



SouthWest Region 2023 Annual Meeting

January 20 2024

The meeting was convened at Cedar Springs Health Racquet & Sportsclub (Harvester Room) at 9:30am, with Rosemary Goodwin as Chair.

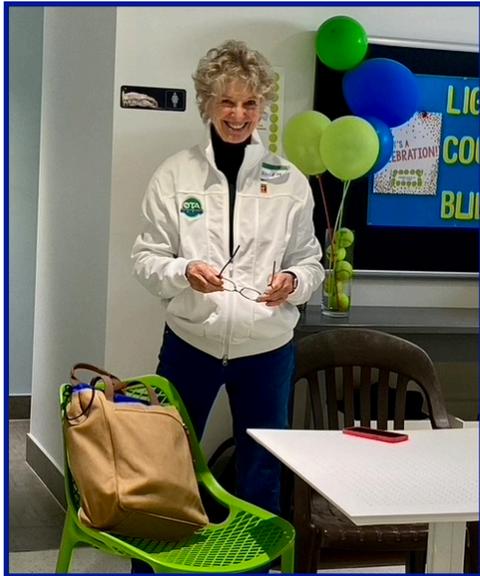
It was a great pleasure to welcome everyone, in person for the first time since before the pandemic. Together, our clubs, coaches, volunteers and players make up OTA's SouthWest Region, one of ten.

We're comprised of Halton Region, Hamilton, Niagara Region, Norfolk and Haldimand. We have a population of 1,750,000 - larger than six of the 10 provinces.

We have at least 30 organized tennis clubs and 11 places to play indoors. There are tens of thousands of tennis players within our borders.

It's an honour and a privilege to spend time listening and watching throughout the year, meeting the talented and dedicated individuals who make up SWR. My role is to absorb as much of it as I can, and reflect what I see and hear back to the OTA Board and the Region Council.

First on the program was a Review of 2023. Here's some of what was seen and heard



SPECIAL GUESTS

Tony Schafer, OTA President 1990-93; DSA 2005

Michel Lecavalier, OTA President 2007-12; DSA 2017

Wayne Saigeon, SWR Chair 1998-2017; DSA 2009

Tady Saczkowski, Distinguished Service Award 2016

Andrew Chappell, OTA Membership & Regional Development Manager

Peter Malcomson, OTA Marketing Manager

Jamie Anderson, OTA Intern Supreme

DAVIS CUP



The most significant feature on the Canadian tennis landscape at the start of 2023 was the November 2022 victory by Team Canada at the Davis Cup finals. It was the first-ever win by Canada, after competing in the annual event since 1913.

This prompted a Canada-wide tour to share the trophy, and two events were held in SWR. The first was at Cedar Springs in Burlington on March 24, hosted by Pierre Lamarche. Pierre served as both player and coach for Davis Cup and is passionate about its value for developing our sport.

The second was on August 3rd, adjacent to Queens Royal Park in Niagara-on-the-Lake, a location of significance to the origins of the Davis Cup competition. Captain Frank Dancevic, a native of Niagara Falls, was the guest of honour and received a key-to-the-city from Mayor Jim Diodati.



FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The clubs of SWR continue to work together to maintain and improve our community tennis facilities.

ALDERSHOT TC completed a refurbishing of their courts, lights and bubble in time for a grand opening November 18.

The CITY of NIAGARA FALLS contracted with Tennis Clubs of Canada to build a dome over the courts at John Allan Park.

ROSEDALE TC secured approval for a major upgrade, rebuilding four hard courts along with the foundation for a bubble. We look forward to a grand opening in June 2024.



The Aldershot Tennis Club project was partially funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The Niagara Falls Racquet Centre was partially funded by Tennis Canada's Year-round Community Tennis Courts Program Presented By Rogers.



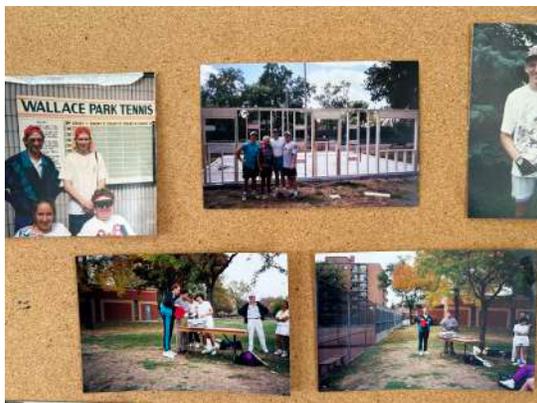
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

MILTON TC celebrated its 100th anniversary with an action-packed day on June 17. A giant timeline tracked key events, with relevant memorabilia displayed alongside. MP Adam van Koeverden joined club president Susan Kitamura for the cake-cutting.

ROSEDALE TC celebrated 100 years on May 28th. A barbecue and gathering in the clubhouse was topped off by a cake adorned with roses. Club president Dave Scott and Theresa McCourt did the honours.

WALLACE PARK TC celebrated 60 years with a party on September 16. Club president Christine DeGennero presented longstanding members with framed recognition awards bearing the clubhouse image. [The clubhouse was designed and built by club members.]

DUNDAS TC will celebrate 100 years in 2024.



ITF WHEELCHAIR TOURNAMENT



GRIMSBY TC hosted the ITF Wheelchair Tournament on June 13-16. It was the third time the club had taken this on, starting in 2019, then continuing in 2022 and 2023. Club president Ron Mauro led a large volunteer committee that was exemplary in dedication, commitment and resourcefulness. They enjoyed wholehearted support from Janet & Al Schutten, making the **Janco Steel Classic** one of the players' favourite events on the international circuit.

In October at the Birmingham National Wheelchair Championships in Halifax, Ron was presented with the LEGACY AWARD in recognition of his exceptional service.

Past SWR Chair, Wayne Saigeon and his wife, Pat, were courtside for many matches. As was Doug Carter, who arranged for indoor courts to be available at NAT if they should be needed because of rain.

Tennis Canada is searching for a new home for this event. Please let us know if you or your club would like to learn more about what's involved.



FISCHER UNDER 16 NATIONALS

MILTON TC hosted the U16 National Championships for the third time. From August 17-23, the club was home to players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators from all across Canada.

Andrea Cabio and Bianca Ceroni did SWR proud in winning the girls doubles title without loss of a set.

A mammoth volunteer effort by club members provided full services, with fresh home-cooking available in the clubhouse all day.

Each court was live-streamed to a YouTube channel, with the phone cameras mounted on the fence and solar-powered.



TENNIS ROCKS!



BURLINGTON TC hosted a Tennis Rocks event on August 13th, having been rained out on the 12th. A record number of players came from far and wide, formed into teams of either four U12s, or two U14s + two U18s. Format was doubles, with the two streams rotating on the clock and all having multiple rounds of play.

Todd Orrett was part of the founding committee for the concept, and has spear-headed the drive to expand it across all our Ontario regions. He stresses the value of team play for growing the love of tennis in young players.

The location of the club in Central Park provided a perfect venue for the families to enjoy a beautiful summer day.

Plans are in place for a renewal in 2024, and the hope is for each of our club junior programs to put together at least one team.



BRUCE CATES led the host committee for the Tennis Rocks event, and is an enthusiastic advocate for team tennis for kids.

He grew up in this area and played tennis throughout the region as much as 50 years ago. Later, he helped develop youth tennis in Yellowknife NWT, and was presented with a Distinguished Service Award by Tennis Canada in 2001.



