



# Newsletter



## President's Message



Great day to all our Waterloo Tennis Club members. It's been an incredibly wonderful year for Canadian tennis players and fans. Just a few short years ago, I would have been excited to have just one Canadian tennis player demonstrate a small degree of success on the world stage. In the blink of an

eye the Canadians have taken on the tennis world by storm and it takes real effort to follow the many successes of our Canadian players. Just as we start to say good-bye to Daniel Nestor – a legend of Canadian tennis, we've been given the good fortune to welcome a group of young talented players that have left an immediate mark in the sport. As the year came to a close, we experienced Bianca's great triumph at the US Open and the excitement of our young men leading us to a Davis Cup finals. With so many great tennis stories, I don't want to ignore the incredible success of the Waterloo Tennis Club teams. We have another inter-urban championship team and our senior intercity team finalists. Combine that with our U9 TDC cup championship in the spring and a top four finish for our U10 boys this past month, our WTC teams have represented us extremely well this year. The future of tennis is looking bright both at home and across the nation. The Waterloo Tennis Club has experienced success

off the court as well. We continue to be strong financially and the board seeks to add value to the members both on and off the court. Many of you have noticed some changes this year that included new curtains in the bubble, along with a storage area to clean up courtside clutter. There is progress in the men's locker room upgrades that includes roomier lockers and we've added two new sheds outside. Some of the more notable changes include adjustments to the winter booking schedule. We experienced success through the summer with our bookable courts where 50% of the membership utilized the booking feature. We also identified and implemented ninety minute booking options to much success. As a result, we've made some changes to the winter booking schedule as well. With adjustments to the lesson program times, we have been able to provide four bookable courts through most weekday - prime time periods. We've introduced these changes to try and deliver an improved

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experience for all of our members.

The board is really interested in your thoughts – the good and the not so good. We are planning on conducting our biannual survey to get feedback from you on a number of club specific items. We've utilized the survey to help understand what the members are looking for

from their membership and if there are actions the board can take to add membership value. We've historically had a very good response to the survey and we would certainly appreciate your time to respond to some questions to help us make the Waterloo Tennis Club a much better place for everyone.

At the end of the day, you don't need to wait for a survey to let us know what you think. The board does a great job of listening to the membership thoughts and concerns. You are always welcome to email us ([board@waterlootennis.com](mailto:board@waterlootennis.com)) or use the suggestion box.

**Bill Sherifali**

**President**

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

## Manager's Message



This is a hard message to write as we've just had the sad news that beloved staff member, Julia Riley has passed away. There will be a Celebration of Life for Julia at the club in the spring.

The outpouring of support for Julia by staff and club members during this tough time, is an example of why I love our club so much. Thank you all for reminding me what is truly important this holiday season.

This year, I have been lucky enough to see our top

Canadians playing their best around the world. First was Bianca Andreescu winning the Rogers Cup in August. Then in November it was the men making history by competing in the finals of the Davis Cup in Madrid. I hope you'll enjoy reading my husband Mark's article on our adventures on page 13. While at the Davis Cup, I let our Tennis Canada friends know about Julia Riley's battle with cancer and that she was cheering on the team from her hospital bed. They arranged to have a shirt signed by the whole team which I gave to her when we got back.



We've had a number of staffing changes this year. Rachel Stymiest, Marina Seth and Neil Fogarty have been added to our great front desk staff team. Coach Robert Rotaru left in the summer and we were lucky enough to hire coach Mohsen Soleimanipour to replace him.

I would like to thank my team and the board for all their hard work this year working on ways to improve the club for you.

As we go into the New Year, my hope is that you are able to leave your troubles at the door and enjoy the time you get to spend on the courts with your tennis friends. According to a Danish study, doing so could extend your life by up to 10 years!

**Helen McArdle**

**Manager**

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

# Breakfast at Wimbledon & Dress Whites & Woodies Round Robin

July 13, 2019



Dig in!



Perfect English Breakfast!



Goodbye cake for coach Robert Rotaru.



