

2008 OCA PRESIDENTS REPORT

Chess is continuing to grow in Ontario! In particular the chess in schools and Universities has seen continued growth. Internet Chess is also increasing. These are encouraging levels of participation, and are resulting in more visibility and support for chess throughout the province.

The continued success of the Kitchener Outdoor Chess Program shows the long term support of the Kitchener Community, led by the City of Kitchener and their Downtown Business Association. They have ongoing chess programs from May to October which are very well attended by local citizens and tourists.

Brampton is officially announcing a Chess Street in downtown Brampton, Vivian Lane, and will be supporting a number of chess activities within the city. A sponsored Bid to host the 2011 Commonwealth Chess Championships and other major events is being negotiated. Brampton has offered to host the Peel Region School Championships and over 2000 youth are expected for next May!

The York Region Trillium Project successfully completed last July and the area continues to have great school programs and even more chess camps scheduled for this summer.

The OCA supported the SWOCL and GTCL Chess Leagues with loans of equipment for special events. Similarly we support the Toronto District School Chess Championships, the Ontario Christian Schools Chess Championships, and the Canadian University Chess Championships.

The Canadian Open and Canadian Youth Chess Championships, led by Gordon Ritchie, set new standards of excellence and outstanding corporate sponsorships of around \$80,000.

Unfortunately the Chess Federation of Canada has had many challenges and we ask all members to be patient and continue to participate and support our CFC Leaders and volunteers as they reorganize for the future. This last year we did not receive any of the fees share for our organization, and this has curtailed League and program support. These matters are being addressed and the new year promises to be much better financially.

A lot of effort has been proceeding towards the goal of a permanent chess center in Toronto. Any interested parties who can help us in this regard would be appreciated. This is a long term project hoping for tangible results in 2009 or 2010.

On behalf of all chess players in Ontario, I thank the many volunteers and organizers who often work thanklessly for the benefit of us all!

Barry Thorvardson