



Niagara Tennis News

Stories, reports and ideas about Tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond.

August 4 2012

Hello Tennis Friends!

It's mid-summer, mid-2012, and mid-Olympics. There's an abundance of stimulation for all our senses at every turn, whether succulent peaches and tomatoes, glorious full moon evenings or inspiring athletic performances. It all provides much food for thought, and overwhelming feelings of gratitude and appreciation.

And so it was a very happy surprise to find our tennis courts adorned this week with a symbol of all that is good in our world. A phantom decorator installed the rings, leaving no indication of who had brought us this gift. We can only assume it was someone who respects tradition, and who wants to inspire us with the values and ideals of the Olympics : to dream big dreams, and become the best we can be. Does that sound like a club member you know? If you guess who it is, be sure to thank him.

It's been wonderful this week to hear conversations at every turn dealing with the Olympics. Everyone marvels at the diversity, at the variety, at the bravery and daring, at the excellence. We also become fully engaged in the emotions, in the stories of struggle and triumph over adversity, in the determination and will to perform beyond expectations.

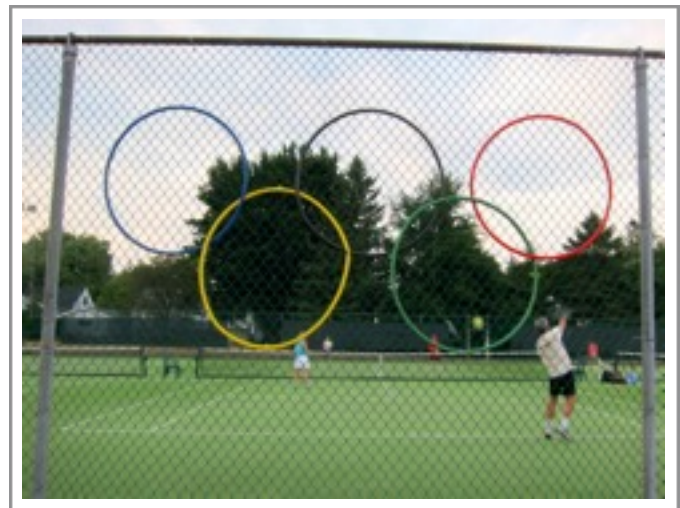
One theme heard over and over again from the Games is the importance of the vision. Athletes and coaches repeat it in many ways and with a variety of words, but the message is the same : if you can imagine it, you can make it come true. This is the powerful force that creates progress for humankind, as individuals and as a society.

And in this regard, we're not different from those remarkable athletes we see at the Olympic Games. We too can strive to be the best we can be. As we go about our lives here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we all want to be happy and we want to be healthy ... pretty simple stuff. And as we imagine ourselves in that state, Tennis plays a part. It gives us a physical fitness payback, but also intellectual and emotional and social rewards.

Tennis is a sport, but it's also a game. We relish the challenge of learning skills : serves, forehands, backhands and volleys. But the bigger challenge is in the game. Tennis is a cooperative venture : we have to deal with the problems presented to us by the location, trajectory, speed and spin of our opponent's ball. And when we return that ball, we want to create as many problems as possible for our opponent to deal with. The variety is endless, which of course is what brings us back to the courts again and again.

That leads us to the main element of this edition of Niagara Tennis News : it's Tournament Season! All tennis clubs feature tournaments as an important component of their annual activities. And the strength and health of a club can often be measured by the degree of participation by the members in the club tournaments.

There are 958 medals to be given out in London, but there are over 10,500 athletes. It would be a pretty sad Opening Ceremony if the only athletes were those who would win the medals. The Games are made by those who don't win, but who relish the challenge and the experience. Bottom line : club tournaments are for everyone! And that includes you!



How do I get involved?

The Schedule



Women's Doubles B/C	August 21
Mixed Doubles A/B/C	August 24-25
Men's Doubles A/B Women's Doubles A/B	September 8-9

What does A, B, C mean?

"A" is intended to denote a player with lots of playing experience, comfortable with tournament competition.
"B" is a big category that describes a majority of club members. Within the category are both players who enjoy competition and others who feel somewhat hesitant or tentative about it.
"C" is a description of those who have most of their tennis experience yet to come. Skills are developing quickly and challenge is embraced.

What do I do with this entry form?

