



# Central Ontario District



## Message from Governor Paul Thomson

Well spring has sprung, the grass has riz, wonder where the birdies is, or in our case, where our next leaders is. With spring comes the job of recruiting new talent to lead us into the future. Now that the economy is in turmoil and the future uncertain is the time when our youth need us more than ever for some sense of direction and focus. Please encourage the members in your club to step forward and challenge themselves to the future of our organization either as club executive or to our district team. We welcome and encourage new people to join the district executive as this is where new ideas come from.

Some zones in our district have been without a Lt Governor for many years, this cannot continue, we must offer leadership to those clubs affected. I encourage anyone who knows of an Optimist member in their area who would be a potential leader to step up to the plate and help our district team grow.

The last few weeks have been exciting, as I have inducted several new members in various clubs. This is very encouraging and we are proud to welcome these new members. I have also been working with Adrian's Army, as we start the new club initiative in Shelburne. I hope to have more to report shortly on the outcome of this effort. I am extremely proud of this executive and the results we are achieving this year, and thank everyone involved for making this a successful year to date.

Our Great Lakes Region is number 2 in all of OI, and Central is well up in the top districts and of this we should all feel proud. Our district will be pleased at the 3rd quarter in Kingston to host International President Don and Anita Sievers and encourage all to come and honour his visit. It does not happen every year and we are honoured to have them present as we recognize our Champions in Essay, Oratorical, and CCDH.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Kingston.

Gov Paul



## Reports from Committee Chairs

### Junior Golf Program

As mentioned before, District Chair Dennis Kwasnicki advises that the District Qualifying Tournament will once again be at Caledon Country Club on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are still openings and sponsorship of a young player is \$75.00 each. Dennis could still use some financial support. Each Club that donates \$200.00 or more will receive an exclusive Hole Sponsorship. Contact Dennis at [kwas@rogers.com](mailto:kwas@rogers.com). Cheques should be made payable to Dennis Kwasnicki for Junior Golf.

### Oratorical

Chair Linda Mitchinson wishes to remind everyone that the District final will be at the third quarter board meeting on Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Kingston. Contest will be in the morning and winner announced at the luncheon. Contact Linda at [lmitchinson@quickcllc.net](mailto:lmitchinson@quickcllc.net) if you need some information.

### Essay

Essay Chair Kelly Martin now has the results of this year's contest and the winners are:  
Winner: Kaitlyn Burnham, Fonthill  
The Optimist Club of Garden City-St Catharines.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place; Justin Hobart, Cobourg  
Baltimore-Cobourg Optimist Club

3<sup>rd</sup> Place; Aaron Pinto, Mississauga  
The Optimist Club of Etobicoke

Kaitlyn's essay has been forwarded to O.I. for the International round of the contest.

Kaitlyn has been asked to come out to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference May 22/23 at the Ambassador Hotel in Kingston to read her essay and accept her award.

### Candidates Qualifications

Chair Brian Wick advises that one person has thrown their hat into the ring to stand for Governor Elect 2009/2010. From what I understand, the candidate is an outstanding individual and the pillar of the community.



## Reports from Committee Chairs

### Website

Webmaster Brian Wick advises that a new administration page has been added with a copy of the District policies and expense claim forms. These are provided for the members of Central Ontario District as a convenience and shouldn't be used by any others or for any other purpose. Link to the page on the left under the title **Resources**. Log on to [www.cenon.org](http://www.cenon.org).

### Childhood Cancer Campaign

Chair Michael Sossin needs your help. CCC helps both the child and the families of the cancer victim. This can only be done with donations whether personal, corporate, or through an Optimist Club.

As well, there are several different items that may be ordered from the Canadian Supply Centre, such as DVD's, Journals, Hats, T-Shirts, etc.

Let us continue to help those that cannot help themselves, the YOUTH OF OUR COMMUNITIES. Mike would like to thank those clubs and individuals that have sent in contributions directly to Montreal or through him.

Remember, there is a way a club can earn matching dollars to a specific limit for efforts to raise funds for the Childhood Cancer Campaign. Contact Mike at [michael@michaelsossin.com](mailto:michael@michaelsossin.com).

