



**OPTIMIST CLUB
OF AURORA INC**

Opti Prime

Quarterly
April 2021
Volume 2



Presidents Message



Spring has sprung and we are rolling up our sleeves.....to get the job!

A job might not sound like something you might want to get, but for most people they are lining up in all sorts of weather, in long lines and welcoming the "the job".

So, with a job in our arm and a spring in our step we hope we are on our way to the hug at the end of the tunnel!

As Optimists we continue to be optimistic that we will soon be able to bring out our mobile kitchen, fire up the BBQs and serve up our renowned burgers, hotdogs and sausages while raising funds to support our many projects that serve our youth and community.

It feels good to know that we are able to help out with donations to Rose of Sharon, Southlake Hospital, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Welcoming Arms, The Food Pantry, Healthy School Snacks and multiple student scholarships to name a few.

On another positive note, we have just elected our new Board of Directors for 2021-2022. We have a wonderful diverse group of members that bring their talents and dedication to the table. When times get tough...the Optimists get going! Thank you to everyone that was involved in the process.

Thank you to all those that have made what we do possible. Thank you for looking out for our community and each other.

Stay safe and say well!

Yours in Optimism,
Sandy Bundy

Optimism In Our Community

Southlake Run



The 2021 Run for Southlake is not taking place in its regular form again this year. Instead they are asking participants to raise money by getting sponsored for doing personal challenges.

Between the dates of April 12 to May 9 everyone has a chance to set a goal (walk my dog 25km for \$25, as example, and get as many people as possible to sponsor that one goal). Active people can run, walk,

bike, hoola-hoop or belly dance, it really doesn't matter as long as we raise funds and awareness for our local hospital during these difficult times.

Anyone who donates will have their name entered to win a weekly prize. Thanks to our prize donors: Hockley Valley Brewing Co. and The Partnership Network.

The committee (Rob Gaby, Deb Finniear) had an initial goal of raising \$800.00. The team has not only exceeded this goal but are close to tripling that amount. Congratulations and thank you to all who have donated.

Optimism In Our Community

Move For Kids Sake – Big Brothers Big Sisters York



In response to COVID-19, Big Brothers Big Sisters York has creatively transitioned their signature Bowl for Kids Sake event to a virtual fundraiser. Participants challenged themselves (and each other) to be active and in doing so raise pledges in support of young people in York Region and Bradford. . Our dedicated members **Sandy Bundy** and **Sandra Watson** participated!

Our Club was also proud to sponsor this event with a donation of \$500. These funds will be used in supporting mental health for the youth in our community.

Helping Local Students

The Aurora Optimist Club is very proud and excited to help the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Our member **Greg Way** participated in a virtual luncheon and brought us lots of valuable information about this wonderful group.

The CFUW offers scholarships to promising students who have been in foster care. The CFUW works along with the Children's Aid Society. These kids do not necessarily have the same options as a lot of kids when it comes to their post secondary school education, yet they deserve as much chance as anyone else.

Our club will be donating \$500.00 to each individual, up to five students. The CFUW will select the students.

FREEZE!!!

....Is just what we have had to do with our "Fill the Freezer" campaign.

Working together with Joe & Val's No Frills and the Aurora Food Pantry we had a big fundraiser in the

works! The Mayor was booked to kick off the month's activities in May. Our goal, to raise money to fill the new (and first) walk-in freezer at our local food pantry.

Although the latest lock down has left us *out in the cold* by no means are we going to cancel this fundraiser. It has just been postponed until it is safe to continue.



So, if you feel a cool draft, it will just be us picking up speed again.

Stay tuned!

Many thanks our Big Chill Committee, Sandy Bundy, Rob Gaby, Georgia Pottage, Ruth Sharp, Sandra Watson and Sheila Beck.

GOOD EATS!

Most of our revenue is generated by our mobile kitchen. As we all know we haven't been able to get out in the community for the past year so we've had to be inventive and think of ways to raise funds so we can still help the kids.

Check this out.....

We have partnered with 20 different local restaurants in creating a coupon book that will be sold for \$20 with a value of over \$250.00. Our friends at Barron's Warehouse, Aurora Kitchen Accents and Royal LePage will have books available for sale as well as all of our members. We are determined to sell 400 books!

The benefit to the restaurants is great. It does not cost them anything to have a coupon in the book, but they will offer the guests various incentives for either dine-in or take-out in their establishment. It's a good opportunity for them to see up to 400 new groups of customers, create repeat customers and of course increase their revenue.

Many of the coupons can be used for either dine-in or

take-out and we encourage anyone who has purchased a book to start using it.

Many thanks to **Georgia Pottage** for her artistic skills in creating the coupon and flyer. Other hard working members of this team are **Greg Way, Susan Pratt, Rosalyn Gonsalves, Stu Bundy, Rob Gaby, Sheila Beck, Brian Walsh, Ken McIsaac** and **Terry Sherin**.

The Kids Are NOT Alright!

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) runs MOBYSS, a bus they use to navigate through the area assisting kids. It is crisis intervention on wheels. They are providing a nurse, social worker and counsellor on board as well as snacks and basic supplies.



The CMHA states in their letter, *“Traditionally, MOBYSS provides immediate access for over 2,000 youth annually to mental and physical health care by travelling directly to schools, community centres and shelters throughout York Region and South Simcoe.”*

This pandemic has been difficult on the younger age groups, most particularly kids that are in a vulnerable position at home. They have had to face worries that were unheard of when we were that age. They've been isolated from their friends and quite often from school where they rely on their teachers for guidance and support.

