

## Zone 1 (Fort Erie, Grantham-St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, St. Catharines, and Welland)

Thanks to the lifting of some of the CVOID-19 restrictions our clubs in Zone 1 are starting to get back to in-person meetings

The **Grantham Optimists** has successfully run a new members night on Oct 27/21. The club was also able to run their baseball this year which is their major fundraiser.

The **Port Colbourne Optimists**, worked with the local Lions club food drive. And are working with a local vineyard to sell wine in time for Christmas.

Members of the **St. Catharines** club are continuing to make masks and offering them in exchange for donations at a local campground and the St. Catharines Market square. The club has had to make room for more Girl Guide groups that have been forced out of their previous halls due to Covid restrictions

The **Welland** Club donated in excess of \$19,000.00 to organizations in Welland focused on food insecurities. The club held a new members night on Nov 1/21 with four perspective members. They also hope to welcome a returning member back to the club.

The **Fort Eire Optimists** inducted a new member within the 2020/21 year-end deadline. The have welcomed a new recurring rental on a twice a week basis. This has meant that for the short term the club is meeting on on a Monday rather than their usual Tuesday. The members are holing a craft sale on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> and an online auction from Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Zone 2 (Ancaster, Battlefield – Stoney Creek, Dunnville, Haldimand, Hamilton, Hamilton-East and Stoney Creek)

**Ancaster Township Optimist Club** - It's been a quiet time in their club but are looking for better things to come. board and member meetings have been on zoom with a couple of in person outdoor get togethers in their parking lot. the first inside their building was this October where 18 full vaccinated members attended the inductions of their new board by their very own member LG Sandra Stokes. They will be selling their Christmas cakes this year back at Canadian Tire store and On-line for first time since 2019. their main fund raising took is their food trailer, which together with the van has been parked for over a year, both needing deep cleaning and service before they can be used safely. they remain committed, experienced and healthy club of fine members.

**Dunnville Optimist club**- Dunnville is keeping busy thinking of ways to raise money for their community Oct.30<sup>th</sup>. along with the downtown business trick or treat shelling out gift bags.Nov.11<sup>th</sup> -participating in the Remembrance Day Services. Nov.22-27<sup>th</sup>. Their online Holiday Auction on Facebook will be held soon.

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.Dunnville Community Christmas donating 100 bears to the Lioness Breakfast with Santa. And Dec.13<sup>th</sup>. Holding a "Christmas Cash"50/50 Draw-tickets will be available on Facebook or from members. They have applied for a Trillium Grant to have a roof repair and to upgrade (acquire) internet service and technology to perform hybrid meetings.

**Stoney Creek**-They have continued to meet as regularly as possible as a Board and a couple of members meetings via Zoom, but they were not well attended. Since not having their main fund-raising event the Winona Peach Festival they had to come up with other ways of raising money. They have decided to come up with smaller fundraisers. This Sept. a group from the board sold French Fries at Super Saturday for Little LEAGUE and later in Sept. a bottle drive. Oct., they held their first Fall Fest had over 600 people attend, and 30 Local Artisans attend. They had over 50 Volunteer Students from Local Secondary School,10 outside Volunteers and 10 Board Members helping. Going to hold a Poinsettia Sale. Doing their annual Turkey Roll. Finally, after many months the City of Hamilton has given the club the okay to enter the hall again `with guidelines.

**Hamilton Inc.** Since the Scout House is not open to them yet to meet, they have been interacting through emails and texts. In Sept. they met with a small group of six to come up with something that would put money into their bank account. They came up with the Winter Raffle Idea to draw 7-9 for items selling tickets at ten dollars apiece and the draw is on Dec.11<sup>th</sup> it took them time to get a lottery license and to get the tickets designed and printed. As well they are back to the monthly Bingo's at Prince Bingo. They hope to donate to Charities needing help at Christmas time.

**Hamilton - East.** -They haven't been having meeting until just the last little while as they meet in a church. They are doing their Christmas Tree sales again this year at the Canadian Tire at the Centre Mall in Hamilton (This will be the 50<sup>th</sup>.year that they have been at the Canadian Tire Store.) They have 'given a donation to the local Food Bank of \$1000.00 and several Scholarships funds to schools.