OTA ROADSHOW

The OTA ROADSHOW made five stops in SouthWest Region :

- Grimsby TC on May 6 for the club's opening day
- Nlagara-on-the-Lake TC on May 28 for the club's opening social
- Ancaster TC on June 10 for the town's Heritage Days Festival
- Welland TC on June 17 for the Rose City Classic
- Fort Erie TC on July 8 for the club's open house

Ely Schwartz and Simon Burden set up the smash cage and also help with on-court clinics for players of all levels. Serving tips are offered and there's an assortment of prizes to be won.

It's helpful when young players (like these from Ft Erie TC) help with the deflating and with muscling the cage back into the van . Photo bottom right.



OTA AGM and National Bank Open

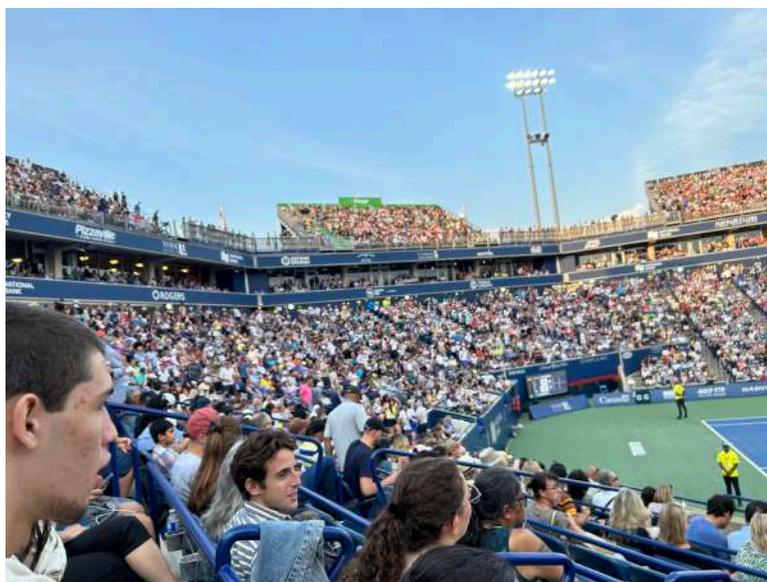
All member clubs are invited to attend the OTA annual meeting, held in late April each year at the Sobeys Centre. An interesting and informative meeting is followed by lunch, then tennis in the Centre of Excellence adjacent bubble. OTA staff run drills and organize games. Lots of fun for all playing levels and a great way to network with fellow volunteers. At least five SWR clubs were represented in 2023, and we'll hope for more this year.



The first day of play at the National Bank Open is also OTA Presidents Day. It starts with a breakfast gathering and welcome remarks, often with a guest star such as Daniel Nestor. Club presidents and their guests then have two seats for the afternoon matches.

Pictured are John & Lesley Yoxall (St Davids TC) with OTA Chair, Dianne Weatherby;

Bill & Gwen Pinto (Ft Erie TC) and Mary Lou & Ron Mauro (Grimsby TC) with SWR Chair Rosemary Goodwin.



OTA RECOGNITION AWARDS

The Bruce Childs Awards are presented annually to club members in recognition of exceptional volunteer service. In 2023, there were honorees in three clubs :
GRIMSBY TC : Sue Henry and Carole Webster
WELLAND TC : Mike Robinson
TYANDAGA TC : Jim Barbato and Mark Demerling

Clubs are invited to send nominations to Andrew Chappell in the OTA office toward the end of the summer season.

At the OTA AGM, select clubs are singled out for recognition of a particularly successful year. John Boersma accepted the 2023 Outstanding Club Achievement Award on behalf of FORT ERIE TC.

Clubs are invited to send Andrew a summary of their accomplishments in order to be considered.



MASTERS COMPETITION



The International Tennis Federation organizes a worldwide series of tournaments for players over age 30. Events are offered in five-year increments from age 30+ to 90+.

Two SWR players qualified for Team Canada in the 2024 World Team Masters 65+ to 85+ Games, held in Manavgat Turkiye on March 10-15.

Anne Rungi of the WELLAND TC (pictured) competed in the 75+ division. and Anne Hill of the ROSEDALE TC in the 70+.

ONTARIO SENIOR GAMES COMPETITION



The ONTARIO SENIOR GAMES is part of the provincial government's ONTARIO GAMES system. Tennis is in the OSGA Summer Games, with a provincial competition every two years. Players qualify through District competitions.

There are three OSGA Districts within SWR : Halton #21, Hamilton #22, Niagara #24. Competition within each district is organized by each sport, and Tennis has been active in District 24 since 2012.

Mike Robinson is the current tournament director, and managed the 2023 event. The 55+, 60+, 65+ categories were held at WELLAND TC, while the 70+, 75+, 80+ were held at NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TC.

Winners in each of the doubles events advanced to the Ontario Senior Games in Brantford on August 9-11. Champions from Brantford advance to the Canadian Senior Games in Quebec City in August 2024.

Group Photo : All are 70+. Ten of the players are 80+.



REGION-WIDE INVITATIONAL EVENTS

The **Rose City Classic** has been filling the courts of the WELLAND TC in the middle of June for almost 50 years. With 8 courts, a spacious clubhouse and inviting courtside veranda, the club has cultivated a tradition of amiable competition alongside lively hospitality. A full roster of singles and doubles is offered in multiple playing levels.

The **Niagara Slam** has succeeded the longstanding Can-Am tournament at the FORT ERIE TC, and extends through two weeks in July. Tan Qureshi has been promoting and hosting tennis in Niagara for over 40 years, and brings his talent and vision to this ever-expanding event. A full roster of singles and doubles is offered in multiple playing levels, with cash prizes in the Open events.

The **Halton Championships** is new on the scene in 2023. Alex Bittermann and Greg Kirsten combined their specialties in tennis, sponsorship, and event presentation to bring an energetic and action-packed week to fruition. Hosted at CEDAR SPRINGS SPORTS CLUB, the tournament features a full roster of singles and doubles in multiple playing levels, with cash prizes in the Open category.

The **Canada Week Doubles** at GRIMSBY TC is a different format, but equally generous in reaching out to all players in all our clubs across SWR. It accommodates 16 doubles pairs for a one-day event, each pair playing three times. A lovely lunch and treats for everyone make for a memorable and happy experience. Andy Fraser heads the tournament committee.



OTA and ITF TOURNAMENTS

In addition to the events created by clubs, dozens and dozens of OTA tournaments were hosted by SWR clubs over the course of 2023. At one end of the playing spectrum, this includes the Ontario Circuit 1000 at White Oaks (with cash prizes), as well as ITF Junior Tour events at CEDAR SPRINGS and at WHITE OAKS - where the tournament in June is dedicated to the memory of Bruno Agostinelli Jr. Bruno grew up in Niagara Falls, became a Davis Cup player and a national coach. He died in a highway crash in March 2016 at age 28, and is missed every single day.

OTA tournaments are also played at HILLFIELD-STRATHALLAN TC, BURLINGTON TC, MILTON TC, WELLAND TC, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TC, YOUNGS SPORTSPLEX and NIAGARA ACADEMY OF TENNIS.

Our clubs supply court time and also provide local hosting management and hospitality. And our SWR players are able to compete close to home.



SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

Mike Robinson has managed high school competitions in Niagara for as long as anyone can remember. The WELLAND TC hosted once again in 2023 for both the area playdowns and for SOSSA (which includes Niagara, Hamilton, Haldimand). The Halton schools play in a division called GHAC.

Organization of teams is always a challenge for the schools and the players because the tennis competitions begin soon after school starts in September. There's little time to organize, and staff support is sometimes inexperienced.

