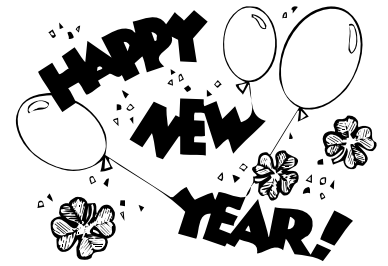


# Happy Chess Holidays!



May your games during the holidays  
and 2007 be successful and fun!



## Alberta Chess Report

Publication of Alberta Chess Association • November/December 2006



### Master Lee plays Christmas simultaneous

Vicente Lee 25 - Edmonton Juniors 0

As a Christmas treat for a Junior Friday Night session, Chess Master Vicente Lee played a simultaneous at Edmonton Chess Club against 25 juniors with many parents serving as spectators.

Lee's perfect score, 25-0, came somewhat as a surprise considering that there were a few promising juniors anxious to score a big win.

After the simul, he went on to explain the common mistakes that his opponents were making and suggested possible improvements.

The defeated juniors were surprisingly quiet and attentive during the Master's commentary, although they had been bursting with excitement a bit earlier as little Christmas treats were given out while Lee was

finishing off the final four boards.

Sean Lacy was the last junior out, preceded by Myron Loke, Ryan Lacy and Michael Williams. These four won free entries to the January 7 junior tournament at Edmonton Chess Club

Organized by Richard Pua and Bruce Thomas, Junior Friday Night Sessions are offering lessons and rated play to

about two dozen players and often feature guests like Lee, Rob Gardner and Nic Haynes.

Clip out  
the 2007  
schedule  
of ACA  
activities

See Page 6

**Inside this ACR:**

**Results of Before Christmas  
Team Event in Edmonton**

**Upcoming Tournaments**

**ACA President's Report**



CHATTER IN THE CASTLE

Report on Junior Chess  
Activities in Alberta

Inside this issue



## Alberta Chess Association

**President:  
Ford Wong**

(780) 481-6474, [fordie@shaw.ca](mailto:fordie@shaw.ca)

**Vice-President:  
Micah Hughey**

**Treasurer:  
Ron Hinds**

**Secretary:  
Paul Viminitz**

**Directors:  
Vladislav Rekhson**

**Richard Pua**

**Greg Huber**

**Mark Cole**

**Jim Daniluk**

**Robert Davies**

One directorship is vacant



*Enhancing Alberta's Communities*

The Alberta Chess Association in partnership with the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, provides a more active lifestyle to Albertans by providing programs to enhance living through playing chess. The ACA greatly acknowledges the support provided by ASRPWF which enables the association to deliver many of our programs.

# ACA directors sets budget amount for 2007

by **Richard Pua**

Alberta Chess Association's November meeting in Red Deer was very productive.

The officers and directors in attendance were Ford Wong, Ron Hinds, Micah Hughey, Vladislav Rekhson, Richard Pua, Robert Davies, Jim Daniluk, Greg Huber and Paul Viminitz.

During the drive to the meeting, Wong suggested that an award should be given to players who attend and support chess events outside their home community.

His "Road Warrior" idea is meant to promote higher attendance at ACA tournaments.

It would also reward players travelling to harder-to-reach places in Alberta such as Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat.

It was ironic that the Wongmobile experienced a blown tire during the trip and the Edmonton directors were

delayed by half an hour.

The board completed a list of tournaments for 2007. (See Page 6.)

The ACA is coordinating with other chess organizations in regards to scheduling, hoping it will reduce conflict between various tournaments and allow competitors a greater degree of flexibility in planning their chess trips.

The ACA has agreed in principle to pay all rating fees incurred in the province.

Currently, the ACA pays for all CFC rating fees of \$3 per player.

A request was made that Chess n' Math rating fees should also be paid by the ACA.

The board is now waiting for A.G.L.C. approval on this matter.

Tournament director (TD) honoraria could soon be paid for by casino funds.

Calgary Chess Club

received approval from A.G.L.C. that TD's can be paid with casino funds because "TD's possess skills that other chess players lack" which translates to a legitimate expense of running an event.

Alberta Chess Association and Edmonton Chess Club are pursuing approval for this type of use of casino funding.

"Honorariums constitute a large part of a chess club's regular account expenses and having casino funds offset this expense will be very nice indeed," said ACA Vice-President Micah Hughey.

The budget ceiling for the 2007 year was set at \$90,000. This motion was passed with four in favor, two against and two abstentions.

The ACA has plans to host a Canadian Open in 2008 in Calgary and to help sponsor the National Chess Challenge in Edmonton in 2008.

## ACA casino may need more workers

The next Alberta Chess Association casino will be on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 9 and 10, at Yellowhead Casino, 12464 - 153 Street in Edmonton.

The ACA will be counting on its members to help volunteer at this casino. Anyone who can help is asked to contact ACA President Ford Wong, (780) 481-6474 or e-mail: [fordie@shaw.ca](mailto:fordie@shaw.ca).

Currently the ACA would stand to raise roughly \$78,000 for a short 2 days work. However, with the opening of two new casinos in Edmonton, the amount is expected to be less.

