



JUNE 30 2011

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# NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

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Hello Tennis Friends!

We've been very fortunate to have tennis professional Shawna Macfarlane helping us at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club by offering top-notch instruction both for junior players and for adults of all ages and playing levels.

Although a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Shawna is a citizen of the USA and is kept very busy with tennis on the US side of the border. She has been Tennis Director of the Niagara Falls Country Club in Lewiston for 27 years, is the key player in the Buffalo Niagara Community Tennis Association (for which she organizes programs at the Niagara Boys and Girls Clubs), and is the USTA League Coordinator for the Buffalo area (with teams that include over 2000 players).

Originally from Boise Idaho, Shawna went to college on a tennis scholarship. She is a 5.0 level player who captained her team to a third place finish in the US Nationals in 2007. In 2003, Shawna and Anne Kravchenko won a Canadian title in the over-40 division.

Shawna's two children are both accomplished tennis players, although hockey has been their number-one sport. Tessa currently attends Ridley College, where she stars on the school hockey team. Rob is a high school graduate and is a popular instructor in many of Shawna's programs. His current hockey team is the Thorold Blackhawks.

Shawna's support for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club comes in many forms. One of the most important is the encouragement and development of other instructors. For community clubs to flourish and grow, members who consider themselves "ordinary tennis players" must step forward to get involved in teaching and coaching. We currently have five such members and hope to continue developing more. If you think you would like to share your love of tennis with new players (either adults or juniors), please get in touch with Shawna or with Sarah Chapman-Jay ... they'll find a place for you in a helping capacity, then guide you through the training process if you decide to take it to the next level.

Shawna has worked with Charlene Juras to develop our Junior Program since 2009. The Spring Session wraps up this week with the final lessons on Thursday and a barbecue party on Sunday. The Summer Session will again feature lessons on Monday through Thursday each week, with Junior Team Tennis on Fridays at 5:00.

Shawna's adult clinics have grown in size and scope every season since they were initiated in 2008. They've helped beginners gain the skills to become tennis players, have guided injured players to work within their limitations and have helped players who've been out of the game for a while work their way back in. The Go Tennis clinics are a great workout for players of all levels, providing a weekly practice session in which you're guaranteed to hit a lot of balls and do a lot of running.

Shawna also offers individual lessons on a private, semi-private or small group basis ... the ideal answer for players who are ready to move their game to a new level. The best way to reach Shawna is with an email to [addintennis@gmail.com](mailto:addintennis@gmail.com). She'll receive it on her blackberry - wherever she happens to be - and call you at the first opportunity.





The clinic on Tuesdays at 6:00 is known as **Tennis 101**. It features Tennis Basics for the new player and for veterans looking for a boost.

*Laura Robertson, Aimee Campbell, Kay Woodfine, Anita Robertson, Shawna, Bea Campbell, Bonita Cawker, Rob Macfarlane.*

The clinic on Thursdays at 6:00 is known as **Tennis 102**. It provides Pattern Play and play situations designed to enhance proper hitting technique.

*Marilyn Vann, Brenda Sabine-Green, Brenda Parks, Joan Mergelas, Chris Wormwell, Pat Odey, Shawna.*



There's great camaraderie among the players who make the effort to start their Sunday morning at 8:30 with a vigorous Go Tennis clinic. They run through game-based drills for 90 minutes of non-stop action ... a terrific weekly practice session.

*Ken Smith, Brenda Sabine-Green, Marilyn Francis, Amy Weiner, Joan Mergelas, Gary Weatherson, Deb Robert, Shawna, Marlene Walther, Jim Mergelas, Pat Odey, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Anita Robertson, Hermann Moehl.*



**Tennis 101** is also offered on Sunday mornings at 10:30, effective July 10th. This is an ideal format for new players and also for veterans looking for a practice session.

*Rob Macfarlane, Brenda Parks, Bonita Cawker, Gina VanderHoeven, John Lancaster, Shawna, Cecil Browne, Susan Browne, Susan Lancaster, Wendy McPherson, Dean Sanders.*



## INSTRUCTOR TRAINING



The Niagara on the Lake Coaching Team attended a QuickStart Tennis Workshop on Tuesday, June 21 at Clearfield Community Center in Williamsville, NY, conducted by USTA National Trainer Michelle Skelley. The Workshop provided extensive coverage of the Quickstart Tennis play format including age appropriate play situations and games for 5-6 year olds, 7-8 year olds and 9-10 year olds. The day culminated with team activities for organizing and coaching a junior team match. Many thanks to the Buffalo Niagara Community Tennis Association (of which Shawna Macfarlane is the President) for sponsoring the instructors' registration fees.

Our team joined the coaching staff of the Niagara Falls Country Club and 16 other instructors for the full-day workshop. From the left: Thitima Christopher, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Janice Schachtschneider, Colleen Petrick and Rob Macfarlane. Rob also teams up with the four instructors on the right of the photo in programs in the USA.

