



Alberta Chess Report



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Calgary International Chess Classic

May 14 - 18, 2009 Calgary Alberta Canada

Kovalyov & Porper Tops

GM Kovalyov (pictured right) split top honours with IM Porper (pictured left) in the Calgary International Chess Classic. The young Kovalyov went undefeated with 6.5/9. Porper only lost to Eric Hansen, and won his last round game to share equal first. Eric Hansen drew his last round game to earn his 2nd IM norm. Victor Kaminski came close to earning his 2nd IM norm, but a last round defeat at the hands of Nicholas Moloney spoiled Victor's run. Spanish IM Renier Castellanos took clear 3rd with 6/9, and the rest of the money was split between IM Tom O'Donnell, IM Sandor Kustar, FM Vladimir Pechenkin, and FM Eric Hansen. Coverage starts on page 3

Hansen is best in Alberta, again

Calgary played host to the 2009 Alberta Closed and Eric Hansen defended his title to win the championship for the 2nd year running. His final score of 4/6 was matched by IM Edward Porper of Edmonton. Eric's defeat of Porper in the tournament secured his title. The two will split expenses to the 2009 Canadian Closed this August in Guelph, Ontario. This year's Closed was the strongest in Alberta's history. Eric's only loss in the event came from veteran Jeff Reeve. DGT boards were used (well sort of) to broadcast the event live to the chess world. Pictured left, Hansen faces off with Vladimir Pechenkin in the final round. Full story on page 12



Alberta at the Canadian Chess Challenge

Team Alberta may not have taken home top honours at this year's Canadian Chess Challenge in Toronto, but our team showed class both on and off the board. Aside from a solid performance, Alberta team members and Alberta parents showed much appreciated support to the organizers by helping out in the crunch! Bruce Thomas gives an excellent report on the Challenge and tells us how Alberta helped make the difference. Story begins on page 9



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ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

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Submissions are acceptable in any electronic text form, while pictures can be submitted in the following formats: tiff, jpeg, bmp, gif. All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise credited.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Calgary International Chess Classic*
- Calgary International Reserves*
- Lethbridge Open*
- Canadian Chess Challenge*
- Beyond Alberta*
- Former CJCC member dies*
- Alberta Closed*
- Alberta Women's Championship*
- Alberta Active Championship*
- Alberta Chess Challenge*
- Warm up your Engines*
- Alberta Reserves*
- Chess for Cancer*

TOURNAMENT ADS

- 2009 Battle at the Border*
- 2009 Canadian Open*

OTHER ADS

- Community Spirit Program*
- Play Chess Alberta Scholarship*

REGULAR LISTINGS

- Road Warrior*
- Alberta Tournament Schedule*
- Alberta Chess Clubs*
- Top Rating Lists*

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Calgary International Chess Classic

By Tony Ficzer



From May 13 through May 18, the Calgary Chess Club hosted the Calgary International Chess Classic. This was the second edition of the International. Last year it was called the Calgary International but with only one player from outside of Canada in attendance, it was hardly that. This year's event saw five different nations represented and the chance to earn an IM norm. There are only a few events in Canada that offer such opportunities, and I'm happy to say that two of them take place in Alberta.

I have organized well over 100 chess tournaments in my career, but nothing like this one. The closest to it would have been the 1999 Canadian Closed which was a grueling affair from an organizers point of view. The Closed lasted 9 days as opposed to 5 days for the International.

I had never attempted to host an international event before, so this would be a learning experience for me. Thankfully I had lots of experience to rely on with Vlad Rekhson and Micah Hughey being veterans with this type of event. Eric Hansen also provided advice and support. It wasn't until near the beginning of the tournament that I discovered Nenad Ristic had organized similar events in Europe before moving to Canada. His guidance was also appreciated.

I started doing some of the footwork in January, but didn't really start to move until the Calgary Chess Club approved the project in the middle of February. Then we were off and running.

With the help of Jim Daniluk, we came up with a good formula for the tournament. It would be nine rounds, last five days, and we would aim for five different nations. The minimum rating requirement would be 2100 FIDE or 2200 CFC. We would only make exceptions for borderline cases or talented juniors. We would limit the num-

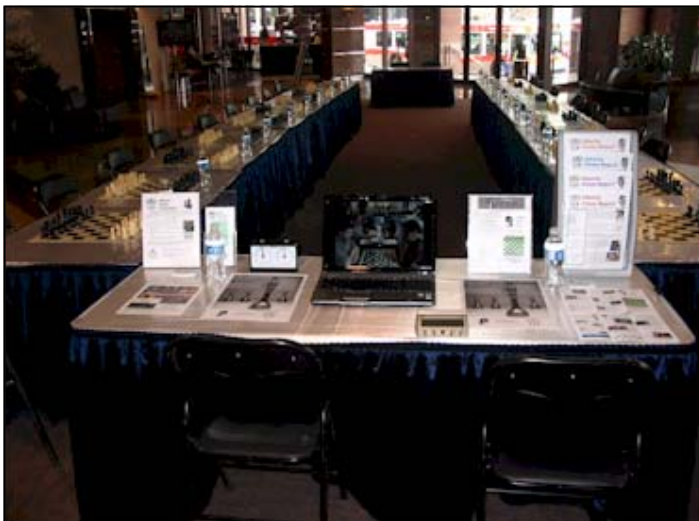
ber of players to 24 so as to maximize norm possibilities. In a nutshell, we would follow the same basic formula as the Edmonton International, with a few modifications. One thing we changed was the entry fee. I surveyed a number of international tournaments in North America and discovered that they all charged over \$200 for entry fee (except in Edmonton). I felt that as we were offering the same opportunity as these other events, it stood to reason that we should charge more than \$150 in general. The entry fee formula I used was the same as a few other events and was tied to your FIDE rating. It may seem expensive, but given the quality of players, it was actually quite reasonable.

The next task was to line up the featured players. This turned out to be the easy part. We are lucky that there are so many titled players living in North America who come from all over the world. This made it simple to gain the five nations we were shooting for. First on my list was IM John Donaldson. John had played in the inaugural Calgary International, and would prove to be a wealth of information. John was very helpful in offering advice, and providing contact info for American players. We needed a couple of Grand Masters in the

mix, and my first choice was GM Anton Kovalyov from Argentina who is currently living in Montreal. The other GM was John Fedorowicz who I have known for several years. The "Fed" is an entertaining guy, and I knew he would give a good lecture, and be a friendly in the post mortem. IM Edward Porper was next, and he gladly accepted the invitation. During the March of Kings, I was speaking to Nicholas Moloney, and was surprised to learn that FIDE had him under the English flag. I still needed a couple more nations. I received an email from Spanish IM Renier Castellanos who was interested in playing. There was the small problem of arranging his visa, but that turned out to be quite easy to arrange. Renier was in. John Donaldson told me of a player from South Dakota who is a native of Hungary. IM Sandor Kustar immediately accepted, and now we had players from five nations. It is not enough to have players from many nations, you also need to get the average rating up as high as you can, within reason. We weren't shooting for GM norms, but I felt that we needed one more IM to round out the field. I approached IM Tom O'Donnell in late March, and he gladly



US GM John Fedorowicz giving a lecture at the Calgary Chess Club



CCC sets a mean table at the Petro-Canada Centre



Hansen gives up a draw to this unknown Russian player

accepted the invitation. With two GM's and 5 IM's we were on our way.

We were able to attract every FM in Alberta (unless I am missing someone). FM's Hansen, Ristic, Huber, Haessel were all signed up. We were pleasantly surprised to discover that Vladimir Pechenkin had surpassed the 2300 FIDE mark for the FM title, but would he get the FM on the FIDE site before the start of the first round?

Thanks to Gerry Litchfield of the CFC for getting the application in quickly. Gerry is also responsible for taking care of Vlad Rekhson's FA application.

Aside from the main event, there should also be some side events for us lesser mortals. Jim had successfully organized a chess simul last year at the Petro-Canada Centre with IM Igor Zugic. There was no reason not to do it again, this time with the current Alberta Champion Eric Hansen. The Petro-Canada Centre is the tallest building in Canada west of Toronto. It seemed fitting to have Alberta's fastest rising star give a performance in such a theatre. The demonstration would be co-organized with Brookfield Properties, who manage the centre. After a quick meeting with their people, Jim Daniluk took care of most of the details. The Calgary Chess Club set up their giant chess set in the atrium a week before the event to help with publicity. Brookfield had advertisements in every elevator as well as a T-stand on the giant chess board with the

event details. It was a pleasure to work with Brookfield who proved to be very professional and organized. To play in the simul, you would have to make a cash or food donation to the Calgary Inter-faith Food Bank. I composed a carefully worded press release that was sent out to all media in Calgary, and received an overwhelming response. Breakfast TV wanted to interview Eric at 8 am on the morning of the simul, and Global Calgary wanted to do an interview with Eric as well. The Calgary Herald would also send a photographer to the Calgary Chess Club to take pictures, and also do an interview with Eric over the phone. A pretty good start I would say. By the end of April, things were shaping up nicely. We were near our 24 player limit, and all the other details were falling into place. Both John Donaldson and John Fedorowicz would do lectures on the night before the event started. Eric's simul would take place on the morning of the event, and opening ceremonies would be at 4 pm in the afternoon. I was able to do a little fundraising that would provide the players with free refreshments for the duration of the tournament. The money raised from the lectures would go to provide some light snacks for the opening ceremonies. We were able to provide airport transportation for all players who needed it, and several players were able to provide billets for a few of the players. Thanks to

Greg Huber, Knut Neven, and Steven Peter in that department.

