



Alberta Chess Report



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KAMINSKI & HANSEN IN THE U.S.A.

Two of Alberta's top juniors secured I.M. norms in the U.S. of A. over the summer. Eric Hansen got his at the World Open in Philadelphia and Victor Kaminski earned his in Pawtucket Rhode Island at the New England Masters. Page 2

ROAD WARRIOR UPDATE



Cowboy Roy

Could this be the year of Roy? The Road Warrior stats have been updated here and on the website. It looks like its going down to the wire with five tournaments to go at the time of this writing. Having traveled 2,500 kilometres so far this year, Roy Yearwood is leading the standing. Last years' winner Chris White might have something to say about it as he sits a close 1.5 points back in 2nd. Edmontonian Micah Hughey has also gathered enough points to finish in the money unless Calgarian Eric Hansen has something to say about it. A full report appears on page 3.

2008 EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL



Highlights from the Edmonton International held over the summer. G.M. Alexander Moiseenko was the class of the field, winning clear first with 7/9, 1/2 point ahead of G.M. Alexander Shabalov in this strong FIDE rated event. Top Albertan and recently transplanted I. M. Edward Porper finished with 5/9, leaving Israel for the chess battleground in Edmonton. Canadian Raja Panjwani walked away with his 2nd I.M. norm! This year the International went live with games broadcast on the internet using DGT technology thanks to the fine work of Vitaly Motuz. Read Vlad Rekhson's excellent report starting on page 4

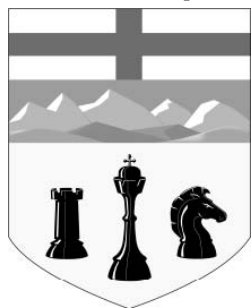
BATTLE AT THE BORDER



Jamin Gluckie reports on the 2nd annual Battle at the Border held in Lloydminster over the long weekend in July. The battle was won by Saskatchewan master Robert Sasata scoring 3.5/5 and taking most of the prize fund out of Alberta. Micah Hughey and former Mexican Jose Luna (who now resides in Calgary) split 2nd-3rd with 3/5. Jamin reports on page 9.

WALTER HOLOWACH

Mr. Holowach passed away this past April at the age of 98. Walter was Alberta's strongest player in the late 40's through the early 50's. Walter played in several Canadian Championships. Not only was Walter a top notch chess player, he was also an accomplished musician studying the violin at the Vienna Conservatory of Music in Austria. Bruce Thomas reports on page 11.



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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

Victor Kaminski & Eric Hansen earn I.M. norms

This summer was a pretty good one, especially if you were an Alberta junior playing in the US. Both Victor Kaminski and Eric Hansen racked up I.M. norms in American tournaments over the summer.

Eric had a busy summer schedule. At the World Open in Philadelphia, he scored 5/9, just missing out on the prize fund but still good enough for his first I.M. norm. Eric secured his norm in the last round by defeating I.M. Alfonso Almeida. Eric gets a little help from his opponent. Here is the game.

Hansen, Eric (2268)
I.M. Almeida, Alfonso (2502)
B23 2008 World Open (Rnd 9)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 Bd7 7.Qd2 Nxd4 8.Qxd4 Qa5 9.f4 h6 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.0-0-0 Rc8 12.Kb1 Qc5 13.Qd2 Bg7 14.Be2 a6 15.Bf3 b5 16.Rhe1 Bc6 17.Ne2 f5 18.e5 dxe5 19.fxe5 Bxe5 20.Nc1 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Bf6 22.Nb3 Qc7 23.Qd3 Rg8 24.Rd2 Rd8 25.Qxf5 Rxd2 26.Nxd2



26...Rg5 27.Qxf6 Rd5 28.Qh8+ Kd7 29.Qxh6 Qa5 30.Re2 1-0

Congratulations Eric!

From August 11-15, Pawtucket Rhode Island hosted their annual New England Masters tournament. Victor performed exceptionally well, finishing the nine round event with a score of 5.5, more than enough to secure his first I.M. norm. Victor only lost one game to G.M. Leonid Kritz of Germany. Here is his first round game against I.M. Robert Hungaski of the US. Robert sacs a pawn early in the game but doesn't get enough compensation.

Kaminski, Victor (2212)
I.M. Hungaski, Robert (2407)
D02 New England Masters (Rnd 1)

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.e3 Qb6 6.Qc1 Bf5 7.Nbd2 e6 8.Nh4 Bg4 9.h3 Bh5 10.g4 Bg6 11.Nxg6 hxg6 12.Bg2 Rc8 13.Qb1 Qa6 14.dxc5



14...b6 15.cxb6 axb6 16.Qd1 Be7 17.Qe2 Qa7 18.0-0 0-0 19.Rfc1 Rfd8 20.Bf1 e5 21.Bg3 Qc7 22.Bg2 Qd7 23.Qb5 Qe6 24.Rd1 g5 25.Nb3 Na7 26.Qa6 Rd7 27.e4 Nxe4 28.Bxe4 dxe4 29.Rxd7 Qxd7 30.Qxb6 Nc6 31.Qe3 Qd5 32.Re1 Ra8 33.Nc1 Rb8 34.b4 Rc8 35.Nb3 Nd8 36.Qxe4 Qxe4 37.Rxe4 Rxc3 38.Bxe5 Rc2 39.a4 Ra2 40.b5 Ra3 41.Na5 Ne6 42.b6 Nc5 43.b7 1-0

Fine play by Victor and congratulations on your well deserved I.M. norm.

ALBERTA CHESS REPORT

The Alberta Chess Report is published quarterly in March, June, September, December. Deadline for submissions and changes is two weeks prior to the month of publication. We want your submissions! We are always looking for articles on chess as they pertain to the province of Alberta.

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.

Submit your request by email to: tficzere@telus.net or fax to: 403-568-7178

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Editor: Tony Ficzere, 58 Martin Crossing Court NE, Calgary, AB, T3J 3P3

2008 Road Warrior

The 2008 Road Warrior standings are now updated. If you live in Alberta and travel to an Alberta tournament outside of your home town, you are automatically entered in this annual competition. Points are accumulated for every 100 kilometres you travel to play in a tournament. Only Road Warrior events count for points, so if you traveled to Russia, it doesn't count!

There are 17 Road Warrior events for 2008 as listed. Roy Yearwood is ahead having played in every event possible!! Last

years Road Warrior was won by Chris White of La Crete. Chris only had to play in four events to edge out second place finisher Roy Yearwood by a half point! Five events remain at the time of this article. The finish will be interesting as Roy intends to play in every event. This means if Chris wants to repeat this year, he will have to play in at least two more events to catch Roy. Complete standings are available at www.albertachess.org under "Road Warrior".



ROAD WARRIOR ELIGIBLE EVENTS FOR 2008

# Eligible Event	Location	Date
1 Schleinch Memorial Sectional	Calgary	Jan 5-6
2 Trumpeter Classic	Grand Prairie	Jan 25-27
3 Northern Alberta Open	Edmonton	Feb 16-17
4 March of Kings	Calgary	Mar 8-9
5 Alberta Closed	Edmonton	Mar 20-22
6 Alberta Reserves	Edmonton	Mar 20-22
7 Alberta Women's	Edmonton	Mar 20-22
8 Lethbridge Open	Lethbridge	Apr 5-6
9 Calgary International	Calgary	May 16-19
10 Battle at the Border	Lloydminster	Jun 28-29
11 Summer Sectional	Edmonton	Aug 1-4
12 Edmonton International	Edmonton	Jul 31-Aug 4
13 Over / Under 1800	Edmonton	Aug 30-31
14 Medicine Hat Open	Medicine Hat	Sep 27-28
15 Alberta Open	Calgary	Oct 11-13
16 Southern Alberta Open	Calgary	Nov 15-16
17 WBX Team Tournament	Edmonton	Dec 13-14