# Women's Doubles Tournament

D & D Lailey Trophy  
Niagara Motors Trophy

**Saturday July 23rd**

*Preliminary rounds at 8:30 and at 10:30*

*Lunch at 12:30*

*Semi-finals and Finals starting at 2:00*

Entry fee of \$10 includes lunch, balls and prizes.  
Enter with a partner or request to be paired.

Entry forms are available at Ladies Night or on the Pavilion bulletin board.  
Or email your entry to Janice Schachtschneider at [theopendoor@sympatico.ca](mailto:theopendoor@sympatico.ca)

**Prize support by Pam's Pro Shop**

*The Women's Doubles tournament is a very special event at our club ... a day out with friends for tennis and happy times. Players of all experience levels are welcome; draws will be adjusted to accommodate the field. We're pleased and proud to have the support of Pam's Pro Shop, along with that of our title sponsors David and Donna Lailey, and Dave Dick of Niagara Motors. The "wonderful red shirt" will be awarded to the winners of the Niagara Motors Trophy.*

## SOMETHING NEW AT MEN'S NIGHT

In an effort to provide the most interesting games for players of all fitness and experience levels, a new format has been introduced for Men's Night play on Monday evenings. As of this week, match results are being recorded and will be tabulated on an ongoing basis. The resulting "batting averages" will be used to establish the court assignments at the beginning of the next week's play.

When more than 16 players are in attendance at any given time, the sign-in sheet will determine the "next on" rotations. As each match is concluded, the runner-up pair come to the pavilion to be replaced by the next players in line ... a process that will continue to roll along as the matches finish on the other courts.

Organizer Larry Mantle experienced the format during his stay in Florida over the winter, and found it encouraged both a high level of enthusiasm and an improving level of play. He hopes to achieve the same result here. Since we have only four courts, it will be helpful if some of the players start to arrive at 6:30 or later as this will alleviate some of the early waiting times.



*Larry Mantle posted the new Rules of the Road for Men's Night. The players are eager to try it out.*



*Jerry Kanters added his name to the list of players on the sign-up list. In the background: Don Chambers, Dale Daniels, Peter Marchesseau.*

## CANADA DAY SPECIAL!



Sarah Chapman-Jay and Ron Davis are keen to stimulate a flurry of activity on the Singles Ladders over the next couple of weeks. To that end, they issue the challenge of a Canada Day Special:

To ALL players ... whether on the ladder already or not ...

Challenge ANY other player on the ladder ... regardless of relative position ...

And receive DOUBLE the points for the result if your match is played between July 1 and July 15.

So if you've got the urge to try playing some Singles, this is the time to jump in. Contact Sarah at [schapmanjay@yahoo.ca](mailto:schapmanjay@yahoo.ca)

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## THE TUESDAY NIGHT GAME

A Regular Game starts out by being about the Tennis, but over time it can become much more than that. For several years, Otto Werner has assembled a group for Men's Doubles ... good tennis first, and now good friends. They play on two courts each Tuesday evening, and take turns bringing dinner for the group afterwards.

This season, they're battling through some bad fortune. Otto suffered a nasty twist playing on a hard court and has a serious knee injury ... the first time he's been on the disabled-list in 50 years of tennis. Gerry Pepe is still recovering from his knee surgery, and Tom Braybrook is on the wait-list for rotator-cuff surgery on his shoulder. Meanwhile Mark Stevens is recovering well after open-heart surgery to correct a mitral-valve issue. We wish them all well!



*Roman Korda, Miro Posa, Michael Alexander, Jeff Joanovic, Albert Reyes,  
Hugo Lirio, Joe Citrigno, Ulli Schindler*

## MEET YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS



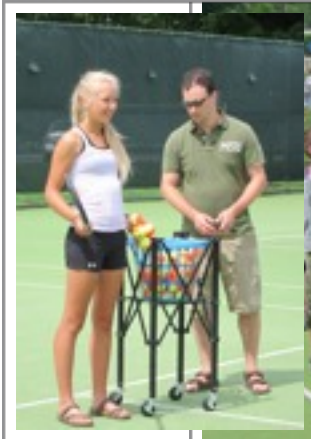
"Here rides in Julie, a cancer survivor" ... words over the loudspeaker at the finish line of the Ride to Conquer Cancer earlier this month as **Julie Enns** completed the 200 km ride alongside her mother **Mary Ann** ... words to capture a great moment. Mary Ann took on the challenge of the Ride in 2010 while Julie was undergoing treatment for cervical cancer, so it was a joy for her to do it again this year with Julie at her side. They joined 4600 other riders who raised \$17 million by cycling from Toronto to Niagara Falls. Mary Ann, Julie and JR (Mary Ann's son) each raised \$7700! Mary Ann is grateful for the support of friends at the NOTL Tennis Club.

