



# Newsletter



Warm welcome to another season of summer tennis! This year is extra special as the Club turns 100 years old this May. The old proverb that says 'it takes a village to raise a child' is an apt description of the history of the Waterloo Tennis Club for it is very much a product of the community.

Since January of this year the history sub-committee led by Mary Liz Hearn have been churning out articles and photo displays to make members and

## President's Message

other users of our facility aware of the club's beginning and involvement in the hope that familiarity will breed appreciation. The 100th Anniversary planning committee chaired by Mary Ruehlicke have been putting in much time and effort to the organization of this season's celebratory events. This column is dedicated to all who have contributed to the creating, sustaining and keeping safe this community asset.

The first clay courts were the results of the efforts of a group of avid players led by Art Huenergard, who was to become WTC's first president. On condition for two clay courts to be built in the park, the players were to be responsible for financing and building the courts themselves. The clubhouse and courts are now familiar landmarks in the park and the location is perhaps its greatest asset. We owe our thanks to this 1915 pioneering group for this priceless legacy. Selfless and generous efforts of members in the fifty years that followed ensured the consolidation and growth of the club. Fun and fund-raising events, tennis or otherwise, were always well supported. Members' efforts and participation were such that the club became "a home away from home" for many of them. We have honoured a few members for their outstanding contributions but they are just the tip of the iceberg of

individuals who have been instrumental in the club's continued existence. It was not until 1972 when the club changed from being a summer-only club to an all-year-round one that the club began hiring staff.

Despite the addition of staff, the half century of members ministering to the needs of the club created a culture of voluntarism that exists, and is needed, still. The club is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors elected from its members. Every year members continue to help with spring and fall clean ups and organizing social events. The spirit of voluntarism was perhaps at its best when the club hosted professional level tournaments such as the Western Ontario Open (1963-1988) and the more recent women Challenger event (2008-2013). The City of Waterloo has been a helpful source of small grants and loans especially in the early years and together with the University of Waterloo, both are very much part of the history of our club. The students of the University of Waterloo tennis club have played a part too; their donations to the club, the first, given four years ago was a boon as it came at a critical time. Their thoughtfulness goes beyond the monetary value of their donations. As a result, the club has a rich and interesting background and explains its eclectic range of users.

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# Newsletter

Over the course of its 100 years the club has had its inevitable ups and downs but it has been lucky with the people who have served it. As the club prepares to celebrate its 100th Anniversary it does so with a robustness more vigorous than it has enjoyed for a very long time. For this I thank those who serve on the Board, our manager Helen McArdle and staff, Head Pro Gary Winter and the other coaches who have done a

remarkable job with lesson programs this past year. Not to be forgotten are the competitive players for their loyalty and pride in representing the club in competitive league play and the more accomplished ones who have represented Canada in international competitions. They have done the club proud. Our centenary celebration is a salute to all those members who not only lent a helping hand but also

gave a piece of their heart to the well-being of this organization.

Congratulations and Happy 100th Birthday Waterloo Tennis Club.

**Pat Craton**  
**President**

[board@waterlootennis.com](mailto:board@waterlootennis.com)



The last two and a half years as your part time manager have flown by. I am very proud of what the board, staff, coaches, volunteers and I have managed to accomplish in that time.

Volunteers and employees have stepped up to the challenge of beautifying the club to begin this historic 100th season. Led by Chris Krokoszynski, they have done an excellent job cleaning up the grounds and painting the outdoor chairs and benches. Robert Rotaru has done some great work painting the porch ceiling, clubhouse walls and trim in the lounge.

As we enter our 100th clay court season, it seems appropriate to reflect on the big projects that

have been completed this past year, as well as look into the exciting plans for the future. This spring we were finally able to install a sprinkler system for the courts. We've also designed a new logo which is displayed on the new signs and banners welcoming you to the club. And the porch is currently being resurfaced to provide a more welcoming look as you enter the club.

What's next? Our Trillium funded projects (replacing the roof, providing a safe fire exit from the second floor and new doors for the bubble) will all be completed this summer. In addition, at the end of the summer indoor courts 9 and 10 will be resurfaced. The board and I are also working on our wish list of projects for this fiscal year. If you have anything you'd like to see us add to the list, please pop it in the suggestion box.