The senior winners from the fall playdowns advance to the OFSAA championships in Toronto on June 3-5.

There are two universities in SWR and both participate in the OUA (Ontario University Athletics) system. On the McMaster teams, 5 of 18 women players are from SWR, while 3 of 16 men are from SWR. At Brock, 4 of 7 women players are from SWR, while there are 2 of 13 men.



The McMaster University girls team is coached by KK Magi (far right); the boys team by Mustapha Jamal. The Brock University teams are coached by Todd Green (far left). Neither university provides tennis facilities for their students and faculty.



NEW CLUB at ST DAVIDS



Open-access parks courts often sit idle and become neglected. But St Davids Park has some special magic all its own.

Step 1 : Take two plain courts. No gate, no bathrooms. Add a small shed and a notice board.

Step 2 : Recruit volunteers who want to share their love of tennis with the neighbourhood families. Certify them through the Community Facilitators Training program.



Step 3 : Build connections with the local school and get kids excited about tennis in the school gym.

Step 4 : Organize outings to the courts from school. Then arrange with the Town for time allocation for kids programs in the summer.

Step 5 : Get involved with new program offerings such as FIRST SET (fast start tennis for kids) and GIRLS-SET-MATCH and CLUB SPARK.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this initiative!



CREATIVE IDEAS in our clubs



At the TYANDAGA TC, Robin Smith has created a full-court webcam system. One view lets members view court conditions on the club website. The small repurposed clubhouse is gradually being transformed by a team of club members, led by Jim Barbato.



At the NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TC, club member Terry Francis created the Ball Machine Group. Players pay \$50 for a 'lifetime membership' in the group. After completing a training course with Terry, the player receives the access code for the ball machine storage locker. Court 6 is fitted with a power outlet and a net to corral the balls. Members reserve the ball machine on the regular court-booking

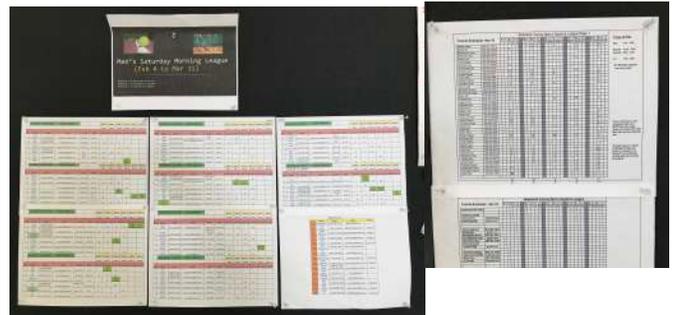


software. The funds are sufficient to pay for the initial purchase, plus ongoing repairs and a replacement reserve.

How to bring grand-slam tennis and the NBO to your club's outdoor gathering space? At the FORT ERIE TC, Cho Leung solved the problem by creating a lift to raise and lower the TV into its secure storage box.



The magic elixir - the secret sauce - for tennis is the Regular Group - a reliable and happy game at the same time each week. It could be as small as a pair or a foursome, but the-bigger-the-better applies when building connections that strengthen a club. At the ALDERSHOT TC, this extraordinary Men's Saturday Morning game is managed by Alfredo Duque. Inclusive and welcoming!



At the ROSEDALE TC, the club's Bylaws are on display in this beautiful wooden binder.

Tennis balls are an issue for sustainability in tennis, and so are the cans and pull-tops. At the WELLAND TC, Els Swart installed this system to collect it all. ReBOUND Canada provides the boxes and bags, then picks them up for custom recycling.



MODIFICATIONS of TENNIS



Our racquet sport environment is changing, and Tennis can keep up with it by modifying the variables.

Platform Tennis (top left) is played in SWR in Fonthill - a smaller court, with walls to add to the mix.

This pop-up **Padel** court (bottom left) was seen in London in July. Expect to see this sport making headlines.



Spec Tennis is an easy-access blending and midpoint among them all. Like the others, it uses a paddle and slower ball, along with a smaller court, but it feels like tennis and is a great entry-point for tennis as well as a fun-and-fast variation for skilled tennis players.



... AND SO MUCH MORE!



World Tennis Number is here! Before long, the scores of all our games will be entered into the ITF system, providing at last a relative rating for each of us. Why bother? Because every player's great joy is having challenging and fun games at our own level. You've seen the promotions for it on TV. Watch for opportunities to get your club involved, and register for your ID# on the OTA website. Sunday Singles at NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TC is all in.

History lessons : 1983 from the MILTON TC centennial timeline. Who knew that tennis used to be included in the Ontario Summer Games? There would have been a team to represent SWR. And 1989, a plaque presented to GRIMSBY TC by SWR Chair Dave Scott (now president of ROSEDALE TC) for its best-in-province junior program.



THE NEWSLETTER

THE SW SPOTLIGHT

SouthWest Region - OTA
Jan – Mar 2023

Ancaster Tennis Club

Club of the Quarter

This year, with the help of the City of Hamilton, the Hamilton Future Fund, and the Tennis Canada Rogers Covered Courts Program, we were able to convert 5 outdoor courts into the Rogers Tennis Dome during the Winter Season. This has allowed us to offer an enhanced level of programming for Juniors of all levels while remaining true to our Mission of "creating positive experiences and strong community through tennis."

- ATC Coach Mustapha Jamal



Sylvia Mergl

Featured Player

Sylvia is an 88-year-old longtime member from Pelham. Although having only started tennis in her 50s, she has accumulated a number of awards and continues to play regularly here at White Oaks. Sylvia is also an accomplished softball player. She played for Team Ontario, starting in the 50+ age division playing all over the U.S. and Japan. She continued to play until recently, stopping only because of the lack of teams in her age division (60+)!!

- White Oaks Tennis Director Giovanni Rodriguez

THE SW SPOTLIGHT

Apr – Jun 2023

Ace Tennis (Ft. Cedar Springs!)

Club of the Quarter

"Ace Tennis is a premier tennis training academy that has built a reputation as one of the most consistent tennis academies in Canadian tennis history. ACE operates Junior Skills Development and High Performance programs year round at Cedar Springs Health, Racquet and Sportclub in Burlington as well as Toronto Tennis City, midtown Toronto."

Some notable up-and-coming junior players out of ACE Burlington are Andrea Cabio, Anna Tabunshchik, and Bianca Ceroni!

Shout out to Doug Burke and Anca Lamarche for their contribution to this quarter's newsletter!



Andrea Cabio

Featured Player

Andrea is from Burlington Tennis Club and started playing tennis at just four years old! When she was 10 years old, she joined Ace Tennis. From finishing 3rd in the 2023 USA Nationals, to representing Canada in the ITF Juniors World Tour Qualifying, Andrea is already making the SW Region proud with her on-court success! The SW Region is excited to continue watching and supporting Andrea on her tennis endeavours.

Special thanks you to Elaine Gensing from ITC for the contribution to this quarter's newsletter!

THE SW SPOTLIGHT

Jul – Sep 2023

Pelham Tennis Association

Club of the Quarter

After a slow start in 2022 due to court resurfacing, we are excited to share that the Pelham Tennis Association membership is growing! Members have been enjoying league play and tennis camps, and the number of new young members is on the rise.



Ben Giles

Ben is from Niagara on the Lake, and plays at Welland, NOTL, St-Davids, and Niagara Academy of Tennis. He started playing tennis with his dad at the park and began formal lessons in October 2022. Playing at various clubs has allowed him to establish a network of coaches and friends who provide support, challenge one another, and have a passion for the game.

