



**OPTIMIST CLUB
OF AURORA INC.**

Opti Prime

Quarterly
November 2024
Volume 13



President's Message



Welcome to the new Optimist Year 2024/2025.

I am looking forward to taking over the role as President and leading our team into another successful year.

We have been busy wrapping up the 2023/2024 year with several events.

Our mobile kitchen has been very busy around Aurora - this year we had our Mobile Kitchen out at 21 events, I'm not sure if that is a record, but it really is a great achievement for the Optimist Club. Well done to all of our members who have contributed their time to volunteering at our events. They really are greatly appreciated by our community, not to mention they help us make money that we can put back into the community in so many ways. Since September we have brought the Mobile Kitchen to three schools, Aurora's Welcoming Arms, an event at Aurora Town Square to thank the contractors,

and the Town of Aurora fall clean up day. Our last event for the year is the Spooktacular "Haunted Forest at Shepherd's Bush". This is always a very busy and fun event for all involved with the crew dressing up in some scary costumes.

We are also supporting the Aurora Food Pantry, by donating any left-over food products from our Mobile Kitchen events.

On October 7th the Town of Aurora had the official opening of John Abel Park, which some of our members attended. John was a member of the Aurora Optimist Club for several years and a Town Councillor/Deputy Mayor. He gave so much to the Town and our club and he is greatly missed by all that knew him. The Park is a great tribute to his legacy.

Our Club hosted a great fundraising event at the brand-new Aurora Town Square on October 20th. Heather Bambrick performed with her band and told some interesting tales. There was a great turn out, everyone really enjoyed the evening. We also took advantage of the evening to launch our

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popular big Christmas fundraiser, "Christmas Fruit Cakes". We have several events coming up in November, where we will be selling the cakes and they will also be available at Barron's, Omars and Kitchen Accents, get your orders in as they go fast. Thanks to Vern, Brian and Stu.

On November 3rd, we will be hosting the first Zone Breakfast of the year, we hope to see you there for some interesting presentations. On November 7th I will be presenting a cheque to Connor Campbell, a Future Hall of Famer at the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Induction Evening. November 10th we will be laying a wreath at the Cenotaph, all members are invited to attend. Our first dinner meeting is coming up with Maggie's team preparing a night of fun and fellowship.

As the fall approaches, we begin to look forward to the holiday season and Santa coming to town, Saturday night November the 23rd, make a note in your calendar. Keep your fingers crossed, I heard an Elf say the snow has been ordered. The Parade committee was so excited to get the

plans prepared for the Optimist Christmas Parade float, I think they met back in August to get a head start. All that needs to be done now is build the float and string the lights. Our Parade marshaling volunteers are all good to go, they will make sure that Santa doesn't lose his way from the North Pole and straight down Yonge Street.

Our annual Holiday dinner is coming up in December, this year we will be supporting the Regional Poverty Portfolio of the Community Education Centre North (the YRDSB and YCDSB). They are looking for backpacks suitable for High School students (around 30 litre size) and gift cards from Staples, Walmart and Dollar Store, up to and including \$25.

Also, congratulations to our very own long time club member Roby Gaby who has been appointed the Lieutenant Governor of our zone for this year.

Thank you to all our members for your contributions to our club, enjoy the fall season

Deb Finniear

Optimist Member News

Volunteer Awards, Sept 4



Councillor Wendy Gaertner was our guest at the Sept 4th Business Meeting and presented certificates to members for 10 and 15 years of service. They include Brian North (10years) and Bill Hack (15 years).

Stewart McLaren and Rose Fulop, who were not able to attend this evening, also received 10-year certificates, and will be presented at a later date.

Senior Active Living Fair, Sept 7



Once again, the Club was asked to BBQ at the Senior Active Living Fair. It was a very busy event with over 50 exhibitors.

Optimist Member News

Aurora Heights, Devins Drive and Hartman Schools



The Mobile Kitchen was very busy at the schools this fall. We served 421 food items and 277 drinks at Aurora Heights. The feedback from the school was very positive, they said we were quick and efficient. Next was Devins Drive where we basically cooked in the rain for an hour, so thanks to Terry, Rob and Jack...they never missed a beat. We sold 260 food units and 196 drinks. Great feedback from the Principal, with lots of smiles from the parents and kids. Last up was Hartman, and at final count the team served 226 food items and 210 drinks! The team did a great job of cooking, wrapping, managing presale orders and walk-ups. Special thanks to Maggie for organizing and coordinating the volunteers for all the Mobile Kitchen events!

Optimist Member News

President's Night, Sept 26

President's Night was well attended as we paid tribute to Georgia, and welcomed in our new President Deb Finnear. We had 37 members take part including new Lt. Gov. Rob Gaby and Gov. Bonnie Scheer-Porteous. Our own Bonnie Robertson was voted "Optimist of The Year", and Sandra accepted her Optimist Lifetime Membership plaque.



Optimist Member News



Optimist Member News



Sept 27/28 Welcoming Arms and Clean-Up Day



On Friday, the Club worked the Welcoming Arms event and served 44 food items. Thank you to the volunteers that did double shifts. And the next day was Aurora Clean-Up Day at Machell Park where we served 48 food items. Neither event was very busy but it was great exposure and good community service.



Aurora Town Square – Hospitality Team



The Town of Aurora reached out to all service clubs to act as “Hospitality Teams” during the 3 week opening ceremonies held at the ATS. We had many volunteers sign up to help at the premier of The Rug, and the Bob Marley Tribute. The Rug is a short horror movie shot at Hillary House that featured our own Anthony Garramone and Diane Buchanan!

Optimist Member News

Oct 20 - Jazz Night

The Jazz Night with Heather Bambrick was a great success! She was funny, charming and the music was top-notch. A quartet from Dr. G.W. Williams played during the 1-hour pre-performance and they were impressive. We also kicked off our Fruit Cake Campaign and sold 10 cakes. Special thanks to Greg Way for organizing this event, and dealing with the Aurora Town Square on the numerous issues.



Optimist Member News



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Oct 26 Haunted Forest



The Haunted Forest event was well attended and the kids all had a good time getting scared. We served 240 food items, and 138 drinks! The new BBQ worked out great as we got lots of burgers cooked at once. The other BBQ's were dedicated to hot dogs, sausages, veggie and Halal burgers. The kids all enjoyed our team's costumes.



Optimist Member News



Current Board of Directors

President	Deb Finniear
Secretary	Sandra Watson
Treasurer	Carol Bartlett
Past President	Georgia Pottage
President Elect	Stu Bundy
Vice President	Sandy Bundy
Vice President	Glen Sharp
Sargeant at Arms	Terry Sherin
Directors	Paul Martin
	Greg Grant
	Robin Taylor Smith
	Maggie Thornton
	Jean Rodger

Our 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.



**OPTIMIST CLUB
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