Casino revenue has helped the ACA fund many of its projects including the Canadian Open 2005, and travel for many of our representatives to national events. These revenues also pay for rental of tournament sites and rating fees to the CFC.

## ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

Please send items for The Report to: [rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca](mailto:rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca) or fax to: (780) 479-8363 or mail to: Alberta Chess Report, c/o publisher, 12015 - 76 Street, Edmonton T5B 2C9.

Many ACA members will be getting The Report with full color as pdf files via e-mail. If you wish to get a copy in this format and save mailing and printing costs for the ACA, please e-mail a request to: [rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca](mailto:rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca)

Various ACA members and other chess organizers around the province will receive by mail, printed copies of The Report which we ask that they distribute to other local members or to members of the public interested in learning more about chess in Alberta.

If you wish to talk directly to co-editors Bruce Thomas or Richard Pua about the contents of The Report, phone (780) 474-2318.

Items submitted by e-mail should be in text form for articles and photos should be as jpegs or tiffs. The deadline for the next issue will be January 21, 2006.

# Kaminski and Robichaud win Alberta Open

by Richard Pua

Alberta Open 2006 on Thanksgiving weekend attracted 29 players from Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Saskatchewan.

There were five masters and five experts competing despite the low turnout, considering previous Alberta Opens have attracted over 50 players.

Many of the titled players had additional incentive to compete because this tournament was a qualifier for the Alberta Closed 2007.

Winners in the Open section were Victor Kaminski and Martin Robichaud. Both Californians finished with 5 points out of a possible 6.

Greg Huber of Calgary finished in third with 4.5/6 score.

### Lower sections

The Under 2100 section was won by Micah Hughey of Edmonton with 4.5/6 points.

Under 1800 section was split between Thomas Kaminski of Calgary and Keith MacKinnon of North Battleford, Sas-

katchewan, each with a 3.5/6 score.

The Under 1600 section was claimed by Chase Cunningham and Bronislav Swiecicki, each with a 3/6 score.

The tournament was full of suspense and upsets.

The Alberta masters were having a tough time against lower rated players in the early rounds.

Young Thomas Kaminski scored an upset win over Huber.

Jeff Reeve managed only a draw against

Hughey and lost to Andrew Boik.

Rob Gardner lost a game to Martin Robichaud.

Juraj Pivovarov directed the tournament while Jim Daniluk organized the event in Calgary at the Quality Inn.

## Chess Federation of Canada Top 50 List for Alberta

Highest rated players in Alberta as of December 7  
(Not all these players are currently active)

#	Name	Location	Rating
1	Huber, Gregory	Calgary	2328
2	Neven, Knut	Calgary	2307
3	Reeve, Jeff	Edmonton	2306
4	Peter, Steven	Calgary	2303
5	Gardner, Robert J.	Edmonton	2302
6	Hughey, Micah	Edmonton	2296
7	Kaminski, Victor	Calgary	2294
8	Mitrovic, Sinisa	Calgary	2281
9	Purewal, Sardul	Edmonton	2221
10	Schaeffer, Jonathan	Edmonton	2206
11	Hansen, Eric	Calgary	2203
12	Perron, Sean	Cochrane	2200
13	Robichaud, Martin	Calgary	2195
14	Gibney, Eugene	Lloydminster	2191
15	Nguyen, Kim	Calgary	2172
16	Haynes, Nicolas	Edmonton	2164
17	Yearwood, Roy	Calgary	2154
18	Booker, Brad	Calgary	2145
19	Ottosen, David	Edmonton	2103
20	Monaghan, Jim	Cold Lake	2090
21	Gorelik, Lev	Edmonton	2079
22	Dean, Tim	Edmonton	2067
23	Daniluk, Jim	Calgary	2067
24	Willis, Bradley J.	Edmonton	2063
25	Gluckie, Jamin	Lloydminster	2062
26	Kuczaj, Chris	Calgary	2049
27	Yam, Alex	Calgary	2037
28	Karmali, Hafiz	Edmonton	2033
29	Tomaras, Pavlos	Calgary	2004
30	Steele, Len C.	Edmonton	1984
31	Trikha, Ravi	Calgary	1984
32	Hinds, Dr. Ronald	Calgary	1981
33	Miller, Brian	Calgary	1977
34	Culjaga, Nikola	Edmonton	1977
35	Kolenchuk, Tracy	Edmonton	1976
36	Milne, Arthur	Calgary	1975
37	MacIntosh, John J.	Calgary	1974
38	Kaminski, Thomas	Calgary	1972
39	Pua, Richard	Edmonton	1968
40	Watson, Walter	Calgary	1967
41	Stark, Mark	Edmonton	1967
42	Regimbald, Adrien	Edmonton	1967
43	Rusnell, Lorne	Edmonton	1966
44	Sorgard, Graham	Iron Springs	1950
45	Newton, Geoff	Edmonton	1929
46	Douziech, Richard	Edmonton	1928
47	Taylor, William P.	Medicine Hat	1907
48	Shepherd, John	Edmonton	1900
49	Bentley, Bill	Calgary	1893
50	Quiring, John	Edmonton	1892



2006 Alberta Open scenes

### Calgary Closed - January 2 thru February 13

Calgary Chess Club, Banff Trail Community Hall, 2115 - 20 Avenue NW

Entry fee: \$25

7-Round Sectional - Round Robins according to rating

Please pre-register with TD Mark Cole

(403) 263-2176 or 701-2653 muk499@yahoo.com

## Calgary Chess Club lists victors of two events

The Calgary Fall Class Open attracted 25 competitors under the direction of Juraj Pivovarov.