We closed registration on Wednesday, May 13 with 20 players. On Wednesday morning I picked up Saskatchewan's Kevin Me, and IM Sandor Kustar. Later in the afternoon, I received IM John Donaldson and GM John Fedorowicz. An interesting note to my receiving Mr. Donaldson. There was also a big poker tournament in Calgary going on at the same time as the International. While waiting at the airport, a beautiful women decked out as a Las Vegas showgirl came walking up towards me. The bikini clad beauty was accompanied by a couple of guys in suits, and a camera man. I asked what all the fuss was about, and was told they were greeting a famous poker player. I explained to them that we were holding an international chess tournament and I was there meeting one of our star players. The lovely lady was standing to my left, and the rest of her entourage was standing around me. When Donaldson came walking through the doors I'm sure he was surprised by all the fanfare, and probably thought that this was his greeting party. I couldn't find the courage to ask the young lady to greet Mr. Donaldson with a big hug!

The lectures were next on the agenda. Mr. Donaldson would speak on the Olympiad in Dresden Germany from 2008. John spoke for almost an hour, with Fedorowicz

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL CHESS CLASSIC FINAL STANDINGS

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Tot
1	GM Anton Kovalyov	2571	W16	D5	W4	W2	D3	D8	D6	W10	D7	6.5
2	IM Edward Porper	2435	W8	W6	D3	L1	W5	W7	L4	W11	W14	6.5
3	IM Renier Castellanos	2446	W18	W17	D2	D5	D1	D4	W8	D6	D9	6.0
4	FM Eric Hansen	2398	W14	W7	L1	D9	D6	D3	W2	D5	D19	5.5
5	IM Sandor Kustar	2335	W11	D1	W12	D3	L2	D6	D9	D4	W13	5.5
6	IM Tom O'Donnell	2370	W20	L2	D10	W18	D4	D5	D1	D3	W11	5.5
7	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2312	W10	L4	D18	D12	W11	L2	W15	W19	D1	5.5
8	Victor Kaminski	2244	L2	W20	D9	W15	W19	D1	L3	W13	L12	5.0
9	GM John Fedorowicz	2485	D19	D15	D8	D4	D10	D12	D5	W16	D3	5.0
10	Daniel Kazmaier	2135	L7	W14	D6	D19	D9	W17	D13	L1	D16	4.5
11	Robert J Gardner	2143	L5	D16	W14	D17	L7	W18	W12	L2	L6	4.0
12	Nicholas Moloney	2210	D15	W19	L5	D7	D17	D9	L11	L14	W8	4.0
13	Kevin Me	2116	L17	L18	W20	W16	D15	W19	D10	L8	L5	4.0
14	FM Dale Haessel	2203	L4	L10	L11	W20	D18	D16	W19	W12	L2	4.0
15	IM John Donaldson	2409	D12	D9	D17	L8	D13	W20	L7	U---	U---	3.0
16	FM Nenad Ristic	2252	L1	D11	L19	L13	D20	D14	W17	L9	D10	3.0
17	Steven Peter	2264	W13	L3	D15	D11	D12	L10	L16	U---	U---	2.5
18	FM Gregory Huber	2245	L3	W13	D7	L6	D14	L11	D20	U---	U---	2.5
19	David [yu] Peng	2246	D9	L12	W16	D10	L8	L13	L14	L7	D4	2.5
20	Knut Neven	2199	L6	L8	L13	L14	D16	L15	D18	U---	U---	1.0

sitting in the crowd adding colour along the way. After Donaldson was done, we had a brief intermission, and were all treated to pizza courtesy of the Calgary Chess Club. Former Alberta Champion Rob Hawkes was in the audience to listen in on the lectures. If only we could pull him back to the board. GM Fedorowicz then took the floor and talked about the US Championships. With his Brooklyn accent, and his Bronx tales, John's lecture was very entertaining, and being the funny guy that he is, everyone enjoyed his lecture. I was fortunate enough to get both lectures on video tape. That will be a project for the future.

On Thursday morning, Jim Daniluk, Walter Watson, and Eric Hansen were ready for the simul at the Petro-Canada Centre. I joined them to help set up, and by 11:30 things got underway. At first we were worried as there were only a few bodies at the

boards. We decided to start with five boards, and before long almost all of the boards were rolling. Throughout the event there must have been hundreds of spectators, and the Calgary Inter-faith Food Bank collected much needed money and food donations. The Calgary Chess Club and the Alberta Chess Association had brochures available, along with copies of the Alberta Chess report to hand out to spectators. Global Calgary took some footage, and aired the piece on the news at 6 and 11 pm. This type of exposure is just what is needed. High profile location, and an accommodating chess master. Eric impressed the players and the crowd with his friendly way and killer instinct at the board. Eric won 14, and drew two games (one against Kevin Me). I resigned in short order, as usual. Unfortunately Eric was not able to do the Breakfast TV spot due to a schedul-

ing conflict. We may be able to schedule this for another time.

After the simul, I set up for the opening ceremonies. Nothing fancy here, just a quick players meeting to pick the Appeals Committee, and the toss of a coin for colours in the first round. Light snacks were enjoyed by all in attendance.

The only thing left to do was to prepare the club for the tournament. The Edmonton Chess Club had let us borrow their 3 DGT boards, and I had them wired the night before. They tested ok, so I thought we were good to go. The software proved to be a bit flakey, and the live coverage suffered due to my limited knowledge, and the amount of time I was able to give to them while the tournament was running. Some rounds went well, while others proved to be a challenge. At one point in round 6 I was ready to chuck them out the window, but stuck with it to broadcast as

much as I could. For some reason, they didn't like the French Defense, and twice during the tournament they displayed Bxa3 instead of Bxc3, which caused the software to crash. Getting the software up and running again meant manually inputting the games from where they stopped broadcasting, and the software is not as friendly as it should be. At first, I thought it was me, but was a little relieved to learn that both the US Championship and M-Tel had similar DGT problems on a much larger scale. The US quickly changed over to Mon Roi after round 1 of their event.

At 7 pm sharp on May 14, round 1 began.
Round 1

No major upsets this round as almost everyone who was suppose to win did, with the exception of draws given up by Fedorowicz and Donaldson. Peng drew Fedorowicz with the white pieces in a Sicilian in 21 moves. Fedorowicz was content with the GM draw, likely conserving his strength for later rounds (as it turned out, Fedorowicz would draw all his games except for one win in the later rounds).

Donaldson's draw against Moloney was more of a struggle, but the two made peace just before the first time control.

Round 2

No big surprises in this round either. Kustar vs Kovalyov was a draw, while nobody was surprised when Fedorowicz vs Donaldson ended up in a 12 move draw. I will likely follow Edmonton's example

and add a 30 move no draw clause in future competitions to help combat the unpopular GM draws. Ristic and Gardner also ended in a draw, while the rest of the games were all decisive. The DGT boards started to act up this round and I found I had to constantly babysit them due to software glitches.

Round 3

Playing on board one was Kovalyov vs Hansen. This was an interesting game filled with lots of action. Things were pretty much equal for the first 25 moves, and then, according to Fritz, Hansen held a slight advantage after 25... Rfe8. Play continued and Hansen was up a full exchange while Kovalyov continued to attack on the King side. Eric maintained his advantage until he played 45... Qd5 and everything fell apart. There were several draws this round with O'Donnell vs Kazmaier going 127 moves! Kevin Me upset Knut Neven for his first win of the tournament. The DGT's were giving me grief again, and I finally abandoned them for the remainder of the round.

