



OCTOBER 9 2011

NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends!

Happy Thanksgiving! There's so much for which to be thankful on this most glorious of weekends at the conclusion of a wonderful season of tennis. Many of you will find yourselves thankful for one of the players pictured below. They're the captains who organized your Regular Games, together providing 120 playing spots each and every week. They're the reason our courts are filled and they're the binding force that builds camaraderie and friendship in our groups. Heartfelt thanks to all, from the players and from your Tennis Club!



Dominic Ventresca



Brenda Parks



Jim Mergelas



Estelle Simons



Pete Unger



Lil Cohen



Marion Briston



Otto Werner



Ian Waddell



Pat Young

Despite the great success of this program, there are still many members who haven't yet connected with a Regular Game. We know there are more introductions yet to be made, more groups to be formed. There's still time in the daytime schedule on Tuesday Wednesday Thursday and Saturday from 10:00-12:00. And there's still time in the evening schedule on Tuesday and Thursday after 7:15. Afternoons from noon to 4:00 are wide open ... great time periods in May and September, more problematic in June July and August. Saturday and Sunday evenings are wide open.

To qualify as a Regular Game, a captain agrees to fill a minimum of two courts every week, and also agrees to place all interested members on their spare list. If you've got the makings of a Regular Game, this is a good time to let us know. Even if you don't have a full roster, we'll likely be able to help you add more players. Contact rosemarygoodwin@mac.com or call 905 468 5503. We're still waiting for the emergence of the first Mixed Doubles Regular Game ... any takers?

For next season, there will be an additional request for all groups (other than new games) to undertake a special project on behalf of the Club. This will be the responsibility of the players in the group other than the captain. We hope it will be fun as well as challenging to work together, and it will get many more players engaged with the Club.

One such project might well be the hosting of a Season-ending Party for the Tennis Club next September or October. Many members have expressed disappointment that we didn't manage one this year, with great memories of the super party organized in 2010 by Charlene Juras and Jackie Donnelly still in their minds.

The photo below shows there's certainly an appetite for partying! Some of the Regular Games got together to thank their captains, as did this gathering of the players in the Monday and Friday games organized by Lil Cohen and Pat Young.



Photo by Mark Stevens

From the left: Maria Joanovic, Linda Telford, Pat Young, Susan Flight, Lisa Allen, Gillian Venturi, Marilyn Francis, Shirley Rednall, Philippa deLeonardis, Charlene Juras, Mary Pohorly, Gillian Mellanby, Bonnie Sartor, Marlene McCarthy, Nancy Berkhout, Diane Hansen, Patricia Campbell, Susan Browne; In front: Lynne McKay, Pat Bryan, Lil Cohen, Sheila Krause, Dorothy Booth, Rosemary Goodwin.

BIG STEP FOR CHARLOTTE PETRICK

On Tuesday October 4, Tennis Canada introduced to the media and to the country the Class of 2011-12 at the National Training Center in Montreal. There's a familiar figure in the back row ... wow, it's our Charlotte!

High Performance Sport demands world-class coaching, training and competition from a very young age. Relocation to training centers has become the norm in recent years, with the best and brightest in each sport being scooped up by the national associations to live and train together and spur each other to greater heights. It's a huge commitment on the part of the players and their families. Charlotte has more poise and independence than the average 14-year-old, but it's still tough to be away from normal family life with her parents and brother Nicolas.

You can let her know you're thinking of her, and send her some words of encouragement by writing to c.petrick@hotmail.com.

Of the eleven players in this year's under-18 class, seven are returning from last year and four are new scholarships. Joining Charlotte as rookies are Gloria Liang, Brayden Schnur and Edward Nguyen. Returning players are Françoise Abanda, Eugenie Bouchard, Kimberley-Ann Surin and Carol Zhao; Hugo DiFeo, Samuel Monette, Filip Obucina and Filip Paliwo.

Coaches for the group include Sylvain Bruneau, Roberto Brogin, Ralph Platz, Cristian Kordasz, Guillaume Marx and Jocelyn Robichaud. There is also another group of coaches at the NTC to help train Canada's professional players when they have periodic training periods away from the ATP and WTA Tours.

The NTC program was established in 2007 and is credited with Canada's recent success on the international stage. Prominent players Rebecca Marino, Vasek Pospisil and Milos Raonic all spent time at the Montreal NTC and still use it from time to time.

Charlotte continues as a 9th grade student by way of online studies as she pursues a full schedule of on-court and off-court training in Montreal. She'll also be traveling extensively for the competition component of the program. We hope to see her here when the ITF Junior International is held in Burlington on October 17-22.

Congratulations Charlotte! Your Niagara fans are cheering for you!



COACHING : THE BEAT GOES ON

Each year since 2008, we've added more instruction opportunities to our club's Adult Program. The results have been far-reaching: new players have been introduced to our game; players who've been away from the game through injury or other circumstance have returned; players of all levels have improved both their skills and their enjoyment of Tennis; and members have made the acquaintance of many others they might otherwise not have met.

