



Niagara Tennis News

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

June 27 2012

Hello Tennis Friends!



It's that wonderful time of year, when we can turn on the TV with breakfast and be treated to grass court tennis at Wimbledon. Tennis on grass is beautiful ... a good reminder of how our omni court surface gives the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Center such a distinctive look and feel. Given all that we have here in our special town, and the fact that people love to come here from all over the world, our Tennis Center could become a magical destination in its own right. Can you imagine ... ?



Terry Belleville photo

A Special Invitation ... what's your usual routine for watching the Men's Singles final at Wimbledon? This year, the event will happen on Sunday July 8. The match starts at 9:00, but things should be nicely heated up by 10:30. That's when Ross Robinson thinks it would be more fun to watch in the company of like-minded tennis fans. He suggests we create our own Wimbledon atmosphere here by gathering at the Town's newest sports pub. With TV sets on every wall, we'll be able to see the action from any vantage point. Ross has a theatrical flair, so he imagines a very fun party ... a dress code (whites, perhaps?), special menu items (strawberries and cream, a little Pimm's?), betting games (a London obsession!), and some version of a royal box. Since Sunday mornings aren't normal operating hours for a sports bar, it will be necessary to make special arrangements. If you're inclined to say "count me in", please contact Ross Robinson or Marilyn Francis to let them know. Better yet, organize a group ... Wimbledon has many fans among non-tennis players as well. Indicate your interest now and receive all the details as the date nears.

Our Club Officers & Directors

Congratulations, and thanks, to the club members who were elected at the General Meeting on June 26th:

President **Ian Waddell**
Vice President **Marilyn Francis**
Treasurer **John Christie**
Secretary **Dorothy Booth**
Other Directors **Ed Mesihovic, Hugh Dow**

Please take time to assure them of your support and offer to help with club operations.



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www.tennisniagara.com

Men's B Doubles

The first champions of 2012 were crowned on Monday evening at the conclusion of the Men's B Doubles tournament. Winners of the James & Kevan O'Connor Trophy are Terry Francis and Chado Brcic, who defeated Richard Berti and Ray Cutts in the final match.

A total of 10 teams threw hats into the ring, most of them compatriots from our regular Monday Men's Night round robins. It was fun to see the interesting pairings, as these are players often looking for the whimsical side of a tennis game.

Tournament Director Flory Massi organized them into a draw that featured 8-game pro sets, with results guiding them toward one of two final rounds. In the consolation round, the team of Jordan Sartor and Harvey Bussey drew attention when they bounced back from an 0-4 start to level at 4-4 with Flory Massi and Gary Inkster. From there, the match stayed very close until Jordan and Harv finally prevailed.



Kevan O'Connor presents the trophy to Terry Francis (left) and Chado Brcic.



Flory Massi outlines the plan for the tournament at the start of play on Monday. Players included Ross Robinson, Richard Berti, Mike Ottywill, Derrick Penman, John Henderson, Wayne Vent, Terry Francis, Victor Gallo, Marc Gauvin, Alan Briston, Chado Brcic, Martin Quick, Jordan Sartor, Gary Inkster, Ray Cutts, Peter Marchesseau, Larry Mantle, Glenn Barr and Harvey Bussey.

Very special thanks to John & Barbara Neufeld and the Palatine Hills Estate Winery for a gift of lovely wines for the players to sample.





*Main Event Finalists:
Ray Cutts, Richard Berti,
Terry Francis, Chado Brcic*



*Consolation Round Finalists:
Harvey Bussey, Jordan Sartor,
Flory Massi, Gary Inkster*

Save the Date!

**MIXED DOUBLES
Club Tournament**

August 24-25

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

*Look for entry forms on
the Bulletin Board soon.*

Save the Date!

**WOMEN'S DOUBLES
MEN'S DOUBLES
Club Tournament**

September 8-9

Donna & David Lailey Trophy
Niagara Motors Trophy
Roman & Maria Korda Trophy

*Look for entry forms on
the Bulletin Board soon.*

Inter-Club Match at Welland Tennis Club

Isn't this an inviting scene? Enough to make you say "where do I sign up for Inter-Club Tennis" ... right? This was part of the hospitality offered by the host team for the first inter-club match of the season on June 24.

Dorothy Booth, Scott McGregor, Mary Pohorly, Flory Massi, Gary Inkster, Lil Cohen and Marilyn & Terry Francis were up early (well not too early) for the drive to Welland on Sunday morning. The clay courts were just drying so our first round was played on 2 clay courts and 2 hard surface courts. Niagara got off to a good start winning 24 games to Welland's 19 in the first round.

The sun was out by round 2 and the clay courts were dry so play resumed on the 4 clay courts. Welland was up to the challenge and came back to win the round and also take the overall lead 44-41.

Game on! It was time for Niagara to pull up our socks, brush off the losses and make it count ... and we did! The third round ended with Niagara winning 25-17 to take the match by a score of 66-61.



Tady Saczkowski Photo

The close score is a tribute to the skillful organizing of club pro Dave Boland. A leisurely lunch followed on the patio with a couple of good matches on the show courts for entertainment. This is what a Tennis Club is meant to be!

In keeping with Inter Club tradition, our Club is inviting Welland back to the Niagara courts for a re-match in July. Spectators will be welcome ...we'll keep you posted.



Back : Terry Francis, Chris Zanuttini
Center: Scott McGregor, Dorothy Booth, Marilyn Francis, Tady Saczkowski, Flory Massi,
Gary Inkster, Shawn McCauley
Front: Dave Mitchell, Linda Anderson, Lil Cohen, Nancy Saczkowski, Mary Pohorly, Susan Stasiak
Also on the Welland team was Dianne Beaulieu.



