

NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

Hello Tennis Friends!

This edition of NTN could be called 'This Is The Week That Was'. So many fun and interesting things happened on our courts this week that it's hard to know where to begin. Accordingly, we'll start at the beginning and walk you through it event by event.

Ladies Singles Round Robin

The Ladies Singles Round Robins have been a huge success this season. Having 19 women members playing singles is pretty much unheard-of, but don't be surprised if there are even more next year. Many thanks to Sarah Chapman-Jay for being the organizer and the inspiration for this program.

But Sarah walks the walk as well as talking the talk. On Monday, she met Susan Flight in the final match of the season, the two players having mowed down all the competition over the past several weeks. The final 10-game pro set stretched into an hour and a half of great singles ... 0-2, then 6-2, then 7-4. Susan never gave up and brought it to 9-7 with play that Sarah described as going "from good to brilliant". Susan pushed it to ad-out ... one more point and she would serve at 8-9. But they returned to deuce and played several more before Sarah finally put two points together to take the match 10-7.

Their parting reaction? "Let's play again soon!" Congratulations to both Sarah and Susan, and to all the ladies singles competitors!



Sarah Chapman-Jay and Susan Flight

Ladies Night Closing Party

The weather was cool and breezy, making the pavilion pretty uncomfortable once it became dark, but there was an enthusiastic group on hand regardless to enjoy dessert and coffee in honor of a great season of Wednesday evening tennis.

Along with Men's Night on Mondays, Ladies Night has been the anchor of programming for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club since Day One in 1970. We've been very fortunate to have the organizing expertise of Liz Vinassac to make the games throughout this season. Liz sets things up such that everyone can start at the time best fitting their schedule, making it possible for many more members to join in.

Thanks to Liz (center) and to her assistants Linda Gordon (left) and Joan Chicken (right). They'd love to see some other members get



involved with helping Liz next season. Linda says "It would be fun to get some new ideas from our wonderful young members." Don't be shy ... step right up!

A special feature of Wednesday's play was a match featuring (left to right) Irene Wall, Marlene McCarthy, Linda Gordon and Bev Lees. Both Bev and Marlene are charter members of the club and Irene has been a member since 1972. Linda joined in during the '80s, taking lessons from Lezlie Murch, so the foursome have played together countless times over the past 25 years. But this summer, they discovered they hadn't played once! It was fitting to set that right on Ladies Night.



An unscheduled part of the evening was a beautiful presentation to a most surprised club president. Many thanks for the generous sentiments and lovely gifts. The primary objective in 2008 was to fill the courts on Ladies Night. It's a great joy to see so many wonderful members enjoying each other's company!

The Penguin Tournament

Throughout the summer, regular daytime games have been organized by Lil Cohen, Estelle Simons, Pat Bryan and Ellen Cheslock ... providing good competition and great camaraderie for as many as 50 women club members. This is a wonderful service to the club and we're deeply indebted to these organizers for their patience and persistence.

The idea of the new event, inaugurated this past Friday morning, was to mix together the players from all the various games. A penguin became a trophy and set the black & white theme. Pairings were formed by drawing names and a round-robin of games was played.

Thanks to Judy Sokoloski who sponsored the event with prizes from her TANGO boutiques.





Back: Elly Olthof, Marlene Walther, Susan Browne, Pat Bryan, Bev Lees, Gillian Venturi, Pat Young, Joan Sim, Bonnie Sartor, Kay Ashwood, Patricia Campbell, Monica Berti, Joan Mergelas, Philippa de Leonardis

Front: Diane Hanson, Jane Du Munnich, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Joan Chicken, Ellen Cheslock, Thitima Christopher, Marlene McCarthy, Midori Medoruma



When all was said and done, two teams tied with 17 games out of a possible 24. A tiebreak was played to determine the winner, with (left to right) Pat Bryan & Bev Lees prevailing over Jane Du Munnich & Thitima Christopher. We're already looking forward to next year!

Friday Night Open Doubles

Along with Men's Night and Ladies Night, the other constant that shows up in the history books for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club is the idea of a mixed doubles social on Friday Nights.

For the past several years, we've had a tough time finding the right formula that will allow players to drop in when they happen to be available, without having to make any commitment in advance. When we all operate on that basis, there's no way to predict what will happen on any given Friday, and impossible to make any plans or preparations.

