


Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area Conservation Master Plan

Public Participation Meeting, October 19, 2020, 5:00 PM




Meadowlily Woods Website and Facebook Page

- Website has thousands of visits each week since 2009: Meadowlilywoods.ca
- Meadowlily Facebook has 1750+ likes and thousands of visits and posts each week: Over 4,000 images and pictures from photographers and visitors including many rare and endangered species. <https://www.facebook.com/meadowlilywoods/>

Current Meadowlily Petitions:

- Change.org
- Against Cutting Meadowlily Trees: <https://www.change.org/p/city-of-london-stop-cutting-down-meadowlily-woods>— 10,677 signed (counts taken 13 Oct 2020)
- Against Large Scale Residential Development: <https://www.change.org/p/london-petition-against-large-residential-development-in-meadowlily>— 1,790 signed

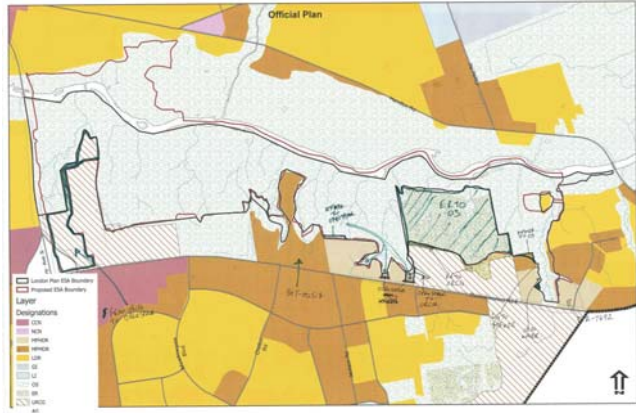
Map of Meadowlily Woods



Located:
East of Highbury Ave.,
between the Thames River & Commissioners Road East


115 Acres + 11 acres + 64 acres = 190 Acres (85 hectares)

Current Official Plan Changes



- Expansion of Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area, October 2020

The Natural Trails of Meadowlily Woods



The main access points are on Meadowlily Road South not far from Meadowlily Bridge (1910) and the east end of the parking lot of the City-Wide Sports Park on Commissioners Road East. About 17 kilometres of trails loop through the ESA on gently sloping and sometimes hilly terrain. The managed trails are marked and noted on the ESA map. Because it is a protected area it is **important to stay on the trails to preserve this sensitive environmental area.**

The Meadowlily Landscape: Geology of the ESA

The Thames Valley Spillway (river) was carved by melt water from the receding glaciers that existed here 10,000 to 14,000 years ago. The water cut through the Ingersoll Moraine, which had been deposited by glaciers. Over time, three distinct terraces were craved into the moraine's north-facing slope by the



erosive forces of the Thames River. From the river's flood plain, the ground climbs steeply for 10 metres to a broad terrace covered with rich loam soils. A more gradual slope rises to the upland, which is covered with clay soils. The terraces have created a unique and varied topography, with streams and creeks across the slopes.

Meadowlily Plant Communities:



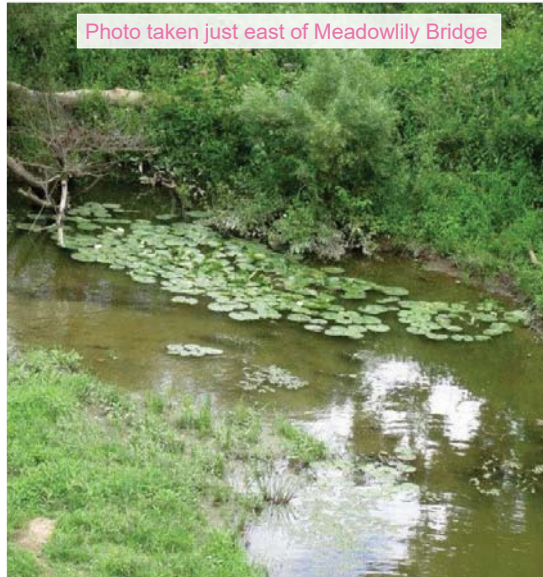
Because of the combination of the three terraces at different heights, the slopes and valleys created by the creeks and streams, this natural area has a wide variety of habitats for an even wider variety of plants from highland forest to the wetlands of the river and marshes: butternut, blue ash, hickory, hackberry, dogwood and willow— to name a few.

In addition, **Meadowlily Woods** has over 350 species of vascular plants that were recorded in 80 families.

Meadowlily Woods is part of the Forks of the Thames watershed and according to the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority is home to **37 Species at Risk**.

Meadowlily Woods is very special because it has everything: mature upland forests, forested ravines that are dissected by intermittent streams, bottomland forests, floodplain forests, shrub thickets, marshes, meadows and provides a natural corridor for wildlife to the river and other sources of food.

