



# The May Court Club

London  
Ontario

## Newsletter

WINTER 2005

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### President's Message

**Mary Van Dyk**

Happy New Year to all and hopefully your holiday season was an enjoyable one.

2004 was wound-up with a well attended Christmas Social, as usual in May Court style. A special thank you to our hostesses Noreen Bird and the Artisan group. Thank you Noreen for opening up your home to such a large group.

May Court Celebrates the Season was a great success and will be held at the same location, and on a Sunday in 2005.

Once again the fashion show and luncheon was a great turnout and I would like to thank Sharon's of Hyde Park for putting on a fantastic show and also thank Ann Holmes and the Sewing Group for hosting such a popular event. The winners of the \$50.00 gift certificates were Kay Elsdon, Judy Mannion and Lene Smith. Sandra Lawrence and Ann Reed from Association enjoyed themselves immensely and have thanked the Club for their hospitality.

We have a GENERAL MEETING coming up on January 26th at the Byron Fire Station (flyer enclosed) hosted by the Knitting Group. Lets have a great turnout to start 2005 off right.



### Upcoming Events

#### JANUARY 26TH

General Meeting  
Byron Fire Station Community Room  
7:30 p.m.  
Guest Speaker - Rick Jefferson  
R.S.V.P. Joyce Speir 660-055  
Alva Town 451-8247

#### April 6th

General Meeting  
Voting on Special Projects  
Dinner Meeting  
Location to be announced  
Contact Nicole Meston  
433-6989

#### March 31st

Deadline for Special  
Projects Submissions  
For 2005-2006

### What's Now at May Court

#### Vests and New Name Tags:

In the new year we are ordering new name tags and fleece vests. Everyone in the club should have a name tag. The exact cost is not known yet but will likely be \$10-\$11.

As well, we are using the vests as an alternative to the smocks. Some people would prefer this updated look.

If you already have a smock and wish to continue to use it you are quite welcomed to.

If you are interested in either of these items please call Lisa Jones before the end of January, at 438-2896



## Child Life

The Child Life "Sibling Awareness" program has gotten off to a great start at the London Health Sciences Centre. The 3 to 6 year olds and their expectant parents visit a birthing room, and learn about the new baby and its effect upon the family through a puppet show, a story and "newborn" dolls.



Proud graduates of the program leave with a "Happy Birth Day" card and wearing a graduation badge. Feedback from parents has been very positive.

Child Life "preserved" our active image by producing hundreds of jars of chutneys, jams, and jellies for the Bazaar and creating a seasonal, quilted wall hanging and a decorated tree for "Trees to Treasure".

We very much enjoy each others company during these very diverse activities.

## May Court Shop

Weekly sales have been average for this time of year but they vary from week to week. The quality of take-ins remains steady and knick-knacks and small household items continue to be a big seller.

We keep a constant flow of items in the shop with our clearance and dollar sections. After a month on the dollar rack, items are placed into the "goodwill" bag and distributed to several charity organizations.

The last day for winter take-in will be Saturday, January 29, with the annual winter sale taking place during the week of March 15 - 19. Spring take-ins will begin Tuesday, February 1st.

## Nutrition Program

We were really pleased to get off to a great start this fall. The loan of a large cargo van from Oxford Dodge Chrysler and the expert assistance of Art Hinton and Don Tremblay, along with the our stalwart crew of regular volunteers, made for a prompt startup service to all our users.



At of time of writing, we are supplying product to 79 schools and 90 programs (11 schools have both a snack program and a breakfast program). We have made 114 deliveries year-to-date and expended \$24,277.31. The program has received direct donations of \$975.00 to this point. Our primary food supplier continues to be Masonville Loblaws and the staff there have been unfailingly helpful and generous. (They have afforded discounts of some \$2000 to date this year.)

Ruth McConnell had suggested that fresh fruit be delivered to the schools at Christmas and we were happy to act on that idea. Twelve schools with breakfast programs were supplied this week with large boxes of clementine oranges. These were much appreciated by staff and students.

Thanks to all members for making this program possible. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.



**May Court Shop  
Volunteers**



## Knitting Group

The Knitting Group would like to congratulate the convenors; Dorothy Panabaker, Dianne Burke and Cathy Maltby for a very successful Bazaar at a new location.

