



OPTIMIST CLUB OF ILBERTON NEWSLETTER

Providing hope and positive vision,
Optimists bring out the best in kids!



September 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I hope everyone had a great summer and that you are all ready for another busy year of community service and fellowship! I'm very excited to tell you that the SPLASH PAD in Ilderton is a go!!! The project is in partnership with township and the Lion's Club. There has been lots of work done already and many ideas generated to make this a reality hopefully by summer 2010!! I look forward to sharing more details with you at the dinner meeting. I urge as many members as possible to attend on the 23rd. We have a lot of important information to share including dues, plans for the Ilderton Fair, Splash Pad etc. If you are unable to come to dinner, please come for the meeting starting at 7:45.

DUES:

Dues are due! The new membership year begins on October 1st. Extensive discussion and careful consideration has taken place amongst the Executive regarding the need for a dues increase and its amount. A letter regarding this and the activities sign up sheet will be coming out shortly.

SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING:

This will be on **September 23rd** at the Community Centre. Social 6:30 pm, dinner 7:00 pm, meeting and discussion 7:45 pm. If you cannot attend for dinner, at least come for the meeting! We need your input! Please let Mary Dalglish (m.dalglish@sympatico.ca or 666-1318) know whether you plan to attend or not. If you know someone who is interested in the club and possibly becoming a member, invite them to the dinner meeting as a guest. The club will cover the cost. Just let Alberta Wood (awood@mun.ca) or Marlene Ritchie (ritchdm@sympatico.ca) know that you will be bringing a guest.

ILDERTON FAIR:

Plans are underway to have a float for the Fair Parade on Saturday morning, October 3rd. A meeting of those interested in assisting with its construction is being held on Tuesday, September 15th at 7 pm. If interested in helping, please contact Cliff Wood (drchwood@sympatico.ca or 666-3282).

FAIR AMBASSADOR

Angela Curtis, whom our Club sponsored at the Ilderton Fair last year and won as Fair Ambassador, has been chosen as the CNE Ambassador of the Fair for 2009 - 2010. There will be an Open House for her on Sunday, September 20th at 2:00 pm in the Community Centre for greetings and refreshments. Brad and Michele Polley have agreed to make a presentation to her on behalf of our Club.

OPTIMIST THUNDER RUN:

Taking place on Sunday, October 4th, this is sponsored by the Optimist Club of East Williams in support of the Bravery Bead Program at London's Children's Hospital. Registration is from 10:30 am to Noon. For \$25 per rider, your mission will be to travel a 226 km route by motorcycle through rural Middlesex and Lambton counties. Locate the rest areas with "Letter Beads" and spell a word with the beads that you acquire and win a prize. There will be a Rib Dinner at 4:30 pm. For additional information, contact Ed Stevens (519-247-3854 or e.r.stevens@sympatico.ca).

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE!

Don't forget that sponsoring a new member garners you entry into a draw for a \$500 gas card, as well as recognition in other ways. Do it before the end of September and your chances are doubled!

REPORT ON SWONT DISTRICT CONVENTION:



OI President Don Sievers addresses members



SWONT Gov Doug Kinchen & OI Pres. Gov-Elect Marty Quenneville



Lt. Gov-Elect Lorie Scott participating in Workshop

Denise Everett, Cliff Wood, and Alberta Wood attended one day, August 22nd, of the District Convention in Wallaceburg, which had 103 adult and 5 children registrants. Highlights --

2 'pilot' clubs of 15 members each formed during the year

District was 19 to the good in terms of members

Can have a "high five" member free for one year (college student or not "working" person)

Gas card draw - double chances if sponsor a new member between now & Sept. 30th

\$200 gas card winner - Lorie Scott, Ausable- Port Franks Club

Next Governor-Elect was not chosen - lack of willing candidates; nominations still open

Proposed policy revisions were approved

Resolutions thanking various people were passed

Shortened training session of about an hour

2010 Convention will be August 13-15 at the Peelee Days Inn in Leamington

Don Sievers, Optimist International President for 2008-2009, praised the contributions of Marlene Phillips, Ron Huxley, Dwight Phillips, Max Wood, Sandy Larrive, and Brian Clements. He noted that our District is #1 in our region and #4 in District growth with a 92% retention rate. He spoke more at length at the awards luncheon. In that speech, he emphasized the need to grow new clubs. He also explained the financial situation quite fully.

JUNIOR GOLF EVENT:



Peter Boyce showing correct stance with Driver



Putting practice



Tree planting for Optimist Earth Day around the world 06 June



Paul Masse, Peter Boyce, Craig Janzen, Jacob Gold, Ed Stevens



Bill Pollock on putting

This golf clinic was held on Saturday, June 6th at the Peter Boyce Golf Academy in Mustardville (north of Strathroy off of Route 81). Brian Hanlon and Paul Masse helped organize it, as our Club partnered this year with the East Williams Optimist Club to host the event. We had about 20 participants ranging from 11 - 18 years of age. It was a fun day that included a BBQ and a tree planting to commemorate Optimist Earth Day. Jacob Gold and Dylan Reiners from Ilderton placed in their categories and both participated in the Optimist District tournament held July 13th at the Blenheim GC.

