



**OPTIMIST CLUB
OF AURORA INC.**

Opti Prime

Quarterly
January 2025
Volume 14



President's Message



Well, here we are already a few months into our new year, we have had so many events.

We kicked things off by hosting the first Zone Breakfast of the year on November 3rd

Sunday morning at the Aurora Legion. It was a great turnout, with fellow Optimist club members from Newmarket, Keswick, and Georgina Pride groups joining us. Our Governor, Bonnie Sheer Porteous, made the long trek from Forest Park (5 hour drive) to present her plans for this year.

On November 6th & 7th we attended the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame events at the new Aurora Town Square. It was a great success, filled with inspiring stories from the new inductees. The Aurora Optimists had the honor of presenting a cheque to Future Hall of Famer, Connor Campbell, a young karate star with many accomplishments already under his belt.

On Remembrance Day, I had the privilege of carrying and laying a wreath for the Aurora Optimists in remembrance of the fallen soldiers. Several of our members participated, laying wreaths for other groups and members attending to pay their respect for our hero's.

The new fundraising team is gathering ideas and brainstorming exciting initiatives. Our next meeting will finalize some fantastic events.

November 20th marked our first dinner meeting of the year, a Canadian-themed evening featuring a highly competitive game of Jeopardy, hosted by the brave Sandra Watson. It was a lively crowd! The food, from Delicious Greek, was absolutely fabulous.

Vern has been busy ordering and selling Aurora Optimist fruitcakes at every event in town. We may even introduce Short Bread Cookies, which Bonnie and her husband Tony brought for us to sample at the Zone Breakfast. They were a huge hit!

Continued on next page

The Santa Claus Parade was a great success! The rain held off, and the weather was just right. Our float looked amazing—thanks to everyone who participated, from the planning and construction to the parade itself and the takedown. Everyone involved was so excited to bring it all together. Special thanks to the marshalling team for decorating the golf carts, marking the roads, and coordinating the floats. Also, thanks to Vern and Diane for officiating the float awards. I think everyone enjoyed a nice cup of Christmas cheer to toast another successful parade and ensure Santa arrived safely. How many years have we been doing this now?

Dianne and Brian Harrison's Christmas Cards for Canadian Soldiers campaign has wrapped up, with Aurora Optimist members signing a total of 4,400 cards, with some help from family and friends. In total, over 10,000 cards were signed by the Aurora community this year. Thanks to our Diane for collecting and distributing the cards.

And lastly, we had one more event this year: our annual Christmas Dinner was on Wednesday, December 4th, at the Aurora Legion. It was a great success, well attended. This year, we were supporting The Community Education Centre by

collecting gift cards and providing knapsacks for kids in need. We were also supporting the Salvation Army's Toy Shoppe where our focus was on gift cards for teens.

A big thank you to the Legion for being such a great partner to the Aurora Optimists throughout the year.

As we approach the festive season, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for all the incredible work our club members have done throughout the year. Each of you has contributed something truly special, and together, we've achieved remarkable things.

Wishing you and your family all the best in 2025!

Cheers to you all, looking forward to a great year ahead and our 40th anniversary celebration!