The entry forms have been circulated by means of the bulletin board in the pavilion, but what do we do with them? There's no office, no staff, no drop-box. Right ... it's a challenge. So here's what to do:

- (1) send an email, or make a phone call, to the person designated for the tournament. Let them know you want to play, the name of your partner, or the fact that you're looking to be matched up. Feel free to ask any questions you have regarding time commitments or any other matter.
- (2) deliver your completed entry form, along with the tournament fee, to the designated person. (When you do step 1, they'll let you know how or where to do step 2.)

Who are the Go-To people?

These noble volunteers are feeling a little lonely at the moment. They've made a big commitment to organize and host an important and prestigious club event on your behalf. What they want and need more than anything else is to hear from you ... as soon as possible! They want to know you support their efforts and are looking forward to being the players in their tournament. It's hard to do the work and make the arrangements if you don't know who's coming to the party. So, please, write or call!

Women's Doubles B/C August 21	Rosemary Goodwin or Marilyn Francis rosemarygoodwin@mac.com 905 468 5503 marilynfrancis@bellnet.ca 905 468 7183
Mixed Doubles A/B/C August 24-25	Gerry McIlhone gerrymcilhone@gmail.com 289 213 9363
Men's Doubles A/B Women's Doubles A/B September 8-9	Albert Reyes or Thitima Christopher aareyes@bell.net 905 704 8730 tennisthitima@hotmail.com 905 468 9182



Tournament Director Gerry McIlhone, planning the Mixed Doubles tournament with committee members Carmen Bowron and Marilyn Francis. The event will begin with round-robin pool play on Friday, and continue with competitive draws throughout Saturday. Plans include the accompanying food & beverage side of things for Friday evening, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and a celebration party for Saturday evening.

The Sponsors & the 2011 Winners

Our tournaments are sponsored by wonderful supporters of tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake. With their assistance, we maintain an ongoing record of events as they unfold from year to year. Check out our Honour Wall in the pavilion kitchen/office next time you see the door open.

Women's Doubles B/C

Trophy to be announced

Susan Vriens & Marlene Walther

Mixed Doubles

Jackie & Dennis Donnelly Trophy
Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty Trophy
Crabtree & Evelyn Trophy

Thitima Christopher & Michael Alexander
 Mary Ann Enns & Gerry McIlhone
 Bonnie Sartor & Jim Thackray

Men's Doubles

Roman & Maria Korda Trophy

Gerry McIlhone & Rob Macfarlane

Women's Doubles A/B

Donna & David Lailey Trophy
Niagara Motors Trophy

Thitima Christopher & Sarah Chapman-Jay
 Patricia Ridesic & Gillian Mellanby

What about Singles? It's not forgotten. But details aren't quite ready ... watch for them soon. In recent years, we've had difficulty finding a date amid this busy schedule. So the plan is to play the Singles tournaments across the month of September. Players will be assigned a match to play within a specific time period (7-10 days). You play at a mutually-agreed time, then call in your result and get your next assignment. The hope is that more members will find it possible to participate in the Singles events as a result of this format. It will also allow us to play longer matches.

What else has been happening around the Club?



The most exciting new program at the Club this year is Thursday evening's **Starter League**. All tennis players have memories of their early months on a tennis court and fond recollections of the players who helped them through the start of the learning process.

New players are being mentored by experienced players such as Charlene Juras, Terry Francis, Marilyn Francis, Marc Gauvin, Amy Weiner and Deb Robert. Would you like to help as well? You will be warmly welcomed ... feel free to join us on Thursdays at 6:00.

This group has made great strides over the past few weeks. They're looking forward to joining regular club activities before long. Congratulations to:

Darlene Romanowsky, Karleigh Mundy, Olivia Wall, Monika Ondrasch, Audrey Wall, Claire Bryan, Alec Papadimitriou, John Henderson, Georg Overmeyer, Johannes Ondrasch, Leo Ondrasch, Jane Overmeyer



It will be really nice when our new **Family Time** program grows to include more players as well. We gather at 5:00 each Saturday with the goal of giving the kids practice playing and rallying. The emphasis is on fun and we love it when we hear "can we do that again?"

Enjoying some games last Saturday were Sebastian, Olivia and Kentrayl. We compete for freezies.

Looking for a Tennis Camp in August?

Coach Adam Svoboda has offered to organize one-week afternoon camps for young players. It's a bit late for the August 6-10 program, but you still have time to arrange for August 13-17.

Adam is Director of Junior Development at The Club @ White Oaks, and is a Tennis Canada Certified Coach 2.

You can reach him at 905 688 6800 x 5215.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club :

Who are we?

