

The

Opti Prime



Optimists Bring Out the Best in Children

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



Optimist Club of Aurora

June 2008

2007-2008 Executive

President
Greg Way

President Elect
Carol Bartlett

Vice Presidents
Paul English
Ken Banks

Secretary
Alex Ansell

Treasurer
Tom Connor

Directors
Brian Marshall
Glen Sharp
Rusty Barrese
Tom Litwiller
Rob Gaby
Diane Buchanan

Sgt-at-Arms
Patricia & Peter
Bifolchi

Past President
John Thompson

Bulletin Editor
Alex Ansell

Interesting Comments

*The hardness of the
butter is proportional to
the softness of the bread.*

*Eagles may soar, but
weasels don't get sucked
into jet engines. .*

*What happens if you get
scared half to death
twice?*



Greg's Way (The President's Message)

Another crazy month and were we busy.

I believe that our activities in May reflect the type of club we are. This was a month of involvement as a community service club where our motto is *Bringing Out The Best In Kids*. We had our first ever Optimist Junior Golf Tournament here in Aurora at St. Andrew's Valley on a beautiful May 25 afternoon. 25 kids from the area participated and it was an example of sportsmanship and brought out some of the best kids in our community. Then we followed this up with our involvement in

the Bike & Board Rodeo and then the Soap Box Derby where once again we were working directly with kids. Then the Street Dance where we enjoyed ourselves at a community fund raiser and then ended the weekend with the Street Festival where we provided community service by working the Mobile Kitchen.

On a personal level, this all makes me very proud to be the president of the Optimist Club of Aurora and it feels so much better volunteering my time directly with and for the kids and the community rather than just writing a cheque.

There are so many people to thank for their involvement this past month. It's impossible to list everyone here but I do wish to thank the chairs of the various events:

Bike & Board Rodeo	Robb Parypa
Soap Box Derby	John Thompson
Street Dance	Carol Bartlett
Street Festival	Terry Sherin

In case you didn't know, we are also the recipients of a brand new beautiful barbeque courtesy of Home Depot. Terry Sherin had it delivered to the Mobile Kitchen, did some interior renovations and now we have a much improved facility for doing our barbequing and sales. And does it ever work well! Thanks Home Depot for your support!!

I look forward to our year-end barbeque on June 18 at Carol Bartlett's house. Bring your spouse and enjoy some good fellowship as we take a recess from our hectic spring activities and enjoy the summer.

Greg



4th Quarter District Conference, Golf and Convention

Holiday Inn, Oshawa, August 8 – 10

See District web site at www.cenon.ca for further information

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

REMINDERS

- **June 1 – Street Sale**
- **June 4 – Newmarket Golf**
- **June 18 – Summer BBQ**
- **June 25 – Board Mtg - cancelled**
- **July 1 – Pancake Brunch & Mobile kitchen**
- **July 13 – Zone Meeting**
- **Sept 3 – Business Mtg**
- **Sept 20 – President's Night**



Wednesday May 21

St. Andrew's Golf Club provided the setting for the annual Respect for Law dinner to honour one of York Region's officers.



Prior to the presentation, Sgt. Mark Altermann gave a presentation on the types of graffiti, including tagging (identification), gang hate and others. Now we have an idea of what the paint jobs on the mailboxes, buildings and other facades mean.

Shane Mulligan, the officer selected, has been involved in the issue of graffiti. He has made over 25 arrests of individuals creating graffiti tags in the Aurora area. Over 360 tags in the Aurora area are slated for clean-up. Shane was accompanied by his wife Deanna.



Zone Meeting

LOCATION: Legion, Richmond Hill
Date: Sunday July 13
Time: 9:00 am

Breakfast will be hosted by the Optimist Club of Richmond Hill, followed by the 4th Quarter Zone Meeting.



Dancing under the Stars

Saturday May 31, 2008

The 4th Annual Yonge Street Dance was held on Sat. May 31. This was the Club's 3rd time hosting the event. The weather could have been better but it didn't put much of a damper on the crowd. The numbers were slightly lower than last year but the people of Aurora came out to enjoy the music of the Thursday Night Jam Band. The music was terrific and had us all "dancin in the street"!



Lots of people to thank for making this night a great success. Thanks to the Street Dance Committee, the volunteers from our club and their family and friends as well. We needed over 40 people to pull this off and we had no trouble getting the help.

We hope to know the amount we raised within the next week or two once we receive and pay for the remaining invoices. Thanks so much.



