



Niagara Tennis News

Stories, reports and ideas about Tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond.

September 10 2012

Hello Tennis Friends,

Yesterday was the Best Day Ever at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club! There have been a lot of events in our 42 years, and many great memories in the past five years, but yesterday topped them all by a long shot.

It was the first time for the Men's Doubles and the Women's Doubles championships to be combined into one weekend of festivities, and it was an overwhelming success. Because of the rains on Saturday morning, the tournament moved indoors to the Club at White Oaks who graciously provided four courts for a few hours of preliminary rounds. Then Sunday was, of course, a day for the ages, the kind of day that makes everyone so grateful for harvest season in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

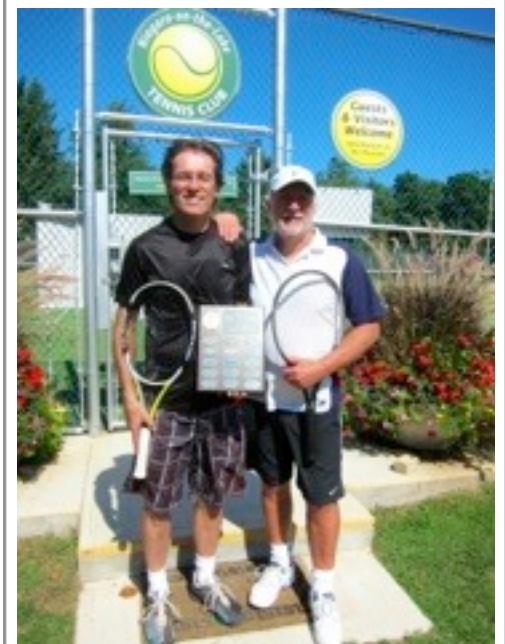
The tournament weekend was made memorable by the combined efforts of the 46 competitors and the many volunteers and spectators who supported them, but it was made extraordinary by the vision and leadership of tournament director Albert Reyes, who received an overwhelming round of applause and congratulations at the conclusion of the awards ceremony. Albert showed us we're coming into our own at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club, that we can be a club with big dreams and aspirations.

The tournament was filled with enjoyable matches at every turn, but the winners deserve to be singled out:

For the Roman & Maria Korda Trophy, the Men's Doubles champions are Hugh Dow and Don Pozojevic. They defeated Michael Alexander and Mark Stevens in the final by a score of 6-3 6-3, having earlier won an epic match with Jeff Joanovic and Gerry McIlhone by the tightest of scores, 7-6 7-5.

For the David & Donna Lailey Trophy, the Women's Doubles champions are Sarah Chapman-Jay and Thitima Christopher. They become the first repeat champions of any club event in recent memory, having won in 2011 as well. They defeated Lil Cohen and Rosemary Goodwin in the final by a score of 6-4 6-1, after beating Lori Oakes and Susan Flight in the semi-final.

Read on to learn other results. But first, enjoy these wonderful images of the tournament captured by Sarah Chapman-Jay.



