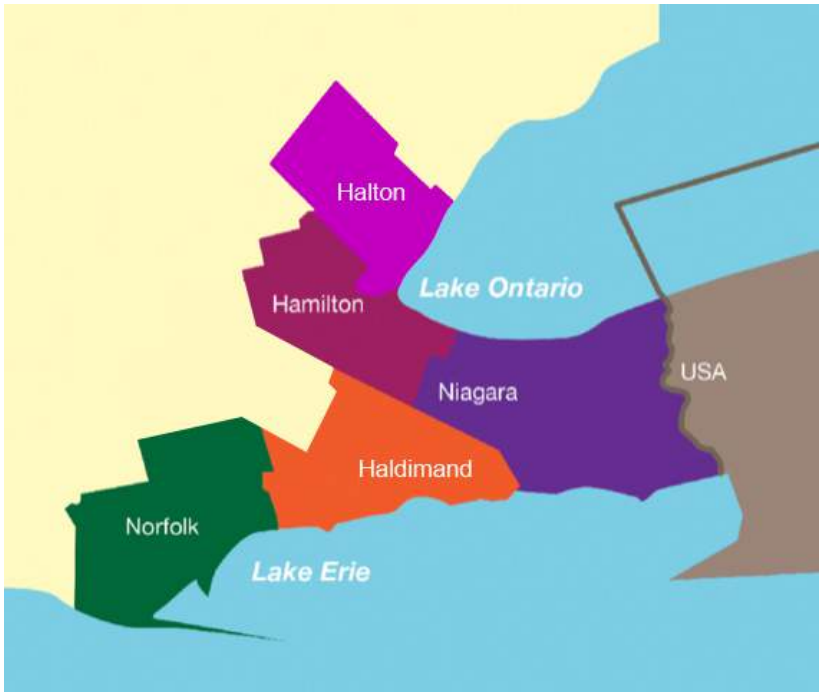
OTA's SouthWest Region

February 4 2023



Some 2022 Highlights :

- Janco Steel Wheelchair Classic (ITF) hosted in Grimsby.
- Canada Summer Games hosted in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Welland; bronze medal to Team Ontario
- Under 16 Fischer Outdoor National Championships hosted in Milton; gold medal in girls doubles won by Andrea Cabio.
- ITF Junior tournaments hosted at White Oaks and at Cedar Springs.
- Pilot project for Community Tennis Leagues and World Tennis Number.
- New bubble built at Ancaster Tennis Club.
- Clubhouse renovated at Aldershot Tennis Club.
- Courts rebuilt in Pelham.
- Courts resurfaced at Niagara-on-the-Lake TC, at Burlington TC, at Tyandaga TC.
- Clubs experienced record membership numbers.
- Victoria Mboko (Burlington) trains at the National Training Centre in Montreal and won a WTA Challenger tournament at age 15.
- Coach Frank Dancevic (Niagara Falls) led Team Canada to the Davis Cup championship.

SouthWest Region 2022 Annual Meeting

November 23 2022

The meeting was convened on Zoom at 6:30pm, with Rosemary Goodwin as Chair.

Special welcome was accorded our Past Chair, Suzanne DeKay, who is now the OTA Vice Chair, Membership & Regional Development, with responsibility and oversight for our club support programs and for ensuring the strength of OTA's 10 Regions. We thank Suzanne for her years of service as SouthWest Chair, and wish her well with her extensive new portfolio.

First on the program is a Celebration Hour. The lion's share of what happens in SouthWest Region happens in the clubs, or because of the clubs, and it's very impressive to see what gets done in the course of a year.

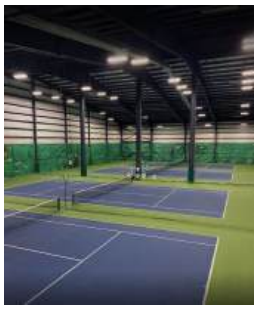
FORT ERIE TENNIS CLUB
President Bill Pinto :

- focus on social strengthening + general maintenance improvements; 4 hard courts & 2 hartru courts
- 120 adults (double 2021) and 120 juniors
- $10,000 allocated for service on hartru courts
- 32 members in club tournaments; energetic social engagement across all programs
- Junior Program is a priority; longstanding tradition
- 2nd annual Niagara Slam 2-week tournament, with 85 players from 6 clubs
- new barbecue; canteen service for special events

WELLAND TENNIS CLUB
Vice President Els Swart:

- historic club with 4 hard courts & 4 red clay courts
- several annual tournaments, open to all in Region, plus hosting of Canada Games
- added online registration and court booking
- purchased a new court roller
- involved more volunteers and presented a Bruce Childs Award to Patrick Craig
- developed policies and procedures for optimum club operations; supported ICTA team competitions
- goal for 2023 : grow the Junior Program

YOUNGS SPORTSPLEX
- Tennis Director Marko Petkovic wasn't free to join us
- 4 hard courts indoors year-round
- hosted 2 OTA tournaments
- home of Niagara Tennis League



PELHAM TENNIS
- Club liaison Marylynn Schoolee wasn't free to join us
- 4 hard courts rebuilt with Trillium funding
- played in ICTA Niagara Ladies Division
- located in Fenwick Lions Club Park

Town of Pelham receives $489,800 for Centennial Park upgrades

February 1, 2022 | Newsletter, Sports

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TENNIS CLUB

President Marilyn Francis:
- 6 hard courts, newly resurfaced
- more new members than ever; ongoing efforts to integrate all the new players from covid years
- 4 club tournaments; 3 socials with dinners; 21 multi-court player groups; ball machine program has 100+ members
- 3rd year for GameTime court booking
- focus is on adult participation and development; modest junior activity
- over $100,000 invested in NOTL tennis as a result of hosting the Canada Games

WHITE OAKS TENNIS
- Tennis Director Giovanni Rodriguez wasn't free to join us
- 6 hard courts indoors year-round
- hosted Bruno Agostinelli Memorial tournament, Canada Open 1000 tournament, and two OTA junior tournaments
- 2nd largest junior membership in the Region

Hosting the Canada Games was a once-in-a-lifetime honour, and a great experience for dozens of volunteers from the Welland TC and Niagara-on-the-Lake TC.

