



# The Opti-Journal

Newsletter of and for the Optimist Club of St. Thomas  
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December, 2011.

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## INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

President	Jack Creswell
President-Elect	J. C. St. Onge
Immediate Past-President	
	Danny Rodgers
Executive Director	Benny Ellerbe
Vice President	Dwight Phillips

## SWONT DISTRICT OFFICERS

Governor	Bruce Cox
Governors-Elect	Steve Inglis
Past-Governor	Gordon Brownlee
Past-Governor	Marty Quenneville
Secretary-Treasurer	Tracy Huxley
Lieutenant-Governor	Jr. Otway

## CLUB OFFICERS

President	Bob Jackson
Past-President	Steve Malone
President-Elect	Al Holt
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Jim Wakefield
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Gregg Paisley
Treasurer	Grant Simmons
Secretary	Brian Clements
Directors (1 year)	Neal Ambrose Gar Shaw Steve Williams
Directors (2 year)	Chuck Gratton Terry Lanning Scott Shakir
Sergeant At Arms	Danny Attridge



editor: John Ewanick

## *A Message from the President...*

Fellow Optimists:

It doesn't seem possible that another Christmas is upon us. The parade went smoothly thanks to a hard working parade committee. Plans are in the works for next year. Our first meeting of the Parade committee should be sometime in January.



Our annual Xmas party will be held on Monday December 12th at the Road House across from VanPelt's. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$14.95 for adults and \$7.95 for children. It will be a turkey dinner buffet style.

I'm in the process of lining up some speakers for the new year. So far Brian Hollywood CEO of St. Thomas Energy will be present on January 23rd and our Mayor Heather Jackson Chapman will join us on Monday March 26th. If there are any requests for speakers please let someone on the executive know.

Our main fund raiser for this winter will be Hotel California an Eagle's tribute band on February 3rd at the Memorial Arena. Optimist Dave McCormick is working hard on this project and can use some help. Let's not disappoint him.

There are still some problems with communication with regards to either receiving or answering emails. If you are not receiving club emails you need to contact Joanne Bechard at [jbechard6@rogers.com](mailto:jbechard6@rogers.com) or contact your executive. If you are not replying to or answering your emails then - get with the program.

Finally I wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

Yours in Optimism,

Bob Jackson  
President, Optimist Club of St. Thomas

## Christmas Care

Optimist Leo Lynch has invited club members (& spouses) to help pack hampers at Christmas Care on **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. We need about 10 – 12 people to help pack. It should only take about an hour or so.

Christmas Care is located at 35 Silver Street, off of Burwell Road, north of South Edgeware Road.

Please let Optimist Leo know if you can help, by email at [marilynlynch@rogers.com](mailto:marilynlynch@rogers.com), or by telephone at 519 – 637 – 0301.

## Fantasy of Lights

Thank you to Santa's elves who helped set up our display at Pinafore Park.

We have been schedule to perform security on **Thursday, December 29, 2011**. We need 12 Optimist members to do this; six members per shift. The two shifts are 5:00 – 7:30 pm, and 7:30 – 10:00 pm. Please contact Optimist John Ewanick if you can help.

Also, help is needed to remove our display on **January 1, 2012, 11:00 am**. If you can help, please let Optimist John know!

## In Memoriam

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Dorothy Derrough, on Friday, Nov. 11, 2011. She was 86.

Beloved wife of Optimist Art Derrough, just six days shy of their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

She had been a member of the Talbot Trail Optimist Club.

A donation will be made to the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in Dorothy's memory.

(Opt. Art & Opt. Ray Stanley both joined our club on March 1, 1962.)

## *Optimist Santa Claus Parade ... In Downtown St. Thomas*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members who helped make this year's parade such a great success. The investment that you made of your time and your talents paid huge dividends to the children (of all ages) in our community. It was estimated the spectators numbered 15,000.

There are many folks to thank from outside the club too. And at the risk of missing someone, we would like to mention:

The City of St. Thomas  
Joe Preston, MP  
Jeff Yurek, MPP  
Mayor Heather Jackson-Chapman  
St. Thomas Police Department  
St. Thomas Fire Department  
Rogers TV  
Mike & Karen Vecchio  
741 Royal Cdn Air Cadets  
Disbrowe Motors  
Elgin Chrysler

A Universal Limousine  
St. Thomas Rent All  
Canadale Nurseries  
94.1 myFM  
Yellow Signs  
St. Thomas Times Journal  
Elgin County Market  
OK Tire  
Canada Post Workers  
Timken Canadian, LP  
East End Kwik Way

And our Sponsors:  
The Downtown Development Board  
Don & Hazel Williams Foundation  
St. Thomas Energy  
Doug Tarry Homes  
TD Canada Trust  
Murray Armstrong  
McDonald's  
Giant Tiger  
Canadian Tire

And now the planning for next year's parade begins...

