



NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

MAY 30, 2010

Hello Tennis Friends!

What a glorious week ... it has felt like mid-July, but with strawberries ... what a great combination.

This week's newsletter is a reminder of important upcoming events, along with a report on some of this past week's happenings.

UPCOMING

Friday June 11 is Opening Night. We hope this is now circled on everyone's calendar. It's a come-one-come-all gathering in celebration of our 40th anniversary season. Arrivals should be around 6:00, with early-birds who want extra court time coming earlier, and those with hectic schedules coming later.

Don Chambers and Liz Vinassac will be in charge of the Welcome Center, with our new Member Handbook for you and ballots to fill in for door prizes.

Pam's Pro Shop will be on hand to answer questions about equipment, advise about new racquet technologies and tempt you with some special bargains.

Tables will be set out for a potluck buffet, with everyone invited to partake as and when they choose.

Feature event of the evening will be a round of on-court games at some point between 7:00 and 8:30. The games will manage lots of players on each court and promise to be fun for all. At other times, players will be able to play short matches with new friends and old.

A special welcome is extended to all our new members to make this an evening for meeting fellow players.

Friday June 18 is the OTA Tennis Fair. The on-court portion of the evening is 7:00-9:00, with hospitality to follow. Response has been very positive, so we've received the okay to extend the number of participants from 16 to 32. The more the merrier!

The title of the event isn't very explanatory, so there have been some questions about the format. The simplest thing to say is that it's a clinic-style playing event led by coaches from the Ontario Tennis Association. Their specialty is presenting fun evenings for OTA member clubs. They do about 85 such events each season, so are skilled at organizing and entertaining diverse groups of players for a series of on-court drills, games and activities. We'll all get some exercise and have a good time, perhaps learning something new for our tennis game along the way.

They'll have some treats/prizes for us, of course, and there will be some hospitality in the pavilion afterwards. If your question is: "Is this event for me?" the answer is YES!

The other thing to know is that Pre-Registration is required! We're asked to notify the OTA of the player list as early as 10 days prior to the event. You can add your name to the list by emailing rosemarygoodwin@mac.com or calling 905 468 5503. [There is a \$10 fee for the event.]

Shawna's Clinics continue to grow in popularity. There are two formats and times each week through the month of June.

Go Tennis playing and cardio clinics are each Sunday morning at 9:00. This format caters to a broad spectrum of playing levels and specializes in a good workout combined with improvement in skills required for playing doubles.

Tennis 101/102 clinics are each Tuesday at 6:00. They specialize in helping newcomers acquire the fundamentals of basic tennis strokes and gain a solid foundation for playing the game. This clinic is also excellent for players who have been away from the game for a while, or who are learning to adapt their tennis to accommodate injuries or other limitations.

To book your spot in a clinic, it's best to contact Shawna Macfarlane at addintennis@gmail.com or by calling 716 531 5862. You're also welcome to stop by the courts to watch a clinic in progress.

Rhonda McMillan got special attention from Victor Kravchenko after straining her knee at last Tuesday's Tennis 101/102 clinic.



The Junior Program continues in full swing with the May session now complete and the June session about to begin. Junior Program Director Charlene Juras continues to amaze everyone with her excellent job of both organizing and promoting the program. And special thanks are due for outstanding efforts on the part of all the instructors.

Junior Team Tennis is at 12:00 on Sunday afternoons and features some very good-looking tennis on the part of the young players. Volunteers are always needed for this program, as well as for several upcoming junior special events, so if you'd like to take an interest and get involved please contact Charlene at charlene.juras@sympatico.ca or by calling 905 262 5355.

It was very hot work for the kids at the Thursday clinics, so water squirters were a popular addition to the program. Coach Rob Macfarlane had no trouble finding candidates to be soaked.



Men's Night and Ladies Night have always been the backbone of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club and they continue to be so.

All men members are welcome each **Monday evening** at 5:30 or 6:00 for round-robin play. But the courts are available all evening, so if you're not able to play earlier don't be shy about coming out later on. If you can find a fellow member to hit with at that time (or two or three), just line them up for the evening ... if you need help finding others who prefer a late start, feel free to let Don Chambers or Ralph Mellanby know and they'll do what they can to help.

All women members are welcome each **Wednesday evening** for organized games. Players have a choice of start times and are matched into foursomes by Liz Vinassac and the Ladies Night committee. Additional players are always needed either to complete foursomes or to fill in as subs, so please feel free to contact Liz Vinassac at liz.vinassac@sympatico.ca or 905 468 7984 if you're not yet signed up but would like to get involved. It's also not a bad idea to just drop by the courts on spec ... subs are often needed at the last minute.