In the six-player round-robin Section A, Brian Miller was the winner, tallying 4.5 points out of a possible five. Alex Yam was runner-up with four points.

In the 19-player Section B, Michel Cloutier finished with a perfect six victories. Teenager Chase Cunningham was second with five out of six points.

More recently, the Calgary Open attracted 24 players to Calgary Chess Club.

Eric Tam and Roy Yearwood shared first place, each missing a perfect score of five by one. Meanwhile, Rodney Weis and Arthur Milne tied for third at 3.5/5.



### Alberta Chess Association **Trumpeter Classic 2007** in Grande Prairie **January 27 and 28**

Tournament Director: Tim Pradzinski  
Phone: 780-518-2281  
Email: database@telusplanet.net  
Grande Prairie Inn 11633 Clairmont Road 780-532-5221  
5 Rounds, Swiss Pairing System

Time Control: Game / 90 minutes + 30 sec per move

#### Register in Advance if possible!

On-Site Registration: Saturday 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.  
Round Times:

Saturday, January 27  
Rounds #1 - 10:00 a.m. #2 - 2:30 #3 - 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, January 28  
Rounds #4 - 9:00 a.m. #5 - 1:30 p.m.

**Please Note:** All players will play in one section, the Under 1900 and Under 1500 Sections are only for prize distribution. CFC Membership is Required for this tournament and can be purchased on-site during the registration process.

**\$1500 Prize Fund**

**Grande Prairie Inn Info:** 10 Double Rooms with 2 Queen Size Beds. You must take care of your own reservations and hold the rooms with a credit card. Quote Group Block #6100 or Grande Prairie Chess Club. Reservations number for the GP Inn is 780-532-5221. \$99 plus taxes for Double; \$96 plus taxes for Single. Sorry, the only rooms available in the hotel are SMOKING rooms.



Greetings from Alberta Chess Association.

The return of the Alberta Chess Report has been long in coming, due to the inability of finding a volunteer with the time, energy and know-how to put together the issue. A great big thank you goes to Bruce Thomas and Richard Pua who have stepped forth to be co-editors. With the revival of the ACR, I urge all organizers to provide tournament reports, tournament announcements and chess photos to Bruce and Richard.

I thank all our members who continue to support the many ACA tournaments throughout the province, especially to our "ROAD" warriors. Our website at [www.albertachess.org](http://www.albertachess.org) remains a key source of information and I urge our members to check there. You can also contact myself or many of our active board members such as Micah Hughey, Vlad Rekhson and Jim Daniluk, for information about ACA activities.

Although the Alberta chess scene may appear quiet, the ACA has been

# President's ACA Report

very busy. Last year, the ACA sponsored the very successful (personal bias aside) Canadian Open 2005 in Edmonton. The next time the ACA

sponsors a major event, we hope to have it in Calgary to give our southern members an opportunity to be the home team.

In addition, to our "CORE" tournaments (the ACA hosts at least one weekend tournament every month), the ACA intends in 2007 to feature more titled players (Grandmasters, etc) in Alberta to provide lectures, simul events and to participate some of our tournaments. New to this year's tournament schedule was the "International Norm Tournament" on Easter weekend which gave many of our Alberta Masters a chance to earn a norm.

As in past years, the ACA will be "fully" sponsoring the travel of our champions to national events which included our 12 scholastic champions to the Canadian Chess Challenge Finals in Moncton, New Brunswick in May, our six champions to the Canadian Youth Chess Championship in Kitchener, Ontario in July, and our Alberta Closed Champion to the Canadian Closed in Toronto. Last

year, the ACA sponsored our Alberta Women's Champion, Cornelia Dinca, to the Canadian Women's Championship.

The ACA has also been actively helping many of the chess clubs in Alberta including the Calgary Chess Club and the Grande Prairie Chess Club. The ACA has been supplying clubs such as the Lethbridge Chess Club, Okotoks Chess Club, and the U of Calgary Chess Club with equipment. New clubs starting up this year include Banff led by Jonathan Day and Fort McMurray led by Jhonny Labrador.

Junior chess is growing greatly with the tireless work of Bruce Thomas and Roving ChessNuts with plans to provide chess education to schools in rural Alberta.

The ACA will be sponsoring its Public Library Initiative where the ACA will help put chess books in libraries throughout Alberta. Not to be missed will be the Giant Chess Set in Medicine Hat, a project led by Bill Taylor and the Medicine Hat Chess Club (I can only assume that this set is used by the guy who lives in the giant Tee Pee there).

**Ford Wong  
President**

*Plan to attend:*

## Northern Alberta Open February 17 & 18

Edmonton Chess Club, #204 10840 124 Street Phone 424-0283

Tournament Director: Micah Hughey



# Raging Kramniks, Benko Brothers share first before Christmas

by Richard Pua

A total of 41 players entered this year's Pre-Christmas event, which was a team based swiss tournament held at Edmonton Chess Club, December 16 and 17.

