

124TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

2022-2023

"Enriching the lives of others as well as our own"



THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

On April 30, 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 in 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 Tuberculosis Clinic in Canada. Currently we house and support the May Court Hospice, provide grants to community organizations, and award scholarships to nurse practitioners and those studying Information Studies.

A Message from the President

President's Report

The past year has been a good one for the May Court Club of Ottawa. We were honoured that Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, accepted our patronage request. We are seeing recovery from some of the effects of the pandemic. The Club is open to in-person events; the Bargain Box is open 5 days per week; sales are bouncing back to pre-COVID levels; new members are joining the Club. Our 125 anniversary Celebration Luncheon was a very successful event. All in all, the future looks positive as we continue to recover from the destabilizing effects of COVID-19.


As barriers to group assemblies were lifted the Club slowly began opening up with a return to soup lunches, the running of an in-person memoir writing course, and a Christmas lunch attended by over 60 members. The After 5s and the Aberdeen Artisans have resumed meeting in-person to become reacquainted with each other and to be inspired by the exchange of ideas within their respective groups. There were no more tailgate sales, and the Christmas Market emerged as a successful in-person event.

The Bargain Box has been moving rapidly forward. As our major fundraiser and largest group of volunteers, it is vital to the ongoing health of the Club. Not only does it raise over a hundred thousand dollars gross per year when fully operational, it also donates items from the shop to assist various other community groups such as immigrants, a community health centre, and various community shelters.

Many thanks are due to all the Bargain Box ladies. The May Court Club truly appreciates their hard work and dedication. It keeps our budget looking good and allows us to maintain our giving to the community.

These moves forward have been greatly helped by the ongoing recruitment we have had for new members. Over 12 new members have joined the Club in the past year, helping to strengthen numbers. This has been very rewarding, as new members bring energy, new vision, and ideas to the Club. All very important qualities for a club wishing to continue its long history.

The major impetus of the past few months has been our 125 anniversary in 2023 of our founding in 1898 by Lady Aberdeen, wife of the then Governor General of Canada. The Club was motivated to celebrate and show our hope in the future. Having survived many calamities—two world wars, a major depression, and now two world-wide pandemics—the Club was certain it could carry on, albeit changed in response to the needs of this last pandemic. Adjusting to fears of the disease, isolation, vaccine worries, online meetings: all were taken in stride. Surviving for 125 years was worthy of a celebration. The MC125 Committee was formed and planned the response. We would donate \$125,000.00 to a worthy Ottawa community organization addressing a pressing public health issue chosen by the committee. This was narrowed down to mental health issues, drug addiction, children's needs, and women's needs.



Approval was sought from the membership who voted strongly for the plan. The announcement of the donation would be made at a Celebration Luncheon in May 2023. Planning for the luncheon and the selection of the community organization to receive the donation proceeded rapidly. All went well. The luncheon was a sellout, indeed oversold, and we received many welcome donations from sponsors as well.

The donation went to Crossroads Children's Mental Health Centre to fund a program designed to increase the capacity of Ottawa mental health professionals to help children with emotional issues under the age of 12 and their families.

In an effort to share the Club's history and 125th anniversary, several contacts were made to the media. One local community newspaper and a local TV program featured the Club and its accomplishments in the community. Links to these features can be found on our website.

Many thanks go to all who helped and supported the 125 Committee with these celebrations. It was a Club effort.

Although the Club gave a special one-time donation for our 125-year anniversary, we continued on with other donations. The Hospice at May Court site of Hospice Care Ottawa received a donation of \$100,000 to continue our support for hospice care. The Club also gave \$24,000 to the Ottawa Coalition of Community Houses for an After School Snack Program. Three scholarships for graduate study were also awarded this year.

Another challenge facing the Club is the new Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) which was enacted in 2021 and will require compliance by October 2024. In order to meet that deadline, the Club has hired a lawyer, one of several recommended on the ONCA website, to assist the Club in moving toward that goal. She has already begun examining our documents relevant to the ONCA changes.

