

Women's Community House Fall 2015 Newsletter...Communiqué

And the beat goes on . . .

Every year, Grand House Party (GHP) has raised the entertainment bar. And, with its thirteenth show on June 19, 2015, GHP continued to defy gravity with '60s, Pop, Rock & Soul REWIND.

For one hundred and twenty glorious minutes, Jean Meilleur, Katalin Kiss and multi-Grammy winner Michael Blamires, supported by the ten-piece GHP Orchestra, ten back up vocalists and a fantastic twenty-song catalogue, demonstrated to a jam-packed house that number 13 had yet again upped the ante.

The vocal brilliance of Katalin Kiss jump started the night with *Knock on Wood*. Master craftsman David Blamires followed triumphant with perfect renditions of Steppenwolf's *Magic Carpet Ride* and Little Anthony & the Imperials' dramatic pop-soul epic *Going Out of My Head*. Jean Meilleur brought his game with *One Fine Morning*, *My Girl* and *Spinning Wheel*. Blamires returned in the second set to astonish the crowd with Led Zeppelin's *Whole Lotta Love*. In between his wailing vocals, pro guitarist Dave Dunlop quietly offered up riffs on his side of the stage and every now and then came front and centre with an electrifying solo. Under the impeccable leadership of music director Jeff Christmas, capturing the signature 8-track sound on the Motown numbers was wonderfully recreated.

The show closed with several GHP sponsors having the time of their life joining all the performers on stage for the iconic Fifth Dimension's *Aquarius*. With about 80 percent of the audience also singing along, it was once again proven that there's nothing like a great House Party to kick off summer.

Sponsored by: Royal LePage Triland Realty, Goodlife Fitness, Mary R. Di Salvo Financial Services Corporation, Pharmasave Wortley Village & Huron Heights, McFarlan Rowlands Insurance, London Yellow Taxi, Iain Sneddon-Cohen Highley LLP Lawyers and Medpoint Health Care.

Grand House Party 14 Classic hits of the 60's, 70's & 80's RE-MASTERED will be Friday, June 24, 2016 starting at 8 p.m. at the Grand Theatre. Tickets: \$45. Advance tickets on sale NOW! Call Pamela at 519-642-3003 ext 2252.

* for photos of event, visit www.grandhouseparty.ca or the Women's Community House Facebook page.

GRAND HOUSE PARTY 13

'60s POP, ROCK & SOUL' REWIND *starring...*

Jean Meilleur
Katalin Kiss
David Blamires

This fundraising event for Women's Community House will feature fan favorites Jean Meilleur and Katalin Kiss re-uniting for this exceptional live performance – joined by multi-Grammy winner David Blamires appearing for the first time on the Grand House Party stage – accompanied by the Grand House Party Orchestra!

8:00 pm • FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015
at The Grand Theatre

The performance will cover a 50 year span of sixties, pop, rock and soul genres every song a classic, from the east coast doo wop of the Four Seasons to the soul of Little Anthony & the Imperials, the great soul of the Righteous Brothers, the British Invasion to the best good folk/rock of the Mamas and Papas and the west coast soul masters, Day After Tomorrow!

• 50/50 Draw • Door Prizes •

Ticket Price \$45, group rates available
info: www.grandhouseparty.ca or call: 519.672.8800

sponsored by WOMEN'S COMMUNITY HOUSE and **102.3** *WJLB*

Women's Community House THANK SHOE London men!

Overcast skies above and a chill in the air was not enough for eager participants to 'cool their heels' as 125 London and area men took to the streets in the 8th annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® fundraiser on Sunday, September 13th.



Photo to left: Standard bearers Mayor Matt Brown with sons & Ed Holder, MP.

It was clear from the enthusiasm in Centennial Hall as men signed in, received their red pumps and waited to 'kick up their heels' once around Victoria Park that solidarity with

women was a key motivator for their participation and that their support to raise \$36,000 for Women's Community House was greatly appreciated.

Photo at right: Walkers receive a spirited send off from members of the Alpha Phi sorority.



New teams this year were Roy Inch and Sons, TD Big Deal Heels and London City Council. Teams returning to show their support were London Police Service, London Professional Firefighters Association, Hilton London, Team Scotia, Peace Men in Pumps, Mary's Merry Men, Across Languages and Women's Community House For Suzie.



The coveted SHOE-BE-DO trophy for the most money raised by a team went to the Women's Community House For Suzie Team who raised \$2,652 and the

Shoe-per-Hero award went to Mark Elliott for being the individual walker to raise the most money – \$2,386.



Special thanks to march minstrels the Mocha Shriners Oriental Band and annual title sponsor Tender Tootsies.

Join the movement for Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® 2016 on September 18!

walkamilelondon.ca



www.walkamileinher shoes.org

* for additional photos of the event, visit www.walkamilelondon.ca or the Women's Community House Facebook page.

A Ripple of Kindness

LUSO Community Services kicked off their A Ripple of Kindness by stopping by Women's Community House's Wellington Shelter!