	Warrior	Home	Pts
1	Roy Yearwood	Calgary	24.5
2	Chris White	La Crete	23.0
3	Micah Hughey	Edmonton	15.5
4	Eric Hansen	Calgary	14.0
5	Rick Pedersen	Edmonton	13.5
6	Mike Zeggelaar	Edmonton	13.5
7	Aaron Sequillion	Edmonton	13.5
8	Tim Pradzinski	Grande Prairie	10.0
9	Nandor Tot	Calgary	8.0
10	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton	7.5
11	Anastasia Kazakevich	Edmonton	7.5
12	Greg Huber	Calgary	6.0
13	Trent Douglas	High Prairie	6.0
14	Rob Gardner	Edmonton	5.5
15	Sardul Purewal	Edmonton	5.5
16	Jose Luna	Calgary	5.5
17	Steve Panteluk	Edmonton	5.0
18	Stan Longson	Edmonton	5.0
19	John Quiring	Edmonton	5.0
20	Ford Wong	Edmonton	5.0
21	Wade Caughlin	Grande Prairie	5.0
22	Roland Schech	St. Albert	5.0
23	Richard Pua	Edmonton	5.0
24	Adrien Regimbald	Edmonton	5.0
25	Stephen Stone	Edmonton	5.0
26	Alex Pradzinski	Grande Prairie	5.0
27	Alexander Kazakevich	Edmonton	5.0
28	Nicholas Merritt	Edmonton	5.0

Eric Hansen receives SACK Award

By Bruce Thomas

Alberta Champ Eric Hansen was presented in late July a \$750 cheque from ACA Junior Coordinator Bruce Thomas, who also represented the Edmonton-based Society of Alberta Chess Knights (SACK). Hansen received the award to help sponsor him in his many chess travels as he goes after his International Master title. The award recognized Hansen for winning the national Grade 10 championship at the Canadian Chess Challenge in May and an additionally for achieving his Canadian master title as well as Alberta Champ title. Previously, SACK had awarded \$100 each to Hansen and 11 other players for winning provincial grade level titles in April at the Alberta Chess Challenge. Combining its awards with contributions from the Roving ChessNuts of Edmonton, SACK has given out over \$3,000 worth of awards this year to deserving young Alberta players. SACK successfully hosted the 2008 Canadian Chess Challenge in Edmonton and has raised thousands of dollars for this year's awards plus an upcoming scholarship program to encourage junior high and high school age players to stay involved in

chess. SACK's fundraising efforts include operating snack concessions, holding raffles, organizing chess tournaments, and co-operating with the Alberta Chess Association in selling ACA associate memberships. Corporate and private donations are also going into SACK's long-term scholarship and grand prix programs, including a generous \$1,300 donation from an anonymous Edmonton chess parent. Directors of SACK are Howard Louie of Strathcona County (President), Dr. Rob McCullough of Sherwood Park (Treasurer), Walter Pavlic Q.C. of Edmonton (Secretary) and Directors Yan Loke and Bruce Thomas, both of Edmonton.



Bruce Thomas presents Eric Hansen with SACK cheque

The 3rd Edmonton Chess Festival

By Vlad Rekhson

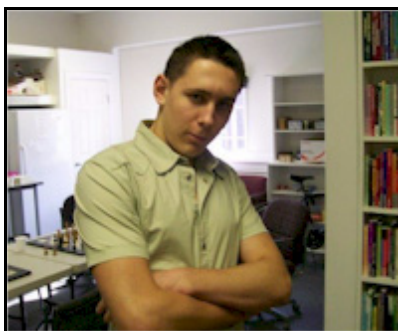
About 5 years ago Micah Hughey and I were thinking of a way to make an International norms event in Edmonton. At the time it seemed fairly unlikely that an event like this could be possible in our area because we were not sure whether funding would be available for it and we simply weren't certain whether the top Albertans would be good enough to play against International Masters (IMs) and Grandmasters (GMs). Then after the 2005 Canadian Open GM Alexander Moiseenko asked me why don't we hold an annual norms tournament? At the time I told him that it is very unlikely that anyone in Alberta would be able to challenge for an IM title. Still, the thought of holding such an event never left my mind as it was clear that if we wanted to create GM and IM caliber players we have to start somewhere. So, I thought what the heck? And the first Edmonton International was played out in April of 2006. The idea of having such a tournament was quite simple and I decided that only three criteria will have to be followed. 1) The event would have to be held annually. 2) It should allow for International norm chances. 3) The top event should coincide with events for all levels thus creating the chess festival.

The first two events did not produce any norms for Albertans, however even though it may be a mere coincidence, since the first Edmonton International Vicente Lee who lived in Edmonton at the time was able to get an IM title at the Canadian Championship and just this summer two Calgary juniors; Eric Hansen and Victor Kaminski were able to obtain 1 IM norm each in top level International events (A total of three such norms are required to get the title of an IM).

So after many months spent in preparation the 3rd Edmonton Chess Festival finally took place. This year the Edmonton Chess Club celebrated its 100 year anniversary and to commemorate this occasion we decided to do something special during this year's Edmonton Chess Festival. In the previous two years the format has been an IM norms round-robin event with 10 participants for the chess festival's main event-The Edmonton International, as well as sectional round-robins plus simul and lectures.

While we left the side events the same as they were in the past, this year's Edmonton International was by far the strongest as it was a master's only swiss with participation of 5 GM's, 4 IM's, and a total of 25 players. All of this made both GM and IM norm chances possible.

Because the event was much larger we decided to set up an organizing committee made up of local volunteers. It consisted of Micah Hughey (The sectional organizer and contact person with most of the invited GM's), Roland Schech (The incredible



TD & Webmaster Vitaly Motuz

treasurer), Vitaly Motuz (The sectional tournament director and the creator of our website www.ecf2008.com), Nic Haynes (Master's Representative), Terry Seehagen (ECC President and simul organizer), Mike Sekuloff (ACA President), and myself Vlad Rekhson (Head organizer and Tournament director of the International). This event also couldn't have been the same without the contributions of regular chess players in Edmonton and Alberta. Besides the major organizations such as: the ECC, City of Edmonton and ACA we received some sizable sponsorship from: Brandon Paton, John Mackey, "Inter Hair Group" (Ahmet Yamach), Klondike Furniture (George Sponga), Tony Ficzer, Sardul Purewal and RovingChessnuts (Bruce Thomas) who helped with providing the live broadcast of the top boards. Additionally we received contributions from: Anastasia Kazakevich, Mike Zeggelaar and Donald Gardiner. The Chess Festival was kicked off on Tuesday, July 29, with a 12 person simul by the five time defending Indian Champion GM Surya Sekhar Ganguly. Surya left no chance for his Edmonton opponents as he took apart the field and won all 12

games. The next day GM Jesse Kraai who is the only one of the top players to play in all three Edmonton Internationals gave an intriguing lecture which involved an in-depth analysis of the game between two local players; Aaron Sequillion and Mike Zeggelaar.

That was followed by another simul by the top Canadian player; GM Mark Bluvstein. Mark took on 16 boards, he won 14 games, had a draw against Micah Hughey and lost to yours truly. And then the next day, Thursday, July 31st the Edmonton International went under way. It was clear from the get go that the lower rated players were not going to go down without a fight against the higher rated ones. Out of the 12 first round games, 5 were upsets. The major ones were: Dale Haessel's win over IM Leonid Gerzhoy and, what turned out to be the biggest upset of the tournament; FM Greg Huber's win over GM Jesse Kraai.

FM Huber, Greg (2236)
GM Kraai, Jesse (2513)
C00 Edmonton International (Rnd 1)
Notes by FM Greg Huber

1.e4 e6 2.d3

The "King's Indian Attack" method of meeting the French, mainly geared to avoid theory since I knew my opponent was much better prepared than me for normal French lines.

2...d5 3.Qe2

3.Nd2 is the more standard way to avoid a queen exchange if black swaps pawns on e4. This slightly strange-looking queen move has some bite if black is unprepared, but Jesse came out of the opening with no problems.

3...Nf6 4.Nf3 Nc6!?

An interesting line, aiming for piece play rather than the more standard ...c5 followed by grabbing queenside space. It makes white's development look a little strange, but the main downside is that black's c-pawn is now blocked and the N/c6 may have to relocate.

5.c3

Restricting the N/c6 and preparing Qc2 so the B/f1 can develop without fianchettoing. 5.g3?! This fianchetto doesn't fit well with the structure now if black swaps pawns on e4. 5...dxe4 6.dxe4 e5! leaves white a bit awkward.