**Haldimand:** The Haldimand club has accomplished so much this past year and kept the club going. increased their philanthropy. Increased their bank account and got out in the community with their stencil program while enjoying themselves. They had a success selling of Krispy Kreme donuts over 100 dozen sold and planning for another one before Easter this coming year. The other first is the completion of our schoolyard stencil painting. They stenciled nine schoolyards. Their next event will be the Toll Crossing in Cayuga in early December, then the Santa Clause Day at the Cayuga library. The club is now incorporated. We are happy to report as of this update we are add one new member to our club.

**Battlefield Optimists:** THEY HAVEN'T MEET AS YET BUT WILL BE SELLING Balsam Fur Tree's again this year at Battlefield Park for Christmas from Nov.29<sup>th</sup> .

**Zone 3 (Burlington, Carlisle, Greensville, Milton, Oakville, Puslinch, Strabane, Etobicoke, Waterdown, AWE-SUM)**
**Report from The Optimist Club of Etobicoke**

Have had some zoom meetings, looking forward to in person meetings.

We are starting to attend BINGO again.

Do to the large cash reserves, the Etobicoke club has been able to continue all of its commitments to charitable donations and financial commitments.

Donations include sports teams Yonge Street Mission, Youth without Shelter, St Ernestines Woman's Shelter, Thistletown collegiate community food and culinary programs, 2 robotics programs.

**Oakville Optimist club**

Had a Now outdoor BBQ in August for our existing members & potential members. Our first in person event in over a year.

Supported a local charity by providing a BBQ. The community event raised 33,000.

October 22 was our 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary!

Our JOI club hosted a Halloween event for 240 children.

We have had 2 in person dinner meetings with the YMCA as a guest speaker for one and a small auction for the other.

Reimagined out Shrimpfest dinner fundraiser as pick up event and raised \$1400.

**Puslinch Optimist Club Report**

While COVID 19 has presented challenges to how our club interacts with each other and our community, we have forged ahead and have held all of our board and general meetings on Zoom. With light at the end of the tunnel, we will be holding our first in person dinner meeting at a member's farm this coming week.

In September, our club participated in Aberfoyle Agricultural Fair. Our members operated the food trailer, serving hot dogs, hamburgers and fries. It was sanctioned and monitored by the Wellington Dufferin Health Unit.

Our club awarded 3 scholarships of \$1000 to local residents attending college or university in September.

Our club also participated with the Rockwood Lions Club to host a Zoom "All Candidates Debate" for federal candidates of Wellington-Halton. Approximately 100 people participated. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, our club will be organizing a Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Puslinch Community Centre.

In November, our club will be hosting our annual Santa Claus Parade. Once again, it will be a drive by event.

**Burlington**

- Added 2 new members, JOI members who graduated out of our JOI Club, with 1 additional potential member

- Held 2 BBQ fundraisers, one with Activity Plex and one with Special Olympics Burlington.
- Working on a restaurant coupon book to help both the restaurant industry hurt by Covid and as a fundraiser for our club
- We are unable to sell trees this winter as we are unable to find a supplier that will take us on and our previous supplier is unreliable and raised the costs more than double
- Planning Breakfast with Santa hoping to be able to do a small event
- JOI club is back meeting in person and are adding members

## **AWE-SUM**

- Hosting Trunk or Treat with Burlington and Burlington JOI on Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup>. This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual and that one was so much fun and successful
- Have a wine raffle underway and with draw being held on December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Planning Zoom with Santa again

## **Milton Club**

We have continued to help the people of Milton in need of food by delivering our prepared meals and food bags from Food4Life weekly to their homes.

Milton and Halton Hills club ran TV Bingo throughout the summer for the first time and it was very well received. TV Bingo has been our only fundraiser throughout Covid.

Our club purchased a memorial bench for all our members who have passed and it has been located in our Optimist Club Park.

At the end of August, we were able to hold our annual Optimist Cruise. We only had 4 Sunday nights but our car drivers were very excited to be back.