With "flexibility" having been the order of the day all summer, the regulars thought it would be a good idea to create one planned event ... to celebrate this season, and perhaps plant some seeds for next season.

There were a number of ringleaders, but the prime mover became Charlene Juras. When Charlene walks into a room (or onto a tennis court) her smile and positive energy and enthusiasm light up the space ... and those elements became the theme and the mood of the special event last Friday evening. Charlene tells the story:



This past Friday evening, September 10, twenty members participated in a mixed doubles tournament. The goal of the event was to allow members (teams) to play against each other and have FUN doing it!

Several teams were husband and wife. The consensus was that "we would try this" however, I have a feeling that decision may be different next year.....right Greg and Jim?

The 10 teams were divided into two groups. It was a round robin format therefore each team played every other team within their group. Four games were played in each round. The following were each team's final points:

<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Pts</u>
Monica Berti & Terry Francis	11
Karen & Greg Berti	4
Charlene & Jim Juras	9
Philippa & Marco de Leonardis	8
Susan Werner & Peter Marchesseau	8
<u>Group 2</u>	
Debra Robert & Richard Berti	8
Sylvia & John Christie	8
Carmen Bowron & Perry Johnson	8
Amy Weiner & Ken Smith	7
Patricia Campbell & Jim Thackray	9

The 2 way tie for 3rd & 4th in Group 1 was resolved by a coin toss, simply because there was a little accident that had occurred on the court. Marco had sliced his top lip with an enthusiastic forehand follow-through, requiring some medical attention. Thank goodness there was a Dr. on hand! Marco had to receive a few stitches. Thanks Karen!

The 3 way tie for 2nd was determined by playing a tiebreaker.

The teams to make it into the semi finals were:

Monica & Terry (1st) vs Deb & Richard (2nd),
Patricia & Jim (1st) vs Charlene & Jim (2nd)

Both matches ended with a 2-2 final. A 5th game was needed to determine the winner. Both games went to Ad followed by sudden death.

The finals were between Monica & Terry and Patricia & Jim. Again the score ended 2-2 followed by a 5th game. Again it came down to sudden death.

The champions of the night were Monica and Terry. They won themselves a 12 pack of Heineken and Molson Canadian beer.

The finalists, Patricia & Jim, each received a 4 pack of coolers.

The consolation winners were Carmen & Perry. Finalists were Susan & Peter ... each won a can of tennis balls. Everyone else received a bag of chips and a chocolate bar (left over from the Junior Program's tournament the week before!).

I would like to thank Marilyn Francis and Chris Bowron for staying to the end and being part of the party. A warm thank you to Perry Johnson : (1) for filling in for Chris Bowron and being Carmen's partner, and (2) for giving us a good deal on the two trays of Stone Road Grille pizza that were so quickly devoured and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and (3) for taking it easy on us during the tennis games!

And lastly, a very big thank you to all members who participated in this great event.

It was just fantastic to see such equal level of play as well as some friendships being made.

Having fun and meeting new members were the goals of this event and it was apparent those two goals were met.

I know the 2nd annual Friday Mixed Doubles FUN tournament will be here before we know it!!

Friday open mixed doubles will continue for as long as the weather allows us to play! I encourage anyone who would like to come out and join in. Having a partner is not required. Just come on out and you will be paired up with different players each half hour!



From the left: Karen Berti, Greg Berti, Susan Werner, Jim Juras, Charlene Juras, Perry Johnson, Debra Robert, Monica Berti, Amy Weiner, Richard Berti, Philippa de Leonardis, Marco de Leonardis, Carmen Bowron, Ken Smith, Patricia Campbell, Terry Francis, John Christie, Jim Thackray, Sylvia Christie, Peter Marchesseau

Men's A Doubles Championship

Saturday morning was the occasion for the Men's A Doubles tournament, with eight strong teams gathered for top-notch tennis. The even matches were enjoyed by both players and spectators alike.

