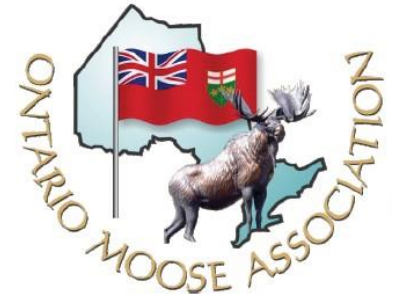


ONTARIO MOOSE FOCUS



“Focusing on the Ontario Moose Association and the Loyal Order Of Moose Fraternity”

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

FACEBOOK GROUP: ONTARIO MOOSE ASSOCIATION



Message from the Editor

Sometimes the hot weather of summer takes us away from our Moose homes, but there are always fun things to do! Share with us all what you have planned! If you have something you would like published in our next issue, please send it to jacqui.may69@gmail.com before September 15.

Jacqueline (Jacqui) May



“No-one stands so tall or so straight as when one stoops to help a child.”

Important Dates

Heart of the Community

Report due Sept 15

International Convention

New Orleans, LA
July 24-27

OMA Cornhole Tournament

Oshawa
August 24

GHML 60th Anniversary

Hamilton
Sept 13

2024 Fall Convention

East London
Sept 26-29

2024 Chapter Rally Day

Sarnia
October 19



“EMBRACE OUR COMMUNITY”



This year’s Annual Membership Campaign is “Embrace Our Community” which runs from May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025. “Embrace Our Community” highlights the good that our Fraternity has provided to our local communities for the past 100+ years and promotes what we will continue to do into the future. We embrace our communities with awareness of the Moose, ask how we as a Fraternity can assist, and invite them to join us in support of their/our community.

Golden Horseshoe Moose Legion Milestone

On September 13, Golden Horseshoe Moose Legion will celebrate its 60th Anniversary. Please join us for recognition of our Past North Moose/Presidents and Past Secretaries at Hamilton Lodge. We will have our recognition between 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Thanks!
Ken Osbaldeston



President's Message

Greetings my fellow Ontario Moose!!

I hope that you are all enjoying your Summer. Might be better if it would stop raining for more than three days!! I have been spending a lot of time on the Lawn Mower this summer, or as Dawn calls it "the toy". We've been to a few more Lodges in the past bit, the District 3 meeting and Sun Parlor Legion 95 meetings in Chatham. Dawn had a WOTM training session in Orillia, so we made a quick trip up there. Always good to see the Orillia bunch and those who travelled to learn and grow.

The Sarnia Lodge ran a very successful Child Find booth at an event sponsored by a local charity called Noels gift. We ran some 30 kids through the process. Parents were very thankful we were there. We need to grow this program and work with our OPP partners to get events going in our communities.

Your Association board meet via zoom for our summer meeting. Lots of time was spent on the fall Convention in London. Look for information to be out shortly. This looks like it will be another fun filled weekend culminating with a Night at the Mooscars. A great opportunity to brush off those fancy duds and have a party. I hope you all come out and partake!!

I am looking forward to our trip to New Orleans for the International Convention. Second time for me to be in the Big Easy. I am hoping to network with a few of the MI folks while we are there and continue to lobby for Ontario and Canada.

I am planning to attend a few of the other District meetings over the next month and look forward to seeing you out and about in your Lodges

Fraternally yours
President Gord.



M.I. Board of Directors/OMA Chapter Advocate, Training, and Convention Chairman Wendy Matthew

The Ontario Women of the Moose certainly participated in the 2023 – 2024 Membership campaign of Proud Past ... Bright Future! For the first time in many, many years, we had an increase in membership. Congratulations to Chatham, East London, Fort William, Kitchener, Orillia, Sarnia and Woodstock Chapters on their success. Some of these Chapters have already been notified that they earned the Award of Achievement and their

Jr. Past Regent qualified to receive the Golden Gavel Award. Woo Hoo!!! We look forward to seeing you at the Convocation Ceremony which will be held in conjunction with our Annual Convention in London.

Mark your calendars, Ladies! The 2024 Women of the Moose Chapter Rally celebration will be held in Sarnia on Saturday, October 19. Hopefully we can make it a fun day of learning and sharing ideas. The theme is "Goin' on a Moose Hunt". Details will be sent out sometime in August.

Several Ontario members recently travelled to Mooseheart to attend the 5th and 8th Grade Promotion, Highschool Graduation, Pilgrim Conferral and of course visit with our Canada Home Family. The highlight that weekend was once again meeting Nascar driver and Moose member Ross Chastain who the Moose sponsors for a few races each year. And of course, congrats to my buddy, Chris Goldhawk from Chatham Lodge, on being conferred with the Pilgrim Degree. It was quite a celebration!

