



SEPTEMBER 8 2011

NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends!

We hope many of you are planning to visit the courts on Saturday to watch the Men's A Doubles Championships. First round goes at 11:00 with semi-finals at 1:00 and the final around 3:00. Players are competing for the Roman & Maria Korda Trophy. Tournament Director is Albert Reyes.

This weekend is the date being suggested for the 2012 Women's A/B Doubles Tournament, so our female members may be interested in checking out the Men's Doubles with a view to figuring out how the two events might fit into the weekend together next season. It's hoped the women's event will be under the direction of Janice Schachtschneider, Sarah Chapman-Jay and Thitima Christopher. Please contact any of them if you'd be willing to join the effort of planning and preparations.

Sunday afternoon will see our young junior players enjoying some competition. It's been a real pleasure to see so many making big strides with their tennis this summer.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SINGLES CHAMPIONS!

Many thanks to the players who competed for our Singles titles last Sunday. As always, the atmosphere was very positive ... singles players always seem to be supportive of one another.



Stefa Korda
Rive WorkRoom Trophy



Hugo Lirio
Gerald & Carole Kanters Trophy



Alan Briston
Niagara Battery & Tire Trophy



Ladies Singles Finalists :
Stefa Korda and Elisabeth Lackner



Men's A Singles :
*Johannes Lackner, Gary Inkster,
Hugo Lirio and Roman Korda*

Thanks to Pam's Pro Shop
for support of our tournaments.



Men's B Singles : *Roland Adams, Patrick O'Neill, Dennis Donnelly, Richard Berti, Ron Riediger, Alan Briston, Ian Waddell, Bill Devolin.*

For the second consecutive year, this title has been won by a player after his 70th birthday ... an inspiration to all the younger players! Alan had a very tough draw, defeating the ladder leader Bill Devolin in the quarter-final, defending champion Richard Berti in the semi-final, and Ian Waddell in the final.

RAND CUP : CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

In 1936, a group of Niagara-on-the-Lake families began a tradition of playing tennis together on Labor Day weekend. This past weekend, friends and supporters of those original families gathered to celebrate 75 years of maintaining the tradition.

Since there were no community facilities in the early years, the competition was always held on private courts throughout the Town. Over the years, the number of those courts has gradually diminished. For the first time, the preliminary rounds this year were played on the Memorial Park courts, giving the tournament a festive kickoff on Saturday.



The tournament plays for a series of trophies with rich histories : the Taylor Trophy, the Drope Cup, the A W Smith Cup, the Earl Cup and the Rand Cup/Salt-Brown Trophy.

On Sunday evening, a gathering of 85 tennis well-wishers was held at Navy Hall. The occasion was hosted by Clinton Brown; Patsy, Kathy and Nancy Drope; Pamela and Chris Earl; Jack Hahn, and Nancy Mouget. They spoke of their memories of the tournament's past and the importance it held in the lives of their families.

We often wonder how it was that Tennis had such glory years in times gone by ... but the family emphasis may hold the answer. Tennis Canada's current development philosophy can be summed up as : Tennis is changing : it's about families now. Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we can say to that "everything old is new again!"

Congratulations to Robert McCaughey, Shirley Rednall, Helen Ferley, Steve Locke and others who maintain this fine Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis tradition.

THE SURVEY

Thanks to all who have taken time to reply to the survey sent last week by club president Ian Waddell. After almost a year at the helm, Ian is eager for feedback from the members on future direction for the club. Whether you answer the questions as they were put to you, or whether you simply write a note with some of your concerns or questions of your own, Ian welcomes your participation.

Our tennis facilities in Niagara-on-the-Lake are not in the best of condition at the moment. It's appropriate that the Tennis Club bring its experience and expertise to the conversation regarding how best to ensure we have top notch services for residents in the coming years.

As he prepares for those conversations with Town officials this fall, Ian wants to be certain he carries with him the best advice and the wisdom of as many tennis players as possible. Your opinion is valued!

If you've set it aside for another day, please re-visit the survey and send it along.

LADIES NIGHT GRAND FINALE

Yesterday was a tough day to be the tournament director of the US Open, and the same conditions afflicted us here.

If this photo looks like a scene from Survivor, be assured that the last man voted off the island would have been Richard Berti! The winds howled and gusted ... it was cold and damp ... but perseverance and ingenuity resulted in this homely but effective windbreak which sheltered the pavilion in time for the evening's festivities.

A couple of hours later, it was cozy enough for the season-ending dinner to proceed as scheduled.



The official Ladies Night season started on May 25 16 weeks later, a total of almost 60 members have great memories of their Wednesday evening experiences. There were three series of organized games, in June July and August, each with a 6:00 shift and a 7:30 shift - 32 players each week. And there were four special event evenings, at which all the players could gather to share a meal and spend some social time together.

It was nothing short of brilliant ... a great tribute to all the players, but especially to program directors Liz Vinassac and Kay Ashwood. Liz started the wheels in motion over the past two seasons along with support from Linda Gordon and Joan Chicken. This season, Kay was recruited to the program and she and Liz have proved to be a formidable team ... much appreciated by all the players who have enjoyed the benefits of their organization.

