



AUGUST 31 2011

NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends,

You'd be shocked if I didn't report that the Mixed Doubles Tournament was a big success ... but, truly, the Mixed Doubles Tournament was a BIG success! It's been interesting to reflect on it over the past few days, and there are a few things providing food for thought.

Did you note the magnitude of the impact we made by having an event that lasted all day? We were there on Friday from 6pm to 10pm, and on Saturday from 8am to 8pm. And it was a substantial presence ... lots of people, lots of happy atmosphere. This was noticed by a significant number of passers-by, many of whom stopped to talk and gather information about us. Although our rate of court usage is very high day in and day out, our lack of off-court facilities makes it such that we come then we go. There's little to catch the eye of observers or help them appreciate how active the Tennis Club is. So larger, longer events definitely are an important element if we're to achieve a higher profile within the Town.

Where did all the players come from, and how is it that the playing level was so good? We had 44 players, all registered a week and a half before the tournament. There are many others who would have liked to play but weren't able to because of injury or holidays or other commitments. It's easy to imagine there being a field of 64 next season at this time. We hope this is a result of all the programs we have at the club, but two things stand out:

One is the rejuvenated Friday Night Mixed Doubles program, spearheaded by Charlene Juras. From the start of the season, when over 60 players indicated on their registration forms an interest in Friday night play, Charlene has facilitated lively get-togethers every week. This has enabled members to get to know one another, to feel comfortable playing mixed doubles, and to want to support club events. A key element in Charlene's approach has been the mixing of playing levels, with less experienced players receiving encouragement from more experienced players, and with a strong social component being added to the mix. It was great to have a broad spectrum of playing levels in the tournament.

The other program that stands out is the Clinics by Shawna Macfarlane. It was wonderful to have in the tournament several graduates of Shawna's Tennis 101 learn-to-play clinics ... all keen and enthusiastic about the experience, and holding their own very well indeed. But it was also noteworthy that among the most successful teams in the tournament were players who are regulars at Go Tennis and Tennis 102 clinics. It definitely helps to receive ongoing instruction in the basic tactics of playing doubles, as well as to practice drills that sharpen our basic skills.

When we surveyed the membership in the spring of 2008, you said our club should have opportunities for receiving coaching, programs for meeting and playing with other members, and competitive events. Four years later, it appears the process is well underway.

This is the Last Call for entries to the
Singles Tournaments on Sunday September 4,
and the Men's A Doubles Tournament on Saturday September 10.
New date for the Junior Singles is September 11.

For Singles, contact Rosemary at 905 468 5503.
For Doubles, contact Albert at 905 328 9304 or 905 704 8730.

Another element in the success of our tournament was the support of strong players. In the past, it would have been easy to say there isn't a lot at our club for strong players. But the other viewpoint is to say : what can the strong players do for the club ... the JFK attitude from the 1960s. A key person in promoting this approach has been Albert Reyes. Albert has made a determined effort this summer to bring strong play to the courts of all the community clubs in the Niagara Peninsula : Grimsby TC, Port Colborne TC, Fort Erie TC and Niagara-on-the-Lake TC. All have benefitted and all have appreciated Albert's efforts in encouraging strong players to get involved.

So thank you Albert ... thank you Shawna ... thank you Charlene ... and thank you to all the players, volunteers and spectators who made the 2011 Mixed Doubles Tournament a wonderful experience.



*Chris Wormwell, Max Bade, Flory Massi, Mary Pohorly, Gillian Venturi, Vittorio Venturi, Ken Smith, Jackie Donnelly, Steve Ferley, Carmen Bowron, Bonnie Sartor, Jim Thackray, Dennis Donnelly.
In front: Helen Ferley, Patricia Campbell, Chris Bowron.*



Harv Bussey, Pat Bryan, Brenda Sabine-Green, Will Paley, Gary Inkster, Neil Cuthbertson, Deb Robert, Gerry McIlhone, Mary Ann Enns, Linda Telford, Pat Young, Amy Weiner, Marilyn Francis, Terry Francis, Richard Berti, Larry Young.



*Don Pozojevic, Charlene Juras,
Hugh Dow, Nancy Berkhout,
Johanne Cote-Crawford, Albert Reyes,
Thitima Christopher, Michael Alexander,
Sarah Chapman-Jay, Brian McVanel,
Stefa Korda, Roman Korda.*

McVanel Communications Trophy

Champions: **Thitima Christopher & Michael Alexander**
Finalists: Stefa & Roman Korda

Consolation: Nancy Berkhout & Don Pozojevic
Finalists: Charlene Juras & Hugh Dow

Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty Trophy

Champions: **Mary Ann Enns & Gerry McIlhone**
Finalists: Helen & Steve Ferley
Semi-finalists: Amy Weiner & Gary Inkster
Patricia Campbell & Max Bade

Consolation: Mary Pohorly & Flory Massi
Finalists: Gillian & Vittorio Venturi

Crabtree & Evelyn Trophy

Champions: **Bonnie Sartor & Jim Thackray**
Finalists: Marilyn & Terry Francis
Semi-finalists: Carmen & Chris Bowron
Deb Robert & Neil Cuthbertson

Consolation: Pat Bryan & Harv Bussey
Finalists: Jackie & Dennis Donnelly

*Many thanks to these fine
sponsors, and to
Pam's Pro Shop
for supporting our tournament.*



Secrets to a successful tennis tournament? Great volunteers and lots of food! Thanks to Alan and Marion Briston, Monica Berti, Marlene Walther and Joanne Dow for looking after us all day. Marlene was the mastermind, arranging for the midday lunch and organizing the other volunteers. She was awesome. Special thanks to Jackie Donnelly, Charlene Juras, Gillian Venturi, Pat Bryan and others who made extra contributions above and beyond what the club provided for the players.



