

64 Forward Ave
London, ON
Canada N6H 1B7

May 30, 2018

Flat Stanley enjoyed his visit to London, Ontario. This city has the same name as London, England and it also has a river called the Thames running through it. London, Ontario was named in 1793 by Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe. There are lots of places nearby that share the same names as cities in Ireland and England. I think the early settlers felt more comfortable when their new homes had the same names as the places they came from.

I picked up Flat Stanley from my local mailbox. He seemed glad to get out of the envelope but it took him a while to realize where he was. He was in a place called London where people were speaking English, but he wasn't in England.

I decided to show him some interesting places. The first place we went was St Thomas, a small city of 38,000 people about 30 km south of London. The most famous event in St Thomas was a sad one that happened many years ago. In 1885 Jumbo the Elephant was part of a circus that was visiting St Thomas. Jumbo used to live in England but P.T. Barnum bought him to be part of his North American circus. As the circus was getting ready to leave town, a train came along the track and Jumbo was hit by the locomotive and killed. There is now a large statue of Jumbo the Elephant in St Thomas so that's where I took Stanley.





My father lives in St Thomas so Stanley and I dropped by to help him with his yard work. We repaired a trellis for his flowers and Stanley made sure everything was straight.

On the drive back to London, Stanley was especially quiet. I think his time in the envelope and the trip to St Thomas was a lot for the little flat guy. When we arrived in London I took him to my chiropractor for a treatment with Dr Ben.



After his treatment, Stanley had much more energy so I took him for a walk with my dog, Pilot. Pilot is a German Shepherd. Last year, a school sent me some Flat Stanleys and Pilot found one and chewed it up. I had to send the torn pieces back in a plastic bag! Fortunately, Pilot seems to like your little visitor so I think it will get back to you on one piece.



This photo was taken at the Forks of the Thames, where two branches of the river meet, near downtown London. A few months ago, when the snow melted, the river flooded. But, many years ago, long before I was born, there was a bigger flood in 1937 where houses and bridges were washed away. Beneath a new bridge there's a plaque that shows how high the water was.



London has a population of 400,000 people, but there are also wild animals. Stanley was surprised that the teeth of a beaver are strong enough to chew through wood. This tree is about to fall.



There wasn't a flood when Stanley was here, but there was a big wind storm. Trees were blown over and traffic was stopped. This unfortunate car was parked at the wrong place.



Your Flat Stanley met two other flat visitors. A family from Oakville drove almost 200 km to show me their Flat Stanley that was visiting them from Singapore. Here we are in my backyard.



The other Flat Stanley arrived with a couple from South Carolina who wanted to meet me. They were in London visiting friends and asked if they could drop by. I took them to Wilfrid Jury Public School which is where I began the Flat Stanley Project when I was teaching grade 3.



Your Flat Stanley was very popular and lots of people asked to pose with him.





After showing Flat Stanley some of London, I thought he might be interested in my workshop. I make guitars in my basement.

This is the back of my latest guitar. I showed Flat Stanley how to use a plane and to shave the wooden braces to the proper height. I thought he was interested in learning how to work with wood, but instead he just wanted to play with the wooden curls.



Lowden Guitars are built in Northern Ireland and have a very good reputation. Someone you know may have one. When I began building guitars I was surprised to

discover how many builders there are nearby.

One of the best is my old friend, Marc Beneteau. Marc has a shop in St Thomas, and I visited him when Stanley and I went to see the statue of Jumbo.

Guitar players from around the world order guitars from Marc and he has given me lots of good advice. I have enjoyed having your Flat Stanley visit, but it's time to send him home. He discovered that Ontario, Canada has a huge temperature range. Today it will be 32 degrees Celsius and it's quite humid, so it feels even hotter. In the winter, it can drop to 30 degrees below zero, and the winds make it feel even colder.

Here are some winter pictures of Pilot chasing sticks in the snow a few months ago.

Thanks for sending the little flat guy to me.

Your friend,

Dale Hubert

