

CENON – May 2024 Zone Reports

Zone 1

Welland Optimist

We sponsored our 3rd Annual Family Day Skate Program. We provided the 4 hours of Ice time and served hotdogs, French Fries and a drink to over 200 families.

At the Second Quarter CENON meeting our Club received a Distinguished Club Award in Zone One! Governor Ralph Brunton presented past Lt. Governor Sue Brown and current Welland Optimist with a certificate of Appreciation for her tenure as Lt. Governor for 2023 – 2024.

The club has worked hard to continue its partnership with many agencies throughout the Welland and Pelham area through the hard work and dedication of our members working bingos. The funds raised have gone to organizations such as the Niagara Sexual assault Centre, The Welland Minor Baseball Association, and The Hope Centre to name a few.

This past weekend the Welland Optimist Club sponsored the Annual Junior Bonspiel at the Welland Curling Club. Over 50 children aged 6-16 were able to celebrate their year with a couple games, food and prizes.

As we move into the spring, we are looking to continue with our sponsorships of several summer camps that range in variety from city day camps to special needs and arts and culture camps. These are always great opportunities for the youth of Welland and beyond for once in a lifetime opportunities.

Port Colborne

The first quarter of 2024 our club spends a lot of time planning for our upcoming events. (Fishing Derby, Canada Day and Canal Days Craft Show, Respect for Law, Youth Appreciation) Regular business meetings were held with the swearing in of one new member to the club. In December we did a donation to the PC library in memory of Optimist members who have passed.

- Approached by a local family to support a child who was in need of a specialized feeding chair. \$250 was donated
- Grant application was submitted to the City of Port Colborne to support the fishing derby and Canada Day
- Identified our Respect for Law recipient that will be held on April 24th
- Identified our Youth Appreciation recipients through our local high schools
- A new Committee began working to resurrect the Duck Race at Canal Days (raffle – tickets sold for individual ducks that are dropped in the canal. First 3 to the finish line wins \$\$). This event was previously put on by the Conservation Group.
- Four members from the club visited Dunnville Optimist Club to watch their oratorical contest to gain interest and information on how they are completing this activity
- Five schools were given \$500 each toward their breakfast program. The club will give the remaining 5 schools the same donation in 2025
- Habitat Humanity did a presentation for the group to discuss opportunities to participate in the build being completed in the fall of 2024 in Port Colborne.
- Registered a junior golfer for the Optimist Golf tournament

Grantham

Moving along with a membership currently at 40 members. We also have some potential members waiting to join. On a sad note, our last charter Member Optimist Ron French passed away after a lengthy illness.

The major initiative that we started this year has been an outstanding success. We partnered with a lunch program called Community Crew, who are now using our facility to distribute almost 5000 meals a week to elementary students across Niagara. Currently they distribute meals to 32 Public and Catholic schools. We are extremely happy that we were able to help feed disadvantaged young people in our community.

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This is our busiest time of the year as our softball program is getting underway. We have a large number of children already registered and we expect to surpass our numbers from last year, which were 550 young people playing softball. The requirement to run this program and get our playing fields in shape demands a huge effort from our members.

To support our efforts, we are also actively fundraising. Our Spring Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, April 20th. We also are continuing our partnership with Delta Bingo which has been very effective. Cobs Bread have also continued to help us with our fundraising.

The club itself has been working through the process of complying with the Provincial not for Profit Act requirements and we're well on our way to accomplishing that.

Our nomination meeting is on April 10, and our elections will be held on April 24.

Fort Erie

February and Mar Tween Dance continues to be a success. Attendance is still good. The children have such a good time.

Breakfast with the Easter bunny Mar 30 was a successful event. Served 70 people.

Upcoming Inside / Outside craft show on May 25. All tables sold out.

The new windows are now installed. What an improvement.

Two new members to attend our May meeting.

Zone 2

Ancaster- +3

Induction of three new members

Two students sponsored for COLs.

New website developed

Worked with Autism Dog Services for Easter Egg Hunt

Classic car cruise night starting in May.

Battlefield +1

Rewritten Bylaws and Policies and Procedures

Confirmed executive for the upcoming year.

Sponsoring 4 students to Cols.

Provided a pancake and sausage breakfast at the Christ Church Woodburn

Provided monetary support for the op robotics club.