5...dxe4 6.dxe4 e5

Equalizing the central space and asking

white how he is going to develop.

7.Qc2 Bg4 8.Be2 Bc5

Black continues to sensibly develop his pieces to active squares.

9.Nbd2?!

9.b4!? was likely better, grabbing some useful queenside space and not allowing black the ...a5 clamp as in the game.

9...a5!

Black seems at least equal after this restricting move.

10.h3 Bh5 11.Bb5!?

I felt black was slowly grabbing the initiative, so I wanted to do something to break the momentum. White makes a vague gesture toward the e5 pawn, but knows it would be too poisoned to capture anyway. I mainly wanted to unpin the N/f3, and imbalance the position by doubling black's pawns.

11...0-0

Offering the e-pawn for an initiative.

12.Bxc6!?

Not with the intention of capturing the P/e5, but I didn't want black to move his N and make the B/b5 look dumb.

12...bxc6 13.0-0

13.Nxe5?! Re8 gives black lots of play and all the fun.

13...Re8 14.Re1 Nd7

Heading to f8 and e6, but perhaps slower than necessary. 14...a4 and waiting to see how white will develop seems to give black an edge.

15.Rb1

To break on the queenside even though it lets black get rid of one or two of his pawn weaknesses.

15...a4 16.b4 axb3 17.axb3 Nf8

Consistently continuing the N-tour, but it lets white free himself.

18.b4 Bd6 19.c4 c5!?

Black gets rid of another pawn weakness and prevents the space-gaining c5 by white, but allows white to coordinate his pieces with gain of time.

20.bxc5 Bxc5 21.Nb3 Bb4 22.Rd1 Qf6

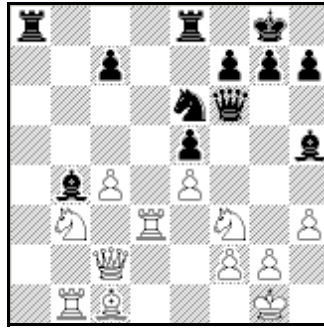
23.Rd3

The position seems relatively level now, with black's two bishops unable to work at maximum efficiency yet.

23...Ne6?

Both players were getting a bit short of

time, but this gives white a little shot to win the P/e5 and scramble the position.



24.Nxe5! Qxe5 25.Rd5 Bd1!

The best way to give back the piece without losing too much initiative at the same time.

26.Rxd1 c6?!

Keeps the rook out of d5, but a bit slow and it allows white to develop and coordinate. 26...Bd6! is a more active plan, black is able to keep white on his toes with threats to h2 and e4. 27.g3 Nc5 28.Nxc5 28.Rd5 Qxe4 28...Bxc5 29.Bf4. White has no good way to hold the pawn e4, and so liquidates to an even ending. (29.Rd5?? Qxg3+-) 29...Qxe4 30.Qxe4 Rxe4 31.Bxc7 Rxc4.

27.Bb2 Qg5 28.Rd3

White starts to develop a dangerous initiative against g7 now that the P/e5 is gone.

28...Rad8 29.Rg3 Qh5 30.c5

Cutting off the B/b4, and relying on the weakness of g7 to keep the P/c5 safe.

30...Rd7 31.Qc4?

We were both down to a few minutes here even though the position is just starting to get complicated. This gives black a chance to free himself. 31.Rg4!± an effective quiet move, adding extra defense to e4 and cutting off the black Q's attack on d1. Black will have a hard time dealing with his off-side bishop and various attacking ideas like f4-f5.

31...Bd2?

Trying to activate the B, but missing a more efficient way to do it. 31...Rd1+! 32.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 33.Kh2 Be1!÷ and black simultaneously gets some counter play while preventing the f4 idea.

32.Nxd2 Rxd2 33.Qc3?!

33.Bxg7! is a more efficient Fritz-move, but way too tricky to want to play in time pressure 33...Nxg7 34.Qc3 Rd1+ 35.Kh2! +- and black has no way to guard or shield g7 without giving up the rook on d1.

33...Qh6 34.f4!?

Giving black new headaches with f5 ideas,

but also exposing white's king to tactics.

34...Red8 35.f5 Nd4 36.Kh2?

With the right idea of getting away from N checks, but not the best square since it allows a pin from f4. 36.Kh1!+- and black's position is surprisingly difficult, with problems with his king (g7 and back-rank) and uncoordinated pieces.

36...Qh4?!

Trying to hassle white's newly-weakened king, but not quite the right way to do it. 36...Qf4! is a tougher defense/counter-attack, with the pin tying up white enough that I didn't see anything better than the following series of big exchanges leading to a better ending for white 37.Rf1 Qxf1 38.Qxd2 Nf3+ 39.Rxf3 Rxd2 40.Rxf1 Rxb2 41.Ra1 Kf8 42.Ra6 Re2 43.Rxc6 Rxe4 and black is still fighting for a draw.

37.Qa5!

And black's flag fell while he was making a move - I can't remember which one, but Jesse said it lost material anyway (*Ed-He played Re8 which does lose material*).

Black is in a difficult, almost zugzwang position where it is hard to move any pieces without a catastrophe. The best defensive try was 37.Qa5 Rxg2+! 38.Kxg2 Qxe4+ 39.Kh2 Qc2+ 40.Rg2 Nf3+ 41.Kg3 and black's hands are too tied with problems with the back-rank and R/d8 to seriously chase the white king. He can win some material back, however: 41...Qd3! 42.Qc3 forced 42...Nd2+ 43.Qxd3 Rxd3+ 44.Kh4 Nxb1 45.Bxg7 f6 46.Bxf6+ Kf7 47.Bh8+- and even though only down one pawn, black will have a hard time dealing with white's active pieces and dangerous f-pawn. **1-0**

The second round didn't stay far behind the first as FM Raja Panjwani defeated the four time US champion GM Alexander Shabalov in a seesaw battle, FM Bindi Cheng drew GM Alexander Moiseenko and Eric Hansen beat the new Edmontonian IM Edward Porper. In round 3 the upsets died down a bit with notable exceptions of FM Blagoj Gicev drawing GM Mark Bluvshtein (FM Gicev had a good start but had to withdraw after the third round due to health issues), and FM Raja Panjwani drawing GM elect Josh Friedel (Josh is an IM, however, he received all of his GM norms and got his rating over 2500 thus he is just waiting for official approval by FIDE). FM Panjwani had a very strong start of the tournament and we were even thinking that he is going for the GM norm,

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Raja Panjwani vs. Jeff Reeve. Raja scores his 2nd IM norm in Edmonton

rather than IM, but he did slow down later on in the tournament. Still, such a strong start allowed him to achieve the second IM norm of his career (5/9 performance against a 2408 average field) and receive the only norm of any player in this tournament.

GM Friedel, Josh (2524)
FM Panjwani, Raja (2310)
C67 Edmonton International (Rnd 3)
Notes by FM Raja Panjwani

This game was played in the third round. After my big win against Shabalov in round 2, Friedel and I were the only players with a perfect 2/2 score. We had played twice previously, him beating me both times.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6

I have recently started playing the Berlin defense as black. It is a solid system, and with it I have held GM's Smirin, Ganguly, and now Friedel to draws.

4. O-O Nxe4 5. d4 Nd6 6. Bxc6 dxc6 7. dxe5 Nf5 8. Qxd8+ Kxd8 9. Nc3 Bd7 10. h3 h6

This was the first time I had seen white omit the move 10.h3. Without ever fully understanding why 10.h3 h6 was usually thrown in this variation, I figured there had to be a reason. Unfortunately, during the game I couldn't figure out why h3 was useful to white, and so it seems h3 is much more useful to white than h6 is to black.

10... h6 11. Bb2 Kc8 12. Rad1

Now we see that White is up a tempo in

the main line (not having played 10.h3).

However, the Berlin wall is still hard to break!

12... b6 13. Rd3 Ne7

Iordachescu-Bologan Panormo 2001 continued 13... Be7 14. Ne2 a5 15. a4 Rd8 16. h3 c5 17. g4 Bc6 18. Rxd8 Qxd8 and the game was drawn a few moves later.