NIAGARA ACADEMY OF TENNIS

President Dr Siva Annamalai & Manager Doug Carter

- 4 hard courts, outdoors in the summer, dome for the winter
- clubhouse with meeting space and fitness training rooms
- established in 1997 as a high-performance and academic centre for international and national junior players
- new ownership just before covid put such programs on pause
- pivot to full-service community club for the Town of Lincoln (population 24,000 and growing fast)
- long tradition of hosting OTA junior tournaments, but opted out this winter in order to serve adult play on weekends

GRIMSBY TENNIS CLUB

President Ron Mauro

- very successful and busy season with 300+ adult members
- many events for members, including Wimbledon Whites and Saturday night BYO. New members receive 5 free lessons (3 time options) and have a scheduled play time.
- Canada Week one-day tournament, open to the Region
- hosted Para League days and a Try day for wheelchairs
- ITF Wheelchair event (thanks to Janco Steel sponsorship) will be held again in June 2023
- raised $2500 to support the new hospital building fund
- set up Jegysoft booking system
- recommend WhatsApp for inter-club communication

NIAGARA PENINSULA TENNIS COMMUNITY

Supporter : Jane Bedard

- NPTC was created in 2013 from Tennis Canada's 'Building Tennis Communities' initiative to explore the spaces between clubs
- ongoing efforts to develop year-round tennis facilities in Niagara Falls and St Catharines - the two largest markets in Ontario with no community tennis structure.

ROSEDALE TENNIS CLUB

SWR volunteer & coach : Toni Ormond

- Sincere condolences to president Dave Scott on the loss of his beloved wife Nancy earlier this week.
- club dates to 1917; 12 courts including 4 hartru in a year-round bubble, 4 clay and 4 hard outdoor
- very active and successful club with large membership and long waitlist

ALL-CANADIAN TENNIS CENTRE at Hillfield-Strathallan College
Vice President : Kyrylo Tabunshchyk

- this 4-court location is a new project as of 2021
- camps and programs from May to October, servicing 330 players including 100 junior and 45 adult "regulars"
- 21 tournaments were hosted, including 530 players
- growing-the-game program includes parents and kids for 4 weeks at no charge to the families
- 10 college players were trained to run tournaments and assist with programs
- the Tennis Centre is designed as a service to the community. Social development and mental health are key components.

ANCASTER ROGERS TENNIS CENTRE
President : Kerry Radigan

- A warm welcome is extended to our newest member club!
- About $1.5 million and 6 years of intense volunteer effort have been invested in making Ancaster TC's 5 courts year-round with the addition of a seasonal dome.
- The ward 12 councillor, Lloyd Ferguson, was instrumental in arranging an interest-free loan from the City of Hamilton
- Support from Tennis Canada and Rogers enabled the club to purchase the bubble, rather than having to lease it.
- Ribbon cutting was on November 3.
- There are 440 adult members and 250 juniors, with hundreds more on a waitlist.
- Tournaments, club programs and social events abound.

Aldershot Tennis Club in Burlington officially opens new clubhouse. 'We saved up for 25 years to do this'

The Post

By Roland Cilliers Reporter
Sun., Sept. 26, 2021 | 1 min. read

Set Burlington as My Local news

ALDERSHOT TENNIS CLUB
President : Ron Gelens sent his message ….

- A half-million dollar clubhouse renovation has been completed
- 4 hard courts and a dome for the winter. The bubble is 25 years old and will be replaced in the fall of 2023.
- Jegysoft program benefits the members for court bookings, and the volunteers for finance and membership.
- 20% of members are new this year, with about 100 potential new members on a waitlist for 2023.
- Junior programs for the summer and the winter are sold out
- Grant applications are an important part of club operations
- Overall a very successful year.

TYANDAGA TENNIS CLUB
President : Robin Smith

- The deck overlooking the 4 courts is a primary gathering place; steel roof added by volunteers - big improvement
- 300 members, well-organized with club programs and inter-club teams
- Large junior program for members and non-members
- House league men's doubles is organized with 4 teams each with 12 players; popular pub night finale.
- Club tournaments are held on weekends in August and September; inter-club teams in several leagues
- Resurfacing of two courts has begun; to be completed in the spring

NORTH BURLINGTON TENNIS CLUB
President : Helga Cuddy sent her message ….

- A small rural club, but making every effort to care for and provide this beautiful facility to our community
- 3 hard courts and a clubhouse
- Spring lessons for juniors plus 4 successful summer camps
- Spring and summer lessons for new and returning adults
- We are a non-profit Joint Venture Community Club, and rely on loyal dedicated volunteers for operations.
- *President Helga Cuddy has a versatile skill set : at the time of our meeting, she was at Sunshine Resort in Alberta, training ski instructors.*

BURLINGTON TENNIS CLUB
President : Christina Wilson

- Two-storey clubhouse with kitchen, common room and outdoor patio; 6 courts resurfaced late in the season by Court Surface Specialists Ltd. (Trillium grant)
- Club is located in Central Park; formerly called 'Burlington Central TC' prior to reorganization after 2019
- Membership has expanded from 350 (2020) to 776 (2021) to 992 (2022) through dedicated volunteer effort and a collaboration with ACE Tennis.
- Robust orientation for new members : free lessons in May, special Sunday drop-in, important to make connections
- Approach is Try - Learn - Play - Compete
- Hosted club tournaments and OTA events; visited by Simon Burden from OTA office
- Added one pickleball court and offered 100 memberships for it; 20 were purchased.

CEDAR SPRINGS RACQUET CLUB
President : Rob Bradaric

- The premier racquets and fitness facility for families for almost 50 years; 200,000 square feet
- 12 indoor courts year-round
- Racquetball, squash, pickleball, swimming, fitness
- Full range of programs for all ages and experience levels; team events, ladders, clinics
- Has been a stalwart of hosting OTA and ITF tournaments for many years;
- Home to the ACE Academy
- Genuine interest in working cooperatively with community clubs; many options for membership
- Public policy for covid took a heavy toll on indoor facilities, and now rising interest rates are doing the same
- Very generous offer to host a gathering of SouthWest Region in 2023!

MILTON TENNIS CLUB
President : Susan Kitamura sent her message …..

