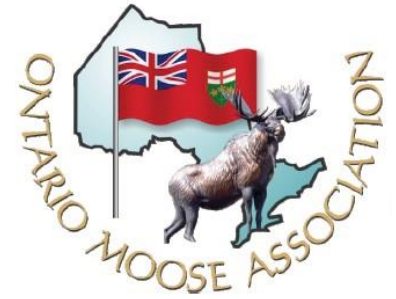


ONTARIO MOOSE FOCUS



"Focusing on the Ontario Moose Association and the Loyal Order Of Moose Fraternity"

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

FACEBOOK GROUP: ONTARIO MOOSE ASSOCIATION



Message from the Editor

In our Moose homes, there are always fun things to do! It's time to have that warm cup of cocoa and settle back into a routine at the lodge. 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 December 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 Nov 15

Chairman of the Board Bob Funkey Visit

Orillia, Hamilton, Chatham, Sarnia
Nov 14-17

OMA Winter Meeting

Jan 17-19

Administrator School

Kitchener
Feb 22

2025 Can-Am

Hamilton
Feb 28-Mar 2

2025 Spring Conference

Sarnia
March 27-30



"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.

Cradle Fund

Cradle Fund donations are now due. Please report your amounts to Kevin Rumble and remit your funds directly to Moose Charities as soon as possible.





President's Message

Brothers and Sisters: I am deeply honoured and humbled to accept your endorsement as OMA President for the upcoming year. I have been inspired by many people along the way, and I would like to thank my many mentors for showing me how. You have imparted your knowledge, encouraged me, and given me a listening ear when I needed to sort things out as needed. Of course, being the first serving female President of the Ontario Moose Association deserves a few words.

Ever since we became a co-ed Fraternity, the doors have opened for women in the Association to reach for new goals. As we move forward, it's clear that the Association must continue to embrace diversity by creating opportunities for everyone, especially our sisters. The outdated perception that "Women can't do that" is being challenged, and I'm happy to say that our Association is making a great start. Looking at our new Executive, you can see that women are now fully one half of the voices being heard... and THAT is something to be celebrated. Because without seeing ourselves in leadership roles, women may feel unsure about becoming active participants within the OMA, and I am so proud to help show the way. We need to lift each other up, ladies... because after all, Women Empower Women. Putting each other down, gossiping, and making false assumptions about each other are not productive pursuits.

Don't be afraid to shake things up, girls. Brené Brown aptly states: "You can't do anything brave if you are wearing the straitjacket of what people think." I know that we often feel judged for speaking up, because we are sometimes perceived as too aggressive or threatening to the status quo. The days of being overlooked, - or even worse, silenced, because we don't conform to the expectations of being kind, patient, and soft-spoken – are starting to be in the rear-view mirror. To that end, I applaud the men of the Association who are moving forward with the times and listening to the great ideas that the Women of the Moose always bring to the table.

Our goals for the future need to include member engagement. How do we do this? Increasing member satisfaction and participation is done by making members feel welcome, supported, and heard. When we return to our Lodge homes, I challenge us all to ask the quiet members in the corners of our Social Quarters what they have to say. In my experience, the soft and gentle observers in our Lodges have unique insights into the dynamics and needs of the people around them. If we can engage these often-unnoticed members, the Lodges here in Ontario will continue to thrive now and for years to come.

Fraternally yours,
President Jacquie May

Your New Board of Officers 2024-2025

President – Jacqueline (Jacqui) May
Vice President – Ron Dimma
Past President – Gord Gark
Chaplain – Maxine Wood
Treasurer – Dawn Gark
Secretary – Don Berrill
Sergeant-at-Arms – Michael Shorthouse
Inner Guard – Tim Gowdey

**Congratulations
to all!**



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

A Question for the ladies: Why should women remain a part of their Chapter? *Excerpt from Wendy's Message from early 2022*

Since the inception of The One Moose in May 2021, some of our Chapter members have complained that we are going to lose members. And it's a known fact that we are! We need to make sure our members know why our Chapters exist, their importance and their value. The mission and purpose of the Women of the Moose has not changed. Our focus remains on Mooseheart, Moosehaven and our communities. And, we have FUN doing it! We pride ourselves on our amount of community involvement and enjoy serving others. We promote The Moose by sharing our experiences with others and inviting them to join. Chapters provide an opportunity for Girl Time. In the planning stages before the One Moose transition, our membership strongly indicated a desire for the continuation of a female-only unit. Chapters give us the opportunity to gather, celebrate and encourage one another. They provide an opportunity for women to be recognized for their efforts hence the preservation of our Higher Degrees.

According to several studies, fun and supportive relationships can decrease stress, improve your quality of life, and provide a sense of meaning and connection. Our chapters should be providing a safe and welcoming environment so all members can enjoy some quality Girl Time.

