



# NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends!

It was a beautiful day last Saturday for the annual Men's Doubles competition for the Roman & Maria Korda Trophy. Many thanks to Albert Reyes for coordinating a most successful event. Albert had assistance all day from Thitima Christopher and received support from several players in the Tuesday evening Regular Game ... all combining to make the occasion a memorable one.

The champions are a new pairing of Gerry McIlhone and Rob Macfarlane, who had to work very hard to secure their victory. Their opponents in the semi-final round were 2010 champions Hugo Lirio and Jeff Joanovic who looked on form in taking the first set 6-3. The challengers bounced back in the second set, however, with Gerry crediting his 19-year-old partner with pulling them through for a 6-3 win to set up a match tiebreak. It was a close contest to the end, with Gerry & Rob prevailing 10-7.

In the other semi-final, Roman Korda and Mike Green advanced with a straight-sets win over Albert Reyes and Don Pozojevic.

The final saw Roman and Don get off to a good start with a score of 6-4 in the first set. Gerry and Rob again fought back in the second, however, running away with it at 6-1. The match tiebreak was a cliff-hanger, tied at 8-8 before Gerry and Rob won a critical mini-break to set up championship point. Rob served it out for 10-8.

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*Albert Reyes, Jeff Joanovic, Hugo Lirio, Gerry McIlhone, Rob Macfarlane, Roman Korda, Johannes Lackner, Gary Inkster, Scott McGregor, Hugh Dow, Mike Green, Don Pozojevic, Max Bade, Ian Waddell, Chado Brcic, Patrick MacNeill*



Meanwhile on the consolation side of the draw, competition was also very tight. Chado Brcic and Patrick MacNeill secured their place in the final with a win over Ian Waddell and Max Bade. Hugh Dow and Scott McGregor had to come from behind to win their semi-final over Hannes Lackner and Gary Inkster by a score of 10-8.

The final was a marathon, with every game closely contested. Chado and Patrick emerged with a 10-8 victory, a tribute to their many years of playing as a team.

*Gerry McIlhone rediscovered tennis while enjoying a lunch break in the pavilion. He's been working in the business side of the Shaw Festival since December and was happy for the stroll and some fresh air. Shawna suggested a clinic would be a good way to test the knee that had just recovered from surgery. Gerry accepted the invitation and was delighted to find his love of the game springing back to life.*

*Rob Macfarlane is a first-year student at Brock University and plays hockey for the Thorold Blackhawks. He's best-known locally as a coach in the Instruction programs at the club.*

*Clockwise from the right:  
Club President Ian Waddell presided at the Awards Ceremony;  
An ample lunch provided opportunity for players to mingle and relax between rounds;  
Thitima Christopher kept the business side of the tournament on track.*

Thanks to **Pam's Pro Shop** for support of our tournaments.





*Hugo Lirio*



*Albert Reyes*



*Roman Korda*



Action Photos  
by  
**Ken Smith**

## JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

It was a great pleasure to see 8 young players, ages 12-15, competing for our Junior Boys and Girls honors on Sunday afternoon. The level of play was excellent, and the sportsmanship exemplary.

In the Girls event, for the Lezlie Murch Trophy, Shaun Donnelly is the 2011 champion. The silver medal was won by Katherine Li, while bronze medals were awarded to Miranda Juras and Mattea DeMunnich.

In the Boys event, for the Michael Alexander Trophy, Dane Sisinni is the 2011 champion. The silver medal was won by Ben Berti, while bronze medals were awarded to Andrew Smith and Scott Robinson.

A Mixed Doubles competition was held to round out the day's festivities. Shaun Donnelly and Andrew Smith won the gold medal, while Katherine Li and Scott Robinson won the silver medal.

Many thanks to Charlene Juras who coordinated the event, and the many parents who supported it with snacks and fruit along with never-ending encouragement for the players. Special thanks to Michael and Beverley Alexander who have been constant in their support for Junior Tennis in recent years. They've recently sponsored the acquisition of T-shirts to celebrate a successful summer program and help launch a new season in the spring. Much appreciated!



*Miranda Juras, Andrew Smith, Dane Sisinni, Scott Robinson, Shaun Donnelly, Katherine Li, Mattea DeMunnich, Ben Berti*



*Shaun Donnelly*

*Katherine Li*



*Miranda Juras*



*Mattea DeMunnich*

Scott Robinson



Dane Sisinni



Ben Berti

Andrew Smith



Action Photos  
by  
**Ken Smith**

## GOLF ANYONE ?

Although there's lots of Tennis yet to be played this season ... in fact, many would claim the best Tennis months are September and October ... we're always looking for new ways to get to know our fellow Tennis Club members.

We know that some of you cross over to Golf from time to time ... whether seriously or otherwise ... so thought it might be fun to have a small outing to the local Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club for a 9-hole scramble. The format takes the pressure off those of us who are once-a-year golfers and keeps the atmosphere cheerful.

Our host will be Larry Mantle ... the date is Wednesday October 5th ... tee times starting at 10:00. Green fee is \$21 (tax included). If you've got time to stay for lunch in the clubhouse, that will be an added bonus.

We'll need to know who's coming, of course. Book your spot by contacting Larry or Judy Mantle at 905 932 1288 or drop a note to [larry.mantle@cogeco.ca](mailto:larry.mantle@cogeco.ca). No need to make up a foursome ... Larry will divide us into teams.