Round 4

The Calgary Reserves started on the other side of the club. The round times matched the International section to keep noise down to a minimum. The place was full now, no empty tables or boards, except in the skittles room. Kaminski defeated Donaldson to keep his IM norm hopes alive. Donaldson showed signs of distress,

and was having trouble sleeping at the hotel he was staying in. The tiredness would plague him (and me) for the rest of the event. Half of the games ended in draws this round. Kevin Me notched his second victory with a win over Ristic showing everyone that he belonged in the tournament after all. Hansen vs Fedorowicz ended in a draw, and a complete game score escapes me, at least one that is legible. Fedorowicz usually starts out marking his moves very clean, and after a dozen moves or so, his handwriting begins to deteriorate. His score sheets take on the appearance of some type of Bronx hieroglyphics! I will update the database with Eric's help.

Round 5

There were 7 draws in total this round! Not the type of fighting chess we were all hoping for. Fatigue was taking its toll on some of the players. Donaldson could only manage a draw with Kevin Me, and was not looking very good after the game. Porper chalked up a victory over Kustar to climb the wall chart for a share of second with Castellanos and Kaminski at 3.5 points while Kovalyov was alone in first with 4 points. Fedorowicz continued his string of draws with his 5th in a row. The DGT boards were getting the best of me, and by the end of this round, we agreed to a draw.

Round 6

Both Kaminski and Hansen stay on course for an IM norm. The top three boards drew



IM Donaldson & Nicholas Moloney in the post mortem



IM Tom O'Donnell & Daniel Kazmaier in the longest game of the event

and Donaldson finally gets a victory over Neven although the game itself was full of errors by both players (according to Donaldson). Kevin Me scored another full point against Peng (otherwise known as “Yu vs Me” match) while Porper defeats Pechenkin to climb into a tie for first with Kovalyov. Fedorowicz appears to be going for the perfect score as he draws with Moloney. I notched my first win over the DGT’s, but not without a fight.

Round 7

And now we reach the 7th inning stretch! Kovalyov vs O’Donnell is a hard fought draw on board one. Kustar vs Fedorowicz is a draw. Castellanos puts a road block in the way of Kaminski. Hansen gives his trainer a lesson and takes the full point over Porper. Pechenkin puts the final nail in the coffin for Donaldson who had to withdraw after this round due to fatigue. Neven, Huber, and Steven Peter withdraw.

Round 8

Now we are in the money rounds. Kazmaier gets trampled by Kovalyov and Fedorowicz gets his first win of the tournament against Ristovic, spoiling his perfect string of draws. O’Donnell and Castellanos draw while Porper gets the full point over Gardner. Porper and Castellanos are alone in 2nd just a half point behind the teenage Kovalyov. Kaminski keeps his norm hopes alive by defeating Kevin Me. Moloney goes down in flames vs Haessel. I defeated the DGT’s this time with a perfect 3-0!

Round 9

The final round saw two IM norms up for grabs. The board order was altered to allow both games to be viewed by the audience outside of the club. Kovalyov vs Pechenkin is a quick draw while Haessel can’t keep Porper down, the latter winning and securing a share of first place with Kovalyov. Peng vs Hansen is another quick draw, and just enough for Eric to score his second IM norm. Castellanos vs Fedorowicz sees another draw, giving the young Spanish player clear second. The last game to finish was Kaminski vs Moloney, and Nicholas proved to be just too much for Victor this round with Moloney scoring the win. The Rocket runs out of

fuel against O’Donnell, and Tom creeps into the prize money winning his last round game. I almost had a clean sweep vs DGT this round as two of the three games were broadcast to completion, while the Kaminski vs Moloney game came as close as possible, the only thing that didn’t make it to the end before the software crashed was the 0-1 at the end of the game.

The only thing left was closing ceremonies where the prize money was distributed among the winners.

1st: GM Anton Kovalyov & IM Edward Porper, 6.5/9—\$650 each.

2nd: IM Renier Castellanos 6/9—\$500

3rd-6th: IM Tom O’Donnell, IM Sandor Kustar, FM Eric Hansen, FM Vladimir Pechenkin, 5.5/9-\$175 each.

Top Albertan: Victor Kaminski, 5/9-\$100

All in all, an enjoyable and exhausting experience. Would I do it again? For sure! O’Donnell was good enough to add this comment about the event: *“All organizational aspects for this event were top-notch. I have played in Canadian Championships which were not as well organized! I’m jealous that Calgary has such a great site (we have nothing remotely as good here in Ottawa), and it is surprising that there aren’t events going on daily. Junior club/tournaments, FIDE-rated RRs, Junior vs Master matches, drop-in chess ... the possibilities seem almost endless. Thanks to Tony Ficzer for his attention to detail. I hope to be back next year, but even if I am not, I hope you continue this tradition.*

Strong tournaments create stronger local players. And thanks to Knut Neven for letting me crash at his bachelor pad. ;-)

I would like to thank everyone involved for their help in making this a successful event. Jim Daniluk was most helpful in too many ways to mention. Bill Bentley, Walter Watson, Stephan Vasilev were also invaluable. A special mention to DeWeese Wood who was a tremendous help on site, and kept things running in the skittles room perfectly. Thanks to Vlad Rekhson for his advice from the start to the finish. Thanks to all of the players who were exceptional gentlemen for the entire event.



FM Nenad Ristovic & GM Anton Kovalyov



IM Renier Castellanos & FM Greg Huber



Kevin Me & Steven Peter



Foreground: IM Sandor Kustar & Rob Gardner
Background: IM Tom O’Donnell & Knut Neven

Calgary International Reserves

By Tony Ficzero

The Calgary International Chess Classic also provided the opportunity for us mortals to play beside the stars. The schedule allowed the Reserve players to watch the games after theirs had finished, and to watch the entire last round.

We decided to make it a 5 round swiss as opposed to the 6 round event we had originally intended. The idea here was to give out of town players an easier schedule by eliminating the 6th round, giving them more time to drive home, or simply watch the final round of the International section. Space was limited to a total of 24 players. In fact, 16 players entered which filled the room comfortably.

The section was reasonably strong with only 4 players rated under 1800. This made for fighting chess in most of the games as players were evenly matched for

the most part.

In round 4, it was interesting to watch the game between Jim Daniluk and Thomas Kaminski. Towards the end of the game, players were on increment only. A crowd had gathered to watch as this was the last game to finish. Daniluk was attacking but the game should have ended in a draw with correct play on both sides. Daniluk ended up flagging as he twice tried to hit the clock on his left side, only to discover that the clock was on the right side! Its funny how the mind works when you are under pressure.

In the end it was Rick Pedersen and Aaron Sequillion who split first with 4/5. Sean Perron won 3rd with 3/5. In the U1900 section, Ali Razzaq finished with 3/5 for 1st. Paul Usselman finished 2nd with 2.5/5 and Bill Bentley captured 3rd with 2/5. The U1700 section saw Hement Persaud take 1st with 3/5 and Diwen Shi take 2nd with 1.5/5.

Lethbridge Open

By Tony Ficzero

I returned to Lethbridge to direct for the second year running, and I wasn't disappointed at all. Not much had changed from the last time I was there. Same hotel, same room, same Paul Viminitz.

2009 saw a record turnout of 22 players, a modest increase over last year, but an increase all the same.

The Lethbridge Lodge is a beautiful hotel. The lobby is spacious, two restaurants with good food, internet access, and a pleasant staff. The pool area is like a jungle, with pathways and greenery, complete with a restaurant. This area was also the skittles room. Pretty nice skittles room! If the tournament continues to grow as it has, we will have to get a larger playing room. With the current room, we could squeeze in another 4 players, but that would be pushing it. The hotel sits at the foot of downtown Lethbridge, and there is a variety of restaurants and shops within walking distance. The highlight of this event is not just the chess, but the gathering after round 3.

Every year Paul invites all the players to his house for a little wine and cheese (and beer). This alone is worth more than the price of admission, and the conversation is always interesting. Paul lives in a beauti-

ful Victorian style home just off the downtown area. Paul lives there when he's not in Italy where he spends almost half his time. Paul also kicked in \$100 to the prize fund!

Getting back to chess. Top rated Micah Hughey made the trip from Edmonton and wound up taking clear first in the Open section with 4.5/5. Micah defeated Roy Yearwood in the final round to secure his top position. Tom Fox, a student at the University of Lethbridge finished with 4/5 to take 2nd place all alone but took 1st Under 1800 prize as it was larger. Roy Yearwood and Mike Zeggelaar shared 2-3rd place in the Open section. Jim Marshall of Kimberly BC took 2nd Under 1800 and Ihor Kurylo of Lethbridge placed 3rd Under 1800. Tops in the U1500 section were Peter Pisanski, a recent transplant from Ontario, and Fern Viau of Lethbridge. 3rd went to Kurt Berndtsson.

The Lethbridge chess scene is improving with people like Paul

Viminitz and Kent Karapita heading things up. The University of Lethbridge is providing opportunities and is developing new talent. Many of the players which took part in this event also travelled to Calgary to participate in the University Battle of Alberta.

