

The

Opti Prime



Optimist Club of Aurora

March 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

Bifolchi

Past President

Greg Way

Bulletin Editor

Alex Ansell

Lines from Maxine

*You're just jealous
because the voices only talk
to me.*

*Consciousness: That
annoying time between
naps.*

*Beauty is in the eye of the
beer holder.*

*I'm not a complete idiot --
some parts are just missing*



Carol's Corner (The President's Message)

Happy March Fellow Optimist!!! We are so close to spring I can hardly stand it. February was busy we inducted our newest member David Heard. Already David has jumped on board the wagon with a commitment to try to start a JOOI club for Aurora. Welcome and thank you David. We had great success at Family Day, sold out of food in less than two hours. Thanks to all of you who came out to help or support us. It was cold, no matter what

the other says. Steve Hinder brought us up to speed on Neighbourhood Network at the February dinner meeting. It was extremely informative. We had great success at the Quarter Boards. We were Honour Club, which means Greg, Alex and Tom would be awarded with Honour certificates accordingly. Congrats to you all. We received banner patches for \$20.00 donation per person to Optimist International. We won for best Community Projects Awards book based on the Chess Tournament. Thanks to Alex and Steve for submitting it. Of course our club bulletin Opti Prime was judged best in the district...again thank you Alex. Our Annual Optimist Chess Tournament was widely attended by 18 schools from in and around Aurora. Many great pictures appeared in the Aurora Banner, too bad they couldn't get the name straight, maybe next time. Steve Granger and his committee, Don Stubbs, Mike Varcoe and Anna Kroepelin did a superb job again this year. Thanks so much. Up next is the Regional Chess Tournament on Saturday March 28th at the legion. Again we will need volunteers for set up. I'll send you a separate email.

We had 12 members turn out to bowl for Big Brothers and Big Sisters on March 7th....what a great time. I'm sure Alex will update you on the high and low scores. Let's just say I left my "A" game at home. Most importantly we got out of there without injury. We have our Annual Pool Tournament at the Cue Zone on Wednesday March 18th. Participation is a little lower this year due to quite a few of the regulars being out of town this year. If you've never joined us for this event, please do your best to try, the home cooked food is wonderful and lot's of fun spending time with your fellow Optimist.

We are getting great turnouts at our membership meetings but would like to see more of you try to make it as well. We really do miss you. We have a very busy April, May and June on the horizon that will require quite a few volunteers. Plus we have a few new ideas on the burner and always welcome your input.

Take care and hope to see you all soon!

Carol

We did it, we did it, we did it!!!

Watch for the April issue of the Opti Prime to find out what we did.

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
Kroeplin
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

March is Membership Month



2nd Quarter District Conference

The 2nd Quarter District Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn and Suites just north of Steeles Ave. on Woodbine in Markham on February 20 – 22. Alex Ansell, Carol Bartlett and Dave Heard attended on behalf of the Club.

Two of the learning sessions of special note dealt with the Collingwood bed races and building a JOOI Club.

The highlight of the conference was the Awards Luncheon where awards for the 2007-08 year were presented to worthy Clubs and individuals for their efforts.

Our Club received numerous awards. A banner patch for \$20 per member (Club and personal donations) was received from the Optimist International Foundation of Canada. Our club bulletin was judged to be the most outstanding in the District sent by electronic means. Our CPA (Community Project Award) book on our chess tournament received the award for the best in the District and has been forwarded to Optimist International for competition against all of the other Districts.

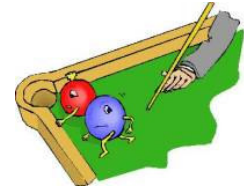
Under District Achievements and Awards, our Club was the top Club in Zone 5.



Finally, Present Carol accepted the Honour Club Award on behalf of Past President Greg Way with certificates also being accepted for Secretary Alex Ansell and Treasurer Tom Connor.

Congratulations are extended to all of the members for their participation in the Club activities during 2007-08 which helped to make us an award-winning Club.

In addition to our awards, our Lt. Governor Lauralee Reily received an Honour Lt. Governor Award for her efforts in our Zone.