**Glenn Reid** is a new member of our club this season. As a pastor, he has a busy schedule but is happy to get some exercise on the tennis court whenever possible. A fine day may find him in a game with three fellow pastors : from the left *Glenn Reid, Chandler Horne, Mitch Sylvia and Mark Rose.*



Congratulations to **Charlotte Petrick**, winner of the doubles title at the ITF Junior Tournament in Bermuda last week. Charlotte teamed with Gloria Liang of Ottawa ... who also took the singles title. Charlotte had to withdraw from the Ontario U18 Championships as she is healing from a leg injury.

Congratulations to **Stefa Korda** who took on the challenge of the Ontario U18s this week. The competition was very tough, but the experience is invaluable.



School is out! But not before a stop at the tennis courts for these **Parliament Oak** students. Staff members Janet Andrews and Robb Mead included tennis as part of Wednesday's field day and picnic at Memorial Park. They were supported by **Colleen Petrick** who organized drills and games for the students. It must have been fascinating for the 8th graders to see their classmate Charlotte in her element. Charlotte was part of the class who celebrated their graduation on Tuesday evening.



Yes, school is out and families are looking for court time. Afternoons are the best opportunity, but only until 4:00. We really do need more courts! [Hope you've all written your emails to Council members!]

Looking for a chance to play are **Jane DeMunnich with her daughter Clara** (left) and Clara's friend Alexia. On the right are **Ed Mesihovic and his daughter Emira**. They're sporting a set of practice balls in a great new hopper endorsed by Pete Sampras; it's lightweight and sturdy, converts easily into a stand and does a great job of picking up balls.

## LADIES NIGHT CELEBRATION

Last night saw the conclusion of the most successful month of Ladies Night play in the history of our club. For the 5th consecutive week, 32 members enjoyed organized games, with half playing at 6:00 and the other half playing at 7:30.

It's a great mixture with players of varied ages, varied playing experience and fitness levels, and varied personalities. But Tennis is what we have in common and provides the basis for us to get to know each other better.

This wonderful success is the work of two quiet but very effective volunteers: **Liz Vinassac and Kay Ashwood**. The players are very appreciative of their care and concern for the Wednesday night program.

To celebrate the end of the first month's play, everyone brought cheese and fruit to accompany refreshments provided by Liz and Kay. Players contribute \$5 a month which pays for new balls each week as well as supplies for the month-end party.

Seen in the photos are : *Bonnie Sartor, Deb Robert, Shirley Rednall, Bev Lees, Anne Robinson, Susan Lancaster, Amy Weiner, Susan Browne, Shawna Macfarlane, Marilyn Francis, Marlene McCarthy, Linda Gordon, Irene Wall, Marion Briston and Christina Li..*



Deb Robert photo





## COURT MAINTENANCE

Once a month, a crew from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake gives our courts a regular maintenance treatment. Yesterday was a great day for it since the rains of the week before had left us with patches of black earth and ripples of green fluff. The combination of rolling and sweeping (as shown here with Carey Wiens at the controls) does a nice job of bringing the omni-court surface back into good shape.

This is the 10th season for this particular surface. Although it's in remarkably good condition for its age, one of the side-effects of the passing years seems to be the quick deterioration of playing conditions after a rainy period. Since the maintenance visits are only once a month, players are asked to be very careful when you see discolored patches after rains. There have been some slips and spills recently.

The other part of the maintenance program yesterday was the removal of perimeter weeds, which quickly encroach into the surface if left unchecked. Will Dickson has been with the Town for many years, and reminded us yesterday of how poorly things looked before corrective action was taken three years ago. The photos below give an idea of the improvement he referred to, and are a good reminder of the importance of the partnership between the Town and the Tennis Club.



**June 2008**



**June 2011**



The rolling and sweeping equipment was originally used by the Lawn Bowling Club to maintain the surface at their downtown location. Its primary purpose now is maintenance of the tennis courts. Can anyone think of a way to store it nearby, so as to make it easier to run it over the courts more frequently? It must be quite tedious to move it back and forth.

## LAST CALL!

There's still time to get your entry in for the Men's B Doubles Tournament, to be played on Saturday July 9th.

Contact Rosemary Goodwin or Larry Mantle to get involved. Enter as a pair or request to be partnered with another player.

## LOST & FOUND

The LOST side of the ledger is important to your reporter this week. My keys have been misplaced ... probably in the pavilion on Thursday June 23. They consist of a variety of things strung together so as to be difficult to lose, but the most identifiable feature is probably a plastic card bearing a photograph of some farmyard geese. If you've found them, I'd be very happy to hear from you.

On the FOUND side, the box in the office contains a black sweatshirt, a towel, some sunglasses and several water bottles.

*Best regards,  
Rosemary Goodwin*

*on behalf of your Volunteer Committee : Ian Waddell, John Christie, Janice Schachtschneider,  
Liz Vinassac, Charlene Juras, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Don Chambers, Larry Mantle, Peter Marchesseau.*

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

[www.courtsidecanada.ca](http://www.courtsidecanada.ca)

