

Committee: **Eldon House Board of Directors**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Mark Tovey**

Occupation: **Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of History, Western University (Current Chair of Eldon House Board of Directors)**

Work experience: **Following my PhD, I held full-time research positions in policy simulation and in public history. Prior to my PhD, I was the Senior Mac Specialist for the IT Department at Western University.**

Education: **PhD in Cognitive Science (Carleton University); Diploma in Honours Standing (Honours B.Sc. Equivalent) in Computer Science with Psychology (Western University); Honours B.A. in English & Linguistics (Western University, Gold Medal for highest standing).**

Skills: **(1) Historical research skills, specializing in early London, ON history; (2) Well-networked in the London historical and academic communities; (3) Experience in developing partnerships between London ON organizations; (4) Experience designing historical exhibits and period rooms; (5) Public speaking experience; (6) Successful grant writing for public history projects; (7) Editorial skills. Editor of Worldchanging Canada for 4 years, as well as editing 2 books; (8) Supervising and mentoring 15 students in various undertakings; (9) Knowledge of Eldon House and its operations. Presently serving as Chair of the Eldon House Board of Directors.**

Interest reason: **I have a life-long interest in the history of London, ON, especially the early 19th century history of London. I fell in love with Eldon House when I was in grade seven. The London Heritage Fair had just introduced a computer games category, so I programmed a text adventure set in Eldon House. Since then, I've given talks at Eldon House, and, as an actor, have been called upon by Eldon House to play John Harris (who, with his wife Amelia, built Eldon House in 1834), and Wenman Wynniatt (the Eldon House ghost). I have also produced, directed, and co-authored an historical play that included the Harris family as characters. I am vitally interested in seeing this 19th century icon thrive in the 21st century.**

Contributions: **(1) Continuing to support the implementation of the Eldon House Strategic Plan, especially providing board support for Eldon House's strategic goal of 'Building our capabilities to deliver.' (2) Helping to pursue enhanced funding opportunities. I am able to advise on grant writing. I have successfully applied for various grants for public history projects totaling \$119,000; (3) Helping to promote Eldon House and attract visitors. I am able to advise on publicity and on writing successful press releases. I have a good track record in securing media exposure for exhibits and events; (4) Creating partnerships with other organizations. I am well networked in the London historical and academic communities, and have repeatedly brought together stakeholders to support public history initiatives.**

Past contributions: **Chair of the Board of Eldon House since June 2018, and Vice Chair since my appointment to the Board in 2014. I also chaired the Eldon House Collections Sub-committee. In the past, I have served on the Stewardship Sub-committee of LACH (London Advisory Committee on Heritage).**

Interpersonal: **As a researcher, theatre producer, and community organizer, most of the projects I am involved with are collaborations, often collaborations between people with a diverse set of skills and knowledge. I have organized or co-organized conferences designed to facilitate the exchange of views between people with divergent knowledge-bases and skill-sets.**

Interview interest: **Yes**