



The OptiMessenger

December 8, 2017

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A Good Start to the Holidays!

A Fun Christmas Party

We had a good turnout for our Club Christmas party. Among the 20+ that attended, it was nice that Jim Armstrong was able to attend, as well as Carole and Dermot Baldwin. Even with a broken arm and black eye that resulted from a recent fall, Meva MacDonald came with Daryl. Spending 9 hours in the emergency room appeared to be the worst part of her accident and she is mending well.

There was a huge amount of turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce, plus peas and corn. Optimists brought several appetizers, potatoes, salad and even pizza. Not to mention the cheese cake, chocolate cake, and a variety of tarts and cookies.

A large number of items were brought for donation to the Calgary Women's Centre. Mike took them there the next day and they were very appreciative of the large number of donations.

...And so on to the New Year

We will start the New Year with a change of pace for our meetings. Instead of having it at the Danish-Canadian Club, the dinner meeting on January 8 will be held at the China Rose Restaurant at #228 – 28th Street SE; just west of Marlborough Mall off of Memorial Drive. Dinner will be a Chinese buffet for \$26.01 with tax and tip included. Individual cheques will be provided.

Our speaker will be Mick McGowan, a Cabinet Making Instructor at SAIT. Mick is a long time judge, project designer, coach, and coordinator for world skill competitions in cabinet making. The most recent competition was held in Abu Dhabi in 2017. Mick will tell us what the competitions are like and how we did competing against the rest of the world.

As usual, socializing starts at 6:00pm, with dinner at 6:30, and the meeting starting at 7:00.

Festive Showcase -

Again a Huge Success

This year's Festive Showcase concert at the Jubilee Auditorium on November 29th was another huge success! 1415 tickets were sold.

Our thanks go out to several Optimists that purchased tickets to be given away. 13 tickets were given to the Kerby Centre so their members could attend the concert for free. And four tickets were given to Nicole Haycock for Summer Band Workshop students to attend the concert for free.

For the second year in a row, we sold a record number of 50/50 tickets! This could not have been done without the help of our Optimist Volunteers: Denise Dolph, Duane Kelly, Stutt Pottruff, Steve Rutherford, Bob Steele, Daniel and Diane Swiatek, Ken Tipper, Don Yuen,

These volunteers were assisted by Marnie Kelly, Todd Bennett (Lyle's son), Sarah Mallet (Todd's friend), Ellen Alston (former Optimist) and Steve Hobbs (Denise's friend).

Of course kudos to Lyle Bennett for organizing the concert and handling arrangements with the Calgary Stetson Show Band and the Jubilee Auditorium; with some assistance from Mike DeNicola.

Essay Contests

Entries for our Club Essay Contest are closed, but students can still enter into Optimist Essay Contests being held by the Calgary Dinner and the High River Optimist Clubs.

The contest deadline for the Calgary Dinner Club is January 31, 2018, and for the High River Club is February 14, 2018. Anyone interested should contact Marilyn Bushell at mbushell@shaw.ca or Pat Shorrock at patshor@telus.net, respectively.

2018 Ottawa OI Convention

Visit Ottawa next summer before or after the 100th Annual Optimist International Convention Saturday, July 7, through Tuesday, July 10, 2018!

There are many attractions within walking distance of the Westin Hotel and the Shaw Centre such as the [Byward Market](#)! Continue to check the convention [page](#) for more information and updates.

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

Ho! Ho! Ho! Be generous during the holiday season! A receipt for income tax purposes will be delivered for any donation over \$20 to the [Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation](#).

To all the Dime-A-Day and more donors who contribute before December 31, there will be a drawing for ten basic registrations to the Ottawa International Convention!

Upcoming OI Webinars

Why not take advantage of an Optimist International Webinar?

Here are a couple coming up that will better enable you to discuss our Optimist Club to your friends. Our Club needs new members if we are to continue to serve the youth and community of Calgary.

The Elevator Speech

Tuesday, December 12 at 6-7PM (MT)

You have a minute to convince someone to become an Optimist Member or to present a new project. Impossible? Not if you are attending The Elevator Speech webinar. With this webinar, you will have tools to effectively use this minute. To register for this webinar, click [here](#).

Just Ask!

Tuesday, January 9 at 6-7PM (MT)

Your membership growth and retention strategy has just found a friend: Just Ask! The Just Ask program supports all of your Club's existing activities, and is a great way to get more hands to serve more children. Whether it's through New Club Building or by adding new Members to your own Club, let's Just Ask! Join us as we share our thoughts to make this renewed Just Ask program the pivot to your Club's growth. To register, click [here](#).

The Next District Meeting

I need someone to represent the Club at the 2nd Quarter District Board Meeting. It will be held in Havre, Montana, February 9-10.

Please contact me or Lyle Bennett if you can attend this meeting.

Optimist International Foundation

Optimist International/Optimist International Foundation Disaster Relief Fund

OI is proud to announce the first checks awarded from the Optimist International/Optimist International Foundation Disaster Relief Fund. Awards were for projects nominated by San Antonio Optimist Club, Optimist Club Anguilla, British West Indies and Pasadena (Texas) Noon Optimist Club. These grants help communities affected by the devastation of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Thanks to those Clubs for partnering to help others in their communities and an added thank you to all who have contributed to the Optimist Disaster Relief Fund.

Childhood Cancer Campaign

The Optimist International Foundation has relaunched the Childhood Cancer Campaign Matching Grant Program. Clubs will be able to receive a matching grant up to \$1,000 to fund a local childhood cancer project.

These projects can be traditional childhood cancer efforts Clubs have supported over the years. New to the effort, the scope of the matching grant program has been broadened to include health and wellness projects that relate to childhood cancer. For more information, visit the Foundation [website](#).

Up Coming Dates

Dec 16: Tubafest at Stampede BMO Amphitheatre

Dec 18: Board Teleconference Meeting

Jan 8: Dinner Meeting at China Rose Restaurant

Jan 22: Board Teleconference Meeting

Feb 5: Dinner Meeting at Danish-Canadian Club

Feb 9-10: 2nd Quarter District Meeting in Havre, MT

Feb 26: Board Teleconference Meeting

March 5: Dinner Meeting at Danish-Canadian Club