



Optimist Ron French Memorial Scholarship For Personal Growth and Achievement

History of the Scholarship

Optimist Ron French was a founding member of the Grantham Optimist Club which was formed in 1954. From the early beginnings of the Club up until his passing in November of 2023, Optimist Ron continued to support the Club with his time and wise counsel. Opt. Ron fully embraced the role that Optimism can play in our daily lives and how by offering the youth of the community an opportunity to participate in many of our programs, we are truly rewarded. Opt. Ron lived what he believed and over the years he has inspired countless others to do the same.

Scholarship Criteria

The Grantham Optimist Club has established a scholarship program in Opt. Ron's memory for secondary school graduates whom:

- Have achieved elevated high school academic standing
- Have participated in Grantham Optimist Club programs
- Are moving on to post-secondary education
- Exemplify the qualities and characteristics of a true Optimist

Amount of Scholarship

The Grantham Optimist will award \$3,000 in scholarships awarded annually. The top three (3) successful applicants for the scholarship shall receive an amount of \$1,000 each, or in the case of multiple unbreakable ties, a proportional sharing of the awarded amount.

Qualifications for Application

Applicants graduating from secondary school must produce a minimum of **six (6) 4U or 4C credits (Grade 12)** to provide **an academic average of at least 75%** in order to apply.

Applicants may only apply in the year of their graduation and may only apply once. Applicants must be graduates who are returning to post-secondary school to continue their education; however, this does not have to be at a community college or university. This includes students attending skills training, such as trades, hairdressing or apprenticeship.

Applicants must have participated in at least one (1) youth activity programs provided by the Grantham Optimist Club, either as a participant, coach, or volunteer. Applicants must have joined in a program **at least 4 times** in order to be considered. Participation in different programs within the same year is considered as additional time participated (*E.G., "2018- Scouts, softball player, C.O.L.S., fundraising program, umpire" is considered five (5) participation credits.*) Program participation may use any of the following for credit: Grantham Optimist Softball League (*player, umpire, coach, or grounds crew*), Central Ontario Leadership Seminar (*C.O.L.S.*), Grantham Optimist community service, fundraising, any division of Scouting, or other areas deemed to be appropriate by the Grantham Optimist Scholarship Committee.

Procedures

1. Applications with official transcripts or marks and attached applications are to be forwarded by March 31st, 2024 to:

socialmedia@granthamoptimist.org

or mailed to:

Grantham Optimist

ATTN: Optimist Jen Snider

P.O. / CP 28023

Lakeport Road

600 Ontario Street

St. Catharines, Ontario

L2N-7P8

2. In addition to the academic average of each applicant, an addition of two (2) points will be applied for each time the applicant participated in a Club program and that new total will be used to determine the overall score for the applicant. The applicants with the highest academic/participation rating and who meet the scholarship requirements will receive the awards. Scholarship winners will be determined by the Scholarship Committee and confirmed by the Executive Board of the Grantham Optimist Club. The level of participation in Grantham Optimist Club programs will be the determining factor in breaking ties.
3. Notification to scholarship winners will initially be by a phone call from the Committee Chair, followed up by mail notification, no later than the end of June. The Committee will also notify the unsuccessful applicants as well by mail.



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Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(DD/MM/YYYY)

Home Address: _____
(address, city, postal code)

Phone Number: _____ School: _____

Where do you hope to attend your post secondary education or training and which program will you be enrolling in (to be confirmed in June)?

How many years is your program? _____

Please indicate your Grantham Optimist participation below. Use an additional page, if required.

<input type="checkbox"/> Softball Player/Coach Years: _____ _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> 57th Scouting Program Years: _____ _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Grounds Crew/Umpire Years: _____ _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering Years and Events: _____ _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Ontario Leadership Seminar Year: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ _____ _____ _____

Applications to be submitted by **March 31st, 2024**. Scholarship details will be confirmed with school Guidance Departments no later than **June 2024**. **An official transcript indicating your first semester marks must accompany this application. The Grantham Optimist will contact your school to confirm second semester grades and post secondary program intentions.**

Verified by (School Administration): _____ Date: _____
(Printed name & Signature)

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____