

Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club

April 2021 Newsletter



Congratulations Club!

Our current membership numbers are amongst one of the highest enrolments ever for this early in the season. It includes 41 new members some of whom you'll meet in this Newsletter.

ONTARIO STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

The current six week stay-at-home order is due to expire on May 20th. Your Board is working tirelessly to ensure that all will be in place for us to take to the Courts on that date. If there are any opportunities to move this date up, you can be assured we will explore these.

BOARD NEWS

The Board welcomes Holly Anderson as a new member of the Board. Holly was appointed by unanimous vote of the Board at its April 6th meeting. Holly will complete the term of Irene McEvoy-Lucas who unfortunately had to resign late last year.



Holly was born in Toronto where she lived until moving to NOTL in 2013.

She enjoyed a career in Marketing and Sales and recently decided to retire early from the publishing world as a Senior Territory Manager. She is an avid tennis player, golfer, art enthusiast and enjoys event planning.

Holly is responsible for all of the Club social events. She will be working on a number of existing and new events to ensure all members have a wonderful experience at our club.

2021 Season

The Board is committed to providing as comprehensive a season as possible. Every effort will be made to ensure a full a roster of games and clinics.

Prior to the lock-down, Court Contractors were scheduled to begin final surfacing of the new courts the second week in May. This is obviously weather-dependent. While this may be pushed back, it is scheduled and, if the stars align, the new courts might be ready about the time the stay-at-home order expires.

Club Pro, Shawna Macfarlane will be keeping members advised by email and on the website of the complimentary clinic dates and instructional programs availability.

Club Groups will start as soon as restrictions are lifted. Club group captains are organized and ready to set up the schedule and rosters as soon as they get the green light. Those registered will be contacted by the respective captains for play date information.

NEW ON THE WEBSITE – Our webmaster informs us that a new section of historical photos has been added to the website courtesy of Tady Saczkowski. Check it out! Sure to beat the lock-down blues.

INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

Our Club provides a wide range of opportunities to both play and socialize with other members. Perhaps you are joining with a partner. Our on-line booking system, Game Time , enables you to reserve a court and play. You will soon meet other members.

Otherwise there are two important contacts to enhance your Club experience:

Rosemary Goodwin rosemarygoodwin@mac.com, 905-468-5503, our Group Scheduler, can advise on Club groups who are looking for players.

Shawna Macfarlane, our Club Pro, addintennis@gmail.com , has a schedule of complimentary group/lesson sessions, and is also available for private and semi-private lessons.

We are confident that these suggestions will help you to get involved and to soon experience the unique aspects of tennis at Niagara-On- The- Lake.



New Courts Ribbon Cutting

This event is on hold until restrictions are lifted.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS



Ruth Magee has been in Garrison Village for 5 years and is coming back to tennis after a long layoff, thanks to encouragement from club members Sunni Cao and Rick Sherk. She enjoys yoga classes at the Community Centre and is an Uber driver a a sideline. Prior to moving to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ruth lived in Panama for several years, which followed a 10-year period on a sailboat in the Caribbean.

Rachel Morkunas is another who played when she was younger and is looking forward to picking up tennis again, even though it wasn't originally her own idea : her club membership was a surprise Christmas gift from her sister! Rachel grew up in Niagara-on-the-Lake, attended Brock University and continues to pursue academic studies in Nursing at McMaster University. Her career in the public health sector involves a rotating schedule, so she'll be hoping to fit tennis games around it. This photo was chosen for its very happy memories of a trip to Japan.





Kathryn Podrebarac and Cathy van Ingen are loving their newly- renovated home on Charlotte Street, where they back onto the Heritage Trail. Cathy (on the right) is a Professor of Kinesiology at Brock University, where her research examines the relationship between sport, inequality and social change. Kathryn is the Principal of Podrebarac Barristers, focusing on commercial litigation and arbitration. She's also a Harvard-trained mediator and adjudicator. Both are relatively new to tennis, and keen to learn the game. This photo has happy memories of a trip to Denmark.

Ravi Sharma is coming back to tennis after a few years away from the game. He joined the club with encouragement from club member Vinay Mehrotra, who is also a golfing and skiing partner. Ravi is looking forward to playing doubles in Men's Night and getting in a game of singles whenever possible. As the founder of Pinewood Dental Care in Niagara Falls, Dr Sharma has a busy schedule, so enjoys the opportunity to get fresh air and exercise.





