



ALL ABOARD THE OPTIMIST TRAIN!



Governor's Gabble Part 2

You are no doubt aware our second conference hosted by Windsor area Clubs will be virtual. It will be in two parts. Saturday February 6 will be the Executive meeting and Saturday February 20 will be the Board of Directors meeting. Both will start at 9:00 a.m. I cannot tell you how disappointed I am that we cannot meet in person. However reality is we are far from defeating this virus. Please follow health and government guidelines and stay safe.

Our second quarter theme is happiness. How appropriate. The second line of our creed - "to talk health, HAPPINESS and prosperity to every person you meet." Let us show that happiness by keeping in touch with our membership. A quick phone call, a thinking of you card or a "ding dong ditch" will make a world of difference in a club's retention rate.

I have had a few names sent to me for the our 1st quarter Fireman's award - members whose focus is bringing out the best in kids. You will notice I said A FEW. This is surprising . As Optimists isn't that what our focus is on! I was expecting at least 75 names.

The Brakeman's award those members who are always there to help but prefer to keep a low profile will be the focus of the second quarter. Hopefully there will be a better response.

Our SWONT web site should be up and running soon thanks to Angela Cam-

maert of the West Lorne Optimist club. Speaking of social media, Dwight Phillips, our Social Media chair offered his services to clubs wanting to have a presence on Facebook and Instagram. Hopefully some of you have taken up his offer. I mention this because of a TV advertisement by a Kinsmen club plugging their BINGO program. We Optimists need to advertise and let our communities know who we are and what we do.

My final thought is on membership. For the next three quarters our focus should be to increase our Club rosters. Our Club Fitness chair John Ruth his committee of Emily Watt, Tina Poisson and Joe Mountenay, our NOW chair Glen Stewart and our Membership chair Amanda Cook are bored silly (tongue in cheek). A virtual meeting with any of the above and your prospective member(s) will make them - shall I say it - HAPPY!!

See you on February 20.

YIO HAPPINESS

Keep safe, Resilient and **Choose Optimism**

Bob Jackson

2020-21 SWONT Governor



Southwestern Ontario Optimist

SWONT Newsletter

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SWONT

Governor: Bob Jackson
 Governor-Elect: Mike Cogliati
 Immediate Past Governor: Ruth Quenneville
 Secretary-Treasurer: Ken Neil

INTERNATIONAL

President: Mark Weinsoff
 President-Elect: Patsy Garner
 Immediate Past President: Adrian Elcock
 Vice-President NE & GL: Tracy Huxley

District Programs

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Annual Campaign -John and Joanne Sanders

Dear Fellow Optimists
Our good Governor Bob Jackson has asked JoAnne and I to chair the Foundation for the year 2020-21.

What a year it has been with Covid. Nothing is normal anymore it seems. Hope everyone in your families and clubs are doing OK. God bless all of you.

We are asking again that you support the CCOF (Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation) this year.

We understand that it is not easy to raise money with the pandemic around. In order to keep the Optimist organization, which we all love, going we need money to fund the programs. We hope that your club can include us in your budget.

We are working on a fundraiser and when we get it all figured out, we will let everyone know.

Here is just a little more foundation information. There are many ways to donate to the foundation.

You could chose to donate personally and purchase a **Dime a Day pin** for \$36.50 or \$40 to make it easy. Dime a Day and oth-

er donation forms can be found on the CCOF website. Be sure to fill in the email addresses as that is how you will receive your receipt . You can let your Club Foundation Rep know and they can let me know how may pins your club wants and I can send them to you and the collected money can be sent to me by e-transfer or cheque.

You could also join the **Presidents Club** for \$250 per year for 5 years. This will get you a Foundation Presidents Club pin and an invitation to attend a special function at the Annual International Convention.

As a club you can donate \$500 per year and for this donation you will receive a **certificate signed by the CCOF president**. There are no more prints.

All the monies received by CCOF goes to funding all the scholarships and Optimist programs such as: Tri Sports, Reel Optimism(video contest), Respect for Law and Youth Appreciation to name a few.

CCOF can also help your club out with projects. There are several different Grants you could apply for such as a **Club Grant** which

will grant up to \$1000 one time per year and is a one time grant per project. **Spread Relief Program** will help your club launch a childhood health and wellness related project. This grant is worth up to \$3000 per year and is a one time grant per project.

The **Outsourcing Program** helps clubs get receipts to their generous donors and a Designated Club Grant if your club has one large donor who needs a receipt for donating to your club.

All this information can be found on the CCOF website. You can always call 1-800-363-7151 ext 336 for help filling out the forms which are on the website.

If you have any cheques for the foundation please make them out to **CCOF** and send them to us at:

**8774 LaSalle Line
Watford, ON N0M 2S0**

and we will record all the donations and send them on to the foundation. Be sure to add your email address if you want a receipt.

Yours in Optimism
John and JoAnne Sanders



District Programs

Childhood Health and Wellness

Ed and Ruth Stevens

Second Quarter Report Feb 2021

SwONT District 45

Optimist International

1/ First Quarter Results.

A sincere and heart-felt **Thank You** is expressed to the ten Optimist Clubs who during the first quarter of our 2020-2021 "All Aboard the Optimist Train" helped with the balance to date of \$9215. This amount reflects the funds received by your Co-Chairs to date. WE ARE ON OUR WAY! However sometimes Optimist members and Clubs donate to *Bravery Beads* by sending their donation directly to the *Children's Health Foundation*. To you we also want to share our gratitude. The Second Quarter Conference will be updated with the direct donations included in the total.

Please keep in mind \$3,000 is available as a grant for health and wellness projects by applying to the **Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation** (CCOF) in Montreal. Search CCOF-FOEC to find their web site. Click on "Spread Relief" to open the drop-down box where you will find the icons for the application and rules. The total funds available for this Optimist year have increased nationally to \$35,000.

2/ Children's Health Foundation Radiothon

For the past two years at this time, our Southwestern Ontario District has participated in the "Miracle Mission Secret Agent" collection cans campaign. Coin bank cans previously delivered at our First Quarter Conference were delivered to the *Children's Health Foundation Radiothon*. This year COVID-19 denied us the opportunity to collect people's change but the *Radiothon* continues (FM96, AM980). The date is Friday 05 February 2021, 5:30am to 6:00pm. There is a silent auction. Your *Bravery Beads Co-Chairs* Ed and Ruth have a bid on the round of golf. Check out the silent auction. You can also "Cheque it out" by sending your cheque made out to "Children's Health Foundation", to **Ed and Ruth Stevens, 10655 Townsend Line, Strathroy ON N7G 3H7**. On the memo line declare "Bravery Bead Program". Personal donations qualify for a tax- deductible receipt. All cheques we receive go directly to *Bravery Beads*.