### Bulletin

Keep those bulletins coming. Email to [jimlynge@rogers.com](mailto:jimlynge@rogers.com) or mail to me at 19 Shieldmark Cr., Thornhill, Ont L3T 3T6. I still need one volunteer to help with judging. **NOTE: As mentioned at the last quarter board, it is imperative that the name of the bulletin editor is shown on the bulletin.**



## Conferences/Convention

Third Quarter Conference: May 22-23, 2009 at Ambassador Hotel , 1550 Princess St., Kingston. The rooms for the Optimists are blocked until May 2<sup>nd</sup> only. Please login at the website for all particulars.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter District Convention - Wild West Family Hoedown

To be held at Best Western Orangeville Inn & Suites, Orangeville, ON - August 14-16, 2009

Get ready for a great ride with your fellow Optimists as we take over the Best Western in Orangeville for a rompin' good time. The weekend includes Wine & Cheese Reception, Old Timer's Breakfast, Educational Seminars, Election of next year's Board and a special Theme Buffet dinner.

## Habitat for Humanity



Past Governor George Clarke has asked that he use this bulletin to pass along his important message after his interesting presentation at the February quarter board. Here is his message: .There are really 2 purposes, the first is that I am trying to raise some money to build houses in India after my trip there in October, I'm trying to raise \$2,000 US so I guess about \$2,500 Canadian. After my Habitat presentation in February, some members expressed an interest so I'd like to make an appeal in the bulletin for donations. All donations are tax deductible, if it's a cash donation I will make the required donation online and arrange for a receipt to be either emailed or mailed for Habitat Canada. If it's a cheque, I have arranged with Habitat Canada to transfer the funds to India so the coordination would be through me to them, cheques could be sent to me, made out to Habitat for Humanity with a note/reference for Habitat India. Please share my email address if you like so people could contact me. I am trying to raise, in total \$2,000 US including whatever I donate. The \$2,000 will actually build 4 houses in India given government grants, homeowner contributions, etc. I am working with a Habitat for Humanity worker in India, a fellow I met on my build in Delhi back in October. His name is ViJay which is short for P. Vijayanand. The project is either Leprosy housing, Tsunami housing or houses in a small Tribal Village, sometimes things get lost in translation from India to here.

Jean, Tim and I went to Zambia in Africa on March 13th to build houses with Habitat for Humanity again. My second purpose is to feel out interest in an Optimist Global Village Trip for Habitat for Humanity. Anyone interested should contact me directly. I suggest that Southern India is the most likely spot for us to go. Let's say 10 days building and 3-4 days R&R. We'd need from 10-15 people with an expected cost per \$3-4,000 (split 50/50 between travel and project expenses) most of which would be tax deductible. People can solicit support from friends, employers, etc to meet the financial commitment.

These people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Most of the people drink starch made from rice once a day and communities are living in different isolated areas, such as seashore roads, irrigations canal sides, outskirts of the towns and villages. They have no access to land, water and work in all the places. Their livelihood sources are catching small fish in channels, municipality road clearings, drainage cleanings, scavenging work, rag picking, catching rates in paddy fields, firewood collecting and sometime agriculture labour. Half of the women in the tribes live in their huts with children and aged people.

George has tons of pictures and more information if required. Please contact him at [tsar@rogers.com](mailto:tsar@rogers.com).

### **Province of Ontario Volunteer Service Awards**

Past Governor Brian Wick had sent out a notice some months ago advising about Volunteer Service Awards that are given out by the Government of Ontario. It is very simple. Send in a name (or more than one) of someone who should be recognized for their contributions over the years. It doesn't particularly have to be an Optimist. These awards are given out once a year (usually March). One of our Scarborough members, Jack Spence, started over 50 years ago a bowling program on Saturday mornings for mentally challenged adults. Jack was recognized in an article in The Toronto Star in February.

We decided to put his name in and in March he and his family were invited to a reception and he was presented with a certificate of recognition in honour of his commitment. The certificate was signed by his local MPP. Jack, now 88 years young, and still an active Optimist was thrilled. We are proud of him.

If you know of anyone who should be recognized, contact the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat. This will not cost anything.....just a simple letter.

### **Club Elections**

Hopefully all your clubs have your new slate of officers for the 2009/2010 year. Just a reminder that your report should be in by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Road to Honour Club in the year of "High Five"

All clubs are challenged to achieve Honour status by following the rule of five (5).

- Membership: Members net +5 (over Oct 1/08 roster)
- Finances: to Optimist International by September 30, 2009
- Complete three service projects
- Submit at least one CPA entry
- Submit Officer-Elect Report by May 20, 2009
- Submit President's Pride report by September 30, 2009
- Club President or Board Member attends 50% of District Meetings (i.e. 2)

### Jimbo's Jottings.....

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up every two hours?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Remember, half the people you know are below average.

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

A day without sunshine is like night.

## 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.

## HAIL TO OPTIMISM

Hail to Optimism  
Inspiration Blessed  
Spreading smiles and gladness over all the rest  
Rally 'round our standard  
It shall sure prevail  
Optimism on forever  
Hail, Hail, Hail