



2025-26 **Annual** **Report**

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

**THE
MAY
COURT
CLUB OF
OTTAWA**

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

The May Court Club of Ottawa is a dynamic service club for women living in Ottawa and the surrounding region. Founded in 1898, it is the oldest club of its kind in Canada. It has inspired the formation of other May Court Clubs in Canada. The Club has dedicated its services from its earliest days to the needs of the community, often in the field of health and welfare for women and children. Currently, the Club accommodates and supports the May Court Hospice, provides grants to community organizations, and awards scholarships to nurse practitioners and those enrolled in Information Studies. It operates the Bargain Box, a thriving thrift shop that serves as a community hub besides being a major generator of funds. The May Court Club of Ottawa works to offer its members a sense of purpose through volunteerism, and a sense of belonging through association. Friendship is an integral part of the mix, and the handsome clubhouse in Old Ottawa South provides a welcoming central location for interest and activity groups as well as a venue for fundraising events.



The Mandate: to engage exclusively in such charitable undertakings as deemed advisable by the Corporation.

The Mission Statement: to enrich the lives of others as well as our own.

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2025 – 2026

Viceregal Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honorable Mary Simon

PAST PRESIDENT	Donna Shields-Poë
PRESIDENT	Kathy Yach
VICE PRESIDENT	Linda Meek
RECORDING SECRETARY	Jennifer Henry
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Gloria Macklin
TREASURER	Dorothy (DJ) Smith
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Debra Young
MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR	Sally Hutchison
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR	Vacant
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR	Barbara Burton
SOCIAL DIRECTOR	Nancy Birchard
BARGAIN BOX DIRECTOR	Colleen Crozier
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	Sandra Berringer Tracy Alexander Kerry DeBlois

A Message from the President

Kathy Yach

It has been a busy two years since assuming the role of president. Many things have happened during the two years. There is a new tenant in the apartment. The Bargain Box started accepting payment by debit / credit cards which has positively impacted sales. Thanks to everyone that volunteers at the Bargain Box. Holly Hesel Quirk created two new volunteer programs on behalf of the May Court Club. The May Court Early Literacy Program involves volunteers working with kindergarten children individually or in groups to assist with reading and vocabulary. The English Conversation Circle began in June to support and connect new immigrant women. Melanie Yach, a lawyer with the firm, Aird & Berlis LLP in Toronto, gave a presentation on October 31st regarding Wills and estates as well as a talk on MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying), a legal healthcare procedure in Canada that allows eligible individuals to end their life with the help of a medical professional. The well attended presentation resulted in many thoughtful questions and discussions. Polly Anne Sobier scheduled the Women's Heart Health Team, from the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, presentation and mobile clinic, which was well attended. Johanna Blakney was responsible for decorating the club for every season and as always, it was beautiful.

We received a lovely thank you from the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre for our "generous donation to our 2025 Stuffed Sock Project and thank you to Patricia Sanders for partnering with us to coordinate these donations. For the last eighteen years, we at the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre have given out hundreds of pairs of heavy, woolen socks to some of our clients who need them the most. The pairs of warm socks are stuffed with toiletries, food items, hand warmers, and other useful items. For many years now, the May Court Club has been extremely generous with contributions to this project. As always, we appreciate the abundance and quality of your donations – we filled close to 150 socks. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity in helping us carry on this fun annual holiday project that helps spread a little cheer at an otherwise cold time of the year."

In the spring of 2026, the board hired a consultant to collaborate on a strategic plan for the Club. The discussion included opportunities for improvement, areas of concern and strategic direction. Consideration being given to the traditions, mission and values of the May Court Club of Ottawa. The new board will have the opportunity to review and discuss The Strategic Plan prior to presentation at the fall annual general meeting.

Barbara Burton and Tracy Alexander oversaw the upgrading of the back terrace of the hospice. It is lovely. Thank you to Laura French our office administrator. We all really appreciate the role she plays in supporting the club and the members.

Lastly, I would like to thank the membership for making the Club such a strong addition to the Ottawa community. It has been a privilege and honour to work with you as your President. Your constant support and assistance have made the role easier to fulfill.

The hands-on volunteerism of the Club is a tribute to the members dedication and desire to serve the community. As president, I have been impressed by the number of volunteer hours, through committee work, or taking on Board positions you have all completed as well as the support the members have provided to each other.

**Past President
Donna Shields-Poë**

I thought I would give a general overview of the structure of Hospice Care Ottawa (HCO) and our relationship with the organization. The Past President of the May Court Club sits on the Hospice Care Ottawa board as an ex officio member of the board acting as liaison between the two organizations.