- When a young team in the ICTA Junior league was outplayed in every match in May/June, they formed a group of 12 dedicated to improving their games with support from the club. By the time Tennis Rocks came around in August, they won!
- Milton also hosted the National Under 16 championships, and saw home club player Andrea Cabio (age 13) share the girls doubles crown.
- Successful collaboration with ACE Tennis for coaching and event management.
- One of our largest clubs, with 8 courts and a beautiful clubhouse; bubble for winter play

NASSAGAWEYA TENNIS CLUB
President : Nancy Gilbert wasn't free to join us

- 4 courts and a clubhouse in a northern part of Milton
- Paula Sousa has run the successful junior program for 18 years

JOSHUA CREEK SPORTS
Manager : Victor Hoang wasn't free to join us

- 6 courts, with a bubble for the winter; clubhouse
- Located in Oakville
- Academy programs for adults and for juniors

Report by the Chair :

PDF is attached. Additional notes :

1. SPIN Weekly is a very important communication vehicle for tennis in Ontario. Please don't hesitate to send photos and items of interest for inclusion in the Club News segment.
2. The Competitive Structure is OTA's highest priority. It's remarkable to see the number of events hosted in SouthWest Region. Special recognition for this goes to ACE Tennis, who are very supportive of the OTA's programs and also have great expertise.
3. Leagues for Team Tennis are a truly remarkable volunteer initiative in our sport, as they can be found around the world and provide regular competition experiences for millions of players.
4. Community Tennis Leagues and the World Tennis Number will change the landscape of our sport. It's 150 years since Major Walter Wingfield created "modern tennis" by packaging the game in a box and making it available at a modest price. There are now 300 million players worldwide. WTN aims to connect us.
5. Kendra Osa was part of the 2022 class in OTA's initial Passages program. She joined our meeting and shared some comments:

- *30 girls and young women had 10 months of continuous mentorship*
- *Achieved Instructor Certification and would like to pursue Club Pro 1*
- *Lasting benefit from the resulting network; safe and comfortable for women coaches*
- *Learned to create our own projects; grateful to NAT for space for a free program called Girls Fun Tennis*
- *We need to close the gap with girls dropping out from spo*rts.

6. ONCA requires our attention immediately.
7. Safe Sport is a top priority for Tennis Canada and OTA, and thus for SouthWest Region.

Arrangements for 2023 :

The guidelines for OTA Regions specify that two positions should be formalized at the annual meeting. In the absence of other nominations, these will be :
Chair : Rosemary Goodwin
Treasurer : Steve Knight
Suzanne Dekay is ex officio as Past Chair

We're wide open to other volunteers to join us with ideas for helping the Region. Since the meeting, two others have stepped forward :
Toni Ormond, Digital Communications Manager
Bruce Cates, Novice Junior Team Event

We're all searching for ways to bring us together. Our common bond is our love of tennis, and the conviction that well-designed and well-organized tennis programs can change lives for the better.

Greetings from the OTA Executive Committee :

Suzanne DeKay is OTA's Vice Chair, Membership & Regional Development.

- Many thanks, from the OTA executive committee, to all the club volunteers; please continue to recognize those who serve your clubs by presenting them with the Bruce Childs Award or nominating them for a Distinguished Service Award.
- OTA was pleased to support our clubs this year with rebates for membership fees and insurance costs.
- Comprehensive and affordable insurance is once again our goal for 2023.
- ClubStrong has been renewed and will be updated on the new OTA website with fresh resources and templates. Please let Suzanne know if you have suggestions for other items that could be included.
- OTA has a new van, used by staff members Ely Schwartz and Simon Burden, to promote events. To book them for a visit to your club, or a meeting with your board, or an appearance of the Smash Cage, contact Suzanne.
- Suzanne is hoping to provide support for our incorporated clubs with the transition to ONCA. She can also provide guidance for clubs seeking to incorporate in order to have access to grant funding.
- CTL is a good program for promoting tennis in public parks.
- Initiatives that ensure strong representation by women and girls are a high priority for OTA.
- Special-interest webinars can be arranged. Let Suzanne know of any topics you'd like to see addressed.

General Discussion :

1. Ron Mauro suggests a WhatsApp group for club executives to have easy access to each other for sharing information or asking questions. Susan Kitamura has offered to start the group. Those wishing to be included should send a cell phone # to Susan or Rosemary.
2. Ron also announced the 2023 Janco Steel Wheelchair Classic will be hosted by Grimsby TC on June 13-16.
3. Siva Annamalai raised the question of player-matching. How do players find a game when they're travelling, or visiting an area for a short time? Since the meeting, he has added the following for discussion :

I would like to create a matchmaking site. It will improve the level of tennis, and people will play more with ease.

- *Easy to find partners to play*
- *Match them according to their level, time and club or city of availability.*
- *It will ease gridlock in one club as well as move players around the SW region*
- *If the system can be implemented for the entire Ontario, and it will be a paradise for all level players and young kids as we keep moving around Ontario for various reasons. They can play for minutes wherever and whenever they want.*
- *Instead of my son telling me, "I am not coming with you because I will miss tennis and I don't have any suitable players in London to play with me."*
- *Ease parent's stress about missing tennis*
- *I often receive this phone call " My tennis rating is 4, and I am free this weekend. Do you have any suitable player to play with me and on vacation here"*
- *Last but not least, instead of clubs trying to organize events, players will move around and organize little events regularly.*

Some facts and figures for 2022

17 - SWR clubs with members

3 - SWR associate members (flat fee of $500)

11 - SWR clubs which are incorporated non-profits

12 - SWR clubs purchased club insurance through OTA

6 - SWR clubs attended Presidents Day at the National Bank Open

4 - SWR clubs attended the 2022 OTA AGM (virtual)

6 - SWR clubs hosted OTA tournaments

3 - SWR clubs presented the Bruce Childs Award to an outstanding volunteer

6 - SWR clubs were visited by OTA staff as part of the ClubStrong initiative

3 - SWR clubs hosted a Roadshow event (eg, Smash Cage)

The total number of members registered through SWR clubs : 3254 adults and 1144 juniors.

OTA's weekly newsletter is delivered every Friday to 11,200 readers. It includes a section for Club News, and editor Peter Malcomson is always happy to receive articles and photographs from any of our clubs. Let's encourage all our club volunteers, and our club members as well, to register for the mailing list.