Along with those anticipated changes, the Board of Directors struck an ad hoc committee to examine all board positions, job descriptions and terms of office. These were last reviewed in 2000 and, after 23 years and a pandemic, a review was in order.

Last but not least, the Club was very happy to recognize and celebrate Mary Schoenfeld for her 25 years of service in the May Court Club office. Her loyalty and integrity are well known. We thank both her and Bill Craig, our building superintendent, for their loyalty and diligence on the Club's behalf.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Board of Directors and the chairs, convenors and members of the various programs and committees for their commitment and devotion to the Club without which we, the Club, would not exist. Without them, none of this would have been accomplished.

Donna Shields-Poë

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA
Celebrating 125 Years of Community Service

Viceregal Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2022-2023

PAST PRESIDENT	Christine Beelen
PRESIDENT	Donna Shields-Poë
VICE PRESIDENT	Kathy Yach
RECORDING SECRETARY	Leslie Jones
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Barbara Hykle
TREASURER	Beth Burn
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Dorothy Scorsone
MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR	Jenni Barbarie
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR	Holly Hesper-Quirk
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR	Zenia Leigh
SOCIAL DIRECTOR	Barbara Burton
BARGAIN BOX DIRECTOR	Patricia Sanders
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	Betty Rehbein Dj (Dorothy) Smith


Past President's Report

It is my honour as Past President to be the Club's liaison with Hospice Care Ottawa. As an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors, I have an opportunity to witness the ongoing dedication of board members, volunteers, and staff to the important work of supporting individuals and their families with compassionate end-of-life care. There are now three locations providing palliative care, day programs, respite for caregivers, and bereavement programs for families. While only two of the locations, May Court and the Ruddy Shenkman, provide residential beds, the hope is eventually La Maison de L'Est will receive adequate funding to do the same for the francophone community. La Maison de L'Est provides day programs and bereavement services from the Promenade Retirement Residence in Orleans. Great efforts are made to ensure the whole community feels supported by the work conducted at hospice.

Since joining the Hospice Board, I have learned so much about the need for advocacy, equality of access, the stresses on the care providers and so much more. The pandemic added a whole new level of strain on the medical and non-medical staff, the effects of which continue. Hospice completed all eight steps of the Hospice Palliative Care Ontario accreditation that includes self-assessment, evidence collection, and peer review by experienced hospice palliative care leaders and clinicians and were granted full accreditation which lasts three years. In addition, during the past year there has been a significant change of staff at all levels of the organization. Many have been taking on new roles or assisting in providing services on top of their current positions. New medical and non-medical staff are being trained and brought on-stream regularly. A review is underway to balance the workload. Needless to say, it has been a challenging time for the hospice team.

The Club's relationship with the Hospice is strong, and it goes beyond being identified as Sustaining Benefactor. There is rarely a Board or Joint Property Management meeting that goes by without appreciation given to the Club for its support, and members of the Hospice Leadership Team and Board were present at our 125th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon. They were so impressed by the Club video they have asked if they can show it at their Annual General Meeting.

At the Club's Annual General Meeting on June 7, Hospice Care Ottawa recognized the Club's 125th Anniversary with the unveiling of a plaque to be installed at the entrance to the Elizabeth Wing in the May Court Hospice site. Lisa Sullivan, Executive Director of Hospice Care Ottawa, was accompanied by Barbara Hogberg, a member of the Board of Directors, and Hilary Evans, the Director of Fund Development and Communications. A special guest joined us, Mary Lee Smith, who was the last Chair of the Board of the foundation that operated the Elizabeth Residence for Elderly Women. The residence operated between 1920 and 1982 and was originally founded by Dr. Elizabeth Smith Shortt, one of Canada's first female doctors and a colleague of Lady Aberdeen in the establishment of the Victorian Order of Nurses and the Canadian Council of Women.



When the residence closed after a fire made it prohibitive to repair, the foundation provided the Club the proceeds of the sale – \$240,000 (equivalent to \$757,780 today) – that allowed for the extension on the convalescent home that includes the current residential portion of the Hospice.

