

# Game on at annual chess tournament

By Jillian Toman

It was queens, bishops and checkmates at the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans Hall April 7 as the location of the 34th annual Perth County Elementary Chess Tournament. One hundred and nineteen students of 17 separate and public schools participated in the showdown.

The tournament was divided into four categories – junior team (four members), junior individual, senior team (four members) and senior individual.

Event coordinator Susan MacDonald sends a big thanks to the Knights of Columbus for covering the cost of the hall rental, and

to the Optimist club for all the awards and engravings and for providing lunch for the young competitors.

Optimist Club president Mike Gornyczki presented awards to the champions. Winning the Senior Individual category was Isaac MacDonald from North Easthope Public School. Second place went to Graham Cooper from Sprucedale, and third place went to Travis Mann from Arthur Meighen.

The North Easthope team of Ryan Becker, Tim Wettlaufer, Justin Berger and Andrew Horne took home the Senior Team Champions award; second place went to St. Marys Listowel, while third place went to Stratford Central.

John Fischer from Bedford School was the Junior Individual champion, while Jessie MacDonald from North Easthope took second – the only girl to win an award. Third place went to Luke Runsteadler from St. Marys Listowel. Junior Team champions

were Justin Horne, Craig Rose, Mackenzie Mohr and Luke Roth from North Easthope. Second place went to the team at Avon, and third place to Bedford. MacDonald sends a special thanks to Maurice McIn and son Tyler for all the score keeping, to Garry

Turner of the Optimist club for volunteering his time, to all the children for participating, and to the chess coaches who took the time to make the event happen.



Alex Zelu and Alex Vananklooster enjoy a practice round at the 34th annual Perth County Elementary Chess Tournament April 7.  
Jillian Toman/Citizen