

The



Opti Prime

Optimist Club of Aurora

January 2007



2006-2007 Executive

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John Thompson

President Elect

Greg Way

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Carol Bartlett

Paul English

Secretary

Janice Walsh

Treasurer

Doug Hubley

Directors

Ken Banks

John O'Heir

Ken McIsaac

Brian Marshall

Glen Sharp

Rusty Barrese

Sgt-at-Arms

Ken Watkins

Past President

Terry Sherin

Bulletin Editor

Alex Ansell

Famous Quotations

*My wife has a slight
impediment in her speech.
Every now and then she stops
to breathe.*

-- Jimmy Durante

*Last week, I stated this
woman was the ugliest
woman I had ever seen. I have
since been visited by her sister,
and now wish to withdraw
that statement.*

-- Mark Twain



John's 19th Hole (The President's Message)

To think I kissed my clubs goodbye, and told them I would see them next spring. I think they will be with me on Feb.4 at the Zone Breakfast at St. Andrews, just in case.

I think the Christmas Party was possibly the best attended Opti function I have ever been at. Wellingtons put on their usual great meal, and Santa John and his merry band of elves had the place hopping. I didn't see velvet Elvis this year, but a certain wall hanging was definitely the hot item. I lost track if it finally finished up at the Hinder table or the Otton table. Past Pres. Terry brought out two new members to the Party. A warm Opti welcome to Patricia and Peter Bifolchi. Already our new members have been out working at the Santa Parade, the Book Sale and the Hockey Showcase. Lets try not to burn them out too soon.

And talking about the Showcase. [Nice segue eh?] despite rumours to the contrary, our venerable Alex is still alive. Despite being taken out by an enthusiastic young hockey player, he only sustained bruised ribs and ego. Way to go the extra mile Alex. By all accounts, the Showcase was once again a rousing success. One of our newer members Sean Armstrong was on the ice for six hours before his ailing ankles did him in. Bill Otton was our representative this in Celebrity Game on Friday, and managed to goal suck one in. Our Ken Banks was his usual tenacious self in selling the 50/50 tickets. But next year Ken, leave the kids in the carriages alone. Thanks to Terry and Brian for standing in for me for the medal presentations. And a special thanks to all the members and friends of the Club who help us make this such a great event.

The Town has kindly provided the Optimist Club with space in a display and the new Rec Centre. If you are at the Centre, it is six sectioned case in front of the West Rink . We get half on the case. We are looking for suggestions on what we can put in this case. We know we have plaques and awards scattered among the members, especially Ken Banks garage. Hope a few members can responsibility for making a nice display.

A quick reminder that the Dinner meeting is Jan.17. It will be at a different venue in town for a change of scenery. Carol will email the detail next week and as mentioned above, we are hosting the Zone Brekkie and meeting on Feb. 4 at St. Andrews Golf Club. We were there last year, and they put on a great meal. It's a good opportunity to meet the members of the clubs in our Zone and see how they take care of business.

I would like to thank the members for coming out to our business meetings. We have met our quorum every time. If you haven't been out yet, I promise you we try to make as an efficient use of your time as possible. Our time is all valuable, I we will treat it as such.

Yours in Optimism

President John

Committee Chairs

Bike & Board Rodeo - Robert Parypa
Bingo – Tom Connor
Book Sale – Nora MacDonald
- Ken McIsaac
Bowling for Big Brothers
- Anna Kroeplin
Bulletin – Alex Ansell
Chess – Steve Granger
COLS – John Thompson
Communications – Carol Bartlett
Dinner Meetings – Carol Bartlett
Hartwell Run – Paul English
Inaugural – Greg Way
John Thompson
Membership – Ken Banks
Members Xmas Party – John Housser
Mobile Kitchen – Terry Sherin
Opti Rec Hockey –
Optimist International Foundation –
Janice Walsh
Progressive Dinner – Greg Way
Publicity –
Respect for Law – Steve Hinder
Santa Claus Parade Marshalling
- John Thompson
Santa Claus Parade Float – Bill Otton
Showcase Tournament – Alex Ansell
Street Dance – Carol Bartlett
- Terry Sherin
Web Site – Janice & Brian Walsh

Director – Youth Sports
-
Director – Youth Activities
-
Director – Community Service
- Glen Sharp
Director – Membership
-
Director – Fundraising
- Ken McIsaac
Director - Fellowship
- John O'Heir

Zone Meeting

When – Sunday, February 4
Place – St. Andrews Golf Club
Time – 9:30 a.m.

Come out and learn about what other Clubs are doing.

Special guests will be Governor Terry Twocock and First Lady Lynn.



Bingo Dates and Teams until the end of March

January 9	Whiting Team
January 23	Gaby Team
February 13	Otton Team
February 27	Whiting Team
March 13	Gaby Team
March 27	Otton 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 **Tom Connor** at **905-727-1546**.



2nd Quarter District Conference

February 16-17
Sheraton
Mississauga

This is the annual awards meeting for all activities from the 2005-2006 year, the "You Too Can".year.

Take part in the education sessions and the round table discussions. Get ideas from others and join in on the hospitality. Find out what our District is all about.

Bear Up CENON!

