

The

Opti Prime



Optimists Bring Out the Best in Children

Les Optimistes inspirent le meilleur chez les jeunes • 2007-2008



Optimist Club of Aurora

January 2008

2007-2008 Executive

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Bifulchi

Past President
John Thompson

Bulletin Editor
Alex Ansell

I've Learned

*That you should never say
no to a gift from a child.*

*That the best classroom in
the world is at the feet of
an elderly person*

*That being kind is more
important than being
right.*



Greg's Way (The President's Message)

Joyce and I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that 2008 proves to be an excellent year for you and your family.

Our Optimist annual Christmas Party was well attended and a good time was had by all. St. Andrew's proved once again to be excellent place to host our events. We wish to thank Santa Claus for attending and handing out gifts in his usual outstanding manner. And a special thanks to the Housser's for hosting us for a pre-dinner drink at their home. I hope the move

back to Toronto goes smoothly but don't forget to drive back to good old Aurora and attend our events.

Our annual Showcase Hockey Tournament went smoothly over the Christmas holiday. Optimist Alex Ansell had us all organized and was there to make sure everything went smooth. Lots of kids, lots of parents, lots of fun, and great hockey. Thanks to all the members would volunteered their time to make this another successful event.

As we look forward to January, our dinner meeting on Wednesday, January 16 (at Jonathan's) our speaker will be Aurora Mayor Phyllis Morris who will talk to us about what is happening in Aurora and it's near future.

I would also like to welcome our newest member to the Club - Olga McCleery. Please make sure you introduce yourself to her and make her feel part of our outstanding Club.

October, November and December have been great months for our Club with new members, new dinner venues, a new fund raising idea, great projects, excellent speakers and excellent attendance at meetings and events. Let's keep up the good work in 2008!!

Greg



2nd Quarter District Conference

February 8, 9

Newmarket Optimist Hall

Numerous workshop and roundtable sessions are planned. Why not take advantage of the close proximity of the Newmarket Hall to join in on the sessions and learn more about our District. Our Club has been asked to make a presentation on our Tri-Star program.

Awards from Past Governor Terry Twocock's year will also be presented. Hopefully our Club will be a recipient of some of these awards

Committee Chairs

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

Director – Marketing/Publicity
 - Diane Buchanan
Director – Youth Activities
 - Glen Sharp
Director – Community Service
 - Rob Gaby
Director – Membership
 - Rusty Barrese
Director – Fundraising
 - Brian Marshall
Director - Fellowship
 - Tom Litwiller

SANTA CLAUS FLOAT

The previous article accidentally omitted recognition for two members who put as lot of time and work into building the float.

Apologies are extended to Ken Watkins and Ken Banks for not being included on the original list.



Bingo Dates and Teams until the end of March

January 8	Gaby Team
January 22	Otton Team
February 5	Whiting Team
February 19	Gaby Team
March 4	Otton Team
March 18	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 **Brian Marshall at 905-727-6732.**

21st Annual Aurora Optimist Book Sale



What a Great Success!!!

On Dec. 1st and 2nd, 2007 our Optimist Club once again held a very successful book sale at the Aurora Library. Customers were lined up at 7:15am on Saturday. Thanks to everyone's participation we grossed \$22,578. A special thank you to my book sale committee--Anna Kroeplin, Ken McIsaac, Barb Steele, Glen Sharp, and Joyce Way-- whose hard work helped keep our expenses low (only \$1,372). Also, an extra thank you to all the members and their families who helped with the book sort on Friday evening.

Nora MacDonald
Chair



Christmas Dinner Meeting

Our annual Christmas Dinner meeting started at the Housser's with a wonderful glass of wine and festive camaraderie to start the Christmas evening.



The second stop was at St. Andrew's Golf Club where the festivities



continued. The dinner was again fabulous and was in keeping

with the festive season. Presents were laid out on a large table in the hope that Santa Claus would arrive.

Amazingly, just after dessert, Old St. Nick trudged up the stairs after he and his reindeer landed on the nearby golf course. Santa was in good form and with the help of two of his elves, distributed the waiting presents.



A great time was had by all and we waved good-bye to Santa as he continued his journey.

REMINDERS

- **Jan 19 – Zone Meeting**
- **Feb 8-9 - District Conference**
- **Feb 9 – Artic Adventure**
- **Feb 23 – Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowling**
- **Feb 28 – Annual Chess Tournament**



2007-2008 Showcase Tournament

Thursday December 27 started the Twelfth Annual Minor Hockey Showcase, co-sponsored by the Optimist Club of Aurora, Aurora Canadian Tire and the Aurora



Minor Hockey Association. Over 1,000 boys and girls on 61 teams in 9 divisions participated in the four-day event, with 101 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 Pee wee 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 9:00 pm. The equivalent of ninety people were required in running these skills competitions. 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 Saturday 29th, a new twist was added to the tournament. All teams participating in the tournament were involved in a 4 on 4 or 3 on 3 mini tournaments. All games were 5 minutes long and from early reports all players had a great time. After each age group finished the mini tournament, the five fastest teams of each age division of the Tyke to Minor Pee wee skated in special relay races and the four hardest shots of the Major Pee wee to Minor Midget divisions were involved in head to head shootouts.

On Sunday December 30, the finals for each age group were held. President Greg Way and Past President Brian Marshall 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 from parents about the tournament.



Many thanks are also extended to the twenty-three members and twenty other non-members including Judy Sherin, Mary Beth Marshall, Doug Kelly, Caitlin Kelly, Bob Ince, Bob Bartlett, Mike Sheridan, David Sheridan, Erin Madden, and high school volunteers Patrick Madden, Andrew Walsh, Curtis Robinson, Kyle McCreedy and Kevin McCreedy 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. It was a win-win situation for all of those involved but particularly for the house league kids

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.



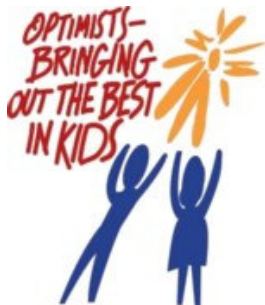
Right Here, Right Now

January 2008

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

February 2008

					1	2
3	4	5 Bingo Whiting Team - 4:45 p.m	6 Business Mtg. - 7:30 p.m. Aurora Legion	7	8 District Conf. - 7:30 p.m. Newmarket	9 District Conf. Newmarket Artic Adventure
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Bingo Gaby Team - 4:45 p.m	20 Dinner Mtg. - 7:30 p.m. Jonathan's	21	22	23 Dinner Mtg. - 7:30 p.m. Jonathan's
24	25	26	27 Board Mtg - 7:00 p.m. Library	28 Chess Tournament - 9:00 a.m. Legion	29	



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