Hospice Care Ottawa is the agency which owns and runs the three sites (May Court Site, Ruddy Shenkman and Maison d'Este) of Hospice Care Ottawa delivering palliative care to the Ottawa community. Governing our relationship with Hospice Care Ottawa is an Occupancy Agreement signed between the two independent agencies outlining our respective responsibilities. It can be and has been renewed every five years since the May Court Site was established. On the HCO website we are listed as a sustaining benefactor largely because of our relationship with the May Court Site. I would like to review what that support mainly comprises.

First, we give the site, rent free, to Hospice Care Ottawa. About 10 years ago, it was estimated that rent for a comparable facility would be the equivalent of a charitable donation between \$200,000 and \$-300,000 per year. Today that is now estimated as between \$400,000 and \$450,000 per year. In addition, we pay for other items like snow clearing and external support of the building. According to the agreement, Hospice Care Ottawa does pay for all monthly utilities for the building such as electricity, heating, and water largely because those physical structures are too integrated in the building to separate.

The Club also decided to donate to Hospice Care Ottawa a dollar sum each year to assist in running the May Court Site. This has become the \$100,000 grant. It is not part of the occupancy agreement but a grant, voluntarily decided each year, to be given to the hospice.

The amount we could be considered to give to Hospice Care Ottawa - May Court Site in 2025-26 is:

\$450,000 estimated rent

\$100,000 grant in aid

\$15,000 grant toward cost of the generator

\$20,000 snow removal

\$30,000 partial rebuilding of the hospice's back patio

\$615,000 total

The May Court Club of Ottawa through its continuous fundraising and careful fiscal management is able to continue this program. Many member volunteer hours go to support this significant contribution to the Ottawa community albeit only one of the sites of Hospice Care Ottawa.

Recording Secretary
Jennifer Henry

The Board of Directors of the May Court Club of Ottawa met on the fourth Thursday of every month from September to June, except for the December meeting which was held on the third Thursday of the month. The Fall General Meeting, on October 15, 2025, the Spring General Meeting, on April 1, 2026, and the Annual General Meeting, on June 10, 2026, were held in Lady Aberdeen Hall. During the dinner meeting in June, Board Reports were presented and a new slate of Directors elected for the 2026-2027 year.

Treasurer
Dorothy (DJ) Smith

This is the annual financial report for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2025. HW Partners (a renaming of our long-time auditors, Hendry Warren) completed the financial audit of the May Court Club of Ottawa in April 2026. The report was presented to the Finance Committee and to the Board of Directors, with the Board approving it as presented on May 28, 2026. Consistent with prior years and in common with many not-for-profit organizations, the auditors gave a qualified opinion. This is because of the difficulty in auditing cash transactions which makes up a portion of our revenue. Even with this, the auditors did not raise any substantive issues. As well, our annual financial

report shows we ended 2025 in a strong financial position with no debts, and our portfolio of investments continues to be managed by RBC Dominion Securities.

Income: As in previous years we had two major fundraisers: the Bargain Box and the November Christmas Craft Fair. The Bargain Box made gross sales of \$135,797 which came to \$84,607 after such costs as rent, cleaning, and telephone. The Craft Fair took in \$12,056. As well, we had revenue of \$15,521 from membership fees, the generosity of supporters making bequests, and donations amounting to \$59,605, and \$21,074 from the rent of the apartment in the building.

Most of our income comes from dividends and interest in our investment portfolio. In 2025, this amounted to \$332,782 of which \$318,095 was from the Operating Fund and \$14,687 from the Scholarship Fund.

Expenses: Hospice Care Ottawa received \$100,000 in 2025 to support specifically the Hospice at May Court. It also received an additional \$15,000 to fund the purchase of a new generator, bringing total donations to \$115,000 for 2025. As well, the Club awarded one Susan B. Anderson scholarship of \$5,000 for a university student studying Information Technology and two Centennial scholarships of \$5,000 each for university students studying to be nurse practitioners.

Total Club expenses for administration came to \$94,771, mainly for staff wages, plus there were expenses of \$81,038 for repairs and regular maintenance on the Club's building, including the portion used by Hospice Care Ottawa. In total, expenses amounted to \$376,675, leaving net revenue of \$603,259 after including the unrealized gain on long-term investments of \$446,573.

In 1924, we had a bottom-line loss of \$17,723 after we set aside the unrealized gain on investments. In 2025, even after setting aside the unrealized gain on investments, we had a profit of \$156,686.

