

September 2016

Your 2015 - 2016 Executive

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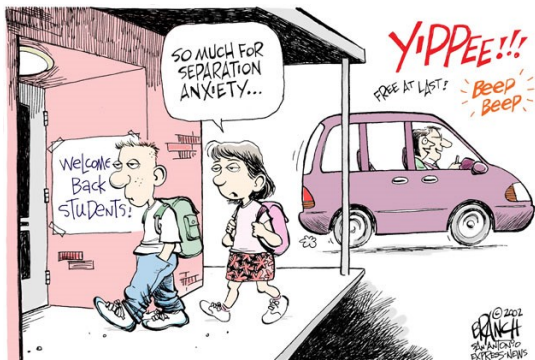
We are off again ...

The end of summer marks the end of our Optimist calendar year, and also the end of my term serving you as Club President. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve you over these past 2 years. Our club has a strong history of Bringing out the Best in Kids, and I hope that over my term we have maintained the traditions and reputations of our Club.

Through the past year we ran several fundraising events including our Victoria Day events, and our Optipoop campaign as well as our Mother's Day Brunch, which serves both as a fundraiser and community social. The fundraising of course is necessary to allow us to offer our Community Christmas Party, Children's Christmas Party, Mini-stick and Spa Day, Soapbox Derby, Youth Appreciation and Scholarship Awards, and other great kid and family events. We also added our newest event the Optibotics Club which runs every Sunday from September through mid-December. We also support programs at the school, library, sporting events, local churches, Wilmot Family Resource Centre and individuals in the community. Wow, we do a lot, and of course it is all because of the commitment of you our members. Congratulations to all of you for your hard work.

A huge thank you to our directors who always guide us in the right direction and who ensure we stay true to our values and principles. I know going forward that President-Elect **Lisa Demaline** will do a great job leading us forward, and I ask that you all support her in the coming year.

*In Optimism,
President Joe*



Summer highlights

Board Highlights

We supported the Wilmot Family Resource Centre with their Family Fun Day event with a donation of \$200.

We also sponsored Kayla Sutherland, who was a contestant for Ambassador of the New Hamburg Fall Fair.

We donated \$250 towards Audrey Fiederlein and Joan Siders work to help bring Curtis to Canada from Haiti, so that he could receive needed surgery.

Treasurer **Ron Helps** reports that at the end of August our bank account stands at \$8510.54.

Scholarship Winner

This year's winner is **Melodie Shantz**. Melodie logged over 540 volunteer hours, helping with such programs as Bethel Church's Vacation Bible School, Camp Mishewah, Bethel Church's Kid's Club, and World Accord. She also served as Student Body Co-Chair and Co-President of the Student Activity Council at W/O. She's been accepted to Brock University for the Child and Youth Studies Program, with plans to continue volunteering throughout her university career and beyond, and hopes to one day become a teacher.



Coming Events

Tuesday, September 27th @ 6:30 pm

September Meeting Guest Speaker:

We welcome **Audrey Fiederlein, Joan Sider, and Curtis**, a young boy from Haiti, who is visiting Canada to under-go surgery to repair an injury he suffered in an accident when he was an infant. Joan will be speaking to us about her on-going mission work in Haiti, and her work to help young Curtis among other young children from Haiti. Please come out to join us to hear this inspiring story and show Joan, Audrey and Curtis our support.

Social at 6:30 pm — Dinner at 7:00 pm— Presentation at 8:00pm

This year we are trying something different. The newsletter will go out later in the month—closer to our meeting date along with the invitation to the meeting. Several members suggested this since once reading the newsletter they can respond to the email invite. Please respond to the invite at : <https://goo.gl/forms/srx6DIWGDdbyIRBR2>

Soap Box Derby



Fall Events

- October* 3rd —Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00
 25th —Dinner Meeting – 6:30
- November* 1st —Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00
 22nd —Dinner Meeting – 6:30
- December* 6th —Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00
 16th — Adult Christmas Social—6:30
 18th — Children's Christmas—1:00 pm

Fall entrepreneur...



This month we say good-bye to two active members of our club who have relocated to Toronto: **Scott and Debbie Whittle**

Scott has been a member for many years working on various committees—chairing for many years our **Mother's Day Brunch committee**. He was also on our board and was responsible for bringing, to our club, many new members.

