

Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club Newsletter



October 31, 2022

NOTL Tennis in October



Picture courtesy of Tady Saczkowski

October seems to have come and gone in the blink of an eye. Fall foliage, cooler temperatures, and recent rain nudge us to realize that it's time to start winding down another amazing season at the Niagara on the Lake Tennis Club.

We do love our tennis. Shine some sun on our courts and you're going to find Club members taking advantage of one more opportunity to hit some balls with friends. The gorgeous picture above snapped by Tady Saczkowski captures one of those very moments. You can't help but reflect on how lucky we are to have such a beautiful facility. It really is tennis paradise.

Before some of us seek warmer climates down south, or head to indoor tennis there is still some news to share. We have a few nuggets from the AGM, a word of thanks to our many volunteers, results from the singles tournament, and a few snaps from the Tennis Ball. Grab a cup of coffee and get comfortable.....

A Hardy Boys Adventure



By Dominic Ventresca

This past Saturday marked a new milestone for "the Hardy Boys" (the men's Saturday morning group). These great tennis friends have played in cold conditions over the years, with at least one occasion visited by a few snowflakes. We can now add playing in a dense fog (aside from the fog that some are usually playing in. Smile)

Take a look at the pics shared above which capture elite athletic performances silhouetted by Mother Nature's mystical mix of sun and fog - all on a spectacular fall day in the friendly confines of our NOTL Tennis Club.

Mixing work with pleasure, about 25 of our members volunteered to complete the Club's fall take-down on Saturday. There were approximately 20 guys from the Saturday morning group, and several from Terry's Thursday night group, along with Marilyn and John from the Board.

This is an experienced crew that knows what needs to be done - taking down all the screens, signs etc., which also may explain why we couldn't get everyone together for a group photo!!

Thank you Hardy Boys and company for this annual communal project for the benefit of all our Club members.



2022 AGM

After a number of years of Zoom AGMs, it was wonderful to return to our in-person wine and cheese format on September 28th. After all - this **IS** Niagara on the Lake.

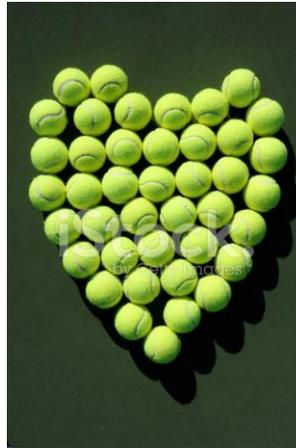
The Board expressed its appreciation to Brenda Parks for her many years of service most recently as the Club's Secretary. The Board also welcomed two new members - Jill Evans, and John Ramsbottom.

In his President's Report Hugh highlighted the increase in our membership from 327 members last year to 371 this year; an almost 13.5 % increase. He also highlighted the depth and strength of the Club with 18 regular tennis groups involving 419 participants. This is in addition to our well attended tennis clinics with Shawna. Wow!

On the facility side, there was a cheer in the room when the new kitchen sink drain was mentioned as well as the new cold water filling station at the Pavilion. The new picnic tables were also appreciated.

Hugh thanked our incredible army of volunteers. We often say that the heart of our Club is its volunteers. When you see the list of names below you get a better appreciation of just how big that heart really is.

The full AGM presentation can be found on the Club's website.



THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

<p>THE BOARD</p> <p>Hugh Dow Marilyn Francis Brenda Parks Nancy Marchese Natalie Early Rosemary Goodwin Janice Schachtschneider</p>	<p>Club Communications</p> <p>Natalie Early Brenda Parks</p>	<p>CLUB GROUPS</p> <p>George Dell Derrick Penman Gina Snary Carol MacSween Marilyn Francis Mia Valiant George S. Rosemary Goodwin</p>
<p>Member Groups</p> <p>Wendy Dell Trish Spagnol Terry Francis Jill Evans Pat Young Dominic Ventresca Sheila Rider Pippa De Leonardis Marion Briston Fran Doran Will Wilson Gerry Kowalchuck Geoff Barth Lynn Gough Janice Schachtschneider</p>	<p>GAMETIME Administrator</p> <p>Marilyn Francis</p>	<p>Facility Setup and Take Down</p> <p>Dominic Ventresca & "Hardy Boys" (Saturday Morning Men's Group)</p>
<p>Ball Machine Program</p> <p>Terry Francis George Dell Marilyn Francis Danna McDonough</p>	<p>Web Master</p> <p>Larry Mantle</p>	<p>Tournaments</p> <p>Marilyn Francis John Ramsbottom Trish Spagnol Rosemary Goodwin</p>
	<p>Membership Registrar</p> <p>Janice Schachtschneider</p>	<p>Club Photographers</p> <p>Cosmo Condina Sonja Schindeler</p>
	<p>Facility Lead</p> <p>Marilyn Francis</p>	
	<p>Housekeeping</p> <p>Member Groups</p>	
	<p>"Club Cap" Program</p> <p>Cu Van Ha Brenda Parks</p>	