The Club has been providing the Hospice with rent-free space, maintenance and repairs, volunteers, and financial contributions for the past 24 years. Hospice Care Ottawa appreciates this collaboration. Government support to hospice is hard-fought and only covers 60% of the costs.

Fundraising efforts are a considerable undertaking. The Hike for Hospice on June 3 was a big success. It was held in person at Carleton University and raised \$221,775. 135 hikers, both individuals and teams, walked the 5 km in beautiful weather. Other fundraising events will be held in person again this year: Holes for Hospice on September 6 and Homes for the Holidays November 17-19.

The partnership with the Hospice supports our community in ways that would make Lady Aberdeen proud. She wanted the members of The May Court Club of Ottawa to provide service to the community. It is a legacy that continues.

Christine Beelen

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA, TREASURER'S REPORT

2022 Annual Financial Report

The 2022 audited statement was presented at the June 7, 2023 Annual General Meeting. 2022 was also the final year of pandemic restrictions, allowing the Club to gradually return to in-person activities and more use of the Club itself.

As per the auditor, the audit of the financial statements is complete up to December 31, 2022. The audit opinion was a qualified opinion as the completeness of fundraising revenues is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. This type of audit opinion is common amongst many not-for-profit organizations. The auditor concluded his presentation by stating that the May Court Club was in strong financial position, and our greatest risk factor is market volatility. On May 25, 2023, the Board accepted the results of the audit.

The details of the audit are meant to be used in creating subsequent budgets. These management estimates are intended to guide financial decisions by the Board.

The income generated for the May Court Club consisted of Investment Income (realized gains, interest and dividends) of \$342,672, + fundraising (Bargain Box, Aberdeen Artisans, the memoire writing course and brand sales) of \$115,704 + bequests and donations of \$36,998 + membership fees of \$15,990, + apartment rental of \$17,376 + other \$3,484 for a **total gross profit of \$493,100. This reflects a 16.59% increase over 2021.** The net revenue from the Bargain Box of \$66,854 is the main reason for the increase of our income over 2021.

The gradual reduction of pandemic restrictions during 2022 did not lead to more fundraising activities, but it did result in the continued reduction of some of our expenses for **total expenses of \$341,738.** This also reflects an increase of 7% over 2021. The most significant of these expenses are property maintenance costs at \$84,397, our Hospice donation of \$100,000, administrative expenses of \$74,318, and \$25,786 for professional services.

In the spring of 2022, the financial markets began a long descent. As a result, we suffered an **unrealized loss of \$532,035.** By the end of the year, Our Operating Fund portfolio closed the year at \$4,050,835, and our Scholarship Fund portfolio (fully funding 2 Centennial Scholarships and the Anderson Scholarship) closed at \$315,910.46. Overall, this reflects a 9% decrease in our investments from 2021. As we plan for future spending, we must remain vigilant as our investment advisor strongly encourages us to maintain the Operating Fund portfolio at or above \$4 million to continue supporting our current level of spending.

Our net revenue for 2022, before unrealized losses, was \$151,362. When the unrealized loss is included, **our financial statement indicates a net revenue loss of \$380,673 for 2022.**

In 2023, the CRA disbursement quota increased to 5%. However, this audit is for 2022 so the CRA disbursement quota remains at 3.5%. Based on the combination of charitable donations made in the year (\$134,000), and 98% of the property maintenance expenses, the Canada Revenue Agency's charity disbursement quota of 3.5% (\$156,175) has been met and exceeded.

Beth Burn

Donations to the Community

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

1. Palliative Care

Hospice at May Court	\$ 100,000
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2. Education

Susan Anderson Scholarship	\$ 5,000
Centennial Scholarship	\$ 5,000

3. Children

Community Houses Nutrition Programme	\$ 24,000
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Total Financial Aid	\$134,000 *
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- Note: The May Court Club also paid all of the property maintenance and repair expenses of the Hospice at May Court.

