

Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club Newsletter



Fall foliage, cooler temperatures, and recent rain nudge us to realize that it is time to start winding down another amazing season at the Niagara on the Lake Tennis Club. There is nothing quite like tennis when it comes to bringing people together and finding some “normalcy” during COVID. Never mind Indian Wells, this is OUR tennis paradise.



Before some of us seek warmer climates as the borders open, or head to indoor tennis there is still some news to share.

Singles Tournament Chronicle

The Singles Tournament was set for October 3rd, with 20 men and 8 women registered for the one-day event. The weather conspired against us, such that only 18 of 40 matches could be played.

Since then, play has continued, with 6 matches remaining.

In the Women's "A" division, Ann Davies and Kendra Osa will play a semi-final, with the winner to meet Fran Doran.

In the Women's "B" division, Danna McDonough and Sunni Cao are scheduled to play the final match at 3:00 on Monday.

In the Men's "A" division, and in real time today as this was being written, Thibault Billion was the winner of the match up with Jayden Jeong. The final with Thibault and Mark Waler was in progress with an enthusiastic crowd in the stands; if you were watching the game you will understand when I say that the crowd literally "brought the stands with them".

In the Men's "B" division final, Ken McGillivray was the winner of the match with Harry Schlange.

Special thanks to all the players for patience and persistence in completing the games. There's a special camaraderie that comes with taking on the challenge of Singles, and full credit goes to all who do. The players who showed up early to clear and dry the courts have stars beside their names in the record books.

Thanks also to volunteers Jill Evans, Susan & Eric Weir, and Claire Bryan for keeping the pavilion under control on tournament day. Beautiful photos of the early matches were taken by Sonja Schindeler, and have been posted on the website by webmaster Larry Mantle.

All events at our wonderful NOTL Tennis Club are the result of exceptional teamwork, and it's not too early to put your hat in the ring for next season. **Volunteer teams are being assembled to support our 2022 tournaments. Please let Rosemary Goodwin know of your interest in getting a share of the fun.**

2021 Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on September 30th. Similar to last year, this year's meeting was held via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions. 45 members participated in the meeting up from 30 last year. Presentation materials from the meeting are available on the website.

A few highlights:

Retiring Directors Larry Platt, Holly Anderson, and Rick Sherk were recognized for their service.

Natalie Early, Rosemary Goodwin, Nancy Marchese, and Janice Schnactsneider were elected to the Board and at its first meeting the new Board elected its Officers:

- Hugh Dow, President
- Marilyn Francis, Vice-President
- Nancy Marchese, Treasurer
- Brenda Parks, Secretary
- Rosemary Goodwin, Director
- Natalie Early, Director
- Janice Schnactsneider, Director

Good luck to the new Board. An exciting year awaits.

Thanks to our Volunteers

The strength of our Club is our Volunteers who were also recognized at the meeting. The chart below is a snapshot of the magnitude of those contributions.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

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| <p>THE BOARD</p> <p>Hugh Dow Brenda Parks Rosemary Goodwin Marilyn Francis Larry Platt Holly Anderson Rick Sherk</p> | <p>Club Newsletter Brenda Parks Phaedra Howell</p> <p>GAMETIME Administrator Marilyn Francis</p> <p>Web Master Larry Mantle</p> <p>Membership Registrar Janice Schachtschneider</p> <p>Facility Lead Larry Platt</p> <p>Kitchen Monitor Sylvia Allen</p> <p>"Club Cap" Program Holly Anderson</p> | <p>Club Groups</p> <p>George Dell Derrick Penman Joan Maida Carol MacSween Marilyn Francis Mia Valiant David Rodgers Rosemary Goodwin</p> <p>Facility Setup and Take Down Dominic Ventresca & "Hardy Boys" (Saturday Morning Men's Group)</p> <p>Tournaments</p> <p>Rick Sherk Marilyn Francis Holly Anderson Andreas Dogarescu Trish Spagnol Rosemary Goodwin</p> <p>Club Photographers</p> <p>Deb Robert Cosmo Condina Sonja Schindeler</p> |
| <p>Member Groups</p> <p>Sonja Schindeler Trish Spagnol Terry Francis Jill Evans Pat Young Dominic Ventresca Sheila Rider Pippa De Leonardis Marion Briston Fran Doran John Burns Gerry Kowalchuck Martin Hallett Lynn Gough Janice Schachtschneider</p> <p>Ball Machine Program</p> <p>Terry Francis George Dell Marilyn Francis Danna McDonough</p> | | |



Continuing on the theme of exceptional volunteer service and in a wonderful unscripted moment, **Marilyn Francis** was presented with the **OTA's Bruce Childs Community Club Volunteer Award**. The award was established to recognize an executive member or dedicated club volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to his/her community tennis club for an extended period of time. So well deserved. Thank you Marilyn for all you do for the Club!

