

CENON - 1st Quarter Zone Reports

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

- No report submitted at this time.

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

[Zone 2 Report](#)

Zone 3 (Burlington, Carlisle, Greensville, Milton, Oakville, Puslinch, Strabane, Etobicoke, Waterdown, AWE-SUM)

- No report submitted at this time.

Zone 5 (Aurora, DAT at UTSC, Keswick, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, York Region – Kruzers)

We had our first in person zone meeting this year and had representation from all Clubs for a total of 22 members joining for breakfast. We had a guest speaker join us to talk about social media and how to get more engagement from our social media presents. We raised \$160 for CCOF through a Loonie auction and breakfast.

Year to date our zone is down 1 member and we did lose 2 clubs with the disbandment of the Valley Rouge club and the Awe Club of Richmond Hill with the start of the new year.

Membership growth is a key focus for all clubs this year as they continue to engage in the community through various events.

Clubs have recognized their 2021-2022 outstanding Optimist Members with year end awards and years of service recognition.

All clubs have a busy Christmas season coming up with Breakfasts with Santa, Toy Drives, Town Christmas Parades and Christmas cake sales.

The Aurora club will be selling their restaurant coupon books with 22 restaurants taking part. This is a big fundraiser for them and the second time they are doing it.

The Keswick Club hosted a trunk or treat event on Oct 29th with 550 kids and their families coming out to enjoy the day. Their Junior Club is planning a Santa on the Beach event on Nov 12th.

The Newmarket Club is working with the Rotary club for a comedy night fundraiser.

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

Zone 6 is showing a net of plus 2 in membership. Caledon Optimist of Zone 6 will be hosting a Zone meeting November 22nd, 2022. Just of interest the zone finished last year with a net plus 6.

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Optimist Club of Caledon - We ended the year at +3, with all necessary reports completed and submitted, including a revision of our bylaws. Although the ceremony has not yet taken place, the club has recognized both an Optimist of the Year, and has decided on the winner of the President's Citation. In October, we held our 30th annual Pumpkin Distribution event, serving about 50 youngsters for the community, who each received one large pumpkin, one small one, and a loot bag of candies and other goodies. During that evening we reached out to attempt to recruit new members, and have received at least one expression of interest. We are preparing for the village Santa Parada and Tree Lighting to be held on Sat. Dec. 3rd. We have also begun work on the Essay and Oratorical competitions, have made a contribution to COLS, and started to organize a fundraiser with one of our local schools

Optimist Club of Erin – October started off with an in person meeting at our hall location.
Induction of new executive
2 prospective new members
Held a BBQ for our local nursery school and their pumpkin walk—raised over \$225.00 donations for them
Working on Santa phone calls again -- after 3 year hiatus
Excited to be doing a Santa float for our parade --- maybe win best float again” 4th time”
Catch the Ace is back running – assisting our local legion

Halton Hills Optimist Club – Olaf Krahmer, our President for the last four years, has moved out of that role. As a club, we are thankful for his service. In October, Alex took over the role. They held their annual Cross Country run in September. They started a partnership with other local service clubs in a Catch the Ace weekly, cumulative lottery fundraiser and they continue with their TV Bingo. They are looking forward to their annual Christmas Tree fundraiser in November and our Santa Calling and Santa Breakfast in December. They also welcomed two new members, Geoff and Shanna Maltby.

Optimist Club of Orangeville – They are getting ready for Christmas in the Park this being their 30th Anniversary of this project. Open night is Friday Dec. 2nd, 2022 and last day is Dec. 31st, 2022. The 2022-23 executive were inducted in early Oct. They had Danielle Gibb from HHCC(our hospital) in to update them on the situation and its needs. The clubs focus is on new members, presently have 6 people on the sidelines ready to join, they are in the midst of completing the applications & obtaining police checks. They hope to complete and approve the 2022-2023 budget.

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

Optimist Club of Bolton – As President Ed Lucy has just had open heart surgery the club is not doing much of anything. The club hopes to be able to get involved with the towns Santa Parada..

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Zone 7 (Barrie, Collingwood-Evening)

Collingwood - Have added one member for a total of 23 members. Have had a change in Executive and are looking to get their fall/winter events underway soon.

Barrie – Holding with 14 members. They are working hard at twice monthly Bingo's and are looking for new members.

Parry Sound – disbanded on August 30, 2022 with 10 members, 5 of whom were leaving. Had put an article in the paper looking for more members to help keep the club going but unfortunately it did not happen.

Zone 8 (Oshawa, Uxbridge, Brooklin)

Lt. Gov. Sybil Dewhurst apologizes that she is not able to attend the conference. There are three clubs in Zone 8 who are all active and running great projects, but there has been very little communication between the clubs, and it has been a while since they have held regular zone meetings.

Brooklin Optimist Club

They currently have 25 members. Two new members have already been added this year, and they have 5-6 prospects. Some of these new members are as a result of a NOW event that they held at the Brooklin Pub.