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2022, with comparative figures for 2021

	2022	2021
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 96,063	\$ 71,185
HST rebate receivable	7,818	17,880
Inventory	3,415	3,717
Accrued receivables	12,446	22,661
Prepaid expenses	24,512	12,282
	144,254	127,725
Long-term investments (Note 2)	4,366,746	4,799,306
Capital assets (Note 3)	442,256	446,550
	\$ 4,953,256	\$ 5,373,581
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 32,157	\$ 72,807
Deferred revenue	9,753	8,755
	41,910	81,562
Commitments (Note 4)		
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	442,256	446,550
Internally restricted for:		
May Court Club of Ottawa Centennial Scholarship	208,859	236,265
Unrestricted	4,260,231	4,609,204
	4,911,346	5,292,019
	\$ 4,953,256	\$ 5,373,581

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Director

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Year ended December 31, 2022, with comparative figures for 2021

	2022	2021
Revenue		
Investment income (Note 5)	\$ 342,672	\$ 287,079
Fundraising projects revenue (Schedule A)	115,704	102,317
Bequests and donations	36,998	35,363
Rental	17,376	17,170
Membership fees	15,990	15,362
Social functions	3,484	210
Forgivable portion of Canada Emergency Business Account loan	-	10,000
Other revenue	-	2,584
	532,224	470,085
Cost of fundraising projects (Schedule A)	39,124	47,132
Gross profit	493,100	422,953
Expenses		
Administrative	74,318	65,641
Amortization of capital assets	12,294	11,154
Building maintenance and utilities:		
- Repairs	18,809	41,929
- Routine	65,588	68,867
Communications	557	515
Delegate expenses and association dues	6,292	-
Donations	134,000	104,919
Professional fees	25,786	25,835
Social function expenses	4,094	511
	341,738	319,371
Net revenue before unrealized (loss) gain on long-term investments	151,362	103,582
Unrealized (loss) gain on long-term investments	(532,035)	528,267
Net (expenses) revenue	\$ (380,673)	\$ 631,849

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

May Court Bargain Box

Patricia Sanders

The Bargain Box donations for this year, like last year, have kept our sorting and unpacking team (the Monday Morning Ladies) very busy downstairs in the store. Of course, this high level of activity also includes the upstairs teams who price and display items in the store. All the Monday Morning Ladies are very busy. Without them and the cashiers and clerks that maintain the store, we could not keep the Bargain Box open.

We continue to donate items to the Salvation Army, Clothing for Charity, and recent refugees to Ottawa. We also support smaller charities like AIDS Committee of Ottawa, Dalhousie Food Cupboard, and Sandy Hill Community Health Centre.

Our focus is on providing clean, good quality, current items for our customers. We started something new this summer, we now have a Sale Rack at the front of the store that features items for one low price. We started this in August with summer items and intend to continue this new venture. The low price will change depending on the items for sale.

We are adapting to the changing lifestyles of our customers. Many employees now work from home, and they do not wear the more formal office clothes they once did. We realize we must change to be current and maintain profitability.

The store recently increased prices slightly to reflect the increase in operational costs. To date, total sales for the Bargain Box are approximately 65% more than this time last year. It is a very encouraging sign for the end of year total. It is also rewarding to all the volunteers that have kept the Bargain Box going through these very difficult past two years.

The Bargain Box, the Gift that Keeps on Giving.

Scholarship Committee

Sharon Henry and Bev MacSween

We are pleased to announce the 2023-2024 scholarship winners!

This is the first year that the Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship was expanded to include, not only students in the Master of Information Studies at the University of Ottawa, but also those in the Master of Information at the University of Toronto and the Master of Library and Information Science at Western University. This year's winner is Meaghan Gibbons, a student at Western University in London, Ontario.

Both of our Centennial Scholarships for Nurse Practitioners have been won by students at the University of Ottawa. Congratulations go out to Kathryn Nichol and Steve Ross.

Hospice at May Court Day Reception Desk

Kerry DeBlois

There are currently 14 May Court members working at the hospice reception desk. They worked a total of 515.5 hours from January 1 to June 30 this year.

The residence is back up to pre-COVID numbers of new patients admitted. Also, Day Hospice is back in full swing which makes for a busy hospice some days.

Many thanks to the members who help at the reception desk. The schedule has returned to full hours, and we look forward to supporting the caregivers, families, and all those who access the Hospice.

