



JUNE 5 2011

NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends!

It was a wonderful Opening Day for the club last Saturday, and it has been a banner opening week for our regular programs. The weather couldn't have been nicer and there were a lot of smiling tennis players around the courts all day every day. Thanks to our outstanding volunteer organizers, there are many scheduled games for members to tap into. We'll try to detail them in this issue of Niagara Tennis News so everyone will know when they can find a game and when they're most likely to find a free court. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact any of the volunteers.



Over the course of the day on May 28, there were about 80 members stopping by the courts either to play or to spend time visiting. Those on hand at 5:00 gathered on court as club president Ian Waddell welcomed Lord Mayor David Eke and Councillor Martin Mazza, chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee. The Mayor spoke of the high value he places on the fellowship opportunities provided by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club, and Councillor Mazza let us know that all the Town's sports properties are of interest and concern. As we mark the 25th anniversary of the Memorial Park tennis complex, the time is right for some serious conversation about how things should develop over the next few years. It's nice to know that the voice of Tennis will be heard by our elected representatives when it comes time to discuss policy and priorities.

Many thanks to those who made our Opening Day festivities special. Liz Vinassac, Pat Bryan and Bev Lees provided host services, managing all the decorating, food and beverages. Shawna Macfarlane led our great team of coaches, with Sarah Chapman, Thitima Christopher, Rob Macfarlane and Colleen Petrick working with Shawna to provide oncourt games and activities. Special thanks to Charlotte Petrick for playing in for a doubles challenge game, arriving home from a week at the National Training Centre in Montreal just minutes before she stepped on our courts.

And a huge thanks to Pam Seitz and Pam's Pro Shop (located at White Oaks), who set up a mini-shop on site for the afternoon. Players enjoyed trying the beautiful demo racquets and took advantage of special buying opportunities. Coach Shawna Macfarlane was able to play Santa, distributing Pam's prizes to each and every member who participated in the oncourt games.



Club president Ian Waddell was the first to thank Pam for her sponsorship of the annual Members Handbook. You'll find Pam's ad on the back cover, a ready reference when you need to make a phone call to ask a question.

We're very appreciative to Peter Marchesseau for the production of the 2011 Handbook, and to Ian Waddell for the Welcome message which contains much food for thought.

Thanks to all the sponsors who made the Handbook possible. When you use the services of these fine local companies, please remember to say "Thanks for supporting Tennis!"

**The Irish Tea Room
Gate House Hotel
Caldwell Securities
Crabtree & Evelyn
Shoppers Drug Mart
James & Kevan O'Connor**

**Bank of Montreal
Creek Road Paints
Irish Design
Penner Home Hardware
Pam's Pro Shop**



Top Left: Our topnotch organizing committee Bev Lees, Pat Bryan and Elizabeth Vinassac

Top Right: Members were welcomed by volunteer directors Sarah Chapman-Jay and Ian Waddell

Left: We're continually grateful for our beautiful table covers, created for the club by Judy Rive and The Rive Workroom.



Thitima Christopher, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Amy Weiner, MaryAnn Enns, Anita Robertson, Shirley Rednall, Margaret Hobbs, Alan Briston.



Jacque Donnelly, Miranda Juras, Shaun Donnelly, Dennis Donnelly



Derrick Penman, Bev Lees, Irene Wall, Mac Macleod



John Christie, Gary Inkster, Charlene Juras, Alan Briston



Scott Hanson, Charlotte Petrick, Colleen Petrick, Gillian Victor-Mellanby, Ralph Mellanby, Diane Hanson, Derrick Penman



Jim Thackray, Patricia Campbell, Grant Corbett



Ray and Myrna Cutts (on the left) were new members in 2010 after moving to NOTL in the fall of 2009. They were happy to join club president Ian Waddell in welcoming new members for 2011, Dagmar and Jose LeFrancois, who recently relocated to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The New Members' cake has been a tradition of Opening Day since it was introduced by Charlene Juras in 2008. Serving this year's cake on behalf of all the 2011 new members were Joanne Dow, Joe Robertson, Anita Robertson and Hugh Dow.



