

November 2016

## Your 2016 - 2017 Executive

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## Nov. / Dec. Events

*Tuesday November 22nd @ 6:30 pm*

Our dinner meeting, this month, will focus **Optimists Ron and Helen Helps** who recently travelled to Ottawa where she was award a special citation from the Canadian Blood Services.

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

It is very important for us to know how many members will be attending this event. Please respond to the invite at by Sunday.

<https://goo.gl/forms/srx6DIWGdDbylRBR2>

Please follow the instructions and complete the information. This provides us with an accurate accounting of how many dinners to order. Thank you.

*Wednesday December 7th—6:00 pm*

Director's meeting at 35 Alderside Dr. All are welcome to attend.

*Friday December 9th—5:00 pm*

Our Optibotics club showcase their teamwork, technical and public speaking skills at the K-W Expo at Conestoga College.

*Wednesday December 14th*

Our Optimist Past President Joe is organizing a free skate children's Christmas Party in Wellesley to try to try and reboot the Wellesley Optimist Club. Your assistance would be appreciated. Please contact Joe at 696-2001 or [the4pauls@golden.net](mailto:the4pauls@golden.net)

*Friday December 16th—6:30 pm*

Adult Christmas Party. Remember, this is an open event for all residents. Please invite a friend or neighbour to this amazing event.

*Sunday December 18th—1:30 pm*

Children's Christmas Party. Open to all youngsters in New Dundee. Please see the poster for additional details.



*All Aboard ...*

I know a lot of people around the world have been watching the recent election in the US with concern as it seems like the country is more divided than ever. But what I see is that people of all different political persuasions agree that they want to make their country a better place for more people. While voting is a key way to make a difference, it can arguably be said that making a difference in a small way in our local community has just as great an impact. But of course I don't have to tell you because as an Optimist member, you already know that!

I can hear you say: "But Lisa, I feel I need to do more to make the world a better place, how can I contribute more?" And that is a good question for all of us, so here are just a few ideas that I have. If each of us took a few minutes or hours out of our busy lives to do just one more thing to improve our community what a force for good that would be!

- ⇒ Call someone you know who hasn't been to an Optimist meeting in a while and tell them we miss them and ask them to come to the next meeting
- ⇒ Go meet a new neighbour and ask them to come to our next meeting as your guest
- ⇒ Offer to help Optimist Elliot with the adult Christmas party
- ⇒ Offer to help Optimist Joe with the children's Christmas party
- ⇒ Offer to help Optimist Joe with the Wellesley children's Christmas party on Dec 11th
- ⇒ Think of something else the Optimist club could do for the community

Give the gift of life by giving blood if you are able

*If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito. ~Betty Reese*

*I wondered why somebody didn't do something. Then I realized, I am somebody. ~Author Unknown*

In Optimism,

*President Lisa*

### Directors' Meeting Summary - 2 Nov 2016

#### **Wilmot Aquatic ACES**

Proposal to partner with ACES on 50/50 draw on two major home meets (Nov 19/20 & Mar 4/5)

ACES will provide some volunteers, Optimists will provide some volunteers and arrange for the lottery license etc.

#### **W-O Student Assistance Fund**

We will provide \$300. Will provide principal with contact info for other Optimist Clubs, and guidance that she should contact clubs when additional funds are required

**HOBY Conference is a three** day youth leadership conference for grade 10 students. Cost to send one student is \$350. We will provide \$350

**Wilmot Gingerbread Contest Funding** We will provide \$150

**Children's Christmas Party.** We will provide \$600

**ND Children's Party Gingerbread Contest** We will provide up to \$75

**Small Freezer for Community Centre** The Township agreed to allow a small freezer in Community Centre; location TBD. We will provide up to \$100 for used freezer

## Toasty Toes Campaign

At last count we have collected 211 pairs of socks for those in need within our local area! Thank you SO much for all of your support. The campaign ended on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, so thank you to all who contribute.

I've been speaking with the originator of the campaign, Sharon. We have a plan for all of our local contributions, and possibly some from other collections, to be donated directly to the **Wilmot Family Resource Centre in New Hamburg**. It's so great knowing that all of our support will stay within our community and help our neighbours in need!

A very big thank you, again, to each and every one of you who supported this campaign by donating and helping to spread the word on Twitter. Our family is so grateful for your help.

