

The mission of The London Potters Guild is to be the leader in the education and promotion of the clay arts in Southwestern Ontario. We provide high-quality programming, nurture the development of professional clay artists, collaborate with other community organizations and encourage fellowship in an inclusive and accessible facility.



“Lidded Vessel by Dauma Stirbyte
 Entered in the Biennial Exhibition
 March 29-April 13, 2019

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Spring has sprung! It’s Sale Season....I love this time of year! This next week all the trees and bushes will burst out and birdsong will lead us into the new season of growth.

All Guilds everywhere are gearing up for their spring sales. I’ve always loved road-tripping, especially when pottery is involved! I love guild sales...they’re quirky, often with a mixture of truly professional work and the raw and interesting work of true beginners, and everything else in between.

Wherever you are on your journey, know that we are here to help you. We have classes for all levels of interest and offer workshops as well. Grow with us on your clay journey.

We are invested in your growth. Let’s get down and dirty together! I can’t wait to see what you are creating in our wonderful space.

See you around the studio.

Jude

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Executive Director Message

From Darlene Pratt

In the glow of spring, everything takes on a much greater feeling of positivity! It is safe to say I am not a fan of winter and its incessant darkness and cold. After figuratively holding my breath and gritting my teeth from November through March, I'm always deeply relieved to see and feel the change brought at this time of year by a different quality of light - it feels hopeful and full of possibility!

At London Clay Art Centre (LCAC) the feeling of positivity is palpable as well. Over the past six months, the staff team and our many dedicated volunteers have implemented several physical and operational changes that are helping establish an even stronger foundation for the facility and our organization.

In a place where hundreds of people come to find creative fulfillment and play an active part in a vibrant organization, it can be challenging to balance the diverse philosophies and opinions held by our many members. But, we are hugely fortunate because, despite the challenges, the underlying sentiment is passion for this organization and its amazing home. We are all pulling in the same direction with the same dedication that propelled us into owning and operating a world-class facility that is unique in Canada.

Over the past several weeks, I have personally been the beneficiary of three little gifts of thanks. The gifts may have been small in their physical presence but they have been massive in their personal impact. To the three individuals who provided their thanks, Thank you! Those little gestures have meant a lot, and are integral to keeping spirits buoyant and fueled with positivity.



In the spirit of positivity below is a brief list of some of the many positive and important achievements staff and volunteers have accomplished since October 1, 2018, and several significant plans for us to tackle together over the next six months to a year:

Month	Past Achievements
<p>October</p>	<p>Enhanced communications: members' bulletin board; online calendar of LCAC events; daily access to staff; individual introduction meetings between members and the Executive Director.</p> <p>Better facility hygiene: We reviewed our contract with Jan-Pro, the cleaning company that comes in to clean the public spaces at LCAC on Monday and Thursday nights. Overall, since October we have improved the cleanliness at LCAC.</p>
<p>November</p>	<p>Fully functional kiln room: installation of powerful ventilation system and new large, front-loading kiln completed to allow greater health and safety and capacity to process members' and students' work.</p> <p>Record sales at the Potters Market: The Sale Committee tabled a report to the LPG Board of Directors for permission to make some changes to our two annual sales. Namely, a name change from Sale to Potters Market; removing the \$2 entry fee; extending the hours; and putting more emphasis on marketing to a younger audience through our social media channels. Combined, the new strategy seems to have born fruit and translated into record sales of \$52,000 with a total of \$41,627 going back into members' pockets.</p>
<p>December</p>	<p>Increased programming: August 1 to December 31, 2018, we experienced a 69% increase in program participants (classes and workshops) over the same period last year.</p> <p>Reconfiguration of classrooms: With attention to process engineering, we have been assessing the workflow and efficacy of the classroom spaces upstairs. By taking advantage of under-used closet space and re-arranging various furniture, we have created more openness and better flow within the classrooms.</p>
<p>January</p>	<p>New Member Intake Program: After hours of thinking and writing, a committee developed and implemented a 3-phase program for ensuring new studio-using members are sufficiently trained and oriented. 1) Application after at least 72 hours of instruction at LCAC or other institution OR recommendation from ceramic instructor; 2) Mandatory 3-hour training; 3) 4-month probationary period with limited hours at LCAC and access to mentors for guidance. 14 new members entered the system in January with 7 more poised for the April/May intake.</p> <p>First LCAC Open Critique sessions: Peg and George facilitate sessions for members to present their work and receive constructive feedback about it. The critiques are intended to help artists deepen their creative journey through thoughtful consideration of their making process.</p>