## **The Optimist Club of Strabane Update Report 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021-22**

Like other Clubs all our fundraising events were cancelled due to COVID-19.

We haven't held many meetings but the ones we had were outdoor meetings until October 1<sup>st</sup>. We have postponed most meetings until we figure out where we can meet indoors.

Communication has been continued using email. Zoom meeting may be an option but not all our members are computer confident at this point.

We hosted our Essay Contest this year but not our Oratorical

We hosted our Bursary Program and awarded 2 very deserving winners their bursary funds. \$1500.00 and \$1000.00.

The Club hosted a Provincial Championship Fastpitch Tournament, for Pee Wee Boys, this year as our first Fundraiser. We had to create a COVID Safety plan for the Club that was approved by the City of Hamilton and follow all the COVID protocols of the City of Hamilton and Softball Ontario.

We held our 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chicken BBQ as a Drive Thru Dinner only. We had good support and success. We sold about 140 dinners to the Community.

On Sunday October 31 from 1 – 3pm, a Halloween Trick or Treat Drive Thru will be hosted by the Strabane Optimist Club. We hope to get 100+ children to come out for a Goody bag. This

is our second annual event. The event was very well supported last year. We are not sure how successful it will be this year with the COVID rules being changed recently.

**Zone 5 (Aurora, DAT at UTSC, Keswick, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Rouge Valley, York Region – Kruzers, Exceptionally Fun)**

Membership is minus 1 with several clubs working with potential members.

**Aurora** – Presented Optimist Alex Ansell with the International President Citation Award and Optimist Rob Gaby was presented with the Optimist of the year award.

They have presented 2 local students with scholarships, sponsored a local high school Robotics Club and sponsored a future Aurora Sports hall of famer.

The club is working on their successful Come Dine with Us coupon book fundraiser for Spring 2022. Last year they sold 400 books netting \$6000 profit. This years fundraiser for Christmas cakes will be starting November 15<sup>th</sup>. Last year they raised \$2500.

They will be entering a float into this years Santa Parade which is organized by the town of Aurora and supported by the club as they are the parade Marshalls ensuring the floats are organized, bands are in place and the event runs smoothly.

They have started a new program called KIND – kids in need delivered. They have partnered with 2 elementary schools and if contacted by the school contact a volunteer will be delivering kids who show up without mitts, hat or a backpack what is needed to the school for the student.

**Keswick** – Presented 7 year end awards to members with Optimist Linda Tuttle receiving the President Citation Award and Optimist Pat Devine receiving the Optimist of the year award.

The club as purchased the Bed Race program from the Collingwood club and are excited to host a Bed Race Fundraiser this summer. The beds will also be available for other clubs to rent for fundraisers.

They hosted their first Truck or Treat event at a local car dealership. It was a great event with lot of positive comments from families and trunkers. The event was free and donations for a local church food pantry were requested. The event filled a truck with food for the church.

The annual toy drive is underway. For the second year adopt a family has been offered and 41 of the 250 local families have been adopted by a member of the community. The club will support the other families through donations from the community and gifts purchased through fundraising.

Just launched is porch visits with Santa, last year it was introduced due to covid and this year 4 community volunteers have stepped up to assist by playing Santa and plans are underway to host a breakfast with Santa.

Friday November 12<sup>th</sup> the Georgina Ice Junior C team will be hosting a teddy bear toss at their home game with all teddy bears going to the toy drive. S & B Motors in Keswick is donating the bears that will be sold and tossed on to the ice. Any bear that is touching center ice will receive a \$50 donation from Centrum One Financial Group

**Newmarket** – Has continued to support the Newmarket Food Pantry, Rose of Sharon and Newmarket High Breakfast Club.

They are excited to welcome back several community organization who rent out their club house. The club is starting to host Friday Night Euchre Events the last Friday of the month. These events raise upwards of \$2000 for them.

For Christmas the club will be hosting porch visits with Santa for a weekend in November.

**Richmond Hill** has sponsored 3 children with special needs and are working on a Christmas Cheer campaign for a few families in the community. They continue to focus on club recruitment as many of their members have moved out of the Richmond Hill area. If you have friends in Richmond Hill please talk to them about the Optimist Club.