14. Rfd1 Bf5 15. Rd8+ Kb7 16. Rxa8 Kxa8 17. Nd4

17. Rd8+ Kb7 18. Nd4 Bc8 followed by ... c5 & Nc6 kicking the White rook off the back rank.

17... Bg4 18. f3 Bc8 19. Ne4 Kb7

I was quite comfortable with my position at this point. Black has the two bishops, and white's pawn majority on the kingside is far from dangerous at the moment. Also, because of black's intermezzo Bg4 (before Bc8), white now has weaknesses on e3 and f4 in addition to d5 and f5.

20. c4 c5

This move was too optimistic...after the game Josh mentioned to me that if I just sit like a rock it is very difficult for white to make progress without creating too many weaknesses. 20... Ng6 would have led to a typical Berlin position favouring black after 21. Ne2 Be6 22. g3 (22. f4 Bg4) 22... Be7 23. f4 h5.

21. Nc2 Ng6

I was having trouble assessing the end-game after 21... Nc6 22. Ne3 Be7 23. f4 Rd8 24. Rxd8 Nxd8. Black is actually fine because even after white pushes f5, black's position is solid. However, when analyzing this possible continuation I felt that white

has no losing chances and I have nothing to do but wait as black. This is not an appealing situation to be in against a grandmaster, because they tend to play on forever until they meet a slight inaccuracy which they can capitalize on. 21...Ng6 seemed more practical at the time.

22. g3 Be7 23. Ne3 Re8 24. Kf2 Bf8 25. f4

It appears that White has the advantage, but since he cannot push the g,f, or e pawns, black is safe. One idea I thought of here was to put my bishop on b7 by Kb8, but I wasn't ready to commit the bishop to that diagonal, leaving f5 unprotected. It turns out that the bishop transfer was the correct plan.

25... Ne7

Instead, I transferred my Knight to c6, which could have happened 4 moves ago.

25... Kb8 26. Kf3 Bb7 27. g4 f6.

26. Kf3

26. Nd6+ cxd6 27. exd6 Nf5 28. d7 Bxd7 29. Rxd7+ Kc6 30. Rd3 Nxe3 31. Rxe3 Rxe3 32. Kxe3 f5.

26... Nc6 27. Bc3 a5 28. a4 Kb8 29. f5 Kb7

If 29... Nxe5+ 30. Bxe5 Rxe5 31. Rd8 Be7 32. Rg8

30. Kf4 g5+

I was moving my king back and forth because I knew that if white tries to make progress with f5 and Kf4, I have ...g5+. Now the resources in black's position become visible.

31. Kf3

31. fxg6 fxg6 32. Nf6 Re6 33. h4 Bg7 34. Ned5 Nd4 35. Bxd4 cxd4 36. Rxd4 c6 37. Nc3 Bxf6 38. exf6 Rxf6+ 39. Ke3 Bf5

31... Bg7

This was a safe move which I knew was perfectly playable. However, I had better... for some reason I was afraid of 31...Nxe5+ 32. Bxe5 Rxe5 33. G4, but after 33... Be7 34. f6 Bd6 35. Nxd6+ cxd6 36. Rxd6 Kc7 37. Rd3 Bb7+ 38. Kg3 Re6, black maintains the extra pawn.

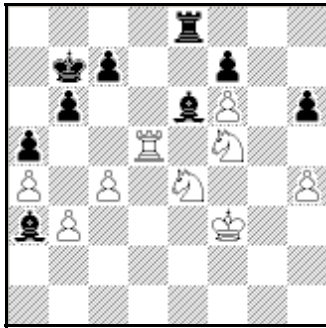
32. f6 Bf8 33. h4 gxh4 34. gxh4 Nd4+

This move was called for in the position. Black's pieces are cramped and his two bishops need scope to exert their power. White's over-extended position now becomes delicate.

35. Bxd4 cxd4 36. Rxd4 Rxe5 37. Rd8 Ba3 38. Rd5

38. Rh8 Bc1 39. Rxh6 Bf5. This is the variation I saw when I went for ...Nd4+

38... Re8 39. Nf5 Be6 40. Ng7



Turning the advantage over to black. I was expecting 40.Nxh6...and after 40. Nxh6 Bxd5 41. cxd5 Rf8 42. h5 Bc1 43. Nf5 Rh8 44. Kg4, neither side can play for a win...and a draw is probable, for example 44...Rg8+ 45. Kf3 Rh8 46. Kg4.

40... Bxd5 41. Nxe8

With the first time control over, I now had time to decide which move, ...Bc6 or ...Bxe4+ would give black the best winning chances.

41... Bc6

41... Bxe4+ 42. Kxe4 Kc6 (42... Bb2 43. Ng7 Bxf6 44. Nf5 h5 45. Kd5 transposing to the game) 43. Kf5 (43. Ng7 Bb2 44. Nf5 h5) 43... Bc1 44. Kg4 Kd7 45. Ng7 c6 (45... Kd6 46. Ne8+) 46. Nf5 Ke6 47. Nd4+ Kxf6 48. Nxc6 should probably be drawn, but is another interesting try.

42. Ng7 Bb2 43. Kf4

I didn't give enough consideration to white abandoning the f6 pawn. The resulting bishop vs. knight endgame is drawn because of white's active king and knight.

43... Bxe4 44. Kxe4 Bxf6 45. Nf5 h5 46. Kd5 Bd8 47. c5 bxc5 48. Kxc5 Bf6 49. Kb5 c6+ 50. Kc5

I had a trick up my sleeve. If white tries 50. Kxa5 thinking that 50... Bc3+ 51. b4 is tenable, he would be devastated by 51... Be5 threatening ...Bc7#. 52. b5 Bc3#.

50... Kc7 51. b4 axb4 52. Kxb4 Kb6 53. a5+ Ka6 54. Kc5 Kxa5 55. Kxc6 Kb4 56. Kd5 Kc3 57. Ke4 Kd2 58. Ng3 Bxh4 59. Nxh5 1/2-1/2

This draw was important because it secured myself as one of the tournament leaders for the next couple of rounds. It is interesting to note that the next time Friedel played me as white (a week later in the New England Masters), he avoided the Berlin defense and played 1.d4.

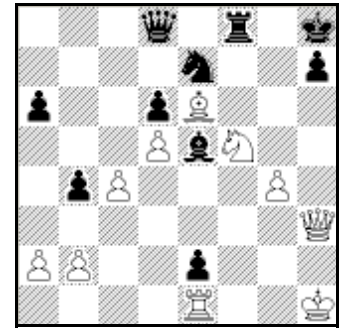
In round 4 we saw the beginning of the matches at the top as GM Shabalov beat GM Kraai and GM Ganguly drew GM elect Friedel.

Round 5 top games were a win by GM Moiseenko over GM Bluvshstein and a win by GM Shabalov against GM elect Friedel. At this point the two leaders were GM's Moiseenko and Shabalov with 4 points each while GM Ganguly and IM Robert Hungaski were right behind at 3.5/4. At this point it seemed that IM Hungaski would be the only one who could challenge for an IM norm, however Robert wasn't able to keep pace in the latter rounds.

Round 6 saw the clash of the titans between GM's Shabalov and Moiseenko. It was a very high quality game which won the tournament's best game award and in the end it was probably the game that brought the Ukrainian a victory in the tournament.

