

# *THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF BRIGHT'S GROVE*

## *40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY*

### *SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER*



Est. JANUARY 28, 1982

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Hello Fellow Members of the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove...

As we move into the next phase of what has been a series of difficult living patterns that have, in one way or another, affected us all to some extent, there now seems to be some well-deserved respite coming our way. With ongoing discussions, there is hope that we will soon be released from the grasp of the COVID virus with its many variants. With the changes and reduction/removal of restrictions, more normalcy will be coming our way.

To assist our Club in adapting to a "new normal", members are using their many talents to review past programs/events and at the same time, searching for new ones that we can adopt and add to our inventory. It could not be timelier to explore new horizons with new energies than now, this year being the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove.

As a member of this wonderful organization, empowered by the enthusiasm of club members, you will be the recipient of watching, participating or both, in the excitement of preparing for one event after another. Part of the enjoyment of bringing an event to fruition, be it one from the past years or one recently introduced, is that working amongst your fellow Optimists allows for the renewal of past friendships or forming new ones. A great deal of pleasure is realized from working with your family of members of our Optimist Club of Bright's Grove.

I hope you will see this year as a time to help rebuild and redesign this Optimist Club of ours as we move forward, taking those past successes with us as we are introduced to the "new normal" and fearlessly look forward to what may be.

As we move in 2022 and the year of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove, I would like to acknowledge four of our clubs Founding Fathers and Life Members. These gentlemen are George Bice, Bob Showers, Al Hurst and Randy Beldom. These folks have assisted for many years in the successes of building and creating what is now our Optimist Club, and to this day continue to generously give of their time and talents.

I would like to conclude by thanking the membership for giving so much of their time ensuring that our projects and events are attended to and successful. Without your diligence, we would not be able to get the job done.

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

President John

P.S. Coming soon will be our first dinner meeting of 2022 at John's Restaurant. Stay tuned!



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2021/2022**



**JOHN VOLLMAR  
PRESIDENT**



**INGRID MCFARLANE  
SECRETARY**



**JOYCE DIETZ  
TREASURER**



**LOREN NEWMAN  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE**



**LARRY MCLAREN  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE**



**HEATHER GILLIS  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE**



**DEVY BROUWER  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE**



**LAIRD CLORAN  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE**



**FLORIAN NEUMANN  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE**



**MICHAEL FABA  
DIRECTOR AT LARGE**



## CLUB MEMBERS

Randy Beldom (January 28, 1982)

Allen Hurst (January 28, 1982)

Jack Passingham (December 01, 1987)

Roberta Bice (March 26, 1991)

John Vollmar (Sept. 29, 1992)

Mary DeSwert (April 09, 2006)

Liz Marr (March 22, 2010)

Sharon Crowe (July 07, 2010)

Bryan Rogers (May 15, 2012)

Jeff Elliott (October 06, 2014)

Doug Leighton (November 14, 2014)

Aaron Robb (May 19, 2015)

Barb Postil (October 06, 2015)

Darrin Elliott (October 14, 2016)

Laird Cloran (November 19, 2016)

Shannon Galarneau (December 07, 2016)

Steve Dickson (April 05, 2017)

Ingrid McFarlane (March 10, 2018)

John Blakely (June 06, 2019)

Joyce Dietz (February 07, 2020)

George Bice (January 28, 1982)

Robert Showers (January 28, 1982)

Loren Newman (October 01, 1988)

Larry McLaren (September 06, 1991)

Judy Passingham (September 30, 1993)

Kathie Newman (October 23, 2008)

Jean-Pierre Menard (March 22, 2010)

Heather Gillis (September 11, 2011)

Norm Laker (October 03, 2012)

Devy Brouwer (November 04, 2014)

Ben Turner (May 19, 2015)

Arlene Howard (October 06, 2015)

Victoria Beatson (February 19, 2016)

Kelley Elliott (October 14, 2016)

Bob Galarneau (December 07, 2016)

Florian Neumann (January 17, 2017)

Monique Neumann (February 08, 2018)

Michael Faba (April 27, 2018)

Taryn Ployart (October 29, 2019)



## *AND SO IT BEGAN.....*

On January 28, 1982, The Optimist Club of Bright's Grove was born. What began as an idea by our founders has blossomed into the club we are today.

Dave Nesbitt and Donny Hayward were approached by a member of the Huron Shores Optimist Club aka Plympton Twp., to start a chapter in Bright's Grove. The seed was planted, and the process began.

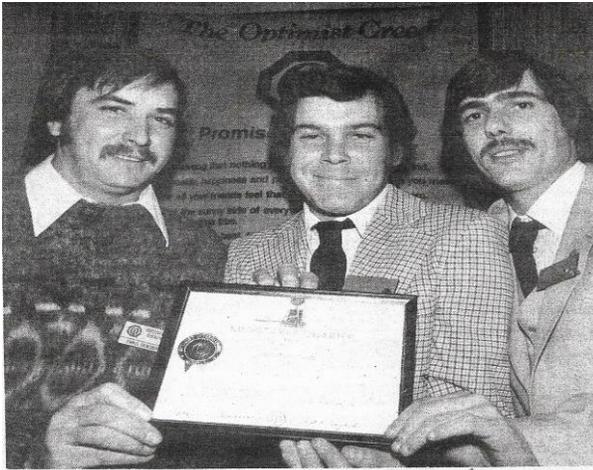
To form the club would require 50 members four of which are our current charter members today namely George Bice, Randy Beldom, Al Hurst, and Robert Showers. Al Hurst recruited his brother-in-law Willie Beauchamp, and the club grew from there. I am told that George Bice is solely responsible for bringing every educator that is and was part of the club onboard. People who knew other people, ball players and relatives were the first to be recruited. This would take the group approximately 6 months to achieve and on January 28, 1982, the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove was officially formed with Dave Nesbitt as the first club president. The first female president wasn't until 1993-1994 when Lori Mitchell-McNally took the helm.

