

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



MEETINGS:

This month is our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Our AGM will occur at the beginning of the October meetings. You will receive a separate email with the financial statements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Other board members will report on the year in review for their position at the meetings. A full package of all reports will be available in hard copy form at the meeting should you wish to see them.

NIGHT MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday October 30, 7 pm

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

DAY MEETING

WHEN: Thursday October 31, 10 am

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

September meeting attendance: Evening 32 (4 new members), Day 27 (5 new members)

Carl Cadogan from the Kidney Foundation will be at the night meeting to talk about the foundation and pick up blankets.

NEXT CLUBHOUSE DROP IN DAYS:

OCTOBER - Friday the 18th - 1:30-4:30 - Marion Honsberger, Phyllis Walzak
volunteersignup.org/DKWRE

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.

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

UPCOMING DATES:

NOVEMBER - Tuesday, the 12th - 10:30-1:30 Lynn Hammond, Michelle Moore
volunteersignup.org/X3ABB

CATNIP MATS

There are still catnip mats available for purchase. They will be available at the meetings. They are \$20 each.

RED SCARVES

This is the last month to turn in your red scarves at the meetings. Mariann will be getting them to Fran at the HIV/AIDS Connection so they can prepare for their campaign which starts in November. <https://www.hivaidconnection.ca/redscarf>

WESTERN FAIR - 2024 CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION UPDATE

Club members swept the Baby Blanket category!

First prize – Fran S.; Second prize – Gail R.; Third Prize – Marion H.

Granny Square Blanket – Third prize – Marion H.

Blanket/Afghan category – Third prize – Fran S.

Best in Show – an award sponsored by the Crochet Club of London – Betty C. (not a Club member)

2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN *Keeping Our Community Warm*

This month's donations totaled \$260 (\$88.98 donations in kind). This brings our grand total this year to **\$18,338**. This is amazing and we are so appreciative to all who have donated. This along with yarn donations and the time dedication of our members, keeps this club thriving and continuing to do great things for our community.

The 3rd annual fundraising campaign has officially kicked off as of October 1st and we are maintaining our goal of **\$10,000**. We have surpassed this each year and we can only hope to do so again. With the rising costs of everything including our yarn it continues to be a very important aspect of the club's success. We will be sending out the campaign email this month. As always feel free to spread this around to family and friends and let's continue to provide warmth to our community!

GRANTS & DONATIONS

We have been selected as the recipients for the Walmart Canada Community Grant. We will receive a cheque this month in the amount of \$1000.

We also received a cheque from the Wilf & Jean Bell Foundation in the amount of \$6413.53.

BLANKETS COLLECTED AT LAST MONTHS MEETINGS

FULL 50
LAP 69
BABY 15

20 Full, 50 Lap and 50 Baby were given to Life*Spin and 20 lap were given to Inviva. That is a total of 1,346 blankets provided to agencies this fiscal year! Congratulations to everyone and their SUPER blanket making.

64 Pet blankets to SALT (Saving Animal Lives Together) for use in their adoptions and the comfort and care of their rescues.

SILENT AUCTION BLANKETS

Humane Society London Middlesex hslm.ca - Two blankets for their upcoming Walk and Bark in the Park.

Sunday October 6 at Springbank Park to raise funds as they near completion of their new home on Dundas, planned move in November/December.



London Health Sciences Foundation - Two blankets for their 36th Annual Country Classic Auction on November 4, 2024, for the hospital's highest priority needs. We have been donating to this event for 20 years!



Kidney Foundation of Canada- For their walk on Sunday Sept 22 to support kidney-related research.



Update on a recent Auction to which we donated a blanket - \$70 was raised with the blanket donated to Purrfect Haven Cat Rescue at their recent walk in June.

FUNDRAISING - ONLINE SALES

We are looking for volunteers to help with our online sales (via Facebook Marketplace). These items we sell are compiled of yarn donated which we cannot use for our blankets, and other various items received in donations. The items would be sorted and priced before you receive them. You would then take pictures and post them for sale with a description and the price on Facebook Marketplace, or other groups you may belong to (buy and sell groups). Lastly you would arrange for pick ups. Those interested and to find out more details please contact either Sian sian.roberts154@gmail.com or Marion marionhons1953@gmail.com.

TEDDY BEAR TOSS AT THE LONDON KNIGHTS GAME

We are selling bears again at this year's Teddy Bear Toss at the London Knights game. This year's game takes place on Wednesday December 4th, the game starts at 6:30 pm, and we will be selling from 5:30 - 6:30. We are looking for volunteers to help set up and sell bears. It is the most fun event we do and people are so happy to see our bears dressed! Volunteers should be okay standing and walking for the hour. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting.

USING YOUR OWN YARN - SUBMIT FOR A DONATION RECEIPT

As a reminder and for our new members, we wanted to outline the option and process of submitting for a tax receipt for using your own yarn.

If you choose to purchase yarn, and not use the yarn the club provides, you can submit your purchase receipt for the yarn when you turn in your completed blanket made from that yarn. There is a form to be completed with your information, size of blanket made, and amount being claimed. Once you have the form completed, please bring it with your purchase receipt and the completed blanket to a board member in attendance at the meeting. They will review the form and the receipt and sign off on the submission. You can choose to receive your tax receipt in paper or electronic form - this is indicated on the completed form. The forms are tracked and then a donation receipt is provided at two times of the year - at the end of the club's fiscal year (September 30th) and at the end of the calendar year (December 31st). Should you have any other questions or require a form to complete please ask a board member at the meetings or at the clubhouse.

THE REACH OF OUR CLUB AND OUR BLANKETS

A woman reached out to us after reading the article in the CAA magazine. Her touching story:

Good morning. I came across the lovely story about your club and its wonderful mission in a recent CAA magazine. Before my mom, Eleanor Connelly, died of cancer (acute onset leukemia) at the young age of 49 - in June 1988 - she was determined to crochet me a blanket. I was 26 then and newly married. She wanted to leave me something made with her own hands to remember her by. She was working on the first panel of the blanket before her health took a turn that spring of '88. I have been holding on to her yarn and her beginnings of a blanket for the

past 36 years, all stored in my hope chest. See photo below.



After reading the story about your club, I feel the time is right to let that small piece of her go. I would be deeply grateful if one of your club members would complete her blanket for donation to someone in a difficult life moment who would feel comforted. I know my mom would be so pleased, me too! It would be a meaningful way to honor her all these decades later. Thanks so much for your consideration. If you are interested, it would be my pleasure to Canada Post the yarn and panel in a small box to your club. Just need an address.

Kind regards,

Kelly (Woodbridge, ON)



The yarn arrived with the note above enclosed. With some re-working and her skill and expertise, Marion has completed the blanket. It will be included in the fall blanket donations.

A NOTE FROM MARTI (FORMER BOARD & CURRENT MEMBER)

To members of the Crochet Club, nearly 2 years ago, my mother-in laws senior building in Sarnia burned down. She lost nearly everything. When she got settled in her new apartment the Club gave her a lovely blanket. She cuddled up in it every night while watching T.V. Several months ago she had a decline in health and ended up in palliative then hospice care. That blanket was with her every day. We lost her a couple of weeks ago. When she drew her last breath, she was snuggled in that blanket. If you ever wonder what your blanket means to the recipient, don't wonder. I can Tell you it means everything. - The Acton Family

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Lynne

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