Charlotte Petrick and Hugh Dow found they had "Wimbledon" as an interesting topic of conversation. One of Charlotte's goals in accumulating ITF ranking points is to qualify for the Girls Singles in the junior events held as part of the All-England Championships at Wimbledon. In 1960, Hugh Dow was a participant in the Boys Singles at Wimbledon. *[Neale Fraser defeated Rod Laver in the Men's Singles final that year. The Boys Singles was won by Rodney Mandelstam of South Africa.]*

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW, AND WHEN CAN I PLAY?

MEN'S NIGHT

Each Monday evening from 6:00 onwards, the courts are set aside for Men's Night. The program is managed by Don Chambers and Larry Mantle, who invite all members to come out for round-robin play and the opportunity to meet your fellow members.

In the past, play has tended to be bunched up between 6:00 and 7:30, with players taking turns sitting out when more than 16 are present. Starting this week, we'll try to add a second round of games at 7:30. It's hoped this time period will be more convenient for those who are unable to arrive as early as 6:00, and it will certainly open up more playing opportunities. If the numbers are small at first, there will be the option of playing singles in the 7:30 time slot.

It would be a big help to Don and Larry if members who are interested in a 7:30 start time would drop them a line to so indicate. Contact chambers@sympatico.ca or larry.mantle@cogeco.ca



May 30 2011

Back: Hermann Moehl, Harvey Bussey, Phil Landray, Gary Inkster, Ray Cutts, Roland Adams, Ian Waddell, Larry Mantle, John Christie, Mac Macleod, Terry Francis, Alan Briston, Ralph Mellanby

Front: David Oliver, Enzo Mancuso, Victor Gallo, Larry Kroeker, Flory Massi, Peter Marchesseau

LADIES NIGHT

Wednesday June 1st was a landmark day for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club. Despite high winds and rapidly dropping temperatures, 32 members played in organized games for Ladies Night with a full round at 6:00 and another at 7:30.

It was terrific to see so many players happy to be part of it, happy to greet old friends and eager to meet new members. It was the result of wonderful work by volunteers Liz Vinassac and Kay Ashwood who have set up these games for the duration of the season.

Players contribute \$5 a month which enables us to provide new balls each week. Any remaining balance goes into supplies for a monthly social get-together, the first of which is scheduled for June 29.

There is a lengthy list of spares ready to step in when one of the regulars is unable to play, but there's always room for more and it's certainly not too late to get involved. If you'd like to join the program, please contact liz.vinassac@sympatico.ca or kashwood@niagara.com

June 1 2011



Back: Irene Epp, Sylvia Christie, Marlene McCarthy, Irene Wall, Linda Gordon, Carmen Bowron, Bev Lees, Sue Werner, Joan Mergelas, Kay Ashwood, Liz Vinassac, Heather Doyle, Marilyn Francis, Brenda Strecker, Bonnie Sartor, Sheila Krause, Janice Schachtschneider, Susan Lancaster

Front: Estelle Simons, Susan Browne, Helen Ferley, Deb Robert, Amy Weiner, Karen Berti, Patricia Campbell, Christina Servos, Marion Briston, Cristina Li, Philippa deLeonardis, Anne Robinson



MIXED DOUBLES

Friday evenings have always been set aside for Mixed Doubles at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club, and there's always been a sense that many members would like to come to the club for some end-of-week social play. But it's also been something of a struggle to set up a system that would let members know they would have a good game and good company waiting for them.

So it was a considerable triumph on Friday June 3rd when Charlene Juras and Carmen Bowron orchestrated a full round of play at 6:00 and another at 7:30. It was a great atmosphere at the club as the pavilion filled up with players ready to go on for the second round, even as the courts were filled with the first round of play.

Charlene and Carmen hope to keep this rolling by devising a system of Team Play, and have recruited Marilyn Francis and Philippa deLeonardis to join them as Team Captains. Players who have indicated they'd like to play on Fridays on a regular basis will be divided among the four teams. Captains will put together groups of four to represent their teams in the 6:00 and 7:30 time spots each week, from which the weekly schedule will be compiled.

