



# The May Court Club of Ottawa

*Serving the community since 1898*

## *Report to the Community*

*Summer 2008*

In this, our fifth Report to the Community, The May Court Club of Ottawa once more offers an accounting to our beneficiaries, donors, sponsors and members as to how we, as a volunteer organization, have chosen to fulfill our goal of *enriching the lives of others as well as our own*. Over the past two years, our 280 members have contributed more than 44,000 hours in volunteer work for the club and its many and varied activities.

Special initiatives in the past two years have included:

- the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Knitting Committee marked with the creation of more than 240 baby blankets handmade by members and friends of May Courters. The blankets were donated to Project LINUS at CHEO for distribution to patients at the hospital;
- the establishment of an annual \$5,000 scholarship in the newly created Master's Program in Information Studies at the University of Ottawa. This scholarship was made possible by a bequest from Susan Anderson, a former member of the club and a librarian at the Library of Parliament;
- participation with Volunteer Ottawa and the Community Foundation of Ottawa through their Grantmakers Forum to increase our knowledge of our community; and
- within the club, a series of discussion groups to help determine new projects for the club and to update to current practices and policies.

Ours is one of nine clubs in the Association of May Court Clubs of Canada located throughout Ontario. In 2007, the Association made application to The Canadian Heraldic Authority to have our heraldic crest updated and registered. The new coat of arms was unveiled at our AGM in June 2007 and together with the accompanying letters patent is now on display at our club in Aberdeen Hall. The details include maple leaves for Canada; may flowers, reflecting the May Day party in 1898 when the first May Court Club was founded by Lady Aberdeen, the wife of the Governor General and our motto of *god, monarch and neighbourhood*.. Both the crest and coat of arms may be used to identify and promote all the clubs.



It was our pleasure and responsibility to host the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association in Ottawa in May 2008. Presidents and Vice Presidents and the association executive met for two days to discuss common goals, and share ideas on fundraising and serving our communities. A common project undertaken by all nine clubs is a nutrition program for children; each club's program responds to the needs in of their community in structure and size. The details of our program are found on page 6. Please visit our website [www.maycourt.org](http://www.maycourt.org) or contact our office for more detailed information on our club.

Barbara Hykle President 2006 - 2008

## Board of Directors

### *President*

Barbara Hykle

### *Past President*

Margaret Bell

### *Vice President*

Margie Howsam

### *Recording Secretary*

Marie Loyer

### *Corresponding Secretary*

Barbara Strahl

### *Treasurer*

Mary Jones (2007-08)

Sharon Murphy (2007-08)

### *Assistant Treasurer*

Kathy Yach (2006-07)

### *Member Services Director*

Mary Wickens (2006-07)

Bev Harrison (2007-08)

### *Communications Director*

Patricia Peters

### *Property Management*

#### *Director*

José Hamilton

### *Social Director*

Diane Craddock (2006-07)

Sandra Ferguson (2007-08)

### *Bargain Box Director*

Lois Ferrier (2006-07)

Eleanor Hicks(2007-08)

### *Directors at Large*

Holly Hesar Quirk(2007-08)

Holly Larocque ( 2006-07)

Mary Jones (2006-07)

Judy Hines (2007-08)

Kathy Yach (2007-08)

## Community Service Projects

Our on going service projects help our community in many areas. In addition to providing education and social activities for the club, maintaining the building which houses our club office and the Hospice at May Court, club members give generously of their time in the following activities:

1. **Citizenship Court** Committee volunteers host receptions for new Canadians and their families following official swearing-in ceremonies.
2. **Early Literacy Program** runs from October to May; members read on a one-to-one basis to kindergarten students in the Ottawa-Carleton area.
3. **Emergency Food Box Program** provides nutritious, non-perishable snacks to children in 51 local schools. More details on pg 6.
4. **Hospice at May Court - Palliative Care Committee** consists of trained volunteers who work in the Day Hospice, assist in the residential wing and provide Home Support.
5. **Hospice at May Court – Reception Desk Committee** volunteers answer the telephone and greet visitors from 9a.m. to 3p.m., Monday to Friday and on Wednesday evenings. Some members also provide administrative assistance.
6. **Knitting Committee** creates items for sale at the annual Christmas Bazaar and children’s knitted goods that are donated to the local community groups. 2007 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this activity.
7. **The May Court Grants Committee**, under the chairmanship of the Vice President, reviews and investigates requests for funding for projects in the local community and makes recommendations to the Board for disbursement of grants from monies raised from club activities and/or investment income, donations and bequests. A full report is shown on pgs 4 and 5.
8. **May Court Library** – at The Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus. This committee distributes magazines, books and audio equipment and materials to patients five days a week. Proceeds from its thrice yearly book sale help to defray some of the expenses.
9. **Scholarship Committee** reviews the applications for the Centennial Scholarships which are awarded to two post-graduate students enrolled in Nurse Practitioner courses in Ontario universities, and submits its recommendations to the Board for approval. The committee will also be responsible for the scholarship in the Master’s Program in Information Technology at the University of Ottawa.
10. **Women’s Breast Health Clinic Committee** volunteers provide a

	welcoming and friendly atmosphere for patients and also give assistance to the staff.
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### **Community Fundraising**

The **May Court Bargain Box** at 228 Laurier Ave is the Club's continuing fundraising project. It sells gently used clothing and household articles and is open five and a half days each week from September to June and three days a week during summer months. A dedicated team of volunteers receive and sort donated material, stock the store and tally sales of over \$95,000 annually. In addition to donations from May Court members and individual supporters, we are grateful for contributions from **Echo Décor**, **Heather's Consignment Shop** and the **Rideau Centre**.

Other fundraisers in the past two years have been book sales at the Civic Campus of The Ottawa Hospital, spring plant sales at the club and an annual Halloween Bridge party.

**Fantasy Trees and Treasures**, a raffle of beautifully decorated Christmas trees and holiday items takes place at the Rideau Centre in early December. We are grateful for the support of many local businesses and individuals who contributed to the event in 2007 and 2008:

#### ***Friends of May Court ( \$2,000 - \$4,999)***

RBC Dominion  
Sears Rideau Centre  
The Merchants of the Rideau Centre

#### ***Spirit of May Court ( \$1,000 - \$1,999)***

Rideau Centre Merchant Association  
Cross-Stitch Cupboard Inc.

D'Arcy McGee's Irish Pub  
The Properties Group Ltd.

#### ***Benefactor ( \$400 - \$999)***

All Dolled Up Club  
Bistro 115  
The Bay Rideau Centre  
Meridian Insurance Brokers and Consultants

Canada Beading Supply  
Diane & Ross Craddock  
Smith Petrie Carr & Scott Insurance Brokers

#### ***Supporter (\$250 - \$399)***

Preceptor Alpha Theta Chapter  
of Beta Sigma Phi  
Aviation Publishers Co. Ltd.  
Earl Conway  
Russell Hicks

Sleepy Hollow  
Surgenor Pontiac Buick GMC Hummer  
Helen Piper  
Marjory Hannam

#### ***Sponsor (up to \$250)***

Silver Rose  
Elaine Crossland  
Loblaws Merivale  
Mary Wickens  
Metropolitan Brasserie  
Christine Beelen

Mexicali Rosa  
More Flowers and Gifts  
Ottawa Chamber Music Society  
National Arts Centre Orchestra  
Westin Ottawa

We thank **The Ottawa Citizen**, for their continuing support and *Ottawa Magazine*, *Wedding Bells* and *Fifty Five Plus* who donated valuable advertising space for this fundraiser. Special thanks to The

Ottawa School of Art and Orleans Fruit for their assistance at our opening reception, to the DeBoers decorators, and to John Piper of Surgenor Pontiac Buick GMC Hummer for the help with the delivery of our trees and treasures.

### **Community Disbursements 2006 - 2008**

From July 2006 to June 2008, the Club has made the following donations to the community in keeping with our funding priorities. The disbursements were made possible with the revenue from the Bargain Box, our fundraising events, bequests from former members of the club and our investment income and with the tremendous volunteer work of our club members.

