



The Opti Prime

The Optimist Club of Aurora



March 2011

2010 – 2011 Executive

President

Glen Sharp

President Elect

Alex Ansell

Vice Presidents

Peter Bifolchi

Ken McIsaac

Secretary

John Thompson

Treasurer

Carol Bartlett

Directors

Bill Hack

Diane Buchanan

Steve Hinder

Brian Walsh

Carolyn Trussler

Tom Mrakas

Sgt-at-Arms

Terry Sherin

Past President

Ken Banks

Bulletin

Kimberley Kerr

Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, March 16th

**At Jonathans
Restaurant**

6:30 pm -cocktails

7:15 pm -dinner

Guest Speaker:-

Bonnie Tiffin

Hospice King-Aurora

Sharp's Saga



Welcome to the first edition of Opti-Prime for the 2010-2011 year. I hope you will enjoy reading about Club activities and sharing some of the pictures of our members in action.

It's already March, in many ways it has been a long winter but when I look at how busy we have been it has flown by. February has been the busiest month so far with lots of great participation from our members. We have welcomed several new members into the club this year and for the record here they are: Lynne Hewittson, Andy Hewittson, Ken Morreau, Janie Upham, Dave Smith, Brian Duff, Marianne Svar, Paul Svar, and Rosalynn Gonsalves. Thank you all for choosing the Optimist Club of Aurora and we look forward to your continued contributions.

Let's recap what happened in February. In addition to our regular monthly Business and Directors' meetings a few of us attended the District conference on February 12. Our club was honoured as best in zone and best in District out of 60 clubs. Our CPA (Community Project Account) book on the club's 25th anniversary celebration submitted by Carol was selected as best in District and is now entered at the International level. Congratulations one and all.

Nearly 40 members and guests enjoyed a meal and tour of the Southlake Hospital Diagnostic Imaging department and Paediatric Oncology unit. We got a chance to see the DASH monitor we purchased and

Committee and Event Chairs

Arctic Adventure- Terry Sherin, Carol Bartlett, Glen Sharp

Children's' Wish- Terry Sherin, Glen Sharp

Dinner Meetings- Diane Buchanan, Steve Hinder

Fellowship Committee- Bill Hack

Run for Southlake (Hartwell Run)- Carol Bartlett

Policy Review Committee- John Thompson

Respect for Law- Steve Hinder, John Thompson, Peter Bifolchi

Directors

Fellowship- Bill Hack

Membership- Diane Buchanan

Fundraising- Brian Walsh

Youth Activities- Steve Hinder

Marketing and Publicity- Tom Mrakas

Community Service- Carolyn Trussler

some of the equipment and technology used in today's medicine. What a great learning experience for all of us.

Family Day was a busy one and Mother Nature provided us with a sunny but cold setting for the Arctic Adventure. The crowds were huge and as always Terry's special chili and our Optimist hot dogs, sausages and hot chocolate were a big hit.

On to the Chess Tournament held at the Legion on the 24th with over 230 boys and girls from Grades 1-12 participating. I had never attended before and was amazed at the concentration level of even the youngest players. In between matches they ran around making noise as we expected but once the matches start it's a different story. If you can get there in the future this event is a must see. Thanks to Don Stubbs and Mike Varcoe for heading up the event and to the members who assisted in the set up, refereeing and take down of the event.

A busy week ended with Bowling for Big Brothers and Sisters on Saturday February 26 at the Gateway Lanes in Aurora. After extensive try-outs and some tough decisions we sent our 12 best bowlers to represent the club. A good time was had by all and our annual donation of \$500 supports a very worthy cause.

The last week of February was a very OPTIMISTIC one indeed! There are lots of activities ahead and I hope to see you there! *Glen*



Easter Egg Hunt- Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, April 23rd
Mark your Calendars!



Bowl for Kids Sake

Once again, we sent our top bowlers to rattle the laneways at the **Annual Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake** on Saturday, February 26th at Gateway Lanes



This ace reporter was fast on the news that Alex made a spectacular **STRIKE** – complete with all the form, style and technique that made this event one not to miss. Well done Alex – our Club applauds your skill!!

HOME SHOW

April 16th – 18th
Come volunteer
your time!

Southlake Hospital Tour



There is more than one “Dashing” image in this picture. Here a dashing Glen poses with the DASH Monitor that the club had donated to Southlake Hospital. A DASH monitor is used to capture vital patient measurements that aids in the continued care and treatment of patients. On Wednesday, February 16th, a large group of Optimists were treated to a

delicious dinner, (yes- we all loved the hospital’s food!!) followed by tours of the Diagnostic Imaging Department as well as the Paediatric Oncology Ward. The staff answered questions, and informed us of the plans to have a new MRI machine added to the hospital as soon as funding and construction can be completed.

In the Paediatric Oncology Ward, we were treated to a special sneak peek at a new Teddy Bear Room that was to open the very next day. Paper covered the windows, and we could imagine all those small excited faces that had been pressed upon those windows for some time in eager anticipation of its unveiling!

Here a lovely collection of Teddy Bears were on display in a room specially designed as a quiet



room for children and their families to gather. The room includes two computers, a teddy bear shaped table, teddy bear chairs and a warm fireplace. It will certainly be a special place for the hospital’s littlest patients!

Many thanks to the staff at Southlake Regional Hospital! It was a wonderful evening!!

Chess Tournament



On February 24th, the Optimist Club of Aurora held its 15th Annual York Region Chess Tournament. Over 230



students from Grades 1 through 12 gathered to compete for a place to move on to the Regional Chess Tournaments to be held later this month.