Photo taken just east of Meadowlily Bridge



Meadowlily Woods is designated by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a **Provincially Significant Wetland with a score 600+** and provides Habitat for several **Species at Risk**.

Picture taken by Alison Wrighton, 2014

Meadowlily Area: Species @ Risk



Photo Credit: Joe O'Neil, 2011

False Rue-Anemone

(*Enemion biternatum*) produces delicate, white flowers in early spring before the forest canopy closes in. This little-known plant is easily overlooked on the floor of Maple woods where it grows in the rich soils of old floodplains. It has a patchy distribution and grows in clumps, which suggests that most reproduction is clonal (vegetative). **Status:** Threatened Provincially and Nationally, Ontario Species at Risk, MNR

False Hop Sedge, (*Carex lupuliformis*)



Photo : Jacques Labrecque

Photos by: Allen Woodliffe, Jacques Labrecque, John Kunsman

Meadowlily Species @ Risk



Green Dragon: From **Page 42** of the Natural Heritage consultant's report to the Meadowlily Area Study: "The provincially vulnerable green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) was observed in summer 2010 along the Thames River."

Rare & Endangered: Meadowlily Woods



Wood Poppy: In spring, the deep yellow flowers of the Wood Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) appear as a brilliant display on the forest floor. It comes as no surprise that the other common names of this plant are "Yellow Poppy" and "Celandine Poppy". Members of the Poppy Family are characterized by their production of sap or juice, which in the case of the Wood Poppy is yellow. This plant of moist deciduous woods blooms for only a brief period in spring under the gently filtered light of the emerging forest canopy. Status: Endangered Provincially and Nationally. MNR, SARO List (**Forest protection necessary!**)

Other Plants of Interest in Meadowlily Woods:



Blue Flag (Iris), Evening Primrose, Turtlehead & Great Lobelia

Mentioned in the Environmental Study:

Cream Violet,
photo credit,
Shelly White



Significant Tree Species:



Black Cherry, White Oak, Blue Ash

Additional Tree Species @ Risk in Meadowlily Woods



Butternut Trees and Eastern Red Bud

Species at Risk: Cerulean Warbler



Photo, Mike Brown

Meadowlily Woods and Area, 2012

Meadowlily Species at Risk:



Red-Headed Woodpecker

Species of Concern in the Middlesex Area:



Photo Credits: Left, Gary Smith; Right, Joe O'Neil

Yellow-Shafted and Northern Flickers

Bird Species of Special Concern: Pileated Woodpecker



Photos taken by Ben Fisher and Shelly White, 2011-12, Meadowlily Woods

Another shot of the



Pileated Woodpecker from the **Facebook Birders** page by a amateur photographer, Sherry Holt.

Birds: Great Crested Flycatcher



This flycatcher is a cavity-dweller like woodpeckers; not usually considered rare but habitat loss has made this species vulnerable in Southwestern Ontario.

Conservation Priority for Middlesex County : Ovenbird



The Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) is a small songbird of the warbler family (Parulidae). This **migratory** bird breeds in eastern North America and winters in Florida, Central, South America, & the Caribbean Islands.

Photo by Robert Thompson

Birds of Meadowlily



Acadian Flycatcher



Chimney Swift



Loggerhead Shrike



Red-Tailed Hawk

The Rare and Unique Birds of Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area

More Birds of Meadowlily Woods



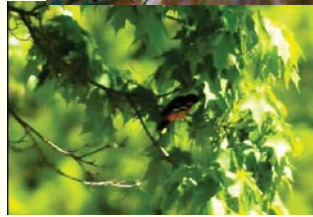
Yellow Flicker, left;



Savannah Sparrow, right



Rose-breasted Grosbeak, left;



Northern Oriole, Right

More of the unique and remarkable Birds of Meadowlily

Red-Eyed Vireo: A Success Story



Photo: *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario*, Gregory K. Peck

Sparrow-sized plain green & white bird with an eye-stripe, grey cap and red eye. Up close, the beak is thick and has a small hook at the end. This bird is an avid singer and has seen a recovery from years ago where forest canopies have reestablished themselves, like Meadowlily Woods.

Recent sightings in the Meadowlily Woods Area



Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) is a member of the family *Bombycillidae* or waxwing family of passerine birds. It is a medium sized, mostly brown, gray, and yellow bird named for its wax-like wing tips.

Photo: Steve Donnelly, 2014

Conservation Priority for Middlesex County : Scarlet Tanager



The Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) is a medium-sized American songbird. They are now classified as belonging the cardinal family.

Photo by Rick McDonald, May 2014

Species at Risk, Special Concern : Wood Thrush



Photo credit: Scott Clark

The Wood Thrush: (*Hylocichla mustelina*) is a North American passerine bird. It is closely related to other thrushes such as robins and is widely distributed across North America, wintering in Central America and southern Mexico. The wood thrush is a medium-sized thrush. The song of the male is often cited as being the most beautiful in North America.

