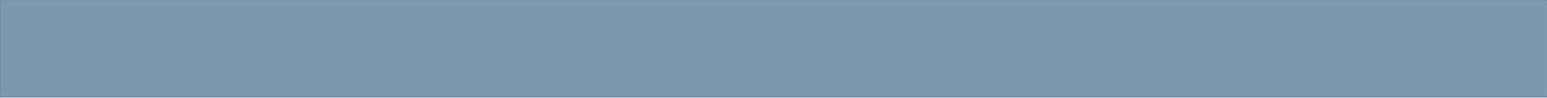




121ST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

2019-2020

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



THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

On April 30th, 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 and those studying Information Studies, operate the library at the Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus, and support a Munch and Learn program at six Ottawa Community Houses.

This year, in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic we have had to scale back our activities and look forward to seeing where we will focus our service activities in the future.

A Message from the President President's Report

The 2019/2020 year has been an interesting one for the May Court Club of Ottawa. Many of the Club activities take a break over the summer but the Bargain Box, May Court Library and Hospice Reception Desk volunteers continued to serve the community. At the Club, our financial and building maintenance team are kept busy. Many thanks go to all of these volunteers. Thanks must also go to our dedicated staff, who make our Club function so efficiently all year; Mary Schoenfeld, our office secretary, Bill Craig our custodian and Marnie Wellar, our Library Manager.

In September, life at May Court started back in full swing with energetic new committees and successful events and activities. Throughout the fall, "Lady Aberdeen" had been sighted in various locations in Ottawa sometimes with some well-known Ottawa celebrities. This, of course, was in preparation for her visit to 2020 (at least in pictures). Our fundraising calendar, *Lady Aberdeen Visits 2020*, is a wonderful depiction of Lady Aberdeen as she encounters life in the 21st century.

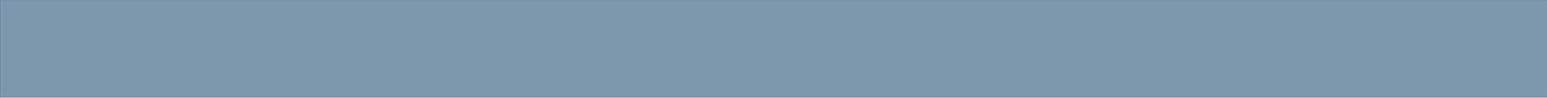
The Munch and Learn Committee held its third High Tea where "Lady Aberdeen" greeted guests at the door and joined us for a lovely Tea before heading back to 1898. The Aberdeen Artisans Committee held their most successful Craft Show in early November and our members and their friends enjoyed another beautiful Shepherd's Fashion Show at the end of November.

At our Christmas luncheon, it was a pleasure to host Pat Enright from the Ottawa Valley Golden Retriever Club who brought us a Christmas tree decorated with memorabilia of Lady Aberdeen and Golden Retrievers. We learned that Lady Aberdeen brought the first Golden Retriever to North America and we shared interesting facts of history through our common connection, Lady Aberdeen.

Congratulations again go to the Bargain Box which continued to bring in excellent revenue in 2019 despite the extremely cold winter that kept customers inside many days. Congratulations also go to the committees and members who helped make all our events such a success and to the After 5's who support all our events.

We also must recognize our Member Services Committee which welcomed many wonderful new members this year and our Communications Committee which kept us up to date with their publications of the Newsletter and Behind the Pink Door. Our website was updated with a new look and has become an excellent source of information for our members and the public.

Early in the New Year, we struck a small committee to start looking at the future of The May Court Club of Ottawa. A questionnaire was sent to all the members and feedback collated and analysed. The purpose was to influence the Club's future direction and make it a more dynamic organization as it prepares for its 125th year. We anticipated making 2020 a year of forward thinking for The May Court Club of Ottawa as we planned for the growth of our Club in keeping with the times but also maintaining our goals of charity and service.



Little did we know that in 2020, a coronavirus pandemic would alter the life of May Court as well as everyone else in the world. We held our St. Patrick's Day Bridge on March 12th but as Covid-19 reached Ottawa, many changes were required for the May Court Club of Ottawa. We monitored the ongoing government and Public Health regulations and directives to see where we had to adjust our activities. We were required to cancel or close everything in May Court. The Club office closed, the Bargain Box closed, the Library at the Civic Hospital closed, our volunteers were no longer permitted to go to the Hospice and all fundraising events were cancelled. Our finances are being managed remotely and the building is being maintained on an as-required basis. Our Board continues to meet online and our June 2020 Annual General Meeting has been postponed to the fall, pending Public Health restrictions and guidelines.

We are lucky to have the excellent professional support and advice of Mila Belokurova and Louise Saint our Bookkeepers, Todd Hamilton our Accountant, and Mark Ellis our Portfolio Manager. They have been particularly helpful in guiding us through the intricacies of managing our Club's finances through the Covid-19 crisis.