The Week That Was

The **Virgil Stampede** gets into two issues of NTN because we were also there this past Monday. The first Saturday (reported in last week's issue) was cool and damp, whereas Monday was a glorious day. We learned a number of things from the experience of being part of the Stampede:

- (1) it's extremely difficult to compete with colorful carnival rides and also with vehicles racing through mud or over moguls. Most people attending the Stampede were there for the rides and the shows and the food. Although the courts are immediately adjacent to the festivities, it was like being in another world.
- (2) that having been said, it was still heart-warming to see a significant number of youngsters getting their first chance for a tennis experience and really enjoying it. Andrew Chappell from the OTA gave lessons to dozens of children, sending them away with a very positive feeling about the game. If the Parks & Recreation Department were to add a Tennis Program at the Virgil courts to its summer schedule, it would be a big plus for the community.
- (3) the generosity of Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club members in volunteering their time, especially in the interests of junior tennis, is fantastic! Many many thanks to those who contributed their time on Monday: Shirley Rednall, Estelle Simons, Lisa Allen, Thitima Christopher, Monica Berti, Janice Schachtschneider, Marilyn Francis, Ed Mesihovic, Carmen Bowron and Charlene Juras. They each made an impact.



Volunteers Estelle Simons, John & Shirley Rednall, and Don Goodwin.





Charlene Juras with a very colorful doubles game.



Coaches Ed, Thitima and Janice.

Opening Social for Ladies Night

We were fortunate to have a picture-perfect evening on Wednesday, and our pavilion made the ideal setting for some relaxing tennis and getting-to-know-you or catching-up-since-last-season conversations. The social side of tennis is a big part of its attraction, so we're grateful to Liz Vinassac and to Linda Gordon and Joan Chicken for organizing socials for Ladies Night.



Lisa Allen, Pat Bryan, Shawna Macfarlane, Linda Gordon, Liz Vinassac. Sylvia Christie and Paula Lepp. Hertha Boese, Linda Telford, Kay Ashwood, Christina Servos.

Regular Groups

Another vital component of any tennis club is the regular groups that are organized by volunteers. Most players are happy to have a tennis game at a regular time each week, particularly with a group of like-minded friends with similar tennis experience.

Players are delighted to have someone who organizes their game such that they need only show up at the appointed time ... and organizers are delighted to have players whom they can count on to be there as planned and to give their best in the interests of the group.

But the process is always in flux as players come and go and circumstances change. There are always players who are looking for a steady game, and there are always organizers who are looking for additional players for their groups. Whenever possible, we'll do what we can to support this process in both directions. So feel free to contact rosemarygoodwin@mac.com if you're looking for a game or looking for subs.

We try to allocate court time to regular groups and share that with our members by way of a Google Calendar on the website. Go to www.tennisniagara.com and click on Court Availability.



Otto Werner's group plays on two courts each Tuesday evening, with players taking turns bringing dinner for the group. It was Rouladen this week ... mmm!

Otto Werner, Miro Posa, Ulrich Schindler, Hugo Lirio.

Estelle Simons' Friday morning game has expanded to three courts.

Margret Waddell, Diana Budd, Brenda Strecker, Irene Wall, Pat Caldwell, Joan Chicken, Marlene Walther, Mary Mathews, Linda Telford, Elly Olthof, Monica Berti.





Pete Unger organizes games for both Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:00.
Dale Daniels, Phil Landray, Murray Fitzsimmons, Pete Unger.

John Pogue organizes games for both Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30.

Rick Bennett, Helmut Hammerling, Len Cade (subbing for Bernard Sauter), John Pogue.



Please also note!

The **Regular Ladies Round-Robin on Monday mornings will now begin at 9:00**. All members are invited to drop in and be part of the games.

The proposed Co-Ed Round Robin drop-in for Tuesday and Thursday mornings has been dropped from the schedule. Anyone looking for a daytime game at this time should contact rosemarygoodwin@mac.com. Otherwise the courts are available for open play.

Tennis on TV and on the Web

Now that the French Open is into its second week, there's lots of interest in tennis beyond our courts. If you're inclined to pursue such things, here are some websites to browse. Some give you the opportunity to sign up to receive a regular newsletter at no charge.

www.rolandgarros.com

The French Open started on May 23 and runs for 15 days.

www.acecoach.com

This is Wayne Elderton's site ... a coach from Vancouver. Great tips both for players and for coaches.

www.tennisontario.com

This is the Tennis Ontario site, on which you can sign up for a regular e-newsletter.

www.tennisnow.com

This site also has a regular e-newsletter. They're doing a running commentary on the French Open.

Do you have a favorite website? Let us know and we'll share it in NTN.

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

www.tennisniagara.com

Below the Line:

Where do you share things that you know some members want, but that others might consider frivolous?

How about below the signature line?

Marlene McCarthy's rhubarb squares had everyone clamoring for the recipe on Wednesday evening. Here it is:

Base:

1 cup flour

1/3 cup powdered sugar

1/3 cup butter (I used becel)

Filling: 1 cup sugar

1/4 cup flour

2 eggs, lightly beaten

1 tsp. vanilla

3 cups chopped rhubarb

In a bowl, combine flour, powdered sugar, and cut in butter until coarse crumbs.

Press into greased 11" x 7" x 2" baking pan. Bake at 350F for 12 minutes.

Filling: Combine sugar, flour, eggs & vanilla in same bowl, and stir in rhubarb.

Pour over warm crust. Bake at 350F for 35-40 minutes. Cool. Serve warm if desired. Store in refrigerator.

Makes 8-12 servings. ENJOY !!