Thanks,

Megan Hall & Doug Akers

## Optibotics Team—2016



The team of 18 youngsters have been working through-out the fall in preparation for this event. Divided into four teams they have been challenged to design and build scale Lego mobile models. The theme, this year, is bees and their effect on the environment. Their models, will be on display December 9<sup>th</sup> at Conestoga College and are part of the Jr. First Lego League K-W Expo.



## Honouring our Lifeblood—2016



*New Dundee's Helen Lammers-Helps was one of 30 honourees at a national ceremony September 12th in Ottawa for the Canadian Blood Services.*

It all started as simply helping a sick friend. In 2014, New Dundee's Helen Lammers-Helps wanted to pitch in for her friend Chris LeBrun after he was diagnosed with cancer. Two years later, the local woman is being lauded by Canadian Blood Services for her work to promote life-saving blood and stem cell donations.

Lammers-Helps was in Ottawa earlier this month for the national ["Honouring Our Lifeblood"](#) ceremony, an annual event that celebrates people and organizations who have supported Canada's blood system, stem cell network and transplant system.

This year's awards recognized 30 individuals from across Canada; some had recorded their 1,000th blood donation, some were dedicated volunteers, while others were effective community organizers.

Lammers-Helps went to the ceremony along with Kathy Bastin, who works with her as another champion of local blood and stem cell donation.

"It was very inspiring" to be there around so much passion and dedication, Lammers-Helps said.

The freelance writer from New Dundee has been an inspiration herself here in Wilmot. When her good friend Chris LeBrun was diagnosed with leukemia in May 2014, it quashed his personal goal to give 100 blood donations. Lammers-Helps and others decided to help him get there, and that started a campaign called ["Get it Done for Chris LeBrun."](#)

"It kind of took off," Lammers-Helps told the Independent. "I'm one small part of a team that was doing this," she added, and the Optimist Club of New Dundee has been another strong supporter in the township.

The Get it Done for Chris LeBrun Partners for Life Team has now tallied 650 blood donations (and counting) since starting in Sept. 2014 and has added an estimated 1,000 people to the One Match Stem Cell Registry.

LeBrun died in late 2015, despite receiving a stem cell transplant. "We are carrying on in his memory," said Lammers-Helps, who expects that being a blood donation champion is now engrained in her life. "I've become more passionate about it," she explained.

"Chris is gone, but his legacy lives on," said Sharr Cairns, a territory manager for Canadian Blood Services who nominated Lammers-Helps for this distinction. "The 'Get it Done for Chris LeBrun' Facebook page has reached so many people, both in Canada and abroad."

A regular local blood donation clinic is coming Oct. 31 to Steinmann Mennonite Church, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Organizers are hoping to be busy, despite sharing the date with Halloween, Lammers-Helps said. It's also important for donors to make an appointment, if possible.

While in Ottawa for the ceremony, she also got to see a facility that processes blood donations. "I've always been on the front end giving or promoting," she said. "I've donated since I was 18 but I've never really thought about what happens to it."



**Optimist Club of New Dundee**  
**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 1-3:30PM**  
**AT THE NEW DUNDEE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**TREATS, GAMES, CRAFTS, MUSIC,**  
**A VISIT AND PICTURE WITH SANTA CLAUS**  
**AND A TOY FROM SANTA**

**PARENTS, PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILDREN**  
**AND STAY FOR A FUN AFTERNOON**

**A DONATION OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM**  
**FOR THE WILMOT FOOD BANK WOULD BE**  
**GREATLY APPRECIATED**



**The Optimist Club of New Dundee**  
**Presents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual**  
**Gingerbread House Contest**

Submit your creation to the theme "Santa's House"

**CATEGORIES:**  
1 Child or a group in the same age category  
(enter in the oldest child's age category)

- Grade 1 and under
- Grade 2-4
- Grade 5 and 6

**DROP OFF:**  
Sun, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 1 PM New Dundee  
Community Centre

**AWARDS PRESENTATION:**  
Sun, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 3:30 PM New Dundee Community Centre  
All Houses must be removed at the end of the awards

**RULES:**

- The base must be no bigger than 18"X18"
- Each house must be free standing
- Only one entry per child or group
- All entries must be made of gingerbread. Use a store bought kit or make your own
- All decorations must be made of edible materials

**Prizes will consist of Gift Baskets**

