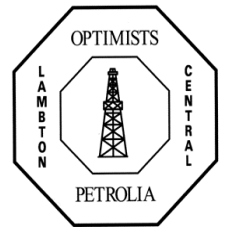




THE HARD OIL NEWS
From
The Optimist Club
Of
Lambton Central-Petrolia



PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE for FEBRUARY

Hello fellow Optimists.

As we head into Valentines Day remember it is also Family Day on Monday and as a group we are focused on the children of the family. To fund our efforts for the youth of our community we are raising money through the Grocery Run draw this year. Please get out there and sell your tickets the more you sell the more the club earns and the more youth we can serve! See Ted if you haven't got your tickets or if you are available to sell at Heidi's. For some fun, come on out to our Trivia night that we are hosting for the Zone on Feb. 20th at the Legion.

Yours in Optimism

Carol

CLUB ACTIVITIES

MEAT RAFFLES

We just had our first Meat Raffle at Street's Eatery & Pub this past Wednesday. It resulted in an excellent turn out and hopefully will continue. The next 3 raffles we are running are on Wednesday, Feb. 17th & Mar. 10th & Mar. 17th. If you would like to help or just come out and lend your support it would be appreciated.

WEB SITE UPDATES

Optimists Ellie and Bryan are looking after our new Club web site. Remember to check it out at www.petroliaoptimist.org. They have asked me to remind the membership that to keep it current they need to know about any changes or updates in programs or individuals. So if you have information for the web site please contact them with it.

THE 'RUN FOR THE GROCERIES' FUNDRAISER

Optimist Ted has arranged with the local grocery store, Heidi's Y.I.G. to co-sponsor this year's ticket draw. We will be selling \$2.00 tickets on a chance to race around the grocery store filling shopping carts. First prize is a 5 minute run, second prize is a 3 minute run, third prize is a \$200 gift certificate and fourth prize is a \$100 gift certificate, both to be used at the store. The tickets are now available from Ted and he will have more to hand out at next month's meeting. The draw and run will be in March. Ted has signed us up to sell in the foyer of the grocery store on Thursday, Feb. 11th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. He has also signed us up for Sunday, Feb. 14th from 10:00 a.m. until noon, from noon until 2:00 p.m., then 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. This is followed by Friday, Feb. 26th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. & Saturday, Feb. 27th starting at 10:00 a.m. until noon, then noon until 2:00 p.m. & finally 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

If you can man one of the evening shifts or sell for 2 hours during one of the 3 Saturday or Sunday shifts please call him a.s.a.p.

BY-LAWS

The Club, as a whole, must vote on their acceptance so please read them over carefully and be prepared to vote at the next meeting.

PETROLIA 2000 BOARD GAMES

We have recently unearthed a collector's item that I am sure many Club members would love to own. A carton of the Petrolia 2000 Board Game, (a monopoly type of game), has been found. They were originally sold for \$20.00 but are now available for only \$10.00. If you want one contact Cheryl Dewhirst to reserve a copy.

OUR BELATED CHRISTMAS DINNER

We had our Christmas Dinner in January as is our custom, on the 27th at 7:00 p.m. This year our Dinner Meeting was catered by the LCDS at their facilities. It was an excellent meal and we took advantage of the occasion to present the 2 cheques from the Angel Tree proceeds to the Breakfast Program and to the Food Bank. On hand as well, was Past Governor Ron Huxley who made an interesting presentation on behalf of London Children's Hospital about their expansion of the Bravery Beads program and how we could support these children in distress.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

Optimist Cheryl and company are hard at work "perfecting??" their thespian skills. This years Murder Mystery event will be April 17th at the Lions' Hall. Optimist Al is in need of help with the cooking of the roast beef dinner as well he is hoping to have some members volunteer a few pies for the dessert. Tickets will be on sale at the next dinner meeting. Please take several as they are a real deal at \$30.00 a piece or 2 for \$50.00 and that includes free tickets on a door prize or 2.

BRAVERY BEADS

As was previously mentioned, we have just heard from Ron Huxley on a new project titled Bravery Beads. This program is for the rather ill youngsters suffering with cancer at the Children's Hospital in London. Each time a child undertakes traumatic treatment, such as radiation or a transfusion, they receive a specially designed bead to commemorate their bravery in dealing with this invasive treatment. Some of the children have, unfortunately, earned several strings of beads over their stay. The Hospital has decided to expand the program to include all youngsters at the Hospital who receive drastic treatment not just the cancer patients. They have asked the Optimists of Southwestern Ontario to help fund the \$26000 this will cost and the District has agreed. Our Club has decided to collect any pocket change you care to donate at each dinner meeting and the profits from our upcoming Zone Trivia Fun Night and donate this money to the cause. We are also looking into a brand new project that will involve the students at our local elementary schools making and selling hand made beaded bracelets under the leadership of a local teen, Lena Bourne. The students will be asked to take orders and then string together these bracelets with the profits going to the Bravery Beads project.

GARAGE SALE

We are planning on being involved yet again this year in the Town-wide Garage Sale Day. This year, it is on April 24th and Adam Scales, son of Optimist Linda, has volunteered the use of his driveway for our tables. If you have any items to donate to our collection or if you would like to help call Linda and let her know.

SPELLING BEES

Optimist Luanne Watt has been a busy little Bee, ha, ha, ha, organizing our annual Spelling Bees for grades 5 through 8. The grade 5 contest will be March 8, grade 6 will be March 11, grade 7 will be March 22 & grade 8 will be March 25. Our Club, under Luanne's leadership, is also hosting the Zone contest on March 27. All of these events are at Centennial school. If you can help out, please contact Luanne.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Our Club will be hosting its annual Zone Trivia Challenge on Saturday, Feb. 20th at the Petrolia Legion. This is a fun night with food and good company that also allows you a chance to show off your extensive knowledge on many topics. The other Clubs in our Zone will be represented at the evening affair that begins at 7:30 p.m. and ends about 9:30 p.m. We hope to see you there. If you plan on attending let either Ted or Bruce know so they can estimate the amount of munchies we will need.

INTERNET SAFETY

Our Club has decided to promote Internet Safety for the youngsters in our community. We will be working with the local O.P.P. personnel to sponsor an information night for concerned parents in the gym at Queen Elizabeth II School on Wednesday, March 10th at 7:30 p.m. Please let your friends and family know about this important information sharing evening led by Constables Jones and Reurink. The more we understand the dangers that the internet holds as well as its tremendous usefulness the safer our children will be.

WELCOME SUSAN BROOKS

We have just received and accepted an application from Susan Brooks to join our little band. Please make Susan feel welcome as you meet her at the next several meetings.

IMPORTANT DATES

We would like to congratulate Optimists Janet Hardy & Luanne Watt are celebrating a birthday this month. Optimists Steve McGrail & Jo-anne Whitlaw will celebrate 4 years as a member of our Club this month. As well Brian Johnson & Janet Hardy are celebrating 6 years in Optimism and Carol Graham is celebrating 11 years as a member. Congratulations!

Our next business meeting will be on March 3rd at Queen Elizabeth II School at 7:00 p.m. The Dinner Meeting will be held on February 24th at Queen Elizabeth II School at 7:00 p.m. This will be a soup/chili and sandwiches meal with the Club supplying the sandwiches. The Call captains will be asking for volunteers to make a pot of soup or to bring a small dessert.

ADDING TO THE NEWSLETTER

If you have any information to add or if you want to make an announcement to the Club please feel free to contact me at 882-1255.