

CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION RESPONDS TO THE CALL



The Essex Optimist Club grant was used for a Youth Appreciation event. 47 young persons were selected by their youth-serving organizations to be honoured for “making a positive difference” in their organization or youth group.

The event called Thanks For Making A Difference was held on Tuesday April 21st at Holy Name Parish Hall. Local community leaders were asked to “serve” these youth for a full dinner and celebration. Servers of the meal included the Town Mayor and members of Town Council, local firefighters, policemen, the Community Policing Safety Officer, the municipal Chief Administrative an Officer, representatives from the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus and various other leaders. Their task was to serve the youth and their parents/guardians a full meal including salad, drinks, pasta and dessert. The youth’s wish was their command!



When the local dignitaries were done serving the meal, the youth were each presented with a certificate from the Federal Member of Parliament, a certificate from the Provincial Member of Parliament and a gift (zip drive) from the Essex Optimist Club. As they were presented their gifts the MC read a summary of why they were chosen to receive this honour, listing their volunteer service both in their organization and in our community. Each Volunteer Server received a wooden Optimist Creed plaque! At each table we also had a representative of the organization the student came from and an Essex Optimist member to share who the Optimists are and potentially recruit new Optimists (we did get two members this year!)



The impact of this event is a positive awareness of the Essex Optimist Club, building positive relationships with our schools and youth-serving organizations and other service clubs as well as the municipal leaders of Essex. We have made a comprehensive history book of this event for Sharing with other Optimist Clubs!