



WELCOME TO 2026/2027 OPTIMIST YEAR

From the Desk of the Governor

Dear Central Ontario Optimists,

As we open the 2026–2027 Optimist year, we celebrate the beginning of another turn in The Circle of Optimism. Each of you is an essential arc in that circle — offering mentorship, service, leadership, and hope that continues to flow from member to member, club to club, and community to community.

Before we look ahead, we pause to express our sincere appreciation to Governor Larry and his administration. Their dedication, stability, and commitment to strengthening our District have created a foundation on which we now build. Governor Larry's leadership has guided us through meaningful accomplishments, renewed connections, and a year defined by service. We thank him, and every member of his team, for their steadfast work and their optimism in action.

As we begin this new year together, our focus turns to growth, engagement, and empowerment. My goals for the 2026–2027 year are clear:

- **Strengthen club vitality** through support, training, and collaboration.
- **Expand youth impact** by elevating JOI engagement and encouraging new youth-centered initiatives.
- **Enhance District unity** by fostering communication, shared purpose, and opportunities for clubs to learn from one another.
- **Celebrate Optimist identity** through consistent branding, recognition, and the spirit of The Circle of Optimism.

This year, let us strengthen our connections, welcome new voices, and expand the reach of Optimism across our District. May the circle grow through your dedication, your compassion, and your belief in the Optimist Creed.

Welcome to a new year in the Circle of Optimism.

Christine Smith

Governor, Central Ontario District Optimists



1st Quarter District Conference

November 6 & 7 - Quality Inn Kingston

Thursday October 22nd: Executive Meeting 7pm via zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81348707576>

Meeting ID: 813 4870 7576

Friday November 6th: Hospitality

Saturday November 7th: Workshops, Board meeting and JOI sessions

Registration: <https://forms.gle/WjJaYT8aR5MMv5o5A>

Early Bird Registration until October 25th at 6pm

Hotel Reservations: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/GL93F6>

Booking Phone: 613-546-3661 Ext. 0. Mention "Central Ontario Optimist Club"

JOI Registration can be completed on the same form. JOI Sessions Saturday!

Good News and Reminders!!

- Optimist Institute training - all club officer's and district chair's to complete by October 31st!
- COLS - Consider Sponsoring students for the Central Ontario Leadership Seminars. See letter from Stephen Galbraith attached to your email
- Don't forget about the new Club Health Awards Program (C.H.A.P) - Make sure your club chooses which items they would like to work towards.
- Submit your club events to the cenon.org Local Events calendar
- Update your club Bylaws!!

2026 / 2027 District Team

Governor: Christine Smith

Governor-Elect: Alex Hilson

Immediate Past Governor: Larry Harper

Past Governor: Bonnie Sheer Edge

District Secretary: Linda Mitchinson

District Treasurer: Michelle Stokes

Lieutenant Governors:

Zone 1: Kim Eros

Zone 6: Barb and Gord Holly & Jean and George Clarke

Zone 2: TBD

Zone 8: TBD

Zone 3: Rob Hewlett

Zone 10: Tony Edge

Zone 5: Jennifer Carter

Zone 11: Alex Parthenais

Committee Chairs:

Finance Chair: Ralph Brunton

District Foundation Rep: Ted Simmonds

Membership Chair: Jennifer Carter

Growth Chair: Larry Harper

Conference Chair 1st Qtr: Bonnie Sheer-Edge

Conference Chair 2nd Qtr: Jane Morson

Conference Chair 3rd Qtr: TBD

Convention Chair: Kimmi Snyder

Leadership & Development: George Clarke

Club Services: TBD

Communications Chair: Tien Nguyen

Jr. Golf Chair: Greg Verner

JOI Chair: Anne Donkers

Hospitality Chairs: Kim and Chris Eros

Sgt at Arms: Ted Simmonds

Candidate Qualifications: Larry Harper

CCDHH Chair: Ted Simmonds

Historian: Brenda McDonald

Parliamentarian: Alex Ansell/Kim Eros

A&A Chair: Lauralee Reily