Debbie has been a member for only a couple of years, yet during that time she took a keen interest in our activities becoming involved with the **Christmas Party committee**.

Through-out the years that they lived in New Dundee they have taken an active role in helping to develop our community working on various committees including the **Ball Diamond committee** and the **May 2-4 committee**.

Thank you, Scott and Debbie.

In conclusion,

I would like to thank **Optimist out-going President Joe Paul** for his dedication to our Club. Joe assumed the presidency in 2014 assuming it was a one year stand. Unfortunately, for him, it developed into a two year commitment. Joe, assumed the role, and worked diligently, on our behalf. In 2015, under Joe's direction and guidance, he and our club were awarded:

THE DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENT'S AWARD

THE GOVERNOR EDEN SNYDER TROPHY - (*Achievements and Awards*) presented to the club that stands first in total Achievements and Awards Program points in the District as of September 30, 2015

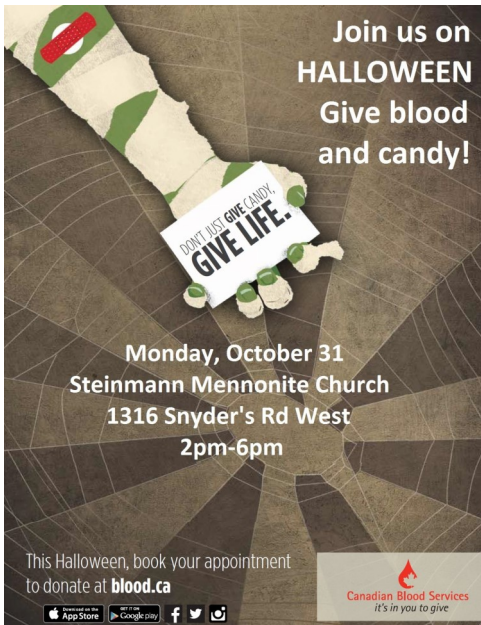
THE GOVERNOR HUGH GOODFELLOW TROPHY - (*Membership Award*) presented to the club with the largest net increase in membership between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

THE GOVERNOR JIM NOTHER TROPHY - (*Leadership Award - "Club President"*) presented to the Club President who has demonstrated outstanding leadership within their own club and who has contributed to the growth in our organization.

While Joe's tenure as president ends at the end of September, his commitment to our club continues. He is on our **Board of Directors** and continues as Chairman of our **Mother's Day Brunch committee** plus other club commitments.

Thanks, Joe.

If not you, who?



The next local Blood Donor Clinic will be held October 31. With it being Halloween, this is a tough day for Canadian Blood Services to fill all of their donation time slots. However, blood products are needed for surgical patients, cancer patients, and car crash victims just the same. If you are able, please donate – the clinic will run from 2-6 pm at Steinmann Mennonite Church in Baden. There are still 40 appointments open.

We take it for granted that if we were in get into a serious car accident that the blood needed to save us would be there. However, blood is only available because someone took an hour out of his or her day to donate. Only 4% of those who are eligible to donate actually do so. And that percentage is dropping in Canada and throughout the developed nations.

To have your donation count towards our club's total, please register using our Partners for Life number NEWD360457. I have paper forms or you can register online at <https://goo.gl/GcjSLT>

Our PFL number can be used by anyone, anywhere in Canada (except Quebec) so please encourage family, neighbours and friends too!

To all those who have donated so far this year – thank you! We only need seven more donations to reach our target of 40 but it would be great to exceed our goal! It's especially exciting to see four new donors who are now giving blood.

To save time when donating you can now complete the first part of the donor questionnaire before you arrive at the clinic, if you have an appointment and Canadian Blood Services has your email address on file.

I recently had the privilege of attending the Canadian Blood Services awards ceremony in Ottawa. It was a very inspiring two-day event. One of the speakers shared a quote by John F. Kennedy that seems to sum things up: "If not you, who? If not now, when?"

Hope to see you at the Blood Donor Clinic on Halloween! To book an appointment to donate visit www.blood.ca or call 1 888 2 DONATE (1 888 236-6283)

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