



Mid-Summer Update

Jim McKinnon

Jim is recovering from a heat stroke that he suffered a week ago while walking extensively in very high heat in Medicine Hat. He is currently in unit 93 at Calgary Rockyview Hospital. He is on IV and Oxygen and expects to be in the hospital for at least one more week or two. He probably would enjoy visitors, but they should be short.

The District Convention

Mike DeNicola and Duane Kelly just returned from the AMS&NW District Convention in Billings, Montana. The three-day event was full of training workshops, local area tours, and great comradery.

We were honored to have Rebecca Butler Mona, an Optimist International Board Member and OI President-Elect, at the meeting.

Rebecca came with her husband Mike (a Past Distinguished Optimist Lieutenant-Governor) and their two children (Amanda 16 and Alex 14).

In addition to several short speeches, Rebecca helped run two training workshops for District Lieutenant-Governor-Elects and Club President-Elects. She also made a presentation on Marketing Optimist Clubs, with a major emphasis on using social media.

Rebecca's husband, Mike, ran a workshop on a project the Des Moines Optimist Club runs – Kids on Robotic Teams.

Other workshops included:

- Eleanor Mattice-Reid ran a workshop for Club Secretary/Treasurer-Elects.
- Edna Coulter and Eric Christian ran a workshop on Membership and New Club Building.
- Jeff Barnhart ran a workshop on the new Professional Development Program for Optimists. This program provides members with the opportunity to build skills that will help them develop professionally.

Summer Band Workshop

There is still time for Optimist Club members to attend the celebration concert of the Calgary Regional Summer Band Workshop. Our own, Nicole Haycock runs this week-long workshop for young Calgarians every year.

Our Club donates money to provide scholarships to many youngsters that would not otherwise be able to attend the workshop. .

The Concert will take place at 7:00 PM on Friday August 25 in the gymnasium of Centennial High School. You can get free tickets to the Concert simply by phoning Nicole at 403-936-6171.

Rivers Edge Park

The Optimist Park Society donated money to the Calgary YMCA to build a shelter at the Archery Area in Rivers Edge Park. At 1 PM on Wednesday, August 16 all Optimist Members are invited to visit the park and see the shelter.

Rivers Edge Park is located at the east end of 50th Avenue SW by Sandy Beach. Contact Lyle Bennett, 403-257-1073, if you want to see the shelter.

Up Coming Dates

Aug 16: Tour Optimist Shelter at Rivers Edge Park
Aug 19-20: Club Casino Days at Deerfoot Casino
Aug 25: Summer Band Workshop Concert
Sep 11: Park Society AGM & Club Dinner Meeting
Sept 18: OCC New Board Meeting
Sept 23: CANADA 150 - *Day in the Park*
Sept 25: Club Board Meeting
Oct 2: Club Dinner Meeting
Oct 20-21: District Meeting in Lloydminster

Thank You Letters

We recently received the following thank you letters from our Club & District Essay Contest winners this year and last year:



Alexis Kelly

I am writing this message as a formal thank you for my experience participating in the Optimist Club Essay Contest this year. From the beginning of the contest until now I've had a great experience. I appreciate the kindness I've experienced

from every Optimist member I got the opportunity to meet.

Thank you so much for choosing me as the winner of the District level contest. The scholarship will be helpful in obvious ways, such as allowing me to pursue post-secondary education with a bit more ease. I am excited to start this education in the fall on my way to hopefully eventually come out with a Masters in Library and Information Science in a few years.

The experience during this contest has also been able to help me personally. After I had worked hard on the essay, I found myself being almost unable to make the deadline. Being so close to not being able to enter has brought me to the realization how important it is to communicate with people, and the importance of not giving up. By communicating with the runner of the contest I was able to get my essay in, and be able to enter and it paid off. I could have easily given up, and just not handed in the essay and let the opportunity drop.

As well, I really enjoyed learning the core of the Optimist Club. As someone who has previously been a self-proclaimed pessimist I found it so interesting to learn about your club. I enjoy its positive energy and loved opening myself to being more optimistic. The essay topic allowed me to explore optimism in a way which was realistic as opposed to a fantasy optimism and helped me better understand it, as when I was younger I swore optimism was only fantasy.

In short, thank you so much for being a club full of positivity, kindness, and humor (I especially enjoyed the joke of the month aspect of the Calgary club meeting). Thank you for running this contest, and giving back to young people and allowing them financial assistance in the achievement of their vision, and as well, being a way to expose people to more optimism in their lives. I love the concept of the club.

Sincerely,
Alexis



Rachel Hughes

My name is Rachel and I will be entering both the Haskayne School of Business and the Faculty of Arts at the University of Calgary to pursue a combined Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Arts in International

Relations degree in fall 2017.

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for being selected as the winner of the 2016 Optimist Essay Contest and for being awarded the prestigious Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Scholarship.

My academic and extracurricular pursuits have instilled in me a passion for learning and giving back to my community. In addition to receiving numerous academic accolades throughout high school, I have eagerly become involved with many projects that collectively raised over \$100,000 for organizations including Free the Children, the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, The Children's Cottage Society, and the Terry Fox Foundation. I also volunteer at the Calgary Public Library and the Calgary Food Bank. Serving on the Advisory Board of Canada Thinks, being Vice-President of the Legacy Project, and founding the Literacy Empowers Foundation, demonstrated the power of social entrepreneurship and became the catalysts for my interest in using business to promote positive change.

I developed an interest in diplomacy through my involvement in Model United Nations, which included serving as the Secretary General for my school's team. I was recently invited to represent Canada at the United Nations Youth Assembly and look forward to enriching my understanding about international institutions and governance at the University of Calgary.

I have also taken on mentorship roles within my school's Debate and Mock Trial Clubs and, ultimately, plan to pursue a career in law. Owing to your generous support, I am one step closer to achieving that goal.

By awarding me this scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which will enable me to focus on my studies, entrepreneurship, and community service. Thank you again for your investment in my pursuits.

Sincerely, Rachel