

The

Opti Prime



Optimist Club of Aurora

July/August 2009



2008-2009 Executive

President

Carol Bartlett

President Elect

Ken Banks

Vice Presidents

Glen Sharp

Brian Marshall

Secretary

Alex Ansell

Treasurer

Tom Connor

Directors

Diane Buchanan

Tom Litwiller

Brian Walsh

Bill Otton

Barb Steele

Tony Caceres

Sgt-at-Arms

Patricia & Peter

Bifulchi

Past President

Greg Way

Bulletin Editor

Alex Ansell

Golf Comments

Golf and sex are the only things you can enjoy without being good at either of them.

Jimmy DeMaret

I'm hitting the woods just great; but having a terrible time getting out of them!

Buddy Hackett

If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball.

Jack Lemmon



Carol's Corner (The President's Message)

Last we left off we were getting ready for the Annual BBQ at the Bartlett's. Well if you were there you know how wet and not so wild it was. The 46 people who said they were coming did and we all enjoyed ourselves anyway. We actually had the Current Governor's wife Sheril Thompson as our guest that night. Cheryl is also a Past Governor herself. Diane and Rusty brought a guest and again Lauralee was in attendance again. It's always a pleasure to see her, even if I can't get her name right after all

these years. Thanks again to Jaine, Terry, Rob, Brian, Mary-Beth, and Diane and of course the Waffle King Rusty for the set up, cooking and clean up. If I forgot someone please forgive me, my mind is on "summer" shutdown, just ask Alex.

July was a very busy month for the club. We started June 30th with the Mobile Kitchen at Town Park for the Dance in the Park. The crowds were quite good considering the weather was a little on the cold side and damp as well. The next day was much better weather and again a group of us were out in full force. We cooked and served pancakes on behalf of the Town and served our usual standards out of the Mobile Kitchen at the same time. Thanks so much for the group who volunteered to make both days go relatively smooth....darn grills. Later that week on July 4th we helped Bereaved Families of York Region with their Annual Butterfly Release. We helped them fundraise by selling food and drink from the wagon. We covered our costs and the profit was turned over to their group. The group also raises money from the purchase of the butterflies. The butterflies can be purchased and released by anyone but typically it is mostly done by people who have lost a loved ones. There is a ceremony to honour the deceased persons followed by the release of the butterfly. It was an emotional event to witness as well as peaceful in a way. I was glad that I could be there along with the usual suspects, Terry, Steve, Greg and Alex, thanks Gentlemen. We took a couple of weeks off and then on July 18th we did the same type of event for Kerry's Place for Autism. This time they bought the food and we cooked and served it up. We were busy. We served over 270 burgers and 180 hot dogs in just over two hours. Again thanks to the crew Terry, Alex, Greg, Brian and Mary Beth.

We did such a fantastic job that we have been invited to do the same for Safehaven at this week's Jazz Festival. We will be cooking and serving up a storm (let's hope that is a play on words only) raising some money for Safehaven. The weather is supposed to be good so I am hoping to see a very hungry crowd as well as listen to some pretty good music.

Next month on August 14 - 16 a few of us are off to the 4th and final Quarter Board of the Optimist year. It will be held in Orangeville and anyone is invited to go. If you are interested let me know ASAP. There are only 2 more months left in my year as President. This means there will only be one more President's message from me, two more (depending on who you ask) Board meetings and one more Business meeting for me to "chair". I hope to see as many of you as possible on Sept. 2nd, 7:30pm at the Legion.

Carol

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



Have you brought in a new member yet?



4th Quarter District Conference & Convention

Best Western Suites Orangeville August 14, 15

The Best Western Suites has been chosen for the 2009 annual conference, convention and Wild West Family Hoedown. Training sessions will be held on Friday August 14 and Saturday August 15 for all incoming Lt. Governors, presidents, secretaries and treasurers. Training sessions will also be held on other topics relating to club and district operations and programs.

The general assembly, where voting will take place for a new governor elect and the memorial service will be held Saturday afternoon. Other activities include a BBQ and train ride for guests. The day will be topped off with a dinner, installation of the new officers by Vice President Dan Keiffer III and the Wild West Family Hoedown.

The weekend promises to be a great time for learning and renewing old acquaintances.

COLS

The annual COLS (Central Ontario Leadership Seminars) were held May 22-24 at the University of Toronto Campus in Mississauga. The Optimist Club of Aurora sponsored four students from high schools in the area to attend the seminars as Ambassadors from the Aurora area.

The students included Sorina Stef from Dr. G.W. Williams, Meridith Lazowski from Cardinal Carter, Claire Layton from Aurora High and Danny McConnell from St. Andrews. Each of the students provided the Club with a letter of appreciation for their sponsorship and a brief description of their positive experience.



Spring into Safety

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

The event was held on Friday, June 5th 2009 at Hickson Park in the town of Aurora. Hickson Park is located at the corner of Borealis Ave. and Conover Ave.

