

The



# Opti Prime

## Optimist Club of Aurora

March 2007



### 2006-2007 Executive

*President*

**John Thompson**

*President Elect*

**Greg Way**

*Vice Presidents*

**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**

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*Bulletin Editor*

**Alex Ansell**

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### Famous Quotations

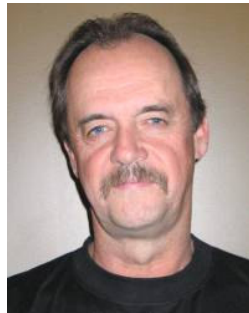
*I don't feel old. I don't feel  
anything until noon.*

*Then it's time for my nap.*

*-- Bob Hope*

*By the time a man is wise  
enough to watch his step, he's  
too old to go anywhere.*

*-- Billy Crystal*



### *John's 19<sup>th</sup> Hole* (The President's Message)

Yikes. March has come in like the proverbial lion and I don't see the proverbial lamb in the near future. From the bone chilling cold of February, we are now in the frozen slop of March. Time to retreat to the golf dome and dream of warmer times.

February saw our intrepid Past Pres. Terry out and about with the frozen weinie wagon. Visits to the Arctic Adventure at Machell Park and the Cabin Fever Breakout at Town Park saw lots of barbequed hotdogs and bowls of chili doled out to the daring souls of Aurora who braved the elements on both weekends. Our new members, the Bifolchis, showed great spirit and a good assortment of warm clothes by helping out at both events. The new paint job on the wagon looks great, but alas the inside is as cold as always on a frozen weekend in February.

Great work on the Chess Tournament as usual from Steve Granger and his committee of Don Stubbs, Chris Tsang and Anna Kroepelin. Despite the inclement weather outside, which delayed the start of the day until everyone slogged through the snow, the tourney went off without a hitch, despite the fact that a young entrant went home with his mother without telling anyone. Also thanks to members Glen, Bill, Barb and her friend Laurie who helped out slogging chairs and tables for the setup.

Talking about Barb Steele, she has brought forth an interesting fund raiser for the future. Her friend Laurie Blake, from the Rotary Club of Uxbridge, was kind enough to describe the Trip of Month concept to us, and the experience of his club. The twenty-eight members who were present at the February business meeting were impressed enough to strike a committee to investigate further and no doubt you will be hearing from the committee soon.

As I was unable to get away from work on Feb.21, Pres. Elect Greg was kind enough to arrange dinner and speaker for our dinner meeting. By all accounts, the meal was great and Colleen Abbot from the Aurora Public Library informed us that our contributions have exceeded over \$100,000. Sometimes we get so busy taking care of the fundraising and the little things about running a club that it takes an outsider to point out to us how big our contributions are to the citizens of Aurora.

I guess our monthly meetings weren't enough to keep Wellingtons afloat, so we'll be exploring new venues in upcoming months to hold our dinner meetings. The popular Pool Challenge at the Cue Zone is this month and after that we will explore what else our Town has to offer.

Have fun in your committee's and think warm thoughts.

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 Kroepelin

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

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Director – Youth Activities

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Director – Community Service  
- Glen Sharp

Director – Membership

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Director – Fundraising  
- Ken McIsaac

Director - Fellowship  
- John O'Heir

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## Zone Meeting

**When – Sunday, April 22**

**Place – Island Grove Bowling  
Alley, Metro Road near Woodbine  
Time – 9:00 a.m.**

**Come out and learn about what  
other Clubs are doing and then  
after our meeting we will be able to  
test our bowling techniques and  
have some fun.**



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

<b>March 6</b>	<b>Gaby Team</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Otton Team</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Whiting Team</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Gaby Team</b>
<b>May 1</b>	<b>Otton Team</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Whiting Team</b>
<b>May 29</b>	<b>Gaby Team</b>
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Otton Team</b>
<b>June 26</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 **Tom Connor** at **905-727-1546**.



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## **3rd Quarter District Conference**

**May 25-26  
Ambassador Hotel  
Kingston**

This is the meeting where the annual oratorical contest finals for the 2006-2007 year are held. It is an exciting time to listen to the finalists in this great contest.

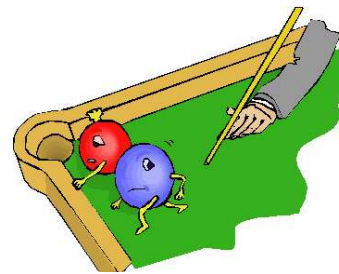
In addition, there will be some great educational sessions. Get ideas from others and join in on the hospitality. Find out what our District is all about.

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## **District Convention**

**September 7 - 9  
Quality Suites  
St. Catharines, Ontario**

**Bear Up CENON!**



## **Pool Nite**

LOCATION: Cue Zone, Wellington at Haida, west of Yonge St.

DATE: Wednesday, March 21

TIME: 7:00 p.m. sharp

FEE: \$15.00 (incl. buffet & table fees)

We're looking for numbers, folks! We have 5 tables from 7-10. Please RSVP your interest in participating in this fun event ASAP to Carol Bartlett. We need to know how many people we can set the tourney up for, and also, how many mouths to feed. The scrumptious. Catering will be by Quizno's. First timers and spouses welcome.

Come out and have some fun.

Watch out for the **'SHARK'**

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## **REMINDERS**

- Mar 21 – Pool Nite
- Mar 31 – Regional Chess - Newmarket
- April 15 – Hartwell Run
- April 22 – Zone Meeting - Keswick
- April 25 – Heritage Fair
- April 28 – Progressive Dinner
- May 26 – Bike & Board Rodeo
- May 25, 26 – District Board Meeting, Kingston
- June 2 – Street Dance
- June 3 – Street Sale

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# **JUST ASK**



## ***Bowl for Kids Sake***

A group of members bowled for Kids Sake on Sat. Feb. 17th at Aurora's Gateway Café & Lanes. Bowlers were Carol Bartlett, Barb Steele, Glen Sharp, Ruth Sharp, Steve Granger, Paul English, Tom Connor, Barb Connor, Brian Marshall, Mary-Beth Marshall, Anna Kroepelin, Todd Kroepelin.