Recent Sightings: Eastern Bluebird



Photo: Shay Redmond

Meadowlily Woods Environmentally
Significant Area

Recent Sightings: Yellow Warbler



Photo: Steve Donnelly, 2014

Meadowlily Woods Environmentally
Significant Area

Carolina Wren, Winter



Sighted in Meadowlily Woods,
Ontario Field Ornithologists

Species @ Risk, Meadowlily 2012



Giant
Swallow Tail
Butterfly

Photo: Shelly White, 2012

Species @ Risk, Meadowlily



Photo Credit: Shelly White, 2012

Monarch Butterflies, Meadowlily Woods, Spring, 2012:
"...observed in all open areas throughout the study area on several visits; this species is ranked as Special Concern by COSSARO (Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario)." Natural Heritage Study, Meadowlily Area Plan, 2011

Meadowlily Species @ Risk:



Rainbow Mussel: identified in the recent Meadowlily Natural Heritage Study, 2010, as being an important part of the biodiversity of the small streams and wetlands of the Meadowlily Area.

Species at Risk, Meadowlily



Pigtoe Mussel: The round pigtoe (*Pleurobema sintoxia*) is a freshwater mussel that lives in sandy substrates in deeper water of large rivers, and the near-shore areas of some of the Great Lakes. Adults have deep-mahogany coloured shells with darker banding, and they can grow to 10 cm long or more. Status: Endangered Provincially and Nationally; MNR, SARO List

Reptilian Species @ Risk



Queen Snake: The Queensnake (*Regina septemvittata*) is aquatic, living in clear, smaller rivers where there is good rock cover. Queen Snake has been observed in the area of the unnamed creek to the west of Meadowlily Road South near the Thames River. Photo: Ministry of Natural Resources

Reptilian Species of Special Concern, Meadowlily Area:



Wood Frogs, Green, Leopard Frogs: These amphibians are becoming a matter of increasing concern as their habitats are increasing disturbed and reduced such as marshes and wetlands. Meadowlily Area is a provincially designated as a significant wetland.

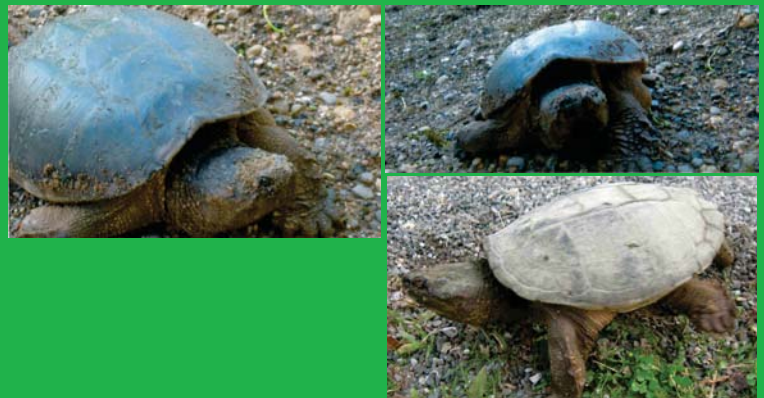
Eastern Spiny Soft-shell Turtle



Status: Threatened (COSEWIC & SARO lists), Olive-coloured upper shell is noticeably flat & leathery. Distinctive snorkel-like snout.

Photo Credit: Melissa Parrot

Snapping Turtles, Meadowlily, 2013



Photos by Friends of Meadowlily Woods Member, Clyde Cleveland near Meadowlily Bridge, Spring 2013

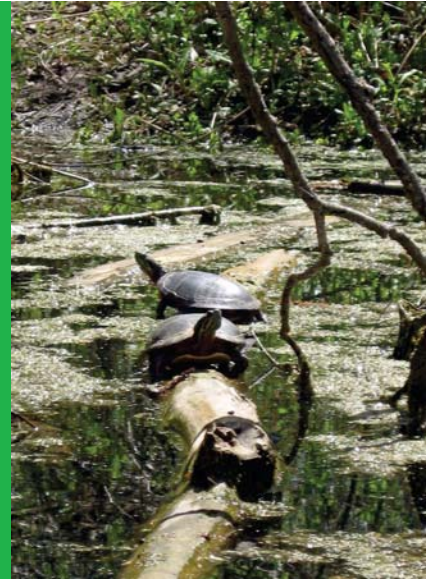
Other Turtles, Meadowlily, 2013



Photos by Friends of Meadowlily Woods Member, Clyde Cleveland near Meadowlily Bridge, Summer 2013

More Turtles in Meadowlily...

Photo by Alison Wrighton



"Our Four-legged Friends..."



