

# Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club

## May 2021 Newsletter



## ONTARIO STAY-AT-HOME ORDER

The current six week stay-at-home order is due to expire on May 20th.

Your Board is monitoring this situation daily. Let's hope that the order is not extended!

In addition,

The Ontario Tennis Association (OTA) in a meeting with the Provincial Government on May 4th, presented the case that COVID protocols are in place in tennis clubs throughout Ontario - while they fought the good fight - the Government was not prepared to lift restrictions on tennis. Following are excerpts of a report on the meeting from James Boyce, President and CEO of OTA.

"As a follow-up to my recent update concerning the re-opening of tennis in Ontario, I feel it is important to update you on the results of a meeting that took place on the afternoon of May 4th between members of the Premier's Office, Tennis Canada President and CEO Michael Downey and me.

After 40 minutes of meaningful dialogue, in which the OTA and Tennis Canada were permitted to state their positions with respect to the closures, the Province stated that as of right now, it intends to continue with the terms outlined in the original Stay-at-Home Order, with respect to the closing of tennis facilities and other currently closed recreational amenities, until further notice.

While they agree that the sport itself (and others) are relatively safe, their main concern lies with the potential group travel to and from facilities and the increased likelihood of group congregation at or around the sites."



## **CANADA GAMES**

No doubt members have seen the recent local news coverage of the Club's involvement with the Games. A masterful job by our President in representing the Club and promoting this event, which will have significant impact on the Club's national profile for years to come.

In Hugh's words: "We reviewed it at our club's board and it had unanimous support and endorsement. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in what is Canada's largest multi-sport event, and to showcase the town, the club and some of the unique features of where we live".

The full interview is available at:

<https://notlocal.com/2021/05/05/notl-to-host-tennis-sailing-competitions-for-2022-games/>

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## 2021 Season

The Board is committed to providing as comprehensive a season as possible.

Court Contractors, who have built the two new courts, have been on the site and should be able to continue the work over the next two weeks.

Dominic's set-up crew are standing by to install the windscreens.

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

Shawna encourages members to stay game ready with a few suggested tennis videos. Here are a few to keep the tennis brain ready.

**Valued Visual Repetition:** Who better to watch than Roger!

Roger Federer Forehand Slow Motion – Fluid Relaxation Forehand Technique is so smooth and effortless. He can generate easy power consistently.

<https://youtu.be/KLzaaln6Rf0>

**Best Technical Practice:** Essential Tennis Backhand Footwork Pattern

Follow this easy to practice footwork pattern in the comfort of your own living room!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47Y1ktPJ0BA>

The Board is also developing different playing scenarios for play depending on the circumstances we face when we open - for example, options for playing singles cross court or small court. The goal is to provide our members at every level with fun and comfortable playing scenarios and these will be ready to go as soon as we open for any members interested. Rosemary Goodwin and Holly Anderson are working on this project.

Game Time is also ready to swing into operation, blocking Club and member led groups if they are permitted. And open to casual bookings by all members.

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## ON THE WEBSITE

Members are encouraged to visit the website. New members can familiarize themselves with Club operations by reviewing the Board Records section which includes AGM presentations and financial reports. Browsing through the gallery section photos can be an entertaining trip down memory lane for members. Remember "Fun"?

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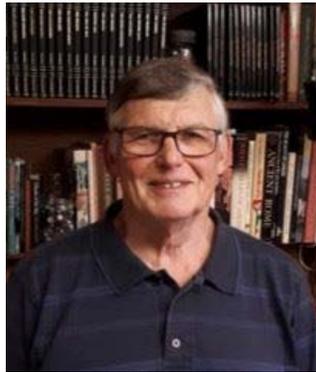


## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS



**Jean Lalonde** had volleyball as his first sport, but wisely added tennis as a complementary activity to carry on through life. Despite a full schedule in senior management with international companies, he made time over the past 10 years to be involved as a coach on evenings and weekends with TENNIS EVERYONE - a city-wide initiative in Mississauga which has grown to become the largest participation development program in Canada. Jean enjoyed helping players of all ages to learn tennis basics and continue developing their skills. His tournaments on the well-maintained parks courts were open to all and added to enthusiasm for the game. Thanks to his neighbours, Alan and Marion Briston, for encouraging Jean to join our club.

