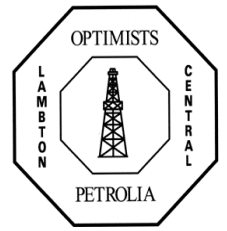




THE HARD OIL NEWS  
From  
The Optimist Club  
Of  
Lambton Central-Petrolia



## **PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE for MARCH**

Hello fellow Optimists.

As we head toward spring the Petrolia Optimists are springing into action. Thanks Ted for the organization and to all who are selling tickets for our Grocery Run to be drawn next Sunday Mar. 14th as well as Bryan for posting our practice run on our website <http://www.petroliainoptimist.org> We are going to need help for the actual run please contact Ted to sign up. Janet, Ted & Elly are running Internet Safety this Wed. at QE, Luanne is running our Spelling Bee, Ted is doing Academic Challenge, Cheryl is setting up for our Murder Mystery, Bravery Beads at the schools are gearing up and the Meat Draws are ongoing at Streets every Wednesday please support the club with these activities. Finally, during your Spring Cleaning please set aside items for our Garage Sale which is coming up in April.

Yours in Optimism

Carol

## **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

### **MEAT RAFFLES**

We now have our first Meat Raffle at Street's Eatery & Pub on Wednesday evenings. The next 2 raffles we are running are on Wednesday, Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> & Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.petroliainoptimist.org](http://www.petroliainoptimist.org). There is a video clip of the practice run for the Grocery Draw as well as Spelling Bee & BX93 information. 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. The draw will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Heidi's and the actual run will be March 28<sup>th</sup> also at 2:00 p.m. Ted has signed us up to sell in the foyer of the grocery store on Tuesday, Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

If you can man one of the evening shifts please call him a.s.a.p.

### **FOOD BOOTH**

Bruce has been asked on our behalf to make our food booth available for both Canada Day and the Olde Towne Picnic again this year.

## **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.

## **MARCH SQUARE DRAW**

We are having another square draw at this time. Squares were available for purchase at the February dinner meeting and are presently being sold in the staff rooms of the local elementary schools. The 3 prizes will be drawn at the March dinner meeting so if you want to purchase a \$2.00 square and any are left be sure to get there early.

## **MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE**

Optimist Cheryl and company are hard at work "perfecting?" their thespian skills. This years Murder Mystery event will be April 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

Our Club has decided to collect any pocket change you care to donate at each dinner meeting. The profits from our Zone Trivia Fun Night of \$84.00 will also be donated to this 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 24<sup>th</sup> and Adam Scales, son of Optimist Linda, has volunteered the use of his driveway for our tables. If you have any items that you would like to donate or if you would like to help call Linda. She asks that you call her at least 1 week ahead about any items to be donated so that we know how many tables we will need.

## **BX 93 DANCE**

Our Club in conjunction with the local Fair Board is again hosting a BX 93 Dance. The dance will be June 12<sup>th</sup> and there is a plan in the works to combine this dance with a co-ed 2 pitch tournament this year. More information and a plea for helpers will follow in subsequent news letters.

## **TRIVIA NIGHT**

Our Club hosted its annual Zone Trivia Challenge on Saturday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at the Petrolia Legion. This was a fun night with food and good company. The other Clubs in our Zone were represented at the evening affair. The competition was intense although the combined Core and Scales team were uncontested. It is believed that they actually scored a new record for the lowest score ever achieved. Oh by the way, the Brent Gravelle & Mark Gravelle lead team finished first.

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Please let your friends and family know about this important information sharing evening led by Constable Chrystal Jones. The more we understand the dangers that the internet holds as well as its tremendous usefulness the safer our children will be.

## **SPELLING BEE**

Optimist Luanne has been rather busy organizing our annual Spelling Bee. The various grade levels will all be held at Centennial School beginning with Grade 5 on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by Grade 6 on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, then Grade 7 on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, then Grade 8 on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. These are all 6:30 p.m. starts and if you can help Luanne will need you there around 6:00 p.m. Please call her if you are available. We are also running the Zone Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 a.m. also at Centennial. Again, if you can help out, call Luanne. Don't worry you don't have to actually spell anything yourself just follow the correct answers from the answer sheet.

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

We have been approached to sponsor several youngsters in the Optimist International Essay Contest this year. Since each Club can only sponsor 1 winner, we are sending in Marissa Meuller's essay as our entry. Dillon Cox will be sponsored by the Oil Springs Club. A third young lady sent in a last minute entry and the Brigden Club is sponsoring her. Good luck to these hard working young people.

We will be again running our annual Academic Challenge contest, (trivia), for the local elementary schools. The start up date is Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in the Q.E. II school gym beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Ace of Spades draw is will net the winner \$64.20 so far so come on out to the next dinner meeting and spend a toonie or two to get a chance to win this growing prize.

Optimist Maurice is putting together member id. badges. If you would like an Optimist id. card then just forward a small snapshot to him.

The Grand Bend Motorplex has made the Optimists of Southwestern Ontario an outstanding offer. They are willing to make available discounted tickets for an Optimist Day event in July with the profits from the tickets coming back to the District and the Clubs. More details will be in the next newsletter.

**ELECTIONS** are coming up in April. Please consider running for the various executive positions including 3 Board members, (a 2 year commitment), or a vice presidency or even the Presidency. The election committee will be contacting all club members asking them to run.

The next dinner meeting will be at Q.E. II School on March 24<sup>th</sup> and will be a "Winter Picnic" pot luck dinner. The speaker has yet to be determined.

**CONGRATULATIONS** are in order. Optimist Brent Gravelle and spouse Katherine are the proud parents of a new baby girl. Katelyn Lois was born at 12:03 a.m. on February 13<sup>th</sup> in Sarnia. Mom and baby are doing great, although Grandmother Gail is still gushing and seeing if she can actually flood Face Book with enough baby pictures to shut it down. Grandpa Ted is his usual cool self of course.

The print we received for our donation to the Optimist International Foundation has been donated to the Community Center.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

We have no members who are celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month. Optimists Keith Allen, Ted Gravelle & Bill Field will celebrate 28 years as a member of our Club this month as they are our 3 remaining Charter Members. As well Luanne Watt is celebrating 12 years in Optimism, Elly Westover is celebrating 7 years as a member, and Brent Gravelle and Pauline Mitchell are celebrating 3 years in Optimism. Congratulations!

Our next business meeting will be on April 7th at Queen Elizabeth II School at 7:00 p.m. The Dinner Meeting will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at Queen Elizabeth II School at 7:00 p.m. This will be a "winter picnic" pot luck event. The Call captains will be asking for volunteers to bring either an entree or 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.