Huron Shores provided a meeting place and helped set up the meetings and make sure the people were in place to see the club succeed. The club began to hold meetings at Wildwood Golf Club. Years later, the club entered into a lease agreement with Lamrecton Camp. The optimists were instrumental in completing major repairs to the camp, including building a new washroom. This agreement continued until 1996 when the decision was made to leave. After reviewing their options, the club later went on to holding meetings at Huron Oaks.

Women back in the day were not allowed to be members of the club. In 1987, concerns had grown about possible legal challenges to the men-only provisions in the organization and the Optimist International Board of Directors responded by voting to admit women to the membership. Once Optimist International changed the membership mandate, the first two women to join the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove were Roberta Bice and Gen Hurst on March 26, 1991.

Today our membership consists of 39 active members, 17 of which are women.

# CHARTER PRESENTATION BANQUET



**CLUB RECEIVES CHARTER** Apr 5, 1982

AN OFFICIAL charter was presented to the recently organized Bright's Grove Optimist Club to recognize it as a member of Optimist International Service Club. Holding the charter are from left, vice president, Chris Dewsbury, Dave Nesbit, president and Don Hayward, treasurer who are all charter members of the club. The club is sponsored by Huron Shores Optimist Club and was presented with Charter at Huron Oaks, recently. Observer

*Charter Presentation to Vice President Chris Dewsbury (L), President Dave Nesbit and Treasurer Don Hayward (R)*

## OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL.

SEYMOUR SILVERMAN  
PRESIDENT 1981/82  
400 LINCOLN RD., SUITE 202  
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33158

February 9, 1982  
"Spirit of Service"

Dave C. Nesbit  
President, Optimist Club of Bright's Grove, Ontario  
1961 Orchard Avenue  
Bright's Grove, Ontario N0N 1C0  
Canada

Dear Dave:

Welcome to Optimist International, and my sincere congratulations to you for having accepted the challenge as Charter President of the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove, Ontario.

You have been elected President for the Charter Year of the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove, Ontario, which, in of itself, is a distinction now, but even more so, in years to come. You have also accepted the challenge to volunteer and serve the youth and your community at a time when the challenge is even greater than ever before.

On behalf of Optimist International, my sincere congratulations and best wishes for a most enjoyable and successful Charter Year.

Sincerely,

*Seymour Silverman*  
Seymour Silverman,  
President 1981-1982,  
Optimist International.

SS:ml

cc: Hugh H. Cranford, Executive Secretary, O.I.  
Fernand Rondeau, Vice President, O.I.  
James H. Nother, Sr., Governor, Southwestern Ontario District, O.I.

### CHARTER PRESENTATION

### THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF BRIGHT'S GROVE, ONTARIO



Friday, March 26, 1982  
7:00 p.m.

Camlachie Community Centre

Sponsored by

The Optimist Club of (Huron Shores) Plympton Township

### THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF BRIGHT'S GROVE ONTARIO

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Nesbit	.....	President
Chris Dewsbury	.....	Vice President
Jim Lomax	.....	Vice President
Paul Peaker, Don Hayward	.....	Secretary-Treasurer
Bill Reed	.....	Director (2 yr.)
George Bice	.....	Director (2 yr.)
John Michelin	.....	Director (2 yr.)
Rich Coleman	.....	Director (1 yr.)
Brad Mathoney	.....	Director (1 yr.)
Davy Jones	.....	Director (1 yr.)

#### CHARTER MEMBERS

Chris Abram	Ken Jamieson
Rae Ballantyne	Wayne Barnes
Willfred Beauchamp	Maurice Beaudet
Randy Beldom	Ron Bissonnette
Ted Blondin	Ron Burd
Dave Calvert	Ernest Canivet
Len Cook	Paul Cook
Dale Cuthbertson	John De Jong
James Frey	Richard Giddings
Robb Harris	Allen Hurst
William Icton	Robert Johnson
Daryl Knight	Gavin Knott
Tom Landry	James Lunt
Gary Michelin	Wayne Morrison
Ken Morrison	Richard Naylor
Eric Roscoe	Jack Scott
Jon Scott	Marvin Showers
Robert Showers	Don Shwaykowski
Bruce Spence	Alastair Stewart
Frank Stockton	Ian Temple
Kurt Wittemann	Larry Zaple

ORGANIZED JANUARY 28, 1982



### ELECTED PRESIDENT

AT A Huron Shores Optimist Club recently meeting at Huron Oak Club, Dave Nesbit, left, was elected as the new charter president. Optimist governor-elect of the Southwestern Ontario district, Doug Mason. As new charter president, Mr. Nesbit says he would like to various activities and sport for children in Bright's Grove...and to make it a better community to live in. Observer Photo



### OPTIMIST CLUB OF BRIGHT'S GROVE

### CHARTER PRESENTATION BANQUET

CAMLACHIE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1982

Social 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m.  
Dance 9:00 to 1:00 a.m.

