



AUGUST 22 2011

# NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends,

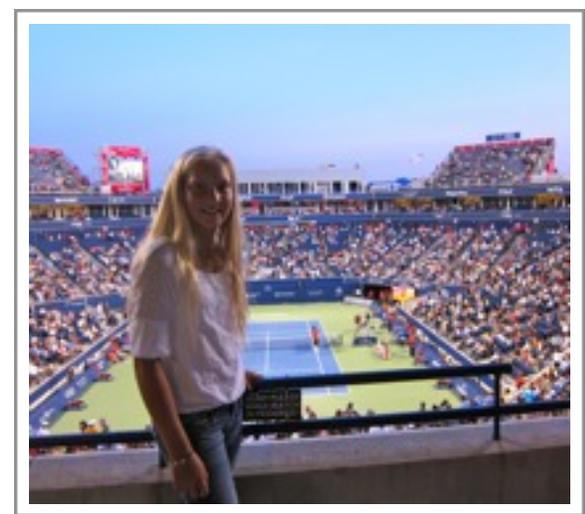
Congratulations to Charlotte Petrick for two wonderful weeks of competition at the Canadian U18 Championships in Toronto and the Canadian U16 Championships in Laval Quebec.

She has two silver medals for doubles, a bronze medal for U16 singles, and a 4th place finish for U18 singles to show for it. In each event, it was Gloria Liang who got the best of Charlotte in the singles, with tough 3-set matches being played each time. It's easy to forget Charlotte is still only 14 years of age!

The most exciting day of the two weeks had to be the medal matches for the U18 Championships, as they were played on Court 4 at the Rogers Cup last Friday. The players had all the trappings of the regular tournament, and Charlotte's match attracted a big crowd. Later in the evening, she had a bird's eye view of Serena Williams and Lucy Safarova from a suite above center court.

## In This Issue

- Congratulations, Charlotte
- Around the Rogers Cup
- Our Stacey Allister
- Special Visitors
- Club happenings
- In memory : Joe Nixon



## AROUND THE ROGERS CUP(S)

It's great that so many players from the Niagara Peninsula make their way to the Rogers Cup tournaments every year. Perhaps one day someone will organize a bus expedition. This year two keen players attended the Montreal tournament for the first time and came back with rave reviews. If you've been considering a trip to Montreal, perhaps this report from Sarah Chapman-Jay will seal the deal for you:

*We had a fabulous time: 26 hours worth of tennis spectating in 2 days, including Dodig beating Nadal in the 2nd round, Tsonga beating Federer in the 3rd round, the Murray brothers, the Bryan brothers, Nestor and some hotblooded spaniards (Lopez and Verdasco) in some fast action doubles games, Djokovic winning against Davydenko and Cilic, and a great game between Fish and Lopez (11pm till 1.30am). On top of all that, I had the pleasure of travelling with Janice Schachtschneider, a fabulous organiser, Kathy Goodin, a brilliant driver and myself being the chief navigator. Janice was able to find the best seats in the shade and a great angle to watch the games. We all came to the conclusion that next time we go, it will have to be for at least a week!*

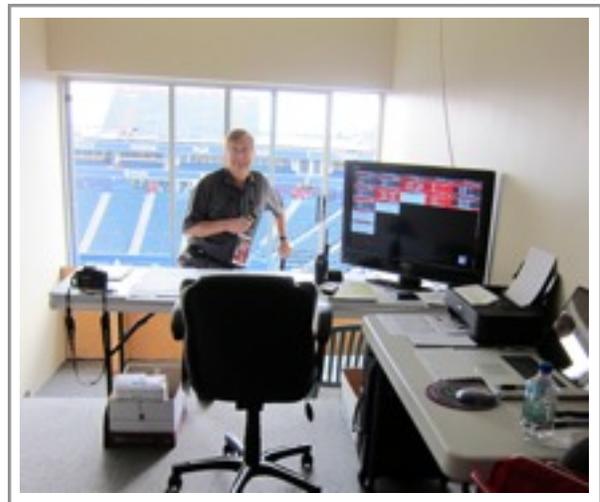


There are always many things besides the on-court matches happening at the tournaments. Friday is special in both Toronto and Montreal as it's Fly Emirates Day. Fans who wear the souvenir red hat have a chance to be chosen at random throughout the day ... then be invited to center court for a special draw in the evening. The lucky winner has a pair of first-class tickets on Emirates Air.