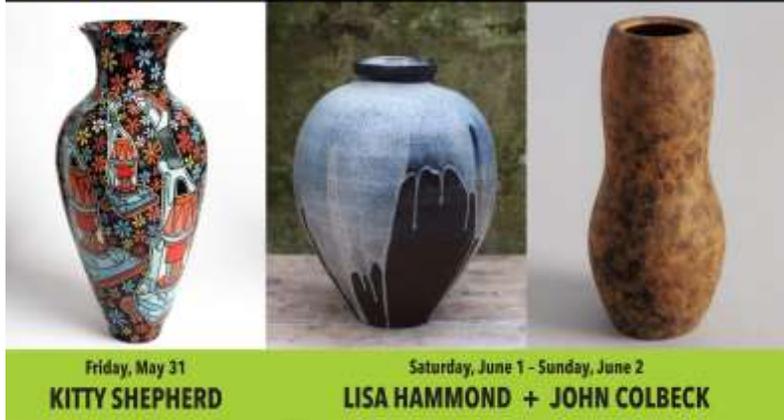
<p>February</p>	<p>Store Space Redesign and Organization Discussion: The Store committee started considering how to optimize the space and work toward a redesign to coincide with the LPG's 40th anniversary in 2021.</p> <p>5-page Article in Ceramics Monthly: LCAC's Canada 150 mosaic was featured in the world's most widely read ceramics publication dramatically raising our profile and recognizing the huge undertaking and contribution of the mosaic coordinators and participants.</p>
<p>March</p>	<p>Experiential Tourism Package: In partnership with the Old East Village Business Improvement Area, Tourism London, and Southwest Ontario Tourism Corporation, we developed a 4.5 hour package for 26 individuals attending the Southwestern Ontario Tourism Conference (SWOTC). The package includes a handbuilding project, a neighbourhood art tour with emphasis on LCAC's mosaics, a session to share some of the stories of the 17 figures in the Canada 150 mosaic, and a demonstration of tile-making for mosaics. The template for the package will be marketed to the public for future revenue generation.</p> <p>Biennial exhibition: a record number of submissions from artists across the country was received for the Put a Lid on It show which opened at the Strand Fine Art Services gallery on Friday, March 29. Submissions came from B.C., Alberta, Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.</p> <p>Reverting Gallery Space to Members' Studio: A team of intrepid members and staff imagined and implemented a new floor plan for the members' area to make it more open and efficient. More improvements are planned including greater cleanliness and a redesign of the glaze area.</p>

<p>Future Achievements</p>	<p>Description</p>
<p>Marketing Communications Committee</p>	<p>Coordinating a team of people skilled in the many aspects of marketing and communications to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to promote LCAC and its offerings. Skills required include: brand specialists, writers, videographers and filmmakers, web designers, social media managers, digital marketing specialists.</p>
<p>Fund Development Committee</p>	<p>Coordinating a team of people skilled in the many aspects of fund development to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to raise funds to ensure LCAC's continuance – including: planned and legacy giving, naming opportunities, increased programming, individual donations, special events, grant applications and awards, etc.</p>

Future Achievements	Description
LCAC 10 th and LPG 40 th Anniversary Committee	Striking a team of skilled people to imagine and coordinate special events/happenings to commemorate the opening of LCAC in 2009, and the founding of the LPG in 1981.
Façade Restoration	Partly funded by a grant from the London Endowment for Heritage Fund, strip and repaint the façade as well as replace the “kick-plate” area on the south façade. We will implement a regular maintenance regiment to ensure the façade looks good all the time!
Create Full Operational Policies and Procedures Manual	Using the policy wizard from HRDownloads, we are generating a draft P&P manual to be reviewed by select board members, members and staff. It will come into effect by end of May 2019.

FUSION NEWS

FUSION Annual Conference
"British Potters Potting"
 May 31 - June 2, 2019 McMaster University, Hamilton, ON
 For registration and information visit www.clayandglass.on.ca



fusion@clayandglass.on.ca www.clayandglass.on.ca 416.438.8946

FUSION is generously supported by:

From Teresa Ainsworth

An amazing line-up of 3 British potters - well worth the price of admission and just down the road from us in Hamilton. Join the London contingent who are going—including Teresa, Marilyn, Alice Nagus, Chris, Gene T and the winner of the Fusion Draw –Georgina Lennard.

