

House party

COVER STORY: Orchestra London, the Grand Theatre and a fundraiser for the Cancer Survivors Garden join the Lifestyles Home Show

By JILL ELLIS-WORTHINGTON SPECIAL TO QMI AGENCY

Last Updated: January 22, 2011 12:00am



Mike Baldinelli, president of the London Home Builders' Association centre, holds tickets to the upcoming Lifestyle Home Show which is being held at the Western Fair January 28-30. Shown at left, is the show coordinator Jodi Mabee and Lois Langdon, executive officer of the London Home Builders' Association right. (SUE REEVE/THE LONDON FREE PRESS)

Fun and fundraiser, these are the themes for this year's London Home Builders' Association Lifestyle Home Show.

Recognizing that enjoyment of the arts and the finer things are an important part of a quality lifestyle, the LHBA has invited Orchestra London and the Grand Theatre to be part of the show this year.

"Lifestyle is definitely part of the show," says Lois Langdon, executive officer of the LHBA. "Life goes on beyond the walls of your home and we want to make sure that people know it's more than a builders' or renovators' show."

Having grown from one of the Western Fair grounds' buildings 18 years ago to six for the 2011 version, the show has more exhibitors than ever this year.

Stretching into the East Progress building, there are 350 exhibits spread over 125,000 square feet of display space, in comparison to the 24,000 square feet in the first year.

Though they'd wanted to expand the show for some time, the LHBA was able to get more space for this year's version. With some trepidation about how recession-worn businesses would react, show co-ordinator Jodi Mabee soldiered on.

"We're sold out again. That says a lot about the economy and how people have bounced back. Sales were slow at first but now we're sold out, and that shows we made the right decision to expand this year."

Occupying part of this newly expanded space will be the Landscape Ontario booth. Denis Flanagan, host of several past TV shows and Landscape Ontario's director of public relations, will be on hand Friday and Saturday to answer gardeners' questions.

"Bring your pictures, they are very helpful. Bring pictures of your landscape that needs help or house plants that aren't doing very well and either myself or one of our Landscape Ontario experts will be able to help you out," Flanagan says.

Winter-weary Londoners also can see his stage show on Friday at 2 and 4 p.m. Flanagan will highlight new plants for 2011 and talk about gardening trends. He hints they'll have a lot to do with environmental and water conservation practices.

Also in the Landscape Ontario garden booth will be the first fundraiser held at the Lifestyle Home Show. Called the Party in the \$Garden, this specially ticketed event will raise money for the Cancer Survivors Garden.

During the Party in the Garden, Jane Lockhart - whose show, \$Colour Confidential, airs on W Network - will use her famous colour wheel to help decorate a cancer survivor's suite; this will be a newly refurbished room at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn.

"What we do is pretty surface at some level, so I'm always happy to use my skills for something that's beneficial," Lockhart says.

An interior designer for 20 years, Lockhart has occupied the spotlight in two shows, her current one and One House, Two Looks that was shown on HGTV. She will share colour advice with audience members in her first show Saturday at noon, demonstrating how colour and its tonal variations can change a space.

"I'll have before and after pictures that show what you can do by just moving around furniture and adding a little colour to make your house more comfortable and worth more money, if you can get it in the right order."

In the second show at 3 p.m., Lockhart will provide practical advice. "I'm talking about 10 good changes that you can make in your home that will make a big difference, but don't cost a lot," she says.

For instance, if you're going to buy a stove, she advises going with a low-profile slide-in. "It saves space, gives you more counter space and a custom look without spending money on a custom built-in stove," Lockhart says. "I'm all about practical."

This year's home show showcases some of life's happier moments. The folks from the Grand Theatre will be displaying Joseph's Technicolor Dream Coat at their booth - prepare to be dazzled. Also, one lucky attendee will walk away with two tickets to their production of Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure.

The stage will be busy with TV and local personalities. Yanic Simard, a guest designer on the Citytv show CityLine, will share information with audiences at the Lifestyle Home Show. Simard's area of expertise is dealing with small spaces, so his talks on Sunday at noon and 3 p.m. will be of special interest to folks looking to downsize.

Local style maven Susan Jacobs, of Personal Style Image Consulting, will demonstrate how to stretch wardrobe dollars by using pieces in multiple ways. She'll also show how to dress for your body type.