2022 Singles Tournament



By Rosemary Goodwin

There's a lot of enthusiasm for singles at our wonderful tennis club, with matches on an ongoing ladder as well as practice games every Sunday morning. So it was no surprise that 36 players signed on for a Singles Tournament on October 1st! Conditions were ideal for the 32 who were ultimately able to participate. Congratulations to our two new A champions - Milla Matsko and Mark Waler, and to the stalwart finalists - Ann Davies and

Sebastian Miele. Harry Schlange has been our B champion on multiple occasions, prevailing this time over Cu Van Ha.

Several players were able to manage three matches during the day, but ironman mention goes to three who actually played four times: Matt Paron and Daniel Rafii were consolation winners in their divisions, while Cu Van Ha was the finalist in the B division.

The women's draw was brightened by the joie-de-vie of Erin Hull and Lisa Laughton, both being relatively new to tennis and with family responsibilities that afford them little time to play. It was terrific of them to join into the positive atmosphere of the day and savor their time on court. They had a long match together before Erin prevailed 8-6. She ended up as a finalist against the consolation winner Paula Lepp.

Many thanks to Jill Evans and John Ramsbottom for managing the draws, and to John Pilling for guidance.





The Tennis Ball



Nancy and Natalie took the "tennis ball" theme to heart for this year's Tennis Ball. From table favours of succulents planted in tennis balls (yes I said PLANTED), to tall centre pieces filled with balls to the hilt, the room at Club Italia was a feast for the eyes. So was the antipasto bar!

You can't beat great food, great company, great music and a dance floor.

Many thanks to the Board for their support for the evening.

These events do not happen without the creative energy, hard work, and networks of a group of volunteers. Special thanks to Cathy Lewis, Gina Snary, Pippa De Leonardis, Marco De Leonardis, Chris Wormwell, Charlene Juras, and Mary Lou Turner.

We would like to thank Shawna Macfarlane and Rosemary Goodwin for tennis ball donations as well as Trish Spagnol, Christy Pennington, Yoko Miele and Natalie Early for raffle prizes.

In addition, we would like to recognize the generous support of a number of sponsors including:

- **Stratus Winery - welcome drinks**
- **Freeman Herbs - succulents for the table favours**
- **Sykes Landscaping - turf for the table setting (Editor's note - by touch you would have sworn that the turf was real grass!**



Winter Tennis

For members not planning to depart for warmer climes this winter we thought you might be interested in the options available locally for winter tennis. We

are fortunate to have a number of winter tennis facilities available within reasonable distance of NOTL and St. Catharines.

The options include:

***OUTDOOR WINTER TENNIS AT RYE PARK**

For those hardy souls interested in playing outdoors we hope the Town will, as in previous years, permit Rye Park to be used. This does involve putting up and taking down a net. Further details will be provided as soon as possible.

***THE CLUB AT WHITE OAKS (NOTL)**

Six indoor hard courts (Membership + court fees)

***YOUNGS SPORTPLEX (WELLAND)**

Four indoor hard courts (Court time fees only)

***NIAGARA ACADEMY OF TENNIS (VINELAND)**

Four indoor (Bubble) hard courts (Court time fees only)

For members interested in pursuing these options, we suggest you contact the venues directly for full details of membership and court fees/booking procedures etc.

Have You Considered Spec Tennis?

Spec Tennis is a game designed to feel like tennis, but on a small (20' x 44') court. It can be seen at Spectennis.com or on the YouTube channel [Spec Tennis YouTube channel](#). It's played locally at the NOTL Community Centre on Thursdays at 6:45 and at Niagara Academy of Tennis in Vineland on Tuesdays at 3:00. No pre-registration is required, equipment is provided for loan, the first visit is on a no-charge basis and everyone is welcome to check it out as a spectator. We collect \$5 per player to cover the costs of court rentals. If you're looking for some exercise in an easy-going setting, you'll find a warm and friendly reception.

Contact Rosemary Goodwin at rosemarygoodwin@mac.com or 905 468-5503 if you would like more information.

Quick Tennis Hits

[Auger-Aliassime Claims Basel with 13th Straight Win](#)

[Andreescu and Coach Groeneveld Split](#)

[Serena Williams says she is 'not retired' from tennis.](#)

[Fritz reveals one misconception about tennis.](#)

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