Dress: Semi-Formal \$15.00 Couple

Sponsored by Optimist Club of Huron Shores

*President Dave Nesbit & Optimist governor-elect of the SWO district Doug Mason*

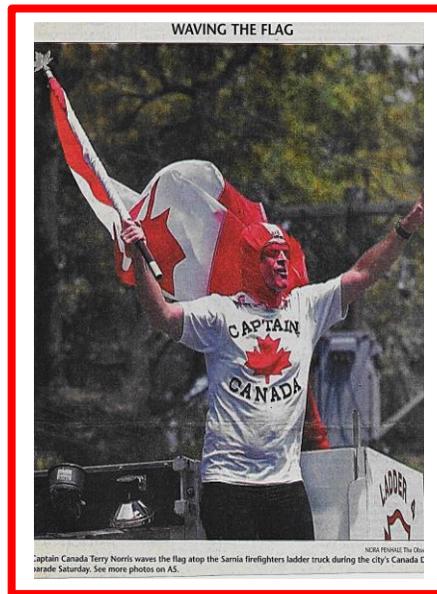


## CLUB PRESIDENTS' PAST AND PRESENT

1982 Charter Year Mar.-Sept.	Dave Nesbitt
1982-1983	Dave Nesbitt
1983-1984	Don Hayward
1984-1985	Ray Desgroseilliers
1985-1986	Ray Desgroseilliers
1986-1987	Joe Viola
1987-1988	George Bice
1988-1989	John Lennon
1989-1990	Robert Showers
1990-1991	Al Quinton
1991-1992	Jack Passingham
1992-1993	Carl Mitchell
1993-1994	Lori Mitchell-McNally
1994-1995	Larry McLaren
1995-1996	Bob Towner
1996-1997	John Vollmar
1997-1998 resigned 02/02/98	Paul Linton/Bill Reed (interim clerical president)
1998-1999	John Vollmar
1999-2000	Bill Reed
2000-2001	Bob Armitage
2001-2002	Gen Hurst
2002-2003	Gen Hurst
2003-2004	Peter Hayes
2004-2005	Peter Hayes
2005-2006	Lee Hayes
2006-2007	Lee Hayes
2007-2008	Loren Newman
2008-2009	Loren Newman
2009-2010	Mary DeSwert
2010-2011	Mary DeSwert
2011-2012	Larry McLaren
2012-2013	Larry McLaren
2013-2014	Liz Mar
2014-2015	Liz Mar
2015-2016 fall 2015 to treasurer	Mary DeSwert/Larry McLaren (interim president)
2016-2017	Loren Newman
2017-2018	Loren Newman
2018-2019	Erin Hall Elliott
2019-2020	Erin Hall Elliott
2020-2021 resigned 04/12/21	Erin Hall Elliott /Ingrid McFarlane (interim president)
2021-2022	John Vollmar

# Happy Canada Day

Jim Lomax was instrumental in organizing the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove Canada Day in 1982/1983. Over the years, the popularity continues to this day. The event has morphed into an all day and evening event with parades, entertainment and beer tents. Unfortunately with COVID we were unable to hold events in 2020 and 2021. We are hoping to do a scaled back version for 2022.



*Chef Ray Desgroseilliers Chicken BBQ in 1983*



*June 24, 1996 Sarnia Observer*

*Terry Norris*



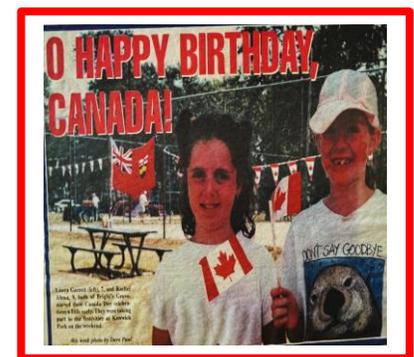
*Kids bike decorating for Canada Day*



*Coast Guard Helicopter*



*Horse Ride Fun*



*Canada Day 1998*



*Volunteers at 2019 Canada Day. Last one before COVID pandemic stopped us in our tracks.*



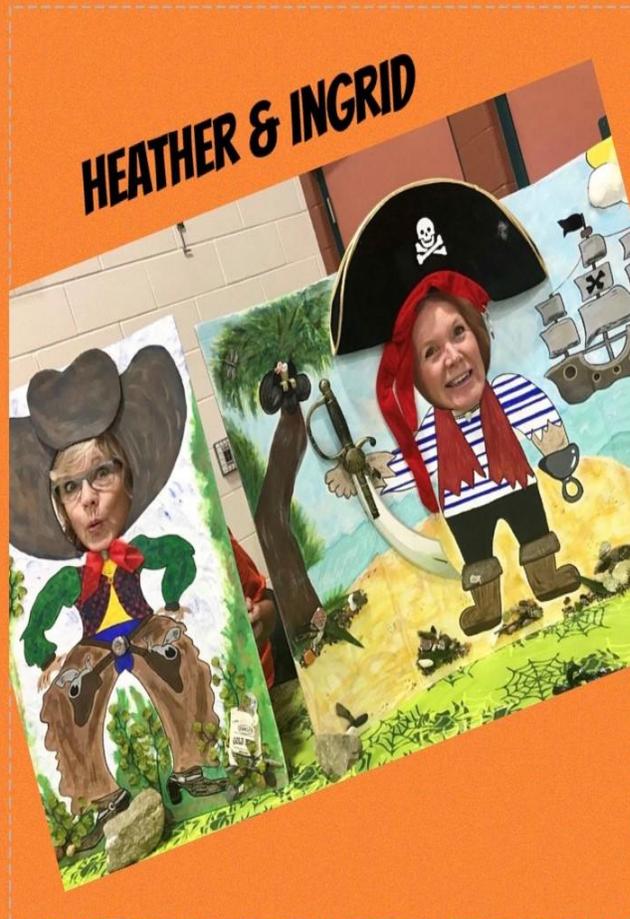
*Grillers Extraordinaire Randy Beldom (L) and Bob Galarneau (R)*

# CANADA DAY PARADES THEN AND NOW





# HALLOWEEN SHENANIGANS

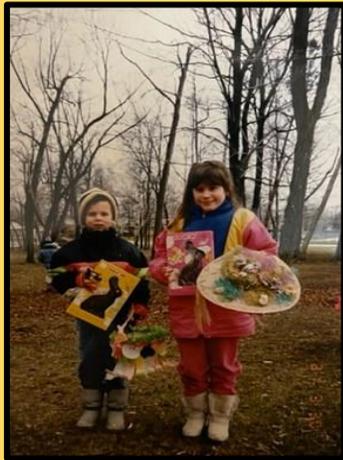




# EASTER IN THE PARK

Easter in the park was started by Willie Beauchamp with the first event taking place in 1982 in Wildwood Park. The first events included an easter egg hunt, rabbits on display for the kids to see, easter egg, bonnet and basket decorating contest where the kids decorated their eggs, hats and baskets at home and brought them in for judging.