Over the winter our indoor courts were kept in tiptop shape thanks to Chris and Kiu. This summer

our court maintenance crew of Chris, Kiu, Markus, Nick, Filbert and Rylan will be making sure that the outdoor courts are well maintained for your playing pleasure.

Lesson programs for Juniors and Adults are doing extremely well under the outstanding coaches we have at the club. We already have more than double the registrations for our popular summer camps as we had last year at this time.

Our wonderful staff, Sally, Julia, Brenda, Nick, Olivia, Markus, Yvonne and Filbert have been very busy this month welcoming many of you back for the summer or renewing your membership for the year.

Thank you for being a part of the oldest sporting club in Waterloo Region!

**Helen McArdle**  
**Manager**

[helen@waterlootennis.com](mailto:helen@waterlootennis.com)

## COACH'S CORNER

With  
Gary Winter  
Head Tennis Pro

### The History of Coaching (at WTC)

The Waterloo Tennis Club, celebrating its 100th anniversary, provides an opportunity to reflect on coaching at the club.

Club member Mary Liz Hearn has done an amazing job compiling historical information about the club in preparation for this year's centenary celebrations. It is interesting to flip through the binders she has put together, with pictures and historical material that tell the story of how the club has progressed since its inception in 1915. Needless to say, a part of that story is about the coaches.

From the very beginning the more accomplished players coached on a volunteer basis. In the '50s and early '60s club members such as Helen Nethercott and Lew Bradich coached the junior players.

In the mid 1960s the WTC hired its first full-time pro, Ed Brandeth. In the '70s, Sandy Morgan coached in the summer months. The early '80s saw the Greenan

brothers involved in coaching and managing the club. Greg Bishop covered coaching from 1986 - 1993.

WTC current coach Mike Ratcliff got involved in 1993, when he coached juniors and seniors. He was the Head Coach from 2005 - 2009.

There have been internationally known pro players, such as Jack Kramer and Tony Trabert as well as Canadian Peter Burwash who have stopped by the club to pass on some of their tennis knowledge.



Peter Burwash with club juniors

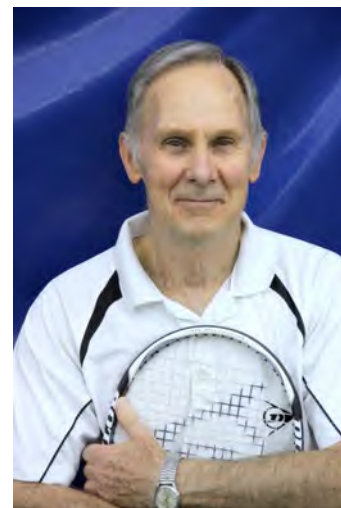
In 2015, the coaching staff at the Waterloo Tennis Club is as diverse, passionate and knowledgeable a group as you will find anywhere. The coaches care about their students and the game, as well as advancing their own coaching and playing abilities.

The WTC has been designated by Tennis Canada as a "Tennis Development Centre" for the past five years. The club must meet certain coaching standards in order to receive this designation. This designation reflects the commitment of the club and

the coaches to developing both recreational and competitive tennis players.

All of our coaches are members of the Tennis Professionals Association, a professional organization run by Tennis Canada that brings together coaches and promotes the profession of tennis coaching in Canada. Most of the coaches have taken certification courses provided by Tennis Canada, showing their commitment to improving their coaching skills and to the profession.

A quick recap of the coaches reveals the depth and breadth of their experience and passion.



Mike Ratcliff

Mike Ratcliff has been instructing at the Waterloo Tennis Club since 1993. As a top junior in England, Mike won the 1963 British Junior Indoor Double's Titles and the

British Junior Singles Title in 1964.

In 1975, Mike assisted tennis legend Billie Jean King with her comeback to professional tennis, creating the World Tennis Association Training Camp for women. During this time, Mike worked with future tennis star Martina Navratilova.

Mike's knowledge of the game and how it has evolved, makes him a unique part of the coaching team.