3/ She was a 10-year-old girl when this photo was taken. Experienced treatments on and off at *Children's Hospital* since she was age 6. Her string of Bravery Beads shows off why we have supported the Bravery Bead Program since 2008 exceeding \$250,000 lifetime. It's all about the smile. Look closely and you will find the Optimist Bead. So many different therapies to support that smile. As District Secretary-Treasurer Ken Neal likes to say "A Child's Smile makes it all worthwhile".



For the Optimist Clubs of Southwestern Ontario District 45 *Ed and Ruth Stevens*

District Programs

Oratorical Carrol Paquet

Hello fellow Optimist....The struggle is real....It is that time of year when we start holding our club level oratorical contest. I know with schooling being done at home , it will be harder to find students willing to compete. we just have to dig our heels in and promote, promote,promote, mention it every chance you get. If your club is able to hold a contest and need any information please let me know, I am here to help and the Optimist website under scholarships has excellent information to make your contest run smoothly. As soon as the district date is sent I will

email all presidents with this information.

Stay safe,healthy and always Optimistic

Carrol Paquet

Oratorical Chair

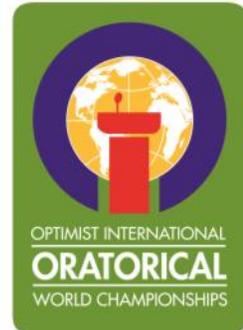
Getting started in planning a Club Oratorical isn't that difficult.

The contest is open to any student under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2020. Entry begins by the contestant winning their respective Club competition. Each Club can move 2 winners onto their Zone Competition. Each Zone can move 2 competitors into the District Semi Fi-

nals. During the District semi finals their will be a total of 6 competitors moving onto the District final. From there Optimist International takes over and the dollars really start to flow.

2019-20 Topic

“Healing the World with Optimism ”



District Essay Contest—Maria Cupples

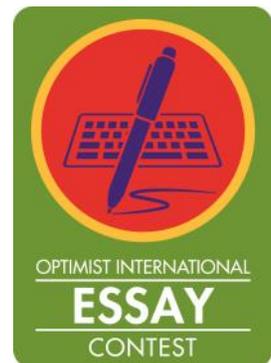
Well fellow members I have had fun riding in the bar car from London to Windsor, takes just about two hours. They sure have comfortable seating from when I last rode the rails. Unfortunately due to the pandemic there is no Second Quarter board here, so it's back on the train and back to London. So I can report I am excited that I have three Clubs in our District participating for the first time. You will have to attend the Zoom meeting to find out who they are. Thanks to our International V.P. Tracy Huxley who is far more computer technical than me . She made my recent Poster for the Essay Contest and has sent the Poster to all Presidents. The time frame is tight now in order for Clubs

to judge any essays they receive and then send the winning ones to me by February 28. **I will accept any essays sent to me that are post marked up to Feb 28 or e-mailed to me on that date.** This has been a very trying time for both students and teachers. I heartily applaud any Clubs who get entries and make it possible for students to have a chance to win our \$2500. It has not been an easy year for our members either but helping our youth possibly have financial help toward their post graduate dream is a reward we should all help them achieve

This year the Essay title is **“Reaching Your Dreams by Choosing Opti-**

mism”. I think a great title to see how through our students' eyes at this time they see their lives unfolding.

Maria Cupples SWONT District Essay Chair



District Programs

Activities and Awards—Co-Chairs Carol Watt & Emily Finch

2020-21 District Activities and Awards Schedule

First Quarter (Oct 1 to Dec 31) Prize awarded after_Feb 7, 2020 submittal deadline
First Quarter (Oct 1 to Dec 31) Prize awarded after_Feb 7, 2020 submittal deadline

- ⇒ 1st Place—2 free registrations to the next in person Quarter Conference
- ⇒ 2nd Place—1 free registration to the next in person Quarter Conference
- ⇒ Lt. Governor with the Highest Percentage of participation will receive a Certificate and bragging rights

Second Quarter (Oct 1 to Mar 31) Prize awarded after Apr 11, 2021 submittal deadline

- ⇒ 1st Place—2 free registrations to the next in person Quarter Conference
- ⇒ 2nd Place—1 free registration to the next in person Quarter Conference
- ⇒ Lt. Governor with the Highest Percentage of participation will receive a Certificate and bragging rights

Third Quarter (April 1 to June 30) Prize awarded after_Aug 8, 2021 submittal deadline

- ⇒ 1st Place—2 free registrations to the next in person Quarter Conference
- ⇒ 2nd Place—1 free registration to the next in person Quarter Conference
- ⇒ Lt. Governor with the Highest Percentage of participation will receive a Certificate and bragging rights

A&A Forms Available from: Carol Watt & Emily Finch

A&A Co—Chairs

District Programs

SWONT Conductive Education Rick and Christa Devolder



Southwestern Ontario Optimist Conductive Ed Trust Fund

8774 LASALLE LINE, WATFORD, ONTARIO, CANADA, N0M 2S0
519-849-2352

Happy New Year Everyone

I am a little bit late in writing this letter this Optimist year, but the way things went in 2020 I figured maybe it was better to wait till the New Year.

I am asking once again for your support in helping Kids with Cerebral Palsy. We are in this program for over 20 years. Last year our program didn't run as usual because of Covid-19. We ran a virtual program. This year it will probably have to do the same. Having said that we still need your financial help. I know it is harder to raise money with the pandemic going on but hopefully you can help us out as best you can. The virtual program still costs a substantial amount of money.

Yes, we have definitely made a difference in the Kids that we have helped. With your help we can keep doing it.

Let's not let these unfortunate kids down. Just imagine being in a body that just doesn't do what you want and how you would feel trapped. Help us keep this program going.

From myself and our committee, we thank you in advance.

Yours in Optimism

John Sanders

Please make cheques out to: SWONT CONDUCTIVE ED. TRUST FUND

Please send cheques out to : John Sanders
8774 LaSalle Line
Watford, ON.
N0M 2S0

*“Bringing Out the Best in Kids -
One Step at a Time”*



District Programs

SWONT Conductive Education Rick and Christa Devolder

We are once again in a holding wait and see dilemma as far as being able to provide a hands on Conductive Education program for summer of 2021. We do know for certainty though as a result of last summers successful virtual program, that we have an avid interest by all those that participated last summer to do so again this summer with hopefully an opportunity to reach out to more families

and provide more sessions. We have secured the services of at least 2 Conductor Teachers going forward.

We have continued to appreciate the ongoing financial support that has been coming through from various Optimist Clubs and because of this support we will be able to expand our online program if this is the format we will pursue this summer.

With not much more to report for this quarter we leave

you with a document that explains what Conductive Education is and a Happy New Year smile and wish from one of our Windsor children-Madison!

Rick and Christa Devolder
Yours in Optimism

Rick and Christa Devolder



District Programs

SWONT Conductive Education Rick and Christa Devolder

What is Conductive Education?

