



JUNE 12 2011

NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends!

CLUB TOURNAMENTS

This will be our third consecutive year of offering a full slate of tournaments in various categories. Our challenge trophies originated in 1991, and are on display in the pavilion office along with photos of the 2010 champions.

The tournaments are presented with the support of a title sponsor for each event who puts up a prize for the winner (or winning doubles team). And each of our tournaments has the added support of prizes provided by Pam's Pro Shop.

But even though every tournament is characterized by trophies, champions and prizes, we hope the primary benefit is in the camaraderie enjoyed by all participants. There's always a sense of fun and excitement around a tournament ... something a little different, something special.

We're proud of the fact that so many of our members participate in the club tournaments. For each of the past two years, there have been almost 100 members playing in at least one of the events. So don't be shy! These special days are for everyone. Plan to come out and enjoy them.

And there are still spots available for those who would rather be part of the event committee than play in the tournament. We always need help with the work around the pavilion, so just let us know if you can join the team.

First up is the Men's B Doubles, to be played on a Saturday this year for the first time. Most of the action will take place in the morning after which there will be a tournament lunch. The semi-finals and finals will be played in the afternoon. Look for details of the Women's Doubles tournament in the next issue of *Niagara Tennis News*.

A Reminder

Monday evening, June 13:
Town Hall in Virgil at 7:00

Tennis Pavilion at 7:30

Presentations in honor of
Charlotte Petrick

All Welcome!

Men's B Doubles Tournament James & Kevan O'Connor Trophy

Saturday July 9th

Preliminary rounds at 8:30 and at 10:30

Lunch at 12:30

Semi-finals and Finals starting at 2:00

Entry fee of \$10 includes lunch, balls and prizes.
Enter with a partner or request to be paired.

Entry forms are available at Men's Night or on the Pavilion bulletin board.

Prize support by Pam's Pro Shop

WHAT'S THE PROTOCOL ?

From time to time, some rough weather blows through and causes things to get messed up at our tennis courts. Or some overnight visitors to the pavilion leave things looking less than their best. Players then arrive at the courts and feel unsure as to what they should do. What is the protocol?

Club members prefer to be respectful and are hesitant about doing anything that might seem presumptuous. But there are many times when you can feel comfortable about stepping in and "Consider yourself at home", as the old song says.

You all know we are a cooperative venture with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Town owns the courts and accepts responsibility for maintenance (and periodic replacement) of the court surface, the fences and the lights. But the fact of the matter is there are very few staff members and a very long list of responsibilities ... including all the parks and playing fields, the swimming pools and arenas, all the public gardens, the cemetery, and all the Town buildings. As a result, the only ongoing regular maintenance that can be afforded our Tennis Complex is a once-a-month rolling and sweeping ... and the weekly grass cutting of the surrounding lawns.

Beyond that, it's up to the Tennis Club to take the initiative to do whatever it takes to continue improving the standard of our facility. And this is a place where all members can weigh in. Do you have ideas for what we can do next? Or how we could organize ourselves to contribute more to ongoing maintenance?

The Tennis Club has added all the little extras that make the courts appear user-friendly. This includes the windscreens, the signs, the chairs and the clock, the bulletin boards and the office in the pavilion. Any daily tidying is our responsibility. If the chairs are picked up and set in place neatly, it's because a member tidied them. If the wastebasket is emptied, it's because a member emptied it. If plastic bottles and old balls and lids are picked up, it's because members picked them up. So don't hold back : please feel free to jump in if you spot something out of place.



Will Dickson stopped in to adjust the strike plate for us when the lock on the gate would no longer catch.



Droopy net after a stormy night a few days ago.

The nets and the net-posts also belong to the Town and they try to maintain them at a high standard. This can become more problematic since a net issue has an immediate impact on our operations. Sometimes the tension wheels can let go, and sometimes the ties that fasten the center strap can become undone. If you come upon such a situation, look to see if it can easily be remedied. Otherwise, please call one of the volunteer directors.

WHAT ABOUT THE MOWERS ?

It happened that last Monday morning's Regular Game was disrupted by the weekly park maintenance of the area surrounding the courts. The members who endured the cacophony of mowers, edge-trimmers and blowers are earnestly hoping it won't happen again.

Parks Supervisor J. B. Hopkins is well aware of how noisy the machines are - (all the crew wear ear protection) - and so has scheduled the cutting of the area around the courts for off-peak times such as the early afternoon. Ordinarily, they would have worked at the Virgil Sportspark on Monday morning and come to Memorial Park after lunch. But it happened there was a soccer tournament last Monday and the Soccer Club made a last-minute request for the field to be cut in the morning. It then became convenient for the mowers to continue on around the tennis courts, and the Monday Regular Game suffered as a consequence.

When you see the crews doing their jobs in the afternoon, making the court perimeter and the pavilion area look as attractive as possible, please let them know they (and their scheduling) are appreciated.



Katelyn Geisbrecht is part of the crew that waters the flower pots every day. She's welcome any time!

THE CLINICS ARE BOOMING

Shawna Macfarlane's clinics are busier than ever ... such a nice way to get a good workout, some coaching, and a chance to meet other members. Go Tennis is 8:30-10:00 on Sunday mornings. Tennis 101/102 is thriving from 6:00-7:30 on Thursdays. There are also clinics at 6:00 on Tuesday and at noon on Sunday. Contact Shawna at addintennis@gmail.com or just stop by the courts and be prepared for a friendly welcome.



LOST & FOUND

We're all learning that it's better to carry our own refillable water bottle to the courts, rather than the disposable plastic bottles. But most of us haven't yet learned to put our name on our bottle (Hint!). A lot of them get left behind and it's difficult for us to find the owners. A variety of bottles are piling up in the pavilion office, so if yours was left behind one day, stop in to check on it.

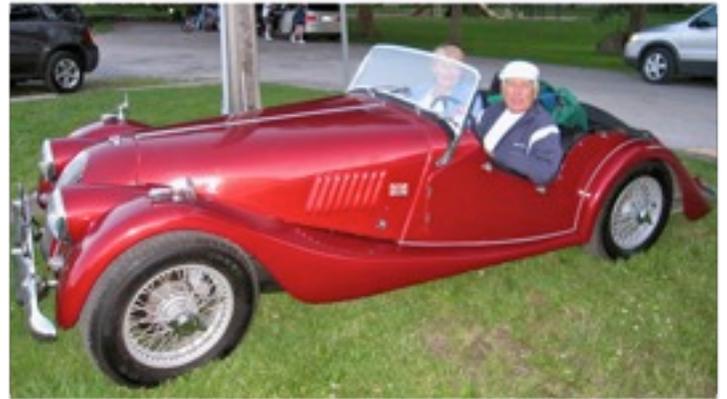
Also turned in already this season are a pair of sunglasses and an attractive wristwatch. If you've misplaced something at the courts, it might be waiting for you in our Lost & Found box.



TRAVEL TO TENNIS IN STYLE

Tennis players have all sorts of ways to get to the courts, but these Niagara-on-the-Lake club members do it in special style.

Pat Ridesic found the day fine enough for her 1979 Triumph Spitfire last week (top left); Ray & Myrna Cutts can be seen from time to time in their beautiful Morgan (top right); Lynne McKay has a special fondness for her Miata (bottom left). If you'd like to feel the wind in your hair driving to and from tennis, you might want to get in touch with Terry Belleville (bottom right) ... terrybelleville@mac.com. Since the clutch is more than he can manage after serious achilles surgery last summer, this lovely 1999 Mazda Miata is now for sale.



Best regards,
Rosemary Goodwin

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

