my job to act as liaison between these groups. As a Master's student, I must attend weekly seminar classes as part of my coursework to complete my degree. In these courses there is open discussion where various perspectives are exchanged. These seminar courses not only require presentation and communication skills, but also the ability to listen and respect the views of others.**

**Interview interest: Yes**