

Rain or Shine fishing derby ready to go

The Optimist Club of Stratford Trout Derby 2008, will be held Apr 26, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. between the Waterloo Street bridge and the Thomas Orr Dam, rain or shine.

Pre-registration is required for all participants on Friday, April 25 at the Optimist Hall from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Participants must be 16 years and under or 65 years and over.

The rules of the competition are: five fish per person limit, must use barbless hooks and lead-free sinkers, shore fishing only (no fishing from the bridge), all participants must be registered to win and I.D. is required to claim prizes.

Weigh-in will take place at the band shell, for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Prizes will

be awarded at 12-noon at the band shell. There is also a colouring contest for kids 4-9 years old. Pictures can be picked-up upon registration and the winners will be chosen by a draw. The Optimist Club asks that you please respect the properties of owners on William Street. Access to the river is not permitted through private property. Control the use of bicycles on the pathway. Signs will be placed on the rope barricade and at the east and west extremities of these properties, indicating that fishing is prohibited in those areas and that pedestrians are to stay on the pathway. Additionally, the City of Stratford and the Optimist Club will discourage congregation of individuals on the pathway behind these properties.

Hats off to Optimists for creating treasured family tradition

To the Editor:

Re Optimist Club fishing derby

Once again hats off to the Optimist Club for putting on a great fishing derby for the kids.

I have taken my son to this derby since he was four. He is now 10 and he is as excited about this event as he is on Christmas morning. He has me up for 5 a.m. and away we go. Just to watch and listen to all the kids catching fish, some for the first time, for others their first trout, it is just amazing.

It isn't long before the smell of hot dogs and sausages are in the air and of course there are draws and prizes for fishing poles and numerous other things (my son managed to win a fishing pole this year).

Kids spend a lot of time at home on computers and playing video games. This gives them a perfect opportunity to get out and find out how much fun fishing can really be.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank an elderly couple. My son thinks their names are Bonnie and Lee. They took a picture of my son last year with two trout, and low and behold if they didn't spy my son again this year and give him the picture they had held onto, in hopes they would run into him again this year.

We live in a great community and it is good to be a part of it.

I hope this fishing derby continues so my son can carry on this tradition and take his family there as well.

On behalf of my son and my entire family, we thank the Optimist Club, the City of Stratford and everyone that donates and helps to put this event on.

Steve and Jacob Paterson
Stratford

Get rods and reels ready for trout derby

BY BEACON HERALD STAFF

Rain or shine, the Optimist Club's annual Trout Derby goes Saturday at the Avon River, in the section between the William Hutt Bridge at Waterloo Street and the Thomas Orr Dam.

The tournament runs from 8 a.m. until noon and is open to participants 16 years and younger and 65 years and older.

Pre-registration is at the Optimist Hall Friday from 4-9 p.m.

The weigh-in station is at the bandshell, also derby headquarters.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three anglers.