Kitty Shepherd is a British slipware artist known for her use of colour and popular iconography. Her ideas come to life in her work to form interesting iconic images ... a form of art as play. More info at: www.studioslipware.com

Lisa Hammond is a soda-firing potter who has been making pots for almost 40 years. Her work is thrown functional ware and it is important to her that her work is used in daily life. More info at: www.lisahammond-pottery.co.uk

John Colbeck was for many years the head of ceramics at the Bath Academy of Art and is best known for his book “Pottery, the technique of throwing”.

FUSION MENTORSHIP

Applications are due June 7, 2019.

In collaboration with FUSION, Angelo di Petta will choose a maximum of 10 participants for the group. Participants will be notified of decisions via email by June 28, 2019. The workshop fee for the 8 full-day sessions and final exhibition is \$950 (+ HST); due by August 2, 2019.

The workshop will take place at Angelo's studio in Millbrook, Ontario.

Suitable candidates should:

- have had some instruction and an intermediate level of competency working with clay;
- have access to a studio space and a kiln to finish their work;
- be willing to learn new skills and techniques, and to apply this knowledge to the development of their work;
- be prepared to engage in conversation about their work,
- be open to ideas, set goals and begin the process of researching and writing about their work;
- be a member of FUSION to apply and maintain their membership throughout the duration of the program.

This process is intended to take place with support and guidance. Developing new ideas and a body of work is an exciting learning process.

To apply, please submit:

A letter of intent briefly outlining (max. 500 words):

your experience with clay; and

your specific interest in the program.

10 jpeg images 300 dpi images; and

An image list stating: i) title; i) medium; iii) size; and iv) date of the 10 images you are submitting.

Submit your letter, 10 images and image list via

<https://form.jotform.com/90445163290252>

AN UPDATE ON OUR YOUNG POTTERS

From Karen Bailey

An Update on our Youngest Potters: Adventures 1, 2 and Clay Camps...

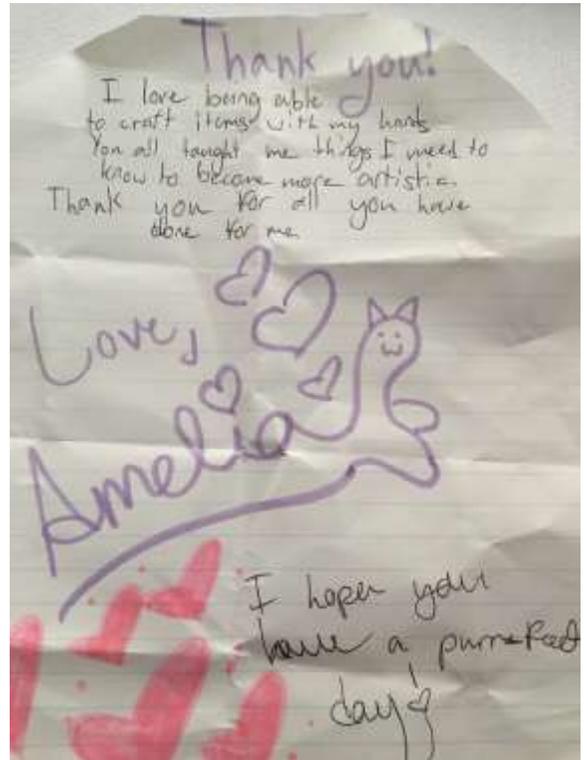
We have just completed two very successful March Break Camps, with a great time had by all 20 students. We were fortunate to have the help of several Beal students as well, some of whom will be returning as summer members.

We continue to offer full Adventures classes on Saturdays, with Adventures 1 filling with younger “new” or “mostly new” students. Adventures 2 is aimed at “teens and tweens” and is a bit more open-ended. In this more-advanced class, students are encouraged to bring in ideas and/or images of things they would like to create, with the end products showing both creativity and variety, as evident in the pieces that were part of the student exhibition.

And yes, Pottery does make a difference for many of our youngest potters. Last winter, one young potter tried out pottery for the first time at 8 years of age. Being quite the perfectionist, she had a hard time when her pieces didn't come out quite as she liked, and the group survived many discarded pots, tears and occasional “stalk-away” tantrums. However, this past winter, when she returned to pottery at 9, she was all smiles, and was more willing to accept that it's okay to make mistakes, and that sometimes the clay controls you rather than the other way around. On the last day of our winter session, she presented the Clay Art Centre with a painting of a cat (she was a BIG fan of cat-related pieces) and the following note to go with it: “Thank you! I love being able to craft items with my hands. You all taught me things I need to know to become more artistic. Thank you for all you have done for me.”