Manuel Castillo (Manny) grew up in Cuba and started playing tennis when he was seven years old. He became one of Cuba's top juniors and competed around the world in international tournaments. Manny completed a University degree in Physical Education with a specialization in Tennis.



**Manuel Castillo**

After university, Manuel worked at the Espa National Tennis Training Centre coaching Cuba's best junior players. He then became the Head Pro at the Hotel International in Varadero, Cuba for three years. From his upbringing, Manny adds a distinct "Spanish" flavour to the coaching team. And, of

course, you can even get your lessons in Spanish.

Two of our coaches, Kye Allen and Robert Rotaru both played at the WTC as juniors.



**Kye Allen**

Kye Allen began playing tennis at the age of twelve. Kye attended Bluevale Collegiate Institute and won two Waterloo County high school championships in Boy's Doubles and finished fourth in the high school provincials. After serving as a coach at the Resurrection tennis camp in Kitchener for two years, Kye began working at the Waterloo Tennis Club.

Kye has been an integral part of the growth of the Progressive program at the club (5 - 10 year-olds), with some of the Progressive juniors he has coached now playing in and winning OTA sanctioned tournaments. With an outgoing and energetic personality, Kye makes tennis fun and enjoyable for his junior as well as adult students.

Robert Rotaru is an accomplished player in his own right and is still actively competing.

Robert was born in Romania. His family moved to Canada in 1995 when he was 8 years old. Robert's father loved the sport of tennis and took Robert to the Waterloo Tennis Club for lessons when he was 10 years old.



**Robert Rotaru**

Fittingly, Mike Ratcliff was his first coach and ignited his passion for the sport. Robert made the U14 Ontario Team. He finished his junior competitive career ranked in the top five in Canada. In 2005, Robert attended the University of Louisville (a Division 1 school) on a tennis scholarship. With his help, the team reached the top 12 in the country. After university, Robert started playing tennis professionally. He has been ranked in the 1500's on the ATP Tour. He has been ranked in the Top 10 in Ontario (along with the likes of Milos Raonic, Frank Dancevic and Peter Polansky).



As for me, Gary Winter, I have been the Head Pro at the WTC since 2010. I grew up playing tennis in Edmonton, where I also started coaching as a summer job when I was 14 years old. As a junior, I competed in tournaments across Western Canada and played in the U16 Junior Nationals in Ottawa in 1976.



**Garv Winter**

I have coached at public and private clubs in Vancouver (including the University of British Columbia). I worked at BC's provincial tennis organization for four years, promoting the game across the province. I was the Director of Tennis at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler for ten years.

I still compete in seniors events, and I managed to win a Western National Indoor Doubles title in 2006 (which just goes to show that the most

important thing about doubles is picking a good partner).

This space does not allow for recognition of all the individuals who have been involved in one way or another with the coaching and lesson programs at the WTC over the years. There have been many supporters and volunteers. It is especially gratifying to have the juniors we have coached helping out as volunteer coaches themselves.

The word "coach" is a slang word first used circa 1830 at Oxford University. It means a tutor who "carries" a student through an exam (as a train or stage coach carries passengers to their destination). It was first used in an athletic sense in 1861.

Coaching is obviously so much more than "carrying" your students. I have coached in many different settings over my career and I can honestly say that the coaching team at the WTC is the best you can get anywhere. We are passionate about tennis and want our students to get as much from the game as we do.

After 100 years of tennis in Waterloo Park, the future of tennis and the coaching program at the WTC has never looked better.