Mission: To provide opportunities for preschool and school age children with motor challenges to achieve optimal physical, cognitive and social independence through the application and promotion of Conductive Education principles.

Conductive education is an intensive, multi-disciplinary approach to education, training and development for individuals with cerebral palsy, spina bifida and other motor challenges. Conductive Education was developed in 1945 in Hungary by Dr. Andras Peto. Peto theorized that people with disabilities are characterized by disintegrated function. His theory was that this may be overcome, and that co-ordinated functioning can be developed through an indirect cognitive route involving teaching and learning. The rehabilitative plan should be produced for the person, not for the function. The plan is not symptoms or lesion centered but focused on the personality. Conductive Education integrates medical knowledge with educational methods to enable the individual to learn how to gain control over his or her movements. Children are taught to see themselves as active and self-reliant participants in the world. The goal of CE is the socio-cultural integration of children with these motor disorders by assisting the child to develop an ortho-functioning personality. Orthofunction is the ability to solve the problems of daily living, such as dressing, eating, practicing personal hygiene, and other activities that are part of daily life and will allow the child to ultimately live as independently as possible. The achievements learned through conductive education increase confidence, self

esteem and provide problem-solving skills for daily activities. The result of conductive education is that the quality of life is improved as well as the psychological well being of the child and family. Conductive Education contrasts markedly with traditional therapies in the following ways:

Conductors: Specially trained teachers licensed after approximately five years of college level training. The conductor carries out the principles of CE. This method links speech, thought and movement together in a way that helps the child to focus on and internalize the movement.

Group Instruction: A key element of conductive education is that individuals work as part of a small group of children with the same condition. This offers an opportunity for individuals to face challenges, share solutions and reward efforts to learn new skills within the dynamics of a group.

Environment: Provides for security of the child. Equipment is unique to CE and includes slatted tables called plinths, ladder chairs, and boxes that promote body alignment and support the tasks designed to facilitate learning.

Rhythmical intention: Many of the activities are done with the use of simple folk songs that relate to the activity. By pairing rhythm with movement, movements become more fluid and the lyrics provide verbal cues to the child.

Program and daily schedule: The child is viewed as a learner and the conductor teacher promotes confidence, motivation and an understanding of how this child can learn to perform everyday movements to become more independent in their functioning within their homes, schools and eventually in the

workforce.

Curriculum: Conductive education helps these students build their cognitive skills and helps them learn to use alternate strategies to accomplish common motor tasks such as sitting, standing, walking, dressing, eating.

Involvement of the family: Emphasis is put on teaching family members to use these strategies at home to reinforce the application of CE skills in all aspects of daily life.

Conductive Education is a psycho-educational approach that focuses primarily on the child's personality and lifestyle, integrating physiological and medical aspects. It is a combined special education and physical therapy, based on Peto's theory that motor control can be learned. The approach focuses on improving the physical effects of a disability while encouraging motivation to become independent and increasing self esteem. The desired outcome is maximal independence called orthofunction, which refers to the ability to enter school, the community, and ultimately the workforce with minimal or no artificial aids. This total approach to learning and training targets children under the age of six, when the potential for impact is greatest, and they can be prepared for the traditional classroom. "When you do not educate the child to be independent, you educate the child to be dependent."

Maria Hari,

former director of the Peto Institute.

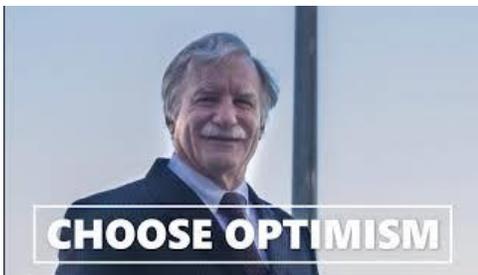
District Programs

Membership, New Club Building—Dwight Phillips and Sandy Larivee



2019-20 Membership—Dwight

It was a difficult year as we all know BUT some Clubs re-imagined membership and added members to stay Honour or Distinguished. We added 172 New Optimists but sadly we lost 413 due to various reasons beyond our control. We ended the year with a -241 members from where we started. On the growth side we had 2 clubs become Distinguished by co-sponsoring International Clubs, they were Forest Glade and Riverside.



New Club Building—Dwight & Sandy

Currently we have 1 club staked by the Optimist Clubs of Riverside and Essex for a club to be built in Windsor similar to the Rainbow Club we have. If any members have a thought or idea don't be afraid to reach out to us to assist and get the Train moving on New Club Building by Choosing Optimism in this New Normal, we are still in. There is no better time to bring Optimism to our Cities and Towns. We need you to step up to the gate and GET ON BOARD!

Social Media—Dwight

Social networking is not a fad.

It is a fundamental shift in the way we communicate.



Social networking improves your ability to influence and promote.

Are you ready to connect?

What about your Optimist Club?

For the Social Media portion of my report, SWONT has been gaining in our presence on Facebook with more members joining. Clubs be-

gan to use Zoom and other platforms to reach out to members.

It is again a pleasure to be the Social Media Chair for the 2020-21 Optimist year. I would love to see our District Clubs and Zones step into the Social Media world by having a presence on Facebook, Instagram. It would also be great idea for Clubs to have one or 2 members to look after them and keep them updated. Some Clubs also have a private page just for members and a public one for events etc. If you are looking to get into Zoom, there will be a few more training sessions on How To by Optimist International.

Watch for **SWONT Coffee Time** coming soon as well.

I am currently working with Zone 4 LT Governor Carrol Paquet to get a Facebook for her Zone and turn it over to someone there to run. If any other LT's are interested, I can assist

District Programs

SWONT Junior Optimist Clubs—SWONT District JOI Chair Mary Lou Abrams

Hope you are all well. Looking forward to the time we can meet in person and thanks for doing your meetings by ZOOM. Wanted to keep you informed about what is happening in the "Happiness" quarter (Jan, Feb, March).

Wednesday Feb. 3

**SWONT EXECUTIVE
ZOOM meeting 6 pm**

Governor Jayce will be sending you the invitation. Please try to attend and bring ideas for future meetings.

Thursday Feb. 4

OPTIMIST DAY

Take a picture of you or your club wearing your JOI merchandise and hash tag it #optimistday2021

Saturday Feb. 20

**SWONT JOI DISTRICT
SECOND QUARTER ZOOM
meeting 1pm**

Please join us, you will have fun. Governor Jayce will send out the invitation.

Saturday March 20

**International Day of Happiness
JOI International Committee**

These are a few events the JOI Board are doing:

Sunday Feb. 21

JOI PAINT DAY

2pm Central standard time

This is our second paint day, you supply paint and someone will teach us how to paint a specific picture. There will be a small charge and is a fundraiser. The last paint day was a lot of fun and trust me on this, you don't have to be a painter to join in. Apparently they are all masterpieces!



