

The

Opti Prime



Optimist Club of Aurora

January 2009



2008-2009 Executive

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Carol Bartlett

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Vice Presidents

Glen Sharp

Brian Marshall

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Alex Ansell

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Tom Connor

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Bill Otton

Barb Steele

Tony Caceres

Sgt-at-Arms

Patricia & Peter

Bifolchi

Past President

Greg Way

Bulletin Editor

Alex Ansell

Grandma's Apron

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.



Carol's Corner (The President's Message)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I wish you and yours great health and happiness for 2009.

Well, December was a blur, how quickly it came and went. This month's dinner meeting was actually replaced by our Christmas dinner and gift exchange. Again, St. Andrew's proved to be a wise choice to accommodate us all and provide such great cuisine. We christened a new Santa this year....what a great job he did. Many thanks to Steve

Hinder for donning the red suit....and putting up with our antics too. Thanks to all who attended and provided donations to the food bank. Collectively we did a great job just ask Terry Sherin, he carted the goods away. Thanks Terry for your hard work, much appreciated.

On December 27th, 29th and 30th, we participated in the 13th Optimist – Home Hardware Annual Showcase Tournament. Many thanks to Alex Ansell and his committee and the many volunteers as well. As usual it was a lot of fun watching the kids compete, especially in the relay races.

Due to the holiday schedule we did not hold a December board meeting.

Our first business meeting of the New Year is this Wednesday January 7th, 7:30pm at the Legion. Two weeks later on the 21st, we will welcome Michael Duggan from Cool Breweries as our guest speaker for our January dinner meeting. Hope to see you all at both meetings.

Carol

Did You Know!!

- Our Club chartered in June 1985 with 37 members, 6 are still members and since then
- Almost 170 individuals are or have been members of our Club
- Our current membership is 54 and is the largest service club in Aurora
- Our Club is now the second largest Club in the District
- Our Club has been the top Club in the Central Ontario District twice
- Our Club has been top Club in our Zone at least 5 times
- Our CPA books have won International 1st place twice
- Our Zone CPA book has won International 1st place once
- Our CPA books have won District 1st place over 10 times
- Our Club has provided service to almost 50,000 youth in our community
- Our Club has donated over \$150,000 to projects in our community
- Our Club is made up of enthusiastic, dedicated, positive thinking members who are true "Friends of Youth, Bringing Out the Best in Kids"

Committee Chairs

Spring into Safety – Rob Parypa
Book Sale – Nora MacDonald
- Ken McIsaac
Bowling for Big Brothers
- Carol Bartlett
Bulletin – Alex Ansell
Chess – Steve Granger
- Mike Varcoe
COLS – John Thompson
Communications – Carol Bartlett
Dinner Meetings – Carol Bartlett
Hartwell Run – Paul English
Junior Golf – Greg Way
Membership – Brian Walsh
Members Xmas Party – John Houser
Mobile Kitchen – Terry Sherin
Opti Rec Hockey – Brian Walsh
Optimist International Foundation
- Alex Ansell
Presidents' Nite – Carol Bartlett
- Ken Banks
Progressive Dinner – Carol Bartlett
Publicity – Diane Buchanan
Respect for Law – Steve Hinder
Santa Claus Parade Marshalling
- Terry Sherin
Santa Claus Parade Float – Anna
Kroepelin
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
- Tony Caceres
Director – Community Service
- Bill Otton
Director – Membership
- Brian Walsh
Director – Fundraising
- Barb Steele
Director - Fellowship
- Tom Litwiller

Zone Meeting

LOCATION: Newmarket Optimist Hall
DATE: Sunday January 25
TIME: 9:00 am

Breakfast will be hosted by the Optimist Club of Newmarket followed by the 2nd Quarter Zone meeting.

Denise Nacev, District Leadership Development Chair, will be making a presentation on "Running a Successful Meeting."



2nd Quarter District Conference

**February 20 - 22
Holiday Inn & Suites
Markham**

The 2nd Quarter District Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn and Suites just north of Steeles Ave. on Woodbine in Markham.

This will be great event with much camaraderie, workshops and the annual awards luncheon. Hopefully our Club will receive recognition as an Honour Club.

Check and Mate



Volunteers are urgently needed for the 12th Annual Aurora area chess tournament. The event will take place on Thursday February 28th 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 28 at the Legion.

For more information, please call **Steve Granger at 905-727-2035** or **Michael Varcoe at 905-727-2151**.

REMINDERS

- January 7 – Business Meeting
- January 21 – Dinner Meeting
- January 25 – Zone meeting
- January 28 – Board Meeting
- February 4 – Business Meeting
- February 14 – Valentines Day
- February 16 – Artic Adventure
- February 18 – Dinner Meeting
- February 25 – Board Meeting
- February 26 – Aurora Chess
- March 4 – Business Meeting
- March 7 – Bowl for Kids Sake



Christmas Dinner Meeting

Our annual Christmas Dinner meeting was once again held at



the St. Andrew's Golf Club where festivities and camaraderie were the key part of the event. 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 and donations to the Food Bank were

all nestled under the Christmas tree.



Just after dessert,

amazingly, jolly Old St. Nick trudged up the stairs after he and his reindeer landed on the nearby golf course.

Santa was in fine form and made merriment during the distribution of the waiting presents.



A great time was had by all and we waved good-bye to Santa as he disappeared down the stairs to his waiting sleigh and reindeer to continue his yearly journey.



2007-2008 Showcase Tournament

Saturday December 27 started the Thirteenth Annual Minor Hockey Showcase, co-sponsored by the Optimist Club of Aurora, the Aurora Minor Hockey Association and our new sponsor Aurora Home Hardware. Over 1,000 boys and girls on 61 teams in 9 divisions participated in the four-day event, with 100 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-nine 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 Monday December 29th, the new twist added last year to the tournament continued again this year. 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. The winning skills teams were also presented with their awards courtesy of Aurora Home Hardware.



On Tuesday December 30, the finals for each age group were held. President Carol Bartlett 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 Joe Bentolila, 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-seven members and fourteen other non-members including: Russ Barfitt, Judy Sherin, Mary Beth Marshall, Doug Kelly, Caitlin Kelly, Bob Ince, Josh Maier, Bob Bartlett, Mike Sheridan, David Sheridan, Brian Trussler, Darren Trussler, Rob Wilson and Patrick Madden for helping to run the skills competitions. Special thanks are extended to Rusty Barrese of Recreation Leisure Services for his generous support in providing the MVP awards for the championship games. 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