Deer near Meadowlily Road South & Commissioners Road E.

MEADOWLILY AREA HERITAGE RESOURCES



Archaeological Findings, 9,000 B.C.



Plewes/Meadowlily Mill, 1886



Park Farm Heritage Homestead, 1849



Meadowlily Bridge, 1910-2011



Mound Area, Meadowlily

Archaeological Findings, Meadowlily Area: 9,000+ B.C.

Upper Thames River Conservation Authority



Brochure for Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area: "Over 60 archaeological sites are documented in the Meadowlily area, especially on the Ingersoll Moraine. These sites span the entire 11,000 years of prehistory and include everything from camps to villages, and sites where other objects have been found."

The Table of Archaeological Sites from the Meadowlily Study:

"Fifteen of the registered sites located within the limits of the current Meadowlily area plan were located in 1983 & 1988 by the Museum of Archaeology as part of the City of London Archaeological Survey... & the Meadowlily Master Plan Archaeological Assessment for the City of London PUC and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority. Ten of these sites

Number	Name	Type	Period	Resource
AIH-54	-	campsite	pre-contact Aboriginal	MOA
AIH-57	-	campsite	pre-contact Aboriginal	MOA
AIH-55	-	campsite	pre-contact Aboriginal	MOA
AIH-56	-	campsite	Late Archaic/Middle Woodland	MOA
AIH-90	Meadowlily #1	Lithic scatter	pre-contact Aboriginal	MOA
AIH-90	Meadowlily #7	Lithic scatter	pre-contact Aboriginal	MOA
AIH-91	Meadowlily #57	homestead	Euro-Canadian	MOA
AIH-92	Meadowlily #6	Findspot	pre-contact Aboriginal	MOA
AIH-93	Meadowlily #5	Findspot	pre-contact Aboriginal	MOA
AIH-94	Meadowlily #17	campsite	Late Archaic	MOA
AIH-150	Meadowlily #20	Lithic scatter	pre-contact Aboriginal	MOA
AIH-153	Meadowlily #21	Lithic scatter	Middle Woodland	MOA
AIH-172	-	-	-	-
AIH-152	Meadowlily #19	homestead	Euro-Canadian	MOA
AIH-155	Meadowlily #22	Findspot	pre-contact Aboriginal	MOA
AIH-156	Meadowlily #22	Findspot	Middle Woodland	MOA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND BUILT HERITAGE DIVISION, ONTARIO ASSESSMENT, MEADOWLILY AREA PLAN - LONDON Page 6

were findspots, lithic scatters or campsites of non-diagnostic, pre-contact Aboriginal artifacts. The remaining pre-contact Aboriginal sites located within the limits of the area plan were all attributed to a cultural time period including, two Late Archaic campsites, one Middle Woodland Lithic scatter and one Middle Woodland findspot. The remaining pre-contact Aboriginal sites located within the limits of the area plan were all attributed to a cultural time period including, two Late Archaic campsites, one Middle Woodland Lithic scatter and one Middle Woodland findspot."

Archaeological Dig, Meadowlily, 1993



Meadowlily is an area of prime Archaeological interest according to London's *Archaeological Master Plan* and numerous excavations and digs have been done in this area for years, from ancient villages of the First Nations peoples to early settlement & pioneer sites. This article is from July 16, 1993.

Map of Previous Archaeological Studies, Meadowlily Woods

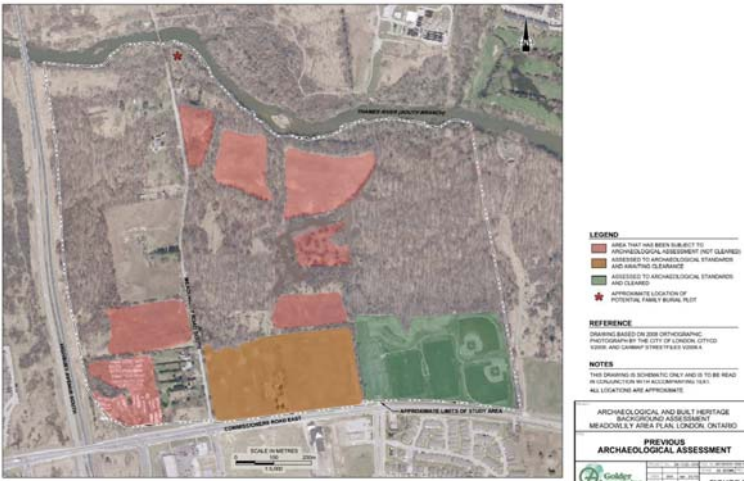


Figure 2, Archaeological & Built Heritage Assessment, Meadowlily Area Plan, 2010

Recent Meadowlily Archaeological Site, 2008



Aerial View of 168 Meadowlily Road South and Excavations of the Site

Some of the Artifacts from the Site



From the upper left: possible Onandaga Drill, fragment Onandaga Bi-face, Onandaga Bi-face, bottom, sandstone, ground-stone axe



