



# The OptiMessenger

The Optimist Club of Calgary

[www.optimistyyc.org](http://www.optimistyyc.org)

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***We are Getting Things Done!***

## Welcome our New Member

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Anica Robinson has joined our Optimist Club. She is the Principal of Patrick Airlie School and continues a long tradition of faculty at Patrick Airlie becoming members of the Optimist Club of Calgary.

If you were not aware, Daryl McDonald joined our Club when he was Vice Principal of Patrick Airlie and Valerie Murphy (now Principal of O.S. Geiger) joined when she was the Principal of Patrick Airlie.

Please introduce yourself to Anica by sending her your welcome at [agrobinson@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:agrobinson@cbe.ab.ca).

## The Optimist Oratorical Contest

Bob Steele has done an excellent job getting students to participate in our Club Oratorical Contests. There are separate contests for boys and girls. Students present a 4 to 5 minute speech on the topic *"Where are My Roots of Optimism?"*

The Club contests will be held at 1 PM on Saturday, March 17, at the Southwood United Church, 10690 Elbow Drive SW. The address is on Elbow Drive but access is off Sabrina Rd. The church is located between Southland Drive and Heritage Drive.

This is an annual Optimist event since 1928 and Bob encourages you to join your Optimist colleagues, the speakers, their families, friends, and teachers in celebrating the youth that it is our honour and pleasure to support.

*We look forward to seeing you there.*

The Club contests are the first step in a series of Optimist Oratorical Contests. The winners of our two contests go on to compete in our Zone 6 Oratorical Contest on April 14 in High River.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob at [ironmanb@telusplanet.net](mailto:ironmanb@telusplanet.net).

## Our Next Club Dinner Meeting

On April 9<sup>th</sup> we will return to the China Rose Restaurant for our Dinner Meeting. We received excellent reviews from our Members that attended the January meeting we held there.

The restaurant is located at #228 – 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE; just west of Marlborough Mall off of Memorial Drive. Dinner will be a Chinese buffet with individual cheques provided.

Diane Swiatek will host the meeting. She has arranged for a very interesting speaker, Abdulkader al Guneid, the parent of one of her students at the Banbury Crossroads School. Abdulkader is from Yemen and will tell us about the challenges and life in this strife-ridden country.

*Once again, this is a speaker that your family and friends will have an interest in hearing, so invite them!*

As usual, socializing starts at 6:00PM, with dinner at 6:30, and the meeting starting at 7:00.

## AB International Band Festival

Lyle Bennett was at the Alberta International Band Festival Band Awards Concert. He presented the John Nickel Scholarship with Kevin Willms, a Band Director from Aberhardt High School.

It was excellent and good exposure for us. They were pleased to have us supporting the Festival – both financially and by providing volunteers. Lyle is aware of our Club Members working at least 11 volunteer shifts – Stutt Pottruff, Susan Bjerstedt, Duane Kelly and himself. Please let Lyle know if you also volunteered at the Festival.

They do not need volunteers for the Grande 1 Concert Band sessions March 13-14 at Bishop Carroll High School.

## Alberta Optimist U18 Curling

For the results of the Alberta Optimist U18 Curling Championships, held March 1-4 at the Okotoks Curling Club, see the attached page.

## The Club Essay Contest Winners

Eight students entered our Club Essay contest this year. Three judges, Paula Hudson-Lunn, a writer and editor (Nelson, BC), Shannon Rourke, a teacher (Ingleside, ON) and our club member Daryl Macdonald, were the judges. They had a very difficult job choosing the winner because of the high quality of the essays. There was a difference on only three percent between the first and fourth place essays!!

Here are the results:

**First Place:** Jay Baldonado, Grade 9, Ian Bazalgette School. Jay deserves special recognition for his achievement as six of the entries were from students in Grades 11 and 12. Optimists have also had a long relationship at this school by presenting awards for Academic Excellence and Jay has been a regular winner.

Jay wins a medal and \$100 award from the club. His essay is also being forwarded to the District Essay Contest for an opportunity to win a \$2,500 post-secondary scholarship. We will have an opportunity to meet Jay and his family at a Club dinner meeting later in the year.

**Second Place:** Darren Wen, Grade 12, Sir Winston Churchill High School. Darren wins a medal and \$75 award from the club. This is his grad year and next year he is planning to go to university, although he hasn't decided on his program yet.