General Situation: The Club has met its Canada Revenue Agency's charity disbursement quota of 3.5%.

During 2025, we transferred our day-to-day bookkeeping management to Hometown Accounting and Tax Services, a local independent company. This change involved moving to an on-line process which we have found efficient and effective. The treasury team, myself and the Assistant Treasurer, Debra Young, thank the Finance Committee whose support and dedication to the Club's fiscal management is so important.

Excerpt from 2025 financial statements, for further details please see full 2025 audited financial statements.

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2025, with comparative figures for 2024

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 137,690	\$ 116,056
HST rebate receivable	7,722	9,081
Inventory	1,488	1,488
Accrued receivables	71,984	54,533
Prepaid expenses	13,829	13,238
	232,713	194,396
Long-term investments (Note 2)	5,043,116	4,441,417
Capital assets (Note 3)	470,989	490,683
	\$ 5,746,818	\$ 5,126,496
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 36,886	\$ 21,162
Deferred revenue	9,945	8,606
	46,831	29,768
Commitments (Note 4)		
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	470,989	490,683
Internally restricted for:		
May Court Club of Ottawa Centennial Scholarship	191,764	192,077
Unrestricted	5,037,234	4,413,968
	5,699,987	5,096,728
	\$ 5,746,818	\$ 5,126,496

Excerpt from 2025 financial statements, for further details please see full 2025 audited financial statements.

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Year ended December 31, 2025, with comparative figures for 2024

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Investment income (Note 5)	\$ 332,783	\$ 159,202
Fundraising projects revenue (Schedule A)	152,166	138,820
Bequests and donations	59,605	35,138
Rental	21,074	18,676
Membership fees	15,521	14,384
Social functions	4,675	4,317
125th Anniversary revenue	125	3,520
	585,949	374,057
Cost of fundraising projects (Schedule A)	52,588	49,913
Gross profit	533,361	324,144
Expenses		
Administrative	94,771	89,619
Amortization of capital assets	25,012	18,123
Building maintenance and utilities:		
- Routine	81,038	70,684
Communications	1,221	2,381
Delegate expenses and association dues	5,033	3,861
Donations	130,000	115,000
Professional fees	36,439	39,824
Social function expenses	3,161	2,375
	376,675	341,867
Net revenue (expense) before unrealized gain on long-term investments	156,686	(17,723)
Unrealized gain on long-term investments	446,573	315,495
Net revenue	\$ 603,259	\$ 297,772

Excerpt from 2025 financial statements, for further details please see full 2025 audited financial statements.

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2025, with comparative figures for 2024

	Invested in Capital Assets	May Court Club of Ottawa Centennial Scholarship (Note 6)	Unrestricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 490,683	\$ 192,077	\$ 4,413,968	\$ 5,096,728	\$ 4,798,956
Net (expenses) revenue	(25,012)	(313)	628,584	603,259	297,772
Acquisition of capital assets	5,318	-	(5,318)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 470,989	\$ 191,764	\$ 5,037,234	\$ 5,699,987	\$ 5,096,728

THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

Cash Flow Statement

Year ended December 31, 2025, with comparative figures for 2024

	2025	2024
Operating activities		
Net expenses over revenue	\$ 603,259	\$ 297,772
Non-cash items:		
Amortization of capital assets	25,012	18,123
Realized loss (gain) on sale of long-term investments	(127,247)	46,265
Unrealized gain on long-term investments	(446,573)	(315,495)
Changes in non-cash working capital (Note 7)	380	3,316
Cash provided by operating activities	54,831	49,981
Investing activities		
Acquisition of long-term investments	(499,471)	(492,362)
Proceeds from sale of long-term investments	471,592	514,678
Acquisition of capital assets	(5,318)	(46,607)
Cash used in investing activities	(33,197)	(24,291)
Increase in cash	21,634	25,690
Cash, beginning of year	116,056	90,366
Cash, end of year	\$ 137,690	\$ 116,056

Community Service Reports

Bargain Box Colleen Crozier

The Bargain Box has become a hub in the community. Many of the cashiers and clerks have shared stories of how customers bought their wedding dresses and tuxedos for their big day. Students and young people starting out on their own have come in to stock their kitchen with china sets, crystal wine glasses, and cutlery, plus other gadgets that will help set up their first apartment. Seniors, living alone downtown, come in to browse and be greeted with a smile and a “nice to see you”, “how are you?”