Shepherd/Meadowlily/Plewes Mill: 1820-1901

Also Known as East End Mills

Map of Meadowlily Mill Area

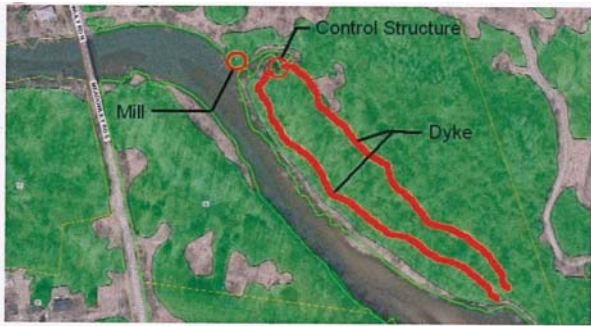
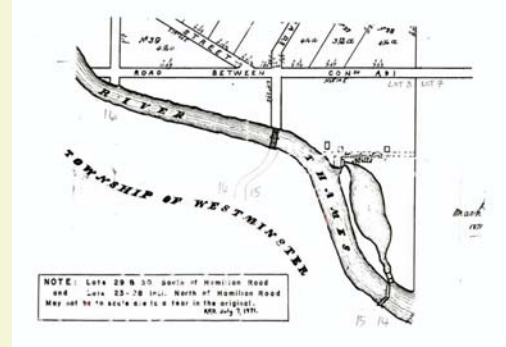


Plate 53: Key Components of Meadowlily Mill, Map by Christopher Andreae.

"Today the Edwardian ruins have further deteriorated to leave only a few remnants near ground level and signs of the tail race, and the earth dykes that held the large mill pond. Near the site of the former head race, the silt collected by the old dam has created a sizable island. While diminished during the past century, the ruins of the Meadowlily Mill and pond still constitute the most complete site of an early mill in the City of London." Page 74 of the *Archaeological and Cultural Study for the Meadowlily Area Plan*. Map by Chris Andreae.

Meadowlily Mill: Survey of the Meadowlily Mill Race, 1871



A survey of the mill race (channel) area from 1871 showing the channel and its relation to the dam.

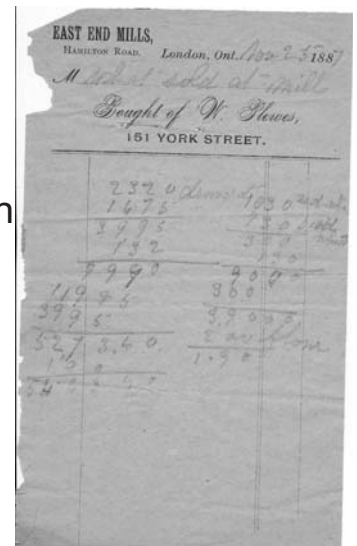
Flour Stores: Plewes & Peer, East End Mills

Photo Credit:
UWO Photo Archives, c1877, 151 York Street, near Clarence, Ref # RC80202



Perhaps we should use the name

"East End Mills" when referring to the mill... a receipt from William Plewes with the 151 York Street Address on it.



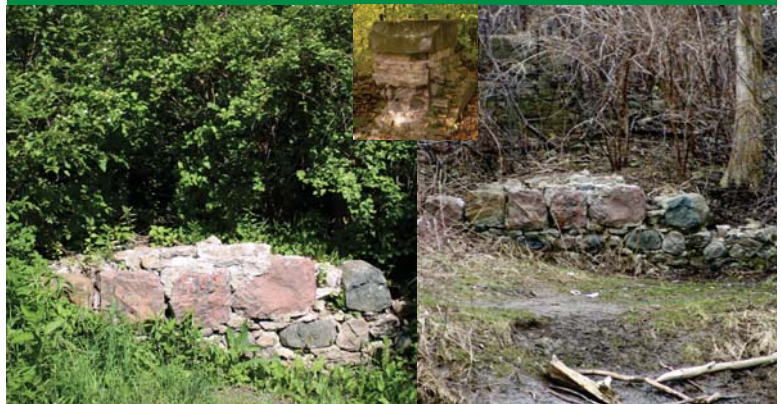
Receipt courtesy of Ron Sumner's family archives

Meadowlily Island, 2012



One of the present reminders of the existence of the mill dam.