"I like the challenge of playing tennis because it is an individual sport. Tennis puts less pressure on me compared to team sports."

Ben plays tennis as much as he can and is motivated to reach his goal of being top 10 in the OTA!

Break Point Review

By Bill Pinto of Fort Erie Tennis Club

"The Break Point documentary is a fast paced behind the scenes account of the personal experiences professional tennis players share with the tennis fan. In contrast to the more generic network TV broadcast accounts of tennis tournaments that fans generally view, Break Point provides the good, the bad and the ugly parts of the game through rarely seen camera angles, player interactions, player interviews and fan experiences. I saw the series as a no holds barred account of the fast paced and exciting world of professional tennis."



Break Point Review

By Victor Hoang of Joshua Creek Tennis

"Break Point is a smooth, fast-paced, smartly shot, smartly edited series in the best possible way and generally does what it planned. The five featured episodes, turned tennis into an immersive show by personalizing players, accessing restricted-access areas, and building storylines that charted the arc of the season. If you know little or nothing about tennis, it's hard not to gain a better understanding of the game and its challenges. It's also hard not to show genuine affection (and genuine empathy) for each featured player."



Chatting it up with our SW Chair, Rosemary:

Let's send a bouquet this month to a very special initiative taking place at the St Davids Public School in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Since the start of the new year, at least 50 young players have been gathering in one of four sessions on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. They're under the direction of certified instructor Karen Wright, with support from over a dozen volunteers. The volunteers are undertaking to become Community Tennis Facilitators, which is a new TPA program.

The players receive instruction in all the basics of tennis, but there's a special emphasis on having fun, making new friends, and experiencing the benefits of playing our game as a group... just as adult players do. The final event of the 7-week schedule is a tournament, for which excitement is building. This will be followed by another 7-week session, after which the program will be able to move outdoors to the neighbourhood courts in the St Davids Lions Club Park. This is a rapidly growing village, with dozens of new families ready to have tennis as part of their community life.

Chatting it up with our SW Chair, Rosemary:

Community clubs throughout SouthWest Region are bustling with activity, thanks to the remarkable work of volunteer leaders and hundreds of volunteer helpers. Our players and municipalities are the beneficiaries, and we hope all are making their appreciation known - loudly and often.

It's not too soon to make midsummer plans to attend the National Bank Open, either in Toronto or in Montreal. From August 5-13, tennis has centre-stage in Canada, and the best way to enjoy it is up-close and personal. The grounds and stadium are open with free admission on the first weekend, August 5-6. It's a great time to take the family and enjoy the festival atmosphere.

For the rest of the sessions, OTA members can access a ticket discount using code **23NBOTA**. The best seats will go fast, so jump in soon. If you're ready to up your experience, how about getting some club members together to book a suite one day? Email clubs@tenniscanada.ca or call 877-293-6647x1 for details.

Parent-Coaches Article Review

By Toni Ormond of Rosedale Tennis Club

Coaching Your Own Children: Get the most out of being a parent-coach!

"As someone who is always looking for ways to develop as a coach, I love finding an article that is easy to read, while still packed with applicable information. In tennis especially, there are many parents involved in the coaching process. This is a great article that shares some tangible tips to get the most out of parent-coaching!"



Chatting it up with our SW Chair, Rosemary:

We have so much to be grateful for in this very special corner of the world. Chasing fluffy yellow balls as we swing into September and enjoy the US Open matches on TV, it doesn't get much better than this. As I sit balls on one local court, I'm thinking about the hundreds of courts, and the thousands of players, doing exactly the same thing across SouthWest Region. After 150 years, tennis is as challenging and as captivating as ever... er... tennis lives as it always has.

The brilliant NBD tournaments were a great reminder of our connection to so many other tennis fans, with packed stadiums in both Toronto and Montreal. In these days of overwhelming distractions, it's not always easy to see that we're part of a larger community of tennis players. The ITF proposes to change that by bringing worldwide tennis into the digital age and connecting us with a World Tennis Number. You've seen WTN pop up in conversations, articles, and TV promotions. Start asking questions at your club and be ready to hop on board in 2024, if not before.

Kudos to the Milton, TC for hosting the Fischer National Under 16 Championships. What a fabulous event! And congratulations to SWR stars, Andrea Cabio and Bianca Ceroni, our new Canadian Under-16 Doubles Champions. And they both have their WTN straps. Andrea is 21.0 in singles and 22.6 in doubles. Bianca is 21.4 in singles and 24.8 in doubles. What will your number turn out to be?



- 1) What tennis player had the nickname "The Rocket"?
- 2) What was the 5th set score in the longest professional tennis match ever between Isner and Mahut?
- 3) What court surface is the fastest?

Keep an eye out for the answers on the next SW Spotlight!

- 1) What player holds the top spot for the fastest recorded ATP serve?
- 2) What country has won the most titles in the Billie Jean King Cup?
- 3) What is the standard size of an adult tennis racket?

Keep an eye out for the answers on the next SW Spotlight!

- 1) What is the maximum legal length of a tennis racket?
- 2) True or False: In tennis, you can throw your racket to hit the ball.
- 3) How many consecutive weeks was Roger Federer ranked ATP No. 1?

Keep an eye out for the answers on the next SW Spotlight!

Toni Ormond joined the SWR working group with the goal of increasing communication and sharing stories. She accomplished this with three terrific newsletters over the course of the year, each one garnering positive feedback and conversation. The goal of re-establishing the SWR website wasn't realized, but she pushed us closer to achieving that dream.

Toni attended Ball State University on a tennis scholarship and earned her B.A. while captaining the team. She earned her M.Sc. in sport pedagogy at Baylor University, and served as assistant coach of the tennis team.

In any spare hours, he can be found at her home club - Rosedale TC - where she's in high demand on the courts.



SOME of our SWR TENNIS LEADERS



Bill Pinto
Fort Erie TC



Christina Wilson
Burlington TC



Dave Scott
Rosedale TC



Doug Burke
ACE Tennis



Giovanni Rodriguez
White Oaks



Kerry Radigan
Ancaster TC



Kyrlo Tabunshchuk
ACE Tennis



Linda Anderson
Welland TC



Nancy Gilbert
Nassagaweya TC



Nancy Lennard
Ancaster TC



Peter Bedard
Niagara Peninsula Community



Robin Smith
Tyandaga TC



Ron Mauro
Grimby TC



Dr Siva Annamalai
Niagara Academy of Tennis



Steve Knight
SWR Treasurer



Susan Kitamura
Milton TC

A FINAL WORD : ACE TENNIS

This wasn't included in the 2023 Report on January 20th, but in hindsight it should have been. It's added here in order to become part of our records.

ACE Tennis is one of the best-known brands in Canadian tennis, having been operating for over 40 years. The focus is on high performance, but this extends to foundational skills development for all young players.

Among the greatest accomplishments of ACE Tennis is the recruitment and training of tennis coaches. There's a seemingly endless pipeline of dedicated men and women who acquired their professional experience and skills through ACE Tennis. In SouthWest Region, ACE programs and coaches can be found at Milton TC, Burlington TC, Carlisle TC and at Hillfield-Strathallan TC. But ACE alumni are to be found in many other clubs as well.

Home base for all of this, for over 20 years, is Cedar Springs Sports Club in Burlington. The photo below, with the balcony and staircase overlooking the courts, is the iconic ACE Academy image. Countless players have traveled here from all around SWR for regular training, and hundreds (thousands?) of players from across Canada and around the world have traveled here for an endless procession of tournaments. It's been a home base, and as such, has had a substantial impact on SouthWest Region. The influence and the benefits are difficult to quantify, but are significant.

