

# THE HARD OIL NEWS

For  
DECEMBER

## **THE PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE**

First of all I want to give a "BIG THANK YOU", to the following committees for all their hard work those are Angel Tree, Chili Cook-off, Santa Parade and Santa at the Centre. We have received awards for the Chili, it won first place and our float in the Santa Parade, it got 2nd overall.

"EXCELLENT JOB ".

Secondly, Christmas is around the corner, I would like to wish each and everyone a, Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!! All the best in 2012, and another great year for optimism.

Lastly, we will be having our annual Christmas dinner at L.C.D.S. this year, call captains will be in touch in the New Year...

Have a safe holiday season.

Yours in Optimism  
President Elly Small

## **MEAT RAFFLE**

The raffles this month are being held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Our first January date is the 5<sup>th</sup>. Cheryl and Ted are looking for help on these dates. Please contact them if you can help. Of special note, the Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> evening will be our annual Turkey draw where all the meats will be turkeys. There will also be a special 2<sup>nd</sup> chance draw where anyone who purchases a ticket will be given a slip of paper and asked to write their name and telephone number and then place the paper in a can for a draw on a large Christmas basket at the end of the night.

## **WEBSITE UPDATE**

Optimists Bryan Small and Elly Westover are always looking for pictures and info to keep our website current. If you have something that should be on the website, contact one of them with your ideas. Check it out and enjoy both still and video footage of many of our recent activities, including the Chili Cook-off, the Angel Tree and Santa at the Centre.

## **TRIVIA FUN NIGHT**

Again, this year, we will be hosting a fun evening of trivia and good fellowship for our members, their guests and any members of our Optimist Zone 6 who wish to attend. The evening chosen was Saturday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Petrolia Legion with the social hour beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the trivia questions pouring out at 7:00, lasting until approximately 9:30 p.m. Come on out and have some fun, answer some questions and win some prizes.

## **COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS**

We have completed the cookie sale. As I have indicated in a very recent e-mail, if you ordered cookies, they are now at Ted's house waiting to be picked-up. If you haven't already paid for them, please bring the money to me as soon as possible after delivering the cookies to the buyers. I want to get this project off the books so we can move on to other projects.

### **CAREER DAY**

Optimist Ted reports that this was a successful and enjoyable activity again this year. Just over 200 students heard from 16 speakers about possible future careers. Many indicated that they enjoyed the day and learned quite a bit about the careers they might become involved in the future. Special thanks to all who helped with the sorting of the career choices.

### **ANGEL TREE**

Optimists Pam, Linda and Al did another wonderful job of organizing this annual Christmas event. Pam tells me that over 240 Angels were sold for just about \$2000.00. The Tree will be in the window of Maagerman's and Rae's Insurance office for the rest of the month if you would like to come and check it out.

### **BRAVERY BEADS**

Optimist Ted is planning to involve the children of Lambton Centennial, Queen Elizabeth II and Hillcrest Schools in a bracelet making and selling contest, beginning in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January, with the proceeds going to the Bravery Beads program that our Optimist District is sponsoring for the children who are forced to endure some long and often painful procedures at the London Children's Hospital. We recently held a bracelet making party at Queen Elizabeth II School which included 5 volunteers from the High School and eight Optimists. We will be holding another of these get-togethers in early January as we still need several hundred more bracelets before we approach the schools to make and sell them.

### **NOW PROGRAM**

We are in need of a few new members. With the many projects and activities that our small group runs it is imperative that we find a few new people to help out. With this in mind we will be running the Optimist International program called NOW, New Optimists Wanted, this year. If you have a name in mind, please contact one of the executive and let them know. We will be including these invitees at our Christmas in January meeting.

### **CHILI COOK-OFF**

Optimist Bruce chaired this committee. The Chili was dished out at the annual Tree Lighting in Victoria Park on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our efforts were again recognized as we received first prize again this year. Congratulations to Bruce and his several helpers on a great job again this year.

### **SANTA CLAUS PARADE**

We again placed a float in the annual Petrolia Santa Claus parade. Our float received the award for the 2<sup>nd</sup> best overall float. Congratulations to Optimist Cheryl Dewhirst and her committee for the great job. By the looks on the faces of the children on the route, the candy canes were a big hit too.

### **GROCERY RUN**

We will again be selling tickets on our annual Grocery Run at Heidi's Y.I.G. store here in Petrolia. The tickets will be available in January, with the run scheduled for Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, no fooling. We will begin at 2:30 p.m. with the 3 minute run, to be followed by the 5 minute run. The draw to determine these two winners will be on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Heidi's store.

## **SANTA AT THE CENTRE**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual sponsorship of Santa at the Centre happened following the Christmas Parade. Santa came to the Community Centre following the parade to visit with the young and old alike of our community. We had 116 children receive bags of candy and sit on Santa's knee during the afternoon. Hot chocolate, cider and cookies were also dispensed to both the young and old. It was a fun afternoon and we received many compliments and thank yous for our efforts. Congratulations to the committee and the extra helpers who made this so successful and fun.

## **F.Y.I.**

Our next dinner meeting will be in the basement of the Lambton Community Developmental Services building across from the Bank of Nova Scotia, at 7:00 p.m. on January 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be our annual Christmas Dinner and will be catered by the LCDS staff. It will cost \$15.00 per person and spouses are always encouraged to come. We will also be inviting several prospective members to attend, with the hope of enticing them to join. The next executive meeting will be on Wed., January 4<sup>th</sup> at Q.E. II at 7:00 p.m.

The Ace of Spades draw is up to over \$182.00 to the winner so be sure to get to the next meeting and purchase a chance to draw the lucky card.

The Square Draw winners were Peggy Parker of Queen Elizabeth II School, both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, she is I am told, going out to immediately buy a lottery ticket as well, Sue Perry of Hillcrest School, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize and our own Optimist President Elly Small with the 4<sup>th</sup> place prize.

A big Thank You goes out to Optimist Bryan Small who has volunteered to fill the vacant 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President's position.

We would like to wish a happy December Birthday to Optimists Al Dewhirst and Carol Graham. We would also like to wish a happy December wedding anniversary to Optimist Janet Hardy and spouse Gary.

Finally, from MY Family to You and Yours and I don't care if it is politically incorrect or NOT.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Be safe and enjoy the New Year as well.