The sales at our table were up this year due to our dedicated Knitters. Well Done!

Our thanks to Betty Gray for convening the Knitting Group this past year.

Starting in January we will be knitting again for next year's Bazaar.



## Sewing Group

To all who worked tirelessly for the bazaar, many thanks. Although sales at the sewing table were down somewhat we felt it was a successful event. We will be meeting, as usual, every other Wednesday in 2005, beginning on January 12.

Marilyn Rawson has generously offered the downstairs of her home for our meetings. This will be a great advantage, since the number of boxes of fabric and findings is quite large and it will be wonderful to have it all in one place. We are looking forward to getting started with the new projects.

## Trees to Treasure



First off, our thanks to Ann Hern, Honourary Member, who convened this year's Trees to Treasure Raffle held at Masonville Place. This is a huge responsibility and Ann took on this task while managing the books at the May Court Shop and working full-time at London Health Sciences. There were many compliments about our display of prizes this year both from members and the general public. Ann you did a great job!

The captains for this year were the Wednesday morning Child Life Group who presented Heartfelt Christmas in the form of a wall hanging and the tree - Gingerbread Frolic. Naturally Festive - Lib Thomson's group. Teddy Bears Picnic - Noreen Bird and Ann-Marie Bennett. Celestial Dreams - Betty McAuliffe and Mary Lou Macalpine. Victorian Christmas, Just Elegant and Yuletide Splendor were three beautiful items created by Heather Irwin. Serenity - vase of white flowers on a pedestal - Ann Hern and Heidi McCullough. Night Before Christmas (child's rocking chair with teddy bear and lap rug) - Nancy Beatty and Ruth McConnell. Carole Wright and Daphne Chapman put together Taste of London which again was our most popular item. The three trees purchased from Floridus were Country Gingham, Winter Fantasy and Burgundy Sensation. These trees were reassembled by Mary Husson, Mavis Mills, Marg Morgenroth, Lisa Jones and friends and Ann Hern.

Elaine Winder was our Treasurer and Sharon Naish did a great job enlisting members for selling tickets at the Mall. One hundred and three May Court members participated. IF YOU FORGOT TO SEND IN YOUR MONEY FOR TICKETS - IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

Eleven years - over \$88,000.00 to our School Nutrition Program. Committee members have always felt there is a potential to do better. However, this project needs a new committee to keep it running in the future. A work book is available with all the tasks outlined but we need a Convener and a Director to step in. There are members with ideas for creating new trees and prizes, there are members who are happy to sell tickets at the Mall, and there are members who still support this project in their own quiet way.

Our sales definitely went down when we had to relocate to the upper level at Masonville. Each year we try to have as much signage as possible but mall shoppers are really not looking at the signs and it is a constant battle to attract new ticket sales.



## Congratulations to the Trees to Treasure Prize Winners:

Heartfelt Christmas- Helen St. Cyr  
Gingerbread Frolic-Judy Roks  
Country Gingham -Bernice Porter  
Winter Fantasy- J. Ross  
Burgundy Sensation-Judy Mannion  
Naturally Festive-Tanya Hardy  
Teddy Bears Picnic-M. Lot  
Serenity-Shirley McCullough  
Victorian Christmas-Brenda Winters  
Celestial Dreams-Kelly & Evan Gillis  
Taste of London-Sheila Hughes  
Just Elegant- M. Lovett  
Yuletide Splendor- Y. Yardy

**Our Trees to Treasure Sponsors will be Listed in our Annual Report for 2004-2005.**

**We Thank Them for their Generosity.**

## Gourmet Club

Twenty-two members responded to the above fundraiser on their Membership Activity Form - not a great response but I am confident that with a little more information you would want to participate. So far five members have agreed to "host" and the others would enjoy being a guest. Who would not!

Perhaps it would help if we had a "hosts meeting" to set the parameters. This could take place just prior to our General meeting on January 26th, i.e. 7 p.m.

Hosts: Heather Irwin, Lisa Jones, Susan Hollyman, Cynthia O'Neill and Ruth McConnell. (This is the information from the activity forms - if it is your intention to "host", please join us).