Sadly, the bus can't operate due to COVID-19 restrictions so they have been reaching out to the kids via several social media platforms and offer online care as much as possible.

The CMHA has asked for our help in paying for the online counselling. We are very pleased to assist and will send them a cheque for \$2,000. We look forward to this continued effort with them as the youth in our community will grow up to be the volunteers and leaders of tomorrow.

Healthy School Snack Program

Glen Sharp continues to spearhead the communication with the schools. He has learned that this program is needed now more than ever. Many families have fallen on tough times and having extra money for healthy school snacks is not always an option. Armed with this new information we have decided to increase the amount we donate to \$1,300.00 to each of the four schools involved. Next year we really hope to be able to reach out to more schools and help more kids!



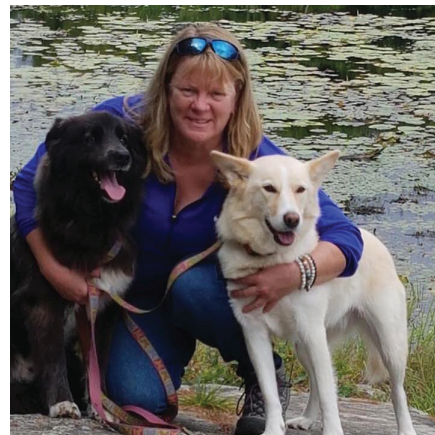
Social Media is Where It's At!



Our President Elect **Sandra Watson** has been working diligently on expanding our presence on social media. We are building an impressive following on Facebook and Instagram and are thrilled to have this outlet to reach more people in the community. It helps bring awareness to what we do as an organization as well

as showing people how rewarding it is to be a member.

Sandra along with **Georgia Pottage** and **Rob Bartlett (Carol Bartlett's son)** are working on a new website that will be launched soon. We are excited to see what this creative team has come up with!



POW WOW...WOW!

The 37th Annual Central Ontario District Convention is holding a Pow Wow in Newmarket August 27-29, 2021.

We are being courageously OPTIMISTIC that this event will still happen!



The purpose of the event is to learn about the fellowship of the Optimist organization, take part in festivities, continue to learn about the various programs of Optimist International, participate in development seminars, attend our 4th quarter meeting and General Assembly to see who the next Governor Elect will be.

This convention is open for partners/spouses of members as well.

For more information go to:
cenon.org/20201Convention

Spring Has Sprung

We've had an absolutely lovely, early spring this year. As we fling open the windows and air out the winter blues let's remember that April is Volunteer Appreciation Month.

Why Volunteer? Good question....

1. Volunteering connects you to others.
2. Volunteering is good for your mind and body.
3. Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life.
4. It improves your neighbourhood.
5. It's a rewarding experience.

There are dozens of great reasons why we should volunteer but the best reason is, you get far more out of it than you could ever imagine.

Think about the community you live in, the hospital you visit on occasion, the events the town puts on, etc. The wonderful things we get to enjoy in our town would come to a grinding halt if there were no volunteers; they are everywhere and quietly go about their work asking for nothing in return. It feels great to sit back at the end of an event and know you had a small part in helping a family have a great day.

So let's continue our wonderful, positive work and hope others see how much fun it is and consider joining us!

Optimist Member News

New Member Alerts!



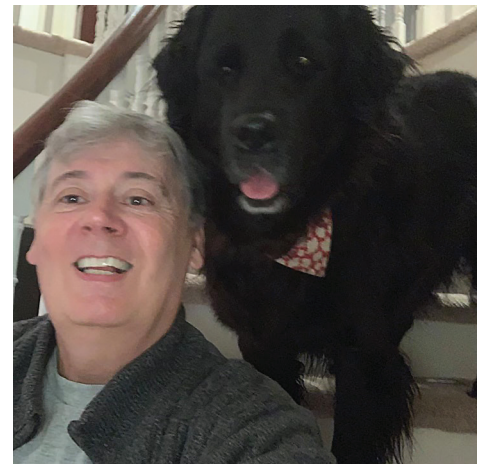
Ruth

We are very happy to welcome our new member, and long time supporter Ruth Sharp. After attending events and participating for many years with her husband Glen, Ruth has decided to jump in with both feet and offer her time generously to us.

Thank-you Ruth! We all look forward to working with you.

Anthony Garramone has sponsored another new member, Eric McCartney.

Eric brings with him *many* years of volunteer experience and service. He is currently assisting St. Johns Ambulance with the vaccine rollout. We are fortunate to have Eric join our club!



Eric

Thank You!

We would like to extend a huge thank-you to:

Aurora Kitchen Accents, Barrons Warehouse and **Royal LePage** for their support of the Restaurant Coupon Books.

And...when it is safe to meet in person, we thank the following organizations.

The Aurora Legion for allowing us to use their facilities for our monthly Business Meeting.

The Aurora Soccer Club for giving us the space to hold our monthly dinner meetings.

Special thanks again to **Georgia Pottage**. Georgia is a graphic designer and member of the Aurora Optimist Club. She has donated a lot of time and talent towards the restaurant coupon book, our 35th Anniversary logo and the new website. We can't thank Georgia enough for her amazing work!

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in the **Fundraising Committee** or have a great idea? Contact Board members Susan Pratt

Have a news story or pictures for the **Opti Prime Newsletter** Contact Board member and Opti Prime Editor Kim Robertson
Newsletter Designer Brenda Snape

Business Meetings:
First Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm on Zoom

Business and Social Dinner Meetings:
3rd Wednesday of the month are on hold

Board Meetings:
Last Wednesday of the month 7:00pm on Zoom

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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