There are still plenty of details to work out, but with the goodwill of the players (and a little patience) this system has the potential to grow into something really special for our club. Your suggestions and your offers to help are welcomed. And, of course, it's not too late to get involved. If you're not yet on their list, drop a note to charlene.juras@sympatico.ca or carmen@notlrealty.com



June 3 2011

Back: Toby Simmonds, Terry Francis, Jim Thackray, Karen Berti, Marilyn Francis, Hermann Moehl, Kay Ashwood, Gary Inkster, Margaret Hobbs, Charlene Juras, Jim Juras, Helen Ferley, Amy Weiner, Deb Robert, Maria Budin, Edgar Morriss, Carmen Bowron, Sue Werner, Chris Bowron, Dennis Donnelly, Peter Marchesseau

Front: Dean Sanders, Keith Simmonds, Greg Berti, Marco deLeonardis, Enzo Mancuso, Steve Ferley, Patricia Campbell, Philippa deLeonardis, Dorothy Booth, Jacquie Donnelly

Carmen Bowron and Charlene Juras



SINGLES LADDERS

Singles play for men and women has become increasingly popular over the past couple of seasons, with games organized thanks to volunteers Sarah Chapman-Jay and Ron Davis.

Sarah has posted this year's format on the bulletin board in the pavilion and has emailed the format to all players who have indicated an interest in playing.

Players organize their own challenge matches and arrange to play during times when the courts aren't in demand for doubles games. Early mornings, afternoons, and late evenings are good options, as are Saturday mornings.

There's still time to get involved. Just drop a note to schapmanjay@yahoo.ca or notler799ca@yahoo.ca



REGULAR GAMES

Daytime games are organized by volunteers who gather together groups of players of similar playing experience. Members who wish to become part of a group should first visit the courts to observe the play and ascertain which games would be compatible. Then drop a line to the host volunteer to indicate your willingness to play. At the outset, they'll add you to their spare list and contact you when they have an available spot. Wherever possible, regular games expand their number of regular courts as their spare list grows. Otherwise, new Regular Games are opened up in other time periods.

There's always room for another Regular Game. If you have a group that will take at least two courts at a regular time each week, contact rosemarygoodwin@mac.com to discuss schedule options. It would be great to see a Men's Doubles group on Saturday mornings. Any takers?

Monday 8:30-10:00	Ladies Round Robin (multi level)	Rosemary Goodwin	rosemarygoodwin@mac.com
Monday 10:00-12:00	Ladies: 3.5/4.0+	Lil Cohen	lilawow@juno.com
Tuesday 8:30-10:00	Men: Seniors + friends	Jack Schuster	jimjakob@sympatico.ca
Tuesday 8:30-10:00	Ladies: 2.5/3.0	Brenda Parks	bparks@mergetel.com
Tuesday 6:30-8:30pm	Men: 4.0+	Otto Werner	sandham@bellnet.ca
Wednesday 9:00-11:00	Men: 3.5/4.0+	Ian Waddell	margretian@sympatico.ca
Thursday 8:30-10:00	Men: Seniors + friends	Jack Schuster	jimjakob@sympatico.ca
Thursday 8:30-10:00	Ladies: 2.5/3.0	Marion Briston	thebristons@hotmail.com
Friday 9:00-10:30	Ladies: 3.5	Estelle Simons	simons1@rogers.com
Friday 10:30-12:00	Ladies: 3.5/4.0+	Pat Young	larryandpat@talkwireless.ca

CLINICS

The clinics presented by Shawna Macfarlane are one of the club's most popular programs. There are four time periods set aside :

Tuesdays 6:00-7:00 (2 courts)
Thursdays 6:00-7:30 (4 courts)
Sundays 9:00-10:00 (4 courts)
Sundays 12:00-1:30 (4 courts)



Contact Shawna at addintennis@gmail.com to get involved or to learn more details.



JUNIOR PROGRAM

The Spring Session of the Junior Program is entering its final weeks. Look for the players-of-the-future on the courts at these times:

Tuesdays 4:00-6:00
Thursdays 4:00-6:00
Sundays 10:00-12:00

A Summer Session runs through July and August. For information, contact Charlene Juras at charlene.juras@sympatico.ca.

WHAT ABOUT OPEN TIME?

Although our ultimate goal is to have all courts in use at all hours of the day, there are good reasons to keep lots of hours of court time unscheduled. These are the times when members will come to have a practice hit with a friend or as couples ... when a foursome will get together to play doubles ... or when players will arrange their Singles Ladder challenges.