The Junior Optimist International and the Rainbow Optimist Club are creating a cookbook to sell. We are very excited about this and look forward to receiving lots of recipes! **Deadline date is March 15, 2021.**

We are also having a contest for designing the cover page, and are excited to see the creative ideas of our members. **Due date for this is February 28.**

Cost of the cookbook will depend on how many recipes we receive and we will be taking pre orders.

Adult clubs, if you don't have a JOI club (we will be happy to work with you on building one) send a recipe your kids or grandchildren like..

We would appreciate it if you would share this information. Thanks!

To submit your favourite recipe, please paste this link in your browser.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11gPHoWQABHbqgk_X0hlvJUgyxM0_H01D3Yyk_Elf43c/viewform?ts=6002e8bc&gxids=7628&edit_requested=true

Submission Deadline: March 15, 2021

JOI President Sophie

Erin, JOI Board Member

Martin, Rainbow Optimist Club

Mary Lou, JOI Committee Member



Zone and Club News

Lambton County Junior Optimist Club—Mary Lou Abrams

We had our first zoom meeting in October and were thinking of events we could do, played games and had fun. Some of us helped out handing out pumpkins for our yearly Pumpkinfest. Was great to volunteer again!

We attended our First Quarter Conference hosted by Governor Jayce. Had fun and informative workshops from Governor Jayce, JOI Board; Governor-Elect and President Logan, Lt. Governor and President Aliyah and District Secretary and President Addison. Was great seeing everyone again!

We had our first zoom meeting in October and were thinking of

events we could do, played games and had fun. Some of us helped out handing out pumpkins for our yearly Pumpkinfest. Was great to volunteer again!

November meeting we made Christmas cards to give to the seniors in Corunna. The kids decided to wear something Halloween themed and we had Halloween games and Jayce won a glass full of chocolates.

Our Christmas meeting will be playing Christmas bingo, games and a surprize for our members! We will be planning ideas for future meetings, events and fund-raising.

Our group is small, but we plan

on doing the best we can to be safe and involved. Every JOI club has different rules in their municipalities and it is cool to see what we are all doing to benefit our communities,

Wishing you all a very JOIful Christmas!

Mary Lou, Advisor



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Moore—Mary Lou Abrams

October 24, 2020 was an excellent day for our members! We held our annual Pumpkinfest, a scaled down version for sure, but we still had fun doing this event. Thanks to our local Foodland and No Frills stores who ordered the pumpkins, at cost, we were able to give away 300 free pumpkins. Thanks to our members who participated and for the JOI members who

helped as well.

Also at our event we donated \$500 to Kathy Alexander from Access Open Minds, which is a mental health and addictions youth space for youth 11-25 in Sarnia-Lambton..

A small version of our Christmas parade is being planned for the kids in Courtright, Mooretown and Corunna to see Santa.

This year we are continuing with our Operation Christmas Tree for possibly 130 families. Gift cards for Foodland and No Frills will be given out along with WalMart gift cards for every child. New times, new ways of doing events.

We miss seeing all of our Optimist family and we hope you are all safe. Have a Happy Christmas!

Optimist Club of Moore—Operation Christmas Tree—Stan Marsh

Operation Christmas Tree— A Big Thank You!

St. Clair Township's 31st annual holiday drive for families in need, Operation Christmas Tree, coordinated by the Optimist Club of Moore, announced that, despite 2020 pandemic fundraising challenges, their team surpassed fundraising goals.

Due to community generosity, Operation Christmas Tree assisted 85 local families and 110 children, and the local food bank, through the annual food and toy collection program in St. Clair Township Ward 1 (Corunna, Courtright, Mooretown, Brigden, and surrounding areas).

Due to Covid 19 pandemic restrictions, fundraising and collections had to change dramatical-

ly, presenting many challenges to Operation Christmas Tree President Stan Marsh and the Optimist volunteers. Collection of canned goods and non-perishable food items was not possible at schools and most of the organization's normal fundraising activities were cancelled. The hampers normally included age-appropriate new toys, books and clothing as well non-perishable food items and toy vouchers, but this year the focus would change to finding creative ways to collect cash and cheque donations in order to provide local families with food and toy gift cards. Despite these challenges, the 2020 project was a success due to the amazing generosity of individual, business and corporate donors as well as Optimist Club of Moore volunteers.

The Optimist Club of Moore would like to thank community supporters for recognizing the need for this valuable cause, and enabling the club to provide for those that need it most during the holiday season: the OPP for their annual drive-through collection, Corunna Volunteer Firefighter fundraisers, Corunna Legion, as well as those who provided creative ways to help: Knights of Columbus for their sold-out drive-through breakfast, local elementary schools for their donations, and to the Organization for Literacy for donating age-appropriate books.

For a complete list of business and corporate donors visit www.operationchristmastree.com. Stan Marsh, President

Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Moore—Operation Christmas Tree—Stan Marsh



The needs of the less fortunate in St. Clair Township did not take a holiday this year; in the north township (Ward 1) Operation Christ-mas Tree (OCT) made sure food and children's toys were available to them, with the Sacred Heart Food Bank (Ward 2) performing the same important function

OCT President Stan Marsh said donations were good this year in spite of the pandemic. The annual Christmas effort received \$11,000 cash, gift cards, as well as toys and canned goods from Sir John Moore Community School, and other sources. Left: Busy sorting donations are, from left: Pres. Stan Marsh, Optimist volunteers Ken Nimmo, Jayce Abrams, and Mary Lou Abrams



Rec Club representative/administrative assistant for Community Services Julie Dolbear, right, presents Mr. Marsh with a donation cheque. Sue Knight, Coordinator of Facilities and Parks, was also on hand for the presentation



Helping out in the sally port (donation reception area) were, from left: Police Auxiliary members Dawson Nethercott and Darien Primeau; Cst. Katie Hill; volunteers Kate Harding; Lilly Lassaline; Elisa Priala; Selina Lesenciuc; and Alina Irvine.



Photos & captions thanks to Bonnie Stevenson—St. Clair Township Beacon

Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Lambton Central Petrolia Penny Cox

The first weekend in December kicked off with some great community Christmas activities and programs. We were able to do our Annual Angel Tree Fundraiser, which raised \$2000 and was divided equally between two wonderful local programs, Community Life Centre and Petrolia Food Bank. We had 241 memorial angels on the tree and it proudly sat in the window of BrokerLink and remained there until the beginning of January. The Town cancelled the parade but replaced it with the Tour of Lights, which we took part in by decorating our park for all to see and enjoy! Santa at The Centre/YMCA, was changed to Santa at The Market, which became an outdoor event. We had 162 children that had their photos taken with Santa, social distancing of course, and all the children received candy bags and candy canes.

Later in December we joined up with other local service groups, Legion, Lions and Rotary to provide a

soup & sandwich fundraiser for Christmas For Everyone. It was a two day event held during lunch hours and the cost was through donation only and together, we raised over \$8600, which was used to purchase toys and food for needy community and area families. It was nice to work with fellow volunteers, outside of our club.