**GM Shabalov, Alexander (2611)
GM Moiseenko, Alexander (2632)
B33 Edmonton International (Rnd 6)**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9. Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.0-0 Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne7 14.Qh5 e4 15.Be2 Bg7 16.c3 0-0 17.Nc2 f4 18.f3 f5 19.fxg4 fxe4 20.Bg4 Kh8 21.Rae1 Be5 22.Be6 e3 23.g3 Qb6 24.Kh1 fxg3 25.hxg3 e2 26.Rf3 Rxf3 27.Qxf3 Ng6 28.Ne3 Rf8 29.Nf5 b4 30.c4 Qa5 31.Qb3 Ne7 32.g4 Qd8 33.Qh3



33... Ng6 34.Qh6 Nf4 35.Kg1 Qf6 36. Qxf6+ Rxf6 37.Kf2 Bxb2 38.Kf3 Bc3 39. Kxf4 Bxe1 40.Kf3 Bg3 41.Kxe2 Be5 42. Kd3 a5 43.Kc2 Rg6 44.Nh4 Rh6 45.Nf3 Bf4 46.g5 Rh1 47.Kb3 Rc1 48.Ka4 Rc3 49.Nd4 Ra3+ 50.Kb5 Rxa2 51.c5 dxc5 52. Kxc5 Be3 0-1

In round seven we had another clash of the titans as GM Moiseenko took on Ganguly. This time it was more peaceful and ended in a draw. GM Shabalov continued playing in the uncompromising style and defeated IM Gerzhoy who after a slow start picked up some wins as well. Another notable result from this round was a draw by another new Edmontonian; Vladimir Pechenkin against GM Bluvshstein. As a whole, round 7 was the most drawish, as 8 of the 11 games played ended in a draw. Still the draws were not short which leads me to the special anti-draws rule which we implemented. Before the event we were thinking about a way to prevent short draws in this event. After some delibera-



Round 6: Seated left, GM Shabalov finishes second to GM Moiseenko right

tion we decided to go with the 30 move rule. Under this rule a player is not allowed to offer a draw until move 30 (unless there is a 3 fold repetition). The penalty was 10% of any prizes that would be won. Either because of the impending penalty or because the players didn't want to offend the organizers there were only two games in the entire tournament that ended in a draw before move 30 and both of them were hard fought and ended after the 20th move. If you compare it to similar tournaments I believe that it was quite an accomplishment for the organizing committee.

In round 8 the players were a lot more bloodthirsty. On board 1 GM Moiseenko put a final dagger on IM Hungasky's GM norm hopes, while GM Shabalov beat GM Ganguly which now puts their career score at 3-0!

Going into the last round GM Moiseenko was first at 6.5/8 with GM Shabalov close behind with 6/8 and no draws! It was clear that the first place would be decided between those two as GM Ganguly who was in third had only 5 points.

GM Moiseenko had a draw after GM Kraai put up a tough defense, while GM Shabalov wasn't able to convert a pawn up rook endgame against GM Bluvshtein, which gave clear first to the original inspirer of the Edmonton International-GM Alexander Moiseenko!

It is interesting that GM Moiseenko seemed to win everything that he touched in North America this year. He tied for first in the extremely strong World Open, won first on tie-break in the Canadian Open and finally got a clear first in the 3rd Edmonton International.

The story of the 3rd Edmonton Chess Festival will not be complete without mention-



WFM Tamara Bolvary vs WFM Elizabeth Vicary

ing the Summer Sectional which was a side event.

A total of 24 players played in 4 sections divided by rating. The tournament was played alongside the International between Friday and Sunday (August 1st-3rd). Section A was quite strong and consisted of 6 experts. It was won by Roy Yearwood with 3.5/5. Sardul Purewal and Martin Robichaud tied for second with 3/5

Section B was all A class players. It was won by Ahmet Yamach with 4/5, while Mark Stark came second with 3/5. Section C had some A class and some B class players but in the end the B class prevailed as they had a tie for first between Mike Zegelaar and John Mackey with 3/5 each.

Last but not least section D had the biggest rating range of all sections as the highest rated player was 1613 while the lowest was 1353. In the end the ratings proved vital as

the highest rated; George Sponga won with 4/5. Second was shared by Wayne Mendryk and Jonathan Drury with 3/5 each. When the dust was cleared I believe that we all could share the memories of a wonderful event and we will certainly go on organizing more Edmonton Chess Festivals, but for now let the preparations for the 2009 Canadian Open in Edmonton begin!

Edmonton International prize winners:
Open:

- 1st: GM Alexander Moiseenko (2632, Ukraine) 7/9
- 2nd: GM Alexander Shabalov (2611, USA) 6.5/9
- 3rd: GM Surya Sekhar Ganguly (2631, India) 5.5/9

IM (GM Elect) Josh Friedel (2524, USA) 5.5/9

Best under 2400:

- 1st: IM Leonid Gerzhoy (2399, Canada) 5/9
- FM Raja Panjwani (2310, Canada) 5/9

Best Albertan:

- 1st: IM Edward Porper (2476, Israel/Edmonton) 5/9
- 2nd: Vladimir Pechenkin (2281, Edmonton) 4.5/9

- Steven Peter (2303, Calgary) 4.5/9
- Jeff Reeve (2243, Edmonton) 4.5/9
- Dale Haessel (2149, Calgary) 4.5/9

Visit www.chess.ca and click on the Crosstables link for all of the festival crosstables.



2008 BATTLE AT THE BORDER

By Jamin Gluckie

The second annual Battle at the Border was another outstanding success. Twenty-two people from Alberta and Saskatchewan competed in Lloydminster over the July long weekend, and the prize winners were:

Open

1st: Robert Sasata (\$300)

2nd: Micah Hughey (\$75) and Jose Luna (\$75)

U2000

1st: David Steer (\$150)

2nd: Mike Zeggelaar (\$75)

U1600

1st: Trevor Robertson (\$150)

2nd: Tyler Janzen (\$37.50) and Josh Timm (\$37.50)

Congratulations to all of the winners.

Despite the reduced turnout compared to last year, which is likely due to the tournament being held on a long weekend in the summer, the field of players was exceptionally strong, and there were many notable upsets. This year's Battle also featured several off-beat openings, including two Hammerschlags (1.f3/1...f6), one St. George (1...a6) and one Moshynsky Cocktail (1.h3 and 2.g4). Naturally all of these games contained interesting and unique positions, and the people playing these openings actually fared quite well: Kazakevich defeated Zeggelaar with 1.f3, Yearwood drew Danner with 1...f6, Moshynsky defeated Danner with his special cocktail, and Gluckie drew Steer using 1...a6.

From an Organizer's Perspective

The organizing committee tried to take all of the successful elements of last year's event and combine them with some new ideas to make this year's Battle even better. Some of the notable features of this year's Battle included:

- Lunch was provided for the players on Saturday.
- Coffee, tea, water, and an assortment of muffins were available.

- Everyone received a door prize (nice ones too).
- Everyone was invited to Boston Pizza on Saturday night for supper and drinks.
- Jill created name triangles for everyone, this time featuring the new BATB logo.
- Jill also made personalized BATB scorebooks for everyone.

The name triangles were great again, and very much appreciated by the players. The scorebooks, though, were simply incredible. Filled with carbon copy score sheets, chess puzzles, history, poetry and trivia, and intelligently designed (you have to see them to know what I mean), these books were the talk of the tournament. In fact, I had several people tell me I should charge a larger entry fee because of all the stuff players are getting for only \$25! When is the last time a chess player confessed to you that he'd pay a higher entry fee? In all of my years around the Saskatchewan and Alberta chess scenes, I can't recall this happening before.

I've a grenade with our names scratched on the side

The Saskatoon Chess Club executive approached me two years ago regarding a tournament in Lloydminster, and I agreed to organize an event because, like them, I realized the potential such a tournament would have. Prior to that I had organized numerous tournaments in Saskatoon, and some of them were very successful, both in terms of player turnout and chess strength. However, since that time my definition of a "successful chess tournament" has changed, and I wanted the Battle to reflect that. In other words, I set out to make the Battle into what I consider an ideal weekend swiss to be.

My idea of a great weekend chess tournament is to have a wide array of players from numerous cities, a spectrum of playing strengths, long time controls that are conducive to high quality games, a large prize fund, and a great venue. In addition, a great chess tournament makes every player feel important, regardless of their club affiliation or skill level. On top of all of that, a great tournament provides the time and the means to socialize with fellow players, and to catch up with old friends.

Personally, I believe this year's Battle met all of the above criteria, and I hope that everyone who attended feels the same way. Thank you all for coming and sharing my vision of what a chess tournament should be.

2008 ALBERTA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	ORGANIZER	LOCATION
Sept 20	Battle of Alberta	Jim Daniluk / Micah Hughey	Red Deer
Sept 27-28	Medicine Hat Open	Dr. Bill Taylor	Medicine Hat
Oct 11-13	Alberta Open	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Oct 25	Junior Battle of Alberta	Bruce Thomas	Red Deer
Nov 1-2	Alberta Junior	Richard Pua	Edmonton
Nov 15-16	Southern Alberta Open	Jim Daniluk	Calgary
Dec 13-14	WBX Team Tournament	Vlad Rekhson	Edmonton

BEYOND ALBERTA

Take a look to see how Albertans are doing outside of the province in the rest of Canada and around the world.

