

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO DISTRICT OPTIMIST NEWS LETTER

***** If you have news or an announcement call Al Bluhm, our Bulletin Editor at 519- 748-6620 or email ahbluhm@hotmail.com *****

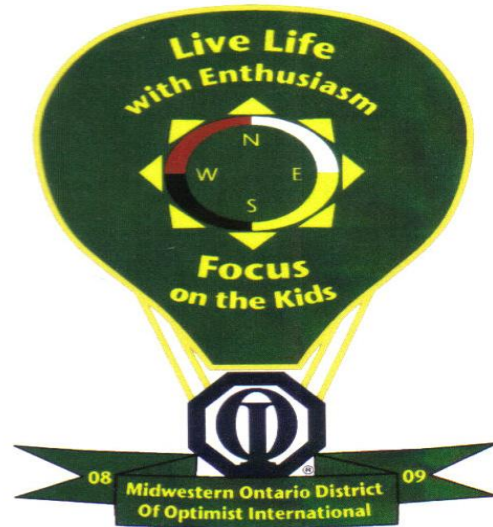
Governor Bob Keir
Past-Governor Joe St. John
Secretary-Treasurer
Wally Van Niekerk
Governor Elect Bill Adams

Volume 25 September 2009

MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR BOB

Greetings Fellow Optimists of the Midwestern Ontario District of Optimist International.

There are only 36 days remaining in the "Live Life with Enthusiasm . . . Focus on the Kids" Optimist year, as I write this message to all of you. It is not too late to Just Ask someone you know, invite them to share in the fellowship of your club and join to help build the confidence and self esteem in the youth of your community who are our future. Maily and I would like to say THANK YOU to all of you who made the effort to attend our District Convention. The opening ceremonies and memorial service was blended with some optimist tradition and some native culture. Maily and I wanted to share our heritage and identity of who we really are and we THANK YOU for allowing us to share our dreams and wishes with you. I was never so proud of the members of our district showing publicly the respect of silence to Myeengun the elder as he shared and explained the ceremonies, his culture, his heritage, his identity and life. We are all brothers and sisters on mother earth. It is our responsibility to guard and protect her. (Maily's totem is the turtle and that is a symbol of mother earth.) Myeengun said to me that all he received during the ceremonies from the gathering was "POSITIVE VIBES" of caring and yearning to learn and understand. I had asked Myeengun for a healing prayer and blessing for the living as well as a celebration prayer for our members who are no longer with us. Maily did not know that the drummers and singers and male fancy dancer were all from her home reserve of Moraviantown. The two female dancers were from the Chippewa of the Thames (Ojibwa) July and August is the peak time for Pow Wows and all of our native guests gave up some time for us. The drummers were on their way to Michigan. They gave up their time to share with us. Maily and I are again very thankful. Maily spent many hours at the computer putting together the power point of the members who are no longer with us. My rock and support and anchor did a very professional effort in compiling that memorial power point and it worked!
CONVENTION: opening ceremonies, memorial service, training for next year, information sessions, election,.



fellowship, celebration, appreciations, and the unveiling of next year, all completed at the convention. Please support Governor Designate Bill and Linda in his year of optimism as well as you treated Maily and I.

Maily and I would like to THANK the members of our home club London Carling Heights for all of their valued time, support, consideration and encouragement throughout the year. We could not have done it without you. Maily and I made the attempt to visit all the clubs that invited us throughout the year to their gatherings. Your warm response was very pleasing to us. THANK YOU ALL for your kindness, caring, and support.

Best regards

Bob Keir

Governor 2008-2009 MWOD #46

PARIS OPTIMIST CLUB PRESENTS : OPTI HOUSE CAFE AND CRAFT SHOW

Join us on Saturday Nov. 14th. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Sunday Nov. 15th 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Come to the Syl Apps Community Centre at the corner of William and Elm streets. Enjoy a light lunch and browse through the crafters booths for special Christmas gifts.

Admission is \$10.00

For information call Optimist Marilyn at: 519-442-5227

Optimist Catherine Herdman, member of London East Optimist Club, was elected as the **Governor-Elect** for the year 2009-10 at the MWO Convention in London.

Congratulations Catherine!

Convention News

Thanks to all who attended the Membership and New Club Building Seminar at the MWO Convention in London, August 22, 2009. Your enthusiasm speaks well for realizing our vision of positive membership growth in MWO. Thanks also to the Optimist who heard our message during the Lt. Governor-elect training session.

My New Club Building team is experienced and hard working. Those of you who know Ruby Smith of Monkton (and who doesn't?), George DeWys and Bob Vanstone of Downie, Matt Crowley of Ellice, can vouch for their longstanding dedication to Optimist International and to the kids placed in our Optimist care. Our team wants each of you to succeed in meeting your goals for the 2009-2010 "Promise Yourself...for the Kids" year. We will help you as much as possible.

One more thing "Promise Yourself...for the Kids; that you will bring in at least one new member before October 1, 2009.