The running of our Club is only as good as its Board of Directors and this was an excellent one for which I am very grateful. Of course, all our members deserve a big thank you for supporting our Club and for bearing with us during these unprecedented and uncertain times.

Our return to the "new normal" after this crisis is abated will continue to bring changes to the May Court Club of Ottawa and the timing of our May Court survey may provide us with ideas on re-configuring our Club. We must keep in mind that since 1898, May Court has been through many upheavals including World Wars, pandemics and depression and has managed to survive and carry on, even if in a different way. We will do that again and be true to the vision of Lady Aberdeen.

Dorothy Scorsone



THE MAY COURT CLUB OF OTTAWA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2019-20

PAST PRESIDENT	Nancy Pyper
PRESIDENT	Dorothy Scorsone
VICE PRESIDENT	Sharon Harrison*
	Christine Beelen
RECORDING SECRETARY	Mary Jones
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	José Hamilton
TREASURER	Gill Puxty
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Beth Burn
MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTOR	Jenni Barbarie
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR	Christine Beelen
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR	Kerry De Blois
SOCIAL DIRECTOR	Nancy Birchard
BARGAIN BOX DIRECTOR	Sheila Moriarty
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	Helen Sharcharski
	Christine Marland
	Valerie Zinger

*resigned February 28, 2020

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For the past two years I have had the privilege as Past President to represent the May Court Club of Ottawa on the Board of Hospice Care Ottawa as an ex-officio member, able to take part in discussions but without a vote. My primary role is to serve as the liaison between the Club and Hospice Care Ottawa, reporting to our Board regarding issues that concern our Club. It has been a busy two years and a stimulating learning experience.

Once again it was a pleasure for The May Court Club to participate in conjunction with the May Court Hospice in Homes for the Holidays 2019 and to welcome 258 visitors through The Pink Door. I would like to thank the members who assisted over the three days, greeting guests and informing them of our history and our important connection with Hospice. Our participation contributed to the \$135,000.00 realized after expenses.

Hospice's participation in Giving Tuesday on Dec 3, 2019, was a success, raising \$63,000.00. This time rather than asking for money for a capital expense, the focus was patient centered with examples of how the money will be used: providing comfort supplies such as lotions, soft blankets and pillows, the soup program, meals for people in residence, or care for a person for a week.

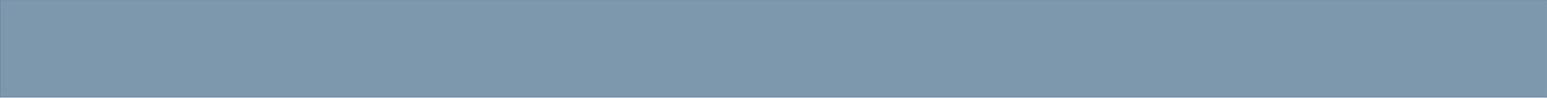
I attended Shine a Light Remembrance at May Court on Dec 2nd. Greeting people at the door, some of whom were attending for the first time and others over several years, unanimously reinforced what a meaningful presence Hospice is and continues to be to families following the death of a loved one.

Aberdeen Hall was a lively place on December 19th when Hospice held its Christmas Party for Volunteers and Staff. President Dorothy Scorsone and I were pleased to be included.

As reported at the Spring General Meeting, there continues to be difficulty filling the positions on the reception desk, but Wednesday evening was fully staffed, with two spares. However, it was a very different story for the Day Hospice reception desk.

Their message to you, May Court members, was and is that volunteering at the Hospice is one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs that you can have. It will provide you with purpose, pride in your contribution and pleasure. You are the first contact people have when they come to visit loved ones and friends and those of us who have used Hospice can attest to how meaningful your greeting is. Please join the team. Two members volunteered to join the team and before they could receive training COVID -19 struck.

On Monday March 16th Leslie Jones and I participated in a teleconference with Lisa Sullivan, Executive Director of Hospice Care Ottawa and Paulette Hammel, Coordinator Volunteer Services. After much discussion, for what is considered an essential service, it was decided to cease using Volunteers on the reception desk, followed shortly by the suspension of the entire volunteer program at all Hospice Care Ottawa's sites. This decision was made in order to protect the volunteers, but also to limit the social contact from the outside. Staff members filled the positions on the reception desk. Slowly volunteers are now returning, but at the time of writing this report it is not anticipated our reception volunteers will be back until possibly September.



During the past year Hospice Care Ottawa has finalized a new Strategic Plan for 2020-2025, which will be presented at their AGM on October 5, 2020 using a Virtual Format.

The Board of Directors for Hospice Care Ottawa formally passed a policy regarding MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) at their March 2020 Board meeting. This allows MAiD to be provided on site by external providers (non-HCO staff), for eligible patients already receiving residential Hospice palliative care. While this has been approved it is anticipated it will not be initiated until September.

