



# Niagara Tennis News

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

June 17 2012

Hello Tennis Friends!

Keeping up with the times is a fulltime job for us old folks these days! And for our Tennis Club, that means learning how to make the most of the internet by way of our Website and now Facebook.



We tried starting a Facebook page in October 2009 but got bogged down in the administrative details. The program has evolved a great deal since then and is much more user-friendly. Thanks to some expert help from a savvy member, our club is now presenting a much more impressive Face to the world. If you're a Facebook member already, we hope you'll hop on board and give your club a thumbs-up Like! And if this is unfamiliar territory for you, perhaps this will be the nudge you need to give it a try. The great thing about Facebook is its capacity for give-and-take ... for constant and instant back-and-forth among contributors. So come on ... join the conversation!

<http://www.facebook.com/tennisniagara>

[www.tennisniagara.com](http://www.tennisniagara.com)

Have you checked out our Website lately? Webmaster Larry Mantle does a superb job of keeping items of current interest on the site, and the Court Availability schedule is the ideal way to find the best time to drop by for a practice session or a game.

And how about this : did you ever wonder if the rain you're seeing in Virgil or St David's is falling at Memorial Park? Larry has added the Queen Street Web Cam to our website at the bottom of the Contact Us page ... just click on the link to see how the weather looks downtown. More often than not, the courts remain dry even when showers are around other parts of Town.

We're always looking for ways to improve this side of our club operations. If our online presence is an area of interest and expertise for you, please let Larry know. Help is always welcomed!

Last Call!

**Men's B Doubles Tournament**

for the

**James & Kevan O'Connor Trophy**

Monday June 25 6:00pm

\$5 entry fee includes pizza party

Entries go to Flory Massi

[florymassi@cogeco.ca](mailto:florymassi@cogeco.ca)

Don't Forget!

**General Meeting  
for all club members**

**Tuesday June 26 7:00pm**

Simpsons Pharmacy Room, NOTL Community Centre

**Your participation  
is wanted and needed!**

## Friday Night Mixed Doubles



Stop by the club around 7:30 on a Friday evening and you'll find a crowd on hand. There will be 32 players, half with a 6:00 start and half with a 7:30 start, along with a good number of friends and family enjoying the party and watching the tennis. Marilyn Francis is the mastermind behind the player scheduling, while Jacquie Donnelly runs a wonderful bistro in the pavilion. The players create the atmosphere with their enthusiasm and their support for the program. Marilyn is working with a list of about 50 members at present and there's always room for more. Contact [marilynfrancis@bellnet.ca](mailto:marilynfrancis@bellnet.ca) to let her know you'd like to get involved. Both couples and individuals are welcome.



*I'm not yelling; I'm Italian!  
Marco deLeonardis always has a ready  
smile and a keen competitive spirit.*



*Once a month throughout the summer, there's a  
group meal planned. Jacquie sets a most inviting  
table.*



*Players bring snacks for the after-match  
social hour. Follow Dorothy Booth to  
great snacks!*

## Regular Games

Our Regular Games provide steady matches for dozens of players every week. They're great opportunities for members to get to know each other and are a vital part of the Club. Contact Rosemary Goodwin for information on getting involved in a Regular Game.

Monday mornings from 8:30-10:00 are set aside for a Women's Drop-In Round Robin. Turnout has been light so far this month, but we're hoping more players will join us as the summer goes on. Monica Berti, Marion Briston and Maria Budin say "come on down!"



Lil Cohen is Captain of the 4-court game on Mondays at 10:00. She encourages players to spend time together in the pavilion after the games, enjoying cold drinks and snacks.

*From the left: Patricia Campbell, Marilyn Francis, Gillian Mellanby, Carmen Bowron, Dorothy Booth, Terri Dick, Pat Young, Lynne McKay, Susan Browne, Shirley Rednall, Linda Telford, Lil Cohen, Bonnie Sartor, painter Victor(ia) Gallo.*



On Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30, there are 2 courts organized in part by Jim Mergelas. Captains often organize the game even if they won't be playing themselves. On this particular day, players were:

*Benoit Amice, Will Paley, Gary Weatherson and Michael Beck.*

The other half of the Tuesday/Thursday game is organized by Pete Unger. Pete has been a member of the Club since 1977. If you see him on Thursday the 21st, be sure to wish him a Happy 80th Birthday!

*From the left: Pete Unger, Will Wilson, Hermann Moehl, Phil Landray.*



On Tuesday at 9:00, we have 2 courts led by Captain Brenda Parks.