**Valerie Cickello** relocated from Ottawa about five years ago. After many years as a flight attendant with Air Canada, she's very much enjoying the idyllic situation of a home in picturesque chautauqua and the opportunity to ride a bicycle to the Tennis Club. Although fairly new to tennis, she's enjoyed lessons at White Oaks with Tim Kemp and has received encouragement from club members Jim and Cathy Reid. Once travel opens up again, Valerie is looking forward to re-visiting favourite spots in London and in the Middle East.



This is something of a homecoming for **Peter Mocha**, as his name first appears on the club's roster in 1987. At the time, it was alongside his wife, Judy, and two sons : Jeff, age 8, and Brian, age 5. Peter was a teacher at Niagara District H.S., where supervising a tennis team was among his duties. He recalls an invitation-to-play event that brought 60 kids to the two courts at the school. Since then, family tennis has been centred mainly at White Oaks. Brian and Jeff progressed to become tennis instructors during their teenage summers, and also played tennis at university. Peter recalls partnering with Shawna Macfarlane at a mixed doubles event in the early years there, and has a large circle of tennis friends that overlap between the two clubs.

**Christyna Prokipchuk** is among those who were athletes during their school years, but now find those sports less practical for other times of life. Rowing was a specialty, but now the lifetime games of golf and tennis are beckoning for her and for her 10-year-old son, Lev. Her career in sales and service for a software company that supports long-term care and medical applications is letting her work from home, but also comes with pressure and stress. Christyna is looking forward to being surrounded by positive group energy on the tennis court!



**Mark Smith** has been enjoying his Victoria Avenue home for about two years, as he gradually completes the transition from Toronto. He still finds himself there a couple of nights each week, but is hoping to have lots of opportunity for tennis at the club this summer. His tennis experience is of the played-my-whole-life variety and he confesses to preferring singles. Club members Jim & Cathy Reid encouraged him to join the club and have been coaxing him to play more doubles. When pressed for “other interests”, Mark shared his pride in his daughter, who has been accepted for post-graduate studies in chemistry at Stanford University this fall.

**Guy and Janet Hatif** had careers in the hospitality and the wine business, so when they decided to step away from the corporate world and start a new lifestyle, Niagara-on-the-Lake was an ideal destination. They have a lovely B&B called Matisse, and Guy enjoys conducting wine tours for Crush, where his lingering Parisian accent adds to the experience for the guests. He joins the ever-growing number of our members who really enjoy playing singles, but is looking forward to the chance to meet more members by playing doubles as well. Amanda Thackray has been a hitting partner this spring, and was a positive influence in his decision to join the club.



**Kim McDonough** has been an essential worker for the past year, dealing with covid-19 as an R.N. with Niagara Health. Despite almost 35 years experience, the 12-hour shifts that include evenings and weekends don't get any easier. With encouragement from a friend, Gina VanderHoeven, Kim recognized it was time to realize a long-held wish to play tennis: "If not now, then when?" Clubmember Danna McDonough happens to be the sister of Kim's husband, Shane: "Kim has a tough job, as do all our nurses. I'm really glad she'll be able to have the fun of Tennis."

**Victoria Gilbert** is new to tennis but admits she has always respected the sport from afar. While more comfortable deep under water or cycling up a hill, she is tremendously excited about playing better tennis and hopes the members will be forgiving if her ball finds itself on the wrong court. Part of Victoria's inspiration to play tennis comes from bringing her 8-year-old son, Aspen, to the park to play. And her enthusiasm has even encouraged her friend, Christyna Prokipchuk, to join her this season at the Tennis Club. Welcome to both!



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