It's possible that the partnership between ACE Tennis and Cedar Springs won't continue indefinitely. If it should come to an end, it will be a sad day for SWR. We'd be losing a strong anchor at our centre, along with the energy and passion and expertise that go with it. The point of this message is to make sure we appreciate what we have while we have it.

[Note : the photo was taken during an event sponsored by ACE Tennis and offered as a free training for all SWR coaches and instructors in a system called Tennis Learning Process. It's not an ACE program, but shows the collaborative attitude of the organization.]



A FANTASTIC GRAND FINALE!

It was amazing to begin 2023 savouring the Davis Cup victory from November 2022, but somehow the year ended with even more and better. First was the **US Open women's doubles** victory by **Gabriela Dabrowski & Erin Routliffe** in September. First-ever grand slam women's doubles title for Canada!

Then it was the thrilling **Billie Jean King Cup** win by Team Canada in Seville Spain in November. Victories over Spain, Poland, Czechia and Italy all required superb performances by our players.

In between, Welland Tennis Club's own **Stacey Allaster** was honoured with the Billie Jean King Leadership Award at the Women's Sports Foundation annual **Salute to Women in Sports** event in New York City in October.





SouthWest Region 2023 Annual Meeting **STRATEGY WORKSHOP**



The second part of our agenda was a round-table format for conversations regarding objectives and priorities for the coming year. Our facilitator was Natalie Early, who has more than 30 years experience working for municipal and provincial governments. By way of introduction :

Natalie is an avid club tennis player with memberships at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club, White Oaks Sports Club and Ontario Racquet Club. Until recently, she was a Director on the NOTL Tennis Club Board.

She is a respected subject matter specialist in operational and regulatory policy, corporate performance and service analytics, business process reengineering, and strategic planning. She recently retired from the municipality of Niagara Region where she was the Director of Strategy and Innovation. Natalie holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Western Ontario.

Workshop Objectives and Outcomes

1. Strengthen the “fabric” of the community of tennis clubs in the Region
 - Reconnect with old acquaintances
 - Make new connections
 - Share experience and wisdom – “a rising tide lifts all boats”
2. Sharpen focus on the purpose of the Region and the value it brings to member clubs (value proposition)
3. Collaboration and shared interest on 2024 priorities (top 4)
4. Brainstorm tangible/ implementable actions for 2024 and the coming summer season to advance interclub activities and a grassroots junior league

The strategy session was designed to respond to preliminary feedback gathered by means of a survey in December, including the following themes and comments.

What Worked Last Year?

What Contributed to That Success?

Communication and Information Sharing:

- "There seemed to be more communication than in previous years"
- "The Chair is a great collaborator for our region which means more knowledge of OTA when attending the AGM"
- "Connections with Tennis Canada, OTA, ICTA. Sharing information on Tennis Canada/OTA initiatives was very helpful/valuable"

Regional Tournaments:

- "Regional tournaments and events including partial funding for some events"
- "All four Regional tournaments were well advertised with focus on varying levels of play"

What Didn't Work?

What Obstacles Need to Be Removed?

Volunteers:

- "Challenge getting volunteers for all events"

Insurance:

- "Insurance, especially bubble, remains elusive and not well done overall. Our private policy remains more favourable than OTA's"

Communication:

- "Opportunities were missed as some SWR clubs have a tendency to work in silos rather than working collaboratively with other clubs"
- "Not all Presidents passed along information about events at other clubs"
- "We really did not know what to expect or how to engage"

If the Region Were to Accomplish 4 Goals/Initiatives Over the Next Year, What Should They Be?

Growing the Region:

- "Get to know the not-yet-affiliated clubs"

More Interclub Social Playing:

- "More interclub social play at varying levels - mens and ladies doubles and mixed play"

Youth Tennis:

- "Support and encourage youth tennis - lessons, social events and interclub play"
- "Create a grassroots entry level junior league within SouthWest Region"
- "SouthWest Region junior rookie tour at entry level below ICTA junior leagues, focusing on orange ball and green dot ball teams"

Communication:

- "Keep up newsletter"
- "Updates on regional events"
- "Provide roadmaps for funding major projects (e.g. adding bubbles, creating new courts)"
- "Make operational resources available such as support for ONCA (due by October 18)"
- "Provide support for growing a club's membership (especially juniors) such as promotional activities, suggestions for advertising"

Implementation of Tennis Canada Programs:

- "Provide support for World Tennis Number, affirmative action for Girls and Women, First Set"



After reviewing these starting points, participants divided into groups and rotated in 20-minute intervals through four tables.

*List as many responses as you can in response to the notes.
Do not worry about order or priority when developing the long list.
If you see a similar response to yours,
add it to the bottom of the sticky already on the wall.*

#1 Purpose and Value Proposition for the Region

As we look to expand the number of Community Clubs in the Region, how are we articulating who we are, and what we offer?

DEFINITION OF VALUE PROPOSITION : Value propositions are the features, attributes, or benefits that make what you “offer” unique and desirable. “Pain relievers” are the way that your offer reduces or eliminates your community club pains. “Gain creators” are the ways that your offer increases or creates benefits for community clubs.

Club “needs” that could be supported the Region: What are the pain points?

*Value added by the Region : List opportunities where the Region could reduce Club pains
List opportunities for Region to enhance Club experience ie. hub for products and/ or resources*

1. The value and benefits of OTA membership. Clubs are looking for materials that tell the OTA value story. Who is OTA? What does OTA do? What am I getting for \$10? (It was discovered during the session that these materials already exist and need to be better distributed.) This was particularly important for non-affiliated clubs interested in presenting to their boards the value of membership. Need to be more proactive on marketing.

2. The Region as a Connector. Participants were enthusiastic to get together to share ideas and solve sticky problems.

- Is this something that can be done quarterly, or semi-annually? Perhaps the in-person Forum for one and a Zoom call for others?
- Example of a sticky problem : impact on court availability when individuals have concurrent memberships at multiple clubs

3. A Hub for Resources. Clubs are looking for a website (and possibly other technical means) in order to be connected to each other, and a place to find resources.

- Examples of club bylaws
- Rules and regulations for non-profits; eg, ONCA
- Forum for sharing information (such as a WhatsApp group)

[Continued ...]

[... Continued]



4. **More Opportunities for Instructor Training.** Clubs are looking for Regional resources to be available for Instructor Certification more than once a year.

5. **OTA and SW Region should lead Lobby/Advocacy with all Levels of Government on behalf of Community Clubs.**

- Clubs are interested in advice on working with their local town/city (for example, various operating agreements and terms)
- OTA could provide talking points for meetings with elected officials, eg, why care about tennis, why tennis should be included in government budgets

6. **Resources on Volunteers.** Finding and keeping volunteers is a challenge across all clubs.

- Clubs are looking for resources to define volunteer roles and to optimize volunteer recognition.
- Clubs could consider connecting with school boards regarding volunteer hours for students.
- The OTA could consider leading a campaign for volunteers.

7. **Mentorship.** A formal mentorship program is proposed for new presidents and board members, linking experienced volunteers from similar clubs with others new to their



#2 Goals and Priorities for 2024

*Develop a long list of goals and priorities. Add on to the list developed by the group before
Use dotmocracy to highlight your suggested top 4 In no particular order. (dot colour does not matter)*

There was an expectation that we would do a ranking exercise near the end of the session, but time did not permit. As a result, themes are summarized as a list without a ranking. There are a number of repeated themes from Table 1.

