

The



# Opti Prime

Optimist Club of Aurora

April 2004



## 2003-2004 Executive

*President*

**Ken McIsaac**

*President Elect*

**Brian Walsh**

*Vice Presidents*

**Carol Bartlett**

**Terry Sherin**

*Secretary*

**Grant Perry**

*Treasurer*

**Brian Walsh**

*Directors*

**Rob Gaby**

**Greg Way**

**John Thompson**

**Steve Hinder**

**Paul Madden**

**Bill Otton**

*Sgt-at-Arms*

**Ken Malczyk**

*Past President*

**Ken Banks**

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*Bulletin Editor*

**Alex Ansell**

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## Words of Wisdom

Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.

If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something



## *Ken's Corner* (the President's Message)

Time continues to march on. As usual there were many things going on in Opti Land. To date we have donated \$400.00 to send 4 Highview students to Quebec City in June, given \$500.00 to the Aurora Skating Club to help sponsor their "Ice Show in April, donated \$500.00 to Special Olympic basketball tournament at St Andrews college and have given \$1200.00 to the Aurora Jays Minor PeeWee team so that they could attend the Cooperstown Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament in Cooperstown New York in August and last but certainly not least donated \$500.00 to the new Cancer Wing at Southlake in

honour of Madison Screech who passed away at the age of 9 from cancer. I personally feel that this donation will be the first step in our Club becoming more involved in the Childhood Cancer Program.

On March 27th we hosted the Regional Chess Tournament at the Aurora Legion. I haven't seen the final numbers yet but I took some pictures that show a very large hall filled with enthusiastic chess players. Congratulations to Steve Granger and his committee for putting on a great event

On Sunday March 28th Steve Hinder and Brian Walsh joined me while we met a lot of Opti Hockey parents. We told them who we were and what we did in town and handed them our impressive brochures. Many of the parents already knew who we were and thanked us for the work that we do. Many others were new to town and were interested to find out more about the club. Later that day I attended the award ceremonies for rep hockey. Hundreds of kids and parents heard the Aurora Optimist Club name mentioned a number of times as both the teams that we sponsored won their respective divisions. I have e-mails from both coaches and team pictures. If editor Alex has room you'll see them in this issue of the Prime.

On a social note, Wendel Clark was guest speaker at our dinner meeting at Wellingtons on March 24. Wendel spoke for about 10 minutes about his early hockey days up to the day that he was drafted # 1 by the Toronto Maple Leafs. Many questions from the floor filled the following 45 minutes. He stuck around for some time after dinner for some photo ops and to sign some autographs. It was a wonderful evening and it was great to see a number of faces that we have not seen in a while.

Optimistically Yours

**Ken**



## Mark April 17 for the Progressive Dinner

The evening begins at 5:30 with appetizers, progresses to the main course, continues with dessert and ends with a wrap up party where you can share the highlights of the evening with your friends. Each course will be at a different location with a different group of people. Make sure you attend. Our organizers have solutions for everything (well almost) Call Tom Litwiller, Terry Sherin or Greg Way to sign up today.

## Committee Chairs

Bandfest -

Bingo – Bill Otton

Book Sale – Lesley Everest,  
Ken McIsaac

Bowling for Big Brothers  
- Frank Ramagnano

Bulletin – Alex Ansell

Chess – Steve Granger

COLS – John Thompson

Communications – Carol Bartlett

Dinner Meetings – Ken Malczyk  
- Carol Bartlett

Essay Contest –

Inaugural – Brian Walsh

July 1 - Terry Sherin, Greg Way,  
Brian Walsh

Membership – Steve Hinder

Members Xmas Party – Steve Hinder

Mobile Kitchen – Terry Sherin

Optimist International Foundation –  
Brian Walsh

Phoning – Carol Bartlett

Progressive Dinner – Tom Litwiller

Publicity – Steve Hinder

Rec Hockey – Rob Whiting

Respect for Law –

Safety on Wheels -

Santa Claus Parade – Tom McGhee

Santa Claus Parade Float – Bill Otton

Showcase Tournament – Alex Ansell

Soccerfest Skills – Alex Ansell  
Brian Marshall

Street Sale – Terry Sherin

- Greg Way

- Brian Walsh

Storage Facility – Tom McGhee

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## Reminders

- **Progressive Dinner - April 17**
- **Hartwell Challenge - April 18**
- **Ask a friend out to one of our dinner meetings then ask them to join**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter District Board Meeting, Holiday Inn Burlington, May 14,15**
- **Newmarket Optimist Club Annual Golf Tournament – Wednesday June 2, 2004**
- **District Convention, Blue Mountain, Collingwood, August 27-29**

