



120TH ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

2017-2018

*“Enriching the lives of others as well as our own”*



## THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1898 Lady Aberdeen, wife of the Governor General, crowned the first May Queen, Ethel Hamilton, at an elaborate May Day celebration on the grounds of Rideau Hall. Lady Aberdeen took the opportunity of her opening remarks to encourage the young women there to commit themselves to lives of service both within their homes and in society, thereby giving birth to what would become Canada's oldest women's service club.

**Our Mandate:** To engage exclusively in such charitable undertakings as may be deemed advisable by the Corporation.

**Our Mission Statement:** Enriching the lives of others as well as our own.

From our earliest days we have dedicated our service to the needs of the community, often in the field of health and welfare for women and children. We supported Canada's war efforts and opened the first TB Clinic in Canada. Currently we house and support the May Court Hospice, provide grants to community organizations, scholarships for nurse practitioners, operate the library at the Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus, and support a Munch and Learn program at six Ottawa Community Houses.

## **A Message from the President**

### **President's Report**

I cannot help but wonder, when Lady Aberdeen asked young ladies 120 years ago to serve their community, were they cognisant of the challenges they had been given and what an incredible organization they would be founding and which to this day continues to provide service to Ottawa.

None of many services would have continued to be possible without the support we give to each other. Every year since 1898, your Club has been served by a dedicated and diligent Board, Committee Convenors for Club, Community and Fundraising activities. We have experienced ups and downs over the years. However, it has been observed recently by some that we are experiencing a time of apathy and lethargy amongst our members. It disturbs me to see what I perceive as a lack of support from our members for the various events and fund raisers we have had. Those involved work so incredibly hard and not to be backed up by the membership at large disheartening. Members' presence at these events is missed.

We are incredibly fortunate to have four competent and caring staff members, to whom we owe a well-deserved thank you. Mary Schoenfeld calmly keeps the Club running and invariably supports our fundraising events. Our Club House and the grounds have never looked better. I do not think Bill Craig ever stops and his ability to tackle a huge variety of tasks has saved us no end of money; and he is always the first one at the White Elephant stall at the Christmas Craft Fair. Every two weeks Louise Saint is here to keep our finances in order so we do not need to worry about the Audit or the Canada Revenue Agency. Marnie Wellar, our Library Manager, appears later in my report.

I have gained a great deal of knowledge during the past two years and have come to appreciate how different we are from the other Clubs who comprise the Association of May Court Clubs. We have a Club House, The Hospice, The Library, The Bargain Box, a Portfolio, an Accounting firm, and employees, which in reality translates into a small business run by a volunteer Board of Directors and committees, all ultimately reporting to the President. This past year we have made some changes some of which did not go as smoothly as had been planned.

Privacy has become a significant issue and in order to protect our members' personal information it became necessary to divide the Annual Report in two parts - a Membership Directory and an Annual Report. Our intent was to send them both out electronically, but feedback from the members at The Fall General meeting caused us to rethink our plan; and, as a result, there was a delay. Changes to the by-laws, approved by the Board and membership will facilitate the production of these two documents.

The year 2017-2018 could possibly be termed The Year of Policy Development. We now have a Conflict of Interest Policy which applies to all members, not just the Board as previously we



had. Much work was put into the creation of a Gift Acceptance Policy with the goal of encouraging the reception of gifts which will not encumber the Club with undue expenses and will be in line with our Charitable Goals. We also wanted to ensure The May Court Club of Ottawa can respond quickly and appropriately to all gift offers while protecting the Club and its supporters. Copies of both of these policies will be available in the office for any member who wishes to familiarize themselves with them or obtain one.

The Club now has a Management Binder #1 in which is recorded all the trades with whom we do business and their Clearance Certificates as required for the jobs they perform; for example, “Asbestos Certified”, “Crawl Space Certified” just to mention two. Failure to have this information could result in a substantial fine to the Club, the Property Manager and The President, should a government inspector ever arrive on site and find we are delinquent in our due diligence of people we hire.

Communications continues to address, both internally and externally, the challenges of the ever-changing electronic world. I do hope by now you have all taken a look at our Website. Betty Rehbein has made so many changes and is constantly improving and updating this essential communications tool. The Members Only page is an incredible source of information. The most up-to-date Membership Directory is found there, so if you are like me and at times cannot find the hard copy, it is on your computer. With the Website, the Newsletter and Behind the Pink Door, we should all be well-informed Club Members.

A new section has been added to the May Court Library to contain books for Children and Young Adults. Marnie Wellar, our Library Manager, reacted to an article in a newspaper about patients who come from the North for medical treatment. They often stay for an indeterminate time in the residence at the Civic Hospital and bring their children. The Young Adults section is specifically being targeted to meet the needs of the Psychiatric Ward. Books of this type are not often donated but through the kind donation of one of our members and matched by her husband, good quality books will be purchased over time to meet this new undertaking.

During the last six years the Bargain Box has raised, after expenses, \$495,723.98 for the Club. What an accomplishment! I recently had the pleasure of joining the Monday morning ladies during their coffee break. What a beehive of activity which, with no intent to insult, can only be described by an outsider as organized chaos. It was difficult to believe that by noon all would be in order and the doors would be opened to the waiting customers. I was there to talk about the Auditors’ Report which pointed out that despite increasing revenues the expenses, over which they have no control, were escalating. So, starting in September there will be a slight increase in prices.