Overall team winners were:

*The Raging Kramniks* 11/15 points with Micah Hughey, Roy Yearwood, Richard Wang and Harris Wang.

*Benko Brothers* 11/15 points with Robert

Sasata, Jamin Gluckie and Jeff Willoughby.

Best Under 1800 team was:

*The Sorceror's Apprenti* 8.5/15 points with David Brodmann, Tom Asquith and Connor Quinn.

Best Under 1700 team was:

*Zwischenzug* 7.5/15 points with Tim Dean, Marko Culjaga and Anthony Wu.

Best name prize goes to (4 way tie):

*The Raging Kramniks, Three and a Half*

*Men, Fishermen, Knights of the Square Table.*

It was interesting to see masters and juniors working together as a team. Many veterans were willing to offer advice and other tips to their teammates and the overall atmosphere was friendly. The number of juniors involved - 8 - was substantial.

Vladislav Rekhson organized the event and volunteered to play for an out-of-town team that was short a player.



## Knights of Columbus donates huge prize fund

Thanks to arrangements made by Arniel Frialde, the Knights of Columbus is donating \$1,500 towards prize money and general expenses of the upcoming ACA Northern Alberta Open.

The tournament will be held at Edmonton Chess Club, February 17 and 18.

This will make the tournament extremely attractive to players since it is also a qualifier for the Alberta Closed 2007.



## Edmonton International will offer IM norms

Organizer Vlad Rekhson has announced the 2007 Edmonton International will be held in Edmonton August 2 to 6.

The 10-player round-robin will offer International Master norms opportunities.

At least three positions will be reserved for Albertans and can be achieved by performances at the Edmonton Closed, Alberta Closed and Calgary Closed, provided these events have at least four players with ratings 2200+ CFC or 2100+ FIDE.

Other details about this event will appear on the ACA website.

## A Game from the Alberta Junior Championship

November 11, 2006 - Round 1

White: Eric Hansen Black: David Mrugala

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. d4 Bg4 4. Be2 Bxe2 5. Qxe2 Qxd5 6. Nf3 e6 7. O-O Bd6 8. c4 Qh5 9. Nc3 O-O 10. c5 Be7 11. Bf4 c6 12. b4 Nbd7 13. b5 Nd5 14. Nxd5 Qxd5 15. Rfc1 Rfc8 16. a4 b6 17. cxb6 axb6 18. bxc6 Rxc6 19. Qb5 Rac8 20. Rxc6 Rxc6 21. Qxd5 exd5 22. a5 bxa5 23. Rxa5 Bd6 24. Bd2 Nb6 25. g3 Kf8 26. Rb5 Ke7 27. Ba5

(See diagram)

27 ... Bc7 {The move was played in time pressure. Fritz recommends 28...Rc1+ and 29...Nc4}

28. Bxb6 Bxb6 29. Rxd5 Rd6 30. Re5+ Kf6 31. Re4 g5 32. Kg2 Kf5 33. Re5+ Kf6 34. Nxc4 Rxd4 35. Rb5 Ba7 36. Nxc7 Kg6 37. Ng5 Rd2 38. Nh3 Kg7 39. Rf5 Kg6 40. g4 f6 41. Nf4+ Kf7 42. Nh5 Rd6 43. Rb5 Bd4 44. Rb7+ Ke6 45. Ng7+ Ke5 46. Nf5 Ra6 47. Re7+ 1-0



## A Game from the 2006 Canadian Closed

August 18 in Toronto - Round 6

White: Vicente Lee Black: Nenad Ristic

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3 6. bxc3 Qa5 7. Bd2 Qa4 8. Qb1 c4 9. Nf3 Nc6 10. g3 h6 11. h4 Nge7 12. Bg2 Bd7 13. O-O O-O-O 14. Qc1 Kb8 15. h5 Ka8 16. Nh4 Bc8 17. Bf3 Rh7 18. Bg4 Rdh8 19. Kh2 g5 20. Ng2 Ng8 21. f4 f5 22. exf6 Nxf6 23. Be2 g4 24. Ne3 Rg8 25. Be1 Ne7 26. Qd1 Qe8 27. Rh1 Qxh5 28. Kg1 Qg6 29. Ng2 Nf5 30. Bf1 Ne4 31. Nh4 Nxc4 32. Rxc4 Nd6 33. Qe2 Nf5 34. Rh1 h5 35. Bg2 h4 36. gxh4 g3 37. h5 Qh6 38. Bd2 Rhg7 39. a4 Qf6 40. Qe5 Qf7 41. a5 a6 42. Rb1 Rh7 43. Qe2 Rgh8 44. Bf3 Ng7 45. Kg2 Nxc5 46. Bxc5 Rxc5 47. Rxc5 Rxc5 48. Rh1 Rxc1 49. Kxc1 e5 50. dxe5 Bf5 51. Kg1 Qh7 52. Qg2 Qh4 53. Be1 Qxf4 54. Qxg3 Qxg3 55. Bxg3 b6 56. axb6 Kb7 57. Bf2 a5 58. Bc5 Kc6 59. Kf2 Bc8 60. Ba3 Kxb6 61. Ke3 Kc6 62. Kd2 Kd7 63. Bd6 Ke6 64. Kc1 Kd7 65. Bc5 Kc6 66. Bd4 1/2-1/2

**Anyone having anything to do with a chess club - school, community, coffeeshop - is asked to e-mail information that can be posted in the ACR and the ACA website.**

**When and where do you meet?**

**Format of play? Ages? Fees?**

**e-mail these details to:**

**rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca**

by Richard Pua

Micah Hughey captured first place at the Dance O' Power at Edmonton Chess Club with a perfect 5/5 score.