Soon, many of us will be travelling to the International Convention in New Orleans. Congratulations to all of our Ontario members who will be receiving the College of Regents and Star degrees! Some of you have been waiting a long time for these honours. Way to go, Ladies!!!

WOTM 6-hr Training sessions have been set up and a few have been held already. The next session is scheduled for Sunday, August 11 at East London Lodge starting at 10 am. Tamara Bornath will be the session leader. We have also held Lodge Leadership and 2-HOTT Training recently. If you require training and have not yet attended a session, please let me know ASAP and we can get more Training sessions set up. Our Trainers are always willing to help our members get the proper required training. Thank you to all our Ontario Trainers!!!

Future convention dates are as follows:

2024 Annual September 26 to September 29 London

2025 MidYear March 27 to March 30 Sarnia

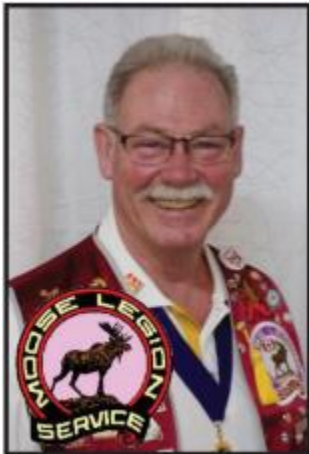
2025 Annual September 25 to March 28 Brantford (Tentative)

Stay safe and can't wait to see you ...

Wendy Matthew

Chapter Advocate / OMA Training / OMA Convention Chairman

519-360-7575 / wmatthew@sympatico.ca



Moose Legion Area Manager Ken Osbaldeston

Ontario Moose Legions met their 2023 – 2024 commitments and have all received the Project & Fundraising letters to start our work for 2024 – 2025. This helps to compare to last year and know what needs attention. Sun Parlor 95 and Golden Horseshoe 132 finished in Pilgrim level. Nickel City 29 and Canadian Rainbow 133 finished in Fellowship level and Maple Leaf 135 had no level. Their commitments were paid but after deadlines.

Moose Legion Membership: Overall M.L. membership grew for the 2nd year.

Ontario Moose Legions have a different story, since our Convention we are down 32 in Active membership. Totals are: Active 376, Expired 55, and Dropped 52. The

Moose Legion Ambassadors and I express the importance of working retention and

signing new members. Our incoming International Moose Legion President Ron Serio has accepted our invitation to be O.V. for the 44th Can-Am to be held in Hamilton February 28, March 1 & 2, 2025. We are looking forward to a great weekend. International Moose Legion Ritual Competition & Conference 2024 will be held at Valley Forge Casino Resort (Northeast Philadelphia) October 30th to November 3, 2024. The first two days are to accommodate Moose Legion Secretary 2-day training, and to hold MLEC Thursday October 31st. We are hopeful that some Ontario Moose Legionnaires will be able to go to this Moose Legion weekend.

International Moose Legion Ambassadors for Ontario:

(North) Fellow Ron Dimma Sault Ste. Marie #535 & Nickel City #29 705-989-8731

(South) Fellow John Thorogood from Hamilton # 1142 and Golden Horseshoe #132 905-537-7844.

Area Manager Ken "O" Osbaldeston

289-888-1900

Email: osbaldestonken@gmail.com

Address change:

370 Sligo Rd. E.

Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L2

Fall Convention – East London!



Registration Form
Ontario Moose Association
94th Annual Convention
Host Lodge – East London Moose Lodge 1300
September 26th to 29th, 2024

Four Points by Sheraton (London)
 1150 Wellington Road South, London, ON N6E1M3
Phone: 519-681-0600
 Hotel Booking Code: **OOM** (Ontario Moose Association)
Hotel Booking Cut-Off date is AUGUST 26th, 2024.