We are all aware that there was a change of Governors General at Rideau Hall last fall. Please be assured that a letter was sent to her Excellency Julie Payette, requesting the tradition, which



has existed for the last 120 years to be our Patron be continued. This letter has been followed up by phone. I can only report that Rideau Hall is reviewing all Patronage requests and when a decision is reached we will be informed.

I would like to thank Past President Margie Howsam for her oft sought advice; Vice President Dorothy Scorsone with whom I have shared many walks in Blackburn Hamlet where we have solved so many May Court problems; to she who knows everything and remembers it, Past President Sharon Murphy; The Board, the Committee Convenors and the members for the support given to me over the past two years. And, in conclusion, much thanks to the late Margaret Bell who persuaded me to do this. It has been an honour and a privilege to have served as President, and I wish the incoming Board and the members continuing success.

**Nancy Pyper**  
**President**



THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2018-2019

PAST PRESIDENT	Nancy Pyper
PRESIDENT	Dorothy Scorsone
VICE PRESIDENT	Sharon Harrison
RECORDING SECRETARY	Mary Jones
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	José Hamilton
TREASURER	Donna Shields-Poë
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Marie Stent
MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR	Diana Gauthier
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR	Christine Beelen
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR	Kerry De Blois
SOCIAL DIRECTOR	Nancy Birchard
BARGAIN BOX DIRECTOR	Cathy Bélisle
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	Beth Burn
	Holly MacDougall
	Valerie Zinger

## **PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Our Club has supported the Hospice in several ways over the past year. We continue to give them \$8333.33 every month which adds up to \$100,000.00 for the year. This past year we gave them an additional \$25,000.00 towards the sprinkler system. The sprinkler system installation is now complete and it will give you an extra 45 minutes to get out of the building safely in case of a fire!

Last June we asked the Hospice Board for more public recognition and they immediately agreed. In fact, they said it was long overdue. We are now recognized on their Website and all correspondence as "Sustaining Benefactor" with our Coat of Arms prominently displayed at the bottom of the page.

Hospice Fundraising had a good year: Giving Tuesday raised over \$60,000.00; Homes for the Holidays raised \$158,000.00; Hike for Hospice raised \$118,380.00. These are fortunate results for the Hospice because only 60% of the necessary funding is provided by the government and Hospice Care Ottawa has to come up with the rest in order to provide the wonderful care they do.

A new five-year Occupancy Agreement was approved by both the May Court Club of Ottawa and Hospice Care Ottawa. The signing event was held at the end of May by our President, Nancy Pyper and Hospice Board Chair, John Laframboise.

The Hospice Care Ottawa's AGM will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the May Court site.

**Margie Howsam**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

These are the results of the audit of the May Court Club for the fiscal year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The auditors reported that all went well and raised no concerns with the Club finances or records. In fact, they said it was an easy audit to do and all was in order for them to complete it.

Our Gross revenues for 2017 amounted to **\$356,301.00**. First, our long-term investments, worth **\$4,557,331.00** yielded an income of **\$188,037.00**. These investments are indeed our largest single source of revenue.

Other revenues were: Aberdeen Artisans **\$ 7,523**; Bridge **\$1,950**; Fashion Show (Talbots) **\$620**; Brand Sales including Lady Aberdeen Tea **\$1,593**; Library Book sales **\$1,507**; Bike Ride **\$5,234**; High Tea **\$4,908**; Bargain Box **\$89,689**; Bequests and Donations **\$18,991**; Rental Income **\$13,891**; Membership Dues \$19,036.

Our overall expenses for 2017 were **\$456,990.00**. These expenses were made up of the regular Administrative costs of **\$96,262.00** which do not vary much from year to year. Building Maintenance of **\$66,813** and Reserve or repairs of **\$51,884**. Both of these costs were down from 2016. Other expenses include The May Court Library costs of **\$17,816** and professional fees of **\$22,922**. The largest expense, of course, is our donations of **\$174,706.00**. This amount includes the **\$100,000** and the additional **\$25,000** given to the Hospice and our grants, scholarships and the Munch and Learn Program.

In summary, the Club finances are in reasonable shape. Because the unrealized gain on the long-term investments was **\$160,989**, we were able to cover our shortfall of **\$100,689** and record a Net Revenue of **\$60,300.00**. Our Net Assets for 2017 were recorded as **\$5,028,798.00**, up slightly from **\$4,965,270.00** in 2016.