The central figure in all this has been Teaching Professional Shawna Macfarlane, Director of Tennis at Niagara Falls Country Club, but a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake. We've added to Shawna's profile in our Adult Program little by little each year, yet the demand continues to outstrip supply.

Our Learn-to-Play program is called Tennis 101 in Shawna's Tuesday and Sunday clinics. There were 40 players in those clinics at various times this season, with an average of 20 per week. A total of 14 were completely new to Tennis!

A new Thursday clinic proved to be so popular it had to be expanded from 2 to 3 courts, and now has enough demand to fill 4 courts. This Skills & Drills program, called Tennis 102 and 210, reached 45 members throughout the season. It blends players of all levels into a fun and lively session.

Fun and lively is the name of the game at Sunday morning Go Tennis clinics. This well established program reached 50 members this season with an average of 16 each week. Through all kinds of weather, Shawna's steadfast and ever-present enthusiasm and encouragement bring the players back. Their reward is increased knowledge and understanding of what Tennis has to offer, and new goals to strive for. And all this continues through October! Contact addintennis@gmail.com.

Thank you, Shawna, for bringing all this to us, and thanks to all the players for supporting the program. Shawna works with a team of volunteer instructors whose teaching skills are ever-improving as well. Thanks to Coaching Coordinator Sarah Chapman-Jay for encouraging their continued involvement and development : Janice Schachtschneider, Thitima Christopher, Rob Macfarlane, Ed Mesihovic and Colleen Petrick. We always need to add more coaches and instructors to our arsenal ... are you ready to become involved? If so, just contact Sarah and she'll help you get started.



*Enjoying the lovely October weather on Thursday evening:
Anita Robertson, Andy Fairweather, Brenda Parks, Shawna Macfarlane, Pat Odey, Marilyn Francis,
Terry Belleville, Mary Ann Enns, Hermann Moehl, Susan Vriens, Marilyn Vann.*

YOUR VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE AT WORK



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club's Volunteer Committee met for an extended session on Friday evening to review the 2011 season and lay plans for 2012. From the left: **John Christie**, Treasurer; **Sarah Chapman-Jay**, Coaching Coordinator; **Larry Mantle**, Website & Online Operations Coordinator; **Elizabeth Vinassac**, Ladies Night Coordinator; **Ian Waddell**, President; **Janice Schachtschneider**, Registrar; **Albert Reyes**, Promotions Coordinator. Missing from the photo are **Charlene Juras**, Junior Program Coordinator; and **Rosemary Goodwin**, Adult Program Coordinator and Communications Coordinator.

A primary outcome of the meeting was a plan to seek a high level hearing with Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake officials for the purpose of providing input to the Town's ten-year planning exercise. This process has been called the most important exercise the municipality undertakes each year, and takes on added significance this time with the long-term look at capital expenditures through 2020 and beyond.

It will be important for Community Tennis to keep pace with the standard of other Town of NOTL amenities.



Your *Niagara Tennis News* is created on a Mac. Without Steve Jobs, it's unlikely this publication would ever have existed. For fans of Apple products, everyday life holds more beauty than it would have without him. The countless tributes have tried to capture lessons learned from his all-too-short life. One, in the *New York Times* this morning, listed four that seem applicable to our Tennis Club:

- Do whatever it takes to delight customers (members).
- Good ideas take time.
- Don't dwell on mistakes.
- Passion counts for a lot.



This is our time...

If you were born in 1957 or earlier, here's something fun to look forward to at the start of next season: the Niagara District Senior Games Tennis competition, to be held on our courts on May 29-31 2012.

Every second summer, there's an Ontario Senior Games - a multi-sport festival for Ontario residents over the age of 55. The next event will be held in Brampton on August 14-16, with the winners advancing to the Canada Senior Games in Sydney Nova Scotia on August 29 - September 1.

Players qualify for the Ontario Games through District Games ... and that's where we come in. The various sport activities will be held in various locations throughout the Niagara Peninsula, but Tennis will be here in Niagara-on-the-Lake ... so you've already got home court advantage.

There will be competition in three age categories : 55+, 65+, 75+.

In each age category, there will be three events: Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles. All players in the Niagara Peninsula are eligible, other than those in the top-20 of OTA rankings for their age group. Gold, silver and bronze pins will be awarded for each of the nine events.

The total entry fee is yet to be determined, but it will include a \$10 fee which registers each player as a member of the OSGA. An additional fee, to cover all the event costs, will be added to that.