After 5s

Nancy Birchard

The After 5s is a committee of the May Court Club that meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. It is an opportunity for members to volunteer outside of the traditional 9-5 hours. The main mandate of the After 5s is to support Club activities when called upon to do so.

We have taken on a few initiatives of our own, notably the Valentine Gift Bags for women in shelters. We have also agreed to take over the Christmas Sock Project in conjunction with an outside organization that distributes filled socks to those in need in the community. We are a social group that enjoys pizza and a beverage at our meetings. One of our topics this year was how to prepare a "go-bag" in case of having to vacate one's home with very little notice due to an emergency. We also had a book exchange and are planning to have a puzzle exchange. Club members are welcome to join at any time.

CLUB SERVICE REPORTS

Member Services Committee

Jenni Barbarie

As with many organizations during the pandemic, the May Court Club dealt with more attrition among our members than usual. However, in the past 12 months we have welcomed 15 new members. Our membership now comprises 89 Associate members, 49 Active members, 14 Life members, 5 Past Presidents, and 7 Out-of-Town members, for a total of 175.

The enthusiasm and commitment of the members is reflected in the almost 11,000 volunteer hours recorded on Club and Community Committees and activities. We recognize this figure does not reflect the true contribution of so many who undoubtedly give much more of their time and effort.

Recording Secretary

Leslie Jones

The Board of Directors of the May Court Club of Ottawa usually met on the fourth Thursday of every month from September to June. In addition, the Fall General Meeting was held on October 19, 2022, and the Spring General Meeting on March 30, 2023. The 125th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in person on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at the May Court Club, 114A Cameron Avenue. At the AGM, Board Reports were presented, and the slate of Directors for the 2023-24 year was elected. This year, the majority of the Board meetings were held in person at the Club, with just a few held on Zoom due to inclement weather conditions.

Archives Committee Report

Christine Beelen

A new Archives Committee was struck in June 2022, and has started to work on a process to make the Archives more usable and searchable. Steps began this year to catalogue all the documents in the Archives. The Committee has also begun to consider how to undertake our custodial work over the May Court's documentary history within a professional code of archival work.

Due to a request from the May Court 125 Committee for documentation to prepare a video history of the Club, the Committee gathered material and information from yearbooks, minutes and the wealth of early photographs scattered through the Archives. The Committee is aware of materials in locations other than the basement archives – the executive office and the electrical room being two in particular. These materials will eventually become part of the Archives' records.

Thanks go to the most-recent past Archives Committee, José Hamilton and Cheryl Ford, for safeguarding the collection after the basement repair work. When the basement was again usable for the Archives, they made a great effort to sort the documents into categories which has been very useful.

Aberdeen Artisans Committee (AAC)

Sharyn Heagle

With the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions in early 2022, the Artisans discontinued the Tailgate Sales which had successfully operated during the 2020 and 2021 pandemic.

However, Ministry of Health decisions didn't necessarily translate into increased socializing for many who were reluctant to risk exposure. Consequently, the Artisans were cautious in presenting the 2022 on-site May Court Spring Market, maintaining conditions like distancing and the wearing of masks.

The moderate success of the Spring Market encouraged the Artisans to make plans for a 2022 Christmas Market as well, with the hope of achieving sales figures similar to pre-pandemic.

Financially, the income in 2022 slightly exceeded pre-pandemic figures. It appeared people were thankful to be able to participate in a social activity, support the May Court and purchase unique, quality, hand-crafted products again.

A decision was made to return to the annual Christmas Markets as our primary annual sales event and revenue source. However, a glass-sided bookcase was purchased to house Aberdeen Artisan items to be made available to the public throughout the year.

The Artisans have also made an important operational change by returning to its origins – the gathering of women to discuss and share their crafts, skills, creative ideas and newly made items. Monthly meetings will be focused on these interactions, with business and administrative meetings being held when needed.

Johanna Blakney agreed to return to her previous position as Convener of the Aberdeen Artisans, relieving Sharyn Heagle who had filled the position for several years. The Artisans are grateful to Johanna for agreeing to take on this responsibility again.