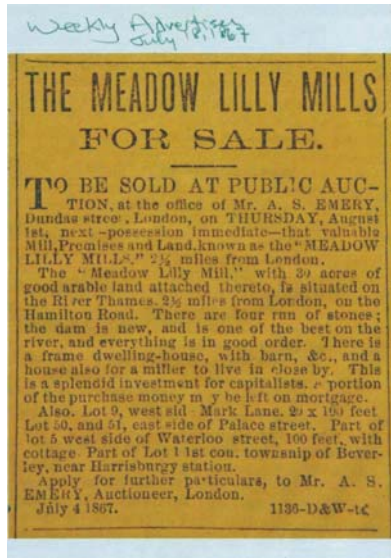
Pictures of the Meadowlily Mill Wall



The Picture on the Left is from the Summer of 2009, on the right from the Fall of 2008 and top centre, one of the water wheel mounts, 2008.

Meadowlily Mill Advertisement

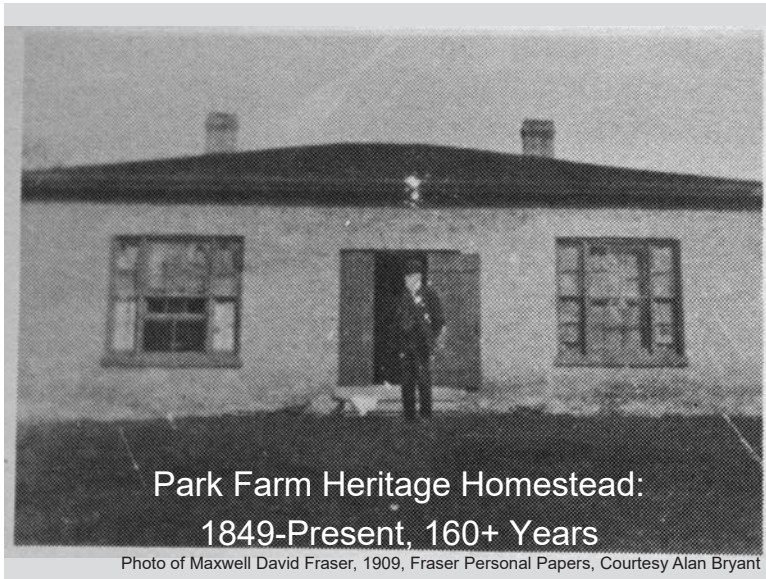
Auction Notice,
July 18, 1867



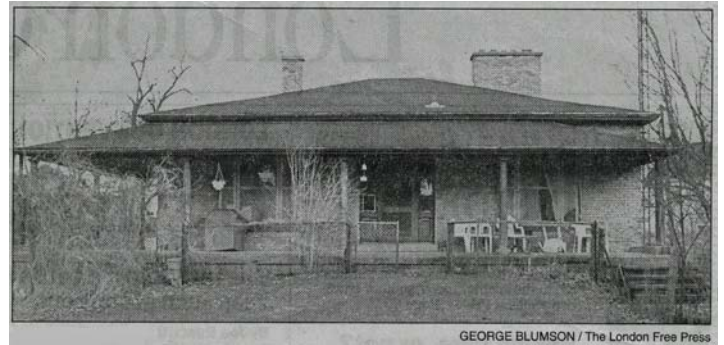
Historic Places, Park Farm



View of the front façade of Park Farm Heritage Homestead, from the Southeast, 2007



London Free Press Article:



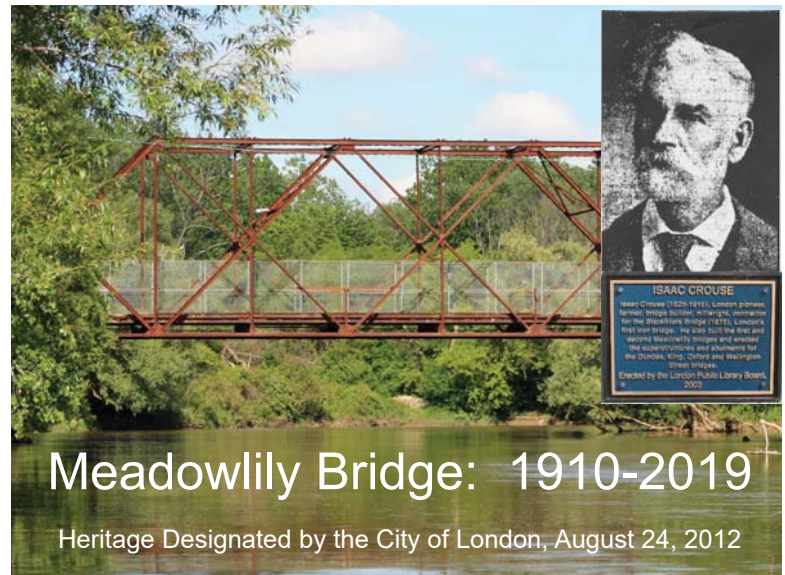
8 April 1995

This single-storey Regency-style brick cottage was built about 1848 by British immigrant William Bell (who called the site Park Farm). The verandas contain simple columns typical of Regency villas.