**Gary Winter**  
Head Pro  
[gary@waterlootennis.com](mailto:gary@waterlootennis.com)





# WINTER ACTIVITIES



**Pro-Am Mixer**



**Christmas brunch**



**Christmas tennis mixer winners**



**Marten Johnston Memorial Tournament players**



**Marten Johnston Memorial  
Tournament winners**



**Cardio Tennis**



**Women's Spring Tournament players**



**"Spring" into Summer Mixer**





**Greg Knight tops the Spring Ladder**

#### Standings Through Week 16

243	Gregory Knight	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
236	Andrzej Przepiora	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
224	Juan Roman	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
215	Scott Page	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
202	Andrew Gillard	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
134	Bill Sherifali	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
30	Linda McDougall	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
5	Julie Zwarych	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
0	Eli Wolfe	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
0	David John	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
0	gordon hunt	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
0	Jay Goman	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
0	mike koka	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
0	Martha D'Agostino	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
0	Rosemary Erb	<a href="#">Player Info</a>
0	Scott Kirkwood	<a href="#">Player Info</a>

## Ladders

The summer singles adult ladder has just started up. This is a great and easy way to set up singles matches with a number of different members within the club.

You must sign up for a free Courtside Canada account to play on the ladder.

There is a \$5 registration fee to join the ladder.

There is also a Junior Singles Ladder which runs each month. Juniors, get your name on it soon!



**Nestor & Mihajlo  
tied for the top of the March  
Junior Ladder**

**Sava won the April Junior Ladder**

# Upcoming Events



## Join the Green and White Crowd!

Come out to enjoy a great day of tennis including lunch and prizes. Everyone will play 4 matches. **(2 mixed, 2 doubles geared to their level)** There will be 2 divisions – the first group checks in at 9:00 a.m. and starts play at 9:30 a.m. ; the second group checks in at 9:45 a.m. and starts play at 10:15 a.m. The day will be filled with fun and surprises with play ending about 4:30 p.m. Partners will be assigned ! Sign up for the event on the bulletin board in the lobby.

**Cost: \$20** – includes play, muffins & coffee, lunch, a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirt, prizes

**When: Saturday, May 23, 2015**

**Questions: Contact Joanne Raymond – [jraymond@sentex.net](mailto:jraymond@sentex.net)**

## OPEN MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

**Saturday  
June 27th**



Clay Courts!

Great Prizes!

Guaranteed 3 matches

Lunch Included

**\$25**





# Celebrating 100 years of tennis in the park

## Sunday May 31st

9 – 10 am: Free Junior Clinic

10 am: Progressive Junior Tournament

11:30 – 12:45 pm: Free Lunch

1 pm: Celebration ceremony

2 pm: Exhibition match



**Tennis Museum**  
**open all day**



# Waterloo Warriors

Tennis was in the spotlight at the University of Waterloo's 55th Annual Athletics Awards banquet when its no.1 player Vincent Chan was named UW Male Athlete of the Year. The banquet held March 27 at St. George Banquet Hall was a historic night as Vincent was the first tennis player to have been given that honour.



Undoubtedly the night belonged to Vincent but he was not the only Tennis Warrior who earned kudos. Joe Zeng, the Ontario Universities Athletics (OUA) Rookie of the Year was named UW Male Rookie of the Year, another first for Tennis. Vincent also was a recipient of the Shield of Excellence, an award for graduating student-athletes who made outstanding contribution in their sport, academics and community service.

Vincent's achievements over the last five years are impressive: OUA Rookie of the Year in 2010, Gold medal in singles three of the five years, winner of the OUA doubles for the last four years - two with Nachiket Yardi (WTC's reigning triple club champion) and the last two years with John Chan, last year's OUA Rookie of the year. Vincent was named to the OUA All Star team (top six players in the OUA) and MVP of the UW tennis team for all five years, and OUA Athlete of the week last October following his gold medal win in singles, his third in five years.

Honourable mentions at the banquet included John Chan, who along with Vincent, was named to the 2014-15 OUA All Star team and Pat Craton, (WTC's club president), who was one of five UW coaches named OUA Coach of the Year in their sport.

This year's banquet was a unique occasion for tennis for its number of 'firsts'. The occasion capped off a successful 2014-15 season for the men's team who were second in the OUA team championships this past season. Congratulations to all.

*Submitted by Pat Craton*

*Head Coach*

*University of Waterloo Varsity Tennis Teams*



## ITF YOUNG SENIORS WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



**John Murray (on left)**

Helen asked me to give a report on my experience at the ITF Young Seniors World Team Championships in Antalya, Turkey, March 15-21, 2015. What a privilege and honour it was to represent Canada in the Men's 45 age division.