Outreach Committee

Barbara Hykle

The Committee resumed in-person soup lunches in the fall, with an average attendance of 15 members at five gatherings. The Member Services Committee coordinated some of their interviews for new members on the same day and used the opportunity to attend the lunch afterwards—a nice way to introduce new members to the Club. Thank you to the zone captains for their participation in organizing these lunches.

Communications

Holly Hesper-Quirk

The Communications Committee is responsible for keeping the members of the Club as well as the public informed about the Club and its activities. Members receive quarterly newsletters, and a *Behind the Pink Door* bulletin is sent out every two weeks (excluding summer). The Committee is also responsible for keeping the website up to date regarding the details of the Club and its community involvement, and it creates posts for the Club's Instagram and Facebook page and monitors the activity. In addition, the Communications Committee collects the various Club committee reports and edits and compiles them for the Annual Report.

Posters were created for the Club's general meetings as well as for the Christmas Market. The Christmas Market was also promoted online through the website, Instagram and Facebook page. Special promotions were done for the Celebration Luncheon, held in May, which marked the beginning of a year-long celebration of the Club's 125th anniversary. The Club received recognition from Crossroads Children's Mental Health Centre for the \$125,000 donation which was announced at the luncheon. In addition, the May Court Hospice also acknowledged the Club at the Annual General Meeting with a plaque for its contribution to the Elizabeth Wing. The Club was grateful for the opportunity to be featured in the March issue of a local paper, The OSCAR. In addition, Daytime Ottawa on Rogers TV did a feature in March.

Thanks and appreciation go to the Committee members

Betty Rehbein – website, layout for newsletters

Jayne O'Brien – Annual Report, publicity

Christine Beelen – *Behind the Pink Door* bulletins

Valerie Zinger – Facebook and Instagram, posters

Nicole McKenna – layout for newsletters

Property Management

Zenia Leigh

The May Court Club of Ottawa is in the enviable position of owning its large building set within wonderful grounds on the Rideau River. Without such ownership, it would not be able to serve as the sustaining benefactor for Hospice Care Ottawa. The Club provides space within the building to accommodate the May Court Hospice and takes responsibility for maintaining that space to meet healthcare facilities code requirements. The age of the clubhouse and its extensions ranges from eighty (80) to one hundred and fifteen (115) years. It should be no surprise, therefore, that property management of the building is costly.

From annual snow-clearing costs for the large parking lots, to the servicing and maintenance of the extensive heating and ventilation systems, to the regular inspection and, when necessary, containment of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) throughout the building, the budget is regularly stretched. We are fortunate to be covered by contracts with dedicated and experienced contractors in each of these areas.

The Club is confident that the building and its property, with careful maintenance of all aspects, should serve us well for many years to come.

Social Report

Barbara Burton

The May Court Club has enjoyed a full social calendar for the first time since March 2020. While precautions were taken to mitigate COVID-19 threats, our membership enjoyed four social events organized by the Social Committee this year. Attendance ranged from 40 to 65 members at these events. The Fall General Meeting in October was followed by a charcuterie lunch. In early December, the ever-popular Christmas Luncheon, featuring traditional tea sandwiches and sweets made by our Board members, was a fitting start to the holiday season. The Spring General Meeting, held in March, featured a pasta lunch. With the special 125 Celebration Luncheon being held in May, it was decided that the June Annual General Meeting would be held at the Club. A light sandwich lunch was served to our largest group, thus far, since the pandemic.

These social events are very important to maintain the feeling of connection among members, who often carry out their volunteer work alone or with only a few others. This is an opportunity for them to “catch up” with each other. It is also a way for our newest members, who work these events by serving and cleaning up, to meet many of the members while earning volunteer hours.

A return to a full social calendar is a testament to the resilience of the members and the spirit that permeates the May Court Club.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA – 125TH ANNIVERSARY

The 125 Anniversary year of The May Court Club of Ottawa is off to a wonderful start.