Paul has confirmed that the tournament will take place again next year, first weekend in April, and I have agreed to direct again because I wouldn't miss it. For anyone who has never attended the Lethbridge Open I highly recommend that you do as it is a great little tournament that is getting bigger and better every year.



Dr. Paul Viminitz (left) gazes at Kurt Berndtsson's game

Lethbridge Chess Club

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Alberta at the Canadian Chess Challenge

By Bruce Thomas
ACA Junior Coordinator

64 seems to be the Alberta team's inescapable number at the annual Canadian Chess Challenge. For the third consecutive time, the 12 provincial school grade champs reached the score of 64 at the 2009 Challenge held at the University of Toronto, May 16 to 18.

In 2003, the Alberta team set its record score of 65 and came in third. This year, the team again fell one short of that record and came in fourth under a new scoring system for the national event. For the first time, the team standings were determined by the number of matches won against other provinces with the total scores only counting as a tiebreaker. Alberta lost an important first-day match against Manitoba, 6.5 to 5.5, and it appeared at the end of the first day's six rounds of play that Alberta was destined to finish fifth, below its average of placing 4th over the 21 year history of the national Chess'n Math Association event. However, in the final three rounds on Monday, May 18, the 12 Alberta players did particularly well against their three remaining round-robin opponents, including beating British Columbia, 6.5 to 5.5.

The biggest upset of the entire Challenge was Quebec placing first, knocking On-



The Alberta team is pictured here with Canadian GM Mark Bluvshstein in the background

tario out of the top spot for the first time since 1997. Quebec won all nine of its matches and scored 91.5 out of a possible 108 points. Ontario was upset in its matches against both Quebec, 6.5-5.5, and British Columbia, 6.5-5.5, meaning it ended up with seven match points, a tie with British Columbia which only lost to Quebec and

Alberta. Ontario took second on tie break with a total of 85.5 points, compared to British Columbia's 72.5. With Alberta losing its matches to Quebec, 10.5-1.5, Ontario, 9.5-2.5, and Manitoba, 6.5-5.5, its match points of six tied with Manitoba, but Alberta was awarded fourth place based on

total score of 64 compared to Manitoba's 57. The Alberta team had also scored 64 at the Challenges of 2008 and 2007.

As has traditionally happened in most previous years, there was a wide margin between the top five teams and the bottom five teams. New Brunswick was sixth place with only 3.5 match points and a score of 46.5 while Prince Edward Island again in the last spot with no matches won and only 13 points.

Unlike 2008 when Alberta could boast of two national grade level champs, this year no Alberta player ended up in first place. However, Alberta did have four players place in the top three:

Patrick Tolentino third in Grade 1
Yuekai Wang third in Grade 6
David Zhang second in Grade 8
Jan Lazo second in Grade 9.

The two second place players will each receive a \$200 award from the Edmonton-based Society of Alberta Chess Knights while the third place finishers will get \$100 each.

During the three-day event in Toronto, the Alberta players also had the opportunity to attend a Toronto Blue Jays baseball game and some managed to visit other tourist spots or experience Toronto.

Alberta Chess Association sponsored the airfare and some meal expenses of the 14 team members which included Captain/Coach Richard Pua and Provincial Co-coordinator/Coach Bruce Thomas, while the Society of Alberta Chess Knights and Roving ChessNuts sponsored other team expenses such as team t-shirts, a team pizza meal, administrative costs and a \$100 award given to each provincial champ at the Alberta Chess Challenge.



Richard Pua and Mark Bluvshstein



Here is our team player by player and how they finished. All players played 9 games.

Grade 1: **Patrick Tolentino**
Score: 7 3rd place
Grade 2: **Adam Mawani**
Score: 3 7th place
Grade 3: **Jamil Kassam***
Score: 5 5th place
Grade 4: **Zhonglin Huang**
Score: 4 6th place
Grade 5: **Stephen Pavlic**
Score: 2 8th place
Grade 6: **Yuekai Wang**
Score: 7 3rd place
Grade 7: **Nicka Kalaydina***
Score: 5 5th place
Grade 8: **David Zhang***
Score: 7.5 2nd Place
Grade 9: **Jan Edmund Lazo**
Score: 8 points 2nd place
Grade 10: **Yaroslav Babich**
Score: 5.5 tied 4th place
Grade 11: **Jose Luna**
Score: 5.5 tied 4th place
Grade 12: **Johan Piera***
Score: 4.5 tied 5th place
*also played with 2008 team

Alberta plays role in Canadian Chess Challenge

For the second consecutive year, Alberta played a role in the hosting of the Canadian Chess Challenge.

In 2008, Alberta hosted the Challenge at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton and did an outstanding job due to a large number of friendly, hard-working volunteers, a full program of activities besides the actual tournament, great accommodations and food at the playing site, and providing video feed from the tournament hall to five big screen televisions in the spectator area which allowed great viewing of the games in while keeping the tournament hall exceptionally quiet.

In 2009, the Ontario organizers had a last-minute shortage of workers, so Alberta came to the rescue. When it appeared help was needed in setting up the tournament site at the University of Toronto, I asked several Alberta families to pitch in Saturday evening and, of course, got a positive response. Thanks to Derek and Patricia Thomas, Stephen and Walter Pavlic, the Mawani Family of Adam, Medina, Sholina and Karim, Patrick and Angelo Tolentino and Richard Pua, we managed to set up the



The 2009 Canadian Chess Challenge was held at the University of Toronto. The 120 players from 10 provinces competed in one hall with their parents and other spectators seated around the playing area which did at time create distracting noises for the competitors.

tournament room complete with boards and pieces, flags and banners, to fix the sound system and set up the spectator area. So great was the Alberta effort that Tournament Director Jeff Coakley gave thanks to the Alberta team during the Sunday opening ceremonies and repeated those thanks at other times during the weekend. Alberta efforts were not confined to Saturday night. Throughout the event, Albertans helped in many ways, including helping at the registration table, re-arranging the tournament room for the closing ceremony, arranging the opening parade of participants, and putting a stop to a plumber who was making a racket around 11 p.m. Saturday in the dormitory residence where players were trying to sleep before the first day of competition.

Medina Mawani, sister of Alberta's Grade 2 player Adam, became the tournament's "clock girl" which meant keeping enough clocks in operating condition and springing into action whenever a chess clock failed on the playing floor.

While helping with the Toronto event, the Albertans were approached many times by parents from other provinces whose children had also played in the 2008 Edmonton event. These parents expressed how much they appreciated the amenities and organizational work that they had experienced in Edmonton.

The May holiday weekend event had its share of unique incidents including on Friday night when the majority of players were already in the Toronto dormitory, the

forementioned plumber set off a false fire alarm which resulted in five fire trucks with screaming sirens arriving (much to the delight of the younger players) and a very loud fire alarm which kept going on and off for a period of about two hours even after players and parents were allowed to re-enter the building after standing outside for about 30 minutes. It might be noted that while Albertans back home were grumbling about snow and cold temperatures during the Victoria Day weekend, Toronto's weather was mostly sunny and delightfully warm, although there were enough Saturday afternoon showers for the roof to be closed on the Rogers Centre when the Blue jays played. For the Albertans present, the 2009 Challenge was a good event, featuring chess, interesting sights and activities in the country's biggest city, and an opportunity for players and their accompanying family members to forge friendships.

Thanks to the Alberta players and their families for participating, the Alberta team sponsors including the Alberta Chess Association and Society of Alberta Chess Knights, the Chess'n Math Association, and all others involved in this year's Challenge or making it possible for the Alberta team to participate. Special thanks to the Albertans who helped in Toronto.

The current provincial champs will be facing many challengers in the coming year as Alberta scholastic players try to land a spot on the team going to Montreal for the 2010 Challenge.

BEYOND ALBERTA

Albertans at the Copper State International

This tournament was organized by FM Daniel Rensch. Both Eric Hansen and Nenad Ristic attended the Copper State International tournament in Mesa Arizona, on the outskirts of Phoenix. This event is organized by the American Chess Events group, otherwise known as ACE. The tournament was a 10 round GM & IM norm capable event. The field consisted of 32 players, six were GM's, eight were IM's, eight were FM's, and one was a WFM. Rate of play was game in 90 + 30 seconds. Total prize fund was \$6,400 US. All games were available live via Monroi and the live coverage was pretty good from what I saw. Eric finished with a respectable 5/10, not enough for an IM norm, but a good result considering the field. Eric lost against GM Izoria of Georgia, GM Becerra of USA, and FM Atoufi of Iran. Eric defeated WFM Cardona of Cuba, IM Pruess of USA, and David Adelberg of USA. A no-

table draw was scored against GM Yermolinky. Eric will have a busy schedule for the rest of the summer as he plans on playing in Philadelphia at both the Philadelphia International and the World Open. He will also be playing in the Canadian Open in Edmonton, the CYCC in Victoria BC, and finally in the Canadian Closed in Guelph Ontario in August. Nenad Ristic finished with 3.5/10. Nenad had a tough first couple of rounds as he drew GM Yermolinsky, and lost to GM Ramirez of Costa Rica. He notched wins against Jason Mueller of USA, and Luke Harmon-Vellotti of USA. Keith MacKinnon of Saskatchewan was also in the field and after nine rounds scored 3.5/9 (not sure of his final round result as the website had not been updated and it now appears it has been removed).

