

**The Print Shop  
Replica  
Built 1967**

**Contributed by Molly Macdonald**

The Print Shop at Fanshawe Pioneer Village was built and equipped by the London Free Press in 1967 as a special centennial project. The original *Free Press* was launched by William Sutherland in 1849. This first print shop was located on Dundas Street, near Ridout, but fell victim to arsonists who were unhappy with Sutherland's pro-Reform politics.<sup>1</sup> As a result, it is impossible to know exactly how the original *Free Press* building looked. The Village's replica is a plausible recreation, constructed with spruce and pine boards, hand forged nails and cedar shingles.<sup>2</sup>

The replica *Free Press* building opened its doors to the public on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1967 on the front lawn of the CFPL-LFP headquarters on York Street. It was later enjoyed by visitors at the Western Fair, before arriving at Fanshawe Pioneer Village in September, 1967.<sup>3</sup> The building was first situated on what is now Concession I beside the old fire hall, but was renovated and relocated to its current placement beside the Village storefronts in 1992. The Print Shop will move one last time to Main Street as part of the current Capital Campaign, earning the distinction of being the most traveled building in the Village's collection.

The Print Shop is now representative of a turn of the century job printing office and features an active press, which is used to produce examples of period

broadsheets, notices, and local newspapers such as The Free Press and the Farmer's Advocate.

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<sup>1</sup> David R. Spencer "Spreading the Word: London's Communication's History," *Downtown London: Layers of Time*, Ed. Michael Baker, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2000), 138.

<sup>2</sup> Fanshawe Pioneer Village Archives (Free Press Building Box). LFP File #1: Typewritten information on the *Free Press*, author and date unknown.

<sup>3</sup> Fanshawe Pioneer Village Archives (Free Press Building Box). Photocopy of a newspaper photograph and caption, *London Free Press* (June 28, 1967).