Chapters are the financial providers for many specific projects at Mooseheart. Chapters donate over \$2 million annually for the operation of Mooseheart School. The donations we remit with our 114 Forms support physical and occupational therapy for our students ... sporting injuries, speech therapy, life skills and more. Chapters also make it possible for our kids to enjoy the Christmas season filled with parties, pictures, and presents. We ensure each new student gets his or her 'right start'. Some of our residents arrive on campus with not much more than the clothes on their back. The right start program provides the items and encouragement they need to feel safe, secure, and connected at Mooseheart. The Women of the Moose heavily supports the Athletics Programs on campus: uniforms, cleats, sneakers, equipment and more.

The Women of the Moose also provide for the safety and security of our Moosehaven residents. Chapters provide pharmacy assistance and offset vision, hearing and dental expenses not covered by Medicare/Medicaid. Christmas in October ensures each resident has a joyous holiday season including gifts, decorations, and celebrations. We fund the Moosehaven Beauty and Barber Shop; everyone wants to look and feel their best! Everyday needs are also provided by the WOTM; everything from deodorant and toothpaste to socks and sneakers. How many times have we repaired the sea wall and pier? Mother Nature can take a toll, but the Women of the Moose always come through with donations to make repairs. Katherine Smith Hall was fully funded by our chapters. It offers state-of-the-art facilities for those residents living with dementia and Alzheimer's. These are just a few examples of how many programs the Women of the Moose provide for beloved residents. We send cards and gifts to our Sunshine Children and Grandparents. Many chapters make special donations for specific homes and residences or other special projects. Here in Ontario, we work with the other Provinces to support Canada Home on the Mooseheart Campus. Chapters also provide a substantial amount of community service.

So, what would be the impact on our Lodges if Chapters didn't exist? Lodges don't remit 114 forms and donations. Imagine the financial impact on the Lodge if they had to take on the projects we discussed earlier. What would happen if those donations were no longer being contributed? We are committed to maintaining the highest level of care for our kids and seniors – our Chapters make that possible.

Wendy Matthew 519-360-7575 / wmatthew@sympatico.ca

Ladies, please keep your Chapter dues current. The residents at Mooseheart and Moosehaven thank you!

Our Young Moose are Answering the Call!

When our long time Moose Charities Chairpersons, Liz and Kelly Parker retired from their duties as of the fall convention, we were happy to welcome William Gark to fill those big shoes.

Also answering the call along with her mom Amy, will be Junior Moose Brooke Renaud. We look forward to her fresh enthusiasm and new ideas to support Child Find. Look for her at the Child Find table at the next Convention.

The OMA would like to thank both these young people for stepping forward. The future is bright!

Higher Degrees

This has surely been a full year of big honours for the Association. Honoured since our last publication have been the following:

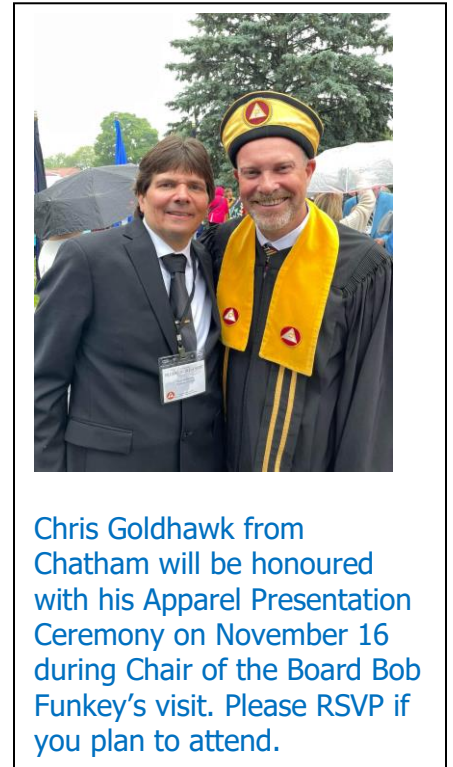
Fellows: Paul West, Murray Quinn, Rick Wagner, Dan Walker, Tate Osbaldeston, and Bernie Roberts

College of Regents: Sharon McGregor, Danielle McGregor, Diana Lovell, Jacqui May, and Kim Fishleigh

Stars: Shirley Michaud, Jacqui May, and Diana Lovell

Golden Gavel: Laura Cummings, Bonnie Brown, and Barb White

Higher Degrees Board Member: Tamara Bornath



Chris Goldhawk from Chatham will be honoured with his Apparel Presentation Ceremony on November 16 during Chair of the Board Bob Funkey's visit. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.



Premier Lodge Awards

Congratulations to the **SEVEN** Lodges that earned the Premier Lodge Award this year: Chatham, Fort William, Hamilton, Orillia, Oshawa, Sarnia, and St. Catharines. That's about half of our Lodges in Ontario! What an accomplishment for our Association. Keep up the good work.



Annual Convention in the Big Easy



Fall Convention – East London!



Tommy Moose is always on hand when there are donations to be made in our local communities, whether to Emergency Services or Food Banks. Thanks Tommy!



A Night at the Moosecars!



Three Monkeys came to the Golden Gavel Ceremony



Past President Gord Gark

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