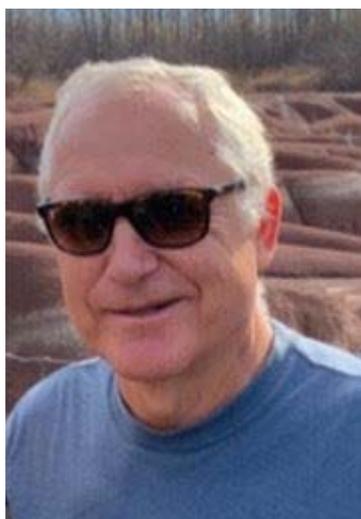
Jennifer Sorensen has been away from tennis for a couple of years, but is looking forward to picking up where she left off through 10-15 years of playing in the Caledon and Whitby areas. She'll be looking for games primarily in the evenings and on weekends, as she still has an active career in Special Sales for Skyhorse Publishing, a New York firm. The start of the season may be delayed for Jenny if a long-delayed trip to California is able to materialize in mid-April.

Lucy Brookhouser and her husband relocated to their Gate Street home when he retired and was ready for a new day-job as a golfer. Lucy is happy to be "smelling the roses" by slowing down to some extent, learning to play golf and now learning to play tennis. She has already enjoyed lessons with Shawna. But she also enjoys her career as a real estate broker, where her email address carries her approach : "It's about people". And in the small-world category, Barb Kavanagh's husband was best man to Lucy's husband at their wedding.



When **Barb Kavanagh** and her husband moved into their Albion Way home last September, club member (and neighbour) Les McFarlane spotted the tennis racquet and said "drop in at the club on Monday morning". She brought her A-game with her, and has been playing regularly ever since, joining with indoor groups at Youngs Sportsplex through the winter. Barb is a competitive golfer and a fitness instructor as well. She and her husband chose NOTL as their next home after 5 years in Huntsville and 26 years in Muskoka. They love the wine country ... and having no black flies or mosquitoes!

Jayden and Felix Jeong are students at Eden High School in St Catharines, and they both love tennis. When the early spring weather brought good playing conditions, Jayden (on the right) launched a petition to urge the City of St Catharines to adjust their plans and put the tennis nets up earlier. He did it so well that he received a message from Mayor Walter Sendzik on Twitter, letting him know the nets would be put up pronto. They really enjoy having lessons with Shawna and are hoping they'll be able to gather a group of youth players to play at NOTL Tennis Club this summer, as they do at White Oaks during the indoor season.



Victor Zilinskas and his wife relocated from Ottawa to their new St Davids home when they retired. They're very happy to be closer to friends and family, especially to a son and daughter-in-law in Brampton who have a 5-month-old baby. Victor spent many years as a competitive squash player, but found himself returning to tennis about five years ago and is looking forward to meeting local players. He'll be available for daytime games and will be joining in for Men's Night as well.

Sarah Kwong has found at least two positive developments from the way covid-19 has changed our world. When it was no longer feasible to go to work in downtown Toronto, the idea of work-from-home made Niagara-on-the-Lake a realistic option. And when some fresh air and exercise were wanted in her new community, tennis was a good safe choice. Sarah hasn't had much time for tennis while pursuing education and career in Toronto, but she has fond memories of tennis when she was growing up in Vancouver. She is looking forward to meeting other members and becoming part of the Ball Machine Group.



Club History



Some colourful club history

In April 2009, when our new display case was being installed Dorothy Booth was quick to note that the faded plywood drop-down looked pretty shabby alongside it. Her suggestion of "why not a painted mural" was quickly seized upon, and a shiny new piece of plywood was soon delivered by Ken Rive. Somehow we managed to get it into Dorothy's basement studio, where she worked away at the mural for many weeks.

The unveiling took place in August, at the first Mixed Doubles Tournament to be held since the early 90s (thanks to Pat Bryan as tournament director). It was a wonderful surprise to see Dorothy's vision. She said she was inspired by our beautiful setting in Memorial Park, and by the many happy events we'd enjoyed in the pavilion throughout the season. Dorothy is a noted portrait artist for pets, so it was no surprise when her beloved miniature poodle, Max, made a cameo appearance in the mural.

The mural first took its place as our dropdown on April 23 2010, after Richard Berti had fitted it with the necessary hardware. Every year since, the mural has been put away for safekeeping each fall and its return in the spring is eagerly anticipated. It catches our eye as we play our games on the court and has truly become a symbol of the club's spirit and energy.

BTBBis message was sent to you by [Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time

[Unsubscribe](#)