

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

March marked the Crochet Club's 22nd Anniversary. Happy Anniversary and thank you to all our members who continue to make the club a success as it continues to grow and do great things for our community.

MEETINGS:

NIGHT MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday April 24, 7 pm

WHERE: Salvation Army London Citadel (555 Springbank Drive – the corner of Springbank Drive and Wonderland Road)

DAY MEETING

WHEN: Thursday April 25, 10 am

WHERE: Eastern Star Temple (800 Fanshawe Park Road East, London)

We will be hosting a speaker from Victoria Quilts at the April meetings.

March attendance: Night - 21 & Day - 22

NEXT CLUBHOUSE DROP IN DAYS:

Please note that there is ongoing construction around the area of the clubhouse. Be prepared to detour.

Tuesday April 9th 10 am - 1 pm <https://volunteersignup.org/KYH4W>

Please ensure to sign up via the link to show us your intention to drop in, to sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do.

Upcoming Dates:

- Thursday May 16th 10 am - 1 pm volunteersignup.org/JJ94P
- Saturday June 8th 10 am - 1 pm

If anyone has questions or difficulties with the signup sheet please contact Sian at sian.roberts154@gmail.com or at 519-204-3730.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As you know, we announced in October last year there would be a vacancy in the position of treasurer as of the Annual General Meeting 2024. I am pleased to inform you that Sian Roberts has come forward with her request to fill this role in the future. Sian has a background in accounting and is an active member on the current board. For transparency, and to meet the requirements of our election process, I am giving notice for any other Club member who may wish to put their name forward for the position

of treasurer of The Crochet Club to do so before the April 24/25 meeting (please notify the President, Lynne Hammond, before the meeting) If no other member comes forward before the April meeting, then we will proceed to fill the position of treasurer at that meeting with a start date of November 2024, as the outcome of this process may have a ripple effect which we will discuss more at a later date.

RED SCARF/HIV AIDS SPEAKER

At last month's meeting Fran McKeown, Coordinator of Volunteer Services for the Regional HIV Aids Connection, spoke about the organization and the Red Scarf campaign. The Regional HIV AIDS Connection helps those at risk and living with AIDS. In 2012 when pondering their next fundraising campaign, someone noticed that when a red scarf was worn and the ends were crossed over in the front it looked like the AIDS awareness symbol, and the Red Scarf campaign was born. 200 scarves donated were tied around items downtown. They were free to take and each scarf had a tag with facts about AIDS and those living with it to help end stigma and bring awareness. It doubled as an art exhibit. December 1st is World Aids Day, scarves are collected all year long. Pop up events throughout the year and craft shows in November where scarves are purchased by donation of any amount. Again all are tagged with info to end the stigma, and raise awareness. The connection holds a benefit concert. In 2023 it raised \$60, 000 and a total of 800 scarves were received that year.

If you would like to donate any red scarves, take a break from a large blanket project, you can continue to bring them to our clubhouse or meetings for collection and we will donate them to the Regional AIDS office (602 Queens Ave). You can always drop them off there yourself as well, just enter through the side door. Fran is also happy to pick them up. Their flyer is attached with the scarf size info. We do have a decent amount of red yarn available at the Clubhouse if you are interested in making scarves, be sure to stop in and pick some up.

YARN DRIVE

The yarn drive reader to reader post continues to provide yarn donations. We have received over 60 donations from all over the city. Thank you to all our drivers and sorters for the extra time and effort given with this yarn drive.

2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN *Keeping Our Community Warm* has continued to grow. This month's donations totaled \$250, and \$53.05 donations in kind. Totalling donations of **\$13,658**.

BLANKETS COLLECTED LAST MONTH:

At our last meetings we had the following # of blankets turned in:

Full: 50
Lap: 68
Baby: 20

Donated 20 lap to Victim Services

SILENT AUCTION BLANKETS

London Track 3 Ski School for a silent auction this month. This is a charity whose mission is to provide a safe, enjoyable downhill skiing or snowboarding experience for persons with a variety of physical and/or intellectual challenges and to provide an enriching volunteer experience for students and adults alike. This program encourages the development of long term supportive relationships and individual experiential growth.

L'Arche for their event in September. L'Arche London is a non-profit organization providing homes, a vibrant community life, and programs for people with intellectual disabilities.



THANK YOU

My Sisters Place provided a lovely shout out to the club on the radio in March. Shortly after they received a donation from us they were interviewed and provided a great thank you to our club for the blankets and said a few words about our organization.

WESTERN FAIR ARTS COMPETITION NOW OPEN

The 2024 arts competition for this year's Western Fair is now open. You can find all the information and links to enter at their website

<https://www.westernfair.ca/creative-arts-competition>

You will need to complete the online entry form and submit a photo of your blanket. Marti Acton, who previously submitted blankets for the club, is happy to answer any questions you have about the submission process. You can reach her at 519-681-4876 or martiacton@rogers.com

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Lynne

at 519-868-0678 or lynne.hammond@sympatico.ca