## Opti Hockey

I just got back from the final day of Opti Rec Hockey. I left the arena with a smile on my face and a sense of accomplishment. To see the smiles on the faces of the boys AND girls who had all just received trophies for participating in the program made it all worthwhile. Not only that, we had many parents thank us for sponsoring the program. Most of them know who we are and really appreciate the work we do with Opti Hockey and the many other events that we are involved with. These parents along with the league executive will make great partners for us to work with in the future.

Many years ago when we first got involved, this was an exciting venture and we had a good deal of involvement with the league. Over the years we got away from it somehow and it only became an entry on our income statement. That changed when Kim Downs came out and enlightened us at a dinner meeting in January. After that it only took a couple of visits to the rink and I was hooked. I hope that all of you can get a chance next year to catch a game or two and I sure that you'll be as proud as I am to be associated with this very worthwhile project.

Ken McIsaac



The Hartwell Challenge is taking place this month on Sunday April.18. Last year the race raised \$17,000 for the Community Safety Village. In the last two years, this has been a great venue for the Optimist Club for visibility. We are hoping for a great turnout again this year and are looking forward to a good day.

I'm sure Sylvia Gilchrist has already contacted the members who helped out with registration last year. For the rest of the members who plan to help out could you give me a call at **905-727-9002** or an e-mail.

Thanks, John Thompson

## 8th Annual Regional Optimist Chess Tournament a Tremendous Success!



This year's event even though we had to do the same day setup went extremely well. Thanks to our dedicated Optimist members who showed up so early to do the physical work. Thanks to our leader Ken McIsaac, and fellow supporters Brian Walsh, Ken Banks, Grant Perry, Don Stubbs and Ken Banks volunteer friend John. We should also give thanks to the many Optimist who were helping behind the scenes preparing for this day and Carol Bartlett and Paul Madden were key.

To all the other members of our Club I'm going to help you to understand how your support as a club has made this a truly recognized and appreciated program. The opening speeches from our Mayor Tim Jones and Bill Hogarth of the York Region District School Board were very positive and supportive towards our efforts in making a true difference. They mentioned how our chess tournaments were widely supported by the public, Catholic and private schools in York Region. Of a total of 255 schools in York Region within the above categories there were a total of 112 schools who actually attended the area tournaments at all 4 Optimist tournaments. This is getting close to 50% attending. Overall we've had a stronger attendance this year with up to 1500 students actually competing throughout the region. Overall over the 8 years of having this program we have had close to 10,000 students actually attending our tournaments. Wow, and this is because of your support!! Why I feel this is important for you to know, is to often we forget how our individual efforts really make a difference overall!!

Many students who have attended through the years said thank you. Both parents and youths send their message of appreciation. The media was well represented with excellent coverage thanks to Don Stubbs efforts. Considering our minimal investment we have received great returns over the years and today the Optimist Chess tournaments have become an Aurora household event to be expected. Again, I would like to express my appreciation to all the Aurora Optimist members for making this year a success. It can only get better from here. Please check our new official website at [www.optimistchess.com](http://www.optimistchess.com). 'Til next year, keep up all the right moves!

Stephen Granger, Chair  
Aurora optimist Chess



### Bingo Dates and Teams until the end of June

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>April 6</b>  | <b>Whiting Team</b> |
| <b>April 20</b> | <b>Gaby Team</b>    |
| <b>May 4</b>    | <b>Otton Team</b>   |
| <b>May 18</b>   | <b>Whiting Team</b> |
| <b>June 1</b>   | <b>Gaby Team</b>    |
| <b>June 15</b>  | <b>Otton Team</b>   |
| <b>June 29</b>  | <b>Whiting Team</b> |

All of the above dates are at the new bingo hall **240 Industrial Parkway South** and all team members are requested to be at the hall no later than **4:45 pm** on those dates.