As a result of COVID-19 all Hospice Care Ottawa Signature Fundraisers: Girl's Soiree, Homes for the Holidays and initially Hike for Hospice were cancelled for 2020, a tremendous blow to their annual requirement to raise \$2,200,000.00 over and above any government funding. It is estimated they will experience a 50% decline in this area. Due to the imagination and very hard work of Sue McIntosh, Manager of Fund Development and Communications and her team, a "Virtual Hike" took place on May 2, 2020. A total of \$205,456.35, an excellent result, but also, I believe it shows the high esteem which is held by Hospice in the community. I am sure many of you supported this event, thank you.

The May Court Club has been involved in palliative care for more than twenty years. Today we are recognized by Hospice Care Ottawa as their "Sustaining Benefactor" in recognition of our significant contribution at May Court Hospice. However, Hospice also plays a significant role in the operation of our property. As most of you know we have an Occupancy Agreement with Hospice, now in the second year of a five-year agreement. Through this agreement we provide the building at no charge, a requirement which assists us to maintain our charitable status. If Hospice was not on our property, our taxes would be at least 10 times what we currently pay. We donate \$100,000.00 each year in monthly installments towards the operating expenses at the May Court Hospice. This very generous donation is gratefully appreciated by Hospice, and we also benefit from it, as our utility expenses are paid by Hospice.

These are trying times for all. Let us remember the wonderful service the Hospice provides to our community -- the residential program along with the many other programs it offers including the day hospice program for patients which also imparts the gift of respite to their care givers. None of this would be possible without us, their "Sustaining Benefactor", however we must continue to honour our obligations in order to deserve this recognition.

Nancy Pyper

TREASURER'S REPORT

2019 Annual Financial Report

This is the financial report for the May court Club of Ottawa, for the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2019.

Income:

Community Projects: These did well last year, generating a net income of \$34,153. This was a 24.7% increase on the net community project income for 2018, due to both an increase in the number of fundraising activities, and an increase in the amounts each project generated.

Membership Fees: These decreased 8.6% from 2018, to a total of \$17,908

Investments: There was a strong stock market in 2019, and our investments did well. They generated an income of \$319,144.00, which was an increase of 63.1% from 2018.

Bargain Box: The Bargain Box net income was \$88,524.00, a decrease of 8% from that of 2018, despite donations having doubled to \$845.67.

Bequests & Memorials: These increased 478% from 2018, to \$3,266.20. Donations, however, were down \$52,556.90 (78.9%), being \$14,090.70.

Apartment Rent: The apartment was unoccupied for several months during renovations, so the income from rent was \$10,335.36, down 26.9% from 2018.

Gross Profit was **\$492,905.00**, an increase of 15% from 2018.

Expenses:

Total Club Related Expenses: These were up by \$3,995 (4 %) from 2018

Property Maintenance: Property maintenance costs increased by \$4,808 (5.2%) from 2018. The cost of landscaping dropped dramatically because it was taken over by in house maintenance staff, repair costs were down, but snow ploughing and removal costs increased by \$14,721.20, due to a bad winter. Renovations to the apartment meant that \$33,229.44 more of the Maintenance Reserve was spent than in 2018.

Grants and Scholarships: These were \$17,800 less than in 2018, when there had been a special donation to hospice in addition to the annual \$100,000.

Total Expenses were **\$430,069**, a 7.4% increase from 2018.

The Operation Fund Value was **\$4,058,269.43** at the end of December (an increase of 2.68% from 2018).

The Scholarship Fund Market Value was **\$310,893.07** at the end of December (an increase of 9% from 2018).

Gill Puxty

May Court Club of Ottawa
Balance Sheet December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 37,929	\$ 65,036
HST rebate receivable	19,313	5,636
Inventory	3,572	3,464
Accrued receivables	23,971	25,731
Prepaid expenses	12,521	10,936
	97,306	110,803
Long-term investments (Note 2)	4,348,285	4,215,119
Capital assets (Note 3)	390,766	383,557
	\$ 4,836,357	\$ 4,709,479
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 41,797	\$ 39,079
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	10,466	10,710
	52,263	49,789
Commitments (Note 5)		
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	390,766	383,557
Internally restricted for:		
May Court Club of Ottawa Centennial Scholarship	210,449	199,753
Unrestricted	4,182,879	4,076,380
	4,784,094	4,659,690
	\$ 4,836,357	\$ 4,709,479

Approved on behalf of the Board:

Statement of Revenue and Expenses December 31, 2019

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Year ended December 31, 2019, with comparative figures for 2018