Jump for Joy!

That's the idea behind the Sunday morning clinic that runs from 9:00-10:00 each week. It's a great way to shake off the weekend cobwebs and set yourself up for a great week of tennis.

Club members Ken Smith, Linda Telford and Anne Robinson were inspired by teaching pro Karol Szmurlo, trying their best to emulate his enthusiasm and his energy.

Karol says he's heard tales of Niagara-on-the-Lake tennis players being particularly fond of the Sunday morning clinic time, and he's hoping we'll all come down to the courts to give his program a try. He's looking forward to getting to know you so he can tailor the clinic to meet your needs and answer your requests. So slip \$10 in your pocket and get ready to run!

[Karol is assuming we'll have other plans for July 1st so is planning to resume play on July 8th. Email him at kszmurlo@whiteoaksresort.com if you'd like a July 1st clinic.]

Guests & Visitors Welcome!

We continue to encounter more and more tourists who are traveling with their tennis racquets, looking for a game during their holiday.

This group was with a party of 10, renting a house for a week and enjoying theatre, cycling, wineries, shopping and tennis. What a great combination!

They've been to Niagara-on-the-Lake before but this is the first time they've looked for tennis courts. It won't be the last.

Niagara-on-the-Lake certainly has the potential to be a tennis travel destination, and we also have the possibility of setting up home-and-home matches with visiting teams of players.

If you find tourists looking quizzically at the courts, please welcome them. They're usually more than happy to rent courts during the quiet afternoon times.



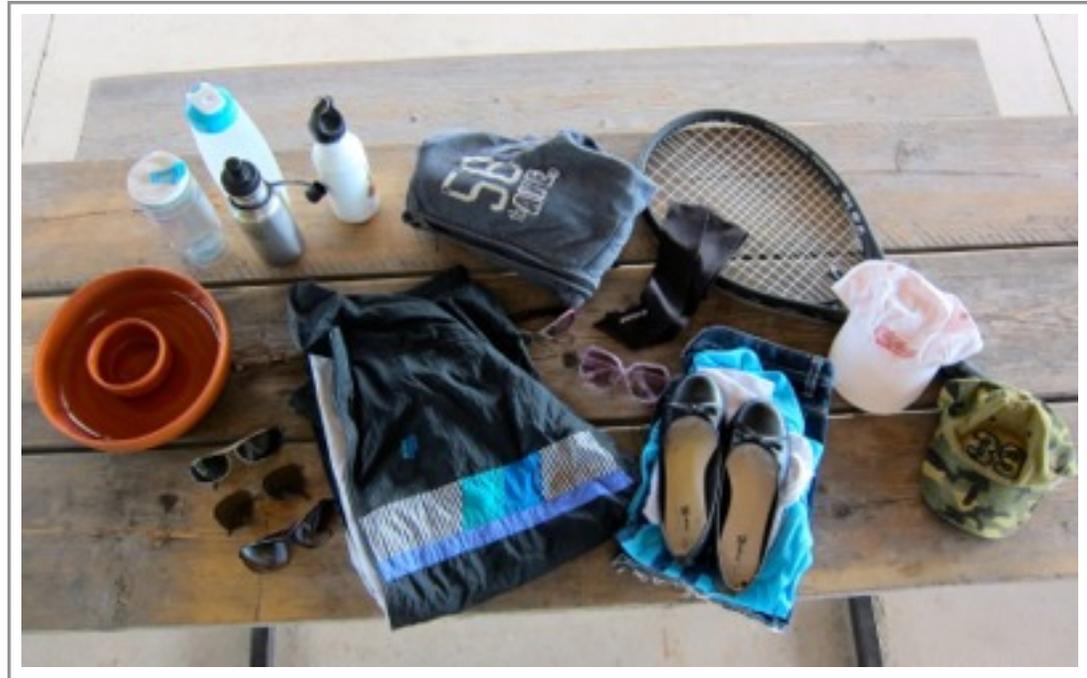
Nancy Murray, Dea Casstevens, George Marsh, Suzanne and John Slater play their winter tennis in Clinton NY (near Utica) and their summer tennis outdoors at Colgate University.

Lost & Found

A men's warmup jacket, a large child's hoodie, a complete change of girl's clothing, hats, glasses, water bottles, a tennis racquet and a serving dish.

It's all part of our collection of items left behind in the pavilion over the last few weeks.

If you recognize any of it, please contact rosemarygoodwin@mac.com or call 905 468 5503.



As your grandmother used to say, most of the members at Tuesday's General Meeting were disguised as empty chairs.

Why is it that we find ourselves allergic to meetings in this day and age? I suppose it's because most have attended meetings of various organizations and found them more tiresome than uplifting. It's a shame. Volunteer leaders seek input from members, but it's not easy to organize a forum for doing so in a positive fashion.

Those who did support the meeting heard some passionate and positive remarks ... from the suggestion for a Wimbledon get-together, to an idea for a Yearend Club Party and more emphasis on events where members can get to know each other socially, to a call for study as to how other communities have built up their quality tennis facilities.

Other remarks brought attention to the frustration that is increasing with regard to the public tennis facilities in Niagara-on-the-Lake. There is a feeling of helplessness from our lack of influence regarding any improvements or even ongoing care.

Each year, the Club pays a fee in excess of \$7000 to the Town's coffers. To the best of our knowledge this is beyond the level of other sports in relation to the expenses involved. And yet we're seemingly not part of the process to determine either the present or the future of public tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Perhaps that is about to change. As an incorporated entity, we can join with the Town to create a bold vision and form a strategic plan. That would be a meeting players might attend!

Best regards,
Rosemary
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