The tournament was played over five Thursdays in November.

Hughey won \$60, but this is misleading since he

donated his tournament directing honorarium to the prize fund so he simply was reclaiming his money!

Second place went to Jason Wihnon with 4/5 points. This has got to be Wihnon's best tournament in years, losing only to Hughey and defeating all

### Strong turn-out, interesting games at Dance of Power

his other higher-rated opponents.

Quite a few juniors participated as well. David Mrugala finished

with 2/4, Jonathan Mrugala with 2/4, Harris Wang with 3/5 and Richard Wang with 2/5.

Some other notable players such as Arniel Frialde, Sasa Grumic and Vladislav Rekhson showed up to make this tournament the most interesting one the ECC

has had in months.

There were a few upsets at the top boards. Rekhson got a draw with Frialde. David Brodmann scored a master scalp by beating Frialde. Hughey defeated Grumic in an interesting opposite-side, castling-tactical melee that ensured his victory.

## Alberta Chess Association Schedule for 2007

The following tournaments/events are sponsored by the Alberta Chess Association or are among those receiving ACA support

Date	Name of Tournament/Event	Organizer	Location
January 9-10	ACA Casino	Ford Wong	Edmonton
January 5-7	Schleinich Memorial Sectional	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
January 21	ACA Board Meeting	Ford Wong	Red Deer
January 27-28	Trumpeter Classic	Tim Pradzinski	Grande Prairie
February 17-18	Northern Alberta Open	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
February 24-25	Alberta Youth Championships	Richard Pua	Edmonton
March 11-12	March of Kings	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
March 23-25	Spring Sectional	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
April 6-8	Alberta Closed	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
April 7-8	Alberta Reserves	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
April 7-8	Alberta Women's	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
April 14	Alberta Chess Challenge	Bruce Thomas	Red Deer
April 21-22	Lethbridge Open	Jack Davies	Lethbridge
April 29	ACA Board Meeting	Ford Wong	Red Deer
May 5	Alberta Active	Greg Huber	Calgary
May 19-21	May Sectional	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
May 20-21	National Chess Challenge	Chess'n Math	Quebec City
June 9	Churchill Square Chess Festival	Bruce Thomas	Edmonton
Summer	Western Canadian Invitational Junior	Bruce Thomas	Edmonton
June 22-24	June Sectional	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
July 3-6	Canadian Youth CC	CFC	Ottawa
July 7-15	Canadian Open	CFC	Ottawa
July 21	Battle of Alberta	Hinds/Hughey	Red Deer
August 2-6	Edmonton Chess Festival	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton
August 17-27	Canadian Closed	CFC	
August 26	ACA Board Meeting	Ford Wong	Red Deer
September 1-2	Over / Under 1800	Mark Cole	Calgary
September 15-16	Medicine Hat Open	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
September 29-30	Junior Battle at the Border	Bruce Thomas	Lloydminster
October 6-8	Alberta Open	Ford Wong	Edmonton
October 27	Junior Battle of Alberta	Bruce Thomas	Red Deer
November 10-11	Alberta Junior	Richard Pua	Calgary
November 17-18	Southern Alberta Open	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
November 25	ACA Board Meeting	Ford Wong	Red Deer
December 15-16	Before Christmas Open	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton



# Packing them in at ECC



The new location of Edmonton Chess Club is more than twice as large as the former club space at the Armouries, but even so, the space is being tested by large junior events, attracting up to 84 players.

The new club space has had some problems and is still scheduled to be renovated to accommodate up to 60 adult players comfortably. There will also be a fairly decent space for skittles

In November, 13 elementary school teams competed at Edmonton Chess Club, filling the tournament room with 70 players and a half dozen adult supervisors.



**Edmonton Chess Club**  
 #204 10840 - 124 Street  
 (780) 424-0283

## Hours of Operation:

**Mondays:** 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Johnchess (Active) Game/30 minutes 4 rounds

Fees: \$2.00 nightly dues or \$20.00 ECC membership

**Thursdays:** 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

CFC rated tournaments Game/110 minutes + 30 sec inc. 1 round

Fees: \$3.00 rating fee, \$41.00 CFC membership\*

**Saturdays:** 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Active Chess Game/30 minutes 4 rounds

Fees: \$2.00 nightly dues or \$20.00 ECC membership

\* This is full adult membership. Lower for juniors, families, participating.

## Spooks left chess players alone at Halloween Open

by Richard Pua

The Halloween Open was a regular Thursday night event held at the Edmonton Chess Club during October.