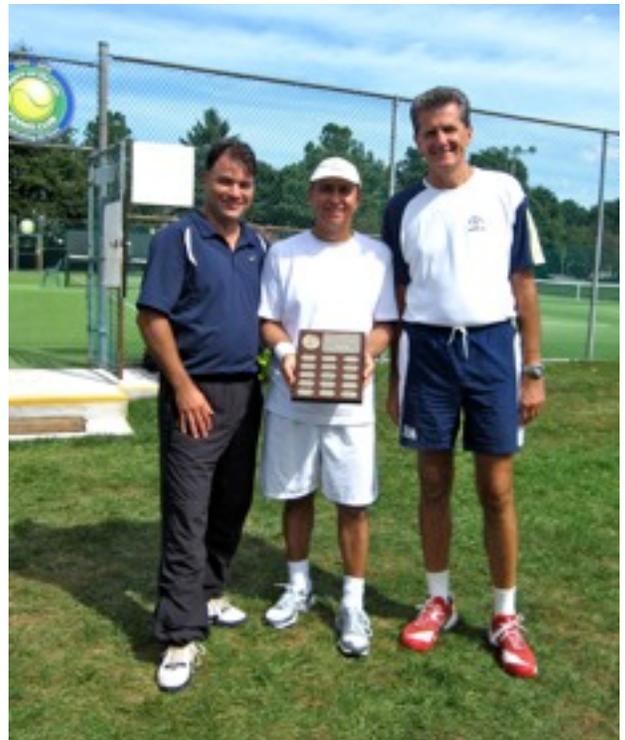
Jeff Joanovic and Hugo Lirio proved to be the best team of the day, defeating the new pairing of Chado Brcic and Robin Evans in the final match. Jeff and Hugo has defeated Tom Braybrook and Don Pozojevic in their semi-final, while Chado and Robin had defeated Roman Korda and Danny Lococo.

The consolation match was won in a tiebreak by Patrick MacNeill and Dominic Ventresca over Scott McGregor and Nigel Riddell.

Many thanks to Roman & Maria Korda who sponsored the event and presented generous gift certificates for Stone Road Grille to the winning team.

Thanks to Gillian Venturi for delicious muffins and for being the number-one helper for serving the lunch.

Past winners of this event include Ken Rive and Gerry Kanters (1992), Tom Braybrook and Roman Korda (1993). Hugo Lirio won in 2009 with Danny Lococo.



Hugo Lirio, Roman Korda, Jeff Joanovic



Back : Robin Evans, Dominic Ventresca, Scott McGregor, Nigel Riddell, Mark Venturi, Patrick MacNeill,
 Don Pozojevic, Vittorio Venturi, Tom Braybrook, Chado Brcic, Max Bade
 Front : Ross Robinson, Roman Korda, Jeff Joanovic, Danny Lococo, Hugo Lirio

Junior Girls Championship



Laura McGregor (finalist), Stefa Korda (champion)

We don't yet have many girls who are willing to try open U18 competition, but the up-and-comers were given a great display of "where they'd like to be" by Laura McGregor and Stefa Korda. Stefa is our 2010 champion after prevailing 6-4 6-3 in a wonderfully played match on Saturday afternoon. It was a real pleasure to witness not only the fine play and fitness level, but also the great attitudes and sportsmanship of both players. We couldn't ask for better role models for the younger players.

Special thanks to Lezlie Murch who sponsored this event, presenting the finalists with gift certificates for the Niagara Tennis Academy in Vineland.

Both Stefa and Laura were happy to be cheered on by their "tennis Dads". From the left, that's Roman Korda, Stefa Korda, Scott McGregor and Laura McGregor.



Ladies Singles Championship

Although there are lots of women playing singles at the club this summer, few are yet willing to venture into a championship tournament. But the brave ones stepped forward on Saturday afternoon, providing a fun competition and the crowning of a wonderful new champion for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club.

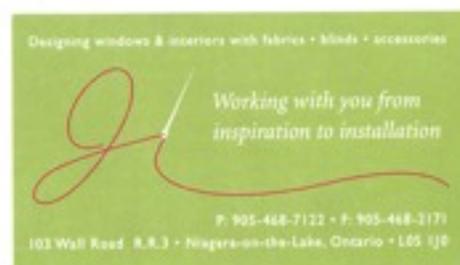
It's one thing to watch Charlotte Petrick practice and train ... quite another thing to stand across from her and play points and games. She has established a high standard indeed, which can only help to make all of us better in the years to come.