	2019	2018
Revenue		
Investment income (Note 6)	\$ 319,144	\$ 195,707
Fundraising projects revenue (Schedule A)	173,924	171,921
Membership fees	17,908	19,590
Bequests and donations	17,357	67,213
Rental	10,335	14,137
Social functions	5,484	8,370
	544,152	476,938
Cost of fundraising projects (Schedule A)	51,247	48,284
Gross profit	492,905	428,654
Expenses		
Administrative	103,894	99,899
Amortization of capital assets	11,374	10,998
Building maintenance and utilities:		
- Repairs	33,229	24,110
- Routine	64,389	68,700
Citizenship court	-	185
Communications	525	288
Delegate expenses and association dues	5,332	4,682
Donations	155,322	152,582
Library services at the Civic Campus of The Ottawa Hospital	19,963	21,545
Professional fees	30,496	29,896
Social function expenses	5,545	7,158
	430,069	420,043
Net revenue before unrealized gain (loss) on long-term investments	62,836	8,611
Unrealized gain (loss) on long-term investments	61,568	(315,136)
Net revenue (expense)	\$ 124,404	\$ (306,525)

**Donations to the Community
January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019**

1. PALLIATIVE CARE		
Hospice at May Court	<u>\$100,000.00</u>	
Total	\$100,000.00	63%
2. HEALTH ISSUES		
Hopewell Eating Disorder Support Centre	\$ 850.00	
St. Joe's Supper Table – St. Joe's Parish	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	
Total	\$3,850.00	2.4%
3. HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING		
Families Matter Cooperative	\$850.00	
Community Laundry Co-op	<u>\$2,526.00</u>	
Total	\$3,376.00	2.1%
4. HIGH RISK YOUTH & FAMILIES		
Children At Risk	\$2,774.00	
Munch & Learn	\$13,650.00	
Carty House	\$2,000.00	
Caldwell Family Centre	\$1,000.00	
Somerset West Community Health Centre	\$4,000.00	
Housing Help/Aide Logement	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	
Total	\$26,424.00	16.7%
5. EDUCATION		
Susan B. Anderson Scholarship	\$5,000.00	
Centennial Scholarship	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	
Total	\$25,000.00	15.8%
Total Financial Aid	\$158,650.00	100%

Community and Club Service Hours
Reported hours, January – December 2019

Community Service Fundraising

	6630.5	
Bargain Box	449.0	
Fashion Show	407.5	
Fundraising – Special Projects		
	7487.0	39%

Community Service

	2.0	
Citizenship Court	77.5	
Hospice – Evening Reception	137.5	
Hospice – Palliative Care	1729.8	
Hospice – Reception	857.0	
Knitting	50.25	
Grants Committee	1035.0	
Library	499.0	
Munch and Learn	72.0	
Scholarship Committee	96.0	
Women’s Breast Health Clinic		
	4556.0	23%

Club Service

	1057.0	
Aberdeen Artisans	644.5	
Administration	438.0	
After 5’s	96.0	
Association of May Clubs of Canada	825.5	
Board of Directors	23.0	
Bridge Club	734.0	
Club Communications	292.5	
Finance Committee	4.0	
Lectures	610.0	
Member Services	55.0	
Nominating Committee	239.0	
Outreach Committee	381.0	
Property Management	47.0	
Social Events		
	5446.5	28%

Total number of hours	17489.5	
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COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS

Citizenship Court

Heather Dunbar

The Club has reluctantly ceased providing receptions at the Citizenship Court due to the difficulties presented in the new site for the courts.

Hospice at May Court – Day Reception Desk + Palliative Care

Leslie Jones

The Day Hospice Reception Desk and Palliative Care Team provided 1300 volunteer hours to the May Court Hospice over the past year. Numbers are down from last year as our work stopped on the Hospice Desk on March 16, 2020. The Team consisted of 27 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.

The work of the Day Hospice Reception Desk team consisted of welcoming and screening all people entering the Hospice, answering questions of all types concerning Hospice Care Ottawa in person and on the phone, serving as the Hospice receptionist, and supporting and assisting with fund raising and office activities. We are fortunate to have a number of dedicated and reliable volunteers whose contribution to the work of the Hospice is valued.

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 are honoured to be a part of the delivery of palliative care services at Hospice Care Ottawa.

Hospice at May Court – Evening Reception Desk

Beth Burn

Our committee consists of six dedicated members; four with regular shifts and two spares. Changes were made to our shift schedule and duties earlier in the year when the Hospice decided to standardize the evening hours of operation. As a result, our shift was adjusted to 6:00-9:00 pm, gaining ½ hour. Since the reception desk now closes every night at 9:00, no one was coming to relieve us at the end of our shift. This required our members to learn and implement the 'closing procedures'. We have adapted!

The pandemic procedures implemented other changes at the Hospice. In mid-March we were informed that the Hospice was cancelling volunteers at reception for the foreseeable future. I think that I can speak for all committee members when I say that we miss the calm, caring environment of the Hospice and its place in our lives. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the staff and greatly reduced group of volunteers who are maintaining the high level of care that is a hallmark of the Hospice at May Court.