Former CJCC Board member dies unexpectedly

by John Piera

On May 12, Jeffrey Chen passed away unexpectedly and suddenly in China in his 45th year. According to a family friend, while attending a business meeting, he became ill, unconscious, went into a coma and passed away. The cause was later diagnosed as a brain aneurism.

He served on the CJCC board for two years as Treasurer from 2006-2008. In addition to doing the usual treasurer responsibilities, he went above and beyond expectations. He wrote an operators manual to help volunteers use Swiss Perfect and helped CJCC secure their own computer which has since been used for many times by the CJCC and loaned out to several school for tournaments. He was always willing to do extra things to make tournaments go smoothly like helping to set up, clean up, answer questions for parents and record results.

He leaves behind his chess playing son Adrian (10), a daughter Julie (12) and his wife all from Calgary. He was a friend and will be missed.

2009 Canadian Chess Challenge Team Points Cross Table

	QC	BC	ON	AB	MB	NB	NL	NS	SK	PEI	Total
QC		8.5 1	6.5 1	11 1	10 1	10 1	12 1	12 1	11 1	12 1	91.5 9.0
BC	3.5 0		6.5 1	5.5 0	9 1	7.5 1	11 1	8 1	10 1	12 1	72.5 7.0
ON	5.5 0	5.5 0		9.5 1	9.5 1	11 1	11 1	10 1	12 1	12 1	85.5 7.0
AB	1.5 0	6.5 1	2.5 0		5.5 0	8 1	11 1	9 1	8 1	12 1	64 6.0
MB	2 0	3 0	2.5 0	6.5 1		6.5 1	9.5 1	7 1	8 1	12 1	57 6.0
NB	2 0	4.5 0	1 0	4 0	5.5 0		6 .5	6.5 1	8 1	9 1	46.5 3.5
NL	0.5 0	1.5 0	1.5 0	1 0	2.5 0	6 .5		6 .5	7.5 1	9 1	35.5 3.0
NS	0 0	4 0	2 0	3 0	5 0	5.5 0	6 .5		6 .5	8 1	39.5 2.0
SK	1.5 0	2 0	0 0	4 0	4 0	4 0	4.5 0	6 .5		9 1	35 1.5
PEI	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	3 0	3 0	4 0	3 0		13 0.0

2009 Alberta Closed

By Tony Ficzer

From April 10-12, Calgary played host to the 2009 Alberta Closed. As tournament organizer it was my job to establish the six players in this annual round robin classic. By all accounts, this was the strongest Alberta championship in provincial history, bringing the best players together for what would be an exciting event.

It is tradition that the tournament is held over the Easter weekend, and that it is played along side of the Alberta Reserves and the Alberta Women's Championship. This was the first time I have organized these three events and it was a learning experience for me.

There were three players who qualified by winning various events. FM Eric Hansen qualified by virtue of winning the championship in 2008. Rob Gardner qualified by winning the 2008 Southern Alberta Open, and IM Edward Porper qualified by placing first in the 2009 Northern Alberta Open. The final three spots were filled from the rating list, starting from the top of the list by taking the first three players who met the qualification criteria and agreed to play. So, the final three spots were filled by FM Greg Huber, Jeff Reeve, and Vladimir Pechenkin (who is now officially an FM). Reserve spots were held by FM Nenad Ristic and Victor Kaminski.

The field was set for the strongest championship in Alberta history.

The Edmonton Chess Club was kind enough to lend their three DGT boards to broadcast the games. This was my first time using them, and I gave it my best shot. A poor internet connection, and a faulty USB hub caused too many problems to broadcast three boards at once, so I had to settle with one game for each round. This experience with the DGT boards proved to be quite valuable for my next attempt at using them in the Calgary International Chess Classic.

Now that the players were determined, the rest of the organization duties were quite simple. It was a round robin so all we needed to do was draw for lots. I thought it would be a nice touch to give the players a little something and decided to make a gift of their draw in the way of engraved key chains. Each key chain was engraved with "2009 Alberta Closed" with each of them numbered individually from one to six. A nice little keepsake.

The drawing of lots took place at 6:45 pm on Friday. Choosing one of the first three lots meant having the extra white in this five round event.

The ACA contributes \$600 towards the prize fund, plus the winner gets a spot in the next Canadian Closed, expenses paid. Shortly after this tournament finished the CFC announced that the governors' had accepted a bid from Hal Bond to host the

Canadian Closed in Guelph this coming August.

I used the FIDE recommended time control of 40/90, then game in 30, with 30 second increments from move one. Round 1 started at 7 pm on Friday. I have attempted to give some light analysis, game by game with some help from Fritz. Please take this analysis with a grain of salt.

Round 1

Hansen	1 - 0	Gardner
Huber	0 - 1	Pechenkin
Porper	1 - 0	Reeve

There were no upsets and things went pretty much as expected if you go by ratings. Gardeners' Queens Indian was not up to par against Hansen. The game was even through the first 20 moves, and Hansen tried to sack a pawn on move 24 which Gardner wisely declined. After the queens came off, Eric gained control of the e-file, and after 32.Nxc7, it was all over.



Round 1 Hansen vs Gardner. White to play 32.Nxc7



First round with the two new guys on the block, FM Pechenkin and IM Porper

Huber vs Pechenkin saw an Old Indian where Huber looked to be comfortable out of the opening. Pechenkin equalized and took advantage of the position after Huber played 24. e5. This appeared to give Greg a bit of a king side attack as the black king was scantily clad, but Pechenkin showed there were plenty of clothes in the closet. Porper vs Reeve was a Kings Indian with lots of positional manoeuvring. Porper was able to double rooks on the g-file, and march the g pawn up the board. After 28. gxh, white looked better but black held the position. Fritz had them dead even after move 35 and blames 38...Nd3 for blacks demise.

Round 2

Huber	0 - 1	Porper
Reeve	1 - 0	Hansen
Pechenkin	1 - 0	Gardner

After the three decisive games in the first round, and the same after this round, it was evident that we would see fighting chess throughout.

Huber vs Porper looked like a Greco Gambit and things looked even towards the middle-game. Porper looked to be on top after 27...Re2 and after the shot 28...Rxd3



Round 2 Huber vs Porper, black to play 28...Rxd3

there was little Huber could do to hold on. Reeve vs Hansen was a Sicilian Kalashnikov. Hansen sacked a pawn for a king-side attack where Reeve hadn't castled. The position was pretty scary looking, and it would have been easy to go astray, but Jeff held strong and took the full point. Hansen would have to work extra hard now if he was going to repeat as champion. Pechenkin vs Gardner was an Alekhine. Pechenkin managed to triple up on the f-file and had the advantage. First he won a pawn and his position was threatening on both sides of the board. The white knights

held dominating posts in the centre, and it wasn't long before Pechenkin was up a second pawn.

Round 3

Hansen	1 - 0	Huber
Gardner	1 - 0	Reeve
Porper	1 - 0	Pechenkin

If you had white this round, you were a winner. Still no draws. Porper was pointing and Pechenkin suffers his first loss. Huber was not his usual self in this tournament and it showed on the cross table.

Hansen faced Huber's Hedgehog formation and the position was equal for the first 20 moves. Fritz actually preferred black around move 25 but only slightly.

30...Bxg3 may have been a mistake. After that, Hansen took the initiative and started to poke holes into the black position. Eric won a pawn, then a second pawn, and by giving a pawn back, created 2 passers on the queenside.

Gardner scores his first point against Reeve's Kings Indian. The game featured plenty of positional wrangling and Gardner stood better after getting on the h-file. His passed pawn on the d-file didn't hurt either.

Porper faced Pechenkin's Dutch Stonewall defence which he successfully took down brick by brick. Porper forced the win of the exchange with a looming family check by the white knight, and made the win look routine.

Round 4

Huber	0 - 1	Gardner
Porper	0 - 1	Hansen
Pechenkin	1 - 0	Reeve

As in the previous three rounds, this round saw all games battle to the death.

Huber vs Gardner was a kind of Catalan I

think, but I'm not all that familiar with these lines. Greg was still looking for his first point of the game, and still couldn't find it. Gardner played a solid game, and outplayed Huber to take the full point.