Donna Shields-Poë  
Treasurer

## Donations to the Community July 2017 to June 2018

<b>1. Palliative Care</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>%</b>
May Court Hospice	<b>125,000</b>	<b>71.6</b>
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<b>2. Health Issues</b>		
Carty House	1,500	
Miriam Centre Program	3,500	
Serenity Renewal for Families	1,000	
	<b>6,000</b>	<b>3.4</b>
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<b>3. Homelessness</b>		
Cornerstone Housing for Women		
Adopt a Room Program	<b>6,500</b>	<b>3.7</b>
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<b>4. High Risk Youth and Families</b>		
Youth Net	1,000	
Christie Lake Kids Multi sport program	4,200	
May Court Munch & Learn	19,500	
Community Laundry Co-operative	2,300	
	<b>27,000</b>	<b>15.5</b>
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<b>5. Education</b>		
Centennial Scholarships	<b>10,000</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Susan Anderson Scholarship		
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<b>Total Cash Donations</b>	<b>174,500</b>	<b>100%</b>

**May Court Club of Ottawa**  
Balance Sheet December 31, 2017

**Current Assets:**

Cash	\$	57,826
HST rebate receivable		21,797
Inventory		1,180
Accrued receivables		23,743
Prepaid expenses		11,536

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116,082

**Long-term Investments**

4,557,331

**Capital Assets**

355,385

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\$ 5,028,798

**Liabilities and Net Assets**

Current Liabilities	\$	62,583
Net Assets		
Invested in capital assets		355,385
Internally restricted (Scholarship)		221,001
Unrestricted		4,389,829

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4,966,215

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\$ 5,028,798

## Statement of Revenue and Expenses December 31, 2017

### Revenue

Membership Fees	\$	19,036
Investment Income		188,037
Community/Fundraising Projects		158,165
Bequests and Donations		18,991
Rental		13,891
Social Functions		<u>8,034</u>

406,154

Costs of fundraising projects		<u>49,853</u>
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**Gross Profit** \$ **356,301**

### Expenses

Administrative	\$	96,262
Amortization of capital assets		9,522
Building Routine		68,813
Repairs		51,884
Communications		1,420
Association dues and expenses		7,547

Donations		174,706
Citizenship Court		315
Library at Civic Hospital Campus		17,816
Professional Fees		22,922
Social Function expenses		7,783

\$ **456,990**

Net Loss before unrealized gain on investments \$ 100,689

Unrealized gain on Investments \$ 160,989

**Net Revenue** \$ **60,300**

## Community and Club Service

Reported hours, January – December 2017

(These may differ from hours appearing in reports which are July 2016-June 2017)

### Community Service Fundraising

Bargain Box	7096	
Fundraising - Special Projects	405	
Hospice - Fundraising Special	7	
	<b>7508</b>	<b>39%</b>

### Community Service

Citizenship Court	95	
Hospice - Evening Reception	145	
Hospice - Reception	2246	
Knitting	1663	
May Court Grants Committee	32	
May Court Library	890.5	
Munch and Learn	392	
Scholarship Committee	81	
Women's Breast Health Clinic	164	
	<b>5708.5</b>	<b>29%</b>

### Club Service

Aberdeen Artisans	303	
Administration	2074.5	
After 5'S	210	
Archives	55	
Arts, Crafts & Conversation	986	
Association Meeting 2017	601	
Board of Directors	376	
Bridge Club	30	
Club Communications	336	
Finance Committee	108	
Member Services	408	
Outreach Committee	190	
Property Management	254	
Social Events	291	
	<b>6222.5</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Total number of hours</b>	<b>19439</b>	

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

### **Citizenship Court**

**Heather Dunbar**

The Citizenship Court has recently relocated to 240 Sparks St. In the new location, we have no access to a kitchen, running water or storage, and parking is difficult. However, the dedicated members of the Citizenship Committee are determined to make every effort to continue to provide a welcoming reception to our new Canadians. We are no longer able to offer tea and coffee, only juice, water and cookies. We have held one successful reception to date in the new location, with another one scheduled.

### **Hospice at May Court – Day Reception Desk + Palliative Care**

**Leslie Jones**

The Day Hospice Reception Desk and Palliative Care Team provided 2,216 volunteer hours to the May Court Hospice during the past year. This is an increase of 14% for the same period in the previous year. The Team consisted of 35 May Court Club volunteers. While most worked on the May Court Hospice reception desk, there were three who devoted their hours solely to palliative care work and one of the team contributed to both activities. Whether assisting at the Hospice Reception or volunteering with the Day Hospice, volunteering at the Hospice is one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs that you can have. The Day Hospice Reception Desk and Palliative Care Team is honoured to be a part of the delivery of palliative care services at Hospice Care Ottawa.

To assist with Hospice Desk operations for May Court volunteers and for Hospice Care Ottawa volunteers, we continued to update the “*Alphabetical Index to Hospice Staff and Services*” which provides access to staff by first and last name and includes an index by subject. The convenor worked with the Hospice Volunteer Coordinators to ensure that the information concerning service awards for May Court volunteers working on the Hospice Desk were accurate and up to date. This year at the 2018 Hospice Volunteer Appreciation event, Dorothy Robinson received her 10-year service award and Betty Duclos received the 15-year service award.

The annual meeting of the Day Hospice Reception Desk volunteers was held on February 15<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker, Rebecca MacDonald, Volunteer Service Co-ordinator at the May Court Site.

### **Hospice at May Court – Evening Reception Desk**

**Beth Burn**

In the course the past year five May Court members have rotated shifts to volunteer at the Hospice reception desk on Wednesday evenings. During this period of time, they have volunteered for more than 120 hours!