And players who are involved with Courtside Canada had a chance for a celebrity photo, as Jim Courier stopped by the special gathering. If you haven't yet registered for [www.courtsidecanada.ca](http://www.courtsidecanada.ca), now is the time. They'll be having a major launch at the 2012 tournaments.

Honorable mention goes to Niagara-on-the-Lake Don Goodwin, master of ceremonies for the Rogers Cup in Toronto for the 33rd consecutive year. He watches the proceedings from this cozy office in the broadcast tower above the stadium.

There is no truth to the rumor Don was also the master of ceremonies for the Canadian Opens held in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 1895-1913.



## STACEY ALLISTER ... A VERY SPECIAL PERSON



If you want to be inspired, Stacey Allister is a great place to start. She shows us it's possible to achieve anything we set our minds and hearts to.

It all started in 1975, when a 12-year-old was chosen from a schools program for a summer scholarship at the Welland Tennis Club. She had shown hustle and persistence that stood out from the other kids, so the club offered her a racquet, a junior membership and some lessons. Four years later, Stacey was running the Junior Program at the club - learning as she went, trying new ideas, never afraid to fail.

Today, Stacey is the most prominent female sports executive in the world and one of the most influential people in the world of tennis. She's the Chair and CEO of the WTA Tour, guiding the women's professional game through these turbulent economic times.

How do you do that ... how do you go from there to there? Stacey says : "Don't let anyone tell you something can't be accomplished." And for a leader, no task is too small to have her attention. Stacey is a remarkable leader, inspiring great loyalty and admiration from those on her team.

On Saturday night, she was honored alongside Andre Agassi as inductees in the Rogers Cup Hall of Fame. In the tribute video shown on the big screen above center court, the Welland Tennis Club had a starring role, including Al Dizenzo, Stacey's partner for the club mixed doubles championship. Did those club members have any idea where this young player's career would lead?

Stacey's strengths would likely have taken her to the top in whatever path she set out on. It was fortunate for Tennis that a small community club had the foresight to establish an outreach program, to search for talent and to provide an environment in which that special ability could develop and grow. Who knows what other talent is waiting to be discovered in the Niagara Peninsula. We hope our community clubs will be inspired by Stacey Allister's story and take our great game to all our schools and neighborhoods.



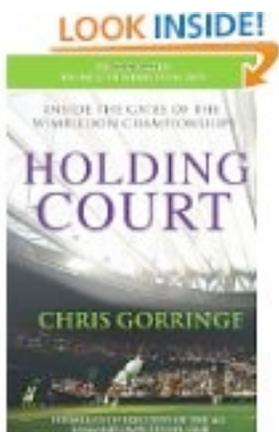
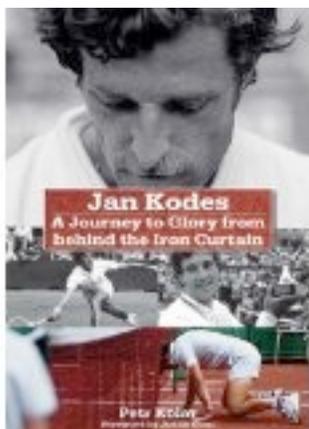
*The Center Court ceremony : Stacey Allister, with her daughter Alexandra, her son Jack, and her husband John Milkovich  
The other fellow is someone called Andre Agassi.*

## A MEMORABLE OCCASION AT OUR CLUB

Niagara-on-the-Lake is accustomed to seeing famous people ... people from the world of entertainment, professional sports, business and finance ... the whole gamut. But they don't usually pay a visit to our little Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club. This week, a tour of All-England Lawn Tennis Club members made a side trip to Niagara as part of their Cross-Canada Tour, and three with glittering resumes came to Memorial Park to check things out.