Contributed to the Alzheimer's association

Dunnville +3

Elections have been completed

Home and Garden Show in Dunnville with the Lions club. Apr 19-20

Designer Bingo April 27th.

JOI information night April 29th. (Connecting to schools and youth Impact)

Helped Dunnville Hospital, Healthcare decorating smile cookies. May 3rd Sent 2 to the

Oratorical contest May 4th

Working with the Chamber of commerce at the Mudcat Festival June 8th

Canada Day in the Park event with the Lions, Legion and Rotary. July 1st Set a date for

C.A.R.E. program Aug 26th

Website being space spruced up.

Working in partnerships with other Dunnville clubs *Partners In Action*.

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Helping Rotary with their *safe space Youth dance*.

Haldimand 0

Seeking out philanthropists

Hamilton inc -1

Bylaws done Website done

Sending 1 student to COLs.

Easter Egg Hunt
with Gourley Park Association 900 children attended, BBQ, face painting, outdoor games,
petting zoo and fun Essay contest Oratorical contest

Youth Appreciation 4 students for exceptional community work

Support Hamilton Soccer

police Station Rymal Rd

New location -
100th planning weekly

Hamilton east +1

\$1,000 of donations given to the school in form of gift cards (principal will
hand out to families for food for children). Gave \$1,200 to local high

schools for students that showed an optimistic attitude (picked by the teachers).

Giving donations to the air cadets and the local girl guides.

Stoney Creek +2

Annual Snow Golf Tournament, (a successful even without snow),

Inaugural Soup Fest

Induction of 3 new members

March - had annual Chili Fest and our Easter Egg hunt with Stipleys Lions

Initiated our new website (thanks to Vicki Mains)

Sponsored 1 contestant for the District Essay competition.

April – election of the 2024-2025 Board of Directors.

May, inducting 3 members

Sponsoring 3

students for the COLs

In June we will be participating with a food booth at the Battlefield
Battlefield Park.

Re-Enactment at

Reached out with financial assistance to 12 community organizations

Zone 3

Optimist Club of Burlington

Currently 21 members – Club added 4 new members since last report!

4 members plus some JOI members will be attending the 3rd Quarter conference

JOI – currently 23 members

Events:

- Monthly Euchre nights – every 3rd Friday from Sept – June.
- Essay and oratorical contests completed
- Youth Appreciation May 21st with 7 students submitted
- JOI members heading to St. Louis Convention
- Easter egg hunt free community event was in March hosted by Adult and JOI clubs
- Community event BBQ for Hayden SS 10th anniversary and HCDB Track and Field with Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills clubs
- Thrilled to have the AWE-SUM club reinstated – big thank you to clubs who have helped us in the support and sustainability of this club!!
- Supporting 4 students at COLS conference

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Every event we have is our opportunity to let the audience know about our Club and what we do to support our youth in the community. Our JOI club assists in our community events and we support their activities and fundraisers.

Every member has a voice during our monthly meetings, engaging in great conversation and we try collectively to ensure all are heard

Puslinch

We have a full schedule of meetings each month, Board of Directors, Dinner meeting and general meeting.

We are getting a consistently, high level of attendance, with good participation from all members.

Sponsored several students to attend empowerment Day in Guelph. Great day for everyone.

Have added 4 new members.

Started an Optimist buddy program where each new member gets paired with an older member.

Held our oratorical competition. Attended Zone meeting and Oratorical competition and assisted with the Zone oratorical.

Oakville

Held a very successful Oratorical competition.

Hosted the 3rd Quarter Zone meeting and Oratorical competition with 8 speakers.

Completed Essay competition.

Delta Bingo continues to be a good fund raiser.

Sponsored a golf Tournament for young people with disabilities.

Sponsored and cooked for challenger Baseball Tour.

Joi Club ran an easter egg hunt at safety village.

Strabane

is holding a full schedule of monthly meetings.

Preparing for their busy summer schedule of events and fundraisers.

Held essay competition. No Oratorical.

Etobicoke

Etobicoke did a great job once again on the Oratorical competition. They are the only club holding an oratorical competition in Toronto so it is extremely busy time for them.

Carlisle

is holding all of their Regular meetings. They are back in their hall.

They have their largest fundraiser coming up in June. Their Duck Dash. They are planning to combine the duck Dash with the 100 year celebration of Optimism on June 22.