There have been a number of changes amongst the regular hospice staff, but our little group provides a welcome, consistent presence. After several years of working a regular volunteer shift and having assumed more May Court responsibilities, Mary Jones asked to move to our 'replacement/spare' list. We are grateful for all of the hours that she has dedicated to this role. At the same time, we were delighted to welcome Helen Shakarchi to our team. Jenni, Elizabeth, and Judith:- thank-you for your commitment to this worthwhile endeavour.

### **Knitting Committee**

**Jill Strachan and Caroline Lumsden**

The knitting committee continues to provide toques for kids with cancer and lap rugs for the hospice. The members also work on one of a kind items for the Christmas craft fair in November. There is a large amount of wool in the cupboards and members are encouraged to make use of it.

Thank you to Marjorie Carrol and Margery Hannam for their tremendous contribution to the knitting committee over the years. Thanks also to everyone who continues to donate their talent and support.

### **May Court Bargain Box**

**Sharon Harrison**

This is my final report as Bargain Box Director, a role I have enjoyed very much over the past two years. The Bargain Box is a key fundraising activity of the May Court Club of Ottawa, enabled by an extremely dedicated team of hard-working volunteers and by all of the members and others who generously donate items and shop at the Bargain Box. The Club relies on the revenues we raise to help fund our donation to the May Court site of Hospice Care Ottawa. In 2017, the Bargain Box contributed \$89,698 toward this effort. In addition, to the end of May, the Bargain Box has had sales of \$53,690. Although expenses still need to be deducted, signs are that we should be able to make a similar donation to the Hospice in 2018.

After a few trials and tribulations during this past year, the Bargain Box acquired a new cash register which, while not perfect, has solved many of our problems. A huge "thank you" goes to all of those who helped with training for their patience, endurance and hard work. In addition, a very special "thank you" goes to Pat Finn for the many hours spent writing and rewriting instructions for staff.



As we move forward, one of our challenges is to maintain and, in fact, raise our revenues in a time of increasing expenses. We have ideas how to do this but need to grow our base of volunteers year-round. The plan for the Bargain Box this summer is to be open from 9:30 – 3:30 Tuesday to Friday, July through August. The wonderful volunteers at the Bargain Box have once again stepped up to the plate to fill almost every shift.

There is a happy atmosphere at the Bargain Box and we can provide testimonials from our volunteers regarding the pleasure they derive from being there, interacting with regular customers who become friends and assisting/meeting members of the Sandy Hill Community and beyond. As always, we welcome any donations of a seasonal nature you may have.

Finally, I want to extend a very sincere “thank you” to:

- all members and others who have so generously donated items to and shopped at the Bargain Box;
- all the clerks and cashiers who open the doors and keep the Bargain Box operating;
- the window dressers who work their magic to present a beautiful storefront which entices;
- the Monday Morning Worker Bees who sort the donations and display them so elegantly;
- Gillian Puxty, our Treasurer;
- Pat Finn, our scheduling officer, extraordinaire;
- and last but not least Sandra Ferguson, Bargain Box Convenor who somehow pulls it all together.

### **Library**

**Jane Mace and Betty Duclos**

The library has been running well under the management of Marnie Wellar. We provide up-to-date magazines and recent novels to the patients, visitors and staff at the Civic Hospital. We have added a computer corner to the reading room and are expanding our collection to include books for children and young adults – a small but important population within the hospital’s community. We hold three popular book sales throughout the year and are often assisted by student hospital volunteers in our daily activities.

### **May Court Munch and Learn Program**

**Kathy Yach**

It has been another busy year for the Munch and Learn Program which began in 2014 and brings much needed resources to community housing projects in Ottawa. Six Community Houses located throughout the city benefit from the money we contribute to provide nutritious snacks to the children who attend these houses after school. The program helps with

homework, provides arts and crafts activities, recreational activities and even lessons in cooking using, nutritious ingredients. Each month the house is provided with a card allowing them to buy groceries. We have also collected games and books to distribute to the youngsters. Our Aberdeen Artisan Committee has provided mitts, hats and scarves.

Following its mandate to provide learning support and assistance to children in our community, it also includes the School Literacy Program, a longstanding community project of the Club. School Literacy volunteers read once weekly on an individual basis with kindergarten children in the public schools and also offer support in other ways within the elementary schools. Children are aided to acquire a love and joy of reading that will last throughout their lives. The program runs throughout the school year for 10 months.

The six Community Houses are: Banff Avenue Community House; Blair Court Community House; Britannia Woods Community House; Britannia Woods Community House; Debra/Dynes Community House; Michele Heights Community House and Morrison Gardens

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our committee. Especially Sharon Carstairs for being the Treasurer. Currently the members of our committee are Judith Scott, Mary Arthur, Linda Meek, Maurene Atherton, Sally Lefeuve, Holly McDougall, Heather Dunbar, Joyce Clarkson and Mary Schoenfeld, the Club's secretary, who takes our committee minutes. All their hard work is appreciated. I would also like to thank the members of the May Court Club who have helped us in other ways to achieve our goals.

### **Scholarship Committee**

**Bev MacSween & Bonnie Stevens**

There are nine members on the May Court Club of Ottawa Scholarship Committee, four for the Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship (Johanna Blakney, Pat Finn, Leslie Jones, and Bonnie Stevens) and five for the Centennial Scholarships (Mary Gray, Bev MacSween, Louise Piche, Bev Wilcox and Lynda Zimmerman).