Alberta players at New England Masters

Four Albertans participated in the New England Masters tournament in Pawtucket, Rhode Island from August 11-15. They were Victor Kaminski, Eric Hansen, Dale Haessel, and Daniel Kazmaier.

Eric Hansen ended with 5/9, winning four games, drawing two, losing three.

Dale Haessel finished with 4.5/9, scoring four wins, one draw, and lost four.

Daniel Kazmaier managed 2.5/9 with two wins, one draw and lost six.

The event was won by G.M. Sergey Erenburg of Israel with 7.5/9.

The tournament is designed to give players the chance to achieve I.M. and G.M.

norms, and players are required to have a minimum 2200 FIDE rating to participate.

The website is located at www.newenglandmasters.com

2008 Canadian Junior

The Canadian Junior took place this past May in Toronto. A total of twenty players entered, mostly from the Toronto area. The tournament was directed by Liam Henry of Toronto. The event is run as a regular swiss system. The winner represents Canada at the World Junior Championship. Canada did not send a player to the 2008 World Junior which took place in Turkey in August.

The tournament was won by I.M. Artiom Samsonkin with 7.5/9. Alberta was represented by Victor Kaminski, David Zhang, and Tony Cai. Victor finished tied for 7th-9th with 5/9, David Zhang finished with 3.5/9 and Tony Cai scored 3/9. The crosstable can be found on the CFC website www.chess.ca.

The Canadian Junior was once the premier junior event in Canada, but interest in organizing this tournament has been declining as the CFC concentrates on the CYCC.

Las Vegas International & World Open in Philadelphia

Eric Hansen may not be winning the Alberta Road Warrior contest, but if there was a North American version, he would be right up there. In Las Vegas this past June, Eric played in the open section and finished with 3.5/6 just out of the cash, and tied 24th through 42nd. Dale Haessel also played scoring 3/6. Steven Faust of Calgary made 3/6 in the Under 1800 section and played in the BlitzA tournament as well. Also from Calgary, Brian Starkes finished with 3.5/6 in the Under 1400 section.

Eric also played at the World Open in Philadelphia from June 29-July 5, finishing with 5/9, just missing the money by .5 point, but taking home an I.M. norm as consolation. Each year the World Open attracts hundreds of players from around the world with huge prize money in all sections. The total prize fund this year was \$400,000 U.S.\$\$.

Canadian Youth Chess Championship

A total of seven Albertans played in the CYCC this July in Quebec City. Edmonton's Emily Wang scored 2/7 in the Girls Under 8 section. Jamil Kassam of Edmonton performed exceptionally well in the Boys Under 8 section with an impressive 5/7 and sharing 2nd through 4th place. Alberta's current woman's champion, Regina-Veronica Kalaydina of Calgary went undefeated, giving up just one draw to capture clear first in the Girls Under 12 section. Richard Wang of Edmonton finished with 5.5/7, good enough for 2nd place in the Boys Under 10 section. Tony Cai of Calgary scored 4/7 in the Boys Under 12 section. David Zhang scored 3/7 in the Boys Under 14 section. Eric Hansen finished with 4.5/7 in the Boys Under 16 section.

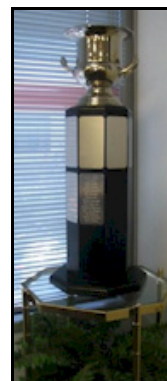
2008 Canadian Open Montreal

Several Albertans made the trip to Quebec to play in the Canadian Open in Montreal in July. The Section A tournament was won by GM's Alexander Moiseenko, Victor Mikhalevski, Matthieu Cornette, and Eduardas Rozentalis with 6.5/9. Eric Hansen finished with 4.5/9. Jamin Gluckie of Lloydminster scored 4.5/9 in Section B, while Calgarian Nandor Tot scored 4/9. Steven Faust of Calgary tallied 4/9 in Section C. In Section D, Road Warrior for 2007 Chris White of La Crete played very well indeed, scoring 7/9 to split 2nd/3rd.

Battle of Alberta

The Battle of Alberta is taking shape with both teams in the selection process. The trash talking has begun with mud flying on both sides of the board. The line has been drawn once again in Red Deer where the warriors will gear up on September 20. The battle takes place at the Red Deer Lodge, site of many bloodlettings. The southern team are the defending champions this time around and will have a tougher time this year thanks to the addition of some new blood in the north. I.M. Edward Porper will play first board with his 2476 rating. He will be facing Eric Hansen from the southern team. This will be an interesting match-up of experience versus youth. So far the north is fielding a team that is better on paper, but you can't go by ratings alone as the south won last year with a lower average rating. Here are the winners of the BOA since 1996.

- 1996 South
- 1997 South
- 1998 North
- 1999 South
- 2000 North
- 2001 South
- 2002 North
- 2003 North
- 2004 North
- 2005 South
- 2006 North
- 2007 South



With six victories a piece, this should be a most interesting rubber match!

Walter Holowach 1909 - 2008

By Bruce Thomas

Alberta Chess lost one of its most famous chess players earlier this year. On April 9, Walter Holowach died at the age of 98. Born in Edmonton in 1909, Holowach got involved in chess while studying violin in Austria at the Vienna Conservatory of Music, 1929 to 1935. While in Vienna, he was taught chess by Grandmaster Gerschenkron, and the lessons and coaching paid off because when he returned to Edmonton, he joined Edmonton Chess Club and became city champ and soon became provincial champ, remaining one of the top players in the province for a number of years from the late 1930's into the early 1950's. In 1939, the Chess Federation of Canada named Holowach to the country's team as Board 4 at the World Chess Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Holowach was more well known to the general public for his life's musical accomplishments which included winning numerous violin awards as a youth, performing with symphony orchestras in Edmonton, Calgary and Ottawa, teaching music in Edmonton and Banff, and making many appearances on radio, television and international music festivals. It is not known when Holowach stopped playing chess, but his family says he became an avid golfer and reached a handicap as low as nine and played his last game at age 97.

Walter was certainly the strongest player in Alberta from the mid 1940's through to the early 1950's. Mr. Holowach won the Alberta Championship five years in a row from 1947 to 1951.

At the 1951 Canadian Championship held in British Columbia, Holowach was one of 13 players and the only from Alberta. He scored two wins and four draws in his 12 games, tying for 10th place.

For decades, Edmonton Chess Club holds the annual Walter Holowach Challenge tournament.

In 2004, Holowach donated all of his chess books to junior chess and the books were distributed at various junior events.

Here is a game of Walter's from the Canadian Championship in 1945. Here Walter plays one of the strongest Canadian players at the time, Nathan Divinsky.

Nathan Joseph Divinsky Walter Holowach D04 1945 Canadian Championship

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 g6 5.Bd3 Bg7 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Re8 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 cxd4 11.Nxd4 e5 12.Nf3 Qc7 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 Nxe4 15.Bxe4 f5 16.Bd5+ Kf8 17.Bg3 f4 18.Nh4 Qd6 19. Bb3 Qf6



20.Qg4 g5 21.Qh5 Re6 22.Bxe6 gxh4 23. Bxd7 Bxd7 24.Bxh4 Qe6 25.Qe2 Bc6 26. f3 Qg6 27.Rad1 Kg8 28.Rd8+ Rxd8 29. Bxd8 Qe8 30.Bc7 Bb5 31.c4 Qc6 32.Bxe5 Bxc4 33.Qe4 Bd5 34.Qxf4 Bf8 35.Qf6 Qxf6 36.Bxf6 Bxa2 37.Bd4 a6 38.Kf2 Bd5 39.Rd1 Bc6 40.Be3 Kf7 41.f4 1-0

At the Canadian Championship of 1951 in Vancouver, Walter played Fedor Bohatirchuk to a draw. No small feat as Bohatirchuk was a very strong player who had only recently moved to Canada from Russia, playing in six USSR championships, quite often finishing in the top five.

