



Opti Prime



Optimist Club of Aurora

May 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

Bulletin Editor

Alex Ansell

Words of Wisdom

Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you don't have a leg to stand on..

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Committee Chairs



Ken's Corner (the President's Message)

April was relatively quiet compared to the frantic schedule of March, but we did some community events and we had some great fellowship. I started the month off by attending the final day of Opti Hockey and got to meet some very nice parents and some great kids. At that event I also had the privilege of presenting a \$500.00 cheque to the parents of Madison Screech who was the 9 year old Aurora girl who passed away earlier this year from cancer. The cheque is going to the Southlake Hospital Cancer Wing.

We held our 2004/2005 elections on April 7 and congratulations to Brian Walsh who will be next year's President and Terry Sherin who will be President Elect.

John Thompson is moving up to Vice President. New Directors include Anna Kroepin, Paul English and Steve Granger. I'm sure it will be a great year.

Our annual progressive dinner was held on Saturday March 17 and as usual was a roaring success. The food was fabulous and the fellowship was great. This is the premier social night of the year and a great opportunity for not only our members but for our spouse to get better acquainted. Congratulations to Tom Litwiller and his committee for putting together this great evening.

On Sunday April 18 the third annual Bob Hartwell Run took place. I know that I speak for everyone that this is an event that we are genuinely thrilled to be involved with. This was Bob's dream and it's a great sense of pride that we are able to assist in the organization and marshalling of this event. The thunder, the rain and even the lightning (well the lightning was pretty scary) didn't damper the enthusiasm of all of the competitors and organizers. My congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated in the run. For those of you who were there at 6:00 am for registration.....WOW!!!!!!

It's hard to believe that the year is winding down but we only have 2 months left before we break for the summer. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming meetings.

Optimistically Yours

Ken

Fun, Food & Fellowship

The fourth annual Aurora Optimist Progressive Dinner was held on Saturday April 17th. This year's event attracted 27 people in search of good food, fellowship and fun – they were not disappointed. Paul English and Jane and Steve Hinder attended their first progressive dinner and now know why many of us feel that it is the number one event on the Aurora Optimist social calendar. I would like to thank all of the participants for helping to make this evening such a success, as well as my committee, including Linda Housser, Greg Way and Terry Sherin and who made chairing this committee extremely easy.



Best regards,
Tom Litwiller
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
Opti Rec Hockey – Rob Whiting
Optimist International Foundation –
Brian Walsh
Phoning – Carol Bartlett
Progressive Dinner – Tom Litwiller
Publicity – Steve Hinder
Respect for Law – Steve Hinder
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



Bingo Dates and Teams until the end of June

May 4	Otton Team
May 18	Whiting Team
June 1	Gaby Team
June 15	Otton Team
June 29	Whiting Team

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 New Executive for 2004-2005 was elected/appointed at the April Business meeting and will be:

President: Brian Walsh
President Elect: Terry Sherin
Vice President: Carol Bartlett
Vice President: John Thompson
1 Year Directors: Steve Hinder
Paul Madden
Bill Otton
2 Year Directors: Paul English
Anna Kroepflin
Steve Granger
Sgt-at-Arms TBA
Past President Ken McIsaac
Secretary: Grant Perry
Treasurer: Ken Banks

Reminders

- **Ask a friend out to one of our dinner meetings then ask them to join**
- **3rd Quarter District Board Meeting, Holiday Inn Burlington, May 14,15**
- **June is Childhood Cancer Month**
- **Newmarket Optimist Club Annual Golf Tournament – Wednesday June 2, 2004**
- **Street Sale – June 6**
- **Respect for Law Dinner – Thursday June 17 – Community Safety Village**
- **District Convention, Blue Mountain, Collingwood, August 27-29**
- **Inaugural – October 2, location – a SURPRISE**

An honest 7-year-old admitted calmly to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class.

"How did that happen?" gasped her mother.

"It wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."

8th Annual Regional Optimist Chess Tournament - Further Information



In addition to the 306 students participating from Aurora, the other Optimist Clubs in York Region such as Richmond Hill had a total of 389 participants, Markham Optimist had 351 participants and Newmarket is last said to have 324 participants signed up. That's a total new record of 1370 student chess tournament players!