TRI-STAR BASEBALL:

On June 13th on a crisp Saturday morning we hosted 89 children from Blast Ball where kids are 5 years old up to Squirt where we had 11 and 12 year old girls. With cool winds and lots of Optimist member help, we ran 14 different teams through a throwing contest for accuracy, a base running contest for speed and a hitting challenge where everyone hit a ball off a batting tee to establish the most points based on how far the ball went before it hit the ground. With warm coffee for the adults and plenty of Juice, Hot Dogs and Doritos, the kids had a great time. In conjunction with the director of Ilderton Minor Baseball, Carolyn Rasenburg, there were draw prizes for almost all the participants

along with cash prizes for the First, Second and Third place players in the skill competition. Many parents were on hand to offer terrific encouragement to their children and were most gracious in their thanks to the club for sponsoring this event every year. (Contributed by Event Chairperson Brad Polley)

MAY DINNER MEETING REPORT:



The group at dinner

28 members and 3 guests attended the May 27th meeting at the Community Centre. Brad Polley chaired the meeting in the absence of the President. A lovely social and dinner took place with a brief meeting afterwards. Among the items discussed were the upcoming Junior Golf and Tri-Star Baseball events in June. Considerable time was spent on ideas for possible fund raising ventures. Noted was the grand opening of the Splash Pad



Brad chairing the meeting

at Komoka on June 25th. Bruce announced that flags would be going up on about June 23rd or 25th and coming down around August 11th. A letter from the Ontario Early Years mentioned their upcoming events. Nancy Lamothe reported on the Safety on Wheels event. It was announced that dues would likely increase to \$35 due to increases at the international level. All were invited to Jill and Bob's farewell BBQ on the 20th. Deb volunteered herself and Rich to handle changing the Club's sign by the library. Brad and Michele agreed to coordinate the Bingo schedule. For the time being, Alberta will take care of ordering shirts. Laurie Thornton won the 50/50 draw of \$34.50 with the other funds going to the Optimist International Foundation of Canada. Michele was presented with a special Optimist International Pen and Laser pointer for recruiting several new members.

WHEEL SAFETY RODEO:

The annual wheel safety event was held in conjunction with the OPP and the Brain Injury Association of London & Region on Saturday, May 23rd. Nancy Lamothe took the lead on this activity with assistance from Ann Marie Bridgman, Janice and George Fink, Annabelle and Jack LeBreton, Carol and Don McAlpine, Art Mercer, Kara Muller, and Sharon Nelson. OPP Representatives went through bicycle safety procedures. There was a review of safe and respectful use of the Sk8Park, along with demonstrations. Children who completed a bicycle skills and safety course won prizes! There were other draws for prizes. The Brain Injury Association did helmet fittings and offered bike helmets for a donation. A BBQ hot dog lunch was provided for all participants.

BINGO DATES:

Wednesday September 16th
 Saturday Oct 24th
 Sunday November 15th
 Monday December 28th

Monday January 18th
 Friday February 19th
 Sunday March 28th (Brad & Michele
 away, leader needed!)



Please contact Brad or Michele Polley (mpolley@execulink.com or 666-2467) to volunteer to help with the Bingo games.

BIRTHDAYS – JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, & OCTOBER:

Happy Birthday!!!, Belated or Early, to these we know -

July 4	Brian Hanlon	August 13	Cheryll Cullion
July 10	Elgin Austen	August 25	Nancy Lamothe
July 14	Ann Marie Bridgman	September 10	Lane Heller
July 29	Mark Hord	September 11	Paul Massé
July 30	Janice Fink	October 2	Laurie Thornton
August 2	Shelley Massé	October 3	Josh Campbell
August 3	Helen Heller	October 14	George Fink
August 13	Deb Hunter	October 24	Brad Polley





FORTHCOMING EVENTS (Mark your calendars!):

- September 23 - **Monthly Dinner Meeting**, Community Centre, 6:30 pm
- October 2-4 - Ilderton Fall Fair, Fairgrounds
- October 4 - Optimist Thunder Run & Rib Dinner, Nairn Optimist Park, 10:30 am on
- October 3 (Saturday) - Ilderton Fair Parade, Meet at 97 Robert Street, 9:00 am
- October 28 - **Monthly Dinner Meeting**, Community Centre, 6:30 pm
- October/November - Frozen Food Sale Fund Raiser
- November 13-14 - 1st SWONT Quarter Board, Oakwood Resort, Grand Bend (Training Workshops)
- November 25 - **Monthly Dinner Meeting**, Community Centre, 6:30 pm
- December 5 - Breakfast with Santa, Community Centre,
- Club Christmas Party
- December 31 - New Year's Eve Family Skating Party, Arena, 7 - 9 pm

REMINDER RE WWW....

Don't forget to check out the Ilderton Optimist Club on the web-site: <http://www.ilderton.ca/> (under the Community heading) or directly at: <http://ilderton.ca/optimists/index.htm>. This page, prepared by Denise Everett, is on the site set up by Rich Hunter of the King Edward Restaurant & Pub for your information and to develop and promote a sense of community in our village. If you have suggestions for additions or changes, please let us know. For some past issues of our newsletter see the Southwestern Ontario Optimists (SWONT) site at <http://www.swontoptimist.org/clubnewsletters.htm>. The Optimist International website may be found at: <http://www.optimist.org/>. Our general e-mail address is optimists@ilderton.ca.

<p>Club Officers: President – Marlene Ritchie (519-666-2917) Vice President – Secretary – Alberta Wood (519-666-3282) Treasurer – Dan Brown (519-666-0014) Past President – Marlene Ritchie (519-666-2917)</p>	<p>Directors: Barb MacDougall (646-2196) Paul Massé (666-1175) Brad Polley (666-2467) Michele Polley (666-2467) Cliff Wood (519-666-3282)</p>
	<p>Southwestern Ontario Optimists (SWONT) Governor – Doug Kinchen Governor-Elect – Marty Quenneville Secretary Treasurer - John Ewanick Lieutenant Governor Zone 8 - Tracy Huxley</p>
	<p>OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL President - Donald R. Sievers President Elect – Mark Shriver Immediate Past President - Theodore (Theo) Golding</p>

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

“A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.” – Harry S. Truman

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Thanks for reading and participating!
Alberta Auringer Wood
 Secretary