Good to know that for many of our youngest learners, pottery does much more than teach them clay skills!

More photos on the next page—images of the students working away and their projects.

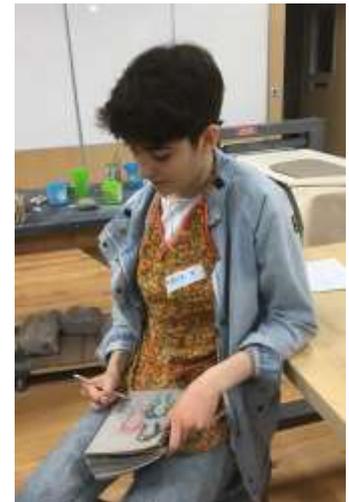


Photos from the March Break Clay Camp, Adventures 1 and 2 Classes



Above, students from the Adventures 2 classes working intently on their projects

Below, students from the March Break Clay camp



Some of the creations from the Adventures 2 classes



Photos from Karen Bailey



THE M & D PROJECT

From Karen Bailey & Lynn Heinitz



The Story of the M and D's

Several people have been asking about the sculpted package of "M and D's" that recently came through our kilns. Here's the back-story:

In 2016, we visited friends in Palm Desert, California, a town that has wonderful art galleries. While there, we were lucky enough to view the work of a ceramic artist (sorry, lost her name!) who sculpted everyday objects, such things as a box of cornflakes, a tube of toothpaste, and a wonderful display of sculpted chocolate M and M's. Our hosts, Mike and Dave, admired these amazing works of art, especially the M and M sculptured package, as they loved to eat Peanut M and M's with us! Although we would have loved to purchase the work, as it was priced at \$2500 it was a bit out of our price range.

Thus inspired, back to London we came, and knowing we would be returning, we set out to sculpt a set of Peanut M and M's as a host gift, with the idea of changing them to M and D's to reflect the names of our friends. It took us 2 years, but this past February we presented

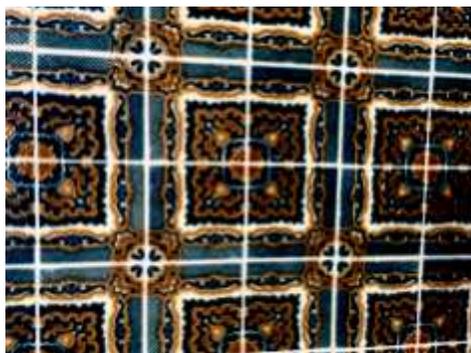
the finished work to our friends, along with a giant package of edible M and M's. With Karen as the sculptor and Lynn as the painter and glazer, here's what they looked like. And for those of you who have been asking, they LOVED them, so much so that they were up on the wall within 24 hours.

Moral of the Story: In the world of clay and the words of Dr. Seuss... "Anything is possible!"

Karen & Lynn

DOROTHY'S BIG ADVENTURE

Many of you know Dorothy Howell spent a few weeks in Portugal this winter, sadly missing the snow, ice and sleet. Poor thing. However, despite her sadness, she did manage to take a few photos of the country and some of the pottery and tile work that Portugal is noted for. Actually she had a fabulous time and didn't miss us at all.



LIBRARY AND BOOK UPDATE

Library News: The re-organization of the library is proceeding slowly but steadily. However, there are many books that have been out for months A thug with a baseball bat will be out soon looking for you so get those books back.

We inherited a box of books from the estate of Suzanne de Clercq and these are now in the library. Several of them are older books on sculpting the human body, but the information is still very relevant. Check them out.

Book Review: *by Teresa Ainsworth*

“Subversive Ceramics” by Claudia Clare. (2016)

I recently purchased some new books and this is a review of one of them. Claudia Clare is an English ceramist and author and academic. She has framed her discussion of the works from a critical and feminist viewpoint and focussed on British, European and N. American works. She discusses both contemporary and historical works and illustrates her arguments with images of ceramics by well-known as well as relatively unknown ceramicists and even students.

“Clay is a medium for dissent as a commentary on political life and ...a critique on domestic life “ and she argues that ceramics and clay as a medium have a low status and this allows it to rewrite narratives around power without much fear of repercussion.

I found the book fascinating and loved how she has no inhibitions about bluntly stating her opinions. A couple of her pithy remarks ...

