

The

Opti Prime

Optimist Club of Aurora

September 2008



Optimists Bring Out the Best in Children

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



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 Barse

Tom Litwiller

Rob Gaby

Diane Buchanan

Sgt-at-Arms

Patricia & Peter

Bifolchi

Past President

John Thompson

Bulletin Editor

Alex Ansell

Points to Remember

Money isn't everything,
but it sure keeps the kids
in touch

If at first you don't
succeed, skydiving is not
for you

You are not drunk if you
can lie on the floor
without holding on



Greg's Way (The President's Message)

It's hard to believe that July and August are gone, school is back in and we're back to another Optimist year. I hope your summer was as good as mine and that you got in a good break from your regular routine.

Our big news of the summer was, of course, the Magna Hoedown. The committee has done an incredible job and thank you to all the members who have helped make this a VERY successful project - one that will easily replace the bingos that we are not doing any more. For some of us, it probably took more time than we initially thought, but it was well worth the effort.

September promises to be a fun month for the club. I encourage everyone to attend the Presidents' Night (Inaugural) on Sept 20. President Elect Carol has worked hard to put together any enjoyable evening but we need you there! I will have the pleasure of presenting several awards to various club members:

- Optimist of the Year
- President's Citation
- Rookie of the Year
- Life Member

It's hard to believe that this is my last President's Address for the Opti Prime. Wow - it does go fast. It's been a pleasure and an honour to be your president this past year. We've accomplished many things, added a new program, added new members, stayed within our budget, increased member participation and had a lot of excellent fellowship. It's all because of an outstanding board of directors and you - the members. Please give Carol the same support as you have shown me. The Club is in a very strong position and we are definitely helping the youth of Aurora.

Thank you for allowing me to be your president and see you on the 20th!!

Greg

More Pics from the Year



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

- **Sept 3 – Business Mtg**
- **Sept 8 – Minor Ball Last Day**
- **Sept 13 – Magna Hoedown**
- **Sept 20 – President's Night**
- **Sept 17 – Board Mtg (Carol)**
- **Sept 24 – Board Mtg (Greg)**
- **Oct 1 – Business Mtg**
- **Oct 15 – Dinner Mtg.**
- **Oct 29 – Board Mtg**

Neighbourhood Network Volunteer Recognition BBQ

On Monday August 18, 2008, members of the Club attended the first annual Neighbourhood Network Volunteer Recognition BBQ. Ken McIsaac, Diane Buchanan, Terry Sherin, Glen Sharp, Steve Hinder, Tom Mrakas, John Thompson and Alex Ansell attended on behalf of the Club.



Hoedown raffle tickets were also being sold by some of the members.



4th Quarter District Meeting, Training and Convention

**Holiday Inn, Oshawa
August 8, 9**

The golf tournament was slightly wet but everyone returned with smiling faces. Training sessions for the presidents secretary-treasurers and Lt. Governors elect went well.

Tom McNaught from the Optimist Club of Oakville was elected as Governor Elect. Brian Marshall was installed as Lt. Governor of Zone 5 and Alex Ansell was installed as District Secretary-Treasurer for the 2008-09 administrative year by Past International Vice President Ron Huxley.

The oldtimers breakfast was a rollicking fun time as was the Governor's celebration.

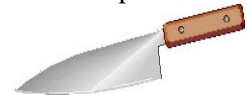


(Our Presidents – current and future)

President's Night and the Optilympics

The auditorium of ACC1 will never be the same after the Optilympics take place on September 20.

Registration will take place at the Opti Bird's Nest at 5:00 pm sharp and this will be followed by the opening ceremonies. The games begin at 5:30 followed by medal ceremonies at 6:45. The bar will be open at 5:00 pm and dinner will be served at 7:00pm.



Events planned to date include knife throwing, sword swallowing, tightrope walking, barrel jumping,



skit shooting and wrestling (not mud).



No speedos are allowed and there will apparently be random drug sampling.

The cost is \$20 per person. There is a choice of chicken or roast beef but Carol has to know ASAP.

This will be a great night to honour the activities and individuals of the past year and to welcome the new president and her board. Lt. Governor Lauralee Reily will be present to do the installation of the 2008-09 Board.

Optimist Junior World Golf Championship



Dear Mr. Way,

This year I qualified for the Optimist International Jr. Golf Championships by winning the district qualifier and then the regional qualifier. At the time of these qualifiers I was 11-years-old.

Unfortunately for me, a few weeks before the Optimist International started I turned 12 and was bumped up to an older age group, playing against kids almost 3 years older than me and at a much longer yardage.

The Optimist International is held at the PGA National in Florida, home of the PGA Honda Classic. I played the Palmer course. I hit the ball well and was always in the fairway. I can hit my driver 200 yards but can only hit my fairway wood about 170 yards. On the par fours I couldn't reach most of the greens in regulation, always being between 15 – 60 yards short. On 3 holes I was 150 yards short because I had to lay-up because of water. I only had one bad hole the entire tournament, a quadruple bogey on my very first hole! I hadn't done that since I was a kid. My putting was good (I only 3 putted one green in each round), but because the holes were too far for me to reach in regulation I only had about six pars each round and had to play bogey golf. It's sort of like if the average player had to play from the tips on a PGA course.

Playing with the best golfers in the world at PGA National was a great experience, but in order to be competitive I need to hit the ball 40 yards further off the tee. I played my best but couldn't score low. Next year I will be bigger and stronger and my goal is score in the 70's at the 2009 Optimist International Jr. Golf Championships.

Thank you for supporting and encouraging me. It means a lot.

Your friend,

Alex Vegh



Optimist International Foundation of Canada

The mission of the Optimist International Foundation is to provide educational opportunities and charitable assistance for boys and girls involved in Optimist programs. Since 1988, the Canadian Foundation has provided significant funding for Optimist programs in Canada.

Every international scholarship given towards oratory, essay and the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is funded by the Foundation. Each year OIFC makes \$5,150 available to each Canadian District: \$3,000 for two \$1,500 oratory scholarships, \$650 for one essay scholarship, and one \$1,500 CCDHH scholarship. Scholarships are important to the future of our young people, and the Foundation is pleased to make these scholarships the first commitment to Optimist International each year.

Each year the Foundation funds a portion of Optimist International's program – specifically JOOI.

Funds are collected for Optimist International's Childhood Cancer Campaign - **Childhood Cancer money given in Canada stays in Canada.** CCC money does not go to Johns Hopkins for research. It does not go to St. Louis to assist in operating the program – although we receive all the benefits of CCC program administration.

Funds donated to the Foundation can be restricted or unrestricted. Restricted funds are specific to a particular program or activity.

More to follow in the next Opti Prime on the types of donations.



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

September 2008

	1	2	3 Business Mtg. - 7:00 p.m. Library	4	5	6 Minor Ball Last Day 10:30 – 2:30
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Hoedown Various Times
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 President's Night Auditorium - ACC1 – 5:00 pm
21	22	23	24 Board Mtg. - 7:00 p.m. Library	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2008

			1 Business Mtg. - 7:00 p.m. Library	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Dinner Mtg. - 7:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Board Mtg. - 7:00 p.m. Library	30	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