Optimist Dianne Josling
2009-2010 New Club Building Chair
"Believe in KIDS" Governor 2004-05

Good Day Fellow Optimists, I am writing today to say Thank-you.

It has been a fantastic year for Optimism. We have worked hard and played hard for our communities, members and district. In doing so I would like to take this time to share my gratitude with all of you who have supported me.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a Huge Thank-you to Governor Bob and First Lady Maily for giving me the position of Club Activities Chair on their "Focus on the kids" Year. It was a great pleasure in serving the both of you. I had the time of my life. I met and worked with some pretty awesome people.

I would also like to give a big Thank-you all the Optimist Clubs who had submitted a team for the Optimist Survivor Game we played Saturday night of the Convention. It was a pleasure to participate with so many fun Optimists. I have a personal Thank-you for Betty for helping me pin the creed on the participants Thank-you so much I appreciate it. I have a personal Thank-you as well for my partner in crime Sheila for all her hard work in putting the Survivor Game together with me. Thank-you I appreciate it.

I would also like to profusely thank all the Optimist Clubs that submitted Scrapbooks. It was an honor to see all the hard work and dedication that Optimists do for their communities. Thank-you again.

I would also like to send out a reminder to ALL Optimist Clubs to please submit your CPA Books by September 30th 2009. No Optimist Club will qualify for Honor Club without one this year. This is how important it is.

I would also like to wish Bill and Linda Adams the very best for their up and coming year as Governor. Have a great year everyone. Again Thank-you Governor Bob and First Lady Maily for the opportunity that you gave me. You're the Best.

Optimist Laura
107 Elm Street, London, Ont. N5Z 2K4
519-451-5951

A Big Thank You

I would like to personally thank those Optimist members from the District Convention, Egremont Township and Normanby Township who generously supported my challenge and donated funds to the MacPherson Family of Ayton, Ontario. The MacPherson's 11 year old son, Owen tragically lost his life during the tornado that passed through the Town of Durham.

With your assistance I was able to collect a total of \$300. I am waiting to hear back from the Chief of Police in Durham, who has contact with the family. At that time, I will be presenting the family with the funds in addition to a sympathy card on behalf of the Optimists in Midwestern Ontario.

Sincerely,
Optimist Ken Hayward
Lieutenant Governor
MWONT Zone 6

Special Request

Optimist Dianne Josling as Chair of New Club Building would like to get as many email addresses of members in the Midwestern Ontario District as possible. At least one from each club would be great. Would someone from your club please send a contact name and address to her?

Thanks, Bulletin Editor Alan

O.I. Foundation

WOW!!!! Less than one month left for this year's activities, where has the time gone? The activities that we ran for our charity, the Optimist International Foundation of Canada was amazing!!!! I will not forget the Chinese Auctions that we held at the Quarter Boards and Convention, they were definitely a lot of fun to do. The Annual Plunger Plop held in conjunction with the Childhood Cancer Campaign did provide many laughs and picture opportunities. Congratulations to the "Korn Holy - D's" champions from the Cambridge West Club!! Also let's not forget our District's Golf Tournament back in June at the St. Mary's Golf Course. It was a raining morning and 60 dedicated golfers ventured out into the weather for a fun filled event in support of our charity. Congratulations to all winners both golfers and for draw prizes. I would like to personally thank all volunteers who help me with these fund raisers, they would not have been as successful as they were without your commitment and help!!!!

To all Optimist clubs and Optimist members thank you very much for your generous donations to the Foundation, without your donation we could not do what we do so well in our communities. For those clubs that would like to make a donation for the 2008 / 2009 year please do, so that I can make sure your club receive this year's print. To the members, if you normally or you are thinking of donating to the different programs we have, Dime A Day, Century Circle, Presidents Club, Christian D. Larson Partners as well as others please do so now so that we may credit you accordingly. I ask that you remember that this is our own Charity and your annual donation is appreciated to help run the programs that the Foundation proudly supports!!!!!!

Once again thanks to all that help make my year as your O.I. Foundation Representative an enjoyable and worthwhile experience!!!!

The O.I.F. Golf Tournament had 68 members participate at the St. Mary's golf and Country Club and raised \$2146 to date with more cheques still coming in.

The plunger plop contest held at Southwest Kitchener Optimist Park raised \$1400 with the Cambridge Optimist team winning top prize

Yours in Optimism,

Rob Graham, OIFC Rep. Midwestern Ontario District (#46)

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 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

Optimist International

Time for a New Editor

This will be my final newsletter as editor for the Midwestern Ontario District. It has been a pleasure working with the Executive and Optimist members of the District and I thank you all for your input and help in making the newsletters interesting.

Optimist Patrick Rose will be the new editor for the District. I wish him well and ask that you support him as much as you supported me.

Please forward the Newsletter to your fellow members to keep them informed of District events.

District Bulletin Editor Alan Bluhm

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

... Optimist Vision Statement

