



Tennis club hosts 'world premiere' one-serve tennis tournament

Richard Harley
Editor

According to Ross Robinson, Niagara-on-the-Lake — and the world — saw some big sports news this weekend; the 'world premiere' of one-serve tennis.

Robinson even had a "news van" out to the event — complete with mock antennas (upside down beach umbrellas) and the logo (printed out) of a national news company on the side.

It's a rather jovial beginning to what Robinson claims is the world premiere one-serve tennis tournament.

It's all in good fun, admits Robinson, the goal being for all who've entered — mainly tennis club members — to play an afternoon of tennis, in a style that isn't too overwhelming for players and doesn't take as much time.

It's like the evolution of cricket, he said — once upon a time it was a week-long event, eventually shortened to one day, and then to a few hours for practical reasons, for both players and spectators.

In NOTL, there are no contracts or cash prizes, though the bounty may in a literal sense be much sweeter — every player who entered received a fresh peach pie, baked by Erinn Lockard of Sweets and Swirls Cafe in our Community Centre.

"Yum, yum, yum," Robinson said.

A "coveted" commemorative badge was also given to each player.



Robinson, a longtime local who enjoys planning events and encouraging community spirit, stopped at no ends to make the tournament a little something special for members of the NOTL tennis club, having sandwiches delivered, also courtesy of Sweet and Swirls, and having a sign printed out to commemorate the tournament, noting the 32 years the tennis

club has been operating out of Memorial Park.

He gave a speech thanking everybody for coming out, followed by some words from Ralph Melanby, former executive producer of Hockey Night in Canada.

Melanby, who moved to St. Davids a few years ago, told some stories of some ground-breaking contributions he's made to sports and

Top: NOTL Tennis Club members prepare for the first ever one-serve tennis tournament. According to group member Ross Robinson it was the 'world premiere' of one-serve tennis.

Bottom: Ralph Melanby, former executive producer of Hockey Night in Canada, talks about his contributions to the sports industry, such as being the first to get a helicopter in the sky to film a game — now a standard for sports broadcasts.

Photos by Richard Harley.

the influence he had on the way it's viewed today, including being the first to actually get a helicopter up in the air to film a sporting event.

The tournament, Robinson said, is really about locals in the community coming together and having a good time with each other — though Robinson is still crossing his fingers for some national attention next year.