Charlotte is our 2010 Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club Ladies Champion. She's also a 13-year-old who attends 8th grade at Parliament Oak School. Wow! Congratulations, Charlotte, and thanks for inspiring us!

Special thanks to Judy Rive and The Rive Workroom for sponsoring this event, and presenting our winner with a one-of-a-kind designer handbag. Expect it to be courtside if our Men's Singles Champion accepts Charlotte's challenge to an exhibition match.



From the left: Thitima Christopher, Amy Weiner, Charlotte Petrick, Colleen Petrick, Sarah Chapman-Jay



Go Tennis! ... and Au Revoir, Jeremy ...

“Oh no, Jeremy! Don’t go!” The cries rang out at the conclusion of the regular Sunday morning Go Tennis clinic on Sunday morning.

Jeremy Martino has been here with us at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club for two summers and has had a big impact during that time. He has been our trailblazer in developing coaches from within the club membership, taking the Tennis Canada Instructor Training Program last September, then encouraging other players to get involved and getting them started on their studies.

Jeremy has been a popular coach in the Junior Program, with Tennis 101 on Tuesday evenings, and on Sunday mornings at Go Tennis clinics. Having spent two years working at the Oban Inn after completing his degree in Hospitality Management, Jeremy is ready to explore some new horizons and will be heading west to Vancouver in a few weeks. He’ll be taking the good wishes of all of us with him, and the knowledge he’ll always be welcome here in years to come.



From the left: Jim Thackray, Ken Smith, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Mary Ann Enns, Jeremy Martino, Marilyn Vann, Pat Odey, Brenda Sabine-Green, Rhonda McMillan, Brenda Parks



On his final day as 2009 Men’s Singles champion, Jeremy exchanged notes with Charlotte Petrick on the first day of her tenure as 2010 Ladies Singles champion. Although the two have hit practice drills together this summer, their promised practice match never materialized. Jeremy will try to make good on it with a trip back to Niagara-on-the-Lake before he heads out west.

Tennis Clinics will continue throughout the autumn months, for as long as the weather makes it possible.

To get involved, contact Shawna Macfarlane by emailing addintennis@gmail.com.

Regular clinics are Tuesdays at 6pm and Sundays at 9am. Custom lessons can be arranged for other times.

Junior Boys Championship

Those of us who gathered at the Tennis Club at midday on Sunday witnessed a spirited and well-played match for the title of Junior Boys Championship.

Although the event is open to all boys under 18 years of age, the final was contested by two 11-year-olds. Both played exceptionally well, with the experience of Mark Jensen giving him the edge over Nicolas Petrick at the conclusion of most of the extended rallies. The club is very proud of them both!

This event was generously sponsored by Michael Alexander, whose encouragement is very much appreciated by both participants. At the conclusion of play, in fine sporting tradition, the boys enjoyed a lunch of Stone Road Grille pizza along with chocolate milk.

Nadal & Djokovic should have it so good!



Nicolas Petrick (finalist); Mark Jensen (champion)

Men's Singles Championships



Back : Scott McGregor, Roland Adams, Bill Devolin, Don Pozojevic, Nigel Riddell, Chado Brcic

Front: Peter Jensen, Richard Berti, Ron Riediger, Larry Mantle

As Richard Berti observed, it was a pretty good trick to divert the forecast rain from Niagara-on-the-Lake, sending it on Sunday afternoon to the US Open in New York City instead.

We were fortunate indeed, and the players took full advantage of the excellent playing conditions. There were spirited matches from start to finish in both the A and B divisions of the Men's Singles Championship event.

In the B ("B is for Beautiful") Division, Richard Berti emerged as the champion. He had tough encounters with Roland Adams (6-4) and with Ron Riediger (7-5) before taking on Peter Jensen in the final match.

Peter had prevailed over Larry Mantle (6-3) and over Bill Devolin (6-4) to reach the final. Ron won the consolation final.

Niagara Battery & Tire is the sponsor of this trophy, providing a nice prize for the champion in honor of Bill & Betty Singleton who were owners of the company and also members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club 20 years ago.

Thanks also to Peter Jensen, who added some lovely bottles of Double Eagle VQA wine to the prize table, compliments of Stonechurch Vineyards.



*Richard Berti
Men's B Singles Champion*



*Don Pozojevic
Men's A Singles Champion*

The final event of the weekend, and of our competitive season, was the prestigious Men's A Singles championship.