Another special new addition which the Chess committee has developed is a new official website which is now up and running. This site has already had over 300 hits in a very short time. Check out www.optimistchess.com You will be amazed at the creative flare that Dave Lawless has done in the designing of what will be a very popular target and advertisement to the York Region Optimist Clubs! A future presentation is in the works for presentation to the Club after the final Regional Tournament. The efforts by Optimist members are truly appreciated by the youth of York Region!

Optimistically Yours

Stephen Granger, Chair
Aurora Optimist Chess



Third Quarter Board Meeting

On May 14 and 15, the Central Ontario District will be

hosting the visit of our International President Dwaine Sievers and his wife Susie. Other events will include the presentations by the Oratorical, CCDHH and Essay winners



The Board of Directors of Optimist International has designated June as Childhood Cancer Month.

A gentleman named Johnathan Dockman is attempting to run across Canada following the same route as the late Terry Fox who died while valiantly attempting to finish his crusade on behalf of cancer research – to raise money on behalf of the fight against cancer.

Johnathan's father, Mike, is a member of the Optimist Club of Airdrie – Frenz Café in Alberta and is accompanying Johnathan on this arduous journey. Donations are being accepted and any monies over and above the expenses of the two will be donated to the Optimist International Foundation of Canada and will be used for Childhood cancer Campaign activities in Canada. Donations of cheques for Johnathan's run, which is titled Canadian Cancer Crusade, should be made out to Optimist International Foundation of Canada with Cancer Crusade or Dockman Run noted in the memo portion of the cheque or on an accompanying note.

A letter has gone out from Roger Koch, Executive Director of the Optimist International Foundations, outlining the run, what it is all about and who the contacts are.

The Dockman's have already expended a considerable amount of money up front in their trip to date. This is a great opportunity for Optimists across Canada to partner through the Optimist International Foundation of Canada and promote their Childhood Cancer Campaign commitment to the Canadian public. This opportunity should eventually provide the needed resources for the various Club's childhood cancer community activities.

Why not do your part and help with this very worthy cause and if you are ever driving east of Thunder Bay don't

forget to 'stop at the memorial site for Terry Fox.



We didn't just participate in another Hartwell Run, we survived it. People don't remember nice days and a nice run. They remember the day when the thunder and lightning roared and we all wondered what we were doing on a Sunday Morning in the middle of a raging storm when we could have been back home reading the Sunday funnies and having another coffee. That's why we are Optimists.

After doing an extensive headcount, I believe we accounted for all the Opti-volunteers at the 2004 Hartwell Challenge. Despite the worst conditions possible, the run went off without an organizational hitch, thanks in great part to the efforts of the Aurora Optimists.

From all the members who participated in registration, to our newest member, Trish Back, who decided to show her Optimism by handing out water at St. Johns and Leslie, and becoming one with the rain, my heartfelt thanks and when she dries out, welcome to the Club. I would appreciate hearing from all the members who were there on Sunday, especially Ken Banks, and all their personal experiences. I am sure there were a lot of stories I haven't heard yet.

Despite the fact that President Ken was unable to present awards for the Optimist 5K due to inclement weather {go figure}, Opti's were all over the course. From registration, to marshalling, to manning water stations, we again did the club proud.

With Thanks,
John Thompson

Editor's Note: Pictures of the Hartwell Challenge were not available at press time but will be included in the next

edition. Look for some very wet people.



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

May 2004

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

June 2004

		1 Bingo Gaby Team - 4:45 p.m.	2 Newmarket Golf Shaneeki Golf 1:00 pm shotgun	3	4	5
6 Street Sale 10:30 am -5:00 pm	7	8	9 Business Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Legion	10	11	12
13	14	15 Bingo Otton Team - 4:45 p.m.	16	17 Respect for Law 7:30 pm Safety Village	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Bingo Whiting Team - 4:45 p.m.	30 Executive Mtg. - 7:00 p.m. Aurora Library			



For lots of interesting information about Optimist International and its programs visit the official web site at "www.optimist.org" or the Central Ontario District at "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