Competition was fierce, as the pairs got down to the business of the day. The concentration level was high, as pawns moved across the boards, to meet rooks and queens and finally fall the kings. Every age group was impressive, from the very young, who took the game to new levels of talent and enthusiasm, to the older students whose skill and technique brought home their awards.



Our special thanks goes to Don, Anna and Mike for once again organizing the day. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out and helped. It takes a



great deal of work to ensure the day runs smoothly, and we could not have been so successful without you. *Thank you!!*

The Regional Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 26th

at the Legion. **We are looking for some volunteers to help run this event as well. Should you be available, please contact Carol Bartlett.**



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.

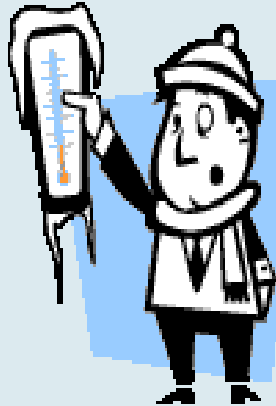
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.



Right Here, Right Now

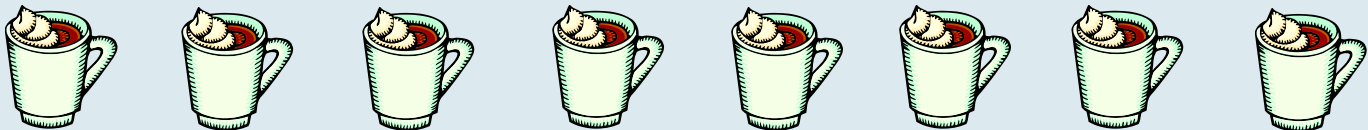
Arctic Adventure

Despite the raw and freezing temperature, the sun was shining, as was the spirit of the Aurora Optimist Club, as we once again set up the mobile kitchen to sell hot dogs, sausages, world renowned chilli, and heart warming hot chocolate, at the Town of Aurora's Arctic Adventure. Held on Family Day, February 21st, in the Town Park, the crowds enjoyed a wide variety of winter activities and entertainment including skating, ice carving, ice racing, and the delightful music of McLaughlin & Friends.

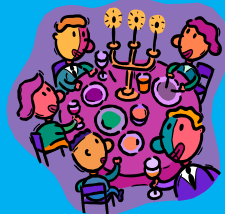


All bundled up, the crowds gathered as some very cold on the outside, but warm on the inside. Optimist Members served the best winter BBQ food around. The club sold 125 bowls of chilli, almost 100 sausages as well as 400 hot dogs. The hot chocolate was the favourite treat of the day, and countless mugs of the steaming hot drink were a real crowd pleaser!

The event was a huge success for the club, and many thanks go to Terry and the many volunteers who froze their toes and noses!!!



Progressive Dinner
Saturday, May 7th Dinner on the move-
For dessert- we're in the groove!!!!
More details to follow



Run for Southlake



Pancake Breakfast Sunday, May 1st



You'll have so much fun, you'll flip!!!!



Wednesday, May 18th

Farmers Market Opens May 28th



Junior Golf Tournament



Sunday, May 29th at
St. Andrews Golf Course

May Events!

Upcoming Events- Mark your Calendars!!!!

- Mar 7 – Nominating Committee meeting – 7:30 pm Legion
- Mar 16 – Dinner Meeting – Jonathan's
- Mar 26 – Regional Chess - Legion
- Mar 30 – Board Meeting – Library 7:00 pm
- Apr 6 - Business Meeting – Legion at 7:30 pm
- Apr 16-18 – Aurora Home Show
- Apr 23 – Easter Egg Hunt
- May 1 – Run for Southlake
- May 4 – Business Meeting – 7:30 pm - Legion
- May 7 – Progressive Dinner
- May 18 – Respect for Law
- May 25 – Board meeting – Library at 7:00 pm
- May 28 – Farmer's Market Grand Opening

April

| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
|----|----|----------------------------------|----|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 7:30 Business Meeting | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Aurora Home Show | 16 Aurora Home Show | 17 Aurora Home Show |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Easter Egg Hunt | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

May

| M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
|----|----|----------------------------------|----|----|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 Run For Southlake |
| 2 | 3 | 4 7:30 Business Meeting | 5 | 6 | 7 Progressive Dinner | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 Respect for Law | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 7:00 Board Meeting | 26 | 27 | 28 Farmers Market | 29 Opti Golf |
| 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



Editors Notes:-

I have a thing about shoes.
Not the kind you buy in the store-
(although I seem to have acquired a closet full of those too!)

It's about the shoes of life.

When I was young, my Saturday morning job was to polish my dad's RCMP dress boots.
You can imagine the time and effort that was needed to make those boots shine
- Spurs and all!!

As an adult- before judging someone or their actions, I always try to imagine walking a day in their shoes.

I am not one who admires those with fancy shoes-

I admire those wearing running or work boots
- and get down and work hard for the greater cause.

I joined the Optimist Club of Aurora last year, and have really enjoyed working side by side for the benefit of those that wear the smallest shoes of all- the kids.

When I think of the Optimists, I feel like I am wearing comfy slippers
- It just seems to fit.

The meetings are warm and friendly- courtesy and respect are paramount.

When I was asked to do the Opti- Prime Newsletter, I wondered how in the world I could fill the shoes that Alex had so comfortably and expertly worn for over 10 years or so!

As I sat at the computer trying to wrestle with the idea of gathering the information and creating a monthly newsletter- my thoughts went to those darn shoes again-

No need to fill Alex's shoes- instead I am going to strap on my ski boots- buckle them up firmly, and fly straight down the hill- navigating the moguls and clusters of trees, smiling all the way and yelling....



YIPPEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE.....*Kimberley*

During the months ahead I 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 rkkerr@rogers.com. Thank you!!!