Don Pozojevic & Hugh Dow



Thitima Christopher & Sarah Chapman-Jay



Jeff Joanovic



Lori Oakes & Susan Flight



Don Pozojevic



Jordan Sartor



The Maestro : A.A. Reyes



Marilyn Francis



Shirley Rednall



Ross Robinson



Audrey Wall



Terry Francis



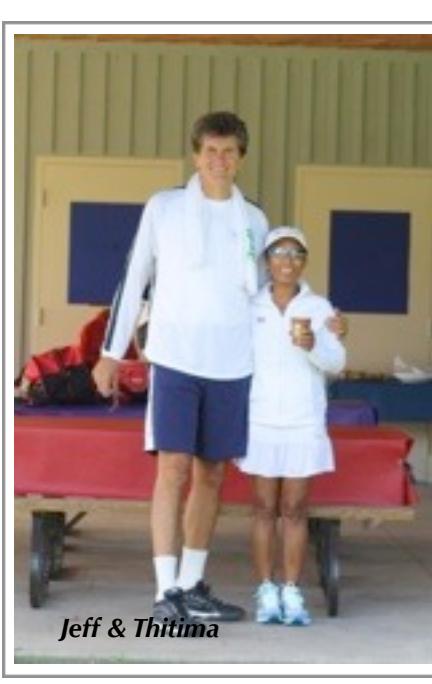
Carmen Bowron



Scott McGregor



Wayne Vent



Jeff & Thitima



Glenn Barr



Claire Bryan



Roman Korda



Darlene Romanowsky



Bobby Kozjan & Chris Bowron



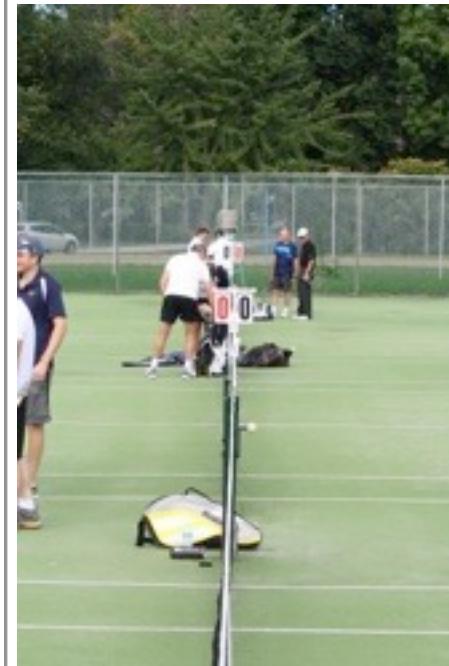
Lil Cohen



Gary Inkster



Marc Gauvin



Philippa deLeonardis



Vanessa Baran



Gerry McIlhone



Amy Weiner & Deb Robert



Bonnie Sartor



Bobby Kozjan, Albert Reyes, Ross Robinson



Last point of the tournament!



Celebrate with a hug!



The Champs: Don Pozojevic & Hugh Dow



Action Central : Thitima Christopher & Albert Reyes

For the Niagara Motors Trophy (and the coveted Red Shirt), the victors were Sheila Krause and Dorothy Booth. They defeated Marilyn Francis and Carmen Bowron 10-6 in the final match. Both pairs of finalists had played gruelling semi-finals. Dorothy and Sheila survived against Charlene Juras and Susan Werner 6-4 0-6 10-4, while Marilyn and Carmen edged past Jacqueline Donnelly and Philippa deLeonardis by a score of 6-1 5-7 10-2.

Honorable mention on the men's side goes to Tom Braybrook and Roman Korda, who remained undefeated after a second-round loss. In their final match, they beat Terry Francis and Scott McGregor, a pair who had played one of the longest matches in the tournament when they outlasted Jordan Sartor and Gary Inkster 6-2 5-7 11-9.

Bountiful provisions were the order of the day, from early morning into the early evening hours. Special thanks to Monica Berti and Patricia Campbell who provided invaluable support to Sarah and Thitima and Marilyn. Everything was first rate, thoughtfully planned and beautifully presented. The Tennis Club benefits from kind and generous support from Heidi & Perry Johnson at the Stone Road Grille ... be sure to mention it to them when you're at the restaurant or picking up takeout.



Dorothy & Sheila



The 2012 Doubles Tournament was produced with flair and vision and joy, all of it arranged and orchestrated by Albert Reyes. For Albert's guidance and direction, we are all truly grateful. Albert, in turn, expresses thanks to those who supported the event with their volunteer efforts, and to those who provided sponsorship of various kinds. In one way or another, we were the guests of:

Dr Michael & Beverley Alexander Pam's Pro Shop
Canadian Door Doctor (Coby Dommash) Hugo Lirio
Jeff Joanovic Tom Braybrook Gales Gas Bar



How wonderful was it to be served strawberries and cream by Gioia deLeonardis in the late afternoon. A pitcher of Pimm's made for a stylish way to wash it down.