## Zone 6 (Caledon, Erin, Main Place-Erin, Orangeville, Bolton, and Halton Hills)

**Optimist Club of Caledon** Has held 2 in person dinner/exec.

Meetings with a 3rd coming up on Nov. 9th They held their annual pumpkin event on Oct. 26th and had about 50 kids pick up pumpkins and goodie bags. Hopefully next year they can again have the kids carve their pumpkins at the event. They have been contacted by the new Principal of the Caledon Central P.S. who is looking for community help for new play structure at the school. The club is looking into the Shop with a Cop event and the Tree Lighting as to how these programs will go forward. The Caledon club has 100% participation in the dime a day program and put out the challenge to other clubs.

**Optimist Club of Erin** The Optimist club of Erin has been very busy; They have had Zoom meetings, volunteered our services at BBQing, supplied cooked burgers, dogs, popcorn for Oull" Station Road Nursery School fundraiser and raised \$250 in donations for them Had our first '6people meeting" (In PERSON;) Having them at legion to help them out for now. This quarter coming up - Will be suppling chairs for our remembrance ceremony, More in person meetings, Tent rentals, Santa parade, Possible Santa phone calls and Xmas - in person party-

**Halton Hills Optimist Club** - Recent events -

Acclaim Health: We are delivering cooked food to families, supporting Acclaim Health. The initiative is in partnership with the Optimist Club of Milton. We added deliveries to palliative patients in Halton Hills

Food4Life: We are delivering bags of food (mainly produce) to families in need. The goal of Food4Life is to divert food from the landfills and our goal is to serve the community. This initiative is also in partnership with the Optimist Club of Milton.

Weekly TV Bingo on Cogeco TV/ Your TV. Due to the demand we decided to continue to run TV Bingo over the summer. In the past we stopped TV Bingo over the summer months.

We resumed our in-person dinner meetings

Upcoming events:

We ordered trees for our annual Xmas tree sale and formed a committee

We are working with Operation Christmas Child to pack and deliver "shoeboxes" with gifts to children around the world

This year's Santa Calling program will be Dec 7th to Dec 9th where Santa (i.e. us) will call over 1000 local kindergarten children

**Optimist Club of Orangeville** - The Orangeville Optimist Club has kept very busy over the summer. Two projects were especially prominent. Christmas in the Park and the Bench Art competition. At this point in time, we are planning to re-open Christmas in the Park to walk through visitors. Unfortunately, last year we were not allowed to open the park to pedestrians, so we set up curbside displays for drive by viewing. So far we have accumulated 422 volunteer hours as of Sept 30, (with additional 100 estimated hours in October). Displays have cleaned up and all large trees have been checked and re-strung as necessary.

New displays are being made, and a new pergola that straddle one of the walkways has been built. A \$10,000 grant was applied for and has been received to purchase new lighting displays and cover the costs of the materials for the pergola. A new display of trolls is being worked on foll' under the pedestrian bridge that crosses the creek in the park.

In light on the on-going pandemic restrictions and the success of our on-line bike rodeo last year, we held an on-line art competition to select artwork to decorate the backs of 13 benches in the park. 26 kids, aged from 6 to 18, submitted 32 pieces of art. All participants were acknowledged at an outdoor event at the park, and the selected artwork has now been installed on all the benches. Donations in the gross amount of \$1650.00, net of \$1450 after the 10% fee for CCOF to issue tax receipts, were received, including several from Optimist members and their families. The contest was highlighted in the summer edition of the O1 magazine, and the C OF tax receipts was well received by some donors.

The Club added one new member in October, and is reaching out to another six or seven people who have expressed interest in the Optimist Club. Many are anxious to help out with Christmas in the Park, or heard about our activities on social media. Our social media presence has been improved significantly in the last year, and several members have spent a great deal of time keeping our sites up to date. Tina Clare heads up our social media committee.