Four applications were received for the 2017-18 Centennial Scholarships. Three applications were received for the Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship. The Committee met in May and June to review applications and select the candidates to recommend to the Board as scholarship recipients.

*The 2018-2019 – The May Court Club of Ottawa **Centennial Scholarships** were awarded to Mary Bradley (Lakehead University) and Lindsay Courtney (Ryerson University).*

*The 2018-2019 – The May Court Club of **Ottawa Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to Ariane Bercier.*

## CLUB SERVICE REPORTS

### **Aberdeen Artisans Committee (AAC)**

**Johanna Blakney**

The purpose of the Aberdeen Artisans is to hold the Christmas Craft Fair, one of the largest single-event fundraisers for the May Court Club of Ottawa. The committee members are supported by dozens of May Court contributors who work on the day of the event and those who craft items during the year to donate to the sale. AAC needs two types of committee members: those members that have event planning and organizational skills; and, crafters. This Committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except June through August) from 10am-12pm.

### **After Fives**

**Gill Puxty**

The After Fives had an eventful year. We enjoyed receiving several new members to the group so our number has swelled to 17. We meet on the second Tuesday each month. For all members who still receive their newsletter by mail, we fold them ready for posting.

In November we started collecting member donations of toiletries, hats, gloves and other small items for the Shoebox Campaign. We wrapped more than 70 boxes with cheerful paper and filled them with goodies before they were collected by Cathy Auchinlec of the Ottawa Shoebox Project for Shelters. They are distributed to women in shelters on Christmas Day.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the After Fives organized and ran a successful tea room during the Aberdeen Artisans' Christmas Craft and Bake Sale. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Shepherd's Fashion Show, the After Fives provided volunteers to help prepare and serve the food and help with clearing up at the end – all done with a smile! On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Life Cycle was ridden by 16 riders and was well supported by the After Fives who were involved in the organization and support including at the Club House to manage the ride and at the two rest stops where they provided the riders with refreshments.

We ended the season with a potluck supper at the Club House which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to all the After Fives for being such a wonderful, dynamic and friendly group. It's been a delight to work with you.

## **Archives**

**José Hamilton**

The Archives Committee has been put on hold for the past several months due to the work being done in the basement of our Club. However, the material from the Association of May Court Clubs of Canada is filed in boxes for each club and is up to date. The committee is looking forward to the fall when we will begin the task of getting our own Club archives up to date.

## **Bridge**

**Jane Mace & Shirley Parrott**

The Round Robin Bridge schedules were sent out to bridge players in mid-summer. An enjoyable get together luncheon was held in early September and play began soon after. This year twenty couples participated but we are sad to report that our numbers are dwindling and only sixteen couples have joined for the 2018/2019 season.

## **Communications**

**Christine Beelen**

The Communications Committee has the responsibility to keep the membership and the public aware of the activities of the Club and does this through the Newsletter, Website, posters, bulletin boards, Behind the Pink Door bulletins, the Annual Report and the media.

Great strides were made to the Website to make it more up to date in style. The inclusion of a "Members Only" section has allowed for the addition of the actively updated membership list, photographs, the newsletter, and even scheduling assistance for the Bargain Box. Donations can be made online through our site and the riders on the Life Cycle fundraiser were able to register and pay their registration through the website. We have also enabled people to apply for membership on-line. All of this was achieved through the concerted efforts of our Web manager, Betty Rehbein.

Appreciation goes to the After Fives Committee who assist with assembling and preparing the mailing of the Newsletter to those members without Internet access. Thanks also to Mary Schoenfeld, Club Secretary, for her assistance.

As we no longer have an individual Club photographer, members are encouraged to provide their photographic skills for events so our record of activities is kept colourful. We are also very fortunate to have the talents of Chris Fronton to create our event posters.

The Communications Committee is quite small in number and is hoping to expand with the addition of some of the Club's newest members.

## **Outreach Committee**

**Barbara Burton**

Currently, our 12 zones are covered by 14 Zone Captains who hosted seven Friday Soup Lunches, many of which featured homemade soups. We continue to share recipes with our members. At one of the lunches, Carole Koch, a long-time member and executive of the Nepean Horticulture Society gave a very informative demonstration on affordable flower arranging. Selling raffle tickets recouped the cost of the flowers and six members were lucky winners of the arrangements that Carole made while talking to us.

Attendance at the Friday Soup Lunches ranged between 20 and 24 Club members. In an attempt to increase attendance, in April and May, we welcomed members to invite non-member friends. This can be a way to introduce others to our Club and we will continue to do this next year. We will also offer rides to lunches next year if we hear that a member needs a lift. Our cost has been held at \$5.00 and we continue to operate within the budget with a small surplus. Six soup bowls have been purchased to bring our inventory to 26 bowls.

The Committee continues to maintain contact with many of our members despite not having to deliver Annual Reports this year. Several members experiencing health difficulties received "Thinking of You" cards on behalf of all our members and we received word from a few of them who said that they very much appreciated our good wishes. We are working with the Member Services Director to try and contact members who have been out of touch. The committee volunteered 191 hours between July 2017 and June 2018. Other members also helped with lunches and contributed 9 hours.