Doubles Clinics

As an added feature in conjunction with the Doubles Tournament, Albert recruited Adam Svoboda to present a series of clinics to help us with our volleying skills. The clinics were much appreciated over the past two weeks, with a final planned event on tap for tomorrow evening (Tuesday) to make up for the rainout.

Albert and Adam would be happy to add some other events if requests are received. Contact them at aareyes@bell.net ... with your ideas for clinic themes or topics.



Thitima Christopher, Vanessa Baran, Coby Dommasch, Bobby Kazjan, Lynne McKay, Darlene Mancini, Brenda Parks, Anita Robertson, Keith Stuart, Darlene Romanowsky, Claire Bryan, Albert Reyes, Adam Svoboda, Phil Landray.



Nancy Droke, Coby Dommasch, Terry Belleville, Mike McBride, Joanne Dow and coach Adam Svoboda.

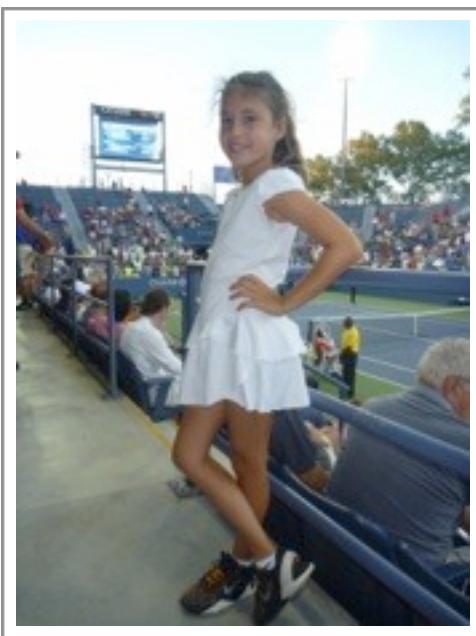


The U.S. Open!

It happens that at this point in the production of Niagara Tennis News, Andy Murray won the US Open and became the first man from Great Britain to win a Slam title since 1936. And this souvenir photo became just a bit more precious.

Emira Mesihovic and her father, Ed, made the trip to New York for the first week of the US Open, and report that they loved every minute of it. Emira is an intrepid autograph collector and was delighted when Andy stopped to say hello and sign her ball. Naturally, Dad had to fumble for the camera so got less-than-perfect focus. But who cares! What a great memory!

Ed and Emira took the train from Niagara Falls to New York and are happy to recommend that plan to anyone who has ideas of doing it for the 2013 Open.



Inter-Club Match on Sunday

The courts have been busy with special events for the past three weekends, and there's more to come. This Sunday, we'll play host to a visiting team from the Welland Tennis Club, with matches scheduled from 10:00am through 12:00 noon. Come on down and cheer on the home side!

Starter League : They're not "starters" any more!

For several among them, their tennis careers began in June ... in classes called Instant Tennis, led by coach Karol Szmurlo.

Since then, they've been playing in the club's first Starter League each Thursday evening ... gradually getting comfortable with the ins and outs of managing all that activity in the close confines of a tennis court. They've become friends along the way, learning that doing so is one of the very best aspects of our game.

Last Thursday, they celebrated with pizza and peach pie in the pavilion, learning yet another noble tennis tradition.

Now they're ready to fly! You'll see them on the courts practicing their skills and organizing games. Please introduce yourself when you see them, and welcome them into the ranks of club players. Then watch out : they're improving fast!



John Henderson, Darlene Romanowsky, Kay Woodfine, Georg Overmeyer, Jane Overmeyer, Olivia Wall, Vivian Gauvin, Claire Bryan, Karly Mundy, Audrey Wall.

We don't like to miss any of these beautiful autumn days in Niagara, but we're off to Munich and Austria for the next two weeks.

Check out the website for Bio-Hotel Stanglwirt as well as www.pbitennis.com. You're sure to come up with some great ideas for mixing tennis into your vacation plans.

Best regards,

Rosemary Goodwin
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