Bev Lees, Danny McCarthy and Marlene McCarthy were recognized as founding members of the Club with continuous membership over the past 50 years! We look forward to post Covid time when the Club can appropriately celebrate these milestones as well as celebrate our own 50+ year anniversary.

Canada Games Update

As you may be aware, Canada Games will host Tennis at our Club and the Welland Tennis Club next August. Competition will take place from August 7th to August 13th with Canada Games having exclusive access to our facilities between August 3rd to August 15th.

There will be some disruption to our regular season no doubt. On the positive side, Canada Games and the Town will be investing more than \$90,000 in capital improvements to our courts, equipment, pavilion and parking lot. We hope members will take advantage of being spectators and volunteers in this “once in a lifetime hosting experience”. Stay tuned for more news on this in the coming months.

A Note from Shawna McFarlane and the Go Tennis Team

As we navigate towards our off season we will close our lesson program on October 21st – a full 7 months after the first 2021 lesson. As Shawna reminds us all, “Tennis is a game and games should always be fun! “

Here is a snapshot of the instructional activity at the Club by the numbers:

Adults

- Complimentary Clinics (April/ May)
- Tuesday **Go Tennis Clinic** – 40 participants
- Thursday **Drills & Skills Clinic** – 35 participants
- Private & Semi Private Lessons – 75 participants

Juniors

- Junior Zone Community Outreach – 62 participants

A special shoutout to those who volunteered with the Go Tennis Team to make the lesson experience more enjoyable. Jayden Jeong, Felix Jeong, Chris Semple and Dianne McCalla assisted with the Junior Red Ball Sluggers (3–6years). Both Jayden and Felix also participated in the weekly Go Tennis Groups on Tuesday and Thursday evenings to help bring everyone's tennis game to life! For all their time and energy, thank you!

The Niagara on the Lake Go Instructional Team is seeking part-time instructors to join our team. Both volunteer and paid positions are available. The instructional times are primarily on weekend afternoons and weeknights.

For more information, please reach out to Shawna Macfarlane (Director of Instructional Programming) to join the 2022 Team!

Seasons Change

The nets will be up at the Memorial courts until the end of November (weather permitting).

Dominic and his crew will be at the Courts on Saturday October 30th to remove the windscreens. **If you'd like to help contact Dominic.** The rain date is November 6th.



Winter Tennis

Winter tennis will run again this year as per last year's program at Rye Heritage Park.

Rye Street at the end of Cottage Street - is the location for winter tennis in NOTL. The net posts will remain in place at Rye Street park. The nets, however, cannot be left up over the winter months, as there is a possibility that with a deep freeze the net posts will lift causing the posts to crack the asphalt.

To play, you must pick up a net and return it on the same day.

Here is the process:

#1. There are 2 ways to pick up a net:

1. Drive to our club courts at Memorial Park and go into the kitchen (Door Code 5142) and take the net and crank.

OR

2. Call Keith Stuart - (905) 353-5360 at 722 King Street, NOTL, and pick up a net and crank at his house. He lives 1 block over from Rye Park.

Winter tennis is only to be played when it's dry and the weather permits over the winter months. All players play at their own risks and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the NOTL Tennis Club cannot be held liable for any injuries or mishaps.



Last Call

If you're missing something, please check in the pavilion kitchen in the Lost & Found box as soon as you can. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity at the end November.

Compliments, Feedback, and the Next 5 Year Plan

The Board will be working on the Club's next 5 Year Plan in the off season. Do you have any suggestions?

- Shade options on court and for spectators ?
- Water bottle refill station ?
- Webcam for weather / court conditions ?
- Pavilion improvements ?
- Other ideas ?

Share your thoughts on this or any other matters affecting Club at:

askus@niagaratennisclub.com

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