Watch your email this winter for more details ... and make plans now for pairing up with your favorite partners.

www.ontarioseniorgames.ca



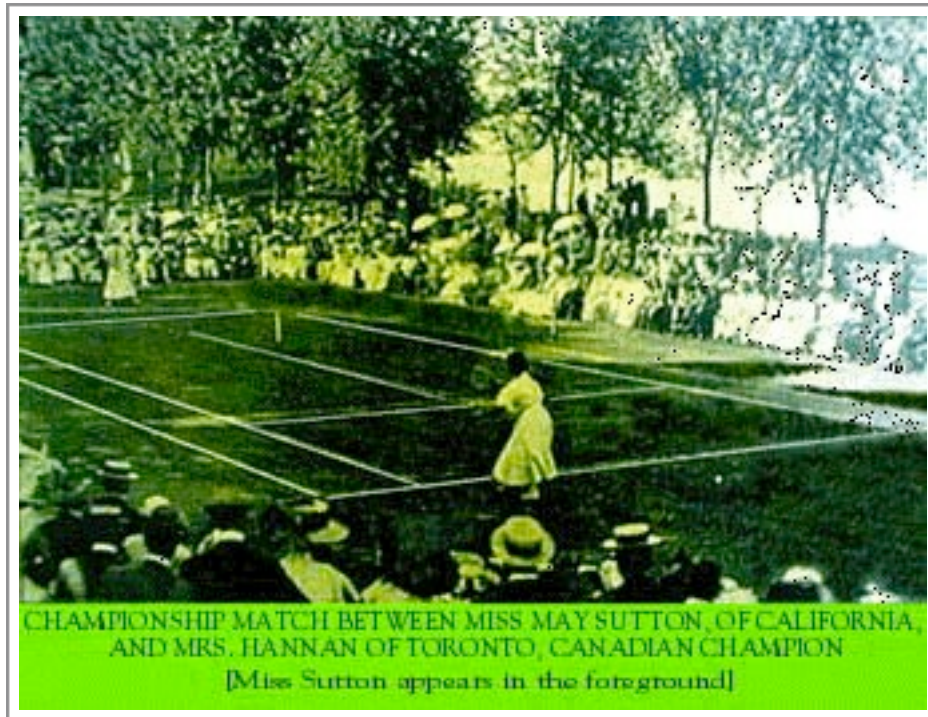
When OSGA Coordinator Matt Trinnear visited our courts on Tuesday, he met Monica Berti - working on her backhand with Coach Shawna Macfarlane. He thought he was kidding when he asked if she was practicing for the Senior Games, but it happens that Monica and Richard Berti were participants in the 2010 Ontario Senior Games!

THEN

How's this for a scene in Queen's Royal Park beside the lake off Front and King Streets?

The photo was taken in 1909, during the remarkable run of Canadian Open Tennis Championships held in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 1895-1913.

As you can see, it was an enormous event, attracting thousands of spectators from far and wide. This particular Ladies Champion, May Sutton, had won Wimbledon earlier that season.



It was a regular occurrence for the best players from the USA and Canada to play in both the US Open and the Canadian Open, just as it is now. But it was only successful in Canada when the Canadian Open was held here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Americans were much less enthusiastic about traveling to Toronto or Montreal.

World War I changed everything, and the Canadian Open didn't become a big deal again until the 1970s when the open era brought major corporate sponsorship into the mix. There was nothing like Niagara-on-the-Lake!

Next year, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake celebrates 200 years of history ... 1812-2012. What could we do to draw attention to a significant happening at the halfway mark of that period : the 1912 Canadian Open Tennis Championships? What could we do as a Club to mark the 100th anniversary of that historic event ... 1912-2012?



Many thanks to Tady Saczkowski of the Welland TC for these great photos. Tady is an amateur historian who has undertaken to research the story of the Welland TC. We're greatly indebted to him for his generosity in sharing the treasures he finds along the way regarding Tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We go back much further than 1970!

AND NOW

YES, WE WENT GOLFING!

It was a glorious day for the 1st annual Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club golf outing. And we're likely to do it again if we can arrange for faster groups ahead of us next time ... tennis players like to move!

Many thanks to Larry Mantle who organized the day for us, and to Golf Professional Billy Simkin who treated us to lovely prizes. Everyone enjoyed lunch in the dining-room with the best view in Town, and there seemed to be shoppers in the Pro Shop as well.

This was our first venture into gathering Tennis Club members for an off-court adventure, but it seems like an idea that could grow. Who would like to organize a bicycle tour to some wineries for us next year? Starting point at the pavilion.



Looking good in golf gear: Jack Shrubbs, Richard Berti, Judy Mantle, Neil Cuthbertson, Shirley Rednall, Billy Simkin, Marilyn Francis, Larry Mantle, Bonnie Sartor, Kay Ashwood, Monica Berti, Ray Cutts; In front: Helen Ferley, Susan Flight, Lisa Allen, Lynne McKay, Rosemary Goodwin.



Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

Rosemary Goodwin

on behalf of your Volunteer Committee : Ian Waddell, John Christie, Janice Schachtschneider, Liz Vinassac, Charlene Juras, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Larry Mantle, Albert Reyes.