Activities: The club continues to run their Youth dances every 2 weeks. They have taken over as the lead organizer of the Whitby Santa Claus Parade from JCI (Junior Chamber International). The club has also started a new program called Youth Business Incubator, where members will mentor youth who want to start their own business. And the club will be holding their annual Xmas Tree Lighting ceremony, which also includes horse drawn carriage rides.

Oshawa Optimist Club

The club currently have 12 members. They are discussing holding a membership drive.

Activities: They held their first Halloween Trunk or Treat Event. This was promoted on-line as well as in the neighbourhood around their clubhouse. They are organizing a Pancakes with Santa event on Saturday, Dec. 3rd which will replace the Christmas Party that they have held for a number of years. They hope this new event will also raise some funds as well as being fun for the children.

Their main activity continues to be providing food for children and needy families (approx. 110 families) which they deliver to 14 schools every two weeks on a Friday. Unfortunately, the need is growing, and this is stretching their resources. They work in cooperation with Feed The Need and other organizations. At Christmas they will also provide gifts for the children in the program and hope to provide turkeys for the families as well.

They raise funds for this program through a regular bingo event.

Serious efforts are in progress to rent the club house for suitable activities to generate funding as well.

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Uxbridge Optimist Club

The club currently has 14 members.

Activities: The club is holding their 15th Annual Fantasy of Lights from Dec. 3rd – Jan. 1st at Elgin Park. This is a wonderful event that is listed as one of the top ten Xmas lights displays in Ontario. This year they will have over 90 local businesses, groups, churches and families installing displays around the 25-acre park. The first year they started with 12 displays. Over 100 different volunteers man the gate over the four weeks that they are open. The club accepts donations from the people who drive through the display. Last year they raised over \$100,000 which they were able to donate to local groups as well as provide 10 scholarships. They invite all Optimists to visit the display, which is open from 6:30-9:00 every evening. If you can't visit, just Google it and you'll find lots of great YouTube videos.

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

Lindsay: Have a new President and am looking forward to connecting.

Trent: They have a games night in planning stages, waiting on approval from the Students association. They did a bake sale and Halloween handouts for kids.

Ennismore: No report received

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

Arnprior Women's Optimistic Club:

Focus on planning our Dr Suess skate for November. It's our give back free skate for the children and their families. We are asking families to bring cereal box donations for the food bank if they are able to. Event on December 10, 2022

Putting a float in the Arnprior Santa Claus Parade November 26, 2022.

We also just participated in the welcome to the neighborhood event in Arnprior. We were able to let people know about our club and what we do and people were able to give donations to our club.

We also have started our scholarship criteria to hand into the high schools for grade 12 students. To be awarded in June 2023.

Induction November 7, 2022

Arnprior men's club – no report

Cornwall Optimist Club:

The Optimist Club of Cornwall has been busy holding several fundraiser barbeques in our community to raise funds with great success as we are averaging over \$700.00 in sales at each event. Our barbeques continue to operate until the end of November including Black Friday which will be our barbecue and bake sale. We were happy to support the Cornwall

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Police with a barbecue at the Cops & Kids Fishing Derby that returned this year. We also supported the Cram the Cruiser event recently with a barbecue, which is an event to collect food for our local food bank. Our bake sale is in full swing with 100's of pies being baked by members and sold as a fundraiser. Our catering has seen a return at our clubhouse with several larger events being catered by our catering committee which is chaired by Wendy Muir. There is a dinner theater being held in conjunction with Vagabond Theater at the end of October.

Plans are in motion to return our softball league in 2023 with Louis Savard stepping up as chair of the league. We also will have our ball hockey league running again thanks to the efforts of John Barr as chair of the league.

We recently purchased a 35' inflatable screen and have all the equipment now to host drive in movies as well as movies in the park. This will be held at Optimist Park. Our JOI Club held an event in August called the Landmark Challenge in Cornwall and we are extremely proud of the hard work and success that went into it. The adult club was there to support them with a barbecue and assistance as they needed it. Our JOI continues to grow with some recent new members added. The Eastern Quiddich tournament was held in Optimist Park, and we ran our Canteen for the event. It was an interesting event to see.

We held a full Ribfest event this year on July 21 to 24 which saw 4 days of live entertainment, including a day dedicated to aboriginal talent. We had a morning of traditional acts followed by live bands with ties to the Mohawk community. We also had an area dedicated to aboriginal vendors which attracted many people to their amazing works of art. It was a successful weekend which saw approximately 40,000 people visit the event. We had a full midway, beer garden, many vendors and entertainment such as Sass Jordan which filled the park. This is our major fundraiser for the year, and we were fortunate to have members from the Forest Park and Lancaster Optimist to assist us.

We will be holding our Halloween Trunk or Treat event in Lamoureaux Park on October 31st. We expect to have 15 to 20 local businesses join us to hand out treats to over 1,000 children. We plan to host around 1,000 people for breakfast with Santa this year on November 19th. Many of our members are assisting the Santa Claus parade committee to host a full Santa Claus parade this year. We are also starting up our annual toy drive which will see us provide toys for up to 1,500 children at Christmas at a value of approx. \$80,000.00.

We are currently looking at least 2 to 3 new members joining this month.