In recent years, the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove has purchased an easter bunny costume to use at the annual event. Due to the covid pandemic, 2020 and 2021 events were cancelled and replaced with a online colouring contest. 450 chocolate bunnies were donated in 2021 to Huron House Boys Home, Inn of The Good Shepherd, The Hub, Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul as our event was unfortunately cancelled last minute once again.



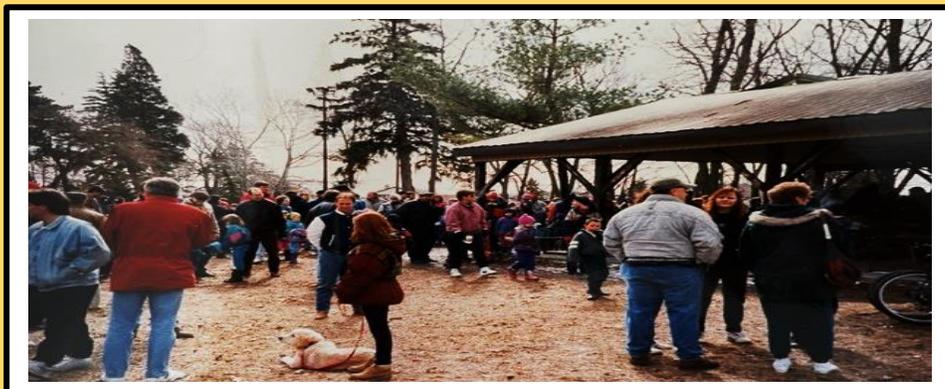
*1991 Winners basket & hat decorating*



*1991 Winners golden egg contest*

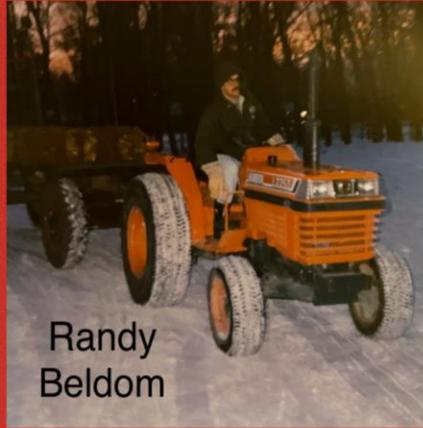


*1996 Easter in the park held at Wildwood Park*



# CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Christmas in the park was also started by Willie Beauchamp with the first event taking place in 1982 in Wildwood Park. Back in the day the event was held outdoors with kids and parents braving the elements. They enjoyed bonfires, hot dogs, hot cocoa, hay rides, carol singing and the evening wouldn't be complete without santa. The name changed to Breakfast With Santa and began to be held indoors at Bright's Grove Public School. Kids enjoy a pancake breakfast with sausage, coffee and juice. St. Nick himself provides the kids with treats. Fun for all!



Randy Beldom



The Crew



Holy bonfire!



