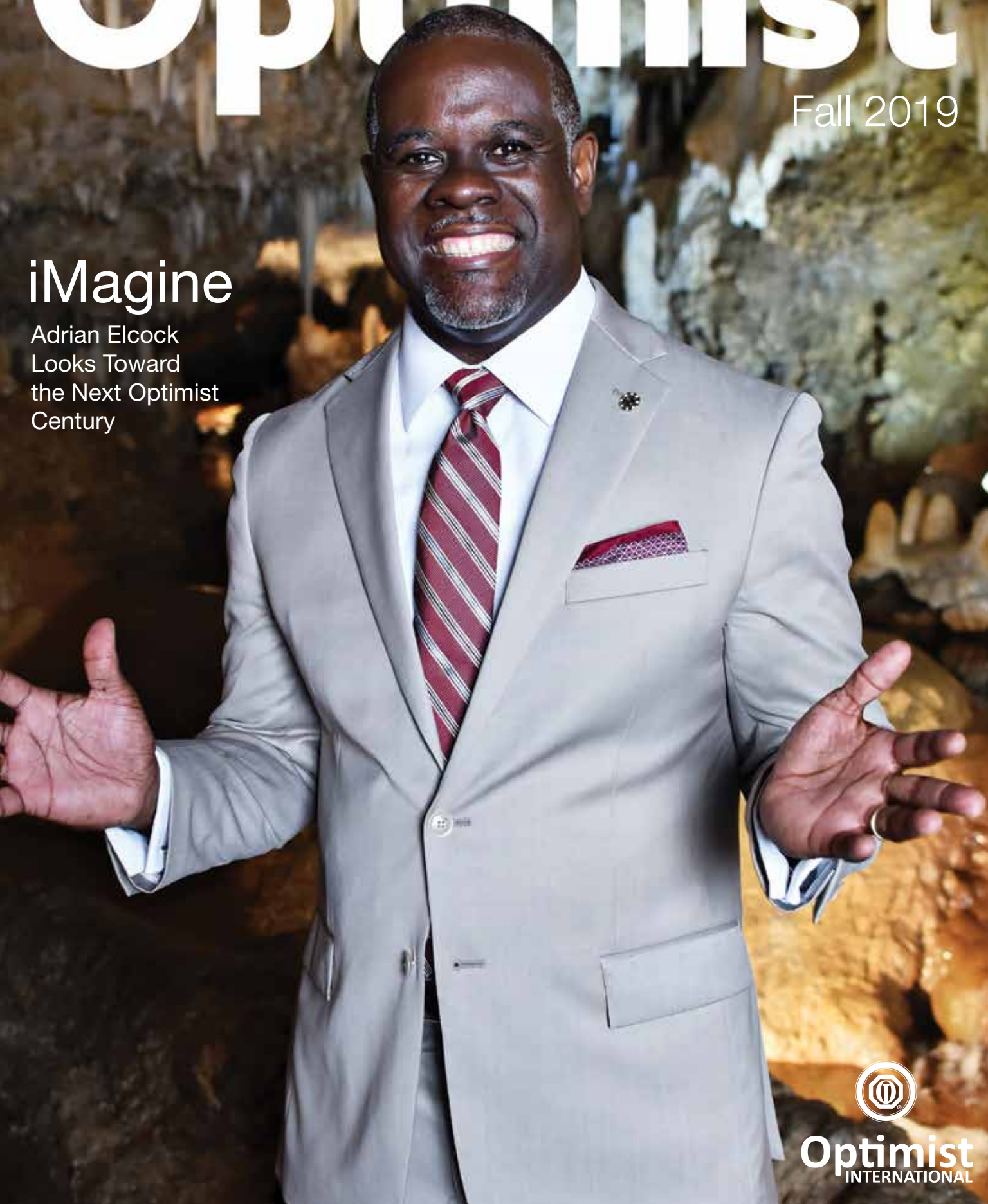


Optimist

Fall 2019

iMagine

Adrian Elcock
Looks Toward
the Next Optimist
Century



Optimist
INTERNATIONAL



Friendship Benches

Promote Kindness

The school playground can be a lonely place for a child if they don't have a friend to play with. But an idea from Zimbabwe is changing things, and the Club Optimiste de Ste-Julie, Quebec, has decided to borrow the idea.

The Friendship Bench project is an intervention developed in Zimbabwe to provide a safe place for people struggling with anxiety and depression to find help. When they sit on that bench, they know somebody will come and listen, a very precious thing when you feel lonely.

This idea has traveled the world and inspired many projects. Dozens of Canadian schools already have a Friendship Bench, a great way to put forward openness and empathy, to develop these children's social skills, and even to stop bullying.

Thanks to the CCOF Club Grants program, the elementary school du Moulin in Ste-Julie, Quebec, will have their own bench.

There are many ways Optimist Clubs can help your local school. Be inspired by the Outsourcing project Club Optimiste de Embrun, Ontario, and plant trees in the schoolyard. Or borrow the Club Optimiste de Ste-Épiphanes Club Grant idea and buy some deskcycles for ADHD and anxious children. So many Clubs, so many ideas. And so many ways the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation can help you help children.

iMagine what these children could do with your help.



Canadian Children's
Optimist Foundation

CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION BOARD



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Welcome to new CCOF board member Ann Richer-Doyle, proud member of the Club Optimiste Beacon Hill, Ontario, since 1988. Way before she was an Optimist member, she was already in charge of the Oratorical and the Kids Speak Out Contests. She has often been in charge of the Essay Contest in her Club and at the district level. In 2008-2009 and 2012-2013, she became District Secretary with the Eastern Ontario District. She also was District Foundation Representative in 2007-2008.

As a result of her experience with OI Scholarship Programs over the years, she is quite aware of the importance of the Foundation and its impact with youths. Welcome on board, Ann!

Spring survey yields positive change for CCOF

Last Spring, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation sent a survey to every member and Club President in Canada, to get feedback about our recognition items, our programs and our general work. We asked for suggestions on how we can improve.

Overall, the surveys showed that most Clubs and individuals agree that it is time to revamp the recognition process used by the CCOF. Many called the recognition items "outdated". A common theme was that donations should go to programs for children and youth, and not CCOF administration or recognition of donors. Participants suggested other ways of recognizing donors such as tax receipts, certificates of appreciation and thank you letters.

The provision of recognition items does not influence donations, respondents said. The Board has reviewed the recommendations and decided to modify the structure of the recognition process, awards and policies, to better suit our donors' needs and wishes. This will help us move into the 21st century.

We will now invest only in recognition items our donors really want, and in communications. We will make sure more money from the Foundation goes back to the community and we will make our donors proud to help the Optimists of Canada.

Have a great 2019-2020 Optimist year!

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation would like to thank Frankie Jordan, of Jordan Consulting (Regina SK), for preparing and analyzing the survey.