**Third Place,** Emily Grant, Grade 11, Western Canada High School. Emily wins a medal and \$50 award from the club. Emily won our Oratorical Contest last year and has entered again this year.

The authors of the five other excellent essays were: Hajra Sohail and Manar al-Yasiri (females), both in Grade 11 at Western Canada High School, Ye-Jean and Ye-Sung Park (sister and brother) in Grades 11 and 8 at Webber Academy. Ye-Jean was the big winner (\$12,500 scholarships) from our club in the Oratorical Contest last year. One contestant, a student in Grade 12 at Western Canada High School, wished to remain anonymous.

You can read the three winning essays on our Club website: [www.optimistyc.org](http://www.optimistyc.org).

## Calgary Performing Arts Festival

This year, the Calgary Performing Arts Festival will be held April 23 - May 13 at Mt. Royal University. The Festival now includes theatre, making it no longer just a music festival but a performing arts festival. It has approximately 4,000 entries and 12,000 participants annually.

This is another excellent opportunity for Optimists to help out. Each year, they require over 100 volunteers to assist with a variety of jobs ranging from adjudicator assistants, greeters, hosts, venue setup/teardown, administrative assistance and more! They provide training and are flexible to fit your schedule. They seek people with lots of energy and a fun spirit.

Since we are a sponsor of the concert we will get six invitations to the Stars of the Festival Concert and the pre-concert reception.

If there are more Optimists who wish to attend the concert and it is not sold out, we can have extra tickets for the concert but not for the reception.

## Condolences

Robin Morris lost her Mother, Shirley Fay Murray, on February 22 at age 93. Funeral Services were held at the Anglican Parish of St. Mark and St. Philip on March 2

Dan Swiatek's Mom, Helena Joanna Swiatek, died on March 1 at age 94. Funeral Mass was held on March 7 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Polish Parish.

## Up Coming Dates

Mar 13-14: AIBF Concert Bands, Bishop Carroll  
Mar 17: Oratorical Contest, Southwood UC  
Mar 20-21: Park Society Casino, Elbow River  
Mar 22-23: High River OC Casino, Century Casino  
Mar 26: Board Meeting at Denise's house  
Apr 9: Dinner Meeting at China Rose Restaurant  
Apr 14: Zone 6 Oratorical Contest in High River  
April 23-May 13: Calgary Performing Arts Festival  
Apr 30: Board Meeting  
May 3-4: Dinner Club Casino, Casino Calgary  
May 7: AGM Meeting at Danish-Canadian Club  
May 11-12: District Meeting, Great Falls  
June 2: Family Day-in-the-Park, Optimist Park  
June 2: Club 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Valley Ridge GC



Team Bakker's Rhiley Quinn of Okotoks comes out of the hack during the Alberta Optimist U18 Women's Curling Championships at the Okotoks Curling Club.

The roaring game came full circle for an Okotokian's biggest day on the ice. Rhiley Quinn, from Okotoks and Team Bakker completed a two-year journey to the top of the heap at the Alberta Optimist U18 Women's Curling Championships at the Okotoks Curling Club after a 5-3 victory over the defending champion Team Marks.

Team Bakker, representing the Calgary and Okotoks Curling Clubs — featuring skip Ryleigh Bakker, third Hannah Phillips, second Rhiley Quinn and lead Hannah Airie — got past a familiar foe for a victory one year in the making. At last year's provincials Bakker finished second to Marks from the Saville Community Centre.

"It's crazy. I remember the first time I practiced here with my dad I was like six," said Quinn. "It's kind of insane that I won a provincial championship in the same rink that I first started curling in. I don't even have words."

In his third consecutive trip to the championship game, Ryan Jacques from the Saville Community Centre in Edmonton, took back the Alberta Optimist U18 Men's title. With third Dustin Mikush, second Gabriel Dyck and lead Michael Henricks, Jacques fought off a 5-2 deficit, forced an extra-end on a measurement and completed the comeback in a 7-5 victory over Airdrie's Desmond Young in the thrilling final at the Okotoks Curling Club.

"It was really good to come here knowing that we had already won before," Jacques said. "And just pulling that experience and moving it forward into this game so we can zone in and not be as stressed about this game. Banking off that experience was really helpful."

Both Alberta representatives advance to the U18 Canadian Curling Championships in Saint Andrews, New Brunswick April 9-14. It's just the second year the U18 provincial winners have competed at nationals. Previously, the victors went on to the Optimist U18 International Championships against select Canadian, American and Japanese squads.