Tournaments in SouthWest Region in 2022

INTERNATIONAL

- ITF Junior May 2-7 at Cedar Springs
- ITF Junior (Bruno Agostinelli Memorial) June 13-17 at White Oaks
- ITF Wheelchair (Janco Steel Classic) June 14-17 at Grimsby TC
- ITF Junior Oct 31 - Nov 4 at Cedar Springs

NATIONAL

- Canada Summer Games Aug 6-13 at NOTL TC and Welland TC
- Canadian Under 16 Nationals Aug 20-25 at Milton TC
- Canada Open 1000 Dec 27-31 at White Oaks

OTA prize money events

- Open 350 May 6-9 at Burlington TC
- Open 350 May 27-29 at Hillfield TC
- Open 350 June 24-26 at Milton TC
- Open 200 July 4-7 at ACE@Cedar Springs
- Open 200 July 18-21 at ACE@Cedar Springs
- Open 200 July 25-28 at ACE@Cedar Springs
- Open 200 Aug 2-4 at ACE@Cedar Springs
- Open 200 Aug 15-18 at ACE@Cedar Springs
- Open 200 Aug 22-25 at ACE@Cedar Springs

REGIONAL + OTA (no age limits)

- 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 (Milton) May 13-15
- 4.0, 5.0. (Hillfield) May 20-23
- Rose City Doubles (Welland) June 2-5
- 3.0, 4.0 (Milton). June 17-19
- 3.0, 5.0 (Hillfield) July 1-3
- Canada Week Tournament (Grimsby) July 9
- Niagara Slam (Ft Erie) July 18-31
- 4.0, 5.0 (Milton) Aug 5-7
- 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 (Cedar Springs) Aug 8-11
- 3.0, 5.0 (Hillfield) Aug 19-21
- 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 (Milton) Sep 2-5

JUNIOR events

OTA National Selection
- Hillfield (2)
- Milton (2)
- Welland (1)

OTA Provincial Super Series
- Burlington (3)
- Hillfield (1)
- Milton (1)
- ACE@Cedar Springs (3)

OTA Provincial Circuit U9
- Hillfield (3)
- Milton (1)
- ACE@Cedar Springs (4)

OTA Provincial Circuit U10
- Burlington (1)
- Hillfield (1)
- Milton (1)
- ACE@Cedar Springs (2)
- White Oaks (1)

OTA Provincial Circuit U12
- Burlington (1)
- Hillfield (4)
- ACE@Cedar Springs (7)

OTA Provincial Circuit U14
- Burlington (3)
- Hillfield (2)
- ACE@Cedar Springs (6)
- Youngs Sportsplex (1)

OTA Provincial Circuit U16
- Hillfield (1)
- ACE@Cedar Springs (6)
- Youngs Sportsplex (1)

OTA Provincial Circuit U18
- Burlington (1)
- Hillfield (4)
- ACE@Cedar Springs (1)

OTA Transition Tour
- Burlington (1)
- ACE@Cedar Springs (6)

OTA Rookie Tour
- U9 at ACE@Cedar Springs (1)
- U10 at ACE@Cedar Springs (5)
- U10-12-14 at White Oaks (1)
- U12 at ACE@Cedar Springs (4)
- U14 at Milton (1)
- U14 at ACE@Cedar Springs (6)
- U16 at ACE@Cedar Springs (1)

- Tennis Rocks!
  Aug 13 at Milton TC

League Activity in SouthWest Region

Lakeshore League

Aldershot, Burlington, Milton, Rosedale, Tyandaga [*Appleby, Bronte, Wallace Park + 7 clubs in Mississauga*]

Hamilton/Burlington Ladies League

Aldershot, Burlington, Cedar Springs, Rosedale, Tyandaga [*Dundas, Appleby*]

ICTA Junior (West 2)

Milton, Rosedale [*Appleby, Halton Hills*]

ICTA Niagara

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham, Welland

Ladies Winter Indoor Tennis Association (Windoor)

Cedar Springs, Joshua Creek, Milton Winter [*Burlington Racquets + 5 clubs in Mississauga*]

Niagara Region Team Tennis (at Youngs Sportsplex)

Registers players on an individual basis (rather than by club);

64 regulars assigned to 8 teams, plus 40 additional as spares.

Community Tennis Leagues & World Tennis Number

SouthWest Region has been part of the pilot project phase for the introduction of this international program into Canada. Singles games were offered in the August-October period, and it's proposed we offer doubles games in January-March.

The concept opens the possibility to create connections among a great many more tennis players than is possible with our existing systems, thereby making our sport more inclusive and expansive. This has potential benefits in our dealings with sponsors of all kinds, whether in the corporate field or in the public sector where decision-makers are looking for evidence of our broad-based appeal.

How it will impact our tennis clubs, and what new possibilities will be open to us, remains to be seen. Tennis Canada, the OTA and the other provincial associations are studying options and will decide how the program is to be utilized in 2023.

PASSAGES Women's Mentorship Program

- This program was launched at the start of the year to provide leadership training and mentorship to 30 young women and girls. They've met monthly and received a wide range of experiences and education under the guidance of Rachel Gould and Nikki Carnovale.

- The only candidate from SWR is Kendra Osa of St Catharines. Kendra is a Grade 11 student at Winston Churchill SS, and earned her Instructor Certification as part of the Passages program. Her leadership skills have been put to good use giving lessons at the Niagara-on-the-Lake TC, in her Girls Fun Tennis program, and in other volunteer endeavours. Kendra is in the white hat in this photo from last week's SPIN.

- This program is very important to OTA's new strategic plan, which includes a goal of increasing participation by women and girls. The new Inspire Through Sport builds on the Passages program and has accepted 24 girls for 2023, including one candidate from SouthWest Region.

ONCA - Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act

- The enabling corporate legal framework for most non-profits incorporated under Ontario law.

- Proclaimed October 19 2021.

- Compliance required within 3 years … thus by October 19 2024.

- Over 50,000 Ontario non-profits are affected.

- 11 of our SWR clubs are incorporated. Are your transition plans in place? Is any help or guidance wanted? If any are behind in making annual filings, this is the time to start catching up.

Tennis Club Connection

- **Safe Sport** practices and **Respect in Sport** practices are here to protect our athletes, but also our coaches and everyone involved in tennis.