The Porper vs Hansen game had over 400 viewers in the internet audience at one point. Most of the viewers were in Canada, but I was pleasantly surprised to find people watching in the US, Europe, and Asia. Porper was on the white side of a Semi-Slav and seemed to be in control of things with his Q&B battery on the b1-h7 diagonal. Hansen played the aggressive 19...c5



Round 4 Porper vs Hansen after 19...c5

and that's when things started to heat up. The computer liked white at this point, and it didn't change its mind until 22. dxc5. After that move, black took control of the d-file. After the queens came off, Hansen began to attack the weak pawns, blitzing his moves, knowing he had a won position. Pechenkin recovered from his loss in the previous round and defeated Reeve in a Closed Sicilian. Reeve took the initiative on the queen-side and Pechenkin held fast. Once he had things under control, Pechenkin began his king-side assault. Vladimir played energetically, sacking his g & f

	Name	CFC Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
1	FM Greg Huber	2351		0	0	0	0.5	0	0.5
2	IM Edward Porper	2460	1		0	1	1	1	4
3	FM Eric Hansen	2428	1	1		1	0	1	4
4	Rob Gardner	2244	1	0	0		1	0	2
5	Jeff Reeve	2324	0.5	0	1	0		0	1.5
6	FM Vladimir Pechenkin	2321	1	0	0	1	1		3

pawns for an attack on the cornered black king. Reeve was forced to give them back and remain under pressure. Even though Reeve held two connected passed pawns on the king-side, they only proved to be a weakness as white was able to tie up both remaining black pieces, then finally win both of these pawns. A nice win by Vladimir.

Round 5

Reeve	1/2 - 1/2	Huber
Gardner	0 - 1	Porper
Hansen	1 - 0	Pechenkin

The final round. Hansen had to win to keep his championship hopes alive. The same could be said of Porper and Pechenkin. We see the only draw of the tournament between Reeve and Huber. At this point, I'm sure Greg was just glad it was over. Their Center-Counter encounter was a peaceful draw by move 27.

The Rocket flew his Bird against Porper. Fritz liked black early on, but I'm not so sure the computer can be trusted! Porper found a nice outpost for his knight on d5 that picked on several weak squares in the white camp. After the exchanges in the centre, the outcome was not in doubt, and after 20. Bd1, Porper could have announced mate in 5.



Round 5 Gardner vs Porper, black to play & mate in 5

The final game of the tournament was also the most significant in many ways. Eric needed a win to tie for first with Edward, and so did Vladimir. The young FM showed up a few minutes late (this seems to be his custom), and the final game began. Pechenkin chose the Alekhine's Defence. The queen's were off before move 20 and the position looked about equal.



Eric managed to find a nagging weakness on b7 that he tried to exploit. This had the



Round 5 Hansen vs Pechenkin after 19.Nc5

effect of limiting the strength of Pechenkin's pieces. Hansen's pieces quickly took strong positions, and by move 39 Vladimir was forced to resign as he was about to lose his knight.

So Hansen and Porper tie for first with 4 points each. Alberta rules call for a play-off match, but in a brief players meeting after the tournament between myself and the two players, it was agreed that Eric should be named Alberta Champion for 2009 due to his win over Porper in the tournament. So Eric repeats as Alberta Champion. It was also agreed that the two

players would both represent themselves and Alberta in the Canadian Closed, splitting the expenses provided by the ACA. It could be said that this year's tournament represented a changing of the guard in a sense. With two new strong players in the province in the name of Edward Porper and Vladimir Pechenkin, and the ever improving Eric Hansen, the old guard will have to make way. This can only be good for Alberta chess in general as new blood at this level will only raise the level of play of our strong and improving masters. Congratulations to both Eric and Edward, and good luck at the Canadian Closed this summer.

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2009 Alberta Women's Championship

By Tony Ficzero

This years edition featured a four player round robin. Play took place along side of both the Alberta Closed and the Alberta Reserves. I found it interesting to be running three different tournaments at the same time, sort of like juggling!

Last year in Edmonton we saw a single match between two players, so we are definitely going in the right direction. It is unfortunate that we couldn't attract a few more of our stronger ladies. There is no doubt that more work has to be done to attract the better sex to the game.

Women's chess has been sadly lacking and ignored in many respects here in Alberta (and the rest of the country).

Inspite of this, the four players who did accept invitations came out to play. Time control would be Game in 90 + 30 seconds. A single round robin was the format. The prize fund was a skimpy \$95 in cash, but the winner would earn the right to represent Alberta at the next Canadian Women's Championship with expenses paid for by the ACA.

After the drawing of lots, the first round started on Saturday, April 11.

Monica Sommerville played in her first CFC rated event and is a student from the

	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	Total
1	Adie Todd	1332		1	0	1	2
2	Stephanie Martens	1755	0		0	1	1
3	Nicka Kalaydina	1798	1	1		1	3
4	Monica Sommerville	unr	0	0	0		0

University of Calgary.

Adie Todd has returned to chess recently. She had been active at the junior level a few years ago, and is now dedicating lots of time to study and play.

Stephanie Martens has recently arrived in Edmonton from France. She plays at the Edmonton Chess Club.

Nicka Kalaydina needs no introduction as she is a rising junior star and the current Alberta Women's Champion.

In the end, Nicka won and went undefeated. She was never in any serious trouble during the games, but there was a moment during her game against Stephanie where she might have given up a draw.

Stephanie couldn't find the right series of moves, and the game went to Nicka.

Aside from the cash prizes, each of the players received gifts donated by Shoppers Drug Mart.

Congratulations to Nicka for repeating as Women's champion.



Alberta Women's Champion Nicka Kalaydina

2009 Alberta Active Championship

By Tony Ficzero

On Saturday, June 6, Calgary hosted the Alberta Active Championship. The tournament was organized and directed by Adie Todd. This was Adie's first attempt at organizing and she did an excellent job. In total there were 26 players in the event. The weather was perfect for chess as it snowed early in the morning! Gotta love that Alberta weather.

Daniel Kazmaier was in perfect form as he swept the field on way to his 5/5 finish. 2nd-3rd was shared by FM's Nenad Ristic and Dale Haessel at 4/5.

Rising junior star Jan Edmund Lazo also scored 4/5 and took home more cash by taking the U1900 1st place prize. Stephan Vasilev could have won the whole thing

with a last round victory over Kazmaier, but it was not to be. Vasilev still took 2nd in the U1900 section. 3rd U1900 was split by Roy Yearwood, Bernd Hahn, Nick Todd, and David Zhang.

In the U1500 section, Diwen Shi and Nicka Kalaydina split 1st-2nd with 3/5.

Michael Wanless took 3rd with 2/5.

The U1200 section was the largest with 9 players. All the money was split between Eric Limacher, Mike Scholz, Stanley Wang, and newcomer Ilko Atanassov at 2/5. Thanks to Adie for organizing and directing this event.



Alberta Chess Challenge

By Bruce Thomas

Only four defending provincial champs were successful at the 2009 Alberta Chess Challenge held in Edmonton on April 18. Jamil Kassam of Edmonton, last year's Grade 2 champ, continued to hold the provincial crown for Grade 3. Nicka Kalaydina took the Grade 7 title after having held it for Grade 6 and David Zhang repeated as well, this time in Grade 8. Johan Piera rounded out his scholastic chess career by taking the Grade 12 title, having also held last year's Grade 11 title. These four and eight new school grade level champs won the right to represent Alberta at the Canadian Chess Challenge held during the May holiday weekend at the University of Toronto (see separate articles about the national event). A total of 110 players, almost 75% of them coming from Edmonton and region or points further north, attended the provincial challenge which was held in Edmonton due to Edmonton region having the majority of participants as well as the vast majority of organizers, helpers and sponsors of the event.

Players coming the furthest were from LaCrete in the north and Medicine Hat in the south. The Challenge was held in the Hungarian Cultural Society Hall and featured a live video feed on two large TV screens from the upstairs tournament room to the basement where informal chess was played between games, parents sat, a snack concession was operated, and a pizza lunch was served.

In Grade 1, Patrick Tolentino of Calgary became champ by defeating higher-rated Sean Robertson of Edmonton in a two-player round robin. The biggest upset of the day occurred in Grade 2, where Grade 1 National Champ Ian McCullough of Sherwood Park lost the deciding game to a fellow member of his school chess team, Adam Mawani, also of Sherwood Park. McCullough took second in a tie-break over Andre Tolentino of Calgary. There were nine players in the Grade 2 competition.