1. Rebuild the SWR Website

- Database/webpage for each issue/subject
- Establish a *listserve* to share answers to questions

2. Sharing Best Practices Among Clubs (annual symposium)

- Club pros
- Club monitors
- Ideal resumés of good candidates
- Templates for moving forward with plans and applications for bubbles
- IT best practices (eg, Jegysoft usergroup) to leverage value, use most effectively, share information of new services
- Financial best practices eg, insurance, other costs (how to optimize and minimize)

3. Working with Levels of Government

- Annual operating arrangements
- “Whose job is that?” - daily, monthly, annually
- Negotiating renovations and facility upgrades/repairs

4. Youth Representation

- On club boards
- In SWR planning and decision-making
- Canada Summer Jobs grants
- Advocacy to promote more clubs hosting more Junior events



#3 Growing Interclub Social, Tournaments, Youth Play

Assessment of current state :

What's working, Current successes

What's not working? Pain points. If only we could change this.....

Tangible next steps :

What can we do today/ right away that will make a difference?

What can we do for next season?

Assessment of current state :

- Communication across the Region needs to improve; ie, presidents sharing information from other clubs with their members
- Make better use of collaboration tools such as WhatsApp and Mailchimp

Tangible next steps :

- Involve members as spectators for interclub matches; eg, host pizza event to cheer on home team
- Build on Tennis Rocks program for youth team play
- Build partnerships among clubs

What can we do for next season?

- Organize socials and events among clubs; ie, monthly intraclub socials with food themes
- Organize team play among clubs
- Establish a pool of volunteers willing to work on interclub social activities
- Consider Davis-Cup-style championships among clubs across the Region
- Establish "meet and greet" regular gatherings of club presidents



#4 Kickstart Grassroots Entry Level Junior Team Play

Assessment of current state :

What's working, Current successes

What's not working? Pain points. If only we could change this.....

Tangible next steps :

What can we do today/ right away that will make a difference?

What can we do for next season?

Assessment of current state :

- Court availability is the major pain point

Tangible next steps :

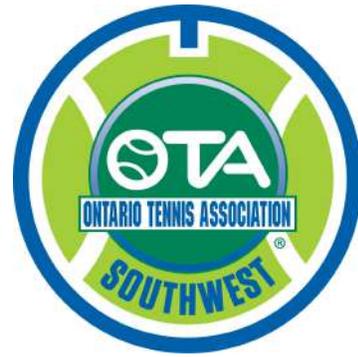
- Active promotion at local schools or local community clubs
- Set up community days in our clubs
- Interclub matches between junior players
- Start small : 3 or 4 clubs; choose a few junior players to participate; one match per month

What can we do for next season?

- Embrace Tennis Rocks at more SWR clubs
- Organize progressive tennis instruction with intention; develop juniors as “tennis players” rather than as “tennis lesson-takers”
- Identify and recruit a volunteer with passion and experience to organize team play for juniors within SWR
- SW Region to encourage tennis clubs to include a Junior Development position on their boards and/or committees



SouthWest Region 2023 Annual Meeting
COACHES SYMPOSIUM



The afternoon portion of our agenda was dedicated to a Coaches Symposium. 'What's a symposium', you say?

It's defined as a gathering at which those in a given field meet to discuss topics in question, examining issues and trends associated with the topics. Experts are invited to deliver short addresses on specific subjects, usually the latest developments within the field.

Whereas our morning sessions had been designed with club presidents in mind, the Symposium was aimed at coaches and teaching pros, while also being relevant and interesting for the volunteers. Our theme was : What are the latest tools to help us do our jobs here in SouthWest Region? The answer : SafeSport, First Set, World Tennis Number, Tournament Planner, ClubSpark and wisdom about how we can best continue to grow and improve.

It was a privilege to have a stellar lineup of guests and presenters :

Dr Taran Ohson *Courtside View of Excellence*

Sarah Sin Chan *Safe Sport*

Isabella Baston *First Set*

Arun Nath, Ayesha Patel, Cameron Coulter

World Tennis Number

Tournament Planner

ClubSpark

For the finale, Isabella joined special guests, Aref Jallali and Gary Caron, for a panel conversation about the art of being a tennis leader.



Taran Ohson
DAVIS CUP



“It takes a team to raise a team” to a world championship, and Taran Ohson has been part of Team Canada’s Davis Cup support team since 2019. He gave us a courtside view of the journey to Canada’s victory in November 2022, including the experience of the athletes before, during and after each match. Taran is a native of Hamilton and practices in Burlington and Hamilton at Kinetic Cleanse. Landon Cruz was delighted to get an up-close look at the beautiful Davis Cup team ring.



<https://www.tenniscanada.com/news/behind-the-team-taran-ohson-team-chiropractor/>





Sarah Sin-Chan

SAFE SPORT

The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport calls for all sporting environments to be free from physical, sexual and psychological abuse. The Safe Sport Training module aligns with those values. It equips coaches, administrators and others to make decisions that promote athletes' physical and mental wellbeing and empowers sporting organizations to foster a culture that contributes to athlete success.

[Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport \(UCCMS\) – EN](#)



Why is it important?

- Creating safe and inclusive environments is key to a positive tennis experience
- The spotlight is on safe sport policy and practice
- New reality - Increased scrutiny/transparency from stakeholders, sponsors, and funding partners
- Safe Sport is a key component of our renewed strategic plan

Everyone has a role to play



TOOLKIT - TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Bystander Intervention
- Duty to Report
- Electronic Communications Handout – Athletes & Coaches
- Prohibited Behaviours
- Responding to a Disclosure
- Safe Sport Tips – Athletes & Coaches
- TC Travel Guidelines
- What is Safe Sport?
- Rule of 2
- TC Safe Sport Reporting
- First Serve Safe Sport Tips

Awareness

Tennis Canada Safesport Code of Conduct

Our goal is to have every club in SouthWest Region proudly displaying this red poster. It verifies that each and every coach and instructor is SafeSport certified.



If you would like more information on safeguarding or wish to discuss or report anything surrounding safe sport, please contact safesport@tenniscanada.com.



Jennifer Bennett
Director, Safe Sport & Integrity
jbennett@tenniscanada.com



Sarah Sin-Chan
Manager, Safe Sport & Education
ssinchan@tenniscanada.com



Isabella Baston

FIRST SET

The **Rogers First Set** program provides a national standard for starter-level tennis for our youngest players. Coaches and instructors now have a detailed playbook of tried and tested drills and games designed to inspire and to provide positive experiences.

The goal is to have children identify as tennis players rather than just lesson-takers.

All SouthWest Region clubs are encouraged to register as First Set providers and try all the program elements.

Learn more at : <https://www.tenniscanada.com/play/tennis-for-youth/rogers-first-set/>

Rogers First Set Pillars

Try

Providing participants the opportunity to try and celebrate tennis, fostering an excitement for the game.

Includes:

- Try Events (various formats)
- Tennis Month in Canada

Learn

Quality programming that builds tennis skills and provides positive experiences.

Includes:

- Quality Standards for Kids Tennis
- Blue Curriculum
- Learn & Play Curriculum
- Tennis for Schools
- Tennis at Home

Play

Opportunities to participate in point play that develops a participant's identity as a tennis player (in a team environment).

Includes:

- Play Days
- Play Events
- Team Tennis

Compete

Take part in organized competition which includes tournaments for youth.