- We've all received a recent letter from Andrew Chappell via the Tennis Club Connection newsletter system, requesting an updated list of our club professionals and assistants … anyone involved in teaching on our courts.

- Please treat this with the same level of importance and urgency that is given to the other essential elements of your administration systems. Any failure anywhere regarding Safe Sport in tennis tarnishes everyone involved in the sport.

- Through the TPA, all our coaches and instructors will be having an annual background check, and will be renewing their Declaration of Character and Code of Conduct forms annually.

- A Parent Awareness Campaign will educate parents on the significance of coaches being fully certified, and provide links for them to check a coach's certifications. It will also encourage parents to complete a Respect in Sport Parent module, as everyone has a role to play in creating safe and positive environments for participants to enjoy and prosper in tennis.

SouthWest Region Finances at October 24 2022

Balance forward, April 1	$ 3,417.28
Bank charges (6 x $4)	(24.00)
Cheque printing	(97.66)
Janco Steel Wheelchair Classic	(500.00)
OTA allocation (2,200 + 3,376)	5, 576.00
Bursaries for new Instructors (11 @ $200)	(2,200.00)
Balance on hand	6,171. 62

Notes :

1. We have a budget allocation of $1500 to give to clubs which hosted tournaments. Three clubs responded to an invitation, in the recent club memo, to be considered :

- **Ft Erie TC** hosted the Niagara Slam, with 87 players. Most were from other clubs, but no list of represented clubs is available. The club invested $500 in a barbecue to enhance the player experience, as well as serve other club events.

- **Grimsby TC** hosted the Canada Day tournament, a one-day event which attracted 32 players from Welland, Ft Erie, White Oaks, Aldershot, Dundas, Niagara-on-the-Lake and the host club.

- **Welland TC** hosted three events that were open to other clubs in the Region : the Rose City tournament (two weekends in June), the Junior/Senior tournament (August) and the Oktoberfest tournament in late September. No list of represented clubs, nor number of players.

- Both the Welland TC and the Niagara-on-the-Lake TC made investments in order to create a good impression at the Canada Games. At Welland, most of the benches, tables and other amenities were painted. At Niagara-on-the-Lake, the club invested over $5000 for a kitchen drain, and over $2000 for a refillable water bottle station.

- There were at least 6 OTA junior tournaments hosted (or scheduled) by SWR clubs : Welland TC (1), Youngs Sportsplex (2), White Oaks (2), and Cedar Springs (1).

- Milton TC hosted part of the Tennis Rocks team tennis tournament.

- ACE Tennis hosted three Canada Open 350 tournaments in Burlington, Hamilton and Milton.

- White Oaks hosted an ITF Junior tournament (Bruno Agostinelli Memorial) and is scheduled for a Canada Open 1000 event after Christmas.

- Tan Qureshi has requested sponsorship for the Niagara Regional Team Tennis League.

South West Region : Intentions for 2023

GOAL #1 …. COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Promote all OTA activity within SWR : Monthly memo to club presidents. Digital newsletter.
Update the SWR website to accord with new OTA website format.
Encourage OTA Roadshow visits to clubs.
Create photo opportunities, and foster connections to local news outlets.
Support extraordinary efforts by clubs who host ITF and National events.
Recognize exceptional volunteer efforts, including ongoing leadership by club presidents.
Hold an in-person celebratory + informative gathering for club leaders.
Support clubs with information regarding ONCA compliance.
“Bring home” the Davis Cup to Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls.

GOAL #2 …. ADVOCATE FOR SAFE-SPORT COMPLIANCE

Identify all certified coaches and instructors within our geographic area.
Create a database of coaches and their qualifications; encourage the highest standards.
Support coordination and sharing among coaches.
Aim for “active certified” status for every coach and instructor.
Provide a means for specific networking among women coaches and instructors.
Create a data base of certified officials in SWR, and explore training programs for new officials.

GOAL #3 …. PROMOTE WORLD TENNIS NUMBER & COMMUNITY TENNIS LEAGUES

Coordinate with OTA and TC to bring WTN to club programming.
Develop CTL in each zone within SouthWest Region.
Bring CTL and WTN information to sport/recreation staff in all SWR municipalities.

GOAL #4 …. IDENTIFY GAPS IN PROGRAMMING FOR JUNIOR COMPETITION

Create a database of players who compete in OTA Junior Tournaments.
Survey member clubs to determine the number of junior players beyond that database.
Propose region-level events to meet identified needs.
Explore possibilities for creating Tennis Rocks team events.

GOAL #5 … EXPAND THE ICTA DIVISION IN NIAGARA REGION

Establish "Team Try-outs" as a feature of the April events schedule at each Niagara club.
Strive for 5 teams for each of Mixed, Ladies, 55+ leagues.
Explore possibilities for Junior teams to play in May and June.

GOAL #6 …. RECYCLING and SUSTAINABILITY

Identify players interested in finding solutions to recycling of tennis balls and their containers.
Support efforts to network and coordinate.

GOAL #7 …. PILOT PROJECT FOR SCHOOL + COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Establish school-based starter-level kids' tennis at St Davids School in Niagara-on-the-Lake, from January to April.
Develop volunteer crew, all with Community Tennis Facilitator qualifications (via TPA).
In May and June, relocate the program to open courts in St Davids Park for after-school and weekends.
In July and August, build a community tennis network in the park, with scheduled activities for kids and for adults.

GOAL #8 … PILOT PROJECT FOR COORDINATION WITH OSGA (55+)