They also have a Bike Safety Rodeo in June.

They are supporting The Flamborough Food bank.

Milton

They are holding all their regular monthly meetings.

Most of their fundraising is done through Hall and TV Bingos.

They have started what they call a Dream Kitchen where they are taking in 5 Down Syndrome adults and are teaching them basic kitchen skills like cutting of veggies and fruits that they will be able to use in their homes.

They are involved with Lighthouse which is a home for grieving kids.

Zone 5

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Aurora, Keswick and Newmarket all held chess tournaments with the numbers close to pre covid or greater/ Zone 5 held a zone oratorical contest at our last zone meeting hosted by Aurora, both winners were sponsored by the Newmarket Club

Aurora sponsored the BRAVE event which is geared towards young girls 12-16 who are at risk of human trafficking. It gives them a boost of confidence and self esteem and inspires them to be brave. - Snivaro Man!

Their mobile kitchen is getting busy as usual.

They had a progressive dinner, if you sign up you get an envelope with an address you go there for appetizers but do not know which club members you will be with, You then get another envelope where you go to and have dinner. The last envelope gives you an address where you go for deserts/Great intra club event.

Keswick sponsored a free skate over the March break.

Their Easter Egg hunt surpassed all the other years with between 600 and 700 kids.

They are making regular contributions to the community fridge.

Junior Club is very active and doing great

They have a junior golf tournament on May 25 at Orchard Beach Golf Club

Their 75th Anniversary is June 8th from 11-3, opening ceremony, bed races, kids zone, artisan show, bba, youth appreciation and more

Newmarket Easter Bunny photo -families register and then over the Saturday and Sunday the bunny goes at an appointed time and pictures are taken with the bunny and they receive loot bags

They are busy supporting youth play group, gymnastics, high school robotics softball, baseball sea cadets, skating competition, and playground enhancements at a public school

As of Thursday all 3 clubs have added members

The Pride club has finally got their name changed at OI and have their executive in place

Richmond Hill has been somewhat dormant but I did receive an e mail telling me they are planning on some events in the future

PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ROB GABY FROM AURORA WILL BE THE L.G. FOR ZONE 5 NEXT YEAR

Zone 6

No written report submitted

Zone 8

No report submitted

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Zone 10

Zone 10 held their 3rd Quarter Zone meeting in Lancaster on April 14, 2024, with 19 members present with 5 clubs represented.

4th Quarter Zone meeting will be in Nepean date to be determined.

Arnprior Women's Club is very active in their community however they do not attend Zone or District meetings. They completed their leadership training, bylaws, and elections.

Arnprior Men's Club is very active in their community however they do not attend Zone or District meetings. They completed their leadership training, bylaws, and elections.

Nepean Cub financially supports Junior Golf, Miracle League Baseball, and the Oratorical contest. They completed their leadership training, bylaws and elections.

Cornwall Club again is very busy inducted 3 new members. They completed their leadership training, bylaws, and elections. They ran an oratorical contest with 3 contestants with 1 competing in Barrie. 5 members to be recognized for volunteer service.

Rib Fest plans are underway. Working on a new club in Long Sault.

The Forest Park Club is very active in their community and faithfully attend zone and district meetings. They have completed their leadership training, bylaws, and elections.

Bike Rodeo June 8 and Mini golf July 27.

Lancaster Club is very active in their community. They hosted our Zone meeting. They completed their leadership training, bylaws, and elections. They serviced 200 kids with their Egg Hunt. They ran their first Dinner Action with great success. Bike Rodeo May 10th and 17*, community appreciation Night June 7* in Williamstown. They are prepping for Canada Day Events.

Seaway Club are the newest club in our zone and are active in their community with lots of events planned for this summer. They completed their leadership training, bylaws, and elections. They are running a book program for the Centennial project. Their Charter party is scheduled for May 18. They have been asked to attend a town council meeting May 6 and they have a table at a parent reaching out information event at the local high school May 07*. Once their charter party is finished, they will be starting the JOI club.

Spencerville Club - Very active club in their community with several events planned during the next two months. They have completed their leadership training, bylaws, and elections. Their dinner auction is scheduled for May 11. We are running several centennial projects, a canoe poker run, serving a spaghetti dinner to all students and stall at Centennial 67 Public School and we run a basketball clinic every Wednesday. We have broken ground on our recreational pad.