Twenty players competed.

David Ostapchuk and Micah Hughey shared first place, both receiving a 3/4 score.

The upset of the month was the Round 2 game between Mark Stark and Hughey.

In a queen ending where both kings were exposed, Stark played a simple queen check forcing Hughey's king to move. The move chosen by Hughey lead to a mate in one.

## ACA Membership

### Help needed to keep updated

In order to complete Alberta Chess Association membership lists for the mailing of Alberta Chess Reports and for government funding requirements, we need the co-operation of chess organizers. When you accept a new CFC/ACA membership, please send a copy of the person's information to the ACA via: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca, fax (780) 479-8363. Send the money and original information to the CFC for processing. If you do not require CFC/ACA membership for your event, we would still like to add your participants to our lists, particularly if you benefit from ACA support. We need to count all actual participants in organized chess events.

## Edmonton Closed

January 4 thru February 22

Edmonton Chess Club, #204 10840 124 Street, 424-0283

Please pre-register with TD Micah Hughey  
 (780) 484-6075 mhughey@hotmail.com



Returned undelivered copies to:

Alberta Chess Report  
c/o Publisher  
12015 - 76 Street NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 2C9

## CFC gives early Christmas present to players

by Richard Pua

For a number of years, a lot of chess players felt that there was a Chess Federation of Canada (CFC) rating deflation problem.

The argument was that under-rated junior players suck points from the lower boards in tournaments.

This then leads to less points being available to higher rated players when they beat lower-rated opponents of any age.

The CFC adjusted its rating system early in December.

The CFC has counted how many games a player has had rated from July 2004 to the present, and awarded bonus points for every game via the following formula:

### Rating - Bonus Points

0 - 1999 -

1 point per game

2000-2199 -

1/2 point per game

2200-2800 -

1/4 point per game

The CFC rating committee is hoping that a lot of players receiving a higher rating through the bonus points will mean several things, including



*The CFC Elves have given active players lots of rating points, just in time for Xmas!*

juniors being able to earn higher ratings quicker and higher-rated players getting more points for their victories.

The bonus is also rewarding players who participate in a lot of tournaments with the belief that more experience means more acquired knowledge of the game.

### Three new Masters

Micah Hughey of Edmonton, one of the country's most active players, experienced the highest rating gain by far among Albertans.

His new rating of 2296 would put him #6 on the Top 50 Albertans list.

Other notable players benefitting from the bonus are Eric Hansen of

Calgary at 2203 and Vladislav Rekhson of Edmonton at 2201.

The bonus points have allowed these three players to become instant Masters although they will have to maintain their over 2200 rating over at least 25 games.

Only time will tell if this adjustment will really help juniors and reflect accurately, the relative strengths of players of all ages.

It will be interesting to see if some type of rating point feeding frenzy will occur in Alberta!

Alberta Chess Association's

# Schleinich Memorial Sectional

January 5 - 7 in Calgary

Quality Inn Motel Village, 2359 Banff Trail NW, Calgary, Alberta

Tournament Director: Jim Daniluk

Phone: (403) 248-7456 • Email: [sacrat@shaw.ca](mailto:sacrat@shaw.ca)

*This Tournament is run in sections of 6 players by rating. Open to all ages of players*

**Pre-registration is REQUIRED for this event**

**All entrants must register and pay by January 2 • Entry fee: \$25 (FIDE masters free)**

Entries will be accepted at the Calgary Chess Club on Tuesdays

or may be mailed to Jim Daniluk at 52 Erin Mount Cres. SE, Calgary, AB T2B 2S3.

Edmonton players may register with Micah Hughey at Edmonton Chess Club

Round 1 Friday 7 p.m. • Rounds 2-3 Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Rounds 4-5 Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Time control is G/110 minutes +30sec. increment.

**Projected prize fund is minimum \$200 for top section and \$100 for other sections**





# CHATTER IN THE CASTLE

Report on Junior Chess Activities in Alberta



Eric Hansen (left) of Calgary received the 2006 Alberta Junior Champ trophy from tournament director Richard Pua.

## Hansen wins junior title

by **Richard Pua**

The Alberta Junior 2006 Championship was comprised of two separate sections and was held on Remembrance Day in Edmonton.

The championship section, open only to players with a CFC rating above 1600, featured four experienced juniors battling it out in a round-robin.

The reserve section was a swiss style tournament which contained six players.

Eric Hansen of Cal-

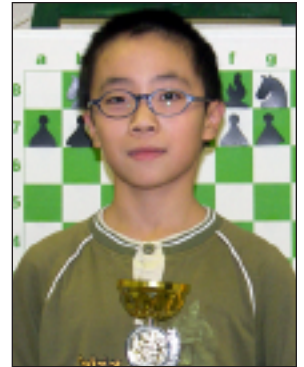
gary won the championship event with a perfect score with three victories.

David Mrugala of Edmonton was runner-up with two points out of a possible three.

Jered Fokkema of Sylvan Lake and Marko Culjaga of Edmonton each finished with a half point.

Alberta Chess Association will send Hansen to the next Canadian Junior Championship.

Yi Lun Wu captured



Yi Lun (Allan) Wu

the reserve section with a perfect 3/3 score.