# CLUB INVOLVEMENT



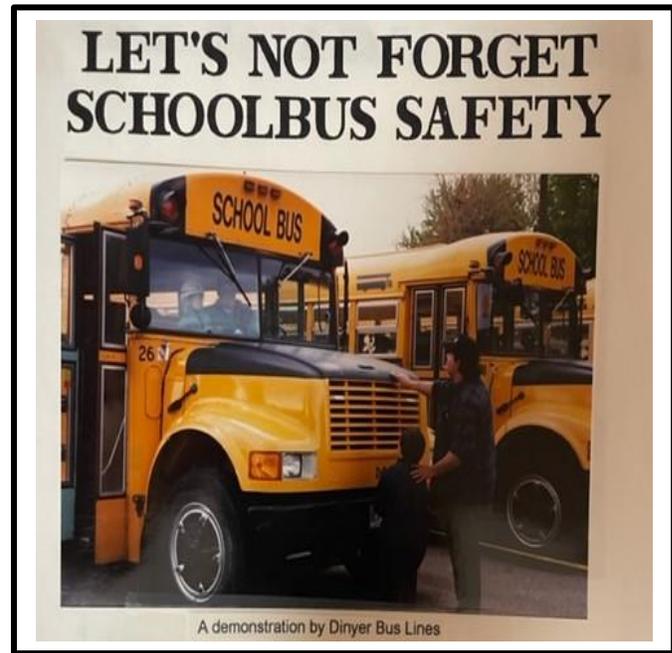
*Kenwick Park Clean Up*



*Skating in The Park*



*Babysitting Course started by Gen Hurst and still going strong today*



*Bus Safety Course*



*Line Up for Bike Safety Check (1996)*

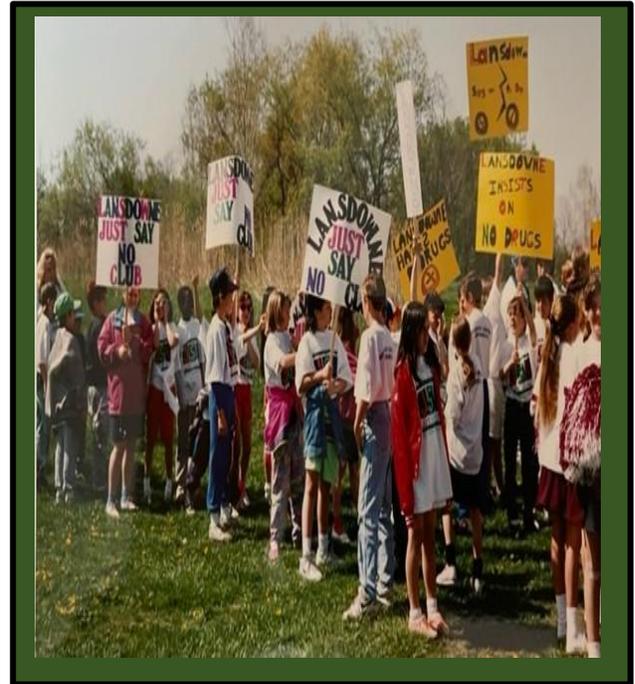


*President Bob Towner and Optimist Dan Checking Bikes (1996)*

*Bike Safety Classes began in 1984*



Online Art Summer Camp Program 2021



Just Say No to Drugs Rally



Huron House Boys Home Run 2004



Oratorical Contest 1996

The Optimist Club of Bright's Grove has been involved with so many programs over the years. In addition to the ones listed above, there was the VIP Program, Substance Abuse Project by Bob Towers in 1991, Youth Appreciation, Respect for the Law, Essay Contests, and the list goes on and on.



John Vollmar was instrumental in initiating the idea and arranging the purchase of the wheel for our meat raffles. Our first meat raffles were held at the Pub in 1994. The idea of meat raffles was a success and continues to be one of our main fundraisers today. Skeeter Barlow's remains the home of our meat raffles held on Thursday night (pre COVID) from November to May. Foodland of Bright's Grove is our meat supplier, and our raffles are run by two of our long-time members Loren (1988) and Kathie Newman (2008). Annual revenues today are approximately \$8000.00 - \$9000.00. Our raffle revenue has dropped to \$3,212.00 in 2020 and \$1,422.00 in 2021 because of the pandemic.



**Randy, Carolyn, Terry, Pete, Liz,  
Loren & Jane**

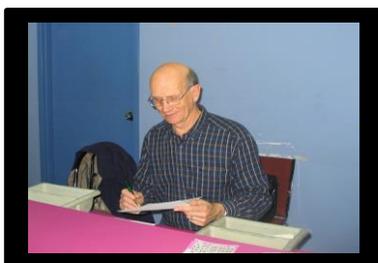


**Skeeter Barlow's home to the raffles**



**Loren Newman & George Bice**

Robert Showers took the club in a new direction with the inception of bingos at Huey's Junkyard and Hiawatha later making Bingo Country its home. For many years, this would be very lucrative for the club. It wasn't uncommon to make \$30,000.00 in a year from bingo. As the years progressed, rules started getting stricter with OLG coming into the forefront as well as the involvement of the City of Sarnia and of course 911 changes causing border shutdowns. Unfortunately, our revenue has also seen a drastic change since the new regulations were instituted. We now receive a percentage of the revenue which has dropped to approximately \$16,000.00 to \$18,000.00 annually. Bingo's today are being held at Jackpot City however with COVID our bingo revenue has dropped to \$13,808.00 in 2020 and \$7,054.00 in 2021.



**Larry McLaren working a Bingo**



**Larry McLaren (L), George Bice (M)  
paid bingo helper and Loren Newman (R)  
taken April 2008**



**Loren Newman**

## ***NEWEST FUNDRAISERS***

In 2021, because of COVID the Fundraising Committee came up with the idea of a drive through bottle drive held at Wildwood Park which was a smashing success earning the club approximately \$2,982.00.



In 2022, the Fundraising Committee came up with the idea of a pizza fundraiser. DIY Pizza kits from Giresi's were sold online through our website. A total of 228 pizza kits sold giving us a profit of \$1,599.00.



## ***FUNDRAISERS OF THE PAST***

- Nevada tickets were sold at bingo hall in 1994 raising \$757.50
- Sea-doo raffle organized by Bob Showers in 1995 raised approximately \$1,500.00 and went to a U.S. resident
- Infamous polar dip in 1996 raised \$2,700.00 with the help of pledges, food and beer tent sales
- Corn and Peach festival was held in Pt. Edward in conjunction with the Pt. Edward Optimists and Kinsmen Club. The event drew 1000 people under the bridge for food and music.
- 50/50 Draws held at Knechtels later moved to Skeeter Barlow's
- Hole in One golf contest
- Lottery Calendar
- Condo Raffle Tickets – in 2002, Bob Showers offered one week's accommodation at a timeshare condo in Kissimmee Florida during spring break. Raffle tickets were \$10.00 each. The winners were the Fracalanzas of Blackwell Road.
- Evening in Art gala was held in 2001 with 225 people attending.
- Cabin Fever Karaoke and Dance was held in 1996.