Jamil Kassam of Edmonton continued to be a provincial champ by capturing the Grade 3 title with a perfect score of five. He was trailed by Artoym Akhverdiev of Calgary and Jakob Kaiser of Edmon-

ton. Grade 3 had 12 competitors. Grade 4 was highly contested with 31 players, but Zhonglin Huang of Edmonton was first with five straight victories. There was a pile-up of five players tying at four points and after all the tiebreak games, Diwen Shi of Calgary, a former provincial champ, claimed second while Noah Hoffner of Sherwood Park was third. Also involved in the tiebreak were Richard Mah of Edmonton, Dennis Rutar of Sherwood Park and David Li of Edmonton. Stephen Pavlic of Edmonton, a provincial champ earlier in his elementary career, defeated defending champ David McCullough of Sherwood Park to take the Grade 5 title, again with a perfect string of five games. McCullough prevailed in the tie-break to take second over Denis Situ of Edmonton. There were 15 participants in the Grade 5 section.

Yuekai Wang, a former Quebec champ at the National Challenge who had moved to Calgary, captured the Grade 6 title in Alberta with a 4.5/5 score. MingHang Shi of Edmonton was awarded second place on tiebreak formula after he and Rishi Durupala from the same Edmonton school, drew two games. Grade 6 attracted 14 entrants.

Grade 7 saw a six-player round robin being won by defending Grade 6 champ Regina-Veronica (Nicka) Kalaydina of Calgary with five victories, followed by two former provincial champs, also from Calgary, Tony Cai with four wins and Aaron Ting with three wins.

David Zhang of Calgary kept his provincial title in the 8-player Grade 8 section. He scored 4.5 while Derek Thomas of Edmonton was second with 4 and Etienne Leclerc of Fort Saskatchewan was third with 2.5.

Jan Lazo of Calgary was top in the seven-player Grade 9 section, winning all five of his games. Defending champ Allan Wu of Edmonton fell to second place with 3 wins while David Miller of Grande Prairie took third with a 2.5 score. The Miller family also had the pleasure of winning a 50-50 draw during the event and won \$177.00 while the other half went towards financing the t-shirts worn by the Alberta Team at the Canadian Challenge in Toronto. Raymond Ong of Calgary took the Grade 10 four-player round robin with victories in his three games. Unfortunately, a family emergency prevented Ong from going to the Canadian Challenge so runner-up Yaroslav Babich of Calgary took his

place. Babich took second in the provincial with two wins while Anthony Wu, a former provincial champ from Edmonton, was third with one win. Jose Luna of Calgary beat Ryan Lacy of Edmonton twice to take the Grade 11 crown in a two-player match.

Another two-player match in Grade 12 between Johan Piera of Calgary and Nick Hill of Medicine Hat saw Piera winning both games and repeating as provincial champ.

The Alberta Chess Challenge was hosted by The Society of Alberta Chess Knights, organized by The Roving ChessNuts, and helped in various ways by the Alberta Chess Association, Klondike Office Equipment, Scope Printing, The ChessMart, Edmonton Chess Club, the Edmonton Hungarian Society, City of Edmonton Fire Department and various individuals including many parents of Edmonton and area players.

Several hundred dollars worth of merchandise were given out as draw prizes at the event.

Chief director of the event was Bruce Thomas while section directors were Edmontonians Alex Kaiser, Ken Baron, Richard Pua, Walter Pavlic and Ivan Gonzalez; David Ludwig and Richard Roberts both of St. Albert; Rob McCullough and Howard Louie both of Sherwood Park; William Taylor of Medicine Hat; and Simon Ong of Calgary.

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Gardner wins WUYE

By Vlad Rekhson

Rob Gardner pirc'd his way to first in the Warm Up Your Engines Open! Rob needed a last round win against the tournament leader-FM Blagoj Gicev and in the end his Pirc got the job done.

Rob finished with 4/5. Second place was shared by FM Vladimir Pechenkin, FM Blagoj Gicev, Aaron Sequillion (best under 2100) and Nic Haynes. They all had 3.5/5

A special note has to be given to Aaron who will now edge really close to 2100 as he drew FM Pechenkin, Rob Gardner and Nic Haynes. His win over Sardul Purewal saw 4 queens roaming the board!

Best u-1900 prize was shared by Ahmet Yamach and Calgarian Shanker Raman.

36.Kg3 c1Q 37.d8Q



Purewal, Sardul 2059
Sequillion, Aaron 2018
D15 Warm up your Engines' (Rnd 4)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6
 5.e3 b5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.a3 Bg4 8.Be2
 e6 9.Ne5 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 Nbd7
 11.Nxd7 Qxd7 12.0-0 Bd6 13.Bd2 0-0
 14.Rfc1 Rfc8 15.Na2 Rc4 16.Bb4
 Rac8 17.Rxc4 bxc4 18.Bxd6 Qxd6
 19.Nc3 Rb8 20.f3 h6 21.Rd1 Rb3
 22.Rd2 e5 23.e4 exd4 24.Nxd5 d3
 25.Nxf6+ Qxf6 26.Qf2 Qd6 27.Qe3
 Rxb2 28.Rxb2 c3 29.Rb6 Qd7 30.e5
 d2 31.Rd6 Qxd6 32.exd6 d1Q+
 33.Kf2 c2 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.d7 Qd4+

37...Qcf4+ 38.Kh3 Qf5+ 39.Kg3
 Qdf4+ 40.Kf2 Qc5+ 41.Kf1 Qfc1+ 0-1

Road Warrior

With half of the events now completed, here are the top 20:
 Aaron Sequillion is taking a commanding lead and is going to be hard to stop going into the second half. The next event on the list is the Battle at the Border in Lloydminster on June 27&28.

1	Aaron Sequillion	Edmonton	29.0
2	Roy Yearwood	Calgary	19.0
3	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton	17.0
4	Nicholas Moloney	Calgary	15.0
5	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton	13.0
6	Ali Razzaq	Edmonton	13.0
7	Micah Hughey	Edmonton	11.0
8	Mike Scholz	Calgary	10.0
9	Richard Pua	Edmonton	9.0
10	Eduard Porper	Edmonton	9.0
11	Jim Daniluk	Calgary	8.0
12	Rob Gardner	Edmonton	8.0
13	Vladimir Pechenkin	Edmonton	8.0
14	Rob Nisbet	Grande Prairie	7.0
15	Tim Pradzinski	Grande Prairie	7.0
16	David Miller	Grande Prairie	7.0
17	Paul Viminitz	Lethbridge	7.0
18	Tom Fox	Lethbridge	7.0
19	Gregory Holmes	Lethbridge	7.0
20	Shanker Raman	Calgary	7.0



Alberta Reserves

By Tony Ficzero

A total of 20 players came out to battle it out along side the provinces' best at the Alberta Reserves. Well, it was really 19 players as Micah Hughey played in the first round to make things even. The turnout was somewhat disappointing and was lower than Edmonton's turnout last year of 26 players. The event was a bit top heavy as only 4 players had a rating below 1800. There seems to be a shortage of class players below 1800, particularly in the Calgary area. This is an area that needs to be addressed and is something that I will be working on in the very near future. Taking top honours this year was Nic

Haynes and Brad Booker with 4/5, drawing in the last round and earning \$100 each. Splitting 2nd-3rd with 3/5 were Rick Pedersen, Sean Perron, Stephen Vasilev, Thomas Kaminski, Roy Yearwood, and Hafiz Karmali. They each received \$6.67 in prize money, almost enough for a Big Mac meal at McDonalds!

Jim Daniluk was 1st in the U2000 section with 3/5, good enough for \$75. Bill Bentley and Art Milne each scored 2.5/5 to share 2nd-3rd and take home \$37.50 a piece.

Saskatchewan's Trevor Robertson took the U1800 1st prize with 2/5 for the \$50 bill while Bob Macfie and BC's Jim Marshall scored 1.5/5 and took home \$15 each. All three events (Closed, Women's, Reserves) return to Edmonton next year.



Haynes vs Perron in the background, Booker gives Daniluk an evil stare foreground

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN ALBERTA!