Anthony Wu and Myron Loke tied for second place with 2/3 scores.

## Edmonton will host 2008 National Challenge

During the May Victoria Day weekend in 2008, Edmonton will be hosting the National Chess Challenge which will attract 10 provincial teams of students in grades 1 through 12. A total of 120 players will participate.

The National Challenge, sponsored by the Chess'n Math Association, rotates between east, west and central locations and in 2007 will be in Quebec City. The 2006 event was held in Moncton, New Brunswick.

While the actual competition is held over two days, there will be other activities for visitors and there are plans to use the National event to highlight chess in Alberta through affiliated events.



Westbrook Elementary's winning A Team - see Chatter Page 2

**INSIDE:**

**North wins First Junior Battle of Alberta**

**West Edmonton Mall to host Scholastic Teams**

**For updates on Junior Chess Activities throughout Alberta, keep in touch with:**

**Alberta Chess Association website:**  
**[www.albertachess.org/](http://www.albertachess.org/)**



**and get on The Roving ChessNuts contact list:**  
**e-mail: [rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca](mailto:rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca)**



# CHATTER IN THE CASTLE

Report on Junior Chess Activities in Alberta

## Edmonton Junior New Year's Tournament - Sunday, January 7

Edmonton Chess Club, 124 Street  
Please pre-register by e-mailing:  
[rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca](mailto:rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca)  
Compete 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

## Westbrook Elementary continues to dominate Edmonton team events

Although Westbrook Elementary School lost some of its top players through graduation, school transfer and other sports, it still seems to be the top powerhouse of chess in northern Alberta.

At a November 19 school team tournament held at Edmonton Chess Club, the Westbrook A

squad continued the string of victories, Westbrook had last school year when the school never lost a team match.

But it did not come easy in this tournament which attracted 13 teams from 11 different schools from Edmonton, St. Albert and Sherwood Park.

Going into the fourth and final round, it was actually the Westbrook B Team that was leading the tournament with a number of schools not far behind.

In the final round, it was Westbrook A versus Westbrook B and it was the A team which got a perfect 5-0 score, even though at one point,

Westbrook B was winning on at least two boards.

That round gave Westbrook A a final tally of 18 points out of a possible 20 while Westbrook B stayed at 14 points which allowed York Academic to sneak by and take second place with a 14.5 score.

New Horizons School of Sherwood Park came in fourth with 13 points and claimed a trophy as a new entry into scholastic chess.

Muriel Martin School was fifth and the top St. Albert school at the event, scoring 11 points.

Windsor Park Elementary was fifth with 10

points while York Academic B Team was sixth at 9.5.

Other schools were Neil Ross of St. Albert, Father Leo Green of Edmonton, Holyrood of Edmonton, Robert Rundle of St. Albert, Sir Alexander Mackenzie of St. Albert and JJ Nearing of St. Albert.

A couple of the teams lacked five players, but some teams had substitute players - the final player count for the event was 70.

For some of the players, it was their very first tournament outside of their school.



## A Game from the Alberta Junior

November 11, 2006

White: Jered Fokkema Black: Marko Culjaga

Analysis by Richard Pua

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Nf6 4. O-O Bc5 5. c3 O-O
- {Necessary was 5...Nxe4 to kill one of the center pawns. White will now advance his center with great effect.}
6. d4 exd4 7. e5 {A mistake. 7.cxd4 at once is nearly winning because Black doesn't have time to take the e-pawn. Now Black's best move would be 7...d5}
- Ne8 8. cxd4 Bb6
9. d5 Ne7 10. Bg5 d6
11. Re1 f6 12. exf6 Nxf6
13. Nc3 Bg4 14. Qd3 Bf5
15. Qd2 Qd7
16. Re2 Rae8 17. h3 h6
18. Be3 Ne4
19. Nxe4 Bxe4
20. Nh2 Bf5
21. Bxb6 axb6
22. Rae1 Ng6
23. Nf3 Rxe2
24. Rxe2
- {Loses a pawn.}
- ... Bxh3 25. Nh2 Bxg2
- {Nice tactic to expose king and win more material.}
26. Kxg2 Nf4+
27. Kh1 Qh3 28. f3 Nxe2
29. Qxe2 Kh8 30. Bd3 Qh5 31. Qe4 g6 {Perhaps better is 31...Kg8}
32. Qxg6 Qxg6 33. Bxg6 Rg8 34. Be4 Kg7 35. Kg2 Kf6+ 36. Kf2 Ke5 37. Ke3 h5
38. b3 Ra8 39. a4 Rg8 40. f4+ Kf6 41. Nf3 Rg3 42. Kf2 h4 43. Bc2 Rg4 44. f5 h3
- See diagram {Due to mistakes on the scoresheet, we cannot continue the game. It went on for a few more moves and somehow White managed a draw.}
45. Bd3 1/2-1/2



## Calgary Junior Chess Club

Tournaments held at  
Calgary Centennial Arena

2390 - 47 Avenue SW

Registration starts 12:30, ends 1 p.m. sharp  
Competition 1:30 to 4:30

Upcoming Dates  
January 14 • February 11

Grade Championship  
& Alberta Challenge Qualifier  
March 24

Days Inn South  
3828 MacLeod Trail  
Registration at 9 a.m.

