

*For Immediate Release*  
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**IDLEWYLD INN**

*New Local Owner Restores  
Grandeur to Idlewyld's Reputation*

LONDON – Londoner Christine Kohl has had her eye on the Idlewyld Inn for years. As an employee of the Inn in the mid 90's, she has developed a particular fondness for the property, and continued to observe what was happening to it as she moved on to other positions in the hospitality industry. She recognized that, despite the magnificence of the building, the absence of local ownership was slowly eroding the reputation and the success of this London landmark. "You can't run an Inn like this from another city. You have to be connected to the city, connected to the local business community and most of all, connected to your guests" says Kohl. "The whole experience of staying at the Idlewyld is so different than staying in another luxury hotel. It's a far more personal, one-on-one atmosphere." she adds. "In order for that to really work, the owner needs to be absolutely passionate about the property and the comfort of the guests. They need to be here everyday and they need to be hands-on."

When Kohl returned to the Idlewyld as General Manager in 2003, she fell in love all over again. "I knew I had to have this place. I saw the potential in it, but I knew that to run it the way it needed to be run, I would have to be free to do things my way. I approached the owners and they were quite amenable to my offer," commented Kohl. "Within days, we had worked out the details and the deal was done."

The Idlewyld mansion was built in 1878 as a private home for Charles Hyman, a successful businessman, Mayor of London, a Cabinet Minister in the government of Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier, captain of Canada's most successful national cricket team, and seven times Canadian men's singles tennis champion. Mr. Hyman is also credited with introducing the game of bridge to Canada.

A number of things draw people to this Victorian jewel in London's Old South. Surrounded by century homes and beautiful landscaping, the Inn features 27 guest rooms and suites, each individually decorated with a subtle blending of antique furnishings and modern amenities. A gracious living room invites guests to curl up by the fireplace.

The elegant setting of the Idlewyld's ornate hand-carved woodwork and charming antiques also offers a refreshing change from the typical fare for both business and social function in the city. Kohl works closely with a couple of select caterers to ensure that the food and service they provide lives up the rest of the Idlewyld experience. "We've seen a return of many of our old meeting clients and we've already hosted a couple of small weddings since we took over the property. Our guests have been thrilled." says Kohl. "It seems like the whole city is falling in love with the Idlewyld again, just like I did when I came back here."

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*For more information:*

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