The chefs, Mary Sinclair, Karen Sanderson, Andrew Gillard, Kartika Nataprawira & Ike Husain being thanked for their hard work cooking the breakfast.



Coach, Mike Ratcliff ran the event. Here he is giving out prizes for the best ...



Doesn't everyone look great all dressed in white with their wooden racquets!



# Waterloo Inter-Urban Team Report

Congratulations Team Waterloo Tennis!!

For the third year in a row Waterloo Tennis Club came away with bragging rights for winning the Inter Urban playoffs. The finals for the Interurban league were played August 8th and 13th in a home and away format with Waterloo matched up against Northfield. The regular Tuesday night schedule was moved to Thursday to accommodate the large contingent of players travelling to Toronto to see Bianca Andreescu play in the Rogers Cup.

The Waterloo team prevailed in a closely contested series winning 21 sets to 11 sets. After the first week of 2 men's, 2 women's and 4 mixed matches Waterloo had gained a substantial lead and was ahead by 10 sets. Northfield fielded a very strong team the second week resulting in the teams being tied 8 all in sets but Northfield winning that match 76 games to 72. However Waterloo came out ahead as the overall winner by 10 sets. Well done team.

Thank you to all team and reserve members for representing our club in such an outstanding and sportsman-like manner. Thanks to a number of individuals for acting as captain each Tuesday night; maintaining and submitting the score sheet. Also thank you to the many members who came out to watch and cheer on the team during our home matches.

The season ended with a great evening of tennis followed by a pot luck dinner at the club.

Watch the notice boards and newsletter for tryout dates in April/May for this year's team.

*Pat Balcock*  
*Captain 2019*

**Men's team:** Dylan De Zoysa, Richard Dumais, Quang Hoang, Kelvin Hui, Ryan Hummel, Derek Kozuh, Bao Lam, Filbert Nghiem, Steven Nieboer, Colin Stranc, Alex Siuda

**Women's team:** Martha D'Agostino, Stephanie Jordan, Nancy-Lee Ledgley, Helen McCardle, Yvonne Pezzack, Michelle Rogers, Marina Seth, Natasha Seth, Jen Vasic



# Seniors Interclub League

It's always a happy chore to report on WTC seniors team because it means that not only are we still around, we are kicking butts on the court too. From the cellar position three or four years ago when WTC first joined league, WTC and Rosedale Tennis Club in Hamilton have established themselves as the two top teams. This past year was no exception. Gone are the years when the Hamilton club dominated the league.

This year's season began June 4 and ended Sept. 10. Matches were played every Tuesday beginning at 10 a.m. and ending around 12:30 p.m. followed by light refreshments which in reality, were often delicious lunches. Waterloo started the season as the defending champion having won by the closest of margins last year. This year we took the lead half-way in the regular season and didn't relinquish it until the very end. This meant that at the semi-final playoffs we were to play the fourth-placed club from Ancaster. Unfortunately due to injuries Ancaster could not field a full team and Waterloo entered the final by a walkover.



**Team with their 2018 championship plaque**



**Celebrating a win and Suzanne's birthday in Port Dover**

In the other semi-final, Rosedale had a closer match than expected against the Port Dover team but they were able to battle through to meet Waterloo in the final. The final was played at Waterloo but home court proved not to be an advantage as Rosedale eked out a win 13-11, which was the same score they lost to Waterloo last year. It was a heart-breaker but the home team took their loss with good grace especially when seeing the joy and relief of the Rosedale players after they won the last and deciding point. We fully intend to make this contest a best of three (years).

For those players having achieved the age of 55 and looking for competitive play as well as meeting interesting individuals consider joining the WTC senior team next summer. The senior league tennis can often be a test of stamina, patience and wiles and is always entertaining. As well, the desire to win never grows old. If interested in participating next year, please give in your name at the front desk and staff will make sure it gets to the captain in charge.

A big thank you to Rudy Gatzke who again captained our motley crew and to Joanne Raymond and Andrew Gillard who stepped in to manage the team at the beginning of the season when Rudy was away. A hearty thank you also to Suzanne Edwards for helping with the catering of the lunches when