## Artisian Group

The 2003-2004 Artisan group comprised of twelve May Court members. Two friends of May Court assisted on several occasions. Carole Wright and Daphne Chapman co-convened the group and made several buying trips immediately after Christmas. Under their coordination the group met for two hours Tuesday evenings at the May Court Shop.

## Bazaar

This year's bazaar items ranged from handmade creations to embellishment of crafts and sometimes actual resale. Bazaar net sale were approximately \$4,300. Expenses were approximately \$1800 realizing a profit of \$4250. Some unsold items have buyers and another 4300 may be added to the profit margin. Various small items will be marketed at the Shop. This has proven to be successful in that the items are well received by customers and May Courters alike and add to the continuation of "Celebrating the Season". We still have a small inventory of supplies suitable for creating wreaths, centerpieces, etc.

We consider the year to be successful from a profit standpoint and the shared enjoyment of working with a group of talented, fun, and interesting women, dedicated to May Court's goals.

## 2004-05 Structure

Knowing that this could be the year for a general re-conception and restructuring of the Artisans, significant notice was paid to the popularity of items and comments from our patrons. At our December 6th Artisan social we will review these findings.

## Conveners

Carole and Daphne have ably coordinated the Artisans for many years and wish to play less of an administrative role while continuing to buy items for our creations. Tentative plans are for Pat Steele to act as coordinator with Ann Marie Bennett remaining as Treasurer. Further reorganization will arise from our December meeting.

It is premature to determine if we will continue with weekly meetings or a less frequent workshop arrangement. Naturally bigger ticket items generate higher \$ volume, but it was noted that the Bazaar visitors are still anxious to purchase smaller ticket items, even if they are actually resale (e.g., Santa's Christmas Wish List notepads and pens.) There are exceptions for these items for the children in our target base. Once again, tentatively, it is proposed we continue to purchase materials and items as soon after Christmas as possible at 75-90% of retail cost. By redistributing responsibilities, we hope to continue a successful group while working with the parameters of frequent vacation plans of a third of our group. We seek and welcome new members.

## Comings...

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**HELEN DUNDAS**  
763 VISCOUNT RD.  
LONDON, ON N6J 4A4  
936-7730  
jdundas3087@rogers.com

**HENRIETTA FRENCH**  
1679 ESTEVAN RD.  
LONDON ON N5X 2G8  
434-7370

**DAGMA SPEECHLY**  
1905 ALDERSBROOK RD.  
LONDON, ON N6G 3R4  
472-7447

**GARIELE BURNARD**  
97 ST. LAWRENCE BLVD,  
LONDON, ON N6A 2X2  
681-4485  
Jim.burnard@sympatico.ca

### ADDRESS CHANGES:

**JOY HEWITT**  
768 CLASSIC DR.  
LONDON, ON  
N5W 5V2

**BETTY URQUHART**  
202-600 LONGWOODS RD.  
LONDON, ON  
N6K 4X9  
641-9514

**JUNE BENTLEY**  
822-1 GROSVENOR ST.  
LONDON, ON  
N6A 1Y2  
434-2450

**SHEILA MACKEWN**  
32-1890 RICHMOND ST.,  
LONDON, ON  
N5X 4J9  
679-8474

### NAME CHANGE:

**ANN SULLIVAN-HAMPSEN**  
113 HUNT CLUB DR.  
NGH 3Y4



## CONTACT US

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**Newsletter Design by Patti Frost**

## And Goings...

**Bronia McDougal** joined May Court in 2000/2001. Bronia has resigned and will be missed. Bronia was with the knitting group and also did a stint at the Shop. Bronia, its sad to see you go, but if you should change your mind and have some spare time, we will welcome you back. Thank you for all your time with May Court.

**Wendy Fretz** joined the May Court Club in 2000/2001. Wendy shared her many talents as Secretary on the Executive. She was always willing and able to participate in Bazaar especially in Pie Making workshops and assisted with the bake table. Wendy worked at the Shop for several years and will be missed in the group. Thanks Wendy for recruiting new members, we will miss you and wish you lots of luck in your new endeavors but if you get bored, we will welcome you back.