For further information about Calgary  
Junior Chess Club, contact John Piera  
[cjccdirector@yahoo.ca](mailto:cjccdirector@yahoo.ca)

# North beats South in first Junior Chess Battle of Alberta



## CHATTER IN THE CASTLE

Report on Junior Chess Activities in Alberta

by Richard Pua

This special event was held on October 28 in Red Deer at Thurber High School and attracted 26 players.

The main strength of the North team was provided by Jered Fokkema, Harris Wang, Richard Wang and Derek Thomas.

The main strength of the South team were Vlad Constantinescu, Tony Cai, Mark Ting and Simon Ong.

It was a close match throughout and after Round 3, both sides were deadlocked at 18 points.

Team North then went on to claim victory by scoring 9-3 in the final round, with the top section of the North getting a per-



The winning North Team

fect 4-0 score.

**Best Overall**

**Performances**

**Section A:**

Jered Fokkema received 4/4 points for North.

Vlad Constantinescu got 2/4 points for South.

**Section B:**

Quinn Daviduck of Red Deer played for the North and captured 3.5/4 points. Johan Piera scored 3/4 for the South team.

**Section C:**

Peter Hu and Trent Douglas of Pincher Creek were perfect for the South team, scoring 5/5 and 4/4 respectively. Top point getter for team North was Sebastien Despres with 3/4 points.

This tournament was organized by The Roving ChessNuts and Calgary Junior Chess Club.

CJCC president John Piera was pleased with the turnout and impressed with the operation of the event. He vowed to put together an even stronger South team in next year's Battle.

Players and parents were provided with a pizza lunch, organized by Monica Loke and Yan Loke.



The runners-up South Team

## World's biggest mall helps promote chess

by Bruce Thomas

West Edmonton Mall invited the Alberta Chess Association and Roving ChessNuts to put on a chess display and demonstration during the Mall's Customer Appreciation Day on October 12.

While it was hard to compete against the Mall's offer of free admission to its various attractions, a fair number of people did stop by the chess tables and some even played chess ... mostly bad chess but that led to some parents realizing their youngsters needed lessons and also led to a bunch of high school "chess players" realizing that they were no match for trained elementary players.

About a half dozen adults made inquiries about Edmonton Chess Club and perhaps a dozen parents and younger players inquired about junior chess activities. Complimentary copies of the Alberta Chess Report were handed out.

Junior players who helped with the West Edmonton Mall promotion were Derek Thomas, Richard Wang, Myron Loke and Ryan Loke. Richard Pua put in the most time manning the tables during the morning and again in the evening. The next public chess event at the Mall will be January 21 when teams from a number of schools will battle each other in the West Edmonton Mall Scholastic Team Competition for Elementary Schools.

West Edmonton Mall has been very supportive of chess and holding events on the mall have attracted a lot of public attention and has helped to promote chess. The mall has also provided space for two Grandmaster simultaneous displays - GM Mark Bluvshstein performed on the deck of the Santa Maria during the 2005 Canadian Open and GM Pascal Charbonneau performed in another public area of the mall during his 2006 tour.

**Intermediate & Advance  
Junior Players  
Friday Night Lessons/Lectures  
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7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Invitation Only - Please call

474-2318 or e-mail

rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca

for details and possible registration

*Sessions resume on January 12*

**Beginner Junior Players  
Saturday Morning Lessons  
at Edmonton Chess Club**

9:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Please call to pre-register

474-2318 or e-mail

rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca

for details and possible registration

*Sessions begin January 13*



## CHATTER IN THE CASTLE

Report on Junior Chess Activities in Alberta

### York Academic hosts after-school tournament

by Richard Pua

The York Academic School Invitational tournament in October attracted 26 players from various schools.

**Section A:**

Derek Thomas captured clear first with a perfect score of 6/6. Desmond Baron finished second with 3/6 and Luke Chernezky finished third with 2/6.

**Section B:**

Nubian Lewis won this section with 5/6,

claiming the gold medal and a ton of rating points in the process. Taking the silver medal was Davin Ness with 4/6. The bronze medal went to Angus McDonald with 3/6 points.

**Section C:**

Jamil Kassam put in another impressive performance with a score of 4/5. This young junior, who is only in Grade 1, has shown rapid improvement. The runner ups were Victor Vorng and

Jeffrey Doell, both having 3/5 points.

**Section D:**

This section featured mostly unrated players. James Dickens won his section with 4.5 out of a possible 5 points. Second place went to Spencer Degenstein with 4/5 and third was nabbed by Mariah Fournier with 3/5.

**Section E:**

David Chernezky finished with a perfect score of 5/5. Dennis Eang was runner-up with 4/5 points.



York Academic School in northeast Edmonton has a very active chess program and its students, like the ones pictured above, are regularly competing in open and team tournaments, winning their fair share of medals. At the 84-player Edmonton Junior Christmas Tournament, 15 York students were entered. York chess enthusiasts are hopeful of upsetting the elementary powerhouse of Westbrook School during the current school year. York holds three levels of weekly chess lessons.

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