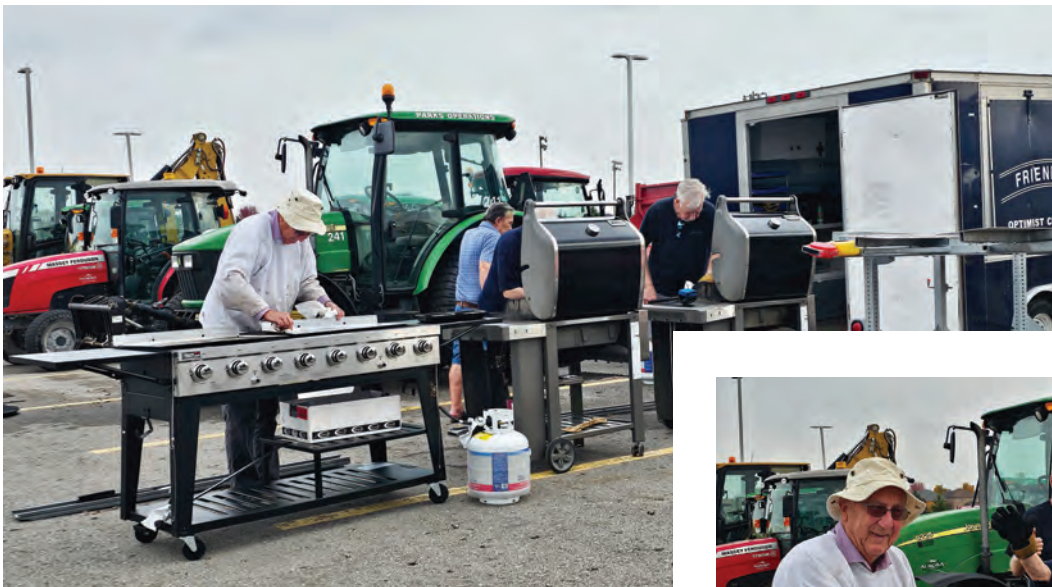
Deb Finniear

Optimist Member News

Nov 6 Business Meeting - Guest speaker Suzanne Haines, Aurora Cultural Centre



Cleaning the BBQ's



Optimist Member News

Holiday Market



Zone Breakfast



Sports Hall of Fame



Optimist Member News

Remembrance Day



Nov Dinner Meeting



Optimist Member News

Building the Float



Optimist Member News

Santa Under The Stars Parade



Optimist Member News

Christmas Dinner



Optimist Member News

Christmas Dinner



Optimist Member News

Christmas Cards for Soldiers

Subject: CTV news story on Christmas Cards for Soldiers

Click on the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/100007225719159/videos/964464432181282>

On February 27, 2025, we will hold our 27th Annual Optimist Club Chess Tournament!

Each year, our Club invites local primary schools to register their Chess Clubs to play in our annual tournament. Each school can bring up to 4 of their top Chess players from each grade (1 to 8) for a nominal fee of \$10 per child. We typically host 150 students! However last year we had over 200 students participating.

Here's how it works:

On the day of the tournament, schools arrive between 8:30 – 9:00 a.m., and we start the tournament at 9:15 a.m. Students are sectioned off by grade. Each student plays a minimum of 3 games, with the winners playing up to 5 games. The top 3 players of each grade are invited to the Ontario Chess Challenge Finals that occurs in April.

The event is held at the Legion with set up occurring the night before:

- Typically, we start at 5pm and finish well before 7pm, depending on the number of volunteers we have.

Day of we need volunteers for:

- Judges - Each judge oversees a grade section to note winners of each round and answer basic Chess regulation questions. (All judges receive training on basic rules.)
- Supervisors – To help with activity sheets for children to do in between games.
- Servers & Overseers – Help to serve pizza & water, plus volunteers to oversee the tournament to ensure parents & guests stay in their designated area.
- Tear-down – The night before and late-afternoon directly after the tournament we need volunteers to help set up tables, chairs and Chess boards, and then put them away.

If you can volunteer, please email Anna Kroeplin at annakoptimist20@gmail.com.

Current Board of Directors

President	Deb Finniear
Secretary	Sandra Watson
Treasurer	Carol Bartlett
Past President	Georgia Pottage
President Elect	Stu Bundy
Vice President	Sandy Bundy
Vice President	Glen Sharp
Sargeant at Arms	Terry Sherin
Directors	Paul Martin
	Greg Grant
	Robin Taylor Smith
	Maggie Thornton
	Jean Rodger

Our 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 on to 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.



**OPTIMIST CLUB
OF AURORA INC**

Optimist Club of Aurora Inc.,
PO Box 28509, 14800 Yonge St., Aurora, ON L4G 6S6

Follow Us On:

Facebook: @OptimistClubAurora,

Instagram: @auroraoptimist