Our group scored quite a few strikes and won a few prizes for their efforts. If gutter balls were the toast of the day we would have ran away with that prize, just on one members efforts alone....not mentioning any names (Bartlett). A good time was had by all, we raised some money for the kids - \$570.00 including the club donation. We are looking forward to next year.

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## ***Awards***

At the recent Quarter Board Meeting Mississauga, our Club was the recipient of several awards for the 2005-2006 "You Too Can" year.

Our Club was an Honour Club and congratulations are extended to President Terry Sherin, Secretary Janice Walsh and Treasurer Doug Hubley. In addition the Club received a Governor's Award. Three Clubs in our Zone, Aurora, Keswick and Richmond Hill, received Honour Club recognition.

Although we were not the top Club in the Zone, we managed to rank fourth of all the Clubs in the District for our activities. Keswick was the top Club in the District

In addition, our bulletin, The Opti Prime, was judged to be the best in the 35+ members category and we received a \$20 per member banner patch from the Optimist International Foundation of Canada.

Congratulations are extended to all.



## **6<sup>th</sup> annual Bob Hartwell**

Half Marathon  
April 15, 2007

This fixture of the Aurora Sports community is in its' 6<sup>th</sup> year. All signs point towards a record number of runners, walkers and sponsors. The Harwell Committee, of which our club is a member, has been meeting for several months putting the hundreds of details in order for another successful fund raising event.

The Golden Griddle has been recruited to provide the pancake breakfast. Club involvement will include marshalling and helping out with breakfast.

The Club will sponsor the mini-mile.

Please contact Paul English at [905-841-4002](tel:905-841-4002) or email at [penglish@aci.on.ca](mailto:penglish@aci.on.ca) for further information



**89th Annual Optimist  
International Convention  
15th Annual JOOI Convention  
July 4-7, 2007  
Montréal, Quebec**

**Rooms at the Holiday Inn are  
sold out and rooms at the Delta  
Hotel are limited**



**Bike & Board Rodeo  
Saturday May 26, 2007**

Organization for the bike rodeo is well under way. The event will take place at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

For further information, please contact Robert Parypa at **905-713-0774**.



## **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**

# Chess Tournament



Many thanks to the many Optimist members who have made the lives of 289 student youth happy while attending our 11th Aurora Optimist Chess Competition at the Royal Canadian Legion on Feb/21st. The chess committee members were

key to this year's success. Many thanks to Anna Kroeplin, Don Stubbs, and Chris Tsang who made everything run smoothly from planning to the actual event. It always amazes me how Don Stubbs can state exactly the time when the chess tournament will be finished even though we were into the 1st round?! He definitely has the planning here down to a science! Also, thanks to Chris for coming to me at just the right moment when he knows I've got this overwhelmed look! For those who may never have attended one of our Chess tournaments, imagine the excitement, energy, and constant talking, from 300 energized and noisy students from grade one through to grade 12 crammed in the Legion Hall! Well our chess volunteers can especially Anna, and when she's put her mind to the task of handling the registering and directing of these droves of parents, school teachers and student youth they know to listen. Her skills in organizing the school groups at the crazy morning start time is a true blessing! At some point I'm going to ask Anna to demonstrate how she gets the students to "be quiet!" She doesn't even need a loud speaker! You can hear a pin drop when she did it this year! About 50% of the group were returning students which was a nice thing to see.



The setup crew on the Wednesday night were great and many thanks go to Barbara Steele, Laurie Blake, Bill Otton, Glen Sharp along with Chris Tsang. They worked hard and in some cases both days to get things done. Don Stubbs was shocked when he arrived Wednesday wondering what truckload of workers set everything up and left him nothing to be done. Nice timing Don!

Of course our Optimist leader John Thompson was a cornerstone through the actual event day having worked a full shift the night before and arriving with the banners in hand just before the schools arrived. I think your snowplow helped you because the weather was really snowy! It was questionable how many schools were going to be there considering, but Optimistically all showed up which proves how important this event is to the students and schools. This is because of everyone's effort and support from the club towards keeping it running well. Overall we had great media coverage as you can see from the area papers keeping chess in the front as an expected February event for the students and teachers of York Region.




Our future Regional Chess final will happen Saturday, March 31st at the Newmarket Optimist Hall. Start time will be 9:00 am. We should have about 175 finalists from the

other Optimist area tournaments which were held in Richmond Hill, Newmarket, Keswick and Markham (by Chess'n Math). This amounts to 1,400 players overall that will have played in an Optimist chess tournament this year. Many thanks to all and for those available I'll be sending out a volunteer invite to help at the Regional Tournament coming March 31st. It's a great way to meet some of the other club members and see some pretty smart youth at work!

**Stephen Granger**

Chair, Aurora Optimist Chess

## March 2007

				1	2	3
4	5	6 Bingo Gaby 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 Otton Team 4:45 p.m.	21 Pool Nite - 7:00 p.m. Cue Zone	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Executive Mtg. - 7:00 p.m. Library	29	30	31 Regional Chess Newmarket OC

## April 2007

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



For lots of interesting information about Optimist International and its programs visit the official web site at "[www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)", the Central Ontario District at "[www.cenon.ca](http://www.cenon.ca)" or our own at "[www.auroraoptimist.com](http://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](mailto:ansellas@interlog.com)