At the moment, the best times to find a court for these activities are :

- early mornings between 6:00 and 8:30
- afternoons between noon and 4:00 (up to 6:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays)
- late morning on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- evenings from 7:30-10:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- all day Saturday
- Sundays after 1:30

It's also possible there might be an occasional court available during some of the periods specified for Regular Games. We try to maintain a record on the Court Availability section of the website [www.tennisniagara.com] but sometimes aren't completely up-to-date.

If you ever encounter any difficulty in getting a court for a particular purpose, please contact rosemarygoodwin@mac.com or call 905 468 5503. We'll endeavor to help as best we can.

OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY AT MEMORIAL PARK

The effort to get our courts built at Memorial Park was considerable; we hope to give you more details on that period of club history as the season unfolds. But their decision to go with an omni-court surface has certainly paid dividends so far in 2011. The photos below show quite a contrast. One was taken last Monday morning after heavy rains through the night on Sunday. Although the balls picked up some water after a time, it was still possible for a lot of members to enjoy some tennis. Meanwhile at neighboring clubs, play has been washed out repeatedly throughout the month of May. After the rains of yesterday morning, for example, they expected to lose the entire weekend at Welland Tennis Club. So thanks again to all the hardworking club volunteers of the early 1980s ... they created a great legacy.

May 30 2011



From the left: Pat Bryan, Susan Browne, Hertha Boese, Bonnie Sartor, Maria Budin, Pat Ridesic, Susan Lancaster, Brenda Parks, Ray Cutts, Chado Brcic, Terry Francis, Gillian Victor-Mellanby, Max Bade, Marion Briston, Gillian Venturi, Lynne McKay, Diane Hanson.



Washed out in Welland.

RALLY FOR THE CURE

On Saturday June 4, a group of players from our club travelled to the Welland Tennis Club for their annual Rally for the Cure ladies doubles event in support of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

This event is held each year on the first Saturday of June (the day of the Ladies Singles final at the French Open), so it's not too soon to mark your calendar for next year's rally. Everyone enjoys the great organization on the part of the host committee, some strong tennis and a great lunch.

Enjoying their prizes are Gillian Venturi, Mary Pohorly, Shirley Rednall, Pat Bryan and Rosemary Goodwin.



The Welland Tennis Club will soon be celebrating 100 years of tennis in Welland. The town has done a wonderful job of adding to their tennis facilities little by little until today they have a lovely clubhouse and eight excellent courts.

Thanks to Judy D'Angelo and her great committee for presenting a super event. And thanks to Tady Saczkowski for these photos and for continuing inspiration and encouragement.



COMING UP

In the next issue of Niagara Tennis News, we hope to have more information for you about how you can get involved in our Club Tournaments and Inter-Club Events. Here's a reminder of the schedule :

July 9	Men's B Doubles
July 10	Inter-Club Match at Grimsby Tennis Club
July 17	Inter-Club Match at home vs Welland Tennis Club
July 23-24	Women's Doubles
August 7	Inter-Club Match at home vs Grimsby Tennis Club
August 12	Penguin Tournament, sponsored by Tango Boutiques
August 14	Inter-Club Match at Welland Tennis Club
August 26-27	Mixed Doubles
September 4	Singles
September 10	Men's A Doubles

HELP WANTED !

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club is a busy place these days thanks to the work of a great number of volunteers who are doing all sorts of things to keep things running smoothly. But we know there are other members out there whose talents remain untapped. Since it's so much more interesting to be part of the club when you're working to make it better, we urge you to think about how you might get involved.

The website [www.tennisniagara.com] is in need of some expertise. If you can offer some help, or even some advice, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact larry.mantle@cogeco.ca

Presenting all the events on the above schedule is a very big job. If you'd like to be part of an events committee, please drop a line to rosemarygoodwin@mac.com. Help will be needed for gathering registrations, organizing food and beverages, arranging for prizes and general administration.

Food arrangements are an ongoing issue at all our events. If you have knowledge of area caterers who can provide good food at modest prices, we'd love to get a reference from you.

*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.*
WWW.TENNISNIAGARA.COM