Fedor Bohatirchuk Walter Holowach B21 1951 Canadian Championship

1.e4 c5 2.f4 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.c3 d5 5.d3 dxe4 6.dxe4 Qxd1+ 7.Kxd1 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3+ 9.gxf3 e6 10.Be3 Nf6 11.Nd2 0-0-0 12.Kc2 Be7 13.Nb3 Nd7 14.a4 a5 15.Bb5 Kc7



16.Bxc6 Kxc6 17.Nxa5+ Kc7 18.Nc4 b6 19.Rhd1 f6 20.Rd2 Nb8 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22. f5 e5 23.b4 Nc6 24.bxc5 Bxc5 25.Bxc5 bxc5 26.Rg1 Rg8 27.Ne3 Ne7 28.a5 g6 29. Rb1 gxf5 30.exf5 Rb8 31.Rg1 Rg8 32.Ra1 Ra8 33.Kd3 Kc6 34.a6 h5 35.Ra5 Nc8 36. Nc4 Nb6 37.Ne3 Rd8+ 38.Ke2 Ra8 39. Kd3 Ra7 40.Ra1 1/2-1/2

Edmonton wins bid for 2009 Canadian Open

The organizers from Edmonton placed their bid for the 2009 Canadian Open Chess Championship in Montreal at the CFC's AGM this past July. Their bid was unanimously accepted by all CFC governors' in attendance. The dates will be July 11 through 18, 2009. The site has not yet been selected but it is likely to be held somewhere in downtown Edmonton. The organizing committee so far will have Micah Hughey as President, Vlad Rekhson as Vice President, Vitaly Motuz as webmaster, Terry Seehagen and current ACA President Mike Sekuloff. Edmonton has an excellent reputation with the Canadian Open, and held their last CO in 2005. By many accounts the tournament in 2005 is considered to be the finest Canadian Open ever staged. News and developments will be available on the ACA website, and the Canadian Open website once it is up and running.

Alberta Governors of the CFC

Here is the list of current CFC governors from the province of Alberta...

- Micah Hughey
- Rick Pedersen
- Tony Ficzer
- Mark Cole
- Jim Daniluk
- Bruce Thomas (Life Governor)

The duties of a governor are basically to interact with other governors of the CFC to discuss and vote on a variety of Canadian chess related issues. Alberta members of the CFC are encouraged to contact any of these governors to discuss any chess related issues they may have.

WHERE TO PLAY CHESS IN ALBERTA!

For corrections, changes or additions to this listing, email tficzere@telus.net

<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>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>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 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>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>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>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>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 taylorlmw@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Lloydminster Contact: Eugene, 780.875.6352</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 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 taylorlmw@shaw.ca</p>	<p>Edmonton-Millwoods Seniors Drop-in Centre inside Millwoods Town Centre Mall Thursdays, starting 1 p.m.</p>	

ACA unveils new website

The website has been completely redone now and hopefully it is easier on the eyes and a little easier to navigate. There is still work to be done, and bugs to be fixed as some browsers are having problems getting to the site. We hope to resolve these issues soon and will continue to upgrade. In the future we will be expanding the site to include more history, an on-line tournament submission form, provide live game coverage of Alberta events, as well as incorporate a pgn viewer and an Alberta games database.

All information from the old site has been saved, and some of this will be added to the new site in the future when time permits.

Our new site has only one administrator. There are advantages and disadvantages to this approach. The positive is that one administrator allows for more control, and is less likely to sprawl like the old site. The disadvantage is that the work can only be done by one person. As this is part of the executive directors job description, I have designed the site to be simple to update so that it is not a time consuming effort. Feedback from visitors is very important. I need to hear from you. Let me know what

you want to see. Let me know what isn't working for you. Let me know of any errors you find, and also you can send me content that you feel is appropriate for the site.

Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss the website, or any other chess related issues you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

tficzere@telus.net
Website: www.albertachess.org

Tony Ficzere
Executive Director
Alberta Chess Association

**TOP 40 CFC RATED
ALBERTANS
September 1, 2008**

#	Name	Rating
1	Porper, Eduard	2472
2	Gicev, Blagoj	2376
3	Hansen, Eric	2349
4	Huber, Gregory	2339
5	Reeve, Jeff	2334
6	Peter, Steven	2309
7	Pechenkin, Vladimir	2288
8	Haessel, Dale	2275
9	Neven, Knut	2268
10	Haynes, Nicolas	2222
11	Hughey, Micah	2218
12	Schaeffer, Jonathan	2206
13	Rekhson, Vladislav	2195
14	Nguyen, Kim	2175
15	Perron, Sean	2134
16	Yearwood, Roy	2131
17	Robichaud, Martin	2128
18	Yuffa, Daniil	2114
19	Grumic, Sasa	2106
20	Monaghan, Jim	2090
21	Gorelik, Lev	2079
22	Campbell, Gordon	2077
23	Purewal, Sardul	2076
24	Mrugala, David	2075
25	Vasilev, Stephan	2070
26	Willis, Bradley J.	2063
27	Daniluk, Jim	2024
28	Kuczaj, Chris	1997
29	Trikha, Ravi	1996
30	Steele, Len C.	1984
31	Tot, Nandor	1981
32	Tam, Erik	1979
33	MacIntosh, John J.	1974
34	Karmali, Hafiz	1968
35	Rusnell, Lorne	1966
36	Dean, Tim	1961
37	Cacho, Belly	1957
38	Regimbald, Adrien	1946
39	Yamach, Ahmet	1940
40	Stark, Mark	1937

**TOP 10 FIDE RATED
ALBERTANS
September 1, 2008**

#	Name	Rating
1	Hansen, Eric	2268
2	Reeve, Jeff	2243
3	Huber, Greg (FM)	2236
4	Kaminski, Victor	2212
5	Gardner, Rob	2185
6	Neven, Knut	2179
7	Haynes, Nicolas	2175
8	Haessel, Dale	2149
9	Robichaud, Martin	2136
10	Kazmaier, Daniel	2134

14th Annual Medicine Hat Open

September 27 & 28, 2008

Conference Room (lower floor), Best Western Inn
722 Redcliff Dr. S.W., Medicine Hat

Format: 5 Round Swiss, CFC Rated

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increments/move

Tournament Director: (Dr.) Bill Taylor

Times: Saturday 10 a.m., 2:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. 1 p.m.

Entry Fee: Adults \$20; Juniors (< 18) \$15; 14 & Under (No Prize Option) \$5
Over 2300 CFC or FIDE - Free entry

Free snacks, "Drinks & Dessert" on Saturday night
"Lunch for a buck" on Sunday

Prizes: Based on entries - 100% of entry fees, merchandise included!

Prize Sections to be determined by rating distribution
1st and 2nd Place plaques, Permanent Trophy nameplate

Registration: Pre-Event Registration strongly encouraged
On site Saturday 9 to 9:45

Accommodations: A limited number of billeting opportunities may be available and will be decided on a case-by-case basis. As in past years, I can accommodate 2 - 4 people at my house (1015 - 3rd St. N.W.). A couple of our club's members have indicated they may be able to accommodate a few players. Space is on a first come, first served basis, with arrangements to be made in advance. I fully expect appropriate courtesy and/or gratitude be extended to the host(s) by the recipients. According to many previous hosts, such appropriate visitation etiquette and/or expression of gratitude has often been lacking.

A list of hotels/motels can be found on the ACA website

Info: Bill Taylor 403.526.5484 (H) 403.529.0010 (W)

Email: taylormw@shaw.ca

For complete tournament details, visit www.albertachess.org

This is a registered *Road Warrior* event!



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The Alberta Chess Association



2008 Alberta Open

October 11, 12, 13, 2008

Quality Inn, 2359 Banff Trail NW, Calgary, 800.661.4667

6 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE Rated, ONE SECTION

CFC membership required, can be purchased on site

TD: Tony Ficzer

Time Control: Game in 110 + 30 second increment

Rounds: 10 a.m. & 3 p.m. each day (Rnd 6 ASAP after Rnd 5)

Byes: 1/2 point byes available Rounds 1-5 if notified before start of Round 1

Top finishing Albertan qualifies to the 2009 Alberta Closed

Prizes: \$1,000 guaranteed, will increase with entries and donations

Entry Fee: Adult \$25, Junior (<18) \$20. Free entry to I.M.'s & G.M.'s.