The Bargain Box depends on donations to fill the store. This year has been a plentiful year for donations. Not every donation is suitable for the store and we share the unsellable items with other charities such as the Street Outreach Society, who help the most vulnerable in the downtown and The Bikers Church, which has a free store for the under privileged families in their area.

The revenue from January to end of May 2026, is \$50,912.42. Many thanks to the sorters in the stockroom, the ladies who stock, price, and display the items for sale and the cashiers and clerks who keep the store open 5 days a week.

Sandra Ferguson, the manager, keeps the store running smoothly. Pat Finn, the scheduler, ensures all the shifts are staffed. Gill Puxty, the treasurer, for counting the money. Patricia Sanders and Pat Peters who are the famous window dressers. Valerie Zinger for taking photos of merchandise in the store for Facebook.

May Court Hospice-Reception Desk Nicole McKenna

The Reception Volunteer is the first point of contact for all guests visiting the Hospice. Duties include overseeing the reception area, welcoming, and screening all staff, volunteers, and visitors, receiving donations in person and over the phone, completing small administrative tasks, answering questions and/or concerns, and directing them to the appropriate person, and finally, receiving and directing deliveries.

The reception shifts are three hours long. First shift begins at 9 a.m. and last shift ends at 9 p.m., which totals four shifts a day. Commitment can be a regular weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly shift, or an occasional shift as needed.

At the present time, all positions are filled, either by May Court Club members or by Hospice Care Ottawa volunteers. The Convenor, Nicole McKenna, will advise if a need arises for more volunteers. Other volunteer positions are available as residence volunteers or day hospice volunteers. These positions require a six-week training course available through Hospice Care Ottawa directly.

The process of applying for any volunteer positions is to contact Nicole McKenna or anyone from the Education Committee. The interested candidate's name is given to the Volunteer Coordinator at the Hospice who will contact the member for an initial interview and next steps, which include a police check. A training package and a shadow shift with an experienced volunteer are part of the introduction.

For any details requiring volunteer positions at the Hospice, please contact Nicole McKenna, May Court Club Hospice Convenor or check the Hospice website at www.hospicecareottawa.ca

Early Literacy Program Holly Heser-Quirk

The May Court Early Literacy Program wrapped up another successful school season. There were eight May Court Club members who participated in the program this past season in various schools within the Ottawa Catholic School Board.

Members were at the schools on a weekly basis. Some met with children one-on-one, and others had small groups. Books, board games, and flash cards were used to help children with letters, sounds, pronunciation, and words. May Court Club members are well received and appreciated by the schools. The program will resume in the fall.

English Conversation Circle Holly Heser-Quirk

The inaugural May Court English Conversation Circle held on June 12, 2026 was a success by all accounts. There were 17 women in attendance: seven guests, eight Club members, and two friends of May Court.

The conversation circle provides a supportive space for immigrant women to connect with other women—namely May Court Club members—to share ideas, discuss timely topics, build confidence, expand their vocabulary, and grow their network.

Monthly gatherings are being planned. A special acknowledgement is given to World Skills Employment Centre for their collaboration with this initiative.

The Scholarship Committee
Sharon Henry

The May Court Club of Ottawa annually offers three scholarships of \$5,000 each. The Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a qualified student in the Master of Information Studies program at the University of Ottawa, the Master of Information at the University of Toronto, or the Master of Library and Information Science at Western University. The two May Court Centennial Scholarships are awarded yearly to qualified nurses entering the first or second year of a Nurse Practitioner programme at an approved Ontario University.

The Board has approved the following winners for 2026 – 2027 scholarships:

The Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship:

Bianca Feltrin, University of Toronto

The May Court Centennial Scholarship:

Abigail Antwi, McMaster University and Victoria Odewole, McMaster University

They have all been notified and have accepted their scholarship awards.

Club Service Reports

Aberdeen Artisans

Gill Puxty

The Artisans continue to be an active group, meeting on the fourth Wednesday each month during the May Court year. Our focus each year is on the May Court Christmas market, which is the second largest fundraiser for the Club, after the Bargain Box.

On November 22, 2025, the Aberdeen Artisans hosted the May Court Christmas market. It was a lovely, sunny day and we started promptly at 10 a.m. The visitors to our Club were met at the door by our president, Kathy Yach, our vice president, Linda Meek, and Sharon Rodgers' granddaughter, who gave each child a small gift. They were then directed through the upper and lower dining rooms to shop at leisure. There was a large number of shoppers.

