

COMMUNITY.

SERVICES.



TAKE PART IN OPTIMIST SOCCER EXCHANGE – The Optimist Club of Wallacetown hosted close to 100 soccer players and their families from the Breakfast Optimist Club of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, August 1st - 2nd. Three games of soccer were played at Wallacetown on Saturday and 4 on Sunday. Piper Jim Carmichael (above) was on hand for the raising of the Canadian, United States and Canada 125 Flags and official welcoming ceremonies on Saturday evening at Camp Littlejohn where the guests stayed. Optimist President Bob Brown and Dunwich Township Reeve Leta West officially welcomed the visitors. Optimist member Ron Mullin is seen raising the flags. Following these ceremonies everyone enjoyed the roast pig being carved in the picture.





Dutton Senewich Adult Club. May 14th 1992. On a bus trip to Niagara Falls.



Bus Driver Jerry.
 Judy Lewis.
 Mr Jerry Heeney.

Optimist convention draws 300 to city

The Optimist Club Convention held in St. Thomas on the weekend drew a larger crowd than expected, say its organizers.

Three hundred people registered for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday convention, including 221 members.

"It's good for the zone. It's good publicity," said outgoing governor Brian Clements.

He passed the governor's gavel over to Doug Hughes of Wallacetown keeping the governorship in Elgin County for another year.

Zone 10 is represented by clubs in southwestern Ontario.

The officials said the dance was a highlight for the weekend, but business matters were also dealt with.

The Optimists have a mandate to be of community service to youth and are involved with bicycle safety, drug awareness, respect for law program, oratorical contests and essay contests.

Its newest project is to support Camp Trillium, near Kingston, Ont., a camp for cancer victims.



NEW GOVERNOR — Zone 10 Optimist incoming governor Doug Hughes (left) receives the gavel from outgoing governor Brian Clements. —(Staff)

2—St. Thomas Times-Journal, Monday, August 24, 1992



DUTTON'S DREAM

THURSDAY November 19th 1992.

Some small communities resign themselves to doing without big-city amenities, but the 2,900 people of Dutton and Dunwich Township have pitched in to plan and build a series of big-money projects for themselves. From the child-care centre to the seniors complex, the residents have set out to take care of their own people and their own priorities.

By Pat Currie
The London Free Press

DUTTON — The 2,900 intrepid souls who sail aboard the good ships Dutton and Dunwich are giving new meaning to the old Chinese expression "gung-ho" — which means "all together."

In the Village of Dutton (population 1,100) and Township of Dunwich (population 1,800), "gung-ho" is precisely what people are. They're in the midst of an ambitious campaign to raise \$300,000 locally for four new projects — a day-care centre, a 25-unit, non-profit, rent-geared-to-income housing project for seniors, a community resource library, and a picnic shelter and new playground equipment for the community park.

The projects come with a total price tag of more than \$3.2 million. Government grants, loans and debentures cover most of the cost, but isn't \$300,000 a big mouthful for a community of 2,800 to bite off?

"Sure, that was one of the major concerns, especially in these hard times," says Dutton merchant and Lions Club secretary Mike Gardiner.

But it's past the back-out point now. Government money has been allocated and the locals held an official sod-turning for the day-care centre last weekend.

"On the other hand, these are the times when you should do these things," says Gardiner. "When things get better, the projects will cost a lot more."

With that in mind, community groups formed a fund-raising committee during the summer and plunged in. They picked Dan McKillop, a farm equipment salesperson, to head the



George Blumson/The London Free Press

Dutton merchant and Lions Club secretary Mike Gardiner, on the site where a 25-unit seniors complex is to be built to the left and a day-care centre to the right, says this is a good time for his community to tackle some big money-raising projects. "When things get better, the projects will cost a lot more."

core committee of nine members.

"This is a tall order for a small community, but everybody is rallying behind this campaign," says McKillop. "The seniors centre might be a Lions Club project but the Optimists, Kiwanians, Knights of Columbus — they're all getting involved.

"I went out the other night to contact

two families that had been missed (in the community canvass) and came away with \$450.

"We had been thinking in terms of \$15 or \$20 per household. We've gotten at least twice that and raised \$30,000 to date in the community canvass."

WHAT'S PLANNED

- Day-care centre:** The new Dutton Co-operative Child Care Centre should open in April, 1993. At a cost of \$875,000, the province is picking up \$700,000, leaving \$175,000 to be raised locally. The centre will house 50 children now scattered in church halls and schools. Another 46 children can be accommodated in a portable classroom owned by the co-op at Dunwich-Dutton Public School. Current enrolment at co-op facilities is 65.
- Library:** The new Dutton Dunwich Library will double its current space and resources, and be located on a single, handicapped-accessible, ground-floor space. Of its projected \$523,000 cost, \$50,000 is to be raised in the community. Construction is to start in January with completion in June.
- Seniors complex:** Construction of the 25-unit Dutton and District Lions non-profit building is expected to start early in 1993 with completion in June. The \$1.8-million cost is being financed by the Ontario housing ministry, with the Lions Club raising \$45,000 for the site in Dutton.
- Recreation projects:** \$30,000 is being collected locally for a new picnic shelter and playground equipment to be installed next summer at the Dutton Dunwich Community Centre park.

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