IM Mark Plotkin (CFC 2490; FIDE 2364)

Mark is pictured above accepting the ANVO CUP, after winning the 2026 PEI Open. Mark also took 1st place in the PEI Rapid Championship.

Mark is returning to PEI, for the MCF again this year, after a successful MCF event here in 2025, winning both the Rapid and Blitz Championships, and taking second place in the Open.

Mark wrote the following intro for himself - 2025/08

Hello everyone!

My name is Mark Plotkin, and I'm 26 years old, originally born in Haifa, Israel and moved to Canada in 2002 when I was 3.5 years old. My father, who is a FIDE Master and a former 5x captain of the Canadian Olympic Chess Team, taught me the game when I was 5 years old. I competed a lot with my older sister Rina, who placed 3rd in nationals in the U12 Girls category. Gaining strength and improving through competition was essential in the Plotkin household, and so I'd play my older sister a lot, and lose a lot. Funnily enough, I still have those score sheets saved from our "legendary" battles. Even to this day, you will likely find me and my family duking it out over the kitchen table trying to outwit each other in any possible board game imaginable. No relationship is too sacred to stop ourselves from going all in to win. You're either a winner, or a loser. And I love to win.

For me, chess became a bonding experience with my family, especially my father who is still at the age of 56, one of the top players in Canada. I would always travel around the globe with him, whether it was playing in WYCC and him coaching me, or playing events together, such as the Riga Technical Open in 2021.

I graduated with a degree in Journalism and Political Science from the University of Toronto in 2020.

In 2018, I got the FIDE Master title at Philadelphia International. In February 2020, I completed all the necessary requirements to get the IM title.

Currently, I am a full-time chess coach, and a co-founder of the Toronto Chess Centre. My goal is to inspire the next generation to become great players, and great leaders as well. I get much more satisfaction nowadays in seeing kids and adults improving than winning myself. However, I do like to play on occasion. I'm a big fan of faster time controls, and an even bigger fan of bughouse. Recently, I've gotten the itch to play more standard over-the-board games, and I'm excited to play in PEI for the second time (the first time was a blitz tournament I played over the summer in 2022).