The Artisans worked hard all week, and produced tables stacked with knitted goods, stained glass ornaments, gift baskets, frozen meals, jams and preserves, baked goods, wreaths, jewelry, and quilted items. There was an enormous donation of quilts from the Kanata Quilters' Guild, which sold well. The baked goods, frozen meals, and preserves disappeared very quickly. Sales were brisk at the start of the day, and there was a

constant flow of traffic, in at the front door and out into the back parking lot. The atmosphere was festive, and people stopped to chat and catch up on news.

Thank you to all the May Court Club members who made this event such a success, especially the Aberdeen Artisans, who contributed many hours to advertise the event, make items for sale, and prepare the rooms for the market. The November 22 Christmas Craft market beat all the records raising \$12,056.

After many years of successful Christmas Craft Markets, Gill Puxty is transitioning to co-convenor, to guide the new convenor, Pam Bush.

After Fives Nancy Birchard

The After 5s group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. from September to June. It is a casual meeting where we share pizza, the libation of our choice, and conversation on current events, travel, books, and puzzles. Our main mandate is to support Club initiatives with hands on when needed. In recent years, this group has filled and delivered Valentine Gift Bags to women in shelters in the Ottawa area. It is always an open get together for any Club member.

Archives Dorothy (DJ) Smith

The Archives Committee has continued the work it began in 2024 of cataloguing our 89 plus boxes of archival material. We will continue this work in 2026, and we expect to be able to start organizing the boxes by the end of the year. The goal is to make the history of our programs more accessible and useable.

Communications Christine Beelen

The dedicated Communications Committee is responsible for Club communication amongst members and to the public. The Club is very fortunate to have such a dynamic, creative team working on their behalf. During the past year when there was no Communications Director on the Board, Christine Beelen acted as Chair of the Committee. Internally, the communications tools include: the Club Newsletter, edited by Nicole McKenna, issued four times a year, the biweekly Behind the Pink Door e-bulletin is assembled by Christine Beelen, and the website are the main platforms to keep members up to date with Club activities. The day-to-day administration of the website was conducted for the past 12 years by Betty Rehbein who is now working closely with Laura French, our Office Administrator, to hand over those duties. Externally, event

posters, the Facebook pages, and the website are used to promote events including fundraisers and the Bargain Box (with wonderful captions!). Most photographs used in these products are provided by Jenni Barbarie, Betty Rehbein, and Valerie Zinger. Posters and the Bargain Box FaceBook pages are created by Valerie Zinger. A member's photo gallery is also available on the website. Joan Ramsey and Jayne O'Brien have provided assistance and advice to the Communications Committee throughout the year. In addition, the Director of the Communications Committee is responsible for assembling the Annual Report.

Fundraising Events **Linda Meek**

On March 7, 2026, we had the opportunity of working with the Bargain Box to put on "A Little Bit of Audrey", a fashion show fundraiser about accessories. It was a successful event which raised over \$2,000. Many friends loved the event and went home with some great new treasures to add to their wardrobes. Due to the success, we plan to organize another event in the fall with some great Christmas and winter finds.

Member Services **Sally Hutchison**

The May Court Club is very pleased to have welcomed seven new members since the last AGM and we thank them for the contributions they have already made to the Club. The new members are Merle Bolick; Pam Bush; Carol Clemenhagen; Mary Faught; Linda Fielding; Krysia Pazdzior and Penny Reedie.

An important milestone has been reached by two members who joined May Court 10 years ago and have each more than fulfilled the required 500 hours of service to become Associate members. Congratulations to Gayle Prefontaine and Valerie Zinger.

While acknowledging milestone anniversaries, we'd also like to acknowledge the following members who have been members for 20 years: Janet Farrell; Cheryl Ford, Jennifer Henry; Sandra Ferguson; Elizabeth Peddie and Dorothy Scorsone.

Congratulations to Susan Conradi who has been a member for 30 years and Leslie Boyce who has been a member for 40 years

Past President Donna Shields-Poë has finished her term and is now a Life Member. Congratulations.

We would like to acknowledge the total number of volunteer hours in 2025 was 9,854. Thank you all!

Property Management
Barbara Burton

It continues to be a busy time for Property Management. There are several new and ongoing projects. There will be a new Property Manager in the next year, and she has already been involved in some upcoming projects. The good news is that the May Court Club continues to be held in high regard by the companies who have worked with us for years. As a result, most are very quick to respond to our needs. The bad news is that like any old house, this one requires constant care and attention which is costly.