Registration: Advanced entries encouraged. In Calgary, contact Jim Daniluk at CCC, In Edmonton contact Micah Hughey at ECC, in Grande Prairie contact Tim Pradzinski at GPCC, or email Tony Ficzer at tficzer@telus.net or phone 403.971.2437

All equipment supplied. No smoking, no computers, no cell phones

Accommodations: Available at the Quality Inn, ask for chess rate. Contact Tony Ficzer for possible billet.

Visit www.albertachess.org for tournament updates and advanced registrations.

This is a registered *Road Warrior* event!



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2008 Southern Alberta Open

November 15 & 16, 2008

Calgary Chess Club, #274, 3359-27th St. NE

5 Round Swiss, CFC & FIDE Rated

CFC membership required, can be purchased on site

TD: TBD

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increment

Rounds: Saturday 9 a.m., 1 p.m., 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. ASAP

Byes: 1/2 point byes available Rounds 1-4 if notified before start of Round 1

Top finishing Albertan qualifies to the 2009 Alberta Closed

Prizes: 100% of entry fees + donations

Entry Fee: \$25

Registration: Advanced entries encouraged. Contact Jim Daniluk at sacrat@shaw.ca or phone Calgary Chess Club (leave message) 403.264.9498

All equipment supplied. No smoking, no computers, no cell phones

Accommodations: Contact Tony Ficzer at tficzer@telus.net or phone 403.971.2437 for possible billet & hotel information.

Visit www.albertachess.org for tournament updates and advanced registrations.

This is a registered *Road Warrior* event!



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ACA eligible for new fundraising program

By Tony Ficzer

The province of Alberta has a new program that may be of interest to the Alberta Chess Association and its members. In a nutshell, we can collect donations to the ACA from individuals, and the Community Spirit program will basically match our donations collected in each fiscal year. So for example, if we can collect donations in one year of \$5,000, the Community Spirit Program will give us \$5,000. The paragraphs below are taken from the programs website.

The goal of the Community Spirit program is to increase individual charitable giving to help support Alberta's non-profit and charitable organizations. The program recognizes and encourages donations made by individuals to Alberta-based community organizations by providing financial incentives for individual donors and the recipient organizations.

Effective January 1, 2007 the Alberta tax credit on annual individual donations over \$200 to Canada Revenue Agency registered charities increased from 12.75% to 21%. Including the federal tax credit, Albertans can now claim a 50-cent tax credit for every dollar donated over the \$200 threshold on their personal income tax return.

Effective April 2008, all eligible Alberta-based non-profit organizations and Canada Revenue Agency registered charities that have received eligible cash donations from individuals may apply for a proportional donation grant from the Government of Alberta.

Providing that the grant supports a philanthropic purpose, this donor-driven grant program can be used to fund an organization's operating costs, programs and/or capital projects. The donation grant will be calculated by allocating the program's available funds based on the amount of eligible cash donations from individuals that were received by eligible applicants. The donation grant will vary from year to year, and is subject to a maximum of \$25,000 per annum or \$50,000 over three years.

Website: communityspiritprogram.ca

I believe this is an excellent opportunity for the ACA to raise funds for the programs we provide throughout Alberta. The monies raised must be used for operating expenses, programs, or capital expenditures. We have until December 31, 2008 to fill out our initial application, and would have to collect donations totaling at least \$1,000. If we can raise more, even better.

The CFC Annual General Meeting

By Tony Ficzer

Away from the board, the CFC held their AGM. The new president of the CFC is David Lavin. David was a prominent organizer in Toronto in the late 70's and early 80's, as well as a strong player himself. David put chess on the backburner in the late 80's to pursue other personal goals. Since that time, David has become a very successful businessman and now heads up "The Lavin Agency", one of North America's largest speakers bureaus. David brings a wealth of experience to the position and there is no question that he has his work cut out for himself as well as the rest of the executive. The new executive now consists of;

President: David Lavin

Vice President: Stijn DeKerpel

Secretary: Lyle Craver

Treasurer: Christopher Mallon

Junior Coordinator: Ellen Nadeau

FIDE Rep: Michael Barron

Past President: Hal Bond

The first governors letter of the new administration is now out and available to read on the CFC website (www.chess.ca/governorsletters.htm). In it you will read about the initiatives underway to restructure the CFC. Of main interest are four items that affect us all as members of the CFC. Namely;

1. The creation of a new rating program that will integrate with SwissSys which will automate the submission of CFC rated tournaments.
2. The elimination of the books and equipment business.
3. The sale of the CFC business office.
4. The development of an on-line CFC magazine.

These initiatives represent a major restructuring of the CFC.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR
ACA CASINO
YELLOWHEAD
12464 153rd Street
EDMONTON
SEPTEMBER 13-14
(Saturday & Sunday)

Casinos are the major source of fundraising for the Alberta Chess Association and volunteers are needed to help. The last casino raised over \$68,000! Work is easy, meals are provided, and expenses will be covered. Approximately 30 volunteers are needed. Please give to CHESS by helping.

If you would like to volunteer for the upcoming ACA Casino, please contact...

FORD WONG
780.481.6474
email: fordie@shaw.ca

CHESS BOOK BLOWOUT

The CFC is eliminating their book inventory

Everything must go!
Great discounts

Visit www.chess.ca
while supplies last



2008 ACA
BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 30
RED DEER

Visit www.albertachess.org

WBX Team Tournament

December 13, 14, 2008

Edmonton Chess Club, #204 10840-124 St

Three players per team (one substitute per team is allowed)

The average rating of the team playing in every round cannot exceed 1900!

Entry Fee: \$75 per team

The captain is expected to collect and submit the team entry fee. CFC membership required and can be purchased at site. An additional \$10 will be charged per non-CFC member of a team

Discounts: A team will have a \$5 discount per junior (18 and younger) player in its roster

Teams with FIDE titled players (GM, IM, FM) will receive a \$25 discount

FIDE titled players must play in at least 3 games to be eligible for the discount

Format: 5 Round Swiss (with sufficient number of teams)

Time Control: Game in 90 + 30 second increments

Time of Rounds: Saturday, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. (or ASAP after Rnd 4)

Prizes: 100% of entry fees. Class prizes will be available

Before you register a team please make sure that you read the full regulations!

Team Regulations

How do I join a team? It's easy, ask a few people around the club, or just chess players that you know, make sure that your team is within the tournament's regulations, decide on who will be the captain and let Vlad know!

Maximum Ratings: Each team must have an average rating of 1900 or less in each round. To figure out your team average per round, simply add the three ratings together and divide by three. If this number is 1900 or less, your team is "legal".

Which rating period will be used? The CFC rating at the time of the official registration will be used. So if a team registers in October but the average rating of its members rises by December, they are still eligible.

Will the CFC ratings be used? Yes, unless the individual doesn't have a CFC rating. In that case the determination of the rating will be up to the organizer.

Who will I get to play? Teams will have pre-determined board orders. Then in each match the first board will play the first board of the other team. Second, against the second board of the other team, and third against the third. The board order will not change during the event. Board order will generally be based on ratings, however, the teams can change two players that are within 100 points of each other as long as its done before the event. For example board 1 can be 1750 while board 2 would be 1825, however, if board 1 is 1750 board 2 can't be 1875.

What are the duties of the team captain? The team captain will be responsible for all communications with the tournament organizer. That will include: determining who will be on a team in each round, making any kind of appeals, and paying the entry fee. The team captain can also advise team members regarding draw offers. If a member of a team is offered a draw a team captain can be consulted and his answer can only be yes, no, or no response (The answer has to be made without looking at the position as the decision will be based solely on the needs of the team). The team captain will also be responsible for determining the team name.

What if I can't find a team? It is advisable for individuals to try and organize their own teams (It's also a lot more fun that way), however if you absolutely can't find players to play with you may contact the organizer.

How to contact the organizer? Please email me at vrekhsn@yahoo.ca with any requests.

Vlad Rekhson

2008 WBX Team Tournament Organizer

This is a registered *Road Warrior* event!



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