In referring to a review by Simon Martin on the work of Barnaby Barford (ed. note—never heard of him) she wrote: “this is exactly the kind of sniveling, runny-nosed anti-feminism, we thought had been shown the door decades ago.” And in her review of Barford” at worst, his work comes across as a colossal bed-wetting whinge”. How can you not love those comments?

BIENNIAL EXHIBITION

from Teresa Ainsworth

The biennial exhibition, "Put a Lid on It", was held at Strand Fine Art Services' gallery on Florence St. from March 29th to April 13th. For the first time ever, the exhibition was open to ceramists across Canada and entries came in from Quebec, BC, Alberta, Ontario and the Maritimes. The opening reception on Friday, the 29th, was very well attended with upwards of 150 people coming by to see the exhibition. An article in the Free Press certainly helped draw people in. A number of the pieces sold on opening night.

Kudos to Peg Dunnem, LCAC Program Coordinator, for her excellent work organizing the biennial exhibition. Additional thanks to Margaret Nickle for organizing the food and refreshments at the opening, and to Andrew and Bill at Strand Fine Art Services for hosting the exhibition."

Congratulations to Judy Blake (Montreal) for her award-winning piece (Best in Show). Our very own Evan Morris won the PSH Design Award for his work. The winner of the People's Choice award was Evan Morris again with Dauma Stirbyte a close second.. A number of London Potters Guild members had pieces selected for the show — Dauma Stirbyte, Jordan Scott, Melody Green, Carol Wong, Christine Torres, Brendan Wilson, Leslie Donald and of course Evan Morris. This was one of the best exhibitions the LPG has ever put on and all of the Guild members and exhibitors should be proud.



Judy Blake (Montreal)
Best in Show Award Winner



Evan Morris (London)
PSH Design



Beverley Ellis BC



Brendan Wilson ON



Carol Wong ON



Sean Kunz AB

Award Winner



Leslie Donald ON



Keith Campbell ON

Photos by Teresa Ainsworth



Chris Snedden addressing the crowd at the opening

Photo by Marilyn Barbe

WORKSHOPS

By Teresa Ainsworth

I feel very strongly that as potters there is so much to learn and so many ways to do a particular technique that workshops are an invaluable resource and source of information. The Guild hosts at least 2 external workshops a year and a number of internal workshops. As well, nearby centres such as Pinecroft, Ingersoll Creative Arts Centre, the Sarnia Guild, the Burlington Art Centre etc. also host visiting artist workshops. Fusion hosts a 3 day conference with noted ceramic artists demonstrating and answering questions each year.

As people interested in pottery and the ceramic arts I urge you all to take advantage of and attend these workshops. Even if you think that the subject isn't relevant to your current practice, you will still learn something that may be valuable later.

Three of us, Elly Pakalnis, Christine Torres and I travelled down to Ohio to take a workshop with

one of my pottery heroes—Julia Galloway. As well as demonstrating her work, she gave 3 slide presentations - one on her current work, one on designs on pottery and one on ceramic art history. She is a professor of ceramics in Montana and an iconic figure in contemporary pottery. A few images of her work are shown (and I scooped up one of her cloud mugs).

www.ceramicsfieldguide.org

The "Field Guide for Ceramic Artists" is a website of information and resources developed to help and support students when they are finishing school which is written and updated by Julia.



SPRING POTTERS MARKET



Hello all Sale Participants and Wanna-bes

Don't forget to sign up for your two shifts and be ready to help tote bags and paper to the sale. We have lots of things that need to be done at the last minute so any help is appreciated.

For those of you who have never been in the sale, this is a good opportunity to volunteer for a shift or two and see how the sale works. You can wander around, look at everyone's set up, see what looks good and get ideas on how you would set up your own work in the future.

Try out a few different volunteer positions— if you are very social and like talking to people then maybe being a greeter is for you. The hold table gives you the opportunity to check out everyone's work— and it is interesting to see what appeals to the customers. It may not be what you think—you might think something is beautiful and that it will sell immediately but find out later that nobody bought it.

So come and participate! Spread the word about the Potters Market to all your friends and family and bring them along for a fun pre-Mother's Day outing.