Match of the Day : Terry & Marilyn Francis were edged by Bonnie Sartor and Jim Thackray 7-6 6-2 10-8. The match lasted over two hours!

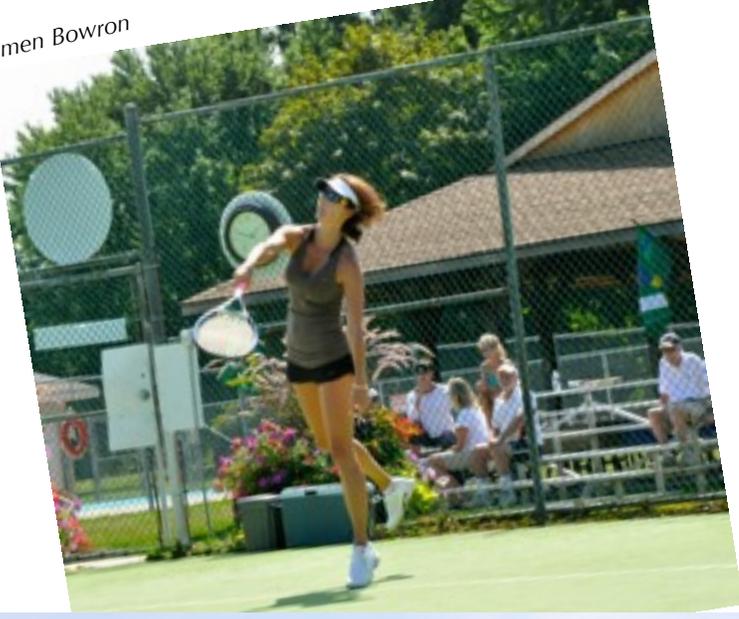


*On the left:
Thitima Christopher &
Michael Alexander*

*On the right:
Mary Ann Enns &
Gerry McIlhone*



Carmen Bowron



Albert Reyes



Charlene Juras & Hugh Dow



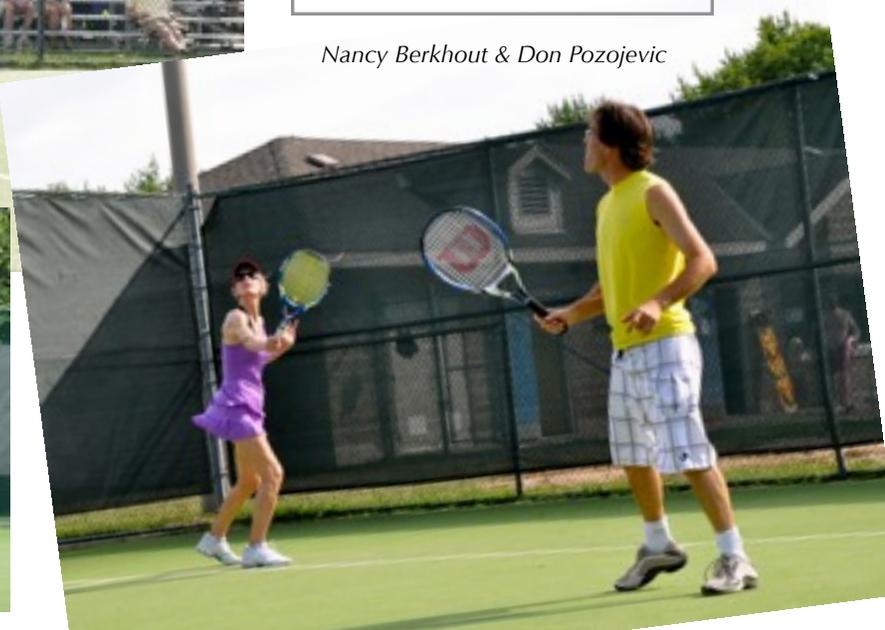
Helen Ferley

**ACTION PHOTOS BY
KEN SMITH**

Gerry McIlhone



Nancy Berkhout & Don Pozojevic



Chris Bowron



LOST & FOUND DEPARTMENT :

A very nice pair of sunglasses was recovered on Saturday night by Chris Bowron. If you're missing them, please let us know so they can be returned to you.

Brenda Parks has misplaced another nice pair of sunglasses likely on Thursday August 25 at the clinic. If you found them, Brenda will be very happy to hear from you.

COURT SCHEDULE FOR LABOUR DAY :

The Ladies Round Robin will go as usual from 8:30 - 10:00 on Monday morning. However, the Regular Game at 10:30 has been canceled for this week.

If you have the day off work and are looking for a little Tennis Time, you should be able to find a court any time after 10:30 am.

IT MUST BE LOVE !

That's the slogan on the website for the US Open Championships this week ... and that's a great way to recycle those old wooden tennis racquets in the attic. The novel art piece was created for Susan Flight and Mark Stevens by Anthony (Spook) Cepukas, a classmate from earlier times who now lives in Kingston.



*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.*