An exhibition of map works helps celebrate London's sesquicentennial

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The Creative City

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It's June in Southwestern Ontario, which means locals are getting mobile, enjoying the sun, and taking in the many cultural festivities our region has to offer.

X MARKS THE SPOT - You Are Here, an exhibition of multi-media map-related works by London artists, opens this weekend at the Forks of the Thames — both indoors and outside.

It's a collaboration between **Victoria Stasiuk**, coordinator of the city's Celebrate 150, and **Kirtley Jarvis**, a London artist and project manager. The indoor exhibition will be held at One Dundas St., which was renovated by the city as a millennium project. The outdoor exhibition will be across the bridge at the forks.

"The artists assembled by Mr. Jarvis to celebrate London's sesquicentennial, share an understanding that maps only fleetingly document our world as it is presently constituted," says Sylvia Curtis-Norcross in an essay for the You Are Here catalogue. "In You Are Here they consider maps from London's past and present and even suggest possibilities of what future maps could look like."

The exhibition features the work of Mr. Jarvis and fellow local artists **Aston Coles, Jason Dickson, Jason Gilliland, Emily Goodden, Kinny Kreiswirth, Ron Milton, Doug Mitchell, Jill Price, Aidan Urquhart and Merle (Ting) Tingley.**

Mr. Jarvis used six telephone poles and manipulated electrical wire and hardware to create the Urban Forest, an outdoor installation with references to London's past using facsimile yard sale signs as markers on a bicycle journey.

Mr. Milton's metal sculpture, From the Centre Out, features an aquarium and a copperplate engraving technique used in traditional map making.

The exhibition also includes 10 historic maps of London dating from 1862, which document the city's transformation and growth.

A commemorative map to be published to mark London's sesquicentennial will document the exhibition and highlight sponsors. The centerpiece will be a new map of historic plaque sites being produced by the Historic Sites Committee of the London Public Library for their new walking guide.

The exhibition opens this Saturday, June 18 and continues until Oct. 2. One Dundas St. is open weekends only in June, 12 noon to 5 p.m., and Tuesday to Sunday in July and August.

The opening reception is Saturday, June 25 at 2 p.m. and the artists will be present. An artists' guided tour is scheduled for Sunday, July 17, 2 p.m. For more information see www.jarvisart.ca.