## **Property Management**

**Kerry DeBlois**

Once again it was a busy and exciting year on the Property Committee. If we weren't dealing with more Asbestos issues, then it was cracked pipes in the Hospice crawlspace area or fallen trees. Ductless Air conditioners have been installed in Aberdeen Hall, the meeting room and the upper parlor. We say to summer - bring on your heat we are ready.

This summer we will once again place an order with Greeley Sand and Gravel for top soil. Bill and I will distribute the soil across the property. Our front flower beds will get more perennials and our front rock wall will need to be shored up. These jobs are a few of the many jobs on our long list of jobs that need to be done now that the weather is nice.

We have a new snow removal contractor. His name is Chris Smith and he is also a volunteer at the Hospice. We look forward to working with him next winter.



Once again, I want to thank our Property Committee for their advice and help throughout this past year. I especially want to thank Mary Schoenfeld and Bill Craig. Without their help very little would get accomplished.

**Recording Secretary**

**Mary Jones**

The Board of Directors of the May Court Club of Ottawa met on the fourth Thursday of every month from September to June. The Fall General Meeting (October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017) and the Spring General Meeting (March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018) were held in Lady Aberdeen Hall followed by a luncheon. The Annual General Meeting and dinner was held at the Hunt Club on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A new slate of officers for the 2018-2019 year was elected. President Nancy Pyper turned over the gavel to incoming President Dorothy Scorsone.

**Social**

**Judith Scott**

The Social Committee arranges all aspects of four main social events throughout the year. The Spring and Fall General Meetings, and the Christmas Luncheon, are held at the Club. The Annual General Meetings are held at outside venue. For each event, we look after seasonal decorations, menu planning, and food and wine service. Each one of these undertakings, is delivered with the assistance of eight to ten volunteers, in addition to the Committee members. In particular, Provisional members are invited to help out in the kitchen, which provides an excellent opportunity, to meet other members and to gain an understanding of "The May Court Way".

The success of these events is entirely dependent on members working together to provide an enjoyable occasion for the membership who have worked so hard and given so much of their time to those in the community who so deserve our help. Special thanks to my core committee members: Joan Murray, Louise Piche and Cathy Belisle, and to those members who volunteered and made these events a success.

## The Grants Committee

**Dorothy Scorsone**

The May Court Grants Committee is composed of one Life member, three Associate, three Active, one Provisional and four ex-officio members: the President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and the Vice-President, who acts as Chair. The committee meets twice a year.

In October 2017 and April 2018, the Board approved the following grants:

- **\$3,500.00** to the Miriam Centre, which provides support for women and children, towards their “Helping Pregnant Mothers in Need” program;
- **\$4,200.00** to Christie Lake Kids for their Multisport Programs which are offered in two Syrian refugee settlement areas in Ottawa;
- **\$2,300.00** to The Community Laundry Co-operative which provides affordable laundry facilities and support and mentoring for families in need. This grant will be used for their website update;
- **\$1,000.00** to Serenity Renewal for Families for their Strengthening Families for the Future program which assists children and parents with addiction in the household;
- **\$1,000.00** to Youth Net/RéseauAdo for their Mindfulness for Youth which teaches adolescents, ages 13-20, about mental health and ways to cope with difficult situations;
- **\$1,500.00** to Carty House for their Refugee Health and Well-Being Fund which offers care and support to refugee women in Ottawa; and
- **\$6,500.00** to Cornerstone Housing for Women for their “Adopt a Room” program which provides an affordable housing rental facility for women in transition.

Total \$20,000.00

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **High Tea**

**Kathy Yach**

A “High Tea” was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 to assist the Munch and Learn Program Committee to raise funds towards the cost of operating the program. Mary Cook was the guest speaker, students from Canterbury High School played music, and there was a silent auction. The sold-out crowd nibbled on tea sandwiches, scones, and sweets. The event raised more than \$2,500.

### **Harvest Bridge**

**Nancy Birchard**

A sunny October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 saw 16 foursomes of ladies arrive at the Club for the Harvest Bridge. The 64 players were treated to their favourite party sandwiches, co-ordinated once again by Mary Armstrong. Dessert this year was Nancy Birchard’s home-made carrot cake. Coffee and our own new blend of Lady Aberdeen Tea complemented the lunch. Chris Fronton had the Club looking festive with fall colours. Ten door prizes were awarded including a floral pumpkin arrangement by Cynthia Hoisak. Thanks to the sandwich-makers, servers and clean-up crew, the May Court Club had another successful Harvest Bridge.

### **Christmas Craft Fair**

**Johanna Blakney**

The May Court Christmas Craft Fair was held in early November 2017 and was open to the public for a second year. Christmas floral arrangements, wreaths, table runners, place mats, and other handcrafted items were very popular, as were donated jewellery, items on the “New to You” table, and, as always, all savoury and sweet items on the Food Table. Customers also enjoyed coffee and tea (including the special Lady Aberdeen blend) and homemade sweet treats served in the Tea Room which was hosted by the After Fives Committee. This successful 2017 event raised more than \$6475 after expenses.