January is the month that we traditionally sit down for a delicious Christmas themed meal at Victoria Hall but because we are unable to gather together, we planned a curbside pick-up 'January Dinner Meeting Meal' of Soup, Chili, rolls and goodies but it was decided to postpone the meal portion of the dinner meeting, due to the most recent lockdown. However, we are still planning a fun filled evening by ZOOM. To try and beat the January Blues, we are planning a Kahoot Club Member Trivia Fun Challenge that will take place the day before our dinner meeting. Scores do not count but draws will be made during our

ZOOM dinner meeting. This is the first time we are doing this, so we hope that our members will take part and have some fun and maybe learn a thing or two about our Club, they didn't know before.

We won't be chillin' while we're grillin' this year for Family Day. We will be co-sponsoring a snow sculpture contest with the Town of Petrolia. We will be providing 3 prizes of \$50 gift cards from any Petrolia location, chosen by the winners. This event will begin Feb. 1 to Feb. 15th.

Thank you to all of our club members who volunteered and all the community support we receive for our programs and events.

To our Fellow Zone & District Optimists.... We hope everyone is doing well and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming District Quarter Conference in February.



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Lambton Central Petrolia Penny Cox



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Riverside—Meaghan Cousineau

OCTOBER 2020

Riverside Optimist Club Hosts Drive Thru Pumpkin Pick-Up & Decorating Contest

Every year we host a Pumpkin Decorating contest, this year was no different – except, of course, you had to do it at home and send in a photo. Cars were lined up in our

local sponsor Average Joes parking lot to receive a pumpkin for each child (and these were GOOD SIZED PUMPKINS), a carving kit and a treat bag until all ~200 pumpkins were gone. Parents were asked to submit photos of their children carving and decorating the pumpkins to our e-mail so they could be judged. Winners in each age category received a

gift card to another local sponsor: Cookie Bar Cookie Company.

Members enjoyed the event, dressed up in Halloween costumes, from clowns to Gumby. Local media did a great job attending and publishing about the event as well, we hope to have them out for future events.



NOVEMBER 2020

Riverside Optimist Club supports Hiatus House

This November as in past years, the Riverside Optimist Club has donated to Hiatus House. This temporary residence is for women fleeing domestic abuse. Unfortunately, in many instances, children are caught in the middle and accompany women to the shelter. Club members supply cards, stationary, pens and

calendars, and the club provides postage stamps. These women fled abuse in a rush and left significant physical items for themselves and their children behind. Their website lists numerous items that they accept gratefully. Just leaving an abusive relationship does not mean that the woman is safe. A safe location needs to be established distant from the abuser. Support on several fronts is needed for both the woman and any children caught in the middle.

Hiatus House is a secure building. Before arriving with a package it is important to call ahead and detail the visit purpose. The front doorbell connects to a receptionist over video. After being buzzed into the front door, one is in an alcove again under video surveillance. When the outside door is closed, the entry door is unlocked by the receptionist.

Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Riverside—Meaghan Cousineau

DECEMBER 2020

Riverside Optimist Club Supports CMHA Warmth Project

In December we were approached by one of our members in regards to the needs of many ex-convicts

and others out on parole who struggles with mental health and finding ways to stay warm in the cooler temps. We voted to sponsor these people by purchasing hats, gloves, neck warmers and 3 pairs of socks accompanied by a Tim Horton's gift

card. We had 20 of these packages made up which were given to Windsor Essex Canadian Mental Health Association where workers would hand them out to those who were in need.



Riverside Optimist Club Supports Be a Santa to a Senior program

Home Instead is a program in Windsor Essex that works with Seniors who live in their home but still require some extra assistance. Typ-

ically they have a "giving tree" but with COVID they had to do things differently. We were able to support them by purchasing requested items such as blankets along with 20 hats, scarves and gloves and 12 crossword puzzle books.



Riverside Optimist Club Sponsors 2 Families in Need

Through our community outreach we learned of a family who needed a little extra help this holiday season. While inquiring about their needs, sizes, etc., they tried to tell

us that there was a family who was in need more than them – so we decided to sponsor both. We were able to support them by purchasing ham, turkey and all the fixings for dinner as well as some additional things to fill their pantries. We purchased pyjamas for the both fami-

lies, some toys for the children and toiletries for everyone. Gifts for the parents were wrapped, and gifts for children were left unwrapped – allowing the parents to wrap their children's gifts with provided paper, bows, etc.



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks –Janice Cuckovic

As a community service organization dedicated to "Bringing out the best in youth, in our communities and in ourselves" we are pleased to be able to help fund mental health

and wellness initiatives for the students of Bosanquet P.S. Pictured is President Karen Puzara presenting a cheque for \$750 to the student council presidents at Bosanquet P.S. In addition, our club contributed

\$200 to support the school's parent council Christmas lunch project.

Go Bobcats! You are kind! You are honest! You are part of a team!



Huge congratulations to Optimist Sonja Collinet, the recipient of a municipality of Lambton Shores 'Good Neighbour Award'! Sonja is seen here accepting her award from Deputy Mayor Doug Cook and Mayor Bill Weber. Sonja is passionate about her home community of Port Franks and keeping it beautiful. She cares deeply for the environment and wants to see the community care about it too.

Sonja was a part of the original planning and building of the community gardens in Port Franks. She made them extra special by planting pollinator plants around the perimeter of the garden, adding bird houses and hardscaping the inside perimeter. Sonja also cares about the youth in the community and has dedicated many hours to the Arts and Stuff program every Wednesday and the summer art camps. The children love

these programs and are grateful for the efforts Sonja puts into them.

Sonja continues to build bridges with our Indigenous community. It was her idea to include the 7 Grandfather Cravings at the Port Franks trailhead, which was completed by a wood carver in Kettle Point.



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks –Janice Cuckovic

“An honour and a privilege to be invited by world-renowned musician Loreena McKennitt she wanted me to play my native flute as she played on her magical harp collaboration and duet soulful music The Huron Carol was the song. It was played at this old school in Stratford Ontario with only few people allowed in the room. I believe there was only six of us, one of them being my good friend Matthew Maynard who introduced me to her music and I fell in love with the sound in her voice when I first heard it .She gifted me a set of her Greatest Hits on CD and DVD as well. I gifted her a small eagle feather in honour of her recogni-

tion and raising awareness about the issues regarding pollution and taking care of the land - she's a beautiful person, has a voice of an Angel. I've never felt like that before playing my flute with another musician such as her. I felt really moved and we connected spiritually and emotionally. Dreams really do come true. I told my friend Matthew I would like to have a duet with this Loreena McKennitt someday and it happened, manifestation of my ambition in my optimism and my willingness and desire to make things happen for the greater good. I told Loreena McKennitt that I am Bridge Builder trying my best to work towards Truth and Reconciliation on behalf of

Anishinabe people of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. I told her that I have forgiveness in my heart and whatever the government has done to First Nations people in the past I have forgiven. I hope people can move forward and try to inspire others as well. Lorena told me that she had studied the history about what the government has done to the First Nations people. Tragic it was and still is so I feel this was a great experience. This happened on the day of December 7th 2020 4:20 p.m. Bridge there was a small video made also for the Royal Canadian Air Force we wish everybody a Merry Christmas peace and joy.”