Our annual fundraising appeal for financial support for Christmas in the Park has just begun, and we are very optimistic that our community supporters will be

able to support us once again as the Christmas displays were sorely missed last year. Our new Board is in place, with an extended leadership team - Kevin MacBean is designated as our contact with OI and the district as president, and shares presidential responsibilities with Rob Strang and Phil Bonnick., who all work together very well

**Optimist Club of Main Place - Erin** - Nothing new at this time.

**Optimist Club of Bolton** - The Bolton club has been quiet as President Ed Lucy has had his knee replacement done and hopes to have the club back up and running in the next month.

## Zone 7 (Barrie, Collingwood-Evening, Parry Sound)

### Collingwood

Collingwood is alive and well. They are down to 18 members due to both age and COVID. Roster cleaning did occur in September with 4 deletions and two additions. They are planning a campaign to do some advertising to hopefully draw in new members.

They plan to resume in person meetings in the new year. They are also planning to resume all fundraising activities. The Fish derby should not be different as social distancing is not an issue. The mother of all garage sales will prevent the biggest challenges due to the sheer volumes of attendees.

Barb and I will be visiting in the new year to present awards from Governor Jennifer's term that could not be presented.

Dues are all up to date both for CENON and OI

### Barrie

Is alive and well. They did a roster cleaning in September resulting nine deletions including three from deaths. Barrie will resume in person meeting with the first meeting being November 22, 2021. Barb and have been invited to attend and will take the opportunity to present awards leftover from governor Jennifer's term that could not be presented.

Dues are all up to date both for CENON and OI

### Parry Sound

Unable to make contact as of yet but will continue with the hopes of a visit if they are having in person meetings. It is our hope that will can visit in the new year to present awards from Governor Jennifer's term that could not be presented.

Dues are all up to date for CENON and OI dues are outstanding both at 91-120 (202.07) and the same amount in current.



**Zone 8 (Oshawa, Uxbridge, Brooklin)**

**Oshawa** – has added three new members and will be adding 2 more. Donating to Food For Kids. Euchre and Bingo's have resumed. They are planning 2 Santa Breakfasts, one for underprivileged families and one for special needs.

**Uxbridge** – Busy revving up for 14<sup>th</sup> annual Optimist Fantasy of Lights events. The event runs December 4<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup> nightly. They were recently featured on Narcity as one of the top drive throughs in Ontario and last year were listed in Readers Digest as one of the top 12 light displays in all of Canada – takes place at Elgin Park, no admission, donations welcome.

**Brooklin** – Meeting bi-weekly on Zoom and have had one in person meeting at a restaurant with 15 members in attendance. They are beginning to ease back into activities as Covid restrictions lift.

**Zone 9 (Douro & District, Ennismore, Lindsay, and Trent)**

**Lindsay:** We have two new members and one application which directors will review on 9 Nov.

We have started our meetings again in Sept. (it's been a year of shut down). First three meetings held at our pavilion, which we built 2 years ago.

Currently planning our annual Christmas tree sales which will begin 27 Nov at local Canadian Tire. Membership retention is a huge goal of the club. Participation in 2nd annual drive through Christmas display at fair grounds.

**Douro:** We have no new members, No planned events and have had no events since the end of August.

**Trent:** "In September the Trent Optimist Club added 3 new members. On Halloween we set up a decorated booth outside our president's house and handed out Halloween loot bags in costume. We are planning a raffle for January to raise funds."

**Ennismore:** No report received

**Zone 10 (Arnprior, Arnprior Optimistic – IC Women's, Cornwall, Forest Park, Lancaster, Napean, and Spencerville)****Cornwall Optimist Club:**

1. Held several fundraiser barbeques in our community and an ongoing bake sale. We provided support for new events in our area such as a new Whiffle ball league and a fishing for autism event.

2. Held Halloween Trunk or Treat reaching over 1000 children with 25 to 30 local businesses taking part. They also assisted Lancaster Optimist Club with their drive through Halloween event.
3. We are busy planning breakfast with Santa at our clubhouse which will be a scaled down version this year.
4. Many members are assisting the Santa Claus parade committee to host a full Santa Claus parade this year.
5. Starting up our annual toy drive which will see us provide toys for up to 1,500 children at Christmas.
6. Returned to in person meetings and dinner meetings, and we have been fortunate to have many new members join us with at least 5 to 10 more members looking to join with in the next month.
7. We are working to restart our floor hockey and softball leagues for 2022.