Yours in Optimism,

Bob Jackson & John Ewanick, Co-chairs, Parade Cmte

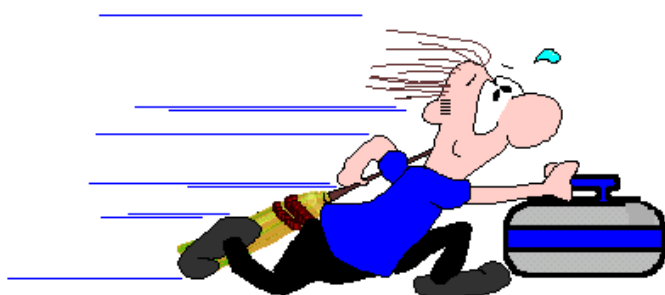


## Curling Bonspiels

We have been invited by the Moore Optimist Club to their annual bonspiel on Sat. Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> at the Sarnia Golf & Curling Club. We will curl in the 10:30 Draw – cost \$32.00 /player.

We have also been invited to curl in the Talbot Teen Centre Bonspiel on Sat. Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas Curling Club. We will curl in the 9:15 draw – cost \$25.00/player.

Anyone interested in curling at either bonspiel, please let Optimist Brian Clements know ASAP if they haven't already done so.



## Hotel California Returns!

The original tribute to The EAGLES draws crowds of all ages with different musical styles: New Country, Classic Rock and dance, featuring hits such as Life In The Fast Lane, Take It Easy, Desperado, Get Over It and many more. The EAGLES' great harmonies have been enjoyed by audiences at festivals across North America and around the world.

On Friday, February 3, 2012, the Optimist Club of St. Thomas will once again host this great event!

The **perfect stocking stuffer**, buy your tickets early to avoid being disappointed. The last time this band was in town, we sold out, and turned people away.

For more information, or to purchase your tickets, please contact Optimist Dave McCormick at 519 – 719 – 6885. Tickets are \$20 per person.

## Upcoming Events

To recap, mark up your calendars so that you don't miss out on any of the important engagements ahead:

**Mon Dec 12 Children's Christmas Party 6 pm.**  
@ St. Thomas Roadhouse Bar & Grill in Big Room

**Mon Dec 19 Executive Meeting**  
@ CIBC Wood Gundy

**Sun Jan 1 Fantasy of Lights**  
Remove display from Pinafore Park @ 11:00 am

**Mon Jan 9 Regular Meeting**  
@ St. Thomas Roadhouse Bar & Grill in Big Room

**Mon Jan 16 Executive Meeting**  
@ CIBC Wood Gundy

**Mon Jan 23 Regular Meeting**  
@ St. Thomas Roadhouse Bar & Grill in Big Room  
Speaker ~ Brian Hollywood

**Fri Feb 3 Hotel California**  
Memorial Arena

**Mon Feb 13 Regular Meeting**  
@ St. Thomas Roadhouse Bar & Grill in Big Room

**Sat Feb 18 2nd Quarter Board**  
Holiday Inn Select, Point Edward, On. Come for the training, stay for the fun!

**Mon Feb 20 Executive Meeting**  
@ CIBC Wood Gundy

**Mon Feb 27 Regular Meeting**  
@ St. Thomas Roadhouse Bar & Grill in Big Room

**Mon Mar 26 Regular Meeting**  
Speaker ~ Mayor Heather Jackson-Chapman

***By providing hope and positive vision,  
Optimists bring out the best in kids.***

-Optimist Mission Statement

*"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." ~ Nelson Mandela*

## Meet the Optimist Member



**Name:** Opt. Bob Holt  
**Optimist Since:** March 10, 2005.  
**Spouse:** Judy  
**Family:** Jason (39), Lisa (45) and grandsons Dalton (11) and Adam (9)  
**Occupation:** Electrician for M & M Electric  
**Hobbies:** Coaching Youth Bowling  
**Favourite Movie:** Field of Dreams  
**Favourite Music:** Anything but Country & Western

Bob and his electrical knowledge have been an invaluable resource to the parade committee, as we attempt to power all the lights and musical equipment on our floats!

### From the Parade



## THE OPTIMIST CREED

### *Promise Yourself -*

*To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
 To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
 To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
 To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
 To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.  
 To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
 To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
 To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
 To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
 To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.*



## Purposes Of The Optimist Club

- To develop optimism as a philosophy of life;
- To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;
- To inspire respect for law;
- To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;
- To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of man, his community and world.