

Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club

March 19, 2021 Newsletter



NETS UP !!!

We have confirmation from Parks and Rec that the NETS WILL BE INSTALLED AT MEMORIAL THE WEEK OF MARCH 22nd.

2021 Season

We've had great early response to the invoices sent out on March 17th. We encourage members to submit their payments promptly.

Once your payment has been processed you will receive the Gate Code, you will be registered into the Game Time booking system and you will be READY TO PLAY.

Complimentary Clinics start Saturday, April 17th and run Saturdays and Sundays and Tuesdays and Thursdays through to April 29th. Check the website for full details.

To book casual games. There is a court allocation chart on the website which provides an overview of the court usage. This is a general guide to open court times. The Game Time Booking system is the tool you use to book a court.

****** Club Groups Start May 1st ******

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

Saturday, May 8th is the Date for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Lord Mayor will be in attendance along with Parks and Recreation staff, and Club members who were instrumental in guiding this project for over a 10 year period.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS



The cheerful smile of Mark Waler is a good reflection of how he feels about the sport of Tennis. His youth included lots of time at White Oaks under the tutelage of Doug Carter, and it certainly shows in his backhand. After a long stretch in Toronto, Mark is happy to be back home in Niagara, and responded to encouragement from Roman Korda and John Pilling to become a member of our tennis club. He's looking forward to taking coaches training once certification programs resume post-covid.

Don Cruikshank is back! He is looking forward to returning to our tennis league this year after a Covid year off and a considerably reduced presence in 2019 as a result of a medical issue. As you can see, I have been fortunate to have a number of local grandchildren to 'bubble' with in the interim. I'm looking forward to renewing friendships with our great club, and enjoying a bit of fun tennis as well!



Geoff Barth is new to our tennis club and new to Niagara-on-the-Lake, as he and his wife Julie relocated from Oakville to their James Street home at the end of January. But he's certainly not new to tennis, having enjoyed the sport all his life. Recently retired from the investment industry, Geoff looks forward to plenty of time on the tennis court playing singles, doubles or just hitting for exercise.

Michael Paravalos is back as well. Mike also missed a couple of years but is looking forward to picking up where he left off. Men's Night with George Dell is a favourite weekly game, as is Saturday morning with Dominic Ventresca's group. Mike still has a commitment which takes him to Oakville three days a week, but he looks forward to fitting in as much tennis as possible around it.





There were anxious times for Vittorio and Gillian Venturi last year, as they have many friends and family in the Piemonte region of northern Italy, close to where the first covid outbreaks had tragic consequences. They're hoping things have turned a corner now and are looking forward to being back on the courts where they've been strong club supporters since 2001. The search for activity in the off-season led them to resurrect a table-tennis table from a corner of the basement, firing up those long-ago skills with the help of their son, Mark.

Vasumathy Sornarajah is the name on the membership card, but her family and friends all know her as Bouty (say 'booty'). Bouty caught the tennis bug a few short years ago, after playing squash and badminton for most of her life. She's looking forward to Ladies Night and to clinics with Shawna, which she enjoyed very much during a previous stint with the club. Bouty and her husband spend weekends at the family home in Peterborough, so she'll be looking for weekday games.



WINTER TENNIS

And a final shout out to **KEITH STUART – CHAMPION OF WINTER TENNIS!** Enjoy warmer games, Keith, you've earned it. This would not have been possible without the cooperation and lead of our Parks and Rec staff – Many thanks to **Kevin Turcott and Hans Pauls.**

April 7th, April 7th, April 7th

A front seat among the playgrounds of two nations – Lawn Tennis, Niagara on the Lake c. 1880s – 1920

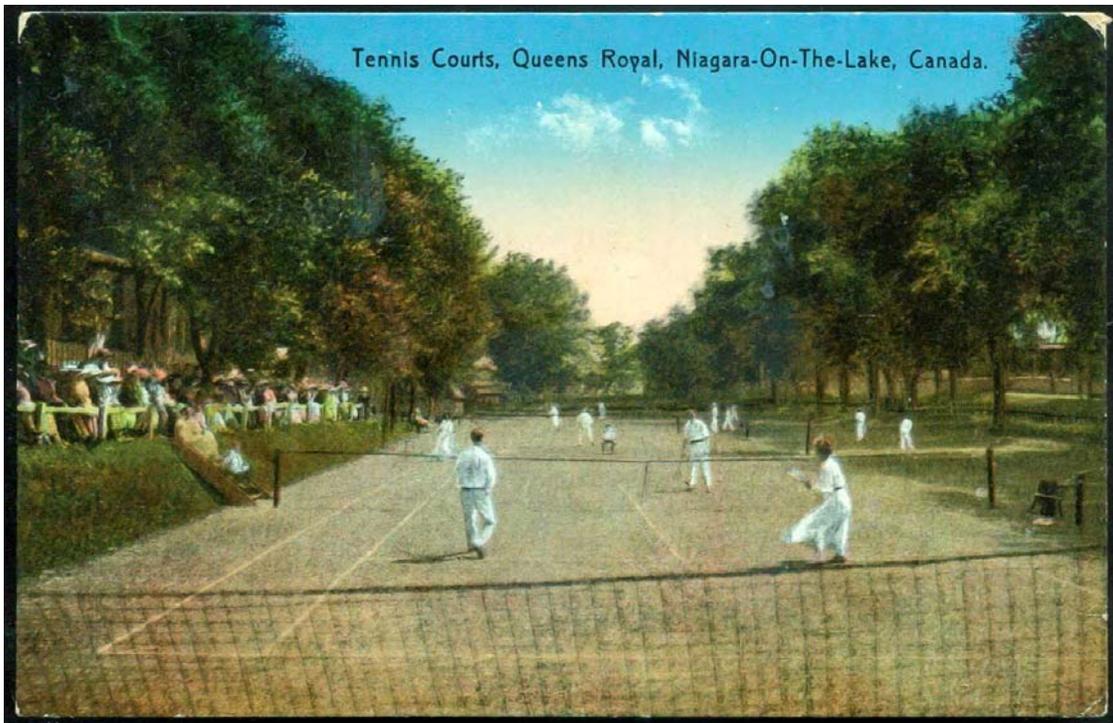
Niagara-on-the-Lake has a long history as a “crossroads”, and this was very much in evidence from a social standpoint during a lengthy period from 1880 to 1920. The sport of Tennis was new, and Niagara-on-the-Lake became a hub where players from Canada and the United States could gather to compete and also to socialize. The original competition was the Niagara International Championships, but the Canadian Open Championships and the Canadian National Championships were frequently on the schedule. We were definitely a highlight in the original tennis landscape.

As pictured below, the Queens Royal Hotel had a bank of courts where Queens Royal Park is today. They were home to the tournaments, but also to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club.

This wonderful history will be featured at the NOTL Museum on Wednesday April 7th at 10:30 am, with a lecture entitled *A front seat among the playgrounds of two nations : Lawn Tennis in Niagara-on-the-Lake c. 1880s-1920s*. The presenter is Robert J Lake, an author and scholar of tennis history.

Thanks to covid-19, the museum’s lecture series is now carried by Zoom, making it available to many more people. Registration is free. You gain access by [clicking here](#) or by going to the [Museum website](#) and registering on the Events page. It will be possible to hear the lecture afterwards, but we hope many club members will tune in for the live event.

Contact Rosemary Goodwin or Tady Saczkowski if you have any questions, or if you have difficulty with the registration.



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