Christmas Dinner

It was a great time for all who attended the annual Christmas Dinner held at



Wellington's. Many wonderful gifts were exchanged, traded or confiscated.

Barb seemed to enjoy Santa.

Chess Anyone?

Volunteers are urgently need for the 11th Annual Aurora area chess tournament. The event will take place on Thursday February 22th at the Aurora Legion with setup being done the night before and early morning (7:30 am) on the day of the tournament.

The Regionals will be held Saturday, March 31 at the Newmarket Optimist Hall.

For more information, please call **Steve Granger** at **905-727-2035**. **Steve is also looking for a new chair for the event.**



Book Sale



"The 20th Annual Aurora Optimist Club book sale was a great success. Saturday morning was as usual crowded with eager customers some of whom were already lined up at 7:15am when our first member arrived. We raised just over \$18,000 which is well above our target. Thanks to the book sale committee and everyone who helped out Friday, Saturday and Sunday and made our sale successful."

Nora MacDonald

REMINDERS

- **Feb 22 – Aurora Chess Legion**
- **Mar 31 – Regional Chess Newmarket**
- **April 15 – Hartwell Run**
- **April 25 – Heritage Fair**
- **April 28 – Progressive Dinner**
- **June 2 – Street Dance**
- **June 3 – Soap Box Derby**



2006-2007 Showcase Tournament

Wednesday December 27 started the Tenth Annual Minor Hockey Showcase, co-sponsored by the Optimist Club of Aurora, the Aurora Canadian Tire Associate Store and the Aurora Minor Hockey Association. Over 1,000 boys and girls on 64 teams in 9 divisions participated in the four-day event, with 105 games being played. Of course the highlight of the event was the skills competition put on by our Club for the 9 age divisions from Tyke to Minor Midget. The Tyke to Major Atom age divisions were put through their paces doing skating, stick handling and shooting drills. The skills for the senior divisions of Minor Peewee to Minor Midget had more of an NHL flavour and included accuracy, hardest shot and breakaway passing. Each division also had relay races. The skills competitions all took place on December 27 from 8:00 am to 9:30 pm. There were no difficulties with the time clock this year. The equivalent of ninety-nine people were required in running these skills competitions. Unfortunately work and the flu did run some interference. Points earned in the skills competition by each team were factored into the overall standing for each age group in the tournament so the skills become a very important factor in determining the two finalist teams for the championship games on December 30.

On Friday December 29th, the Celebrity game again took place to a large crowd. The Celebrity team consisted of Rep Team coaches, several Central York Firefighters, some Aurora Tiger and our own Bill Otton. The game was very spirited and was finally won by the Celebrity Team. During the first intermission, the five fastest teams of each age division of the Tyke to Minor Peewee skated in special relay races. Between the second and third periods, the four hardest shots of the Major Peewee to Minor Midget divisions were involved in head to head shootouts. After the game, the winning team members in each age group for the skills competition were presented with their awards courtesy of Aurora Canadian Tire. Admission to the game was a donation to the Aurora Food Bank and much needed food was collected.

On Friday December 30, the finals for each age group were held. Past Presidents Brian Walsh and Terry Sherin shared the presentation of the gold and silver medals and trophies to the champions and finalists. Many thanks are extended to Bonnie Fraser and Wayne Scott of the Aurora Minor Hockey Association for their organization and cooperation in making this tournament such a success. Many favourable comments were received about the tournament.

Many thanks are also extended to the twenty-three members and twenty other non-members including Judy Sherin, Doug Kelly, Blair Boyd, George Wortman, Bob Bartlett, Mike Sheridan, Andrew Sheridan, and high school volunteers Patrick Madden, Rob Wilson and Caitlin Kelly for helping to run the skills competitions. Special thanks are extended to Rusty Barrese of Recreation Leisure Services for his generous support during the skills and tournament. Many thanks are also given to the members and non-members who ran the skills on Thursday night, sold 50-50 tickets (especially master seller Ken Banks) and helped out with the Celebrity game and reception. It was a win-win situation for all of those involved but particularly for the house league kids. Our Minor Atom team won the skills competition for their age division and our Minor Bantam team lost out in the championship final.



*Alex S. Ansell
Skills Coordinator*



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.



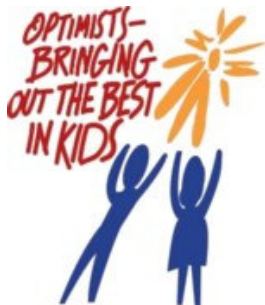
Right Here, Right Now

January 2007

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

February 2007

				1	2	3
4	5	6 Bingo Otton Team - 4:45 p.m.	7 Business Mtg. - 7:30 p.m. Aurora Legion	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Bingo Whiting Team - 4:45 p.m.	21 Dinner Mtg. - 7:30 p.m. Wellington's	22 Aurora Chess - 8:30 a.m. Legion	23	24
25	26	27	28 Executive Mtg. - 7:00 p.m. Library			



For lots of interesting information about Optimist International and its programs visit the official web site at "www.optimist.org", the Central Ontario District at "www.cenon.ca" or our own at "www.auroraoptimist.com"

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