Our Men's 45 Team, comprised of our Captain, Hannes Blum (Victoria, B.C), Mike O'Neill (Burlington, ON) and myself, played five different countries throughout the week, which included Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and South Africa. The format was two singles matches and one doubles. Overall, we finished with two wins and three losses and placed 16th. I played seven total matches and finished with a record of four wins and three losses.

The overall experience was truly incredible! The Ali Bey Hotel and Resort, where we stayed, was located on the beautiful Mediterranean Sea. The Ali Bey Club and Park Manavgat, located on the same property of the resort, is one of the world's largest tennis facilities, housing 62 red clay courts.

One of the highlights of the experience was the great camaraderie that we had as a Canadian Team. Overall, 13 Canadian players competed in the Men's 35, 40 and 45 and Women's 40 Teams. We ate all our meals together, enjoyed many laughs, and cheered each other on. Another highlight was that coaching was allowed on court during change overs. Finally, I had a really special experience...a wonderful act of sportsmanship....that took place in my singles match versus Sweden. Niklas Svensson, my Swedish opponent, exemplified both compassion and sportsmanship in our match (to read a full version of the story go to [www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com) and click on Seniors page and then go to news section).

I would like to close by thanking some individuals from WTC. First, my good friend and faithful practice partner, David Wooten, who prepared me well with his gruelling drilling sessions. I would like to also thank Victor Sydorchak, Manuel Castillo, and Chris Edwards and Selena from Courts Plus. Finally, I would like to thank Guido and Christel Weber for answering my many questions and encouraging me to seize the opportunity of a lifetime.

Humbly submitted,  
**John Murray**







### Family Fun Day

Over 70 parents and kids came out to celebrate Family Day with their 'tennis' family!

# Junior News

## March 8th, 2015 WTC Progressive Tournament Results

### 3/4 Court

Champion: Filip Radulovic  
Runner Up: Aleeza Zafar

### Full Court U12

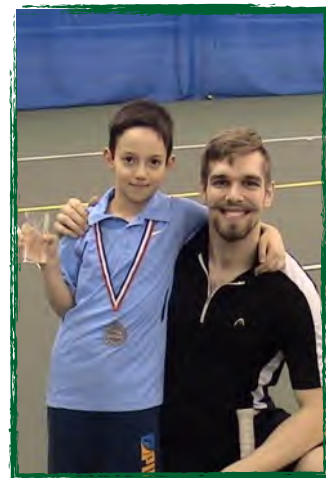
Champion: Spencer Tully  
Runner Up: Luka Radulovic



## ACE Academy Under Nine Tournament

There were four WTC players who competed in the ACE Academy Under Nine Tournament April 11 and 12 in Burlington. The U9 division is played on a 3/4 sized court with an Orange level ball. All four of these players have been in the WTC's Progressive program where the 3/4 court is the transition from 1/2 court to Full Court tennis. This Progressive approach (smaller racquet and court size and easier balls to play with) allows for younger players to play the game earlier. It is a major advancement in having younger kids get involved in tennis and in competitive tennis.

The participants were Lev Sherifali (8), Noah Murray-Bresynskie (9), Mihailo Popovic (7) and Sava Uncianschi (7). Each of the players competed in a round robin box and the winners of the box progressed to an elimination draw. Congratulations to all those who competed and to Sava Uncianschi who was the champion. Seven-year-old Sava also recently won an U12 tournament in Hamilton and is the reigning Provincial U8 Champion!



Sava with coach Kye Allen

**Well done to all our juniors who competed in OTA tournaments over the winter!**

U9: Lev Sherifali, Noah Murray-Bresynskie, Mihailo Popovic, Sava Uncianschi and Zoe Wood

U10: Filip Radulovic, Andrei Jovcic, Julius Misheal

U12: Yeleni Castillo Garcia, Kalista Ho, Aldiana Lazoja, Luka Radulovic

U14: Kristian Kopic, Nestor Voronych, Luke Young, Ivana Milisic, Andrea Tamindzija

U16: Ryan MacLean, Mihajlo Milisic, Steven Wang, Cameron Barber, Nicholas Zwarych

U18: Marija Milic, Andrej Tamindzija



### OFSAA

Good Luck to the WTC players who will be competing the OFSAA (Provincial High School) Championships June 1 - 3 at Rexall Centre, York University.

