



# NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

JULY 18, 2010

Hello Tennis Friends!

It's midsummer at its most beautiful in Niagara at the moment. How fortunate we are to be here and to have so much beauty and bounty to enjoy ... all that, and tennis too!

Our first tournament week of the season is about to unfold. First up will be the **Men's B Doubles Tournament** on Monday evening. A total of 26 players are set to vie for honors, 10 more than in our inaugural event last season. The teams will play preliminary rounds on July 19, with the semi-finals and finals being played on July 26. Spectators are welcome!

The **Women's Doubles Tournament** is set for next weekend, July 24-25. Preliminary rounds will be played between 10am and 3pm on Saturday, with final matches scheduled for Sunday at 1pm. Again, spectators are welcome! Come out to cheer on your favorite teams.

Three more tournaments are on tap for August : the Men's A Doubles event on August 3 and 10 ... the TennisAccess Tour open mixed doubles event on August 8 ... and our club Mixed Doubles tournament on August 28-29.

## Singles Round Robins



*Ray Cutts and Larry Young*

Although most games at our club are of the doubles variety, there are a few players who regularly play singles, but many more who would play with a little gentle prodding.

Thanks to Ron Davis and Sarah Chapman-Jay, we have that coaxing and a good number of players are now working their way through a series of singles round robins.

The benefits are many : a good fitness workout, for sure; the opportunity to hit far more balls than we do in a doubles match; the chance to spend quality time with another member one-on-one; and the intangibles that come with stepping outside our comfort zone. All that, plus you never have to say "I'm sorry" to a partner!

It's never too late to start. Give Ron or Sarah a call if you'd like to get involved.



*Susan Flight and Lynne McKay*

## Regular Games

Two interesting things have been noted at our club so far this season : first is that there are more players using the courts than ever ... and second is that we seldom have players waiting for a court to clear before they can get on.

One of the reasons for this is the wonderful volunteers who organize our Regular Games. Once these multi-court games are operating on a regular basis, there is a natural place for members to gravitate when they are looking for a spot. Players start out as spares, but then often become regular members of their groups. It takes a long list of players to keep a multi-court game filled week after week!

Newest addition to our calendar of Regular Games is a men's group on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 8-10am. The organizers are Pete Unger and Jack Schuster ... you can call either of them if you'd like to be put on their list.

All the Regular Games are shown on the Google Calendar on our website, along with the number of courts being used. This is a good reference point if you're looking for open court time.

**Best bets for open time** are Monday afternoons from 12:30-4:00; Tuesdays from 10:00-4:00; Wednesdays from 11:00-4:00; Thursdays from 10:00-4:00; Fridays from 12:00-5:00; any time on Saturday; and Sundays after 11:00am. And there always seems to be a court available at 7am.

We've been seeing a bit of a crowd early on Tuesday mornings lately, and this is a time when it would be nice to keep one court available between 8 and 9am. **Maxine Van Zyl** has been taking a tennis lesson at this time every week since April as part of her home-schooling education. She's been out there through cold and damp, through heat and wind ... so it would be very nice if we could do her the courtesy of having a court to continue the pattern.



*Jack Schuster and Pete Unger*

## Play for Pink

Each year, Shawna Macfarlane hosts a special event at the Niagara Falls Country Club, raising funds for research to combat women's cancers via the Play for Pink program.

Enjoying the beautiful clay courts and lovely scenery overlooking the Niagara River this past Friday were Rosemary Goodwin and Mary Ann Enns, shown on either side of NFCC Tennis Director Shawna Macfarlane.

A full field raised over \$1000 for the good cause.



## Friday Nights are for Everyone!

We aren't very well organized for Friday nights this season. And that's a pity because summer Friday evenings are fantastic in the park. Our club dynamo, Charlene Juras, is trying her best to make it a happy and active time on the courts and in the pavilion. There were several keen players ready for anything this past Friday ... if playing on Friday evening appeals to you, drop Charlene a note and plan on joining her this week.



*Greg Berti, Monica Berti, Richard Berti, Chris Bowron, Mayo Ridesic, Jim Juras, Charlene Juras, Ken Smith, Karen Berti*

The leftie-rightie combination of Richard Berti and son Greg Berti played together for the first time on Friday evening.

Anyone for a challenge?



## Junior Team Tennis

Before the adult players take to the courts on Fridays, Charlene Juras runs Junior Team Tennis from 5:00 - 6:00.

It's a big job to guide and encourage the kids with their matches and help is always welcome. Give Charlene a call if you could spare some time for the program.



## A look at a neighboring club

Grimsby Tennis Club is about a 40-minute drive from us, similar to the distance to the Welland Tennis Club but in the opposite direction. There's a growing interest in developing some inter-club exchanges among the three friendly and active tennis communities.

Grimsby Tennis Club operates on a basis very like ours in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The courts belong to the Town and the programming is managed by the volunteer Tennis Club. However, they enjoy a very practical little clubhouse and a nice shaded courtside area. Here are some photos to give you an idea of their setting.



The hitting wall at the Grimsby Tennis Club is located at the rear of one of their courts, within the court area. It's about 12 feet tall, with another 4 feet of screen above that. The construction is very sturdy.

The club operates as we do with keys for the members and no staff. Their membership numbers are similar to ours, but fees are higher : \$100 for an adult and \$200 for a family.

Thanks to Bob & Stephanie Pride for showing me around the facilities!

## The News from Prague

Charlotte Petrick, along with her mother Colleen and brother Nicolas, flew to Amsterdam then rented a car and drove from there to Prague on Wednesday ... what a great adventure!

Charlotte is loving the atmosphere at the Sparta Club and has been training with coach Ales Kodat in the skills she'll need to compete on the red clay. [Kodat is best known as the coach who helped Nicole Vaidisova become a top-10 player before she left tennis to marry Radek Stepanek earlier this year. Stepanek trains at the Sparta Club.]

The qualifying draw for the ITF Junior Tournament starts on Monday. Good luck, Charlotte!



## Thinking about the future ....

It happens that this week brings us to the halfway mark of the third season for this president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club ... about the right time for club members to start thinking about who they'd like to see take over as the next president.

My fellow volunteer directors and I have received tremendous support and encouragement during this period, which has enabled us to implement most of our ideas for the club. It has been a privilege to serve, but new leadership will bring new ideas and ambitions, so vital to our continuing growth and success.

So look around ... whose leadership would you like to support next?

Best regards,

Rosemary Goodwin

on behalf of,

Don Chambers

Phil Landray

Janice Schachtschneider

Sarah Chapman-Jay

Peter Marchesseau

Elizabeth Vinassac

John Christie

Ralph Mellanby

Irene Wall

Charlene Juras

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