



MAY 19 2011

NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends!

Club President Ian Waddell has things running like clockwork to start the new season. Two registration days have resulted in what's shaping up to be record membership numbers, and many of our regular programs are underway despite an unseasonably cool damp spring.

We hope everyone is finding the new keyless entry to be convenient. If you're uncertain about the access code, please contact Janice or any of the volunteer directors for clarification.

The big event this month is our **Opening Day on Saturday May 28**. We hope everyone will plan to attend. Festivities and activities get underway at 2:00, but you should feel free to come earlier if you're keen to get in some extra playing time. The purpose of the day is to provide mixing and mingling opportunities both on-court and off-court ... a chance to meet and greet fellow members.

Special feature of the day is an on-site all-things-tennis boutique which will be set up by **Pam's Pro Shop**. Pam always brings demo racquets for you to test, shoes to try on, and all sorts of other tennis supplies. She can look at your racquet and advise about stringing or install a new grip on the spot. And she may just bring along some prizes to add to the day's fun. Pam's shop is always open at White Oaks, but this is a great opportunity to get what you need right at our courts, even if it's just a supply of tennis balls to start the season.

Games will be organized on court throughout the afternoon, with our club instructors helping to set things up. Tennis Pro Shawna Macfarlane will join us by 4:00 with her special brand of games with many players involved at once.

At 5:00, President Ian Waddell will preside over an opening ceremony, with special guests Lord Mayor David Eke and Councillor Martin Mazza (Chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee). It will be very helpful if we can show them that Tennis is very important to a substantial number of their constituents.

Culmination of the afternoon will be a potluck supper. This is always a special treat since tennis players seem to be very good cooks, and it's always a great pleasure to see such a diversity of dishes laid out for all to enjoy. Salads, finger foods, hot dishes, cold dishes ... all are welcome. There will be some frig space available and we do have a microwave oven (thanks to Linda Gordon). We also have a good selection of serving utensils (thanks to Pat Bryan). The club will be providing cake and coffee, but other desserts are welcome as well.

If you have any questions about the day, please feel free to ask any of your volunteer directors. Pat Bryan and Bev Lees are serving as a Task Force for the event so can help you as well. And why not adopt the "Buddy System", offering encouragement to our new members to come out and enjoy the day.

Registration Day, April 30



LADIES NIGHT



Liz Vinassac reports that our first Wednesday - May 4th - was rather chilly but nevertheless there were 8 ladies out to play. Our second week - May 11th - saw all four courts in action. Session One of organized play (during the month of June) already has three courts signed up for 6:00 and three courts signed up for 7:30. If you haven't signified your intention to play, contact Liz to get one of the remaining spots or to be on tap as a spare.

Ladies Night is one of our most popular programs ... a great way to enjoy games with members of all playing levels in a friendly atmosphere.

Thanks to Marlene McCarthy who captured some of the early season players : Bev Lees, Linda Gordon, Susan Lancaster, Kay Ashwood, Liz Vinassac, Pat Bryan.

MEN'S NIGHT *Larry Mantle & Don Chambers reporting ...*

Men's Night held a by-request dress rehearsal on May 2, taking advantage of the only dry, sunny and reasonably warm few hours we've seen during the past few weeks. Six of our veterans showed they suffered no loss of form over the long winter months. Our full launch was May 9 with 20+ players, including several new participants. All courts were filled. The benches were orderly with those sitting out patiently waiting their turn. Lots of good shots and good fun were had.

JUNIOR PROGRAM

Charlene Juras reports that six lively classes are underway with a total of 59 families involved. On Tuesdays, there are 15 players at 4:00 and 21 players at 5:00. On Thursdays, there are 16 players at 4:00 and 19 players at 5:00. And on Sunday mornings, there are 23 players at 10:00 and 17 players at 11:00.

Shawna Macfarlane heads a coaching staff that includes Thitima Christopher, Janice Schachtschneider, Ed Mesihovic, Rob Macfarlane and Colleen Petrick.

Everyone enjoys seeing youngsters on our courts ... we wish we could match their energy levels! Extra help is always welcome with the Junior Program. If you'd like to get involved as an instructor, or to assist in any other way, please feel free to let Charlene know of your interest.

For the classes that were rained out last Sunday, your makeup lessons will be on Friday May 20 at 4:00 and 5:00.





NOTL TENNIS CLUB...COACHES & STUDENTS-MAY 5/11



Thanks to Marlene McCarthy and Deb Albert for these photos. Other great shots of the Junior Program have been taken by Ken Smith, but we haven't yet succeeded in downloading them. Watch for them in future issues of NTN and enjoy some of the group photos in the recent edition of the Niagara Advance.

COACHING CLINICS

We hope everyone knows by now that we have wonderful opportunities for improving our tennis game by taking lessons or clinics with Shawna Macfarlane.

Many of Shawna's students braved the cool weather on Sunday May 1st to wish Shawna a happy birthday. [Some were flocking to the occasion!] You couldn't have a better role model for how tennis can keep us fit and healthy for life.



*For clinic or lesson information, contact Shawna Macfarlane
at addintennis@gmail.com
Tennis is where fun and fitness meet!*

SPEAKING OF ROLE MODELS ...

Life has been more about llamas than about tennis for us in the past two weeks, but tennis can never be far from mind.

It happens that the little town of Ashburton, New Zealand has a most wonderful tennis facility ... one that could certainly be a model and an inspiration for us in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Ten years ago, a volunteer committee undertook to raise funds for the construction of a lovely little clubhouse and 16 tennis courts to replace the much smaller facility that had been in place since the 1950s. The clubhouse is modest and practical in size and scope, cozy for small gatherings of players but substantial enough for larger events.

Chris Anderson is the coach of the Junior Program, which she has built into an excellent structure based on the new ITF philosophy. The club retains her for a few hours a week of club management in addition to the coaching.

Jack Allan spearheaded the development of the project and remains actively involved. He is justly proud of the businesslike manner in which the property has been built, maintained and managed ... everything is in topnotch shape.



WEB SITES

Everything seems to happen via the internet these days, and we're struggling to keep pace with it for our Tennis Club. Many thanks to Larry Mantle who has done wonders in adding up-to-date information to www.tennisniagara.com. Larry will hasten to say, however, that this is not his area of expertise. If there are members out there who have an understanding of how websites work, please know that your help would be most valued and appreciated. Contact Larry or any other of your volunteer directors if you could offer assistance.

We also urge everyone to check out www.courtsidecanada.ca and register as a member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club. Before too long, it's hoped that many of our games and programs will be organized via this website.

Do you have a favorite tennis website you'd like to share? Let us know and we'll pass it along in future issues on NTN.

INFORMATION SHARING

Getting information to members, and then getting feedback from the members to the volunteer committee, is an ongoing challenge. Please know that your input is valued and is wanted. Your volunteer directors want to know of your concerns, your questions, your ideas, your suggestions, and to receive the benefit of your experience.

On the matter of getting information to you, a Club Directory is on the way. Peter Marchesseau is organizing the publication of a directory with contact information that will help you remember all the new names you're hearing in these early weeks, and then reach fellow members to organize games. We wish we could put the directory into your hands sooner, but first we'll need your ideas about how we can get our members to register earlier.

Many thanks to those members who responded to Janice's plea for early registration, and congratulations to Denis Davicino who is the winner of the lucky draw prize.

*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.*