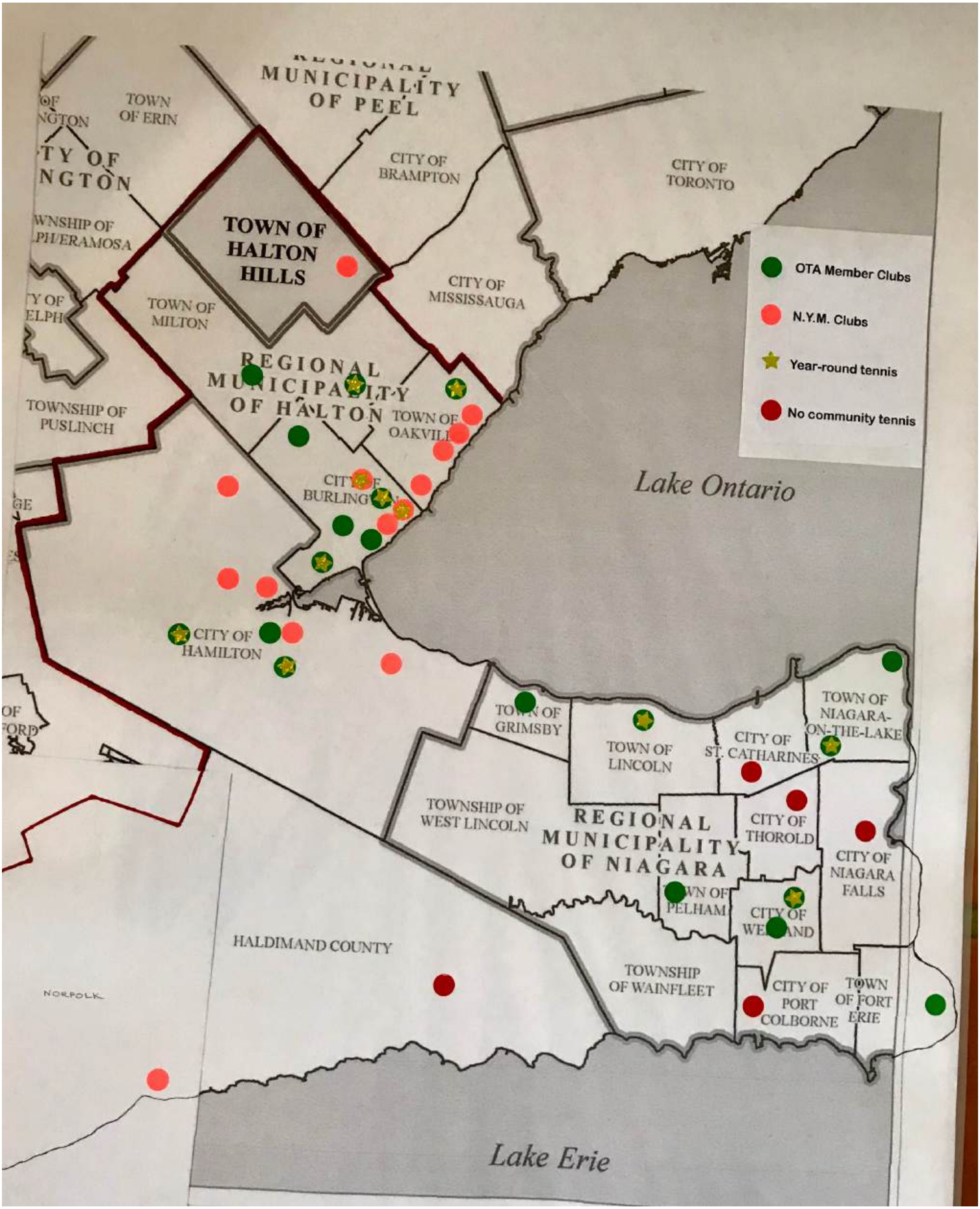
Determine whether tennis events are planned, or could be instituted, in District 21 (Halton), District 22 (Hamilton) and District 25 (Brant-Haldimand-Norfolk).
Within District 24 (Niagara), schedule playoffs for 55+, 65+, 70+, 75+ and 80+.

GOAL #9 …. EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR MODIFIED TENNIS GAMES

Introduce Spec Tennis to players with access to small courts (20' x 44').
Explore opportunities for red-ball tennis for young children on the small courts.

GOAL #10 … EXPLORE WAYS TO AMPLIFY THE IMPACT OF OFSAA COMPETITION

Create a liaison with the tennis convenors for Region 6 : Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (Halton and Hamilton), and for Region 13 : Southern Ontario Secondary Schools Association (Niagara and Hamilton).
Feature the competitions and the winners in SWR communications.


OTA Member Clubs
N.Y.M. Clubs
Year-round tennis
No community tennis
MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
TOWN OF ERIN
CITY OF BRAMPTON
CITY OF TORONTO
TOWN OF HALTON HILLS
TOWN OF MILTON
CITY OF MISSISSAUGA
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON
TOWN OF OAKVILLE
TOWNSHIP OF PUSLINCH
CITY OF BURLINGTON
Lake Ontario
CITY OF HAMILTON
TOWN OF GRIMSBY
TOWN OF LINCOLN
CITY OF ST. CATHARINES
TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
CITY OF THOROLD
CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
TOWN OF PELHAM
CITY OF WELLAND
HALDIMAND COUNTY
TOWNSHIP OF WAINFLEET
CITY OF PORT COLBORNE
TOWN OF FORT ERIE
NORFOLK
Lake Erie

Remarks for the SouthWest Region annual report presentation

I'm very proud to share information about SouthWest Region with you. The good news : this is a great Region … fabulous people and successful clubs. The even-better news : it's only a shadow of what it might be. Many NYM clubs. Lots of room for more coordination and cooperation.

It's not our biggest Region … but it's big. Population of 1,760,637. Driving time from end to end is over two hours.

Most clubs fit the standard format : community-owned courts, operations by volunteers, teaching pro retained to manage lessons and clinics, group lessons for young children. All the standard program items : opening day, round-robins and/or drop-ins, club tournaments, special events with a social emphasis. Variations of degree.

There are two large private clubs : Cedar Springs and White Oaks. Both are well-known and well-established. Both sit on very valuable land that may be more profitable if put to another use … an unsettling prospect.

Two Academy operations : ACE Academy in Burlington/Hamilton/Milton … and Joshua Creek in Oakville. ACE is a very large organization … one of the biggest, longest-serving and most-successful in Canada. As such, they have a large inventory of expertise, and systems based on years of experience. Their specialty is high-performance youth development, but they've branched out into community club activation and 'Growing the Game'. Currently staffing Burlington TC and Milton TC, and created a new community club at Hillfield-Strathallan. They're willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the Region … we need to figure out how to partner with them.

There are a number of well-established and successful Tennis Directors, including Natalie Armitage (Cedar Springs), Mike Kool (Rosedale TC), Mustapha Jamal (Ancaster TC), Giovanni Rodriguez (White Oaks), Dave Boland (Welland TC), Marko Petkovic (Youngs Sportsplex). In addition, there are dozens of other coaches earning a substantial portion of

their income from tennis. At present, we don't have a system for maintaining contact with them, or for coordinating among them.

