

OCA Youth Coordinators Report for 2007-2008 year

This year, as in previous years, the major event that has come under my domain has been the 2008 Ontario Youth Chess Championships.

Again, this year it was held in Kitchener, Ontario at the Kitchener City Hall.

We were again up in numbers, this time to a new record number of 154 players. Previous numbers were:

- 1999 with 114
- 2000 with 126
- 2001 with 79
- 2002 with 95
- 2003 with 130
- 2004 with 150
- 2005 with 69 (had to be run much earlier than other years because of the CYCC being rescheduled.)
- 2006 with 114
- 2007 with 75

This year we had a lot of help from the Windsor/Chatham area which in previous years had sent many kids to the CMA Ontario Chess Challenge. (Thanks go to John Coleman) John has also given me many ideas on how to make this event even more popular.

Currently, our numbers show that the OYCC is supplying full or partial bursaries to 21 kids going to the CYCC. This number could climb to as many as 30 kids getting a full or partial bursary to attend the CYCC, all coming from the funds at the OYCC.

Unfortunately, this years event has been marred by the OCA NOT having provided the budgeted sponsorship of the OYCC of \$600. This was not communicated to me until just a couple of days prior to the event and so has taken that amount of funds out of the expenses thereby penalizing the organizer and unfortunately some of the “extras” that help to make this event as popular as it has become. This is my 6th year running this event and the first time that these funds have not been provided.

On another front, I have had good communications with my local MPP, a previous teacher, who is very “chess sympathetic” and has take my cause to the Minister of Education! I will be meeting with people from the ministry with regard to my “crusade” to introduce chess into the standard curriculum in Ontario Schools! This is a great stride forward for chess in Ontario, and indeed Canada and I will most certainly keep everyone posted when I have concrete news on this.



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