For further information, please contact **Bill Otton** at **905-727-1463**.



**Our Championship Team**

## Optimist Club Sponsorship of age 10 Boys Championship House League Team

It was a pleasure meeting you to-day Ken.

Thank you for sponsoring our team for the 2003/4 season. Your team had a great year which culminated in us winning the playoffs! As you know, the cost of kids playing hockey is escalating and it is only through the generous donations of businesses and community service clubs, like the Optimists, that some of these future stars

This year your team had 13 wins, 8 losses, and 3 ties. Every boy took great pride in contributing to these great results and each one of them had at least one point for a goal or an assist. Every boy also received at least one vote for this years three awards from the parents of the players. This years winners were: Gregory Lacroix (Asst. Captian) for Most Dedicated Player, Daniel Malinas for Most Improved and Sean Takahashi for Most Sportsmanlike. The team had only 4 minor penalties for the entire season!

The balance of the team who received direct benefit of your financial support were: Kevin Langdon, Kirk Stevens, Rocco De Bartolo, James Simpson, Colin East, Austi Haines, Slava Lobko, Christian Davies (Captain), Colin Sandquist, Spencer Brook, Michael Takahashi (Asst. Captain), and Nicky Zebrowski. The boys were both grateful of you contribution and proud to represent your fine service organization. It was a bonus that they were able to deliver a Championship win to your credit.

The coaching staff were volunteers who freely gave of their time to help develop these boys. Howard Takahashi - Asst. Coach, Greg Haines - Asst. Coach, Jeff Brook - Trainer and George Zebrowski - Team Manager, appreciated your part in making this a great and fun learning experience for the boys.

Thank You.  
Ken Lacroix, Head Coach



### The Optimist Creed

#### Promise Yourself

- To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press onto the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.



**Right Here, Right Now**

## April 2004

|   |    |   |   |    |    |                             |
|---|----|---|---|----|----|-----------------------------|
|   |    |   |   | 1  | 2  | 3                           |
| 4   | 5  | 6<br>Bingo<br>Whiting Team<br>- 4:45 p.m. | 7<br>Business Meeting<br>- 7:30 p.m.<br>Legion        | 8  | 9  | 10                          |
| 11  | 12 | 13  | 14  | 15 | 16 | 17<br>Progressive<br>Dinner |
| 18<br>Hartwell Run<br>Zone Meeting<br>Richmond Hill | 19 | 20<br>Bingo<br>Gaby Team<br>- 4:45 p.m.   | 21  | 22 | 23 | 24                          |
| 25  | 26 | 27  | 28<br>Executive Mtg.<br>- 7:00 p.m.<br>Aurora Library | 29 | 30 |                             |

## May 2004

|    |    |  |   |    |    |  |
|----|----|--|---|----|----|--|
|    |    |  |   |    |    | 1  |
| 2  | 3  | 4<br>Bingo<br>Otton Team<br>- 4:45 p.m.    | 5<br>Business Meeting<br>- 7:30 p.m.<br>Legion        | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11   | 12  | 13 | 14 | 15 3rd<br>Quarter Board<br>Meeting, Holiday<br>Inn, Burlington |
| 16 | 17 | 18<br>Bingo<br>Whiting Team<br>- 4:45 p.m. | 19<br>Dinner Meeting<br>7:30 pm<br>Wellington's       | 20 | 21 | 22   |
| 23 | 24 | 25   | 26<br>Executive Mtg.<br>- 7:00 p.m.<br>Aurora Library | 27 | 28 | 29   |
| 30 | 31 |  |   |    |    |  |



For lots of interesting information about Optimist International and its programs visit the official web site at "[www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)" or the Central Ontario District at "[www.cenon.ca](http://www.cenon.ca)".

### Editor's Corner

During the months ahead we will try to keep you up-to-date on events both within and outside of the Club as they relate to optimism. Event write-ups will be a must. If you have any other items or notices you would like to have included in the bulletin, please forward them to me at **905-727-5012** or email at [ansellas@interlog.com](mailto:ansellas@interlog.com)