Knitting Committee

Jill Strachan

The knitting committee continues to be a part of the Aberdeen Artisans Committee and meets monthly with them. The knitting group was busy over 2019 making products to donate to the Hospice and the Children's hospital. We also had a successful sale at the May Court Christmas Craft Fair and at the members' Christmas party. Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

May Court Bargain Box

Sandra Ferguson

The Bargain Box was closed the last week of August to allow for some cleaning/restocking, two weeks at Christmas and eight days between January 2020 and mid-March due to bad weather. On March 14th all business stopped due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This period of closure has been difficult for staff who miss the interaction with customers/friends and for our customers who view the shop as a meeting place for social interaction. It has also been a difficult time for the Club as rent and operational expenses continue with no income to offset them. Even with the closures staff contributed 4613 volunteer hours and took in over \$107,000 before expenses. Several hardworking volunteers stepped aside during this period resulting in a staff shortage situation and, as in the past, staffers came forward to cover the vacancies. Bargain Box is the happy recipient of some wonderful donations which keeps our happy customers coming back. Our thanks to all volunteers associated with BB. Working here results in a good feeling of helping the community at large and especially The Hospice at May Court.

Library

Jane Mace and Helen Shakarchi

Until the COVID-19 pandemic caused the cessation of volunteer services at the Civic Hospital in mid-March, the library, with Marnie Wellar as manager, was running extremely well. We had held two successful book sales and were planning a third one for the end of June. The committee members are all anxious to get back to their regular jobs of providing a much-appreciated service to the patients and staff at the hospital when it is safe to do so.

May Court Munch and Learn Program

Kathy Yach

This year has been a very different year than others. The Munch and Learn Committee began the year bringing much needed resources to the six community houses in Ottawa. Each month we deliver a Costco card to each of these homes for them to purchase nutritious snacks for their after four programs. We have also provided knitted items, clothing and games.

The Community Houses we support are Banff Avenue Community House, Blair Court Community House, Britannia Woods Community House, Britannia Woods Community House, Debra/Dynes Community House and Michele Heights Community House and Morrison Gardens Community House.

Then in March everything was shut down in Ontario including Community Houses due to the COVID-19. We stopped delivering the Costco cards. Hopefully we will be able to start soon supporting the Community Houses.

Scholarship Committee

Bev MacSween & Bonnie Stevens

The 2019-2020 scholarship year granted scholarships to three very deserving recipients and in their final reports they expressed their appreciation of May Court Club of Ottawa's financial gifts enabling them to study their academic passions:

The 2019-2020 – The May Court Club of Ottawa Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship be awarded to:
Lina Harper (U of Ottawa)

2019-2020 – May Court Club of Ottawa Centennial Scholarships be awarded to:
Jaymie Hancock (Laurentian U) and Stephanie Lawrence (U of Toronto)

In October 2019, Dorothy Scorsone, Marie Loyer and Leslie Jones attended the 10th Anniversary of the School of Information Studies at the University of Ottawa. They awarded the Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship to Lina Harper (recipient) at this joyous event.

There are nine members on the 2019-2020 May Court Club of Ottawa Scholarship Committee, four for the Susan Anderson Memorial Scholarship (Johanna Blakney, Sharon Henry, Leslie Jones, and Bonnie Stevens) and five for the Centennial Scholarships (Mary Gray, Bev MacSween, Louise Piche, Bev Wilcox and Lynda Zimmerman). Note: Lynda Marchand has joined the committee for the 2020-2021 year.

With COVID-19 challenges, the May Court Club of Ottawa norms were changed forcing closure to the Club until further notice. The Scholarship Committee met through e-mail discussions; and 3 proposals were given to the Board for continuity of the 2020-21 scholarship activity. The proposal accepted was to suspend operation of 2020-21 Centennial Scholarships due to lack of funds but proceed with 2020-21 Susan Anderson Scholarship because it is a separate endowment/ modify on-line application procedure for Susan Anderson. This proposal has been actioned; the application process has gone on-line; and the Susan Anderson scholarship committee will proceed with marking and final recipient selection through e-mail.

CLUB SERVICE REPORTS

Aberdeen Artisans Committee (AAC)

Sharyn Heagle

The Aberdeen Artisans Committee originated from the Knitting Committee dating from the early days of the May Court Club. It has a long and honourable history of providing hand-knitted items where needed in the community, from knitted socks for servicemen in WW1 to lap rugs for cancer patients. Over the years contributions expanded from knitted items to include other hand-crafted items and food stuffs, which ultimately lead to an annual Christmas Craft Fair. The 2019 fair was very successful, a report appears in the Special Events section of this report.

With the onset of the COVID challenge in March of 2020, the Artisans began meeting on a regular basis using ZOOM and experiencing attendance of between 5 to 7 members per meeting. As so many members were unable to participate in this process, all Artisans were sent Agendas with a request that non-ZOOM participants respond to Agenda items via e-mail. Early on it became apparent that we would likely be unable to have a 2020 Christmas Craft Fair (renamed the Christmas Market). In lieu of this, other options were discussed as ways to earn income for the May Court. These included holding a mini-Christmas Market with limited/ controlled public access or solely for the benefit of MC members; establishing an on-line market (Facebook, the Website, Newsletter, and Behind the Pink Door); offering May Court members specific items for custom or pre-order. The Artisans also considered a 2021 Spring Market, which could require a re-evaluation of whether to produce a 2021 Christmas market.