## **Forest Park Optimist Club**

1. Trying to adjust our Trivia Night and work within the school to fit the new normal.
2. Board of Directors meetings continue to occur over zoom.
3. We held an end of summer BBQ for all club members and distributed our new Forest Park Optimist shirts as well.
4. We have completed and passed our budget for the year in September.
5. Attended the Past President's night in Cornwall in early October. Special thanks to Optimist Tony Edge for stepping in as Secretary/Treasurer to get things back on track.
6. October, we held our second annual on-line Costume and Pumpkin Carving Contest
7. We purchased 420 pencils and erasers for Cambridge Public School for their trick or treating activity in the school yard.
8. We also assisted Lancaster October 20<sup>th</sup> with their Halloween Haunted drive-thru which was a smashing success.
9. President Bonnie met with the Cambridge public school to go over the planning and are hoping by early 2022 we will be able to participate physically in the school. The President is now also sitting on the Safe and Accepting School team which is centered around bullying as well as participating as a stakeholder with the Upper Canada School Board Student Census Survey committee.
10. Our main fund raiser to date is our sale of Christmas cakes which has gone well and we were able to secure pre-orders for 15 cases another increase over last year which will be arriving and being delivered in the coming weeks.
11. November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 we are laying a wreath at the Limoges cenotaph on of our honored traditions.
12. The Shawn Askew Award in memory of our chart President will be awarded in November to a student at St. Francis Xavier High School to a student that has exceptional musical talents and leadership skills.

13. We are holding our Past President's night in person this year on November 20, 2021 with a Mexican themed potluck at the home of the President at which time our board will also be inducted.
14. November 21, 2021 we will be distributing our Food Drive Ads and our club pamphlet to homes in the Forest Park area as well as broadcasting it through the Cambridge Public School E-mail blast to over 400 students and on November 29, 2021 we will be doing our food drive. The school will also be a drop off as it was last year which was a huge success. The school will also be running a food drive the same week and will be there to help on the day we collect items.
15. We are hosting a door decorating contest at the Cambridge Public School the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and will choose the 3 top winners on December 14, 2020 and then donate \$200 to the school for them to purchase pizza and ice cream for the winning classes.
16. We continue to look for new opportunities to assist our community and assist our local area clubs. The President and Secretary/Treasurer continue to attend Nepean Board meetings and is assisting the club with planning and social media.

**Lancaster Optimist Club**

1. Held our Haunted Drive through. It was a huge success. Very well received in the community. We had over 400 cars go through and over 700 bags of candy handed out. We ran out by 8:15 and I had to raid my house for more! A huge thank you to Cornwall and Forest park Optimist Clubs for helping out.
2. We have deleted a member and added a member. We have a new member that just joined Wednesday, I will get her on the roster soon!
3. Now all our energies are going into our tree lighting ceremony for November 27<sup>th</sup> in front of the local library. We are adding a "meet Santa" element to it considering our local parade has been cancelled.
4. After that we will be doing a children's Christmas party for our club members and our adult party (2 separate events) which will be much deserved!

**Spencerville and District Optimist Club**

1. Our regular dinner meetings are back in person, plus zooming if desired. Our guest speakers have included an 8 and 5 year old telling us about their experiences at school during COVID in September and Governor Brian Wick for October.
2. We ran a Halloween Trunk or Treat with a chute to distribute candy on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. We have permission to run TriStar Soccer if we can get enough members update their Police checks
4. Nov 24<sup>th</sup> will be our Ham and Scalloped Potato fundraiser
5. The club is upgrading our outdoor rink boards for a new season.
6. We will decorate the main corner in Spencerville and join in with some local groups in the tree lighting ceremony on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

7. We are introducing outdoor family Christmas photos in a sleigh as a new fundraiser with a new member that is a photographer.
8. We continue support the Angel tree with gifts.
9. Our social media involves Facebook