Enjoying the perfect morning are:

*From the left: Brenda Parks, Marilyn Vann, Gina Snary, Amy Weiner, Rhonda McMillan, Brenda Sabine, Chris Wormwell, Joan Mergelas.*



The Wednesday morning Men's Doubles game fills 3 courts led by Captain Ian Waddell. From the left: Ray Cutts, Max Bade, Larry Young, Andy Fairweather, Larry Mantle, Richard Berti, Ian Waddell, Jim Thackray, Terry Francis, Marc Gauvin.

*In front: Victor Gallo, Marco deLeonardis.*

Thursday mornings at 8:30 feature a 2-court game led by Captain Marion Briston.  
*Back: Brenda Sabine, Marilyn Vann, Maria Budin, Pat Caldwell, Hella Beck*  
*Front: Marion Briston, Ellen Cheslock, Joan Mergelas.*



Starter League on Thursdays at 6:00 is filled with enthusiastic players keen on playing experience to practice what they've learned in their lessons.

*From the left: Joanne Defalco, Kay Woodfine, Monica, Audrey Wall, John Henderson, Anna O'Neill, Jane Overmeyer, Christine Lancaster, George Overmeyer, Anita Robertson, Jacquie Donnelly, Derrick Penman. In front: Olivia Wall, Darlene Romanowski.* Jacquie and Derrick were part of the mentoring team, as were Charlene Juras and Marilyn Francis. Experienced players are encouraged to come on Thursdays to enjoy this happy group.



Our newest Regular Game is on the schedule at 7:30 on Thursday evenings. Led by Deb Robert, it started as a small idea but has already gathered a list of 20 players and is still growing! From the left:

*Amy Weiner, Deb Robert, Chris Wormwell, Gina Snary, Margaret Hobbs.*



Estelle Simons has organized the Friday morning 9:00 game for many years. From the left:

*Joan Mergelas, Estelle Simons, Marlene Walther, Mary Mathews, Bev Lees, Joan Chicken, Brenda Strecker, Linda Gordon, Margaret Waddell, Chris Wormwell, Irene Wall, Monica Berti.*



Friday mornings at 10:30 find a 3-court game led by Captain Pat Young. From the left:

*Gillian Mellanby, Lynne McKay, Bonnie Sartor, Pat Young, Shirley Rednall, Lil Cohen, Linda Telford, Gillian Venturi, Patricia Ridesic, Patricia Campbell, Susan Browne.*



Dominic Ventresca organizes the 4-court game on Saturdays at 8:30. These guys love their doubles! From the left:  
*Ross Robinson, Max Bade, Neil Cuthbertson, Larry Shantz, Marco deLeonardis, Andy Fairweather, Wayne Vent, Victor Gallo, Patrick MacNeill, Terry Francis, Larry Young, Herman Fontyn, Larry Mantle, Richard Berti.*

Now that it's finished, it's easy to forget what a big improvement a few volunteers have made to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Centre since the start of April. Inspired by Richard Berti's brilliant building work, Dorothy Booth applied her magic to the front gate. Victor Gallo brought his power washer and cleaned away 20 years of dirt, then helped apply five gallons of stain supplied by Gerald Pepe. Our club is certainly stronger when we spend time together in and around the pavilion before and after our games. The fresh look seems to be encouraging more such gatherings. Thanks to all who played a part, and to all who are making use of the space.



## Junior Program

The May and June spring sessions of the Junior Program have been a wonderful success, with lots of kids starting to be able to play sustained rallies.

Now the focus shifts to the July and August summer sessions. To get involved, or for detailed information, contact Charlene Juras at [charlene.juras@sympatico.ca](mailto:charlene.juras@sympatico.ca)



## Guests & Visitors Welcome

"Hello, we're from Hawaii and are visiting in the area. Any chance we could try your tennis courts?"

It was Jamie & Sarah Darroch on the other end of the phone call. They're just one of many young couples we've met at the courts over the past couple of summers. "We love Tennis!" is the common refrain, and they love it enough to travel with their racquets wherever they go.

One day, Niagara-on-the-Lake can become a tennis travel destination!

*This photo is by way of saying "thanks" to all the players who indulge my frequent requests for photos, especially when people are looking less than their best.*

*Tuesday's gardening session included a pretty good thunder shower, with the result that yours truly looked like a candidate for a mud-wrestling episode. Todd and I were each too stubborn to take cover unless the other one did.*

Best regards,  
Rosemary  
[rosemarygoodwin@mac.com](mailto:rosemarygoodwin@mac.com)