#### ***FINANCIAL AID (for period June 2006 – June 2007)***

##### **Palliative Care**

Palliative Care Outreach	4,000
The Hospice at May Court	100,000
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	104,000

##### **Health Issues**

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Support Programs	240
Hopewell Eating Disorders	3,000
Osteoporosis Canada - Ottawa	900
Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre	19,000
The Stroke Survivors Association of Canada	2,360
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	25,500

##### **Mentally and physically Challenged**

Centretown Laundry Co-op	1,500
Royal Ottawa Health Care Foundation	5,000
Youth Net	8,000
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	14,500

##### **High Risk Children and Youth**

Amethyst House Addiction Centre	3,120
Better Beginnings Better Futures	9,200
Debra Dynes Family House Inc	1,200
Nepean, Rideau and Osgoode Community Resource Centre	1,500
Operation Go Home	2,000
Osgoode Youth Association	7,000
Parent Resource Centre	3,500
St Brigid's Summer Camp	5,000
St Joe's Women's Centre	2,000
Success by Six	5,000
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	39,520

##### **Education**

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Canadians Challenges	2,000
Ottawa School of Art	5,655
Centennial Scholarship	10,000
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	17,655

Total Cash Donations	\$201,175
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In kind The Hospice at May Court - fair market value for rent	\$156,000
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$357,175</b>
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**FINANCIAL AID (for period June 2007 – June 2008)**

**Palliative Care**

Elisabeth Bruyere Palliative Care SCO Health Service Foundation	20,000
Hospice at May Court	102,000
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	122,000

**Health Issues**

Alzheimer's Society of Ottawa	6,600
Harmony House Women's Shelter	5,000
Nepean, Rideau and Osgoode Community Resource Centre	5,000
Osteoporosis Canada - Ottawa	1,000
Stroke Survivors Association of Ottawa	8,600
The Ottawa Hospital	20,000
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	46,200

**Mentally and Physically Challenged**

Daybreak Non Profit Shelter	14,000
Ottawa Salus Corporation	8,000
Rotary Home	50,000
Royal Ottawa Health Care Foundation	10,000
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	82,000

**High Risk Children and Youth**

Ottawa Children's Treatment Centre	14,000
Robert E. Wilson School	2,000
West End Chaplaincy	2,000
YM/YWCA Ottawa	8,500
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	26,500

**Education**

Centennial Scholarship	10,000
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Total Cash Donations \$286,700

In kind donations

Hospice at May Court ( fair market value for rent) \$185,750

**Total \$472,450**

The May Court Grants Committee reviews all application for financial assistance three times a year. Details on the application process and the deadline dates are available on our website, [www.maycourt.org](http://www.maycourt.org).

### **To our donors**

We are most grateful for bequests that have been received during the last two years from the estates of former members Evelyn MacMillan and Nancy Binks and from the estate of Elizabeth Serson, a former superintendent of the Convalescent Home. Funds from the bequest of Evelyn MacMillan allowed us to make our contribution to the new Rotary Home.

The Club thanks its members and friends who have made in Memoriam and other donations in the last two years. Their financial help is invaluable and their continuing interest in the club is most appreciated. While we do not list them individually, we would ask that they accept our heartfelt thanks in helping us to serve our community.

### **Our Emergency Food Box Program**

The Emergency Food Box Program operated by the Club serves **34 schools belonging to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board** and **17 schools belonging to the Ottawa Catholic School Board**. This program is funded entirely by our club and the deliveries made monthly by May Court volunteers; the annual cost is \$35,000.

The program, which started in 1991, is designed to meet the needs of hungry children. We provide free of charge, a monthly supply of basic single serving food items that can be given to students on an emergency basis. We are particularly concerned with those students who, due to hunger, may not be participating optimally the educational process. The food items are not designed to be an ongoing dietary supplement nor a special treat, but rather a reserve that can be drawn upon in situations where a student is in need.

*In 2007 – 2008 from September to June twenty- two May Court volunteers delivered more than*

*990 boxes of raisins  
4,000 cheese & crackers snacks  
2,300 granola bars  
2,800 juice boxes and  
1,000 servings of applesauce*

Our program is supported in part by continuing sales of our 107<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook (\$20) and notecards (\$5 per package) available through the club office



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[Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this report is accurate, Please advise us of any errors or omissions]