



NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

JULY 11, 2010

Hello Tennis Friends!

This past week will be remembered primarily for the heat ... heavy heat! It was only a few days but it felt like much more. Many games were shortened, or started earlier in the morning and later in the evening. But there was still lots of tennis!

Women's Inter-Club

The weather changed at just the wrong moment, with rains falling throughout the middle of the day on Friday ... just enough to put a damper on the inter-club match with players from the Welland Tennis Club. Although only a few games were played, event organizer Gillian Venturi was able to make it all worthwhile thanks to a wonderful lunch and to the goodwill of all the players.

The lunch-time conversation made it clear that there is a real interest in having inter-club activity, both of a friendly and of a competitive nature. The next step will be a return engagement at the Welland TC on August 20, at which time there may be some concrete proposals for a schedule of matches in 2011.



Back: Debbie Breitenbach(W), Pat Young, Marie McCauley(W), Joyce Cutts(W), Ann Volk(W), Els Swart(W), Nancy Saczkowski(W), Linda Anderson(W), Shirley Rednall, Sarah Chapman, Mandi Hallchurch(W)

Front: Pat Bryan, Gillian Venturi, Diane Hanson, Lil Cohen, Gillian Mellanby, Pat Ridesic.

Wednesday morning men's game

As mentioned in the last NTN, a primary mission for the club is to encourage various groups of players to meet for regular games. Tennis players are always looking for good games with others who play tennis in a similar fashion, since it tends to feel comfortable both on the court and in after-match conversation. When you have a good game, you're more likely to come back for more at the same time next week.



*From the left : Vittorio Venturi, Denis Davicino, Alex Krol, Tady Saczkowski, Larry Young, Richard Berti, Ray Cutts, Larry Mantle.
Back right : Max Bade, Nelson Walroth, Nigel Riddell, Robin Evans*

To this end, a previously quiet time at the club is now the home for a higher-level men's game at 9:00 on Wednesday mornings. So far the game is using either 2 or 3 courts and is still in its formative stages. A total of 12 players toughed it out this week through the heat.

Friday Night Couples

The idea of a Friday Night Couples game has been a tradition at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club for many years, but has had difficulty finding a form in recent times. Last season, we ran it as an Open Play night, with players mixing up for games as they arrived. This season, the event has been dying on the vine for lack of a focus or a format.

Yet we continue to get feedback from members who see Friday evening as a desirable time to go to the club together and play some tennis with other couples. The problem is that it's disappointing to lace up the shoes and drive to the courts only to discover there's no one else to play with.

So here's the latest suggestion : if you'd like to play on Friday evening, please email to rosemarygoodwin@mac.com by Wednesday. We'll then circulate back a list of all those who are planning to come, such that everyone will know for certain there will be a game waiting for you. We'll try it for the remainder of July and see what happens.

Enjoying a game this past Friday were Chris & Carmen Bowron, Charlene & Jim Juras, Karen & Greg Berti.



The GO TEAM

Saturday brought us a spectacular summer evening, just right for a special occasion created by Shawna Macfarlane on behalf of those members who have been enjoying Go Tennis and Tennis 101/102 clinics.

At least 25 players participated in a lively round of games with all sorts of different partners and a variety of formats. The great constant was Shawna's unwavering positive energy, so enjoyed and appreciated by all the players.

We have been most fortunate to have her at our club these past seasons, and it's very satisfying to see ever more members joining in the regular clinics on Tuesday evening and on Sunday morning. A club takes a huge step forward when it has the services of a tennis professional, even if it's only on a parttime basis as in our situation.

For experienced players, there's the opportunity to improve our skills and our fitness. And for those just starting to play, or learning to adjust to injuries (and age), the clinics provide a way to try things out and gradually grow in confidence.

On Saturday, the occasion was for all of them ... newcomers and established players to play together just for the joy of it, then to spend some time visiting together in the pavilion (where reports say that Hermann's cracker spread was the hit of the evening). Thanks again, Shawna!



Photos by Debra Robert



Congratulations, Charlene!

By now we hope everyone has cut out page 14 from this week's edition of the Niagara Advance and put it on the door of the frig.

Congratulations to Charlene Juras, honored by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake with the **2010 Contribution to Youth Award** as part of the 15th annual volunteer recognition program.

Charlene was chosen for the award in tribute to the countless hours she has spent organizing the Junior Program for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club and because of the great success of the program. That work continues this week with classes on Monday through Thursday from 4:00-6:00, and with Junior Team Tennis at 5:00 on Friday.

Good Luck, Charlotte!

Charlotte Petrick is about to try some tennis globe-trotting. At the urging of her coach, Alex Kodat, who is at home in the Czech Republic for the summer, Charlotte will travel to Prague for some training and to compete in the Sparta Cup, an ITF Junior Circuit tournament, on July 21-25.

The event provides an opportunity for Charlotte to gain valuable experience and possibly improve her ITF junior ranking (currently #1217).

Charlotte takes with her the best wishes of all at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club (as do her traveling companions, Colleen and Nicolas) ... they'll certainly be missed working out on our courts each day. Departure is set for this Tuesday.

Coming Up!

It will be yet another busy week. Hospitality is being laid on to encourage members to come out for some daytime play on Tuesday at 9:00 (8:30 for the early birds) ... all are welcome.

Everyone should be announcing their intentions this week to play in the Men's B Doubles (July 19 & 26) and the Women's Doubles (July 24-25) tournaments. Men's entries go to Don Chambers ... women's entries to Janice Schachtschneider. These events are designed to be very member-friendly ... a positive experience for everyone. So please don't be shy ... it's only fun if YOU play!

Beyond that there's the Ladies Round Robin, Men's Night, Ladies Night, Regular Groups, Tennis 101/102 and Go Tennis, the Junior Program ... and perhaps a refreshing swim in the pool.

We still have a few club shirts for sale. Ask to see them at the pavilion office, or take one home to try it on.

Best regards,

Rosemary Goodwin

on behalf of,

Don Chambers

Sarah Chapman-Jay

John Christie

Charlene Juras

Phil Landray

Peter Marchesseau

Ralph Mellanby

Janice Schachtschneider

Elizabeth Vinassac

Irene Wall

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Directory addition:

New!

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