The Ripple of Kindness Team brought with them lots of excitement and a generous donation of needed items for our residents.

The goal of the 1,000 Acts of Kindness initiative is to fight hate by spreading kindness – one generous act at a time. A challenge is extended to the London community to collectively complete 1,000 Acts of kindness.

Let's start a Ripple of Kindness in London, Ontario this October. Check out the blog at <http://1000acts.ca/2015/10/1000-acts-of-kindness-kick-off-was-a-success/> to get involved or use #RippleOfKindness on Twitter to follow events and initiatives.



** even though October has passed, consider how you can continue the Ripple of Kindness.*

UNIFOR scores \$40K hole-in-one for WCH!



Despite a shot-gun start with temperatures only in the mid-fifties, thirty-six enthusiastic foursomes hit the links at the St. Thomas Golf & Country Club in Union for the UNIFOR Canada 9th Annual Bob White Charity Classic August 27 fundraiser.

The Classic owes its annual success in fundraising and fun-raising to the efforts of a hard-working, dedicated and much appreciated steering committee representing local unions and their Retirees Chapters. All proceeds are donated to Women's Community House, Domestic Abuse Services Oxford and Ingamo Homes.

Over 110 years old, the St. Thomas Golf & Country Club has been long regarded as one of the best in Southern Ontario. *CanadianGolfer* rates the course as "truly one of Canada's gems". The course has challenged many great players including Moe Norman, George Knudson and Mike Weir yet remains playable for those with less than a perfect game. Based upon the smiles on golfers' faces returning to the club house for a delicious meal, silent auction and prize presentations, the course did not disappoint and a great round of golf was had by all.



Since 2007, Women's Community House has received \$426 thousand due to the untiring efforts of the Bob White Charity Classic steering committee. Women's Community House thanks the steering committee and UNIFOR Canada for its continuing goal to bring an end to all violence against women and children.

“Fun”draising for WCH

Wright Hair & Co., owned by Dodie Wright, is dedicated to supporting the Old South Community and loves to contribute to the welfare of their neighbours. Over the years, Women’s Community House has been the beneficiary of their amazing “neighbourly help” in many ways.

On August 22, 2015, a sunny Saturday afternoon, the Wright’s Hair team was again inspired to make a difference for WCH. In collaboration with the London Firefighters, an afternoon of “**fun**”draising ensued. Firefighters encouraged passing drivers to pull in for a car wash while neighbours and friends dropped in to enjoy a BBQ, baked goods and chances to win from an assortment of donated items. Soap, water, dirty automobiles, lots of sunshine and helpful firefighters were the perfect combination for an entertaining – and successful - afternoon filled with water fights, laughter and new friendships all to benefit Women’s Community House.

Thank you, Wright Hair & Co. We greatly appreciate you as neighbours!



President's Message

This has been a very busy year for Women's Community House (WCH)... a year of collaboration, exploration, contemplation and action on how we can serve better.

WCH continues to explore whether a merger with the Sexual Assault Centre London (SACL) would make it easier for people to get help. The process has included a survey of clients, funders, stakeholders and the community. We have recently decided to take the next step and move on to Phase 2 of the exploration process and will be working on the business plan for creating one organization. We can still halt the process at any time if we believe that unification is not the right move for our organization, the people we serve, and the community. Eventually, we will be engaging in a community process in relation to the new business plan.

The Board of Directors greatly appreciates the talent, skill, knowledge and dedication of the staff of WCH who work tirelessly to support and empower women and advocate for services for families where violence is a concern. We are also very proud of WCH as a community partner.

While this next year promises to be challenging in these tough economic times, the Board of Directors renews its commitment to provide leadership and innovation to support effective and responsive services to meet the needs of abused women and their children. We are so very grateful for the amazing support we receive in so many facets – financially, donations-in-kind, gifts-in-kind, volunteer hours, and in various other ways.

My tenure as President of the Board and also as a board member of WCH has concluded as of the Annual General Meeting in September. I am honoured to have served as the President of the Board of Directors for the past two and a half years, and I thank my Board co-members for their support, commitment and contributions. I would also like to recognize Kate Wiggins, Executive Director, for her exceptional leadership of this organization.

Sincerely,



Joanne Beasley
Past Board President/Chair

Thank You

Women's Community House would like to thank Joanne for her dedication and support shown to our organization during her tenure on our Board of Directors, and as Board President /Chair.

2015 Annual General Meeting

Women's Community House's 37th Annual General Meeting was held on Monday, September 28th at the lovely London Music Club. The event was well attended with Rita Galea, Family Court Support Worker, as the guest speaker. Rita explained how the support program works and shared some of her experiences. Board members for the 2015/16 are Anne Baxter (President/Chair), Shannon Wilson (Vice President/Vice Chair), Susan McGugan (Treasurer), Sandy Jansen (Secretary), Janice Lamoureux, Sean Quigley and Suzanne Fratschko Elliott.

A residential counsellor will also join the board meetings as a non-voting member to keep the board members in the loop regarding who we serve, and the challenges and complexities of the work we do.