I have had the pleasure of working with three amazing people this past year. They are Tracy Alexander, our Assistant Property manager; Bill Craig, our custodian and very willing jack of all trades; and new to us, Laura French, our Office Administrator, who has become increasingly helpful in dealing with contractors and their paperwork.

A summary of the latest projects follows. There were no major issues this year. The building requires regular maintenance, including: the boiler; asbestos abatement; snow removal; attention to small water leaks and small repairs. We have replaced several doors and windows and have scheduled more window replacements. The entire parking lot will be repaired and repaved in the summer when there are no Club activities. The fire escape in the back will be pressure washed and repainted in September when our tenant is away.

The major project, the repair of a portion of the Hospice patio and replacement of the stone wall with a black railing, that began last fall has just been completed. It looks good and has opened the space. We are communicating with the firm that did this work to get an estimate for repair and replacement of the remainder of the patio.

The successes this year are due to the great support from the Board and my three helpers, Tracy, Bill, and Laura. Our relationship with the May Court Hospice also remains very cooperative. I have no doubt that my successor will continue to have your support and will continue to keep this old house in good shape.

Social Committee
Nancy Birchard

The Social Committee is responsible for organizing three general meetings each year: the Fall General Meeting in October, the Spring General Meeting in March and the Annual General Meeting in June. Each of these include a meal. The members' Christmas Party also falls under the Social Committee. It is held at the Club, and the lunch is fancy sandwiches and sweets. The first three of these events are catered, but the Christmas Party food is prepared in house.

Association of May Court Clubs of Canada
Christine Beelen

The Association of May Court Clubs of Canada is the umbrella group that brings delegates from all the Active Clubs together to share ideas, discuss challenges, and support each other. Together we are stronger. The Association is led by an executive team, serving a one-year term, to facilitate this collaboration.

In 2025-2026 the Association faced a major test of its resilience with the withdrawal of the Windsor Club from the organization in the early days of the new executive's term. Considerable effort has been made to increase our communications with each Club through our HUB meetings, sending newsletter texts, reaching out frequently, and generally demonstrating our commitment to being an organization that does its best to be a resource to share our experience and knowledge. The Association had previously accepted that the costs of bringing delegates together twice a year had become prohibitive and that we would hold the bulk of our meetings virtually. Visits by the President and Secretary-Treasurer have also been suspended given the high costs of travel and accommodations. Given I live in Ottawa, I was able to make presentations at the Annual General Meetings of the Ottawa and Brockville Clubs.

We are proud of the Association's accomplishments this year: 46 new members in Clubs across the province were welcomed with personal notes from the President; three HUB meetings were held to discuss important issues such as the Windsor withdrawal, membership issues, and succession planning; our Fall General Meeting was a big success; we have a new brochure outlining our history and how to contact each club; the Resource Book which contains all the important information related to the Association and member Clubs was made available to all Clubs electronically; the executive job descriptions were reviewed and updated; the Policies and Procedures document was also reevaluated and modernized – we broadened the requirements for members to be considered for Association Executive positions; we reviewed and

updated the Five-year Strategic Plan and undertook a major revision of the Association Bylaws which also includes a new Independent Membership category. The new bylaws were approved with a small amendment at the Annual General Meeting in Brockville and will be forwarded to the Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada which oversees the Not-for-profit Corporations Act.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Brockville on June 5 and 6. Delegates from each Club and the Executive were warmly received and enjoyed the hospitality of the Brockville team. The Hospitality Suite, daily lunches, the President's Dinner at the Fulford Place Mansion, and the dinner at the Brockville Yacht Club were certainly highlights but reports of the friendliness of the many drivers who made sure to tour visitors around the city in good time to arrive at planned destinations, and the shop visit were much appreciated too. The business meeting included reports from each Club and the Association Executive outlining projects and solutions. The weekend included a workshop presentation by Karen McDonald-Hurley of Opportunity Group on succession planning – a task many Clubs need to undertake to attract members to step up into leadership roles on their boards. We also heard about some novel solutions some Clubs are taking to address the succession challenge. The feedback from the Annual General Meeting was overwhelmingly positive. The next AGM will be held in St. Catharines in June 2027.

ASSOCIATION OF MAY COURT CLUBS of CANADA MEMBERS 2025-2026

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 Association of May Court Clubs of Canada Executive committee 2025-2026

President: Christine Beelen
Vice President: Kathy Roy
Past President: Cindy Popp
Secretary Treasurer: Joan Price
Director at Large: Brenda Williams

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PAST PRESIDENTS – MAY COURT CLUB of OTTAWA

*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. Noulon 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*	2022-2024 Donna Shields-Poë