

Summer 2015

The OPTIMIST

Gain a New Perspective at the
97TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

QUEBEC CITY THE CITY OF OPTIMISM!

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As I write this, hundreds of youth have been positively impacted during the year thanks to the involvement of our Members within their communities. Spring is finally showing its first colors, helping us forget the long, sometimes rigorous, winter in some of our Districts.

Turning towards Quebec City, host city for the 2016 International Convention, we forgot winter's hardships to bask in the warm company of President Ken Garner and First Lady Patsy, as well as the welcoming committee of active Members from the Quebec East – North Shore District.

Many activities were scheduled for a weekend of enchantment: the opening of Winter Carnival and crowning of its Queen, a guided tour of the site with the Carnival's director, an appointment at the Quebec Hilton to arrange for the 2016 Convention, and of course, attending preparation of the Optimist family giant cake and the mini-stars show held at the largest shopping center in eastern Canada.

The presidential couple had the chance to stay at the Château Frontenac and hold precious memories of their time in the Vieille Capitale! They were treated to an honorary luncheon at the National Assembly where medals were presented to exceptional Members. In any event, let's recall that Optimist Day, an official event recognized by the Quebec government, got its start in Quebec City within the walls of the National Assembly.

After attending the opening ceremony of Winter Carnival's 61st year, we spent the afternoon with the District's Clubs in celebrating youths' artistic talent presented in the mini-stars show. Lastly, we were treated to a visit with Bonhomme (the mascot) and the duchesses during the weekend's awaited event, the cutting of the giant cake.

If you wish to experience Quebec City, join us for the 2016 International Convention! Not only will you be able to see the wonderful city, the sights and the people, you will be surrounded by 1000+ Optimists sharing in your experience. You will share ideas, build upon each other's Optimism, and see what brings out the best in other Optimist communities. We hope to see you in Quebec City in 2016 for a life-changing event.

1: Ken and Patsy established new friendships with Quebec East –North Shore District Optimist Members who worked diligently to prepare their visit and coordinate the schedule of activities.

2: Ken Garner is cutting the first of the 10,000 slices from the Giant cake with Bonhomme.

3: A honorary luncheon underlined the commitment of Optimist Members who generated a positive impact on hundreds of young people.



Since 1994, the Franco-Ontarian Games have been uniting francophone youths in Ontario. Each year, roughly 700 youths get together to show their talent in eight separate disciplines: trivia, circus arts, visual arts, dance, improvisation, media, music and sports

The Games constitute the largest annual gathering of francophone youths in Ontario. They ensure that all youths actively participate. The Eastern Ontario District is organizing the sixth edition of its benefit dinner to support the 22nd edition of the Games and their participants.

The francophone organization is comprised of 38 Optimist Clubs and more than 1200 Members, with the sole mission to help francophone youths in Ontario. The organization is completely dedicated to the cause with the goal of making sure no youth is left behind because of inadequate financial resources. It is engaged in helping them by paying for the cost of healthy meals and serving them during the weekend of the Games.

The benefit dinner includes a four or five course meal and the night will be hosted by a live singer. The Eastern Ontario District is organizing the dinner in cooperation with the CCOF in order to provide income tax receipts. Since the event has begun, the Eastern Ontario District has raised close to \$20,000 for the *Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO)*.