View of Park Farm



from the southwest: "Park Farm is one of the finest examples of a Regency villa in London. The house illustrates the evolution of a Regency cottage from when it was built in the 1840's until the present day. The building retains most of its Regency features and is beautifully situated in a rural setting, on a hill with a panoramic view". From the Statement of Significance, 1994



Meadowlily Bridge: 1910-2019

Heritage Designated by the City of London, August 24, 2012

Meadowlily Bridge, Milk and Market



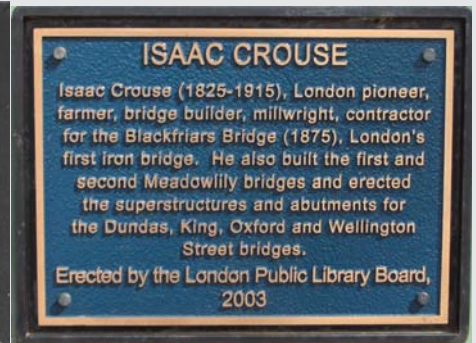
The caption in the *Delaware and Westminster Townships History Book, Honouring Our Roots* says,

"The old Meadowlily Bridge was used by many farmers on their way into London to deliver milk or on their way downtown to the market."



"Meadow Lily" Dairy Tokens

Isaac Crouse, London Area Bridge-Builder



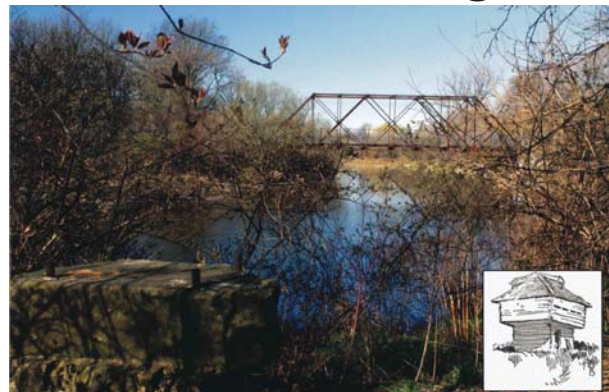
This picture was taken from a 1998 article in the *London Free Press* and the plaque is on the West side of the King Street Bridge, downtown London. Notice the mention of the TWO Meadowlily Bridges!

Meadowlily Bridge, 1885-Plewes Mill, 1886



Isaac Crouse, 1825-1915; William Plewes, 1828-1895

Ruins of Meadowlily Mill, Meadowlily Bridge and the Lost Stockade @ Meadowlily



Meadowlily Bridge, 1910, and the brick and stone remnants of Plewes (Meadowlily) Mill, built in 1856. Soon to be restored and declared as an official London Heritage Site, Meadowlily Bridge was constructed by the Hamilton Bridgeworks and Isaac Crouse in 1910. Crouse was also famous for the construction of the Blackfriars Bridge in 1875. In the inset on the photo is the drawing of a

1812 stockade because there is an oral legend from pioneer and native peoples that says a stockade stood at the junction of Meadowlily Road South and Commissioners Road. Photo, Joe O'Neil, 2013 *Historic London Calendar*

Meadowlily Bridge:

A Gateway over the South Thames in London, past and present



Meadowlily Bridge from the West

Note the ruins of Meadowlily Mill in the background
by Gary Smith

Presentation for Friends of Meadowlily Woods regarding Meadowlily Bridge



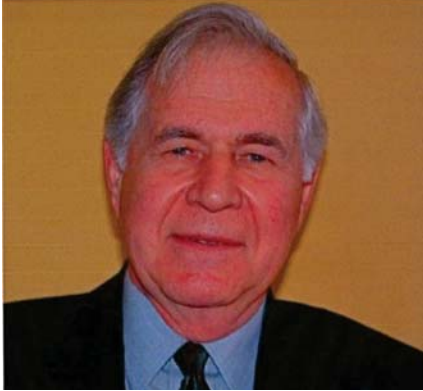
Council Resolution, Meadowlily Bridge, 27 July 2009



I hereby certify that the Municipal Council as its last session held on July 27, 2009 resolved: 29. That in response to the delegation of Gary Smith, Secretary and Heritage Chairperson, Friends of Meadowlily Woods Neighbourhood Association, relating to the attached presentation with respect to a request for the preservation, protection, repair and restoration of the Meadowlily Bridge as a way to celebrate the Centennial of the Bridge in 2010, the following actions be taken: (a) The Meadowlily Bridge BE RECOGNIZED as an important cultural heritage resource that should be protected; (b) The Meadowlily Bridge BE RECOGNIZED, in perpetuity as a footbridge; and (c) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to investigate whether there are funding sources available to preserve and restore Meadowlily Bridge as a Centennial Project, including the use of stimulus funding or FCM grants (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) and to report back to a future meeting of the Planning Committee (2009-D07-00) as amended (29/17/PC).