In May, the Artisans began producing COVID-19 Masks which are advertised for sale on the Club Website and Facebook, and on Facebook accounts and bulletin boards of condo/apartment buildings of several Artisans. This has resulted in a significant amount of revenue. The Artisans continue the Club tradition of evolving to meet challenges.

After Fives

Gill Puxty

The After 5's committee started the year with a Porch Sale on September 10, 2019. The members had been collecting and sorting donations throughout the summer months and had a large amount to sell. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side, and we had to move the sale inside the clubhouse to avoid the rain. Although we had many visitors, the net profit was only a disappointing \$932.55.

On November 9, 2019 the After 5's provided a Tea Room for the patrons of the Aberdeen Artisans' Christmas Craft Fair. Members of the committee baked all the cookies served and May Court tea accompanied them. The whole event was very successful, and the Tea Room contributed over \$300 to the day's net income of \$8,700.

Throughout the fall, the committee collected donations from the club's members for the Annual Shoebox Project done in coordination with the City of Ottawa project. Members were once again extremely generous, and the After 5's met on December 9, 2019 to pack 96 previously wrapped shoeboxes with warm hats, mitts and scarves, cosmetic and self-care items and candy. These were collected the following day by two large elves and taken for distribution to needy women throughout the Ottawa/Gatineau area.

On March 12, 2020, the After 5's provided support for the St Patrick's Day Bridge luncheon as servers, and preparation/clean-up teams. This event brought in a net income of \$1,830 and was enjoyed by all. This was the last club fundraiser for the year as the May Court Club closed its doors the following week owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The After 5's have been a very good support for membership and community activities while the Club remained open.

Archives

José Hamilton & Cheryl Ford

The committee was hard at work in the fall and the early part of the winter until we were unable to return to the club due to the COVID-19 closure. We are progressing as well as can be expected as there are so many documents to be gone through and sorted by year, date and occasion. We will resume our work as soon as we can get back into the Club.

Bridge

Jane Mace & Shirley Parrott

Although our numbers have diminished we continued to play bridge this year. The schedules were mailed out in July and a luncheon was held in early September to begin the season. We continued to play until mid-March when we all began to self isolate due to COVID-19. We will convene a meeting of everyone who would like to play bridge when we are allowed to get together again in 2020 or 2021 to determine the best course of action for the group.

Communications

Christine Beelen

Responsible for keeping the members of the Club and the public informed about Club activities, the Communications Committee uses a number of platforms in its work. This year, Face Book has been the star in sharing information about the Club, promoting the public events, and especially the Bargain Box. The Website has been completely re-vamped to facilitate donations, provide information about the Club including how to become a member. The Members Only section along has also provided members with easy access to newsletters and Bargain Box staff information.

Never before has Communications played such a vital role in keeping our membership informed as during the COVID-19 pandemic. Special issues of the Behind the Pink Door bulletin have served to share activities the Board undertook to maintain the finances and the physical building of the Club.

While we did not have as many events, our photographer participated in the production of the popular *Lady Aberdeen Visits 2020* Calendar. We also used promotional vehicles such as traditional media, on-line sources, posters, outdoor signage, and word-of-mouth for events such as the High Tea, the Christmas Craft Fair, and St. Patrick's Day Bridge. Within the Club we have also promoted Book Sales at the Library, the After 5s Shoe Box program and Sales at the Bargain Box, the Outreach lunches, the Club meetings and socials.

Our very talented members of the Communications team: Betty Rehbein, the Club's mastermind behind website, the co-editor of the newsletter and was very active on the Lady Aberdeen calendar. Jennette Diguier is our Club Photographer was our main photographer for the calendar project along with her other projects. Valerie Zinger continues to produce poster for events but has really excelled at administering our Face Book page. Thanks also goes to Mary Schoenfeld for providing secretarial support to our team.

Outreach Committee

Barbara Burton

It has been an interesting few months, with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting us all. The Outreach Committee cancelled all Friday soup lunches after February. It has changed its focus from giving members an opportunity to socialize in person to reaching out to May Court members by telephone. We ask them how they are doing and whether they need assistance. So far, our members seem to be well and have the help they need for grocery shopping and other necessary errands. We continue to send "Thinking of You" cards on behalf of all our members to some who are having difficulties. A few of them have let us know that they very much appreciated our good wishes.

Currently, our 12 zones are covered by 17 zone captains who hosted three Friday soup lunches, most of which featured homemade soups. We continue to share recipes with our members. In October, Heather Dunbar spoke to us about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Ottawa. Cheryl Ford shared her knowledge of lace making and brought several samples to view in November. February brought us a very interesting talk by Jessica Baird on "the Sock Project" which has become the subject of several local television news shows. These speakers were very warmly received by the attendees and added to the gatherings. Attendance at the Friday soup lunches ranged between 18 and 24. We continue to welcome members to invite non-member friends. Our cost has been held at \$5.00 and we continue to operate within the budget with a small surplus.

