

## Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club Newsletter

February 2022



### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Is it too late to say Happy New Year? Distracted by Omicron and snow storms, January seems to have flown by. I haven't completely missed the mark as festive lunar celebrations began earlier this week on February 1<sup>st</sup> and run for the next two weeks. Everyone is invited to "feast and enjoy **Luck**" for the New Year of the Tiger which marks a fast-paced year ahead, "driving back evil spirits, and celebrating a better connection with nature". Fingers crossed that those evil spirits include all strains of COVID!

Not that we're counting but there are **just 59 days to a possible April start to the 2022 season.**

Can't wait. See you on the courts.



### BOARD UPDATE

The Board has been busy over the winter break planning an inspired schedule of activities for members this year including clinics, socials, tournaments and a Tennis Ball Dinner to put a bow on the upcoming season. Stay tuned for details in next month's newsletter and a call for volunteers.

If you have not already, returning members will start to receive emails from group captains in the coming days to confirm your participation in organized play. To simplify registration, fees for group activities will be included in your membership renewal notice which will be emailed later this month. Watch for it.

For our new members, welcome to our tennis family. Please feel free to reach out to any of our Board Members (contact info on our website <https://niagaratennisclub.com>) or any of our current club members. They will be pleased to help you navigate signup for our activities.



## CANADA GAMES 2022

Plans for the 2022 Canada Games are actively taking shape. Our Club will be transformed into a major sporting venue during the week of August 6-13. Watch this space for sneak peaks in the next few newsletters.

Tickets for the Games and for the Tennis event are currently on sale on the Games website [niagara2022games.ca](https://niagara2022games.ca). They are priced at \$85.00 for a whole weeks' pass. The Club has asked for consideration of a discounted Club member rate. **You may want to hold off for a bit before purchasing your tickets.** As soon as details of a Club rate are made available we will advise Members immediately.

The Club's participation through Members signing up for volunteer duties has been impressive. At the last count **some 35 Members** have put their names forward! If you are interested in joining this mighty crew please check out the Games website at [niagara2022games.ca](https://niagara2022games.ca)"

## CANADIAN WINTER TENNIS

For some, winter tennis means indoor tennis or play on courts in warmer climates south. With indoor courts closed in the Province due to COVID and just before the most recent storm, an intrepid group of women cleared the snow from two courts in Rye Park and did their best to celebrate Canadian Winter Tennis. Note the plastic shovels. No courts were injured in the process.

In the group photo, at the back are Trish Spagnol, Paula Lepp, Jennifer Allen and Marilyn Vann. In front are Ann Davies, Diane Riley and Christy Pennington.

Many thanks to Rosemary Goodwin for sharing this story and the pictures.



**SPEC TENNIS**





picture and story provided by Rosemary Goodwin

For three weeks during the end of November and early December, a group of club members set out to try a new game called Spec Tennis. They played on three courts in the NOTL Community Centre auditorium, and soon found that it was too much fun to ever stop. As a result, the game of Spec Tennis has now been listed as an ongoing part of the activities menu at the Community Centre, and as of December 16th we have a designated regular time on Thursdays from 6:45 to 8:30 each week.

Although the game appears to have more in common with pickleball, it's been designed to play like tennis and to feel like tennis. The paddle and the ball are such that the game fits into a 44' court (rather than a 78' tennis court). Action is fast and constant, resulting in big smiles and lots of positive energy.

Registration is open to everyone, with a total of 16 players being permitted at each session. To register, download an app called TeamReach, and search for the group code NOTLspec. Once you're there, click on the calendar icon to access upcoming events and sign yourself up.

The curious-but-unconvinced are welcome to drop in and be a spectator ... though we caution you'll soon be wishing you'd brought along your court shoes. That's all you'll need to get started, since paddles and balls are supplied.

The creator of the game is a teaching pro named Nate Gross. He maintains a good website at <https://spectennis.com> and a lively Facebook page as well. Check it out!

[Please remember the Community Centre requires masks until you reach the playing area, and registration is required with proof of vaccination each time you enter the building.]

## Quick Tennis Hits

- [6 takeaways from Australian Open 2022](#)
- [Barty went from \\$16.50 an hour coach to tennis champion in four years.](#)

## Compliments and Feedback

We are always on the lookout for content for the newsletter. If you would like to share a story or have feedback, please email Natalie Early at [natalie.early@outlook.com](mailto:natalie.early@outlook.com)

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