Participant Information	
First Name:	Last Name
Street Address:	
City:	Postal Code:
Phone:	Email:
Lodge# & Name:	MID#:
Chapter# & Name:	
Position at your Lodge/Chapter: International or Provincial Position:	
Men's Degrees (Check Box)	Women's Degrees (Check Box)
Moose Legion	Academy of Friendship
Fellow	Star Degree
Pilgrim	College of Regents
Event Registration (enter number of tickets/entries needed)	
Registration Fee (\$35)	5 Club Qualified (Y/N)
Thurs. Meet & Greet (N/C)	Voting Delegate (Y/N)
Fri. Pilgrim Lunch (\$30)	
Sat. Fellowship Breakfast (\$30)	Golden Gavel (WOTM)
Sat. Higher Degree Lunch (\$30)	Matriculant Fee (\$15)
Sat. OMA Awards Banq. (\$60)	Total Registration: \$

Convention Pre-Registration Cut-Off Date: September 16th, 2024

By Mail
 Send registration forms to:
 Ontario Moose Association
 Attn: Don Berrill, Secretary
 10 Isherwood Avenue – Unit 25
 Cambridge, ON N1R 8L5

Electronic Registration
 Complete online form at this link:
<https://forms.gle/ZMDX22894VTzvN8p8>
 Email transfer fees to
 OMA Secretary at email address
domb@ontariomoose.ca



94th OMA CONVENTION HOTEL INFO September 26-29, 2024

Four Points by Sheraton Hotel
 1150 Wellington Rd. South London, ON N6E 1M3
 PHONE: 519-681-0600
Booking Code OOM (Ontario Moose Association)

- Superior King Room - \$115**
- Superior 2 Queen Beds - \$115**
- Tower Suite King w/sofa - \$145**
- Tower Suite 2 Double Beds w/sofa - \$145**
 (Plus, taxes per night)

You can also email your hotel request to
reservations@fourpointslondon.com and reference
 the Ontario Moose Association (code OOM) to book.

EAST LONDON LODGE 1300 TO HOST!

The OMA VP's Great Ontario Road Trip

As I look forward to the possibility of becoming the new OMA President in the Fall, I took this opportunity to get to know the basics about as many lodges as possible. I embarked on my trip July 3rd and started my journey to Cornwall. Navigating the Toronto end of the 401 is never



easy, and this trip was no different. The beastly humidity of the day didn't help! When we arrived in Cornwall, we were treated to the bi-weekly Fun Darts, where players' names are put into a hat and teams are picked at random. Darts are BIG in Cornwall! Anthony and Sandra made us feel at home while we were there. Next stop on the journey was to Oshawa. We were impressed with the facility there, which has not only 2 large halls, but meeting rooms, offices, and a fabulous back deck! We had



planned to go to Orillia next, but unfortunately, Orillia is closed on Thursdays during the summer. Next time, Orillia! Friday the 5th was

the journey to Sudbury. Stan Snow and Richard Reinguette were our hosts, and Richard brought Mom and I some candy for snacking on the road. We were impressed with the



architecture of their Moose home, which was a theatre at one time. The acoustics in there are awesome, and I can just imagine what it sounds like when they



have live music playing. Later that day, we had planned to make it to Elliot Lake for the evening... unfortunately, I learned the tough lesson of travelling in the North: ALWAYS gas up before leaving town! We southerners are not used to not

having a gas station on every other corner.



Thank goodness for CAA. Anyway, by the time we got going again, it was too late to make it to Elliot Lake on time. It will be a priority next time for sure. We stayed at Chutes Provincial Park that night and left early the next morning for our push towards Thunder Bay. We got to White Lake Provincial Park, where we dropped the trailer for the next 2 nights, and then travelled the 4 hours each way to Thunder Bay without the load

of the trailer slowing us down in the mountains on the way. Beautiful landscapes up there... I can see why they call it God's Country. We visited Port Arthur Lodge, where they were having a volunteer appreciation breakfast. We were welcomed by District 6 President Krumpholtz and Lodge President Darren Smylie, who told us to help ourselves. The lodge has 12 pool tables and a sizeable Pickleball area in the back hall. I was given a tour of the lodge by



Chaplain Lisa French, who explained that the lodge was built on a swamp. The city put in some drainage ditches nearby, and as a result, the concrete slabs on the back portion of the lodge sank a good 6 inches! Ramps and caution signs are the norm in the lodge, but Darren is doing his best to make sure everything runs smoothly. As a lodge with no Administrator, the bulk of this work is borne by Darren, and everyone appreciates his efforts. We were unable to visit Fort William Lodge because it was closed, but I am told that they operate a campground during the summer months in lieu of operating the



lodge itself. Next was Sault Ste. Marie, from where District 5 President Mike Dupuis and OMA Chaplain Ron Dimma both hail. When we arrived, the lodge was conducting an election for a vacant position on the board. We appreciated the conversation and fellowship with the members there. Next, we travelled through Michigan to get to Sarnia in the driving rain and wind left over from Hurricane Beryl. Keeping the trailer on the road was a white-knuckle affair! We arrived safely, however, and met up with OMA Sergeant-at-Arms Tim Gowdey for a drink and fellowship. Next day we visited



Chatham and Wallaceburg. In Chatham, we arrived for their Thursday brunch menu, and were served by newly-minted Pilgrim Chris Goldhawk. I expressed my personal congratulations to him on this accomplishment. We were treated to lunch by Wendy Matthew and had some great conversation. Friday it was time for Windsor, a huge and immensely



important community-oriented Lodge. We were impressed with the accomplishments posted in the foyer of the lodge, including the work of their Junior Moose members. They were having their Friday Fish Fry.



