
Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club Newsletter



Just 42 days to a possible April 1st start to the 2021 Season.

Lots of excitement on the Board as we progress to the start of the 2021 Season. Here are a few highlights:

- 2 new courts almost here,
- **Go Tennis** Clinics are back again ,
- Group Captains are all waiting to get started
- **GAMETIME** is ready to make it easy for all our members to book courts and
- ***NEW this year*** -- online Club Group registration and INTERAC e-Transfer payment!

Watch for your membership renewal invoice, to be emailed March **17th**

2021 Club Membership Dues:

Adult Membership \$140 * Family Membership \$280 *

* Members who do not reside in Niagara-on-the-Lake pay an additional \$20 fee, which is passed on to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake



RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE NEW COURTS

A tentative date of **Saturday, May 8th** has been set for the Ribbon Cutting for the two new courts. The Club has invited the Lord Mayor and the Parks and Recreation team to be a part of the Ceremony.

"SURVEY SAYS ..."

The Members have spoken, and the new courts will be surfaced in blue with a green surround. It is anticipated, weather permitting, that the new courts will be completed in late April/early May. It is noteworthy that both blue on green courts and green on green courts will be available for the next few years thereby satisfying the colour preferences of all the members!



WINTER TENNIS

Keith Stuart reports that the Rye Street courts were well used during December - 50 players participating and in January from the 1st to the 19th when 124 people played. The Town had recently also agreed to install the net posts at Garrison Park to provide a third court, but unfortunately the Region continues in lockdown --- the net posts have been removed from Rye Park courts and were not able to be installed at Garrison.

Undeterred, Keith will be in touch with Parks and Rec as soon as the lockdown is lifted to continue, what Parks and Rec are referring to as the Town's "Winter Tennis Pilot Project". Judging from the cooperation of the Town and the popularity of the program, this could become a permanent extension of tennis in Niagara on the Lake.

Kudos to Keith and his group.

COVID PROTOCOLS

We anticipate that the season, upon opening, will operate under the same conditions as were in place last Fall. No social gatherings, social distancing on the courts, exit through back gates when others are waiting to go on, etc. The rules will be posted at the pavilion and on the gates.

BOARD ACTIVITIES

Hugh Dow, has represented the Club in OTA conferences and meetings, has been in touch with Town staff about possible court set-up dates, and has steered the Board throughout its early planning stages for the 2021 season.

Game Time, which was universally supported by the members last season, will continue, administered by Marilyn Francis - with a few improvements, such as: The pre-booking timeframe will go from 5 days to 7 days, and the daily log-on for pre-booking will be moved from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.. At the same time, Marilyn continues to manage the Club's investments and day to day finances.

Ensuring the optimum usage of all six courts, while at the same time providing flexibility during prime hours for casual games, is Rosemary Goodwin's focus. She has been in touch with all member-led and Club-led group leaders to discuss their requirements for the coming season. The recommended schedule will be presented to the Board on March 2nd for review.

Equipping the new courts and upgrading/replacing equipment for the existing courts has been the focus of Larry Platt throughout the winter.

Rick Sherk, together with Holly Anderson, as Social Chair, has started formulating plans for the Ribbon Cutting Event, which meets all covid protocols but at the same time provides an opportunity for the Club to celebrate the upcoming season and the two new courts.

The Club Secretary, Brenda Parks, has been involved in the recently completed court colour survey, records Board meetings, tracks action from the meetings, and edits the Newsletter, assisted by Phaedra Howell.

CLUB HISTORY

Our “gifts from the past” for Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis go back 140 years to the start of the game ... but there are also meaningful gifts of a newer vintage that bear remembering and celebrating as well. These photos are from a relatively recent April 19 2010, but most members are likely unaware of the transformation that occurred that day.

The pass-through shelf of the pavilion had been a piece of plywood, which - after 20 years - no longer said ‘Welcome’ with the same enthusiasm as it had in 1990. When a potential worthy replacement was sourced from an antique dealer, the question was put to Richard Berti: would it be possible to restore a hand-hewn timber from a 200-year-old barn? In most circumstances, the answer would have been negative. But Richard saw the beauty in the wood and dedicated many hours to its rehabilitation in his workshop over the course of the winter.

Then, on a fine April morning 11 years ago, our beautiful pass-through shelf was fitted into place. The next time you lean your elbows on that lovely wood, or set your water bottle down on it, you might reflect for a moment on the history it’s seen along its 200+ years. And tip your hat to the remarkable Richard Berti.



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