STUDIO POTTER PROGRAM

From Elly Pakalnis

Studio Potter Program Report

The Studio Potter Program is composed of various *free* training sessions for pottery practices. These are beneficial to both the Guild and members as you learn how you can assist around the London Clay Art Centre (volunteer hours) as well as acquire knowledge if you want to set up your own studio. The **Studio Maintenance** session provides information on maintaining a clean and safe work environment and basic maintenance and repair of wheels and kilns. The **Kiln Loading and Firing** session teaches you how to load a bisque versus a glaze load into the kilns, how to program the kiln for a successful firing as well as how to maintain the kiln shelves to ensure there is no damage to members' pottery work. The **Glaze Making** session gives information on the essential ingredients for making glazes and how to test your glazes for food safety and stability. Individual sessions can be scheduled to make a test glaze for yourself or to make up one of the studio glazes. The **Reclaim** session provides experience on how to recycle one's own clay and use the clay pugger to ensure proper clay consistency to make more pots.

The upcoming sessions:

May 5th, 1-4 p.m. Reclaim Session with Pauline Durham

Other session dates to be determined

To register in these sessions you may either sign up on the registration sheet posted on the bulletin board downstairs or email Elly directly. epakalnis3@execulink.com

Please note that all sessions require at least 6 participants to take place and there is a 10 participant maximum.

NEWS SNIPPETS

Members Webpages

Some members have their personal pottery website listed on the LCAC website, here is the link: <http://www.londonclayartcentre.org/members-webpages.html>

If you want to be added just send Cheryl the details, or if you need changes to existing info, please let Cheryl know.

Cheryl@londonclayartcentre.org

Jonathan Bancroft-Snell Gallery

Openings:

John Climenhage: France April 6th 2019

Kim Davy: Showcase Show - April 6th 2019



Kim is a Guild member and head of ceramics at Beal High School.

London Artist Studio Tour 2019

Friday April 26th 7-9:30pm

Saturday April 27th 10am - 5pm

Sunday April 28th 12pm - 5pm

Nancy Latchford & Darian Lajoie at Jonathan's

Melody Green at her home (see studio tour brochure in the Guild)

LPG Executive Board Members

Judy Sparkes President	jude@fullcirclepottery.com
Lawrence Durham Treasurer	lawrenceadurham@gmail.com
Marilyn Barbe Secretary	mbarbe@execulink.com
Endri Poletti	endri@poletti-architect.com
Shelley Boa	sheboapottery@yahoo.com
Cathy Herbert	cathy_cares@live.ca
Karen Bailey	karenbailey@sympatico.ca
Dorothy Howell	howellmex@yahoo.com

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Cheryl Radford Administrator	cheryl@londonclayartcentre.org
Carol Anne van Boxtel Finances/Accountant	carolanne@londonclayartcentre.org
George Cho Studio technician	george@londonclayartcentre.org
Peg Dunnem Program Coordinator	peg@londonclayartcentre.org

Committee Chairs

Peg Dunnem programming/ exhibition/workshops/ classes	peg@londonclayartcentre.org
George Cho Studio Maintenance	george@londonclayartcentre.org
Nancy Friedrich Sale	nfriedrich@hotmail.com
Robin Chacko Membership Engage- ment	rlcpottery@gmail.com
Judy Sparkes Empty Bowls	jude@fullcirclepottery.com
Cathy Regan Store	cregan@uwo.ca
Darlene Pratt new member intake	darlene@londonclayartcentre.org
Health and Safety	Vacant
Teresa Ainsworth Newsletter/glaze team/ library	tainsworth1@gmail.com



LPG Executive Board

Left to right:

Top Row: Judy Sparkes, Lawrence Durham

Middle Row: Cathy Herbert, Endri Poletti, Karen Bailey

Bottom Row: Shelley Boa, Marilyn Barbe, Dorothy Howell

**Seize the Clay—
Fundraising
Campaign**

**London Potters Guild
c/o London Clay Art Centre
664 Dundas Street
London ON N5W 2Y8
519-434 1664
www.londonclayartcentre.org**

Yes, I want to support the fund-raising campaign of the London Potters Guild

Enclosed please find my gift in the amount of

Name:

Address:

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This gift is in honour of : _____ [if applicable]

This gift is in memory of: _____ [if applicable]

Please send an acknowledgement card to: [name and full address]

I/We work for a company with a matching gift program: [company name and address]

Payment type:

Cheque enclosed: make payable to the London Potters Guild, attention Treasurer

Visa MC number _____ expiry date _____

Signature: _____

The London Potters Guild is an incorporated Not for Profit Registered Charity and a Charitable tax receipt for the full amount of your donation will be sent to you.

Charitable Number 886676790RR0001