



JULY 20 2011

NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends,

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but this photo is intended to convey just three words :
PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

The heat this week has been extraordinary, and we should all be very cautious with it. At 10:00 this morning the thermometer on the tennis courts was already registering 35C, and Thursday is forecast to be even more extreme.

Early morning and evening hours are likely to find more players than usual looking for court time, so please be courteous and cooperative in sharing the limited space.

We're hoping for a little lower temperature on Saturday for the Women's Doubles tournament, but plans are being made to start the event early and shorten the games so as to complete play by midday.



INTER-CLUB EXHIBITION MATCH

A huge round of applause is due to the 16 wonderful players who gathered on our courts on Sunday afternoon for a very competitive match between players from the Welland Tennis Club and a team representing Niagara-on-the-Lake. The event was put together by Albert Reyes, who was inspired by our beautiful setting and wanted to demonstrate the potential for hosting special tennis events here.



Even with the severe heat conditions and our modest facilities, it was readily apparent that good possibilities exist for the future. An important factor was the response of the visiting players : they enjoyed our omni-courts and found it very pleasant to make the drive to Niagara-on-the-Lake for a Sunday afternoon. With a few modifications, it's easy to see how our Tennis Complex could be enhanced to make it a very attractive destination and gathering place for our community ... for participants, for spectators and for passers-by.



Niagara-on-the-Lake : *Jeff Joanovic, Karol Szmurlo, Roman Korda, Joey Zelic, Stefa Korda, Johanne Crawford, Colleen Petrick, Sarah Chapman-Jay*

Welland : *Dave Thomas, Karen Skatfield, Cathy Fallis, Mike Robinson, Julia D'Angelo, Geoff Skatfield (Welland TC president), Linda Morley, Alan Hoover*

The match consisted of three rounds of timed play. The first round finished even at 20 games for each side, with strong performances from Sarah Chapman-Jay & Stefa Korda and from the feature pairing of Karol Szmurlo & Joey Zelic. Karol has recently joined the roster of teaching pros at White Oaks, having completed his education at University of West Florida where he was part of two national championship teams (division II). Karol has been in high performance tennis for most of his young life and was honored as a top Student-Athlete as well. Joey is a native of Niagara Falls Canada, and is a student at Niagara University in Niagara Falls NY. He had the pleasure of competing at the USTA Billie Jean King Center last month for their conference finals.

The second round of play tipped more in Niagara's favor with a final result of 28-20. Jeff Joanovic & Roman Korda gained bragging rights with a win over Mike Robinson & Dave Thomas. Johanne Crawford & Colleen Petrick were also successful, and our two winning pairs from the first round repeated as well.

The third round featured mixed doubles and was once again very close. Two courts ended in a tie, while the others finished with a slight edge to the home side. Jeff & Sarah scored a win, as did Karol & Colleen.

The level of play was excellent and the sportsmanship stellar. It was a real pleasure to watch how these top players comport themselves ... organized, focused, friendly and accommodating. They compete hard, but they support each other in every way ... partners, teammates and opponents alike. Let's hope we see them here again!



Albert Reyes is 'the Man in Black', seen here giving the order of play and rules of the day to the players.

Doing a very good job of staying cool were Charlene Juras, Irene Blayer-Smith, Jacque Donnelly, Elisabeth Lackner ... with Charlotte Petrick and Shaun Donnelly still fresh from a swim in the pool. The awnings were found to be quite adaptable and easy to manage.



ROGERS CUP

If you don't yet have your tickets for the annual Rogers Cup in Toronto, now is the time to make the phone call or visit the website. It looks to be a great field with Serena Williams, Kim Clijsters, Li Na, Caroline Wozniacki, Maria Sharapova and many many more. This year, we'll see both the women's event in Toronto and the men's event in Montreal on TV during the same week. There are all sorts of special activities around the grounds during the tournament ... check it out and plan on giving yourself lots of time to see the sights. 1-877-283-6647 www.rogerscup.com



AUGUST 6-14, 2011 | REXALL CENTRE AT YORK UNIVERSITY, TORONTO



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Club president Ian Waddell had no trouble working up a sweat on the courts this morning during the regular Wednesday morning Men's Round Robin. He stopped after the matches to chat with Ken Rive regarding the "big dig" that has been underway for the past several days.

After building a storm water catch basin between court 4 and the swimming pool, the Town is now installing a drainage system around the perimeter to channel storm water off the courts during heavy rains. It's hoped this will eliminate the issue of muddy patches accumulating at the edges of courts 1 and 4 in particular.

Ken is the Facilities Supervisor for the Parks & Recreation Department. He's a past champion of the Tennis Club and was actively involved as a player and as a volunteer during the period when the courts were installed in 1986 and the pavilion was built in 1990. His knowledge and expertise are an invaluable asset for the Town.

*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.*

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