Kay and Liz will take a well-earned break for the remainder of the fall season, so players are free to come out on Wednesday evening to form up games ourselves. An exception will be the 7:00-8:30 time period next week, when we'll hold the second round of play for the Penguin Trophy. For more on that, read on

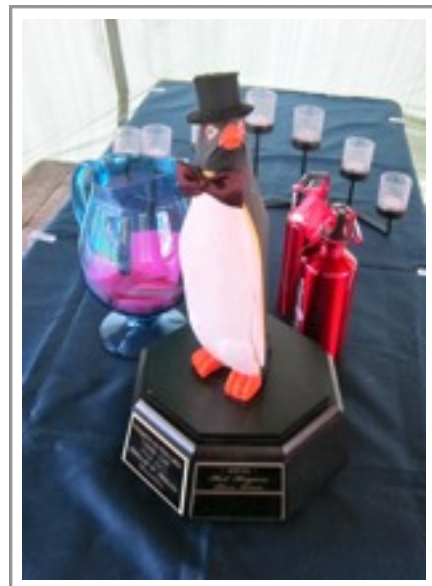
THE PENGUIN TROPHY, SPONSORED BY TANGO BOUTIQUES

This trophy goes to a winning doubles team who are paired when their names are drawn from a hat at the start of the competition. The first section was held early Wednesday evening, but the second section was washed out by the rains. It will be played next Wednesday, with a 7:00 start.

Play was spirited among the teams of the early shift, with Bev Lees & Liz Vinassac looking tough after the first round. After the second round, they were tied with Sylvia Christie & Kay Ashwood. The matter was resolved in the third round, with Sylvia and Kay emerging as the winners. They'll represent the early shift in a playoff once the second section matches are played next Wednesday.

Honorable mention goes to the teams of Linda Gordon & Estelle Simons and Marlene McCarthy & Joan Chicken. And thanks to all the players for great sportsmanship.

Special thanks to tournament sponsor Judy Sokoloski of TANGO Boutiques. Winner of the door prize is Janice Schachtschneider, happy to take home a lovely accessory scarf.



*Linda Gordon spoke for the players in extending heartfelt appreciation to **Kay Ashwood**.*

We can be enormously proud of the wonderful Ladies Night program managed by Kay and Liz Vinassac.

Kay and Liz would like to thank Patricia Campbell for her support at the special events, and all the players who brought such wonderful food!



*Back row: Ellen Cheslock, Bev Lees, Monica Berti, Irene Wall, Brenda Strecker, Linda Gordon, Kay Ashwood, Sylvia Christie, Liz Vinassac
Front row: Susan Flight, Marion Briston, Patricia Campbell, Marlene McCarthy, Estelle Simons, Susan Lancaster*

TENNIS IS FOR FAMILIES

Members always tell us they love seeing young people playing on our courts.

You'll want to look twice when you see these young players ... they're hitting a great ball!

On the left, Carmen Masi is learning tennis in order to keep up with his son Trevor.

On the right, Ed Mesihovic and his daughter Emira have been playing together for several years.

Keep up the good work, Trevor and Emira!



LOST & FOUND



Do any of these items look familiar?
This is the last call before it all moves over to Newark Neighbours.
You can claim your misplaced items in the pavilion office.

TRACKING CHARLOTTE'S PROGRESS



Skipping rope ... football ... standard equipment found in our tennis bag for use during the warmup. No? Ah well, perhaps that's why we're not headed to the WTA Tour.

This is a typical start to a training session for Charlotte Petrick as she prepares for her fall competition schedule.

She was excited today to learn of the success of her friend and colleague Francoise Abanda who won her 2nd round match at the US Open (Junior Girls) vs Madison Keys 75 61. Madison made her mark last week playing in the main draw, losing in the 2nd round to Lucie Safarova 36 75 64.



Like Charlotte, Francoise has a 1997 birthday. But she has been training at the National Center in Montreal for quite some time and has traveled extensively to international competitions. She now is the highest-ranked U14 in the world, holding the #25 position on the ITF junior (U18) rankings.

Among Canadian U14 girls, Charlotte holds the second highest international U18 position after Francoise. But she's a distant second at #679. The only way to earn the points to move up the rankings is to play in tournaments ... lots of tournaments. It's just like the pro tours : pack your bags and hit the road.

So that's what Charlotte will be doing for the next three months. You can follow her progress on the ITF website:

Sep 12-16	World Ranking Event, Montreal
Sep 26 - Oct 2	ITF Junior, Waco Texas
Oct 3-9	ITF Junior, Wichita Falls Texas
Oct 10-15	Pan Am Junior Champs, Tulsa Oklahoma
Oct 17-22	World Ranking Event, Burlington
Nov 28 - Dec 4	Eddie Herr International Junior Championships, Bradenton Florida
Dec 5-11	Dunlop Orange Bowl, Key Biscayne Florida

Best regards,
Rosemary Goodwin

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

www.tennisniagara.com Thanks to Larry Mantle for keeping our website current. Check it out!

