Map of London businesses included in exhibit

BY ARMANDO D'ANDREA
Special to The Free Press

A commemorative map of London listing city businesses will be part of a summer art exhibit exploring antique maps of the Forest City.

The You Are Here exhibit, coinciding with London's 150th anniversary, will be held at 1 Dundas St. in June.

The exhibit will bring together the works of eight London artists, who will incorporate the map motif into their works to mark the city's anniversary.

The commemorative map, based on a London business map from 1950, is being created by University of Western Ontario graduate Roman Tkaczyk.

Some companies have already signed on as sponsors, said London artist Kirtley Jarvis, the sparkplug behind the map motif art exhibit.

She approached city hall with the idea of the exhibit to add to the 150th birthday celebration.

"I see maps as a snapshot. When we were looking at the history of London, it's a record of change," she said. "Looking back over London's 150 years, it's a fascinating way of seeing how it changed."

Jarvis said the little yellow brick house at 1 Dundas St. was chosen for the show because of its nearness to the forks of the Thames, London's birthplace. "This is where Simcoe landed and decided this is where the new town of London would be."

The show will feature mixed media art incorporating the map theme.

Anyone interested in donating to the exhibit or in being included on the map can e-mail youarehere@sympatico.ca or contact Susan Cassan at 657-5967.

DAVE CHIDLEY The London Free Press

MAP MOTIF: London artist Kirtley Jarvis shows off part of a prototype of her map-themed contribution to the You are Here art show for London's sesquicentennial.