Largely because of ACE, a significant number of OTA tournaments were hosted in SWR in 2022. You'll find 91 junior events listed … plus a Tennis Rocks … plus 20 adult events … plus 3 national events and 4 ITF events. In recent years, there've been no events specifically hosted or created by the Region. All tournaments are hosted by and initiated by the clubs.

The most promising thing we did in 2022 was the pilot project for WTN and CTL. World Tennis Number has been created to democratize and unify our sport. Such lofty goals don't happen with the flick of a switch, but we've all been handed a very powerful tool that could bring us a great deal closer to many of our long-sought-after goals. Despite all Canada's success in professional tennis, our game is largely invisible at the local level. Individual players remain mostly isolated, lacking a common thread to unite them. With WTN we have a concrete and tangible tool to address all the fragmentation. I sincerely hope we'll give it the attention and the support it deserves.

We're building a team of individuals willing to put in some time and thought on behalf of the Region. Steve Knight … Toni Ormond … Oliver Barkovic … Bruce Cates … have volunteered so far. We're open to anyone willing to roll up their sleeves and get to work.

The booklet :
(1) a map and 2022 highlights
(2) the official record of our annual meeting in November
(3) the blue pages - a start at collecting information on the scope of the Region
(4) the map with dots to show where things stand for organized tennis.
There are less than 5000 players registered with the OTA, - 3254 adults and 1144 juniors - but this is a small portion of the tennis in the Region. Getting more under our umbrella will be a tall order.

Then there are two pages that talk about 2023. We don't have enough capacity to create something so bold as "a Plan" … so we've created Intentions.

The Schedule of Events will continue to grow as everyone moves through the planning phases, but we're delighted to have some important pieces in place already.

A final piece is the "bring home" goal for the Davis Cup. A tour is in the works and it's our fervent hope that Coach Frank Dancevic will want his hometown of Niagara Falls to be part of that. In my view, nothing could be more fitting than to have NOTL as part of that.

We've never had much budget to work with … about $5000 being average. The three primary expenditure items have been (1) annual meeting (when we could meet in person); (2) subsidies for those taking Instructor Certification; (3) subsidies to clubs hosting tournaments open to everyone in the Region, or to clubs undertaking something above-and-beyond the norm. In 2022, we wrote four cheques, for a total of $1500 : one to the Grimsby TC to support hosting the ITF Wheelchair event, and three to Niagara area clubs which held welcoming tournaments (Welland, Grimsby and Ft Erie). The OTA also wrote cheques totalling $2200 to 11 new instructors.

Since the club tournaments are well-established, they'll carry on without us. And it's likely the same is true for the instructors. Most clubs will provide support to young instructors who will then work in the club's programs for the summer. So it's a good time for us to explore what might be accomplished if we looked elsewhere to spend a few dollars.

I still have lots to learn about how all this works, but our 2023 OTA budget allocates $168,951 to Regional Operational Support … up from $100,062 in 2022. So perhaps there's more that could be done for SouthWest if we were to create a more ambitious plan. I welcome some guidance for revisiting budget opportunities for SouthWest Region in 2023.

Rosemary Goodwin
Region Chair comments to OTA board meeting, February 4 2023

SouthWest Region

Some demographics detail,
including OTA member clubs
and those who are N.Y.M.

There are 19 municipal governments,
thus 19 mayors, over 150 councillors, and
19 recreation departments.

The Region features two universities :
McMaster University (Hamilton)
Brock University (St Catharines)

and three colleges :
Sheridan College (Oakville)
Mohawk College (Hamilton)
Niagara College (NOTL & Welland)

All of them boast extensive sports programs.
None have tennis courts.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON. Population : 596,637

1. Halton Hills

Population : 62,951 (2021)
Area : 276 sq km

Main communities : Acton, Georgetown, Glen Williams

Mayor : Ann Lawlor + 12 councillors
CAO : Chris Mills
Commissioner of Recreation & Parks : Paul Damaso

2022 : $70,000 for resurfacing 4 courts at Prospect Park (Acton)
2023 : $175,000 in the budget for tennis court lighting replacement
2027 : $625,000 in the budget for a new tennis facility

Halton Hills Tennis Club
6 courts with lights and a clubhouse
Club Pro : Mike Mitchell (Level 3 Coach)

2. Oakville

Population : 213,759 (+10% since 2016)
Area : 139 sq km

Mayor : Rob Burton + 14 councillors
CAO : Jane Clohecy
Community Services Commissioner : Colleen Bell
Tennis courts in 35 parks, 12 with lights

OTA Member Club : Joshua Creek Tennis & Golf

Bronte Tennis Club
8 courts with lights and a clubhouse
President : Eddie Bodily
Club Pro : Natalie Armitage (Level 3 Coach) since 1996
Asst : Bruce Stead (Club Pro 1)
Membership full for 2022; waitlist also full and closed

Wallace Park Tennis Club
5 courts with lights and a clubhouse
President : Christine DeGennaro
Club Pro : Bobby Armitage (since 1992)
480 adult members in 2022 + wait list

Oakville Academy of Tennis = Bobby & Natalie Armitage

Lawson Park Family Tennis Club
2 courts and lights

The Oakville Club
Multi-sport private club
5 courts with lights and a clubhouse
Club pro : Elias Yacoub

3. Milton

Population : 132,979 (+20% since 2016)
Area : 364 sq km

Mayor : Gordon Krantz (since 1980!) + 8 councillors
CAO : Andrew Siltala
Recreation Coordinator : Joel Brooks

OTA Member Clubs : Milton Tennis Club; Nassagaweya Tennis Club

4. Burlington

Population : 186,948
Area : 186 sq km

Mayor : Marianne Meed Ward + 6 councillors
City Manager : Tim Commisso
Director of Recreation Community & Culture : Chris Glenn

OTA Member Clubs :
Aldershot Tennis Club
Ancaster Tennis Club
Burlington Tennis Club
Cedar Springs Racquet Club
North Burlington Tennis Club
Tyandaga Tennis Club

Appleby Tennis Club
6 courts with lights and clubhouse
President : Diane Bayes
Club Pro : Adrian Tollstam (Coach 2)
Asst : Nick DePaul (Instructor/Club Pro 1)
Membership full for 2022