Zone and Club News

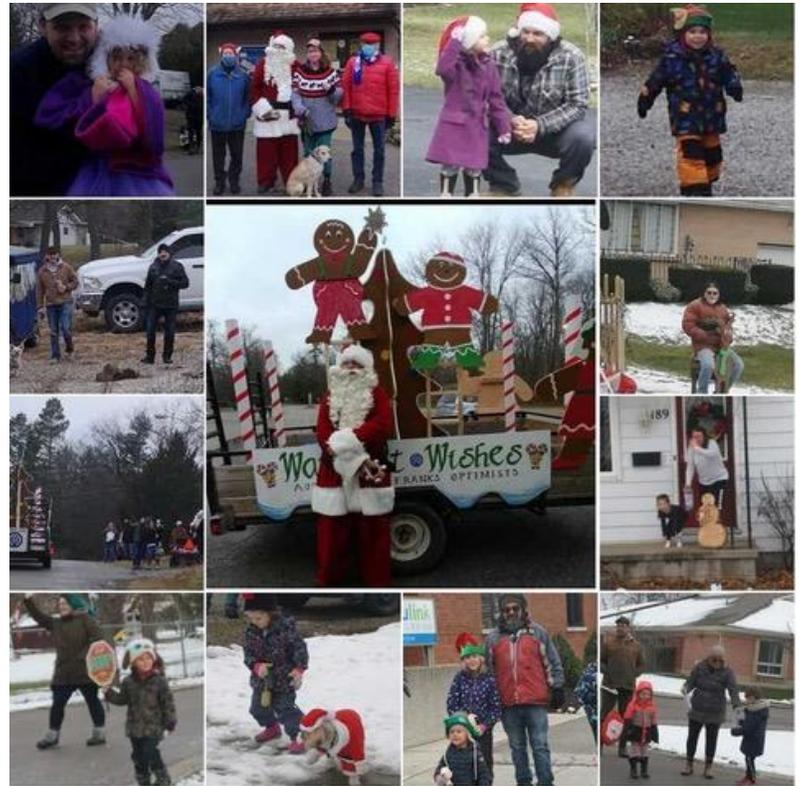
Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks —Janice Cuckovic

We were so honoured to win FIRST PRIZE at the Forest Santa Parade with our gingerbread themed float! Thanks to our President and Vice President Karen and Tony Puzara for providing the vision, gathering and distributing materials and putting it all together, not to mention being out in the

cold for hours. Also great delegation and knowing that everyone would do their part - that's leadership. A shout out to all of Santa's Optimist elves who worked so hard to create all of the different elements involved.

On December 6th we took our float through the communities of Thedford, Port Franks and Walden

subdivision for our Santa Holiday Tour. As part of the tour, we also collected nonperishable food items for Contact House in Forest. It was a great way to spread cheer and help others in our community, as we were not able to do our annual 'Breakfast With Santa' this year!



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks —Janice Cuckovic

In place of our annual Halloween Party for kids, we organized a 'Spooky Tour' through the communities of Thedford, Port Franks and the Walden subdivision. A week before the tour, volunteers met outside wearing masks at a safe

social distance to pack up treats in individual bags which were then stored untouched for safe distribution. We must give a huge thanks to everyone in our community who donated treats and also those who contributed to the food drive which was

a part of the tour. We had great weather, made lots of kids very happy, collected so much food and had leftover treats to take to the Country Manor in Thedford to make the residents there happy too!



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks –Janice Cuckovic

There is so much out there on the internet - it can be daunting. We've gathered and organized a curated library of resources for families which includes games, kid safe

search engines, virtual tours, and many more resources. In this difficult time when schooling has moved to a remote model for many students, we hope this library can prove very help-

ful. You can access it on our club's website www.ausableportfranksoptimist.club



Due to the pandemic we were not able to make our junior gardener program happen, but we still made good use of the two plots we'd sponsored in the Port Franks Community Garden. Optimists planted

vegetables in the plots and, as the vegetables were harvested a 'bounty basket' was placed in the garden for everyone to help themselves! We hope that our efforts helped anyone who was experiencing food insecurity

in our community. We noticed that other gardeners who had plots were donating to our basket as well!



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Kids Mental Health—Ed Finland

Kids Mental Health Optimist Club

1) We raised over \$1,500.00 this summer with our Woodshed Concert Series held in London's Westmount Mall Parking Lot. Folks parked their cars and listened to the music most weekends in the summer. WE received great support from the community

2) Our Virtual Poker night raised \$500.00 and was well attended.

3) We received \$1,500.00 donation from TD Bank as three of our members are employees of the bank and they support their employee volunteer clubs.

4) Our club sponsored with a \$4,000.00 donation the London Mission Services Summer Camp for children that are homeless in our community.. these are families who have been moving from place to place. Very difficult for children. This camp

provided a safe and sheltered location for 2 weeks. They were able to run the camp with COVID protocols in place..hard work but it was a success.

5) WE have supported M.I. Understanding with funding for a number of new videos for children to be used in hospitals and our Optimist Clubs and are working on a new project involving farm safety for children.

Optimist Club of Ilderton—Jeanette Vandeuren

Ilderton Optimists haven't been up to much...but here is a photo of our float we created to participate in Ildertons Christmas static parade!



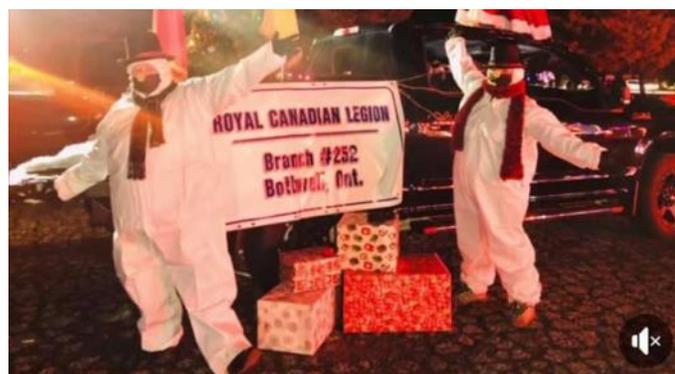
Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Bothwell—Randy Johnston

Back in November our Christmas Parade chairperson, Opt Lisa Downie, knowing we were not going to be allowed to have a regular Christmas parade, heard about someone else having a “REVERSE CHRISTMAS PARADE” and the lights went on. She talked it over with some of her parade committee and brought it to the club. On December 4th 2020 The Optimist Club Of Bothwell Dist. Inc. held its first “REVERSE CHRISTMAS PARADE”. We closed down the Bothwell Arena Parking Lot and set out areas for all the Parade participants

to set up their entry, Covid spacing in place. We set up our float Santa’s sleigh in the last spot with a bench in front of the float so if wanted, Pictures could be taken with the Clauses in the background and a table to the right where Christmas goodies were handed out to the children as the vehicles left the event. Parade entries were to come and get set from 6:30 to 7:00pm when the roadway marked around the Arena through the Parade entries was opened to the public. Vehicles lined up to drive through and

check out the Entries therefore making it a Reverse Parade. We then had a great event as we had our members with MASKES on, spread out through the route keeping things in line and watching and chatting with the community warm in their vehicles bumper to bumper for the next TWO hours enjoying themselves in these crazy times. All in all an event we all enjoyed maybe even more than a regular parade but the weather was in our favour for being out that long.



