

OPTIMIST CLUB OF AUSABLE PORT FRANKS

1-9997 Port Franks Rd., Port Franks ON N0M 2L0

www.ausableportfranksoptimist.club/

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

CLUB OFFICERS

President – Karen Puzara - kpuzara@gmail.com 519-243-3612

1st Vice President: Tony Puzara – anthonypuzara@holliswealth.com – 519-243-3612

Secretary: Linda Attard - llattard@gmail.com - 519-243-1596

Treasurer: Derek Scott - derekscott@execulink.com - 519-243-3005

Directors

Lorie Scott – loriescott@execulink.com – 519-243-3005

Katherine Pym – kate50@execulink.com – 519-871-4492

Sydney Ridell – sydney.ridell13@gmail.com

Pattie Bonesteel – bonesteelgb@icloud.com

Garrett Pedlar - remaxgarrett@hay.net – 519-872-0910

Paul Petersen – pmpret06@gmail.com – 519-243-2458

Ray Horban – rayh1812@gmail.com

*Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion,
your hands for charity your mind for truth
and your Heart for Love.*

Unknown

Happy New Year Fellow Optimists,

I am excited for 2021 and the promise that it holds. I like many use the New Year to reflect upon the past year and what a past year it has been! The global pandemic that took hold last March certainly had a profound affect on all of us. It changed our world and our community, in so many ways. There is not a single life that it did not change in some way. It even changed Optimism. Our club faced challenges, and our program delivery changed but our purpose did not –to bring out the best in children, in the community and in ourselves. In a year where it was so easy to be negative our club rose to the challenge and with a can do attitude brought positive things to our community.

I was very pleased this fall to have the opportunity to meet with the new principal at Bosanquet Central Public School, Cameron Gordon, in the fall. Together we determined that the best way we could help the school was through their student wellness and mental health initiative. Our club supported them with a donation of \$750.00 and are hoping through the Optimist CCHF (Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation) to provide further assistance. When I presented the cheque I was able to meet the two student council presidents and along with their appreciation they explained that the funding would go to much needed extra play equipment (balls etc) as these cannot be shared with other classes during the pandemic. In addition, we were able to provide \$200 toward the Christmas lunch program. Traditionally, we provided volunteers to assist in the meal, however, this again was a situation where our help looked a little different this

Find us on Facebook – Ausable Port Franks Optimist Club

www.ausableportfranksoptimist.club

year. I wanted to share feedback we got from one of the parents from Bosanquet “Just wanting to say a huge thank you to your club for the ongoing support you give to the students at Bosanquet School”.

In October, November and December we took to the road to spread Optimism. We had our drive by Halloween parade in Walden, Thedford and Port Franks. It was a great success, many of the community members stood on their lawns in costumes and the community feedback was awesome. We partnered this with a food drive which we donated to Contact House in Forest. Next we participated in the Forest Christmas Parade. This event was held at the fairgrounds and was again a twist on tradition as the floats remained stationary and the families drove by safely, in their cars. I am pleased to share that thanks to the many hands (Optimist and community members) who helped build our Gingerbread themed float, we won first place for best themed float. Finally, in the beginning of December we took our float and the big guy himself, Santa, on a drive by tour of Walden, Thedford and Port Franks, where he greeted the children, his elves handed out goody bags and once again collected for the local food bank. The community feedback was terrific, “Wonderful community service”, ”Thanks for doing this, our grandchildren were thrilled”, and “Nice to see all that effort put in for the kids” and more. When I look back on 2020, I am so proud to be a member of this community and to be the President of such an amazing club. Throughout the year our hearts remained in the right spot. The only area where I feel as a club we struggled was fellowship. Beyond social intercourse like zoom or our emails it was hard to find a way to connect with our membership. When normalcy allows I am not planning for a fancy dinner out, what I crave will be a regular club meeting, with a nice dinner and all of you seated together to enjoy! In the meantime if you have any suggestions on ways we can gather responsibly please share them with myself or any of our board members. I would also encourage any ideas on new events, or twists on old ones that we could provide.

In closing I want to remind everyone of our upcoming board meetings. As always these meetings are open to ALL members to attend. These meetings use a zoom format which makes it easy for anyone to participate. This month we will be holding two meetings our general meeting January 6th and a meeting specifically addressing club policies and bylaws on January 13th. Please reach out if you would like an invitation sent.

Please stay safe, be kind and remain Optimistic.

Karen Puzara
President
Ausable Port Franks Optimist Club.

Miscellaneous:

“Like” the Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks Facebook Page to see pictures of events and up to date happenings with our club. **Check out the new and improved Web Page (special thanks to Janice Cuckovic!). If you are at events please remember to take pictures and send them to Janice for the Web Page. petarandjanice@gmail.com**