L.M. Rowe Acting City Clerk

Enter Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, London Branch



Roger Dorton and Preservation Works Grant

PreservationWorks!
An advisory service of the ACO
The right advice at the right time

It's effective!
"The consultant's report confirmed the building was worth saving, and convinced the community to look for feasible uses". - Allan Macdonell, The Bishop's House, St. Raphael

For more information on our organization, activities, membership, or volunteer opportunities, please contact us:

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Suite 204
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

■ 416-367-8075
 ■ 877-264-8937
 ■ 416-367-8630
 ■ ac@lon.albn.com
 ■ www.arconserv.ca

ACCO Helping communities and owners preserve buildings and structures of architectural merit, and places of natural beauty or interest

Buying an older home?
Restoring a heritage building?
Concerned about a threatened structure?

Meadowlily Bridge before Rehabilitation



- View of Meadowlily Bridge from the East looking west, 2011

Meadowlily Bridge Rehabilitated, 2013



Photo of Meadowlily Bridge from the area of the Mill Ruins today.

Views of the North & South Ends



- Of Meadowlily Bridge, 2009

Views of the North & South Ends



- Meadowlily Bridge, 2013

Meadowlily Bridge Monument



Photos of the Monument and New Deck

Friends of Meadowlily Woods



Meeting at the Monument, November 14, 2013

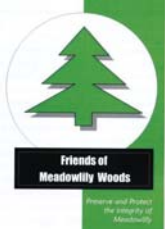


Meadowlily Bridge Historic Plaque



Mounted at the South End of the Bridge and the south-facing side of the Monument

Meadowlily as a Cultural Heritage Landscape



Presentation at the London Advisory Committee on Heritage
 June 12, 2013, 5:30 pm.

Also from the same heritage study:

“That the general character of the historical road scape of Meadowlily Road be retained.

The road itself is significant as a very early road in Westminster Township and as an essential part of the history of Meadowlily Bridge. Although the road has been paved and widened at various points in its history, it remains relatively narrow, and its borders retain the embankments, ditches, and vegetation characteristic of a minor country road. This quality is important as part of the overall milieu of the area.” Page 98.



Meadowlily-Plewes Mill Site



As a part of designating the Meadowlily Area as a Cultural Heritage Landscape, we would like to see the ruins of the Meadowlily-Plewes Mill Site be heritage designated as well.

Rural, Country Setting in the City



Photos from the Ontario Historic Sites website

“Finally, Park Farm is important as a farm and a country estate. Its historic character would be compromised by large-scale development close to the house and farmstead itself, while the **rural** character of its present surroundings complement the estate.” (Page 97)

Views and Vistas of the Meadowlily Area



West side of Meadowlily Rd S looking north

Views and Vistas of Meadowlily, 2



View of Meadowlily Rd S looking north

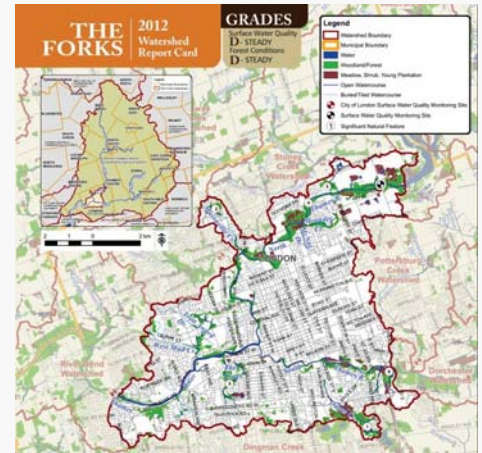
Views and Vistas of Meadowlily, 3



View of Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area looking north to the Thames River Valley

Meadowlily Woods is part of the Forks of the Thames Watershed

Located in the Central to East part of the City of London



What makes Meadowlily Woods Special ?



Photo: Jeff Cuthbert

Friends of Meadowlily Woods Mission Statement



The Friends of Meadowlily Woods is a not-for-profit neighborhood association that is dedicated to protecting and preserving a natural woodland in our own backyards in Meadowlily Woods, Environmentally Significant Area. As well we are also committed to seeing the natural and historic nature of our community from inappropriate development that would endanger this natural area. We are also interested in protecting and preserving the historic and natural features of the area like the heritage-designated Stone House known as Park Farm, Meadowlily bridge, built in 1790 and Meadowlily Mill which was originally built around 1800. This group has been formed to assist the members of this association and our community in communicating with each other and to help the leaders of the group to keep the members informed of events and meetings relevant to our area.