Saturday was spent at both lodges in London. At London Lodge, there was a rental happening in the main hall, so we spent time in the social quarters. Afterwards, we headed over to East London for a potluck snack and the Moose Races! We had fun betting on the moose we felt would win the derby, and were quite often disappointed with Charlie, who seemed to like to stay in the gate. A little coaxing from PDGR Tamara Bornath (or as she called it, correction) helped Charlie get ahead for future races. Sunday in Woodstock we were treated to a live country band and dancing. We had great conversation with Lodge President PDGR Dianne Mingo and great food courtesy of the kitchen staff. In Kitchener, we met with PDGR Janis Turenne, who gave us a tour of their lodge, including a look at the indoor horseshoe pits, which are



concealed underneath the floor of the hall when not in use. What an innovative idea to keep the horseshoe players engaged!



While we were there, the lodge was hosting their weekly fun pool tournament. Pool is as big in Kitchener as darts are in Cornwall, so it seems! The last leg of our tour was bringing us home to St. Catharines, but we stopped in Hamilton first. We sat with

some familiar faces such as GHML President Fellow David Jack and ATM Pilgrim George Casey in the social quarters. I am a member of this lodge as well as St. Catharines, so I did my sign up for the weekly Snowball draw. We discussed the business of our District a bit, then headed home to St. Catharines.

If I learned nothing else on this trip. It's that there are so many ways to engage members... not just the usual pool, darts, horseshoes, euchre, and crib. Moose races, Pickleball, and camping are some ideas that are a bit outside of the box. And it's definitely not all about the alcohol served in the Social Quarters either... I witnessed completely sober members having all kinds of fun. Get to know what's going on in your lodges and have fun while raising money for our beloved Mooseheart and Moosehaven, as well as local charities!

Jacqui May

OMA Vice President

Octogenarians!!!

Jean Nichols, Ed Iaro, and Liz McLeod, all from Brantford Lodge, celebrated their 80th birthdays together in June. Pizza, cake and fellowship was the order of the evening. Congratulations to all on this milestone!



HELP WANTED!!!

Our long time Moose Charities Chairpersons, Liz and Kelly Parker are retiring from their duties as of the fall convention. The OMA would like to thank them and their team for many years of outstanding service. If you would like to volunteer to take on this most important role in our organization, please speak to Don Berrill, Gord Gark, or Jacqui May. See the duties outlined below.



Congratulations to Ontario's Newest Pilgrim, Chris Goldhawk from Chatham! An honour well-deserved!



Moose Charities Chairmen encourage, assist, educate and communicate the fundraising efforts of Moose Charities for Mooseheart & Moosehaven. The Chairman is the voice of Moose Charities and will maintain the following programs with the help of Assistant Chairmen and committee members Moose Charities.

Responsibilities

- **Presentation at Annual/Mid-Year Conventions**
(10 min. presentation created by Moose Charities send to you prior to convention)
- **Staff a display table with volunteers at Annual/Mid-year Convention**
 - (see attached ideas for display table)
- **Fill out a post convention report provided by Moose Charities**
- **Recruit a Moose Charities committee to attend district meetings, lodge/chapter meetings**
 - Grab your friends and fellow members who are willing to make a difference by representing the programs Moose Charities offers. The Moose Charities Staff will give you all the tools and hands on help you will need to be a great success.

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Jacqui May, Moose Focus Editor

C/O St. Catharines Moose Lodge #936

92 ~~Essexville~~ St., St. Catharines, ON L2S 2G6

Your subscription supports OMA initiatives!



O.M.A. Cornhole Tournament

August 24, 2024

Registration: 11:30 start time 12 o'clock

Location: Oshawa Lodge 2132

731 Wilson Road South

Oshawa, Ontario

Entry fee: \$20.00/ person

(moose members only)

This will be an outdoor event weather permitting. Our kitchen will be open.

Please email me at PWest52388@aol.com to let me know if you are planning on attending so we have an idea of how many boards we'll need.

Thanks in advance hoping to see a lot of you.

Paul West