Clare Bice’s artistic career started when he was a student of London artist, Eva Bradshaw. After Bradshaw’s death, when he became the curator at the Library and Art Museum in 1940, Bice mounted a show of Bradshaw’s work to commemorate his mentor and friend. It was at the Art Museum that Bice shaped London’s art scene. After all, London wasn’t considered to have much art history until then. When Bice was the director and curator at the London Regional Art Gallery, ‘Heart of London’ artists were unhappy with the city’s dominant traditionalist style and requested change, contrary to Bice’s mission. From this debate were contemporaries like John Boyle, whose after-image nude painting was shifted at the South-western Ontario Exhibition, and other notable London artists who tested modernist styles in our industrialized city. Debates aside, Bice’s own practice produced works that explored a variety of styles playing with light and shadow. As an avid wanderer, Bice’s adventures into Canadian forests even prompted friendships with some members of the former Group of Seven. A body of Bice’s works is at home in Museum London’s collection today.

James Griffiths immigrated to Canada in 1855 with his brother, John Griffiths, who was also an artist. Together, the brothers learned the art of dinnerware painting at the Minton China Works. Later, he decided that his career as a professional artist could only be sustained if he took a position as a city clerk. Griffiths became a city councillor for one year and the Deputy Clerk of the Crown and Pleas for 25. At the same time, his artistic passion led him to success as one of Canada’s finest painters and as co-founder of the Ontario Society of Artists. He went on to exhibit at the Royal Canadian Academy and the Chicago World’s Fair. Griffiths’ characteristic still life works depict a range of lush flora and fruits. You can find his works in the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Canada as well as Museum London.

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**DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE SCENE AT WOODLAND HERE:**

1 Wilhelmina McIntosh 1871 - 1940

Though she was not an artist herself, Wilhelmina McIntosh’s name resonates loudly within London’s art communities. Throughout her life, she and her husband, John Gorden McIntosh, collected British and Canadian art, including works by London artists Paul Peel and Florence Carlyle. When McIntosh died, she bequeathed 67 paintings and $50,000 to UWO to be used for an art gallery on campus. The condition of her donation was that the gallery had to be built within two years of her death or the donation would be transferred to the University of Toronto. Considering the fact that she died in 1940, at the height of WWII, the gallery’s construction was not an easy one, but it succeeded within the last two months of the deadline. Now, the gallery is home to over 4,000 works and objects.

2 Annie Pixley 1856 - 1893

The muse for Woodland’s most impressive monument, Annie Pixley, was an internationally famous American actress. After growing up performing in mining camps with her sisters, Annie’s career was marked by her uncanny ability for comedy, her beautiful voice, and her larger-than-life personality. She performed at London’s Grand Theatre a number of times. She often spent her summers in Port Stanley at her in-laws’ hotel, hence why her young son, Tommy, was buried at Woodland after he passed away suddenly at 12 years old. Annie was devastated, and passed away soon after at 38. Her husband Robert Fulford designed a mausoleum to honour her memory and to house her ashes. A striking structure, it features handmade stained glass and sculpture work.
Maria was born into Austria’s cultural elite, and grew up surrounded by Europe’s best artists, writers, thinkers, and musicians (Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud to name two). She married Alfred Rose, a nephew of famed Austrian composer, Gustav Mahler. Maria and Alfred were forced to flee Vienna from the Nazis in 1938, leaving behind their families, many of whom perished in concentration camps. After arriving in North America, Maria sewed and baked in order to support her family. Later, the pair lived in London, where Alfred was a founding member of the UWO Music department and where Maria created the costumes for UWO’s first operas. Maria was also well-known for her Viennese cultural artefacts. After Alfred died, she donated a collection of Mahler memorabilia, including a bust of Mahler by Auguste Rodin, original manuscripts, and letters to UWO’s music library for scholarly use.

**4 VICTORIA GRACE BLACKBURN**

Born to the Blackburn family of London Free Press fame, Victoria Blackburn used the paper as a vehicle to launch herself into literary stardom. She studied at Hellmuth Ladies’ College in London, spent time in Europe and New York with her sisters studying journalism and criticism, and became one of Canada’s leading art critics. In addition to writing for the newspaper, Blackburn also authored several poems, a novel, and two plays. Her expansive style ranged from satire to tragedy, and she explored themes such as ill-fated love, sacrifice, war, and loss. Often writing under the pen-name “Fan-Fan,” she was a leading figure in the cultural life of London and an intellectual powerhouse. She also founded the Women’s Canadian Club and was president of the London Women’s Press Club.

**6 WILLIAM LEES JUDSON**

William Lees Judson started his career not as an artist, but as a soldier in the American military during the Civil War. He was always artistically inclined though, his journals show small doodles on every page. In his journals, he detailed walking upwards of 20 miles each day and wrote about his uncertainties of the war. Upon returning home to Canada, he realized that he was destined to be an artist. After marrying Mary Bedford and starting a family, he tried to make a profit from selling landscapes and commissioning portraits; however, in 1885, Judson was left to raise his seven children alone when his wife died. At this time, he was also having difficulties selling works in London, so decided to move to California. His move to the US turned out to be quite successful. He opened Judson Studios, a stained glass studio that still operates today, and also founded the Faculty of Fine Arts at University of Southern California where he held a position as dean until 1920. Though William Lees Judson rests in Los Angeles, his wife and child are buried here at Woodland.

**7 JOHN ROBERT PEEL**

1830 - 1904

John Robert Peel was born on September 26, 1830 in England. He married Amelia Margaret Hall in 1849 and emigrated to London in 1852. Today, John Robert Peel is remembered as the father of the famous artist, Paul Peel; however, John Peel was quite a talented artist himself. It is said that his son, Paul, was artistically inclined from a young age thanks to the influence of his father. John quickly became a leading figure in the London arts community. He was known for his sculpting skills and earned his living as a marble cutter, making gravestones. John Peel was also involved in various art initiatives in London. He was the co-founder of Western School of Art and Design and organized the first Art Loan exhibition in London.

**8 CHARLES CHAPMAN**

1828 - 1887

Charles Chapman started his career in New York as an amateur bookbinder after emigrating from Norfolk, England. He later moved to London, Canada-West because the city promised even more successful bookbinding opportunities. Chapman was not known as a painter until much later when his brother mentioned in his diary that some of his paintings were held at the US/Canada border after a trip. It seemed that the works were skilled enough that they required duty and taxes to be paid. Following this unexpected encouragement, Chapman’s professional artistic career grew. He began experimenting with various media and eventually competed with Canada’s most talented watercolourists. He exhibited at the 1869 Upper Canada Provincial Exhibition, at various city agricultural fairs, and with the Ontario Society of Artists. As a traveller who enjoyed painting the Canadian landscape, Chapman brought his artistic wisdom to the classes he taught at the Hellmuth Ladies’ College and the Western School of Art and Design.

**9 MARION ERRINGTON**

1904 - 1978

Known for her red dresses, risque cigarettes, and flair for the dramatic, Marion Errington was the catalyst for the growth of London’s dance scene. She worked as a dancer, teacher, choreographer, and artistic director, and opened a dance school in London.