Pool Nite

Double Knockout (you have to lose twice to be eliminated)

LOCATION: Cue Zone, Wellington at Haida, west of Yonge St.

DATE: Wednesday, March 18

TIME: Food 6:30, start 7:00 p.m. sharp

FEE: \$20.00 (incl. buffet & table fees)

We're looking for numbers, folks! We have 5 tables from 7-10. Please RSVP your interest in participating in this fun event ASAP. We need to know how many people we can set the tourney up for, and also, how many mouths to feed the scrumptious catered food.

Come out and have some fun.

Watch out for the **'SHARKS'**

Arctic



Adventure

It was a beautiful day for Family Day. The sun was shining brightly and many came to enjoy the festivities. The cooks once again were hard at work and the aroma from the hot dogs and sausages was overwhelming. The coffee was brewing and the hot chocolate was bubbling. It was so great we sold out of everything in just 2 hours.

Thanks are extended to Terry Sherin, Greg Way, Alex Ansell, Carol Bartlett, Ken Banks and Tony Caceres for all of their help



Check and Mate

After 13 years since its inception and over 3,000 Aurora youth players, we were successful once more in having 248 participants attending from 18 schools at this year's area tournament Feb/26th in the Legion banquet hall. Special thanks to Mike Varcoe as Co-Chair of the committee who teamed up on the follow-ups and mailings with the schools. This greatly contributed to a strong show up in participant numbers this year.



Many Optimist volunteers, teachers and helpers said it was the smoothest run tournament ever and Don Stubbs had us organized so well that we were earlier in our completion even though we had a last minute scare from Leslie Armstrong who broke her arm a week earlier and was not able to run this years competition. Luckily we had experience on our side and her son Tavish who knew the computer systems completely.

The room setup and layout was made easy by Glen Sharp helping the night before and with Don Stubbs and Bill Otton available earlier the next morning all fitting into place fine with time to spare. Taking control of the morning registration could not have been done better than what Anna Kroeplin did! She teamed up with Carol Bartlett at times and had all 18 schools with 248 students well organized and obedient to say the least when she wanted them to listen!

The stage setup along with Club Banners were decorated very nicely by Diane Buchanan who has a much better eye for this than I did. Many thanks to Peter Bifolchi, our trusted Sergeant at Arms who got the club banners to the tournament on a last minute basis. That's clutch teamwork at its best! This really helped our photo images during the day! There was media present and we should have a lot of nice photos taken along with Alex Ansell who was helping to be the club's paparazzi during the day. He even managed to get a few photos of our President Carol Bartlett when she wasn't looking. A "dear" in headlights.



Overall a great day with many happy faces. We should have 53 qualifiers potentially going to our upcoming Regional Final on Saturday March 28th at the Royal Canadian Legion. We'll need some help here and I'll be sending a message soon to outline the areas. So please consider this as a great way to see the youth benefits of your volunteering by helping make the Chess Regional fun! Thanks again for everyone's support in making the 13th annual event a fun memory for the youth of Aurora! 'Til the 28th!

Cheers,
Stephen Granger



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

REMINDERS


- March 4 – Business Meeting
- March 7 – Bowl for Kids Sake
- March 18 – Pool Nite
- March 25 - Board Meeting
- March 28 – Regional Chess
- April 1 – Business Meeting
- April 11 – Easter Egg Hunt
- April 17 – 19 – Home Show
- April 26 – Hartwell Run
- May 2 – Progressive Dinner

Meet Our Newest Member



Dave Heard

March 2009

1	2	3	4 Business Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Legion	5	6	7 Bowl for Kids - 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Gateway Lanes
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Pool Nite - 6:30 p.m. Cue Zone	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Library	26	27	28 Regional Chess - 9:00 a.m. Legion
29	30	31				

April 2009

			1 Business Meeting - 7:30 p.m. Legion	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Easter Egg Hunt -9:00 - 11:30 a.m. Sheppard's Bush
12	13	14	15	16	17 Home Show 2:00 - 11:00 p.m. ACC 1	18 Home Show 11:00 - 8:00 p.m. ACC 1
19 Home Show 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. ACC 1	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Hartwell Run - 8:00 a.m. ACC	27	28	29 Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Library	30		



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