There also will be contests and prizes presented by many of the radio stations under the Corus banner. FM96 will be giving away a patio party, 103.1 will offer a Home Refresh prize, and AM980 will conduct a Home Show Challenge, Mabee says.

But at the core of the home show are the exhibitors; from the newest to the long-timers, they are all ready to answer questions about their services and products.

That's the attraction for attendees, says Carolyn Currie, one of the managers for Bath Fitters. A family-owned company, Currie estimates Bath Fitters has had a booth since the home show's genesis.

"It's the one-stop shop that people are looking for because you can find everything there. People who are going to be renovating their homes can see it all in one place."

Another longtime exhibitor, Pat Malloy, co-owner of Duo Building, agrees.

"We don't do a lot of other marketing, but this gives us a chance to talk to people, and we do talk to a lot of former clients, as well as people who want to renovate. It's a great place for research."

He adds that the show's timing, before the building season begins, is key.

The show's timing is also important for longtime exhibitor Wilf Carter of Jem Dor Woodcraft.

"In January, everyone is thinking of what they want to do with their home in the new year. They were together at Christmas and had a chance to sit and talk about what they want and this is the time they start to research. Everyone who walks through the show is looking for something."

According to Mabee, 80% of exhibitors come back year after year, but there are many new ones as well.

Fanshawe College's building technology program has its first interactive booth. Though they've been part of the home show before with a static booth, this year they're building a three-by-six-metre timber-frame home to demonstrate the benefits of a new program on timber framing. This 12-week course starts Feb. 7 and will teach design, layout and building of timber-frame homes, according to the course instructor, Rob Geoghegan-Morphet.

In the Eco-Living Area, another new name will make its debut: Second Bloom Design. With reuse being one of the three Rs of ecological living (along with reduce and recycle), this company takes salvaged materials, redesigns them and repurposes them as art - for home or garden.

With an eye to the aging demographic, there are two more new exhibitors that specialize in allowing clients to age in place. The Bathroom Medics Inc. designs solutions for homeowners with mobility and accessibility issues. Creative Accessibility Inc. offers creative solutions to accessibility issues through elevating devices.

Technology has a place at the table at this year's Lifestyle Home Show as well.

"WebAssist is providing a mobile app for smart phones," explains Mabee. "It will have the floor plan and a searchable exhibitors' list for the progress building."

Interactive displays don't stop there. Home Depot will offer a selection of tools for demonstration. Spa @ Home - the mobile spa that offers treatments in your home - will demonstrate some of its services.

After you're good and tired from checking out all that's new and hot in home decorating, renovating and building, take a load off at the Bank of Montreal Lounge, a designated rest area located near the main stage in the East Progress building.

Jill Ellis-Worthington is a London writer

IF YOU GO

What: London Home Builders' Association Lifestyle Home Show

Where: Western Fairgrounds

When:

Friday, Jan. 28, noon – 9 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 30, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tickets:

At the door: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for kids under 12 accompanied by an adult

Advance: \$7, from the LHBA offices at 571 Wharncliffe Rd. S., Unit 5

PARTY IN THE GARDEN

Supporting the London Home Builders' Association Cancer Survivors Garden, this event will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29, at the East Progress building at the Western Fair grounds.

Cocktails and appetizers will be served in the Landscape Ontario Garden.

Special guest will be Jane Lockhart of W Network's Colour Confidential. She will use her famous colour wheel to transform a suite at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn into a cancer survivor's suite.

Style consultant Susan Jacobs will introduce the three winners of 103.9's Cancer Survivors' Makeover contest.

Attendees will receive a goody bag stuffed full of merchandise from several contributors, including Universal Limousine, the Grand Theatre, the London Knights, the Church Key, the Top Shop, Rogers Communications and many more.

Spa@Home will be giving mini manicures and mini pedicures on-site.

Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased in advance at the London Home Builders' Association, 571 Wharncliffe Rd. S., Unit 5, or at the show.

As Advertised in The London Free Press

Events Retail Food & Entertainment Automotive Homes Health Travel Miscellaneous View All Advertisers



Jazzercise London (Health & Wellbeing:)

[View Ad](#)
[Website](#)
[E-mail](#)
[Details](#)
[See All Health & Wellbeing Ads](#)



Homes for sale (Real Estate:)

[View Ad](#)
[Website](#)
[E-mail](#)
[Details](#)
[See All Real Estate Ads](#)

Copyright © 2011 London Free Press All Rights Reserved