The committee volunteered 164 hours between July 2019 and June 2020. Other members also helped with lunches and contributed 28 hours.

Property Management

Kerry DeBlois

Winter finally released its angry grip on our city - but spring was cold and dry. We have had no major issues with the property and the building recently. This spring while we were in the process of installing a new air handler for the Hospice Building as required by law to circulate the air, COVID-19 struck and the May Court Club was closed. We are now having the motor for the air handler installed. While the infrastructure work has been done, the crew will be working in the crawlspace and the attic areas of the Hospice building to complete the job.

Bill Craig and I returned to the Club and worked outside for two days a week cleaning up winter debris and finishing jobs we had started earlier in the spring. We will continue working this schedule throughout the summer.

Recording Secretary

Mary Jones

The Board of Directors of the May Court Club of Ottawa usually meets on the fourth Thursday of every month from September to June. The Fall General Meeting October 9, 2019 and the Spring General Meeting March 4, 2020 were held in Lady Aberdeen Hall followed by a luncheon. This year saw many exceptions. Because of a snowstorm, the February Board meeting was held March 2nd. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic the March to June meetings were held electronically via Zoom. The Annual General Meeting and dinner have been postponed until September pending coronavirus guidelines. A new slate of officers for the 2020-2021 year will be elected at the Fall AGM.

Social

Nancy Birchard

Three events were hosted by the Social Committee this year, all of them held at the Club. The Fall and Spring General Meetings were again catered by Goodies, this year's format an elegant cold buffet. We just managed to get the Spring meeting in under the Covid wire in early March. The members' Christmas Party, also at the Club featured the ever popular party sandwiches and sweets provided by Board members. We could not hold the AGM in the spring.

Thanks to all who assisted in the preparation and clean-up for these important occasions; sandwich makers, decorators, servers and the always important post party crews. Many long time members were pressed into service along with new members to make these events run smoothly.

The Grants Committee

Christine Beelen

The May Court Grants Committee is composed of the Vice-President who acts as Chair, the President, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, one Life Member, three Associate Members, three Active Members and one Provisional Member all with voting privileges.

In November 2019 the Board approved the following grants:

\$850.00 to the **Hopewell Eating Disorder Support Centre** for their Recovery Through the Arts Group Pilot Project to cover the cost of project materials and supplies and activity expenses such as rental equipment and travel.

\$850.00 to the **Families Matter Cooperative** to help support their Dance and Family Support Group. The funds will cover the cost of project materials and supplies and activity expenses such as refreshments, development of new communication tools and resources, activity supplies, venue fees.

\$3,000.00 to **St. Joe's Supper Table** at St. Joseph's Parish to support their plan to expand its daytime coffee, tea and milk service by providing families with a nutritious breakfast service.

\$2,526.00 to the **Community Laundry Co-op** to buy a new commercial washing machine to develop skills and work experience of its clients.

\$2,774.00 to **Children At Risk** to purchase the JumpOrange's Turbo Blaze Bounce House for the gym where children diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorder participate in learning Gross Motor activities.

In April 2020, the Board decided to suspend the Grants Program until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic's restrictions on fundraising.

Total: \$10,000.00

SPECIAL EVENTS

Lady Aberdeen Visits 2020 Calendar

Sharon Harrison*

As a fundraising event a committee was formed to create a calendar to celebrate 2020. Sharon Harrison portrayed our founder, Lady Aberdeen, who was photographed in modern day situations to highlight our Club's activities and history. A fourteen-month calendar was created with clever photographs, captions and "factoids". Companies were offered an opportunity to promote their businesses through sponsorships and almost all the pages were sponsored.

Despite some challenges with the printer, the calendars were available in the fall of 2019 and promoted to members as well as the public (at events) as great Christmas presents. By February of 2020, the calendar had raised close to \$6,000 and the price was dropped to \$10.00 a copy.

A very sincere "thank you" to the highly creative and extremely talented team of Jeannette Diguier, Betty Rehbein, Christine Beelen, Mary Gray, Bonnie Stevens, Eva Latourell and in particular Sharon Harrison for their vision, imagination and perseverance. Sharon was the person with the creativity and organization to make the project work. Lady Aberdeen would be proud!

*Sharon Harrison resigned in February 2020

High Tea

Kathy Yach

This past year we hosted a "High Tea" on September 28th. Sharon Carstairs, a member of our committee, was our guest speaker. Her presentation was very interesting and enjoyable. We had three high school students come and play music for us. We also held a silent auction. We raised over \$5,000. It was such a success we were planning to host another one in September 2020 however those plans have been cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our committee. Especially Sharon Carstairs for being the Treasurer. Presently the members of the committee are Judith Scott, Mary Arthur, Linda Meek, Maurene Atherton, Sally Lefeuvre, Holly McDougall, Heather Dunbar and Mary Schoenfeld, our Club secretary who takes our committee minutes. Also, I would like to thank Nancy Birchard for looking for and making all

the food for the High Tea and Linda Meek for having her staff make sweets for the High Tea. I would also like to thank the members of the May Court Club who have helped us in many ways to achieve our goals.