Several hundred people attended this event that includes road, bike, fire and water safety to help prepare children for the summer holidays. The York Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, Central York Fire Services, Transportation Canada, local businesses and other not for profit organizations arranged safety demonstrations.



The Club provided hot dogs and cold drinks to participants and spectators.

REMINDERS

- July 1 – Canada Day
- July 4 – Bereaved Families
- July 18 – Kerry's Place
- August 1 – Safehaven
- August 14,15 – District Convention
- August 26 – Board Meeting
- September 2 – Business Meeting
- September 26 - Inaugural

Newmarket Golf

Ten stalwart players braved the elements on June 3 to take part in the annual Newmarket Optimist Golf Tournament at the Shawneeki Golf Club. It was actually a beautiful day which was followed by a wonderful steak dinner at the Newmarket optimist Hall.

Thanks are extended to Tom Connor, Steve Hinder, Tom Mrakas, Terry Sherin, Jaine Klees, Brian Marshall, Paul English, Alex Ansell, Tad Gacich and Bill Hack who represented our Club well.

June BBQ

It was a dark and rainy night but that didn't dampen the spirits of the 30 Club members and two guests from the OC Keswick who attended the infamous annual BBQ.



The camaraderie was great, the food was great and there was a little bit of business done.

Summer Fest 2009 Reminder

The annual Summer Fest will take place on Saturday August 8 and Sunday August 9 at the Stubbs Farm. Events will include a barn party, music and a bonfire of Saturday and a pot-luck feast, trails and a day at the beach on Sunday.

Please bring your own tent or trailer, food for you and your family and one item for the pot-luck feast, bikes, beach gear, lawn chairs and whatever.

Let me know at 905-841-2722 if you can make it.

Don Stubbs

PS – Don promises it won't rain!



Town of Aurora Awards

Several members attended the annual Town of Aurora Community Recognition Awards at the Town offices. Five members received Volunteer Services Awards for their continuous years of service to the Community of Aurora. The included: **5 years** - Paul English, Rob Parypa, Jayne Klees; **15 years** - Greg Way; **20 years** - Rob Gaby.



President Carol Bartlett also was presented with the award on behalf of the Club as the **Outstanding Non-Profit Organization**.



A special congratulation to Alex Ansell for winning the **Bob Harmon Memorial Award** - this award is by nomination only and awarded by the Town of Aurora Selection Committee.



Congratulations are extended to all recipients.



Mobile Kitchen Use

Our mobile kitchen and the team of cooks and servers has been very busy assisting others fund raise for their particular organization.

We assisted **Neighbourhood Network** at Hickson School on June 14 to make people of the area aware of the Neighbourhood Network

We were at Fairy Lake assisting the **Bereaved Families of Ontario – York Region Branch** at their second annual memorial and release of butterflies in memory of those who have passed away. The event took place on July 4. It was a very moving occasion.



The cooks were again in action on July 18 at the Town Park. The organization fundraising this time was **Kerry's Place** on the occasion of their 35th anniversary of serving the community in dealing autism. The crowds were tremendous and business was brisk.



The next event will be in part of the Aurora Jazz Festival. We will be supporting **Safehaven** as the organization doing the fundraising for their residential and respite care programs for youth.

The Man in the Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife,
Whose judgment upon you must pass;
The fellow whose counts most in your life,
Is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people may say you are a straight shooting chum,
And call you a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum,
If you can't look him straight in the eye.
He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear up to the end,
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test,
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down your pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass,
But your final reward will be heartache and tears,
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

Excerpted from the 2009 COLS Agenda and Program

Dance in the Park

Our first experience with the June 30 th Dance in the Park went very well. The cooks did their usual excellent job. There was a short sprinkle of rain followed by a fantastic rainbow. Several pictures were taken but are not available at this time. One picture had a complete rainbow over our mobile kitchen. Is it an omen?

Bicycle Winner

The winning ticket for the bicycle donated by Rec Cycle was drawn at the BBQ and the winner is Melanie Lafreniese. Proceeds of the draw will be forwarded to Hot Spots to help offset some of the financial difficulties being encountered by that youth group.

Congratulations Melanie. A picture of the winner will be available for the next issue of the Prime.

Street Sale

The annual Street sale went off without a hitch. Once again the cooks and servers were hard at work but stopping once in a while for a picture.



We were also raising funds for Hot Spots through the raffle for a bicycle donated by Rec Cycle.



Everyone was busy.



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

July 2009

			1 Canada Day Mobile Kitchen Leisure Complex	2	3	4 Bereaved Families Mobile Kitchen Fairy Lake
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Kerry's Place Mobile Kitchen Town Park
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Zone Meeting - 9:30 a.m. Richmond Hill	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2009

						1 Safehave Mobile Kitchen Town Park
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 District Convention Orangeville	15 District Convention Orangeville
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Library	27	28	29
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.org" 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