Meeting Jan Kodes and Chris Gorringe, in the company of their friend John Beddington, was an inspiration in two important ways : the first was to see the passion they all have for tennis. They've been in the game all their lives and it continues to play a central part. Tennis truly is a sport for life, with the capacity to bring remarkable experiences again and again. The second inspiration was to see they could care about something as simple as our little tennis endeavor in the park. Although it would have been nice to show them something more in keeping with general expectations of a facility in Niagara-on-the-Lake, they were nevertheless interested in what we had and how it was managed.

They all care about Tennis in a big-picture way, have been involved in development projects of all kinds, and know what it takes to make big things happen against all the odds. The spirit of their visit will live on, and we hope one day we'll have a Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club to which we could invite them for a match.



**Jan Kodes** is the 1973 Wimbledon champion, the 1970 and 1971 French Open champion, the 1971 and 1973 US Open finalist, 1980 Davis Cup champion, and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1990.

**Chris Gorringe** CBE, was CEO of the All-England Club from 1979-2005. His wife Jenny is an avid tennis player, enjoying county team competition.

**Don Goodwin** has been the voice of the Rogers Cup for 33 years, was the voice of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, was a leader of the Canadian Olympic Teams in 1972 in Munich and 1976 in Innsbruck.

**John Beddington** directed the Canadian Open Tennis Championships as chairman, as director, and as executive vice president of Tennis Canada from 1979-1995. He remains involved in many tennis projects including the yearend Masters Cup in London England.

## HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CLUB

### TUESDAY NIGHTS ...

Otto Werner's Tuesday night game started years ago at the Heidelberg Club in St Catharines and has been played at Niagara-on-the-Lake for 8 years. There are always eight players and they take turns cooking dinner for the group. Last week it was Miro Posa's chance to be the chef and he treated the players to wonderful dishes featuring produce from his extensive gardens.

At this time of year, when darkness starts to come earlier, the players recall that Otto (owner of Sandham Electric) designed state-of-the-art lighting for the Heidelberg Club and offered Niagara-on-the-Lake the benefit of his research and experience when our courts were built in 1986. Unfortunately another approach was taken, and we often hear comments expressing dissatisfaction with the situation today



### INTER-CLUB SOCIAL WITH WELLAND

Thanks to Mary Pohorly for organizing an Inter-Club Social Match. As NTN goes to deadline, this group of 8 players from NOTL TC and 8 players from Welland TC are enjoying matches and a happy hour. Club members are encouraged to organize special events like this with other clubs. Just let us know your plans.



## IN MEMORY OF JOE NIXON



JOSE ALEXANDER BANFIELD NIXON After a short battle with leukemia, Joe passed away at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre on Wednesday, August 10, 2011. Joe was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on September 1, 1922.

Dearly beloved husband of 67 years to Natalie (nee Kemp) and cherished father of Peter (Laurie), Susie (John MacIsaac) and Jody. Treasured grandfather of Sarah and Nick, Stephen, Amanda and Graham, Addie and Mitchell. Great-grandfather to Grant, Lily and Pete, Noah and Elle. Predeceased by his brother George Eccles Nixon (May 1945) and son-in-law Richard Hugh MacKenzie (February 1999). A [WWII](#) veteran, Joe served as an officer (Lieutenant Scout Platoon) with the Black Watch RHR of Canada, remaining proudly and actively associated with his regiment through the remainder of his life. Condolences and memories may be forwarded through [www.humphreymiles.com](http://www.humphreymiles.com)

It's with sadness that we share news of the death of Joe Nixon. Joe was a member of our club for only two years, but he will be remembered fondly. Joe and Natalie lived at 225 Ricardo in Niagara-on-the-Lake and wintered in Bonita Springs Florida. Joe was a founding member of our "Masters Club" of players resolved to play tennis into their 70s, 80s and 90s.



Seen here in June 2010, Joe Nixon is on the far left.  
Standing: Pete Unger, Murray Fitzsimmons, Jack Schuster  
Next to Joe: Phil Landray, Michael Beck, Jim Mergelas, Dale Daniels

Best regards,  
Rosemary Goodwin

on behalf of your Volunteer Committee : Ian Waddell, John Christie, Janice Schachtschneider,  
Liz Vinassac, Charlene Juras, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Larry Mantle, Peter Marchesseau.