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of Komoka-Kilworth—Marie Burt

Despite the crazy pandemic we have been very active!

Sept meeting at Komoka Community Pavilion to vote in our new executive. Various ideas of what we could do during the pandemic were discussed.

Komoka Community Market morning to sell egg on a bun and promote new membership. It was a great day.

Oct meeting at Cream Beanery in Mt Brydges.

Halloween colour contest

Nov meeting at Wellness Centre

Dec meeting ZOOM

Christmas **colour contest**

Santa Express – overwhelming response! An extra Thank you to Shaun and Santa and all those involved.

EdgeWater Estates donation of \$1,000 helped with the cost of The Santa Express. Thank you to EdgeWater Estates!

Home Hardware/Ailsa Craig area

foodbank / Komoka Kilworth Optimist Toy drive

EdgeWater Estates donated \$1,200 worth of toys plus donations to the KKO from EdgeWater Builders group including Melchers Construction and Millstone Homes totalling \$1,000 for us to donate back to the ACAFB

Social media – end of 2018 we had 111 FB page likes – January 21 – 656 Page Likes and Followers 727

Optimist Club of West Lorne—Marsha Vernon

Some photos from the West Lorne Optimist Club Festival of Lights. It was a drive thru light display. Several local businesses and clubs brought in displays and set them up. For 2 nights in early December, community members were able to drive through and enjoy them.



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of South Dorchester—Janice McCallum

Happy New Year from Lyons! The South Dorchester Optimists had a challenging 2020 but we continue to serve our community. Members have tried to stay connected via email and phone tag. Adhering to provincial restrictions, holding meetings is difficult – we've met at our local hall with only 10 members allowed, we held a couple of 'outdoor' meetings at our president's home and now we're trying Zoom meetings – which has proven difficult as well, as not all members are capable of joining and internet access is a challenge at times in our rural setting. All our fundraisers – community breakfasts, suppers and our popular community bingos were cancelled last year.

In November, our newest members came up with the idea to have an online auction. With generous donations from local businesses,

members of the community and Optimist members, 30 or so items were put up for auction run through our Facebook Auction page. It was a very successful first time event and we plan to hold another one this year. This was all done with no cost to us and we made a nice profit.

We are fortunate to be part of the St Thomas Jackpot City Gaming Association, so we still receive funds from that but with lockdown they are now closed as well.

In September, to recognize our teachers and staff for all they do and let them know we were thinking of them, we gave each teacher, staff member and bus driver from 5 local schools a Tim Horton's Gift Card as a thank you.

We continue to make our donations to the local food bank, Christmas Shoppe, Canadian Mental Health Association, Salvation Army, Vio-

lence Against Women Services Elgin County, Ronald McDonald House, our local Fire Department, a local camp as well as supporting Optimist causes including CCOF, Conductive Education and Bravery Beads. We also helped purchase a lift chair for a local senior who fell and broke his shoulder.

We participated in the local Winter Wonderland (a local park is decorated with lights and displays from area organizations, businesses and individuals).

At present, we miss getting together for meetings, the socializing at our events and interaction with our community. As we navigate through 2021, we are optimistic that we will once again be flipping pancakes and calling bingo numbers as our community once again gathers together. Hoping everyone has a healthy, happy 2021!



Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of St. Thomas—Ritchie Stewart

During the first quarter, Optimist Club of St. Thomas was still able to meet in person twice a month and hold their executive meeting either outdoors or indoors. Although our 2020 projects to raise money were cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, we were still able to support many Youth, Community and Optimist International programs thanks to monthly funds from St. Thomas Jack Pot City.



Lieutenant Governor Ritchie Stewart attended our meeting to install their 2020-21 Executive and welcomed and perform the induction of three new members into the Optimist Club of St. Thomas.

Executive: Past President Chris McConnell, President Al Holt, President Elect Kevin Kernohan, Vice President Dan Clarke, Treasurer Grant Simmons, Secretary Chris McConnell, 1st. year Directors Paul Jones, Al Thorner, Dave Kernohan, 2nd year Directors Bob Arppe



Scott Howard, Jim Hamilton, Sargent at Arms Peter Tobola, Foundation Chairman Gar Shaw.

New members: Zachary Peddie, Bob Arppe, and Aaron Jackson



During the month of December, many of our members volunteered their time to be part of the 2020 Salvation Army Kettle Drive at three locations in the city.

Zone and Club News

Optimist Club of St. Thomas—Ritchie Stewart

Due to the COVID-19- 19 restrictions, the downtown in person Optimist Santa Clause Parade could not be held.

A Thrill of Hope Reverse Holiday Parade was held instead, from Friday December 4th, to Sunday December 6th from 4:30-9 pm. At Pinafore Park St. Thomas.

The Optimist Club of St. Thomas was an active part in this community project.

Approximately 20, 000 people in their cars drove by the 44 displays.

The star of the reverse parade was Santa Claus. The event was very successful



The following awards were present by the Optimist Club of St. Thomas

- Best High School I- Arthur Voaden Secondary School
- Most Unusual – Canada Health Grants
- Best Overall – Heritage Youth Bowling
- Best Commercial – Entegrus
- Best Children's - St. Thomas and District Chamber of Commerce
- Most Photogenic – St. Thomas Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Best Theme - Dean-O-Towing
- Best Elementary School – Springfield Public School

District Information & Editorials

2020-2021 District Convention—Jurgen Walther

“COVID 19” - “Unprecedented Times” - “Unusual Circumstances” - “Wash your Hands” - “Social Distancing” - “Wear a Mask”

How many times have we heard that in the past 12 months?

How many more times will we have to hear this in future?

When will this be over? - When will we return to normal? - What is “normal”? - Will there be a new “normal”?

Among all of this uncertainty we’re planning a District Convention for August 20 - 22, 2021 at the Best Western Plus, Stoneridge Inn & Conference, 6675 Burtwistle Ln., London, ON.

If you don’t have that marked in your calendar, now is the time to do so, NOW!