<p>Calgary Chess Club #274, 3359-27th St. NE (Parma Tech Centre, North Building) Tuesday nights from 6:30-11 p.m. Friday nights from 6:30-11 p.m. Phone 403.264.9498 Website: www.calgarychess.com</p>	<p>Grand Prairie Chess Club 1st Apostolic Church, 9932 91 Ave Tuesdays from 6-10 p.m. Contact: Tim Pradzinski 780.518.2281 Email database@telusplanet.net Website: www.gpchessclub.com</p>	<p>Okotoks Chess Club Contact: Richard Bradley Email: richard.bradley@shaw.ca</p>
<p>Calgary Junior Chess Club #274, 3359-27th St. NE (Parma Tech Centre, North Building) Contact: Simon Ong Email: simong89@yahoo.ca Website: www.geocities.com/calgarychess4juniors/home.html</p>	<p>Hanna Chess Club United Church on Centre St. Contact Jon, 403.854.3412</p>	<p>Sherwood Park Second Cup on Baseline Road Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to closing time Contact: Les Jones, 780.467.7393</p>
<p>University of Calgary Chess Club Contact: Adie Email: chess@ucalgary.ca</p>	<p>Hinton Queen's Bakery and Café, 124 Market St. Contact: Peter Bundscherer, 780.865.5050</p>	<p>Wainwright Chess Club Showtime Video, #701 10 Main St. Thursdays 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact: Allen Tinio, 780.842.4123 Email: amtinio@telus.net.</p>
<p>Edmonton Chess Club #204, 10840-124 St. Mondays & Thursdays, 7-11 p.m. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Phone 780. 424.0283 Website: edmontonchessclub.org/</p>	<p>Lethbridge Contact: Kent Karapita Email: kentkarapita@hotmail.com</p>	<p>EDMONTON CASUAL CHESS For general information or if you are interested in setting up a new casual site in Northern Alberta. Contact: Bruce Thomas 780.474.2318 Email: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca</p>
<p>Edmonton Castle Downs Castledowns Public Library program room, 106 Lakeside Landing, 15379 Castle Downs Road Tuesdays 1-4:30 p.m. Casual chess - no clocks, no ratings; open to all ages, up to 16 players involved.</p>	<p>University of Lethbridge Contact: Thomas Fox Email: thomas.fox@uleth.ca Website: people.uleth.ca/~chess.club/</p>	<p>Edmonton-Blackspot Café 15120 Stony Plain Road Sundays, 2-10 p.m. Sets are available.</p>
<p>University of Alberta Student Union Building @ Avenue Pizza Restaurant/Lounge September through April (excluding Dec), Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Contact: Stephen Stone Email: StephenRStone@gmail.com Website: uachess.wetpaint.com</p>	<p>Lloydminster Contact: Terry Chaisson H. 780.875.8186 Or cell: 780.871.3995</p>	<p>Edmonton-ChessMart 12015-76 St Open weekdays 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and some evenings and weekends. Casual games can be arranged and evaluation of players of all ages.</p>
	<p>Medicine Hat Chess Club Southridge Village, 550 Spruce Way SE Mid September to mid June, Wednesdays, 7-10:30 p.m. Contact: Bill Taylor, 403.526.5484 Email taylormw@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Edmonton-Millwoods Seniors Drop-in Centre inside Millwoods Town Centre Mall Thursdays, starting 1 p.m. For changes, corrections, or additions to this listing email tficzere@telus.net</p>
	<p>Medicine Hat Junior Chess Club 1015 3rd St. N.W. End of October to early March, Saturdays 1:30-4 p.m. Contact: Bill Taylor, 403.526.5484 Email taylormw@shaw.ca</p>	

Upcoming ACA Events at a Glance

DATE	NAME	ORGANIZER	LOCATION
June 6	Alberta Active Championship	Adie Todd	Calgary
June 27-28	Battle at the Border	Jamin Gluckie	Lloydminster
July 11-19	Canadian Open	Micah Hughey	Edmonton
Sept 6-7	Over/Under 1800	Jim Daniluk	Calgary

2009 Battle at the Border

Warm up before the Canadian Open in Lloydminster!

When: June 27-28, 2009

Registration: 10:30 am Saturday, June 27

Where: Lakeland College Campus, Lloydminster AB (room TBA)

Tournament Director: Jamin Gluckie

CFC & FIDE Rated

Rounds: 4 - Accelerated pairings to be used in rounds 1&2, normal pairings for rounds 3&4

Round Times: Saturday, 11 am & 3:30 pm, Sunday 10 am & 2:30 pm

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 sec/move from move 1
CFC membership is required, can be purchased on site

Entry Fee: \$30 on site (save \$5 by pre-registering)

Prizes: Based on entries

Space is limited to 32 players, register early!!!

Misc: For pre-registration info, contact Jamin Gluckie
jgluckie@gmail.com. It will save you money!

Chess for Cancer

By Bruce Thomas

Ivan Gonzalez, an instructor with the Roving ChessNuts, took on 13 youth and adult players on May 22 at a chess simultaneous held in downtown Edmonton. The simul was part of a fundraiser in the battle against cancer. The chess activity raised \$130, plus

prompted other donations by chess parents towards a silent auction held at the same time.

In all, the Friday afternoon event raised about \$1,700. On the chess boards, Gonzalez suffered three draws involving two of his students and one adult, but won the rest of the games. Gonzalez was thankful for the support given to the charity by the players and others.



TOP 40 CFC RATED ALBERTANS

As of June 9, 2009

1	Porper, Edward	2510
2	Hansen, Eric	2472
3	Gicev, Blagoj	2380
4	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2366
5	Kaminski, Victor	2328
6	Reeve, Jeff	2314
7	Huber, Gregory	2306
8	Peter, Steven	2294
9	Kazmaier, Daniel	2284
10	Haessel, Dale	2276
11	Gardner, Robert J.	2272
12	Ristovic, Nenad	2262
13	Neven, Knut	2254
14	Moloney, Nicholas	2230
15	Schaeffer, Jonathan	2206
16	Booker, Brad	2188
17	Hughey, Micah	2183
18	Grumic, Sasa	2174
19	Rekhson, Vladislav	2147
20	Vasilev, Stephan	2144
21	Kazakevich, Anastasia	2142
22	Kaminski, Thomas	2141
23	Perron, Sean	2132
24	Robichaud, Martin	2132
25	Sequillion, Aaron	2117
26	Gluckie, Jamin	2094
27	Monaghan, Jim	2090
28	Gold, Itohan	2088
29	Pedersen, Rick	2082
30	Gorelik, Lev	2079
31	Campbell, Gordon	2077
32	Karmali, Hafiz	2073
33	Willis, Bradley J.	2072
34	Yam, Alex	2060
35	Purewal, Sardul	2057
36	Wang, Richard	2045
37	Stark, Mark	2027
38	Daniluk, Jim	2005
39	Zhang, David	1999
40	Dean, Tim	1990

TOP 10 FIDE RATED ALBERTANS

As of March 31, 2009

#	Name	Rating
1	Porper, Edward	2435
2	Hansen, Eric	2398
3	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2312
4	Peter, Steven	2264
5	Ristovic, Nenad	2252
6	Huber, Greg	2245
7	Kaminski, Victor	2244
8	Reeve, Jeff	2241
9	Haessel, Dale	2203
10	Neven, Knut	2199



GM Michael Adams



GM Alexei Shirov



GM Victor Mikhalevski



Canadian Open 2009

July 11th to 19th
Edmonton, Alberta

www.edchess.ca

Join some of the world's top players in this 9 round open Swiss
Prize fund (based on 200 paid entries)

\$25,000

Delta Edmonton Centre Suite Hotel
10222 102 Street (downtown)
Phone: 1-800-447-4136
9 Round Swiss System, One Section
FIDE and CFC rated

TIME CONTROL: 40 moves in 90 minutes, followed
by SD/30 minutes, + 30 seconds/move from move 1
BYES: Maximum of 3 available rounds 1-8
EQUIPMENT: Bring your own chess sets & clocks

SCHEDULE

Round 1 Saturday July 11th 4.00 PM
Round 2 Sunday July 12th 4.00 PM
Round 3-7 Monday to Friday July 13th-17th 6.00 PM
Round 8 Saturday July 18th 4.00 PM
Round 9 Sunday July 19th 12.00 PM
Awards Presentation Sunday July 19th 6.00 PM

ENTRY FEE:

\$120 before April 15th \$140 between April 15th and June 1st
\$160 after June 1st and at the door
Free for GM, IM, WGM, WIM
\$30 discount for juniors under 18, FM and WFM
(only one discount per player)
ORGANIZER: Micah Hughey, Phone: 780-240-6365
Email: mhughev@hotmail.com
Enter online at www.edchess.ca or by mail
Make cheques payable to: Canadian Open 2009
Send to: Edmonton Chess Club, #204 10840 124th St.
Edmonton, AB, T5M 0H3

Prize fund details (based on 200 paid entries)*

	Top <2400	Top <2200	Top <2000	Top <1800	Top <1600	Top <1400	
1 st : \$3000	\$1,200	\$1,100	\$1,000	\$700	\$600	\$500	Top Senior 50+ \$550
2 nd : \$2000	\$800	\$750	\$700	\$500	\$400	\$300	Top Junior <18 \$550
3 rd : \$1500	\$500	\$600	\$500	\$300	\$300	\$200	Top Female \$550
4 th : \$1200	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$250	\$250		
5 th \$800	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200		
6 th \$600							
7 th \$500							
8 th \$400							

*Each participant can claim only one prize