

What's in it for you?

No other organization does so much. No other organization can truly say it works for environmental protection and plants half a million trees; for world peace through the United Nations Programs; for the visually impaired through research at the University of Toronto and the Johns Hopkins Medical Centre; for relief from floods, fire, earthquakes, and famine through the World Hunger and disaster fund; for the cure of arthritis through the Arthritis Foundation and the Arthritis Society; for education through scholarships; for senior citizens housing and care; for the honour of servicemen; and for many other national and international help projects as well as countless local programs.

This and more comes with membership. Every community, every Lodge has a mix of members representing virtually every age, income, profession, religion and ethnic group. Lodges are as varied in interests as the cities and towns in which they play a vital role.

Then, of course, there's fun. Bowling, theatre, dances, dinners, softball, arts, crafts and much more. All of our Lodges are receptive to new and innovative ideas. Historically, fraternal orders have been known as "Secret" groups. Rest easy. It's not so. Yes, there is a secret password and handshake. That's tradition dating to old England. It's more fun than anything else these days.

Religion. We hold a belief in a Supreme Being, and members come from most every faith group. There is a place in our Lodges for every good man, woman, child and family. If you're looking for more than a passing association with some of the finest men and women you'll ever know, if you're looking for a way to make your mark in the world and for a place to really belong, give us a call, we will be happy to share our vision with you.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**INDEPENDENT ORDER
OF ODD FELLOWS**

Date: _____

I, _____, apply to the members of _____ Lodge # _____ of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Ontario; for membership by {(circle one) Initiation, Transfer, Card} and agree to abide by the rules, regulations and teachings of the Order. I understand my rights as a member are protected by the laws of the Order and I agree not to resort to the civil courts for their enforcement. I believe in a supreme being and am loyal to my country.

I was born at _____ on the _____ day of _____, 19____.

My occupation is _____,

My Employer is _____,

My residence address is:

and my phone number is _____.

Applicant's signature:

Sponsor's signature: (one is not needed)

We certify that the applicant meets the qualifications for membership in this Lodge. Interviewing Committee:



**Odd Fellows
and
Rebekahs**

Friendship, Love and Truth.

A World-wide Family Oriented Fraternity.

For More Information Contact:

The Grand Lodge of Ontario.
157 Frederick Street,
Stratford, Ontario.
N5A 3V3.

Phone: 519-273-8088

Fax: 519-273-8090

oglsec@ioof.net

or:

www.ioof.net

Odd Fellowship

Times change, things change, people change. Change is a part of life and stems from the mind as naturally as love and peace stem from the soul.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs in the United States and Canada was founded in much the same manner as the countries themselves - a bit of heritage from England, a dash of wilderness and adventure, a good deal of new world boldness and an abiding desire to serve people.

These values haven't changed much in the nearly two hundred years since the first Lodges were established in Boston, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Halifax, Montreal, St John's and Manitoba, Ontario.

In the earliest days, anyone lending a helping hand to those in need, those less fortunate, was considered rather ODD. In England especially, during the absolute rule of Kings and Queens, helping the poor and the orphans was almost treasonous because it implied the royal rulers were perhaps not as concerned with the people as they were with the taxes. ODD fellows were singled out by the crown for arrest. To meet this threat they met secretly and even used a password for security. While some have compared these ODD fellows to "Robin Hood", their motives were uncompromisingly non political and their means strictly within the law.

In the New World, people who thought of others first formally founded the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Baltimore in 1819, providing for orphans and families of factory workers in cities and of farmers in rural America and Canada.

In our modern world, Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are at the forefront of work to save the environment, to care for the elderly, to prevent drug abuse, to care for children with cancer, to clean up our highways, to work for world peace, to prevent blindness, find a cure for arthritis and to care for anyone in need.

What is an Odd Fellow Lodge?

Odd Fellow Lodges are founded on the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

Odd Fellow Lodges are interdenominational groups of men who are fraternally bound to aid their fellow man both within and outside the Lodge room.

What is a Fraternal Organization?

In the Odd Fellow Lodge a fraternal organization is a group of men who have pledged to treat each other as brothers.

Rebekah Lodge Membership

Membership means friendship and companionship, free from loneliness. It is for all females aged 18 and over, who are of good character and believe in a Supreme Being. We strive to promote Friendship, Love and Truth as well as good citizenship and leadership. We visit other Lodges spreading harmony. We help with projects in our communities and sponsor many charities.

What are some of the benefits of membership in the Odd Fellows?

A member enjoys fellowship with his peers and has an opportunity to aid his fellow man. We offer some leadership training and fun to our membership.

How much time must I devote to the Odd Fellows?

Most of the Odd Fellow Lodges in Ontario meet twice a month, generally on a week night. A member who wishes to spend more time at the work of the Order may do so.

Where are Odd Fellow Lodges located?

Odd Fellow Lodges are located in or near most communities throughout the world. You will not only be joining a local Lodge but will also belong to a world-wide fraternal Lodge!

Can I transfer my membership if I move?

Yes, all Odd Fellow Lodges recognize members of other Odd Fellow Lodges and a simple transfer certificate process enables a member to transfer his membership to another Lodge.

How Many Degrees are there?

As a fraternal order our teachings are explained in what we call Degrees. There are 4 Degrees for full membership in an Odd Fellow Lodge. The four Degrees are the Initiatory and three others which teach the members the meaning of Friendship, Love and Truth. Odd Fellows believe in Friendship, Love and Truth and while we are not a religious order, our lessons are derived from the bible. Odd Fellow meetings allow no political or sectarian discussion.

Are there other Degrees within the Independent Order of Odd Fellows?

Yes! After you have become an Odd Fellow, you may, if you wish, continue to the Patriarchal Degrees in Odd Fellowship. The Patriarchal Degrees are based on the principles of Faith, Hope and Charity. After the Patriarchal Degrees we have a Patriarchs Militant which is a Uniformed component of our Order. The Degree of the Patriarchs Militant is based on the principle of Universal Justice. Brothers and Sisters who wish may continue to expand their knowledge of the teachings of our Order through seeking these further Degrees.

**We Invite you to join with us in this great fraternal organization!
Please contact us at the addresses provided or give us a call! We would be happy to provide you with any additional information you may be seeking!**