There are 250 of us on the 2012 club roster, and that's without counting the children. How many of them do you know? If you're like most of us, the answer is "not many". This results from our lack of a community facility where we can relax off court and meet fellow members ... a clubhouse, in short.

Ann and Bob Crooks (shown right) are typical of members who enjoy coming to the courts during the Green Times ... those periods designated on the court availability schedule as being open for drop-in play. They hit together for as long as is realistic on a summer afternoon.

If we had a place where they could relax with a cool lemonade afterwards, there would be more likelihood of crossing paths with other members with similar inclinations. Such meetings would increase our overall sense of community and help make tennis more of a voice to be heard in the town.

In the meantime, if you find fellow members on the courts during your casual play, we hope you'll introduce yourselves. Every little bit helps!



A warm welcome is extended to all those who are new to our club this season. New members as of 2012 :

Christopher & Mika Balogh	Monika & Leo Ondrasch
Vanessa Baran & Bobby Kozjan	Mike Ottywill
Glenn Barr	Jane & Georg Overmeyer
Dave Belanger & Anne Marie Keogh	Kate Pantin
Michele Darling & Michael Eagen	Gail Paton
Joanne DeFalco	Ostap Prokipchuk
Andrea & Ryan Delrue	Darlene Romanowsky
Fran & Gerry Doran	Gina & Richard Snary
Andy Fairweather	Benjamin Streef
John Henderson	Keith Stuart
Darlene Mancini	Angela & George Vogt
Yoko & Romeo Miele	Stephan Voigt
Judith Mills	Audrey & Kevin Wall
Rachel Moore	Julian Ward
Lori Oakes	Moira Wylie

Did you know our membership roster includes 4 of the original 26 members who founded the club in 1970?
Beverley Lees, Danny & Marlene McCarthy, John Wall

We also have 4 other members who first appeared on our rosters during the 1970s:
Linda Gordon, Dave Lepp, Pete Unger, Irene Wall

There are 20 who go back to the 1980s:
Chris Bowron, Tom Braybrook, Don Chambers, Dave & Terri Dick, Mary Dyck, Rosemary Goodwin,
Roman Korda, Patrick & Creena MacNeill, Terry & Terri Mactaggart, Peter Mann, Hermann Moehl,
Gerry & Jody Pepe, Mary Pohorly, Heidi-Ann Poitl, Pat & Larry Young.

And there are 23 who first appeared on a club roster during the 1990s:
Pat Bryan, Maria Budin, Pat Caldwell, John & Sylvia Christie, Ron Davis, Heather Doyle, Terry & Marilyn Francis, Henry Goerzen, Nicole Goodwin, Sheila Hill, Phil Landray, Paula Lepp, Diane Ling (welcome back in 2012, Diane!), Peter Marchesseau, Lynne McKay, Shirley Rednall, Anne Robinson, Ross Robinson, Janice & George Schachtschneider, Susan Werner.

Club rosters are maintained by our Volunteer Registrar **Janice Schachtschneider** ... a most demanding and important job. She plans to circulate contact lists this weekend.

Contact Janice at theopendoor@sympatico.ca if you have any questions about it.

And be sure to let Janice know how much her work is appreciated.

A request for help ...

It's a pleasure to share with you a program that has the strong involvement of Karol Szmurlo, the coach who has taught many of our adults and junior players this summer.

Karol invites us to support a fund-raising event to benefit the Niagara Distress Centre, a 24 hour telephone service with trained volunteers to help those in crisis and life threatening situations.

The event is an Awareness Walk, followed by a barbecue and music at Grantham Lions Club in St Catharines. It's on September 9 from 10:30-1:30, so not possible for those involved in our tournament that day. But Karol encourages everyone to increase awareness and make a contribution of support by visiting the website at www.distresscentreniagara.com

We hope many of you have plans to take in a session at the Rogers Cup in Toronto next week. Word from the desk of the Master of Ceremonies is that all is in readiness at the Rexall Centre on the grounds of York University.

You can hear the silky voice of Don Goodwin and enjoy world-class tennis. No, there will be no Rafael Nadal (the knee is still sore) and no Roger Federer (he needs some recovery time after this week's Olympian effort), but the draw includes Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic, Milos Raonic and 45 other top-100 players.

And best wishes to our local players who will compete in the Ontario Summer Games in Brampton on August 14-16 : Richard Berti, Ray Cutts, Don Pozojevic, Jim Thackray and yours truly.

Best regards,
Rosemary
rosemarygoodwin@mac.com