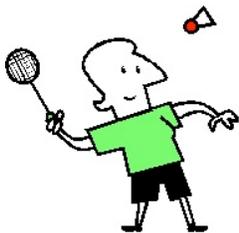
## ... OR EVEN BADMINTON ...

We're not thinking of taking everyone over to the Community Center for a Badminton outing, but if you're looking for exercise once it's too cold or rainy for Tennis ...

### Anyone for Badminton?

Men's Badminton Fall Session begins at the NOTL Community Centre on Oct. 17. Drop-in doubles play runs Monday and Thursday mornings to Dec. 22.

Fees depend on how many players commit. Current estimate for the 3 month Fall Session is \$39 per player plus cost of birds.



Contact Ted Little by Oct. 7  
e-mail: [little@niagara.com](mailto:little@niagara.com)

## The Survey

Even though the due date has passed, please consider sending along your thoughts and ideas to Club President Ian Waddell. The survey seems to have sparked some interesting conversations, such that many ideas and observations have come forward. Ian is enjoying reading your replies and welcomes any others, whether you respond to the specific questions or just make notes of what you'd like to contribute to the discussion.

## CATCHING UP ON ALL SORTS OF THINGS ...



What could be nicer than taking the family to the courts for Tennis and having the best part of two doubles games all ready to go.

This beautiful family enjoyed the courts last Saturday afternoon : Glenn Reid, his son Jared and wife Tracy are in the rear; Felicity and Ethan are in the center, and young Graham is in front. Oldest daughter Meredith joined in shortly thereafter.

Keep an eye open for these sharp-looking tennis players ... they're liable to challenge you to a game! Not much higher than the net, but already very accomplished and hitting a great ball, are: Natalie D'Alessandro (7 years), Luca D'Alessandro (almost 9 years), Trevor Massi (just turned 9 years), and Emira Mesihovic (8 years). Natalie and Luca live in Toronto, but spend a lot of time here with their grandparents Jack and Jane Shrubbs.



Big thanks to Sarah Chapman-Jay for keeping the Singles Ladders humming all summer. Here she's seen congratulating Amy Weiner for finishing atop the Women's section. In 2nd place was Deb Robert, while Marlene Walther finished 3rd.

The Men's section was led by Bill Devolin, followed by Ross Robinson and Richard Berti.

Honorable mention goes to the most active players in the program: Marlene Walther, Pat Odey and Brenda Parks on the women's side,

Larry Mantle, Roland Adams and Richard Berti among the men.



It's been a very busy end-of-summer for the Korda family. Roman Korda and daughter Stefa were finalists in the Mixed Doubles tournament, then Stefa won the Ladies Singles while Roman was a finalist in Men's Singles. Roman was a finalist in the Men's Doubles as well as being the primary benefactor for the tournament along with his wife Maria.

Perhaps it was all inspired by a trip to New York City for the first week of the US Open. Stefa certainly enjoyed it and made sure she saw all her favorite players in action.

We're very fortunate here in Niagara-on-the-Lake to have Town employees who take great pride in their work. Everything in Town is kept in "just so" condition. You'll have noticed the excellent job that was done by Hans Paul on re-building the water fountain, and Bob Costantini is pleased that the new grass seed is filling in our construction zone nicely.



You'll recall that the construction zone is a consequence of a new drain, installed to deal with a new drainage system along the edges of courts 1 and 4. The courts seemed to hold up better after recent rains than they had done previously ... with less slippery material on the surface to deal with.

This photo shows the substantial amount of fiber material that washes off the courts during a rain. There were masses of it alongside court 4.

After 10 years of weather and hard wear, the omni court material is steadily deteriorating.

## THE 2012 SCHEDULE

Now that our competition schedule has come to a close, it's time to look ahead to next season. As a result of feedback from members, the following dates are proposed:

Singles Championships	August 18-19
Mixed Doubles Championships	August 24-25
Doubles Championships	September 7-9

This latter date would include both the Men's and Women's Doubles. An alternative would be to host the Women's Doubles on September 15-16.

The O'Connor Trophy and the Goodwin Cup will likely be played in July.

## VOLUNTEER PROJECTS FOR REGULAR GAMES

The Men's Doubles Tournament this past weekend was presented with strong support from the members of the Regular Game that plays each Tuesday night.

And our windscreens are put up and taken down by the players in the Regular Game that convenes each Wednesday morning.

This seems to be a trend worth pursuing. We'll be in good shape next season if each Regular Game accepts responsibility for some aspect of club operations, following the lead of these two groups.

The key element will be for the lead to come from the players within the group, rather than from the organizers of the Regular Games. They already do yeoman duty week in and week out, while the rest of us reap the benefits. Let's put our heads together and see what we can do to make our contribution as a show of appreciation.

Organizers are needed for the Singles Tournament ... for the Opening Day logistics ... and for many other duties. Let's hear your suggestions.

Meanwhile ... enjoy the wonderful autumn Tennis season! The afternoons are starting to become very popular times, with many players finding their way to the courts to enjoy the beautiful sunshine and fresh air. There's lots of Tennis yet to be played.

*Best regards,  
Rosemary Goodwin*

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

[www.niagaratennis.com](http://www.niagaratennis.com)