The Bubble Tennis Club
2 courts shared with Appleby TC; operates on a co-op model
President : Anthony Santini
Club Pro : Adrian Tollstam (Coach 2)
Membership full for 2022-23 winter season (7 months)

Burlington Fitness & Racquets
Tennis, squash and fitness club (all indoor)
Tennis information : Chris Townley

Roseland Park Country Club
Private club with large clubhouse and 3 tennis courts
Club pro : Paula Sousa (Club Pro 2; Coach 2)

CITY OF HAMILTON. Population : 569,353

Includes : Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough/Carlisle, Glanbrook, and Stoney Creek.
Area : 1118 sq km

Mayor : Andrea Horwath + 15 councillors
City Manager : Janette Smith
Division Director - Recreation : Jack Brown

OTA Member Clubs :
Aldershot Tennis Club
All Canadian Tennis Centre at HSC
Ancaster Tennis Club
Rosedale Tennis Club

Carlisle Tennis Club
2 courts with lights and "modest club facility"
President : Marianne Verhaeghe
Club Pro : Brian Millar (Club Pro 2)
Asst : Jacob Rudolph
250 adult and junior members

Dundas Tennis Club
5 courts with lights and clubhouse
President : Vikram Iyer
Club Pro : Peter Patiakas

Hamilton Tennis Club
6 hartru courts + 2 hard courts, lights, clubhouse
Private Club
Club Pros : Mischa & Marcela Mackesy (thecourtmasters.com)

Hilltop Tennis Club
3 courts and lights
President : Daniel MacIsaac
Club Pro : Peter Buckley

Stoney Creek Tennis Club
7 courts, lights and clubhouse
President : George Bougiouklis
Club Pro : Rasim Sehovic (USPTA Elite)

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA Population : 477,941

Area : 1853 sq km

1. Grimsby
Population : 28,883
Area : 68.7 sq km

Mayor : Jeff Jordan + 8 councillors
CAO : Sarah Kim (acting)
Director of Recreation, Facilities & Culture : Sarah Sweeney

OTA Member Club : Grimsby Tennis Club

2. West Lincoln
Population : 15,454
Area : 387 sq km

Mayor : Cheryl Ganann + 6 councillors
CAO : Bev Hendry (president of National Municipal Administrators' Association)
Director of Public Works & Recreation : Mike DiPaola

No Tennis!

3. Lincoln
Population : 25,719. (+8% since 2016)
Area : 163 sq km
Includes Beamsville, Vineland, Jordan, Rockway

Mayor : Sandra Easton + 8 councillors
CAO : Michael Kirkopoulos
Associate Director, Recreation & Culture : Sarah Ane

OTA Member Club : Niagara Academy of Tennis

4. Pelham
Population : 18,192
Area : 126 sq km
Includes Fonthill, Fenwick, Ridgeville

Mayor : Marvin Junkin + 6 councillors
CAO : David Cribbs

Director of Recreation, Culture & Wellness : Vickie vanRavenswaay

OTA Member Club : Pelham Tennis Association

5. St Catharines
Population : 136,803
Area : 96.2 sq km

Mayor : Mat Siscoe + 12 councillors
CAO : David Oakes
Director of Community, Recreation & Culture Services : Phil Cristi
The largest municipality in Canada with no community tennis. Best facility is 3 hard courts which have received no attention in 20 years.

6. Thorold
Population : 23,816 (+26.7% since 2016)
Area : 83.3 sq.km

Mayor : Terry Ugulini + 8 councillors
CAO : Frank Cao
Director of Recreation & Leisure : Jennifer Douthwaite

No community tennis. Thorold is adjacent to St Catharines and Brock University is on the border. Canada Games Park was built with enough space for tennis, but none has been included in its plans.

7. Niagara-on-the-Lake
Population : 19,088 (+9% since 2016)
Area : 131 sq km

Mayor : Gary Zaleppa (+ 8 councillors)
CAO : Marnie Cluckie
Manager of Parks & Recreation : Kevin Turcotte

OTA Member Clubs :
Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club
The Club at White Oaks

8. Niagara Falls
Population : 94,415 (+7.2% since 2016)
Area : 210.25 sq km

Mayor : Jim Diodati + 8 councillors
CAO : Jason Burgess
Director of Recreation & Culture : Kathy Moldenhauer

The 2nd largest municipality in Canada with no community tennis.

9. Welland
Population : 55,750 (+6.6% since 2016)
Area : 81.2 sq km

Mayor : Frank Campion + 12 councillors
CAO : Steve Zorbas
Director of Community Services : Rob Axiak

OTA Member Clubs :
Welland Tennis Club
Youngs Sportsplex

10. Fort Erie
Population : 32,901 (+7.1% since 2016)
Area : 166 sq km

Mayor : Wayne Redekop + 6 councillors
CAO : Chris McQueen
Manager of Parks & Facilities : Sean Hutton

OTA Member Club :
Fort Erie Tennis Club

11. Port Colborne
Population : 20,033 (+9.4% since 2016)
Area : 122 sq km

Mayor : Bill Steele + 8 councillors
CAO : Scott Luey
Manager of Recreation : Bryan Theal

There was a Port Colborne Tennis Club with 4 courts and a clubhouse. It was taken over by the city in 2017. In 2019, they added lights and a resurfacing, with lines for 8 pickleball courts. It's now used primarily for pickleball.

12. Wainfleet
Population : 6,887 (+8.1% since 2016)
Area : 217.5 sq km

Mayor : Brian Grant + 4 councillors
CAO : William Kolasa

No community tennis.

HALDIMAND COUNTY

Includes : Caledonia, Cayuga, Dunnville, Hagersville

Population : 49,216 (+7.9% since 2016)
Area : 1250 sq km

Mayor : Shelley Ann Bentley + 6 councillors
CAO : Craig Manley
Manager of Community & Development Services : Mike Evers

No community tennis.

NORFOLK COUNTY

Includes : Port Dover, Port Rowan, Simcoe, Delhi, Waterford

Population : 67,490
Area : 1597 sq km

Mayor : Amy Martin + 8 councillors
CAO : Al Maneses
Director of Recreation : Nikki Slote

Port Dover Tennis Club
4 courts
President : Norman Swain