On May 7, the Celebration Luncheon was held at the Museum of Nature, and 164 guests attended. Members, former members, family, friends and May Court supporters came together to enjoy a delicious lunch and celebrate the many achievements of the Club since 1898.

A video was made which set the tone for the whole event. It showcased the Club from the early days to the present and presented many of the ways the Club has helped the community. Many guests, some of whom were members, relayed how they learned much of what they hadn't known previously. Several declared, "Watching the video makes me so proud to be a member of this Club."

The main highlight was the presentation of the donation of \$125,000 to Crossroads Children's Mental Health Centre, whose tagline is *Help for Children, Hope for Families*. It's an organization that works with children under 12. Since 1995, Crossroads has been committed to developing a wide range of mental health services to help children and their families struggling with severe emotional, behavioural, and social challenges.

The Club's gift will be used for a program called "Circle of Security." This is a recognized intervention which has been thoroughly researched and has been proven to be very effective. Its goal is to help the caregiver (parents, teachers, childcare givers) change the quality of the attachment relationship to increase connection with the child. Secure attachments at an early age can change the course of a child's life. Our gift will mean young children's lives will be changed for the better and lay the foundation for positive mental health across their lifespans.

After the event, one guest in attendance sent the following:

"I am sure you could see why your announcement of Crossroads was such a shock but one that completely filled my heart. What a pleasant surprise. As I mentioned, that shock sent me back to my time with Crossroads when they literally changed the course of my life and ultimately my daughter's life. I am still in awe of the May Court taking such time and effort to choose this most deserving organization. Those were dark days and their gentle hand guided me to change our lives for the better. It was a struggle but one that I don't regret one bit. I wish to send my deep and profound thanks to the effort you all put in to fundraise and provide those funds to such a worthy organization. Thank you to each and every one of you!!!!"

Also, she has gone to her bank and set up a monthly donation to The May Court Club of Ottawa.

Going forward, the MC125 Committee is planning 3 more events to celebrate our anniversary year: an event in November with a presentation by internationally renowned florist, Gerry Arial, an event in March, and a wonderful finale in April called "A Stylish Retrospective."

President Donna Shields-Poë, Past President Christine Beelen, and myself attended two Association meetings this past year. The first one was in Barrie, Ontario, and the second one was in Kitchener-Waterloo. The second one was the annual meeting of the Clubs. Christine Beelen, our Past President, was elected to the Association Executive Committee as Director at Large for 2023-2024.

At the two meetings, we created a strategic plan to document the Clubs' vision, goals and strategies to expand membership and keep all of the members connected. The plan will serve as a guide to setting membership goals and evaluating individual Club's progress to "reignite the fire."

All the other Clubs are experiencing similar issues such as members leaving due to age and how to increase membership. The new Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act was also discussed, and the Clubs are presently working on ensuring compliance.

STRATEGIC PLANNING EXERCISE

Following the Board decision in 2019 to create a committee to set out a strategic plan for the Club, work began by conducting a membership survey. Just as the follow-up process was to begin, the pandemic stopped all activity on this process. In Spring 2022, the Board started the work again. While the results of the membership survey were useful, the environment had changed. The Board spent considerable time identifying what they saw as Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT). Taking those results, they identified four major areas in which to focus efforts: membership, communications, fundraising, and finance. As 2023 is the Club's 125 anniversary, the Board recognized that some of the focused activities planned by the Strategic Planning process would naturally evolve from events for the anniversary year.

A townhall meeting was held on January 30, 2023, with 20 members gathering to discuss how we could move forward in a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) way to create a Club that is dynamic, continues its main goal of providing community service, and is attractive to new members. Five projects were identified with a fall 2023 deadline: establish a telephone tree to share Club information; pitch volunteer opportunities to organizations/workplaces; re-establish Members' Time meetings; hold an information session with a financial advisor about donation options; include sale of services to the Online Auction or Christmas Market. In the meantime, other focus items that had been identified in the original process have also been addressed. A milestone report card of the process will be presented in the fall and a complete review held in January 2024.