Fellow Optimists, we are Optimists, are we not? We are planning for a “live”, “in person” convention. One, where we can all get together. Where we can mingle, where we can listen and learn, where we can exchange experiences and ideas, where we can rekindle old acquaintances and friendships, and where we can meet new Optimists and make new friends. And where we can sit and enjoy a meal together, have a few wobbly pops, and where we can laugh together and applause a job well done.

As mentioned we’re hopeful, thus we’re planning exciting, eventful, and extraordinary events, covering all day, afternoon and evening on Friday, Aug. 20/21. As well, we will try to keep you entertained on Saturday afternoon and evening. Under the circumstances, it’s a tall order. We have big shoes to fill. Previous convention organizers have done incredible jobs and set the bar very high for us.

Normally, at this time, during the upcoming Quarter Conference in February, we would make a big splash to wet every attendees whistle and entice them to attend the conference in August.

But, the Quarter Conference meeting “virtual”, again, which makes a big splash virtually impossible. However, that does not deter us....

Our Dream Team is, and will continue to plan for “live”, “in person” activities. While it’s too early to let the cat out of the bag, be assured it will be worth your while to join us in August.

Stay healthy and keep well, meaning COVID free.

Yours in Optimism,
Jurgen Walther
District Conference Chair

District Information & Editorials

2020-2021 Northeast and Great Lakes Region—Vice President Tracy Huxley



My fellow Southwestern Ontario Optimists. Unbelievable that we're already into our 2nd quarter. Will the remainder of this Optimist year whiz on by? At least that's what it feels like to me. I am 4 months into my year as an International Vice President of this great organization we all akin ourselves to. Unlike any Vice President before me, that has offered unique challenges. In all the years past, Vice Presidents have travelled all around to visit their many Districts and meet the many Optimist around the region. This year it's different. 3 of the 6 Districts in our Northeast and Great Lakes region are in the United States. Not to mention, here I am, like you, in lockdown once again. I won't even bring my city germs to home Club in Port Franks, so as if I'm travelling even into northern Ontario!

But yet, I'm finding ways to fill my bucket. I'm meeting many people. I'm learning about the little things that make all these 6 Districts tick. If you too have embraced the new ways to connect electronically, you likely have also found ways to laugh, and smile. You find ways to serve and feel good and strengthen relationships. If you haven't found these things through an electronic presence, I hope you're still filling your bucket as full as ever, because there's no barrier in front of you that you don't create for yourself.

Our President, Optimist Mark Weinsoff from Santa Barbara California, is asking Optimists around the globe to focus on 4 intentions over the year. Now into our 2nd quarter, our focus is to be on Happiness. With the International Day of Happiness coming up on March 20th, Optimists have a perfect way to showcase what we do best. Happiness is not attainable without a positive outlook on the future. And Optimism cannot be described without bringing attention to a positive outlook on the future. So, you can see, these things work hand in hand.

Whether being isolated is a happy place for you, or you're finding a new happy place online, I hope you're doing what it takes in life to be happy, truly happy. I have a recipe, a happiness recipe that I want to share with you my fellow members.

Recipe for Happiness

1. **Be Grateful** – keep a gratitude journal or at least note each night 3 things that happened that day which you're grateful for.
2. **Learn to Forgive** – By forgiving you allow yourself to move on.
3. **Build Strong and Real Relationships** – value those who are close to you, tell them what they mean to you and talk to them in earnest, each day.
4. **Give of Yourself in Service to Others** – this was in our pledge when each of us was inducted as a member. How fitting it will actually give you a heightened level of happiness
5. **Do What Makes YOU Feel Good** – learn you, what you like to do, and make sure you're doing it.
6. **Slow Down** – set aside a day, for slowing down and taking care of you. Read that book, take that long bath, watch that movie.
7. **Practice Mindfulness** – OK, maybe you're not ready for some meditation, or maybe you are. Either way you can start by simply noticing the beauty around you.
8. **Set Goals** – big goals, little goals, long term goals, short term goals set them, work towards them and feel good about the process not just the completion.
9. **Smile and Laugh** – smile at yourself each morning in the mirror, then share your smile with others. Laugh at yourself and you will find the humour in each day more amusing.

Work on your happiness not just this quarter, but every day. Everyone needs a little happiness in their lives. Maybe you're the happiness for someone else.

Tracy Huxley
2020/2021 International Vice President
Northeast and Great Lakes Region
Optimist International



District Information & Editorials

Future Events

Conferences

Second Quarter Conference
February 6 and 20, 2021
Virtual!

Third Quarter Conference
April 23-24, 2021
Sunbridge Hotel and Conference Centre Sarnia/Point Edward
1498 Venetian Blvd, Point Edward, Sarnia, ON N7T 7W6
(519) 336-4130

CONVENTIONS

103rd Optimist International Convention

June 29 - July 3, 2021

Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, Georgia

For more information, and to register visit www.optimist.org/convention.



40th Annual SWONT District Convention

August 20-22, 2021

Best Western Plus Stoneridge Inn & Conference Centre

6675 Burtwistle Ln, London, ON N6L 1H5

(519) 652-6022





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*By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists
bring out the best in youth, our communities
and ourselves.*



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Optimist Creed

Promise yourself ...

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

*Written by Christian D. Larson
in 1912*

The Back Page



Editor's Corner Happy Optimist Day!

Thanks to all the Optimists that sent me items to add to this edition of the SWONT Newsletter. I hope you enjoy it. The publishing schedule is just about on time for this edition, and allowed me to send it out in time for Optimist Day.

Truly sorry for this edition's joke. Made me chuckle.
Next edition may include an epic feeghoot—stay tuned!

This is a difficult time for all of us. Luckily we're all Optimists. We'll get through this. Stay in touch, share your stories here. Also, send me your comments and suggestions. Nothing improves without



Yoda and Luke are walking through the swamp. Part of their usual training

course involves shimmying along a cliff ledge, but today, there's a long break in the ledge they can't cross. "Something for this I have." Yoda says. He reaches into his bag and takes out a bunch of regular dinner table forks and a roll of duct tape.

He tapes several forks together to make a bridge and lays it down, allowing the two of them to get across.

When they get back to Yoda's hovel, they find that some creature has chewed a hole in the fence around Yoda's garden. "Something I have for this." Yoda says again. Once again, he takes a bunch of forks out

of his bag and, using duct tape, tapes them in to patch the hole.

Yoda and Luke return to Yoda's home, where Yoda looks through his bag. He's used all his forks but one, he discovers.

"That's ok Master." Luke says, wanting to be helpful. "I'll write us a note reminding us to buy more."

So he writes the note and uses the very last fork to pin it to the bulletin board.

He looks down at Yoda expecting pride, but instead finds a look of horror.

"Master Yoda!" he asks. "What did I do wrong?"

Yoda replies sagely, "A Jedi uses the forks for no ledge and the fence. Never for a tack!"