

## About Optimist International

It's an association of more than 3,000 Optimist Clubs around the world dedicated to "Bringing Out the Best in Kids." Optimist Clubs conduct positive service projects in their communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. With their upbeat attitude, Optimist Club members help empower young people to be the best they can be. Each Optimist Club determines the needs of the young people in its community and conducts programs to meet those needs. Every year, Optimists conduct 65,000 service projects each year, spending \$78 million in their communities. Annually well over six million young people are positively affected by Optimist programs.

## Mission Statement

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in Kids.

## Vision Statement

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

## Purposes of Optimist International

To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; To inspire respect for the law; To promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

## Optimist Creed

### Promise Yourself ...

- To be to 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 be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are of 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 to large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist Club of Stratford  
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# Optimist Club of Stratford Inc.

Chartered 1937



# Friend of Youth

## *What is an Optimist Club?*

An Optimist Club is a group of volunteers in action for the youth in your community.

## *What does an Optimist Club do?*

An Optimist club does whatever needs to be done in the community. Each Club determines its own projects, programs, etc., based on input from its club members and the community.

The Optimist Club of Stratford has contributed \$655,000 in the past 12 years to minor sports and community projects.

## *Optimist Club of Stratford Projects:*

The Optimist Club of Stratford has supported the following programmes/teams:

- Battle of the Bands
- Big Brothers and Sisters
- Bike Day
- Childhood Cancer
- Chess Tournament
- City of Stratford—Floor Hockey
- Community Living
- Fall Fair
- Trout Derby
- Galbraith Camp for Kids

## **What will you get by joining an Optimist Club**

An opportunity.....

- To be involved with the youth in your community
- To make your community a better place to live
- To meet other civic minded adults sharing the same interests
- To improve your leadership skills
- To develop social contacts with others in your community.

## **Fees**

Annual dues for the club are \$87.00 per person (October 1st to September 30th). Any member joining at some point during the “Optimist year” pays a one time setup fee of \$19,00 and a prorated amount of \$7.25 per month remaining in the year.

## **Meetings**

The Optimist Club of Stratford meets at the following times during the month:

- 1st Thursday of the month—business meeting
- 2nd Thursday of the month—dinner meeting
- 3rd Thursday of the month—executive/business meeting
- 4th Thursday of the month—social evening

## **Fund Raising**

The Optimist Club of Stratford has the following major fund raisers:

- Bingo—every Tuesday night
- Car Show
- Golf Tournament
- Grocery Draw
- Pig Tail Stag

- Girl Guides
- HOBY
- House of Blessing
- Huron Perth Lakers AAA 93 Boys
- Instrument Lenders of Canada
- Kids on Deck
- McDonalds Minor Atoms
- Meals on Wheels
- Optimism Place
- Parade of Lights
- Santa Claus Parade
- Salvation Army
- Scouts
- St Johns Preschool
- St Johns Ambulance
- Stratford Minor Baseball
- Stratford Minor Girls Softball
- Stratford Minor Ringette
- Stratford Optimist Basketball Association
- Tennis Day
- Winterfest
- Youth Appreciation Week
- Youth Bowling

Major sponsorships have included:

- Stratford General Hospital \$50,000
- Children’s Hospital of Western Ontario Foundation \$10,000
- Optimism Place \$25,537
- Rec Centre \$60,000