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2023

Past President	Sandi Mackenzie, St Catherines
President	Donna Samuels, Oakville
Vice President	Darlene Mooney, Barrie
Secretary-Treasurer	Sharon Shields, Oakville
Director at Large	Joan Price, Oakville

MEMBER MAY COURT CLUBS

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

Fundraising Committee: Online Auction

Kathy Yach

With the focus on the 125 anniversary Celebration Luncheon, no additional events were planned for the first half of the year.

Charitable Giving Committee

Kathy Yach

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that there would not be any additional funding given out this year due to the disbursement of the special 125 anniversary donation of \$125,000 to Crossroads Children's Mental Health Centre. In the future, there will be an online application, in addition to the printable version, on the Club website (under Charitable Giving). Requests for applications for financial assistance, submitted by community organizations, will resume in the fall once the budget has been set for 2024.

PAST PRESIDENTS

*Deceased

1898-1900	Miss Ethel Hamilton*	1954-1956	Mrs Robert Gill*
1900-1902	Mrs Edward Fauquier*	1956-1958	Mrs Harold Mulkins*
1902-1904	Lady Perley*	1958-1960	Mrs Manson Campbell*
1904-1906	Mrs Robert Kernan*	1960-1962	Mrs Eric Prime*
1906-1908	Lady Sybil Middleton*	1962-1964	Mrs Lloyd B. Rochester*
1908-1909	Mrs Robert Kernan*	1964-1966	Mrs David Hazelgrove*
1909-1910	Miss Florence Fielding*	1966-1968	Mrs P.D. Holt*
1910-1911	Mrs Gordon Hewitt*	1968-1970	Mrs J.H.F. Kenny*
1911-1912	Miss Mary Scott*	1970-1972	Mrs W.F.A. Davies
1912-1913	Lady Perley*	1972-1974	Mrs W.P. Power*
1913-1916	Miss Edith MacPherson*	1974-1976	Mrs Ian McDiarmid
1916-1918	Mrs Robert Kernan*	1976-1978	Mrs Joan Prime*
1918-1920	Miss Sarah Sparks*	1978-1980	Mrs Mary Elizabeth Harris*
1920-1921	Mrs Lennox Blackburn*	1980-1982	Mrs Marian Parry*
1921-1922	Miss Margaret Southam*	1982-1984	Mrs Ellen Lahey*
1922-1923	Mrs Massy Baker*	1984-1986	Mrs Kay Yeomans*
1923-1925	Mrs Louise White*	1986-1988	Mrs Patricia Scott
1925-1927	Mrs Noulan Cauchon*	1988-1990	Mrs Joyce Clarkson
1927-1928	Mrs H.P. Hill*	1990-1992	Mrs Nancy Carruthers*
1928-1929	Miss Gwendolyn Burn*	1992-1994	Mrs Isabel Pepler*
1930-1933	Miss Freda Fripp*	1994-1996	Mrs Patricia Burroughs*
1933-1934	Mrs Selwyn Wilson*	1996-1998	Mrs Leslie Boyce
1934-1936	Mrs Arthur Hardy*	1998-2000	Mrs Susan Lahey*
1936-1937	Mrs Francis Gill*	2000-2002	Mrs Lillian Smith
1937-1938	Mrs C.A. Gray*	2002-2004	Mrs Mary Frances McIntyre*
1938-1939	Miss Ethel Beament*	2004-2006	Dr Margaret D. Bell*
1939-1940	Mrs I. Perley Robertson*	2006-2008	Barbara Hykle
1940-1941	Mrs C.H. Blair*	2008-2010	Margie Howsam
1941-1943	Mrs John Aylen*	2010-2012	Jose Hamilton
1943-1945	Mrs Douglas Blair*	2012-2014	Sharon Murphy
1945-1947	Mrs Herbert F. Gordon*	2014-2016	Margie Howsam
1947-1948	Mrs H.R.T. Gill*	2016-2018	Nancy Pyper
1948-1950	Mrs M.C. Christensen*	2018-2020	Dorothy Scorsone
1950-1952	Mrs Gordon Medcalf*	2020-2022	Christine Beelen
1952-1954	Mrs Melville Rogers*		

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.
Julie Payette CC CMM COM CQ CD



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