First Set Tour

- Replacing Rookie Tours and U9/U10 Circuit

PTTAs, Clubs, Schools, Municipalities, Community Centres, & Rogers Facilities

Clubs, TC, and PTTAs

First Set Training

Online Training FREE

- Audience: Coaches that are certified and will deliver First Set programming
- Professional Development course through the TPA
- Live in April 2024

Community Tennis Facilitator Training

- Audience: Coaches/volunteers that are not certified and will be assisting a certified coach
- Being delivered currently in various provinces

Workshops

- Audience: Can be for certified coaches or assistant coaches/volunteers
- 2-3 hour workshops that provide training on First Set programming & curriculum

Try Event Materials

- All Try Events are **free** and designed to **inspire** communities and participants to **play tennis**.
- Guidelines, resources, marketing materials, and merchandise available to **First Set providers**.
- Additional merchandise and equipment will be available for discounted purchase through TPA.

2024 National Launch

- **First Set Website**
- **Join the First Set Community**
- **Receive Newsletters & Updates**
- **Registration** to become a **Rogers First Set provider** opening in **February/March 2024**

WELCOME TO ROGERS FIRST SET - YOUR TENNIS JOURNEY BEGINS HERE!



At the heart of the program is the belief that every Canadian should have the opportunity to play and enjoy tennis, regardless of their background or ability.

Rogers First Set adopts the "progressive tennis" approach (red, orange, and green) through which participants play, develop, and compete with the appropriate racquet and balls, on the right-size court.

Using this approach, players will acquire quickly the fundamental skills to serve, rally and score.

ROGERS FIRST SET

If you are interested in becoming a Rogers First Set participant or delivery partner, please complete this form. All applicant and player info will be sent encrypted, updated about the Rogers First Set Program (including refreshers in 2024) and how to get involved in your area. As a delivery partner, you will be sent more details about the program and how to register when registration opens in 2024.

First Name (required)

Last Name (required)

Email (required)

Phone (required)

Address

Province

City

Postal Code



COMPETITION SERVICES

Arun Nath

Ayesha Patel

Cameron Coulter



SouthWest Region lies at the end of the program development process. It starts with national-level collaboration, then transfers to the provinces and onward to the regions and clubs. For 2024, it happens that we have a complete set of new digital tools designed for our clubs. Club systems have been improved in recent years by the addition of online registrations,

online court bookings, online payments, digital gate controls, and others. And they're about to be improved again by this new set of tools and programs from Tennis Canada and the OTA. We're very fortunate to have been introduced to this new package by the team that led the development process. Let's dive in!

COMPETITION SERVICES

Key products and services offered by our team

AMATEUR COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE	RANKINGS AND RATINGS	RECREATIONAL COMPETITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Delivery of Provincial-National sanctioned competition □ Management of national tournaments registration site □ Tournament Planner support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Weekly National-Provincial rankings □ WTN match data transmission □ UTR match data transmission □ International ranking integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ WTN Club Matchplay tool for PTA member clubs □ Community Tennis Leagues □ Supporting Team Tennis Leagues

Focus for today: how can we help augment the existing services clubs provide their members (supporting existing programming, helping clubs introduce new programming)



ITF WORLD TENNIS NUMBER

What is the WTN?

A NEW RATING SCALE

The ITF World Tennis Number (WTN) is a global rating scale designed to help players find the right playing partner or program.

FOR EVERYONE

The 40 to 1 rating scale, is for all players from beginners (40) to top professionals (1). All players regardless of age, gender or ability use the same scale.

Bring the WTN to your club players



WTN CLUB MATCHPLAY TOOL

Key features of the WTN Club Matchplay for box ladders

The WTN Club Matchplay tool allows clubs and coaches to manage their box leagues/ladders online. Key features of the tool include:

- REGISTRATION:** Allows clubs to set up online registration and payment for matchplay programming. Clubs have the option to manually add players as well and collect payment offline.
- OPERATIONS:** Simplifies creating and managing boxes/ladders. The tool includes an automatic promotion/relegation feature which can be customized by clubs.
- SCORE ENTRY:** Allows players to enter their own scores online. Coaches/club admins have the option to disable this function and enter scores themselves if they prefer.
- RATINGS:** The tool gives players the opportunity to build their ITF World Tennis Number (WTN). Players can opt into sharing their match results with the ITF to automatically calculate their WTN. Opting into this is not mandatory and players can opt-out at any point.



CLUBSPARK

Key features of ClubSpark

ClubSpark allows clubs to build an online platform to manage their membership, program registration, court booking, website and more. Key features of the tool include:

- 
MEMBERSHIP: Allows clubs to set up online registration and payment for a variety of membership types and maintain their member database year-over-year.
- 
COURT BOOKING: Allows clubs to publish their court booking sheet and accept online bookings and payments. Booking sheets can be customized with different levels of booking privileges, costs and availability.
- 
PROGRAMMING: Allows clubs to create programs, drop-in classes, camps and more. All programs can be set up free of charge or with payment and coaches can track attendance directly through the website.
- 
WEBSITE: Clubs can create a custom website with ClubSpark's easy-to-use website builder, or integrate the platform into their existing website with direct links.

COURT BOOKING

Time	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
08:00 - 09:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
09:00 - 10:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
10:00 - 11:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
11:00 - 12:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
12:00 - 13:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
13:00 - 14:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
14:00 - 15:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
15:00 - 16:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
16:00 - 17:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
17:00 - 18:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
18:00 - 19:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
19:00 - 20:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
20:00 - 21:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
21:00 - 22:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
22:00 - 23:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked
23:00 - 24:00	Booked	Booked	Booked	Booked

PROGRAMMING

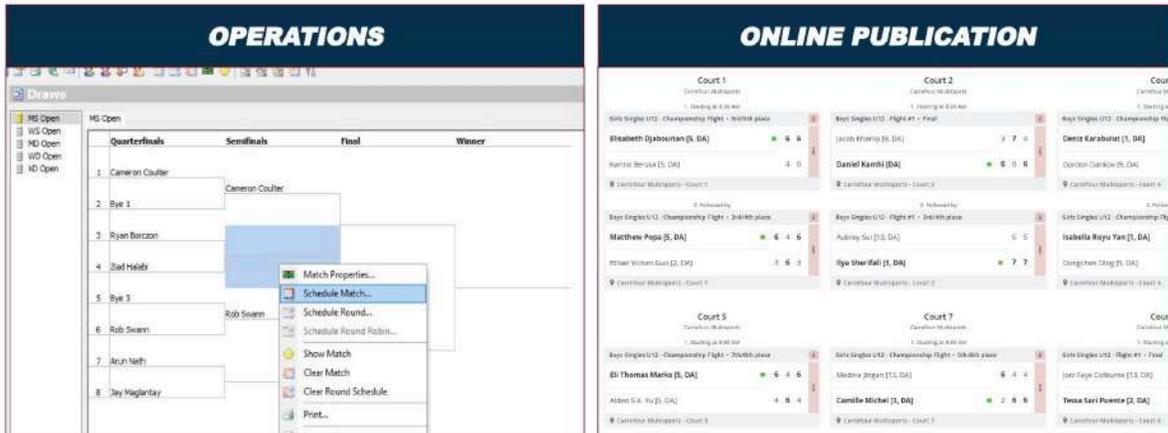
Program Name	Days	Time	Cost
Winter Youth Tennis Lessons for 13-17 Years Old	Beginners - Tuesdays	18:00 - 19:00	\$15.00
Winter Youth Tennis Lessons for 9-12 Years Old	Beginners - Wednesdays	18:00 - 19:00	\$15.00
Winter Youth Tennis Lessons for 6-8 Years Old	Advanced - Thursdays	18:00 - 19:00	\$15.00
Winter Youth Tennis Lessons for 7-8 Years Old	Beginners - Mondays	18:00 - 19:00	\$15.00

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Type	Price
5 Year Adult - 12 Months	\$1992.00
5 Year Adult - 24 Months	\$3772.00
5 Year Adult - 36 Months	\$5214.00
5 Year Adult - 48 Months	\$6932.00

TOURNAMENT PLANNER

Key features of Tournament Planner for Club Championships



Next Steps

The tools covered in this presentation are available for free to any clubs that are members (in good standing) of their respective Provincial Tennis Association.