Christmas Craft Fair

Sharyn Heagle

The Christmas Craft Fair was held on November 9th and could be best described as an event of magnificent proportions. From the opening door to the far wall of the Lady Aberdeen Hall our minds and hearts were infused with Holiday Spirit. Brought about by Johanna Blakney and her team, the building glittered and glowed and rang with seasonal joy. But the piece de resistance was the working (albeit artificial) fully decorated fireplace, the focal point of the Hall. Johanna's team really outdid themselves this year.

The tables in Aberdeen Hall held a wide array of quality hand-made goods for dolls, infants, and youngsters, accessories for personal and home use, scrumptious food, gently used antiques and other treasured items for shelf or wall display, and jewelry looking for a new canvas upon which to glitter.

Those looking for special gifts for special people were not disappointed with the addition of themed gift baskets, and a cuppa in the Tea Room or having their Palm read was icing on the cake. This successful event raised close to \$9,000.00 after expenses.

The event has been renamed the Christmas Market for 2020 but COVID-19 has resulted in the cancellation of this event to be replaced by at least one Tailgate Sale in the parking lot of the Club in August.

Shepherd's Fund-Raising Fashion Show

On Tuesday November 26, 2019 the May Court Club held a fashion with the help of Shepherd's.

We sold 67 tickets for the event and made \$4,000.00. The weather was clear and cold and there was no snow on the ground which made for easy travel at this time of year. Being so close to Christmas it was nice to see the store in all its winter glory.

I had a hard time convincing ladies to be our models for the show, but in the end did have enough models.

I had a great team to help put on this event and the food was excellent as ever. Thanks to all the members of the committee and to the members who supported this event.

Line, Wine and Cheese

Kathy Yach and Sandra Ferguson

This event was cancelled for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Life Cycle Bike Ride

Nancy Pyper

This event was cancelled for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE ASSOCIATION OF MAY COURT CLUBS OF CANADA

On May 3-4, 2019 the President and Vice President attended the Annual General Meeting of the Association of May Court Clubs of Canada in Chatham, Ontario. The key points emerging from the meeting were the Association fees, a motion to cancel the Fall General Meeting was defeated, and a motion passed to create an alternative to the May Court Prayer: “To those who are gathered here, let us guide our hands to works of charity, our hearts to humility and our minds to steadfast purpose.”

Each May Court Club can decide whether they would prefer to use the May Court Prayer or to use the May Court Blessing. Discussion also took place regarding Club bylaws and the need to ensure that they reflect inclusivity. In other words, Clubs might want to consider eliminating the use of gender specific terms such as “she” and “her” and replace them with “the individual”. The Association bylaws already refer to “the individual”.

The Association President, Kathie MacMillan, and Vice President, Renee Raphael, came to Ottawa in September to attend the High Tea and then later to attend the Fall General Meeting on October 9th. President Dorothy Scorsone and the Vice-President, Sharon Harrison attended the meeting of the Association of May Court Clubs of Canada in Oakville on October 18 – 19, 2019. Part of both days was devoted to preparing a strategic plan for the Association facilitated by Joan Shatilla, a consultant specializing in strategic planning.

The in-person Annual General Meeting of the Association of May Court Clubs was cancelled for 2020 and all other meetings have been held via Zoom. We will be meeting virtually on October 21st. This change has resulted in a far more collaborative set of meetings which has helped us all maneuver through this time. We have had lots of interesting discussions about how each Club has made its way through this period.

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE 2019-2020

Past President:	Mary Jane Asick	(May Court Club of Windsor)
President:	Kathie Macmillan	(May Court Club of Barrie)
Vice-President:	Sandi Mackenzie	(May Court Club of St. Catharines)
Secretary-Treasurer:	Renee Raphael	(May Court Club of Windsor)
Director at Large:	Cindy Popp	(May Court Club of 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

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 Aylen*	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
		2016-2018	Nancy Pyper

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.



Contact Information
MAY COURT CLUB ROOMS
114A Cameron Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0X1
Telephone: 613-733-4681
Fax: 613-733-5197
Executive Office: 613-733-9507
E-mail: secretary@maycourt.org
Web: www.maycourt.org

MAY COURT BARGAIN BOX
228 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6P2
Telephone: 613-235-0333

**LIBRARY OTTAWA HOSPITAL
CIVIC CAMPUS**
1053 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4E9
Telephone: 613-798-5555 Ext. 16717

THE HOSPICE AT MAY COURT
114 Cameron Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0X1
Telephone: 613-260-2906