### **Homes for the Holidays**

**Christine Beelen**

The May Court Club House was included as one of the homes on the Homes for the Holidays tour; the Gingerbread Village was also displayed in the living room. A team of May Court members greeted guests and told them about the history of the house conversion into a clubhouse as well as the hospice building. Many people were unaware of the wider contributions the Club makes to the community. It was also used as an opportunity to encourage women to join our membership and several new members resulted.

### **Shepherd's Fashion Show**

**Chris Fronton**

On April 24th May Courters and friends were out in force at the one of our most glamorous events of the year, The Shepherd's Fashion Show Fun-Raiser, to enjoy an evening of fashion, food and fun. Our entertaining May Court models showcased this spring's newest looks on the catwalk followed by an evening of shopping. Five door prizes were given away to lucky guests. The soirée was a great success, attended by a sold-out crowd of members and their friends and family. Close to \$6000.00 was raised, a successful fundraiser indeed! A big thank you for all the volunteers who helped make this an unforgettable evening and to Nancy Birchard for catering the event.

### **Bling for Spring**

**Nancy Birchard**

On May 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 members, guests and the general public were invited to our second Bling for Spring event. Seven local artisans, Penny Burke, Jennifer Carrioto, Natalie Champagne, Janet Jensen, Andrea Kolpaska, Roz Tabachnik and Shirlee Viljoen offered a variety of beautiful hand-made jewellery for sale. Pearls in updated settings, polished stones and glasswork were all woven into lovely creations. There were many interesting items on the vintage table again this year which again generated considerable interest to the shoppers. Despite the lower turnout the event raised close to \$1000 for the Club.

### **Life Cycle Bike Ride**

**Gill Puxty**

On Saturday, June 2, 2018, the second annual Life Cycle ride set out from the May Court Club to the strains of bagpipes played by Rob Miller and seen off by May Court President, Nancy Pyper. The weather was perfect – warm but not hot or humid with blue sky and a slight breeze, and no rain in the forecast. This year there were 16 riders, so the group was split in two, with Ron Stoneham leading the first group, and Karine Langley, a provisional May Court member, leading the second. There were a few riders from last year's ride, and several newcomers, and the atmosphere was happy and relaxed, but excited.

The riders followed much the same route as last year – from the Club, across the Experimental Farm to Island Park Drive, across the Champlain Bridge, to a rest stop at Bate Island, where the riders were met by two May Court volunteers, Beth Burn and Shirley Parrott who gave them refreshments. At the Aylmer Marina the riders were met by two more May court volunteers, Cheryl Ford and Cathy Belisle. When they returned to the Club house they enjoyed a barbecued sausage in a bun, chips and beer provided by Nancy Birchard and her wonderful team of helpers - Bonnie and Blair Stevens and Mary Gray. Each rider had been given a raffle ticket at registration, and there was a draw for a pass into a show at Yuk Yuks, provided by Rogers radio station

Many thanks to all the May Court volunteers, without whom the ride could not have taken place, and Ron Stoneham for all his help and advice before and during the ride. Many thanks also to our sponsors, Beau's Brewery who donated the beer, Kunstadt Sports Shop who provided technical support in the person of Bruce, who accompanied the ride, Dave Massine, the owner of the Independent Grocery at Somerset and Bank, who provided all the food for the rest stops and Rogers for helping with the promotion of the ride.

### THE ASSOCIATION OF MAY COURT CLUBS OF CANADA

On October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2017, President Nancy Pyper and Vice-President Dorothy Scorsone attended the Fall General meeting of the Association of May Court Clubs in Oakville. It was interesting talking to the delegates from the other clubs and we have some ideas for future meetings. We took 10 tins of Lady Aberdeen Tea with us which sold almost immediately. Later, the Brockville Club bought 30 tins.

President Nancy Pyper and Vice-President Dorothy Scorsone travelled to Oakville on May 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for the Association of May Court Clubs' 84<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. The theme was "You've come a long way Lady!" Celebrating 120 Years of Service". There was a presentation by Pat Hutchison, an Oakville Club member and Past President of Association who joined May Court in Ottawa in 1961. Times were very different then for prospective members with a formal interview, a written exam and dressed to the nines with matching beige suit, hat and gloves. How times have changed!

The meetings on Friday and Saturday were very productive and it was interesting to hear what the other Clubs were doing in such areas as membership, fundraising and marketing. Of particular interest was how they run their shops, many of which are also consignment. Friday night's dinner was at the palatial home on the lake of one of the Oakville members. We had an interesting dinner on Saturday at LaSalle Park Banquet Centre in Burlington. The ambience was quite special as the power failed so we ate in the dark, there was no sound system for the speakers or the music and we were cooled only by the slight breeze from the few windows that opened. Despite these difficulties, the Oakville Club provided a most enjoyable dinner and fashion show from their Nearly New Shoppe.

Nancy Pyper put forth a motion for the Clubs to meet only once a year for the spring AGM. Although the motion was defeated, the Clubs recognized that distance makes attendance for the Ottawa and the Brockville Clubs more difficult and costly. We will be looking into the feasibility of video conferencing for the Fall General Meeting which will be held in Oakville on October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Oakville Club.



## ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE 2017-2018

Past President	Betty Lou Borho	May Court Club of Kitchener Waterloo
President	Alicia de Souza	May Court Club of Windsor
Vice President	Mary Jane Asick	May Court Club of Windsor
Secretary-Treasurer	Milka Brown	May Court Club of Windsor
Director at Large	Lise Valiquette	May Court Club of Barrie

## MEMBER MAY COURT CLUBS

The May Court Club of Barrie  
The May Court Club of Brockville  
The May Court Club of Chatham  
The May Court Club of Kitchener-Waterloo  
The May Court Club of London  
The May Court Club of Oakville  
The May Court Club of Ottawa  
The May Court Club of St. Catharines  
The May Court Club of Windsor

Dorothy Scorsone

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Guyana	Clarisa Sabita Riehl
Lesotho	Mathobo Theresia Twepa
United Kingdom	Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque

## PAST PRESIDENTS

\*Deceased

1898-1900	Miss Ethel Hamilton*	1950-1952	Mrs Gordon Medcalf*
1900-1902	Mrs Edward Fauquier*	1952-1954	Mrs Melville Rogers*
1902-1904	Lady Perley*	1954-1956	Mrs Robert Gill*
1904-1906	Mrs Robert Kernan*	1956-1958	Mrs Harold Mulkins*
1906-1908	Lady Sybil Middleton*	1958-1960	Mrs Manson Campbell*
1908-1909	Mrs Robert Kernan*	1960-1962	Mrs Eric Prime*
1909-1910	Miss Florence Fielding*	1962-1964	Mrs Lloyd B. Rochester*
1910-1911	Mrs Gordon Hewitt*	1964-1966	Mrs David Hazelgrove*
1911-1912	Miss Mary Scott*	1966-1968	Mrs P.D. Holt*
1912-1913	Lady Perley*	1968-1970	Mrs J.H.F. Kenny*
1913-1916	Miss Edith MacPherson*	1970-1972	Mrs W.F.A. Davies
1916-1918	Mrs Robert Kernan*	1972-1974	Mrs W.P. Power*
1918-1920	Miss Sarah Sparks*	1974-1976	Mrs Ian McDiarmid
1920-1921	Mrs Lennox Blackburn*	1976-1978	Mrs Joan Prime*
1921-1922	Miss Margaret Southam*	1978-1980	Mrs Mary Elizabeth Harris*
1922-1923	Mrs Massy Baker*	1980-1982	Mrs Marian Parry*
1923-1925	Mrs Louise White*	1982-1984	Mrs Ellen Lahey
1925-1927	Mrs Noulan Cauchon*	1984-1986	Mrs Kay Yeomans*
1927-1928	Mrs H.P. Hill*	1986-1988	Mrs Patricia Scott
1928-1929	Miss Gwendolyn Burn*	1988-1990	Mrs Joyce Clarkson
1930-1933	Miss Freda Fripp*	1990-1992	Mrs Nancy Carruthers
1933-1934	Mrs Selwyn Wilson*	1992-1994	Mrs Isabel Pepler*
1934-1936	Mrs Arthur Hardy*	1994-1996	Mrs Patricia Burroughs*
1936-1937	Mrs Francis Gill*	1996-1998	Mrs Leslie Boyce
1937-1938	Mrs C.A. Gray*	1998-2000	Mrs Susan Lahey
1938-1939	Miss Ethel Beament*	2000-2002	Mrs Lillian Smith
1939-1940	Mrs I. Perley Robertson*	2002-2004	Mrs Mary Frances McIntyre*
1940-1941	Mrs C.H. Blair*	2004-2006	Dr Margaret D. Bell*
1941-1943	Mrs John Ayles*	2006-2008	Barbara Hykle
1943-1945	Mrs Douglas Blair*	2008-2010	Margie Howsam
1945-1947	Mrs Herbert F. Gordon*	2010-2012	Jose Hamilton
1947-1948	Mrs H.R.T. Gill*	2012-2014	Sharon Murphy
1948-1950	Mrs M.C. Christensen*	2014-2016	Margie Howsam

## FORMER PATRONS

Mary Caroline, Countess of Minto  
Alice, Countess Grey  
H.R.H. Princess Louise Marguerite, Duchess of Connaught  
Evelyn Emily Mary, Duchess of Devonshire  
Marie Evelyn, Viscountess Byng of Vimy  
Marie Adelaide, Marchioness of Willingdon  
Roberte, Countess of Bessborough  
Susan Charlotte, Lady Tweedsmuir  
H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone  
Margaret Diana, Viscountess Alexander of Tunis  
The Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, C.H., P.C., D.C.L., LL.D.  
The Hon. Pauline Vanier, P.C., C.C.  
Mrs Norah Michener, C.C., Ph.D.  
Madame Gabrielle Léger, C.C.  
Mrs Lily Schreyer, C.C.  
The Rt. Hon. Jeanne Sauvé, P.C., C.C., C.M.M., C.D., LL.D.  
Mrs Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C.  
Mrs Diana Fowler Leblanc, C.C.  
The Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, C.C., C.M., C.D.  
The Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.C.M., C.O.M., C.D.  
Mrs. Sharon Johnston, C.C.



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