FOR THE WTN CLUB MATCHPLAY TOOL

Contact us at WTNmatches@tenniscanada.com with your preferred date and time to book a 30-min webinar to learn more about the tool.

FOR TOURNAMENT PLANNER

Contact us at tournaments@tenniscanada.com with your preferred date and time to book a 30-min webinar to learn more about the tool.

FOR CLUBSPARK

Contact us at ClubSparksupport@tenniscanada.com with your preferred date and time to book a 1-hour webinar to learn more about the tool.



Free software license



Platform training



Customer service





NETWORKING & CONNECTIONS

Aref Jallali Gary Caron Isabella Baston
Moderator : Andrew Chappell



Aref Jallali is a National Coach, developing Canada's next generation of stars at Sobeyes Centre in Toronto.



Gary Caron is Director of Athletics at the Granite Club and described by his peers as a "titan of the industry".



Isabelle Baston won the Gary Caron TPA Scholarship in 2023. She's a curriculum developer for U6 players.

It was indeed an honour to listen to the thoughtful responses to Andrew's questions, particularly the stories of mentors and influencers. In the small space allotted here, there was one key message for us :

Gary explained that when he began his career, those in a similar working environment did no sharing because they were perceived as being in competition with each other. Now, those Tennis Directors and Head Professionals meet regularly for lunch and sharing of best practices. Information is a phone call or email away. One will call another when prepping to meet their board, in order to be better prepared for questions. The pros do regular comparative analysis of camps, lessons, clinics and pricing, timing and other topics. The result? "The sharing of information has resulted in a bigger pie for all. We've all become more successful in achieving our common goal : to engage existing tennis players and recruit new ones." This would seem to be a worthy challenge for the TPA community here in SouthWest Region. Let's see if this symposium can be a jumping-off point to more and better for all. How can we facilitate ever-more-effective networking and collaborating among our teaching pros and tennis directors?





SouthWest Region 2023 Annual Meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Alex Bittermann	Halton TA	Karen Wright	Niagara Falls Racquets
Alfredo Duque	Aldershot TC	Kerry Radigan	Ancaster TC
Andrew Chappell	OTA office	Kyle Martin	ACE Tennis
Anne Luxon	Aldershot TC	Landon Cruz	Grimsby TC
Anthony Santini	Appleby TC	Leanno Carpino	Wallace Park TC
Aref Jallali	Tennis Canada	Linda Anderson	Welland TC
Arun Nath	Tennis Canada	Marianne Verhaeghe	Carlisle TC
Ayesha Patel	Tennis Canada	Marko Petkovic	Youngs Sportsplex
Bob Nash	Royal Muskoka Island	Michel Lecavalier	OTA Past President
Bodo Elakkad	ACE Tennis	Mike Kool	Rosedale TC
Bruce Cates	Burlington TC	Mike Mitchell	Milton Winter TC
Bruce Zvaniga	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Mustapha Jamal	Ancaster TC
Cameron Coulter	Tennis Canada	Nancy Gilbert	Nassagaweya TC
Celia Gonzalez	Mayfair	Nancy Lennard	Ancaster TC
Christina Wilson	Burlington TC	Natalie Early	Niagara-on-the-Lake
Christine DeGennaro	Wallace Park TC	Nathaly Murray	Bolton TC
Danny D'Angelo	Rosedale TC	Oliver Barkovic	Aldershot TC
Dave Scott	Rosedale TC	Paul Klevinas	Swansea
Dot Knight	Aldershot TC	Peter Malcomson	OTA office
Doug Carter	Niagara Academy	Rand Meshki	St Catharines
Els Swart	Welland TC	Robin Smith	Tyandaga TC
Eric Whaley	Burlington TC	Ron Melia	Cedar Springs
Felipe Villegas	Photographer	Ron Mauro	Grimsby TC
Fiona Barkovic	Aldershot TC	Rosemary Goodwin	SWR Chair
Gabriel Radulescu	Tyandaga TC	Sarah Sin Chan	Tennis Canada
Gary Caron	TPA	Scott Hurtubise	Niagara Falls Racquets
Giovanni Rodriguez	The Club at White Oaks	Stefan Ruff	Ancaster TC
Greg Kirsten	Halton TA	Steve Knight	SWR Treasurer
Helen Donohoe	Burlington-Hamilton	Susan Kitamura	Milton TC
Isabella Baston	Tennis Canada	Tady Saczkowski	TSA honoree
Jamie Anderson	OTA office	Dr Taran Ohson	Davis Cup team
Jane Bedard	Niagara Peninsula Tennis	Tony Schafer	OTA Past President
Jaroslav Flis	Oakridge	Victoria Schutz	Cedar Springs
Jim Barbato	Tyandaga TC	Wayne & Pat Saigeon	SWR Past Chair
Joel Cruz	Grimsby TC	Zaid Hassani	St Catharines

Thank you, one and all!

Special thanks to all those who worked
to make this event happen:

Alex Bittermann & Greg Kirsten
Anne Luxon & Dot Knight
Bruce Zvaniga & Natalie Early
Felipe Villegas
Steve Knight & Oliver Barkovic
Shannon Walsh
Andrew, Peter & Jamie

Meeting Room
Welcome Desk
Group Sessions
Photography
Setup and Teardown
Cedar Springs
Everything!



South West Region Annual Forum (aka AGM)

“Growing tennis through a connected and collaborative community”

**Saturday January 20, 2024
Harvester Room
Cedar Springs Health Racquet & Sports Club
960 Cumberland Avenue
Burlington, ON**

AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:00 - 9:30 | Registration, Networking, Light refreshments |
| 9:30 - 10:15 | Welcome, Opening remarks, Chair's report (Rosemary Goodwin) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2023 in review• Looking ahead• Region financials. (Steve Knight) |
| 10:15 - 10:20 | Election of Chair and Treasurer (Oliver Barkovic) |
| 10:20 - 10:40 | Break, Networking |
| 10:40 - 12:20 | Interactive Workshop Activity (Natalie Early) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Survey Results• Region Goals and Priorities for 2024 |
| 12:20 | Group Photo |
| 12:30 - 1:30 | Lunch |

Supporting our Forum, and presenting our Symposium :

Andrew Chappell, OTA Manager Membership & Regional Development
and **Peter Malcomson**, OTA Manager Marketing & Communications

1:30 – 4:30

Tennis Symposium

*The Power of Networking,
Community, and Ongoing
Learning*

Topics Include:

- Courtside view of excellence
- Safe Sport
- First Set
- OTA Club Benefits & Digital Transformation:
 - World Tennis Number
 - Tournament Planner Program
 - ClubSpark (club management platform)
- Panel Conversation

Featured Guests :

Aref Jallali
Tennis Canada NTC Coach

Arun Nath
Tennis Canada

Ayesha Patel
Tennis Canada

Cameron Coulter
Tennis Canada

Gary Caron
Director of Athletics Granite Club

Isabella Baston
Coaching Development & Resources

Sarah Sin Chan
Tennis Canada

Dr Taran Ohson
Davis Cup support team