Four tough players took on the challenge of a round-robin competition, with Don Pozojevic emerging as the winner. Don defeated all three of his rivals, giving up only five games over three sets. A resident of St David's, this is Don's first season as a member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club. We look forward to seeing more of him next summer!

Nigel Riddell and Scott McGregor played a long match which determined the runner-up position. Scott prevailed by a score of 7-5.

But the last match on court as play finally concluded was Scott McGregor once again. [How is it that Scott always logs so much court time in tournaments!?] This time, it was Chado Brcic who pushed Scott to the limit, finally winning their set by a score of 7-5.

This event is sponsored by Gerald & Carole Kanters, who provided a lovely gift for the champion.

Now we wait and wonder : will Don accept the challenge of an exhibition match with our Ladies Singles champion?

Pam's Pro Shop

Each of our championship competitions has a trophy sponsor who provides a gift for the winner. This is a vital contribution to the club and we value it highly.

But our competitions would be sorry looking affairs indeed if the prize table was about just the champion. It's equally important that we honor those who take on the challenge of participating in the tournaments, pushing the eventual winners to play their very best in order to succeed.

Part of the fun of competing is the chance that perhaps one day we might be a finalist or a consolation winner ... some measure of achievement that will be recognized with a turn at the prize table ... a prize table stocked with goodies from Pam's Pro Shop.

Many of our members are now sporting good-looking shirts and sweaters, or carrying great bags, all thanks to this generous sponsorship by Pam's Pro Shop (located in White Oaks).

Pam's sponsorship has made possible this fine competition season we've enjoyed since the Ladies Doubles started it all in July. We sincerely hope that all our members will find an opportunity to tell Pam how much this is appreciated. She's got "the best little pro shop in Canada" and can give you expert advice on racquets, stringing, shoes, clothing or anything else you need for tennis.

Thanks, Pam!

Inter-Club Competition at Welland Tennis Club

Just when you thought the week couldn't possibly contain any more action, comes the news of an inter-club match at Welland Tennis Club on Sunday. Play was at 4:00, followed by a lovely dinner in the clubhouse.



Enjoying the road trip : Pat Bryan, Mary Pohorly, Flory Massi, Gillian Venturi, Pat Young, Vittorio Venturi, Larry Young, Harvey Bussey. Sarah Chapman-Jay is down in front.

Thanks to Tady Saczkowski for the great photo!

One of the things that distinguishes the Welland Tennis Club is that improvements are made every year. The shade covers in this photograph, for example, are newly added this season. These improvements come about because the members actively seek them. They make a determined effort to consider what can be

done to make their facility better, then research the best ways to make it happen, then coordinate with the Town to win cooperation and support.



Their courts were resurfaced two years ago and now they're researching new lighting systems.

As well as these large elements, they're constantly working on small things as well. New umpire chairs are an example of a recent initiative in that department.

We could take this attitude here in Niagara-on-the-Lake as well. Nothing happens by sitting back and waiting for it. The members must determine what is wanted, then find ways to make it come about.

On Saturday October 2nd, we plan to hold a Members Gathering at the pavilion. The morning will be devoted to planning for 2011, and will be an opportunity for members to talk about how the club could develop in the future ... both near and long-term. We hope you'll plan to attend!

And finally

Congratulations to **Carmen Bowron and Hugh Dow**, winners of the Rand Cup last Monday. This was the umpteenth playing of this competition, which is a link in many ways to the glory days when the Canadian Open Tennis Championships were held in Niagara-on-the-Lake between 1895 and 1913.

And welcome to **Mike and Wendy Mitchell-Gill**, our first registered members for the 2011 season. Any new members who join this late in the season will be registered for 2011 but receive the balance of 2010 as a bonus. If you know anyone who's thinking about joining next year, please tell them about this deal. By joining now, they'll get into the communications pipeline and be able to hit the ground running next May.

Whew ... it's been a good 40th Anniversary season!

Best regards,

Rosemary Goodwin

on behalf of,
Don Chambers

Sarah Chapman-Jay

John Christie

Charlene Juras

Peter Marchesseau

Janice Schachtschneider

Elizabeth Vinassac

Irene Wall

www.tennisniagara.com