Forest Park Optimist Club:

All of our Board of Directors meetings continue to occur but over zoom meetings. We also held an end of summer BBQ for all club members and the Zone 10 district a good time was had by all.

We have completed and passed our budget for the year in September.

October, we are holding our third annual on-line Costume and Pumpkin Carving Contest and are eagerly awaiting the results. We also purchased 480 pencils for the Cambridge Public School for their trick or treating activity in the school yard. We also met with the new Principal of the school to plan our years activities. We are also planning to help with the Cornwall Optimists trick or trunk event on Halloween.

We held our all-members breakfast on October 16, 2022 to pass our new dues structure and

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induct our Board of Directors. We also completed the SWOT exercise with LG Bonnie on October 19, 2022.

Bonnie continues 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.

Our main fund raiser is our sale of Christmas cakes which we re hoping to publicize in the school newsletter this year as well we will be advertising on Facebook this year for pre-orders in hopes of boosting our sales to new heights.

We will be attending the Zone 10 1st quarter meeting October 23, 2022 at the Cornwall Optimist Hall and have people attending the 1st Quarter Conference in Cornwall as well we will be supporting the community service project and toy drive.

November 11th, 2021 we are laying a wreath at the Limoges cenotaph one of our honored traditions.

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.

We are holding our Past President's night on November 12, 2022 this year we will be supporting our local Spencerville club by attending their dinner auction on that night and have secured 2 tables. We will be provided with a short span of time to honor our past president Bonnie and a few other members.

November 27, 2022 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 470 students and on December 4, 2022 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. This is our 35th Annual Food drive! This event will also be used to pick-up pre-ordered fruitcakes.

December 3, 2022 we are hoping to host a table at the Limoges Christmas Bizarre.

December 10, 2022 we are also hoping to attend the Dr. Suess Skate in Arnprior sponsored by the women's club in support of their local foodbank and bringing boxes of cereal.

We are hosting a door decorating contest at the Cambridge Public School the week of December 12th, 2022 and will choose the 3 top winners on December 20, 2022 and then donate \$200 to the school for them to purchase pizza and ice cream for the winning classes. We continue to look for new opportunities to assist our community and assist our local area clubs.

We are looking to review our fundraising efforts this year and will have Optimist President Larry Harper as a guest speaker at our November meeting.

Optimist Club of Lancaster:

October 31, 2022

Our club has been totally focused on our Halloween Drive thru event. Under the guidance of Optimist Melinda, we held a very successful drive thru that gave the South Glengarry community a very fun event to attend. From 5-6pm it was family friendly and from 6:30 till 10 was full fright mode. Well it was such a success we had almost 700 cars go through and

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almost \$7000. dollars raised. We handed out 1000 bags of candy to children only and ran out by 8:15! Hoping to end at 10, we continued on until the last car went thru at 10:45.

Thanks to our Halloween event we added one new member.

We did give the local schools 71 hours of ice time for them to use as they wish.

Besides my self we will have a member going to the conference in Cornwall for the first time!

We are currently preparing for our tree lighting on November 26. Sponsors are being contacted, hot chocolate and cookies are organized, and Santa and Mrs. Claus are ready to greet the children. Still looking for someone to lead us in singing of Christmas carols. This year we will be purchasing about 30 new strands of lights.

Next we will prepare a float for our Santa Claus parade, December 3.

In December we will have our club Christmas party. No date set yet.

We continue to do our bingos.

We have our regular meetings every first and third Wednesday of every month.

Optimist Club of Nepean:

Working with sedge hockey

Getting ready for club Christmas party

Club makes a number of large donations for the Christmas season

Loss of club member Rod Bleakney

Spencerville and District Optimist Club:

1. Interclub Visit Bonnie Scheer Porteous BBQ 3 Attended

2. Car Rally Bill Curnoe's Oct 15 2022

3. Supported South Grenville High School in the amount of \$250. For the Ontario Student Leadership Conference

4. Upcoming Events Oct 2022 Canvas for Auction Donations - Auction postponed until 2023

Oct 2022 Canvas for Auction Donations Sell tickets for Hoe Down Sell Tickets for Dinner

Auction Decorate Hall and prepare Sandwiches for Hoe Down Oct 21 2022 Hoe Down Oct 22

2022 Attend zone Meeting in Cornwall (4 attending) Oct 23 2022 Halloween Event at the Spencerville Mill Oct 31 Diane Carriere prepared Treat Bags Oct 20 2022 Colleen and Kandi organized the Halloween Event Oct 30 2022

Nov 2022

Attend Zone Conference in Cornwall Nov 4-5 2022 Canvas for Auction Donations Sell Tickets for Dinner Auction Prep all required Documentation for Dinner Auction Students of South Grenville High School to prepare the meal for the Dinner Auction

Remembrance Day Service Nov 11 2022

Repair Rink Boards TBA Install Rick Boards TBA Set up

Christmas Corner Nov 19 2022

Tree Light Celebration Nov 26 2022

Dec 2022

Pie Sale Dec 03 2022 Angel Tree TBA Red Kettle Event TBA