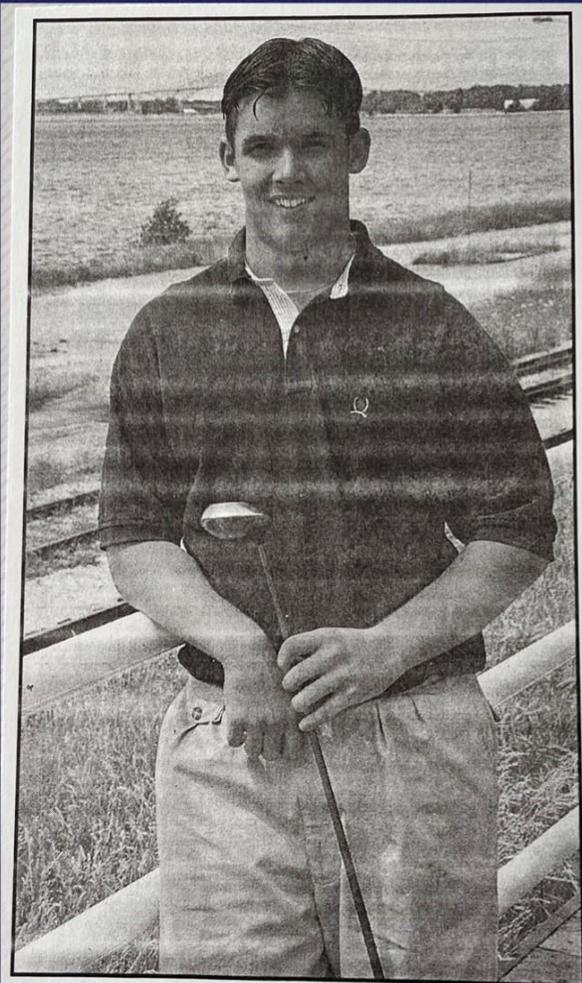
# SPORTS



Over the years the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove have actively been involved in youth golf programs. The club sponsored many young golfers such as Nathan Clingersmith and Joclyn Sanders whom we sent to Florida for the Optimist International Golf Championships in 1999. Of course a couple of the biggest names who participated in our youth golf tournaments were Mike Weir and Matt Hill.



FOUR



ABOVE: Nathan Clingersmith always has a golf club in his hand over the summer months. He won the district championship of the Optimist Junior Golf tournament and has won an all-expense paid trip to Florida for next year's international finals.



JUNIOR GOLFER JAXON SHELTON of Camlachie fired an 81 at Huron Oaks to win the Sarnia-area qualifier and advance to the Southwest Optimist Tournament in Blenheim. Here he receives the trophy from Florian Neumann of the Bright's Grove Optimists. Nolan DeGurse of Bright's Grove won the 14-15 age group, while Ryan Richardson of Camlachie was the 12-13 winner.





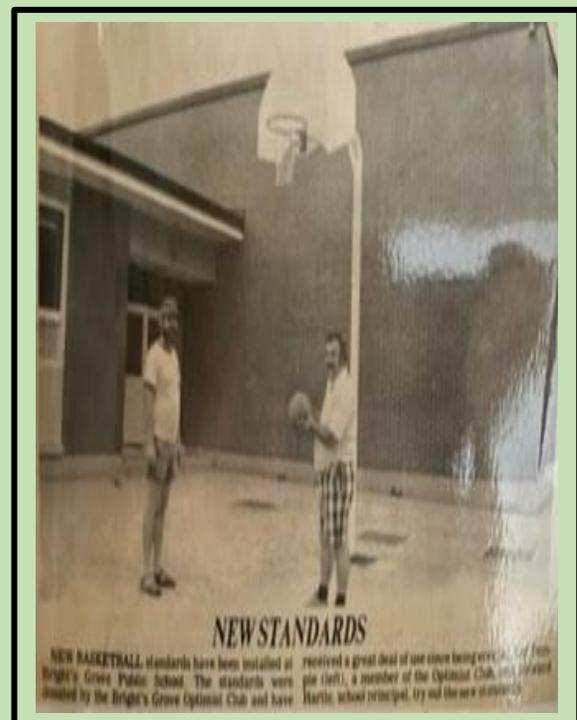
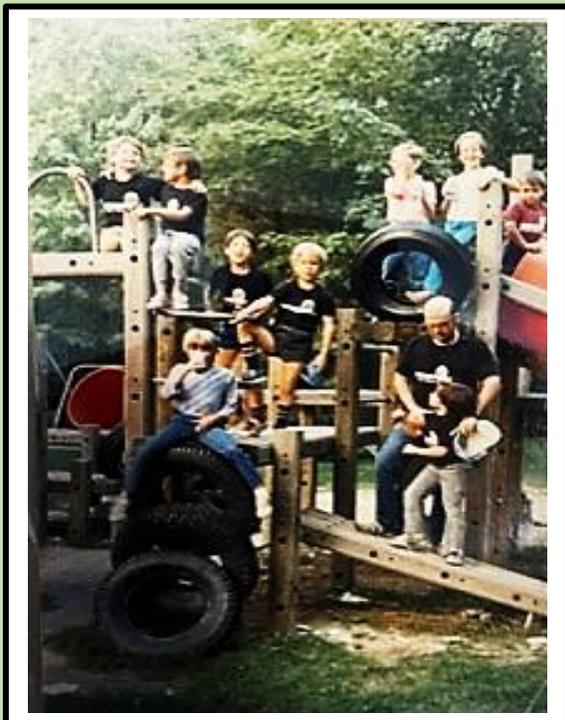
Golf was not the only sport that the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove sponsored. Kids 2 pitch baseball started in 1983 and is still goes strong today. We have also sponsored minor hockey, minor soccer and even youth bowling.





We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge some of the amazing contributions made by the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove. There are just too many over the past 40 years to mention them all, however, here are just a few past and present.