#### Mixed Doubles

Aliyah Alli and Field Westbroek (Cameron Heights)

Jessie Cui and Owen Martin (Waterloo)

#### Boys Singles

Greg Krzinsnik (Grand River)

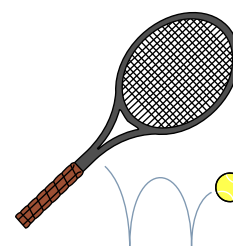
Basil Leahy (Cameron Heights)

#### Girls Doubles

Christina Wang (Waterloo)

#### Boys Doubles

Sean Begy and Ryan MacLean (Resurrection), Ilir Lazoja (Cameron Heights)



### UPCOMING JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

**Sunday, May 31st**

1/2 Court and Full Court (Green Dot and Regular Ball)

**June 6 & 7**

Junior Club Championships

**June 21**

Boys and Girls Under 10 Future Stars (OTA)

**July 11 & 12**

Boys and Girls Under 12 and Under 14 Transition Tour (OTA)

**August 22 & 23**

Boys and Girls Under 9 and Under 10 Future Stars Tour (OTA)



An agency of the Government of Ontario.  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario.

The Waterloo Tennis Club is proud to announce that an application for a grant made to the Ontario Trillium Foundation earlier this year has been approved.

The grant totalling \$64,600 is to be used to replace the roof of the clubhouse, upgrade the stairwell to meet fire safety guidelines and replace doors in the indoor tennis courts. These projects will enhance the safety and comfort of all users of the club's facilities. Work on these projects is to begin in 2015 and be completed by the end of the year.

Very many thanks to the OTF for its generous grant. This will assist us greatly in our continuing efforts to provide first-rate facilities for our members and the tennis-playing community in the region.

The Board and Management

Waterloo Tennis Club.



### Spring Cleanup Volunteers

(from left to right) Noel Grange, Vern Heine, Julie Zwarych, Gordon Hunt, Louise Brzustowski, Gord Thiel, Chris Krokoszynski, Ahsan Sadiq, Janine Heider, Yvonne Pezzack, Mary McDougall, Linda McDougall, Guido Weber, Mike Putnam (in wheelbarrow Sophia Sadiq)

Missing from picture: Pam Krokoszynski, Helen McArdle, John Pezzack, Christel Weber



## Improving your game

### LESSONS

The Club offers lessons to its members at competitive prices. Take advantage of this to improve your game. Coaches Gary Winter, Mike Ratcliff, Manuel Castillo, Kye Allen and Robert Rotaru look forward to helping you take your game to the next level. You can book a private lesson or find some friends to join you to share the cost. Mike Ratcliff also offers group clinics on a weekly basis on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The signup sheets for these are on the club bulletin board.

### COACHING PRICES

Private Lesson - MEMBER	\$50.00
Package of 5 lessons (Save \$20)	\$230.00
Private Lesson - NON-MEMBER	\$60.00
Package of 5 lessons (Save \$35)	\$265.00
Semi-private (2 people) - MEMBER	\$27.00PP
Package of 5 lessons	\$125.00PP
Semi-private (2 people) - NON-MEMBER	\$32.00PP
Package of 5 lessons	\$150.00PP
Three Player clinic - MEMBER	\$18.50PP
Three Player clinic - NON-MEMBER	\$25.00PP
Four Player clinic - MEMBER	\$15.00PP
Four Player clinic - NON-MEMBER	\$20.00PP

## PICKLEBALL FRIDAYS

All Summer

Fridays

12 to 2 pm

\$3 for members

\$5 for non-members





**Shirley Fenton was our 100th member to join the club this year**

**A rainbow shines on our new sprinkler system**



**Club manager, Helen McArdle has the first hit of the 100th season with club pro, Mike Ratcliff**



**One hundred members, past and present came out May 10 to be part of the 100th Anniversary photo. Many thanks to those who came out to make this 100! photo possible.**