Carol Bartlett
(Tired) Street Dance Chair



The beginning of June ushered in the end of the Bingo Era for the club. With little fanfare and a great deal of crocodile tears, we as a club said our fond farewells to the Aurora Bingo Hall on May 31st and in the process managed to free-up Tuesday nights for the rest of our lives.

Even with all the headaches this project caused, it accomplished exactly what it was suppose to do and that was to give our club solid financial footing. Bingo allowed us to help many Aurora youths through the years that we would have been hard pressed to assist otherwise. It was a great success. It also did something else that we were warned about from the beginning. It turned us into a cheque writing "charity" in many ways as opposed to the service club we aspired to be.

The club, as a whole, should show a great appreciation for all those who gave of their time to work bingo and in particular to the three captains, Rob Gaby, Bill Otton and Rob Whiting. Their dedication as captains provided smooth sailing and the ultimate success of this endeavour.

However, Bingo is not entirely out of our lives. Since the club decided not to pursue the opportunity to re-locate to Richmond Hill, by law the Optimist Club has one year to disperse the funds in the account. This should not be a problem. The funds may only be used for projects that were approved in the granting of the license and any deviation must be applied for in writing and approved by the town. In addition, monthly reports must still be filed with the town until the funds have been dispersed entirely.

All those who worked Bingo (and that includes almost every member) give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done. Now let's press on to the greater achievements of the future.

Brian Marshall
Bingo Chair



On a beautiful spring afternoon, twenty-five (25) young golfers competed in the 1st Annual Optimist Club of Aurora Junior Qualifying Golf Tournament, held Sunday May 25, 2008 at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club.

Alex McKee (17 yrs) of Aurora shot a excellent 76 (four strokes over par) to claim the winner's trophy in the 16-18 age group. Runner-up with 77 was 18 year old Keegan Tyers from Newmarket.

The winner in the 14-15 year age group was 15 year old Harris Bundy from Toronto with a score of 77. Runner-up was 15 year old Jordan Bakhsh of Aurora with 79. Third was Danny McConnell from Aurora with an 83.



In the 12-13 age group, the trophy was claimed by 13 year old Jonathan McConnell of Aurora. The 10-11 winner was Alex Vegh from Newmarket who shot an outstanding score of 85.

In the girls category, the winner of the 12-13 age group was Aurora's Victoria Kuncans.

The following six golfers qualified to advance to the Optimist Central Ontario District Tournament on Monday, June 23, 2008 at the Caledon Golf & Country Club:

Keegan Tyers - 18
Alex McKee - 17
Harris Bundy - 15
Jordan Bakhsh - 15
Danny McConnell -15
Alex Vegh - 11



Two finalists from the District will be sent all expenses paid to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships to be held in July at the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

A special thank to those members that assisted in making this an excellent way to provide a hands on youth activity for the kids in Aurora - John Thompson, Peter Bifochi, Paul English, Brian Marshall, Tad Gacich, Tom Connor and Alex Ansell



Bike & Board Rodeo

The third annual Bike and Board Rodeo held on Friday May 30 at Hickson Park was a great success.



The Aurora Optimist Club once again partnered with the Town of Aurora and Aurora's Police and Community Together (PACT) organization to host the event.



Also present were York Regional Police, OPP and Central York Fire Service.



More information will follow in the July/August issue

Meet Our Newest Junior Member



Parker Bifolchi
Congratulations Patricia & Peter

Soap Box Derby

Saturday May 31

We dodged the weather and had a great day for the Second Annual Aurora Optimist Soap Box Derby.



Even though we were forced to run the Derby in a relatively quiet industrial area, Van Rob Stampings, the large factory on the corner of Englehardt and Vandorf gave us an enthusiastic reception. They bought a racer for the event, which was won in a draw by a young female participant.



Thanks to all the members who helped out on our busiest weekend of the year, especially President Greg who set up the sound system and was on hand to hand out all the trophies at the end. And thanks Matt Thompson for donating his day to help set up the event and to Rick Francis for



showing up to help. His two runs in one of the Fat Ass cars was definitely a highlight.

John Thompson
Chair, Soapbox Committee



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

June 2008

1 Street Sale	2	3	4 Newmarket Golf - 12:00 noon p.m. Shawneeki G.C.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Summer BBQ - 7:00 p.m. Bartlett's	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Board Mtg. Library - CANCELLED	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2008

		1 Canada Day Pancake Brunch & Mobile Kitchen	2 International Convention Grapevine, Texas	3 International Convention Grapevine, Texas	4 International Convention Grapevine, Texas	5 International Convention Grapevine, Texas
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Zone Meeting Richmond Hill	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Board Mtg. - 7:00 p.m. Library	31		



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