- Lambton Wildlife to repair handrails on the nature trail
- Numerous donations to schools for computer equipment
- HOBY Youth Leadership program
- Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of Bright's Grove
- Rebound and The Hub
- Donated \$1,000.00 to install a child size baseball diamond in Kenwick Park in 1995
- Sponsored children for Children's Aid Summer Camp
- Donated a radio to the Sarnia Lambton Marine Search and Rescue in 1995
- Capital Theatre project in memory of "Victor the Clown"
- St. John's Ambulance to provide first aid courses
- In 1999 donated an organ to St. John's in the Wilderness church
- Valhalla Youth baseball association to purchase practice balls
- Huron House Boys Home for Christmas and birthdays of the boys residing there
- Ronald McDonald House

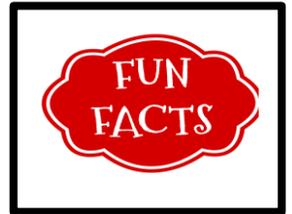


# A BLAST *from the* PAST

George Bice recalls an event that occurred at Christmas in the Park about five years after the club was formed. We had a huge bonfire burning on the north side of the library. There was plenty of firewood available in the woodland north of the library. On a cold snowy evening we wanted lots of warmth. The party was progressing nicely when suddenly, we heard the siren of the fire truck getting closer. The firemen came rushing down with their fire hoses and ready to put out the fire. When they saw the crowd of people singing carols and the line of little ones waiting to sit on Santa's knee, they held their fire, but claimed they had a dilemma. The rule was that when they were called to a fire, they had to put it out. Finally, they came up with some plan that would allow the fire to be saved, much to everyone's relief. The new rule added to the Christmas in the Park was "call the fire department before you light the fire". There are several houses on Westgate that backs onto Wildwood Park and one of those neighbours must have seen our huge fire and called the fire department. All's well that ended well and fun was had by all.



*Submitted by George Bice*



Bright's Grove, which is now within the city limits of Sarnia, is a community of 4000 situated on the shores of Lake Huron. If you pick up your mail at the Bright's Grove post office, then you know you live in Bright's Grove. We've never had any political boundary. Our claim to fame is the open-air dance hall, Kenwick-on-the-Lake, which enjoyed its golden age during the forties and fifties with such jazz players as Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington. Our club still holds our Canada Day event on the site of the old dance floor. Canada Day is one of three popular community events we have staged since our inception in 1982. Christmas-in-the-Park and Easter-in-the-Park are the other two events that always draw an appreciative crowd of Grover's.

Our club was built by Adrian VerWegen and Doug Caley of the Huron Shores Optimist Club in Camlachie. We are probably the only club that lost its shirt at its charter party. It seems that the raffle tickets were identical to the bar tickets. If you lost at the raffle, you could still win at the bar.

One of our more novel fundraisers was the Polar Bear Dip which was held in April when many hardy soles jumped into a hole full of ice water dug from the ice along the shore of Lake Huron.

We are the proud builders of two new Optimist Clubs. John Lennon (not the singer) and Bob Showers brought in the Corunna Optimist Club in 1989 while Jack Passingham and Al Quinton built Sarnia Lakeshore Optimists in 1991.



*The Infamous Polar Bear Dip organized by Bob Armitage in the late 90's*

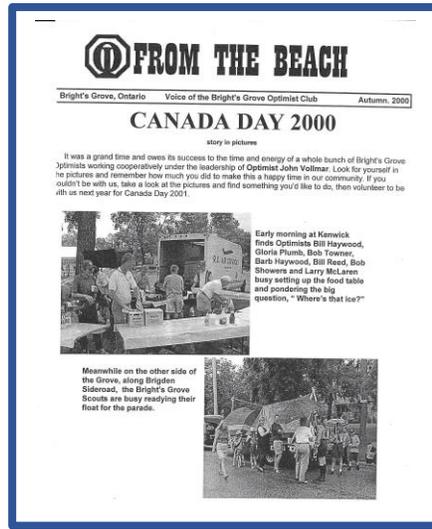
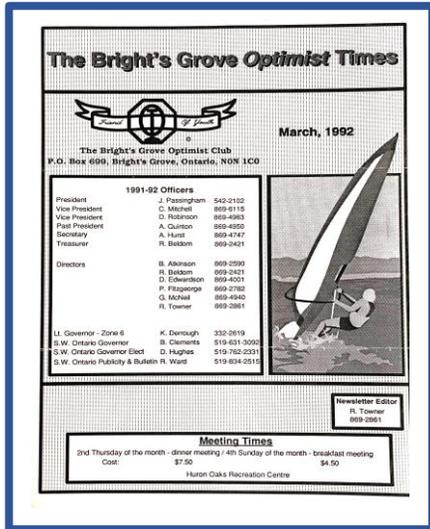
*Did you know.....*

Bob Armitage spotted a 1964 Austin Mini Minor that had been converted to a tow truck. Bob picked it up and put many hours into its restoration. The tow apparatus was removed and replaced with a 4' x 4' metal platform. It received a new paint job in the Optimist colours purple and yellow. It was offered to the club as a parade vehicle and was unveiled at the Christmas parade. The car was subsequently sold in 1999.



# NEWSLETTERS

*Newsletters from long ago.....*

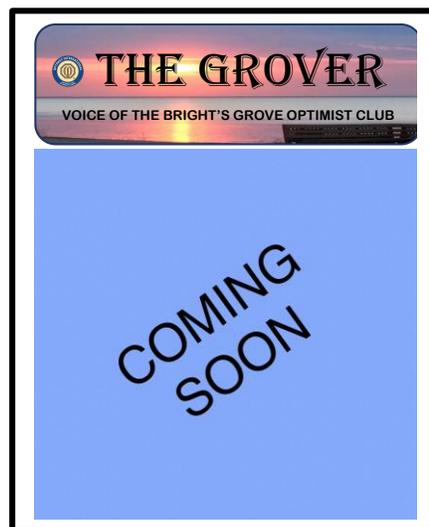


A "Name the Newsletter" contest was held with Roberta Bice as the winner. Roberta's entry was "Bright Times" which the board altered slightly to incorporate the concepts of Optimism, and something that depicted the community into the name. Hence, the name "Bright's Grove Optimist Times". The graphic of the wind surfer was added to further identify the newsletter with our community. The winner received a ride in the new Optimist parade vehicle in the Christmas Parade. The newsletter would go on to have a name change again and became "From the Beach" Voice of the Bright's Grove Optimist Club. The newsletter would again be produced without a name and the editors during this time were Larry McLaren (2008-2011) and Pete Menard from (2011-2013).

*Fast track 40 years and the newsletter has been resurrected.*

The idea of holding a "Name the Newsletter" contest was brought forward to the members at our zoom member fun night on January 18, 2022. We felt we needed a name that would serve the Bright's Grove Optimists into the future. The prize for the winning entry will consist of bragging rights for the next 40 years. A backdrop of Lake Huron adorns the newsletter as it does beautiful Bright's Grove.

INTRODUCING  
THE WINNING NAME  
**"THE GROVER"**  
SUBMITTED BY  
AL HURST



HONOURABLE  
MENTION GOES  
TO GEORGE BICE  
WITH HIS SUBMISSION  
**"GROVER GOSSIP"**



**MIKE BRADLEY  
MAYOR  
CITY OF SARNIA**

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January 18, 2022

Optimist Club of Bright's Grove Inc.  
P.O. Box 870  
BRIGHT'S GROVE, ON NON 1C0

Dear Club Members:

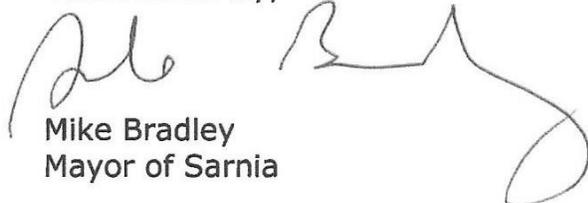
I was pleased to have been informed that the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove will be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The Club is to be commended for their long-time dedication in helping its fellow citizens, in particular the young people. The Club's ongoing fundraising resulting in donations to support summer camps for children, financial assistance to Pathways Health Centre for Children, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, Huron House Boys' Home and the sponsorship of babysitting courses are just some examples of the work undertaken by the Club to help make a better community for youth of all ages.

The Annual Bright's Grove Canada Day celebration is a major undertaking for the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove which allows people of all ages to have a day of fun with activities organized by the Club.

Congratulations to all Members, past and present, of the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove on the occasion of your 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

  
Mike Bradley  
Mayor of Sarnia

*Congratulations!*





January 24, 2022

The Optimist Club of Bright's Grove  
P.O. Box 870  
Bright's Grove, Ontario  
NON 1CO

Hello to all Optimist members,

I would like to congratulate the Bright's Grove Optimist Club on their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Even during our trying times with challenges and obstacles, your club has managed to have events like the colouring online contests for Halloween and Christmas and a quite successful bottle drive and pizza fundraiser. Your hard work and Optimism shows your club is overcoming all obstacles for the future.

Again, congratulations on your 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and wishing Bright's Grove Optimist Club the best for the future.

Lt. Governor  
Pierre Ricard



***WHAT FORMER MEMBER.....***

1. Was our first charter president in 1982?
2. Conceived the idea of having Christmas and Easter-in-the-Park?
3. Organized the first Canada Day so well that it ran by itself for a few years?
4. Drove the tractor for Christmas-in-the Park hayrides?
5. How many members were required to start the Bright's Grove Optimists in 1982?
6. Who was the chicken chef at Canada Day in 1983?
7. Who were the first two women to become members of the Brights Grove Optimists in 1991?
8. Who was instrumental in purchasing our wheel for the meat raffles?
9. Who offered a condo timeshare to raffle off in 2001?
10. Who purchased and offered the Bright's Grove Optimists a 1964 Austin Mini as our parade car?

**Answers:**

- |            |               |           |            |
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### Editor's Corner

*Thank you to all the Optimists that sent me items to add to this special 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition newsletter.*

*A special thank you to George Bice, Randy & Leanne Beldom, Larry McLaren, Al Hurst & Jack Passingham. You were so extremely helpful and without you this document wouldn't exist.*

*I was worried about not having enough content and instead have enough for this story to be continued in future editions.*

*Although I have not been with the club for very long, doing this newsletter has given me great insight into how it began, where we are now and what we as a club can become in the future.*

*The biggest thing is staying engaged and remembering why we joined the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove to begin with. Without the participation of each member, we cannot thrive.*

*Looking forward to finally getting out from under COVID's grasp and meeting in person once again and put on the functions the Optimist Club of Bright's Grove has become known for.*

*Until we meet again....*

*YIO*

*Joyce Dietz*

**“A DAY WITHOUT LAUGHTER IS A DAY WASTED.”**

**CHARLES CHAPLIN**  
QUOTESEVERLASTING.COM

**I don't understand how I can remember every word of a song from 1984, but I can't remember why I walked into the kitchen.**



The **PESSIMIST** sees the dark tunnel.

The **optimist** sees the light at the end.

The **realist** sees the train.

But the **engineer** sees three idiots on the tracks.

**I'm so old I remember when a hashtag was called a pound sign, and we played tic-tac-toe on top of it.**

## 12 things to always remember.

1. The past can't be changed.
2. Opinions don't define your reality.
3. Everyone's journey is different.
4. Judgements are not about you.
5. Overthinking will lead to sadness.
6. Happiness is found within.
7. Your thoughts affect your mood.
8. Smiles are contagious.
9. Kindness is free.
10. It's okay to let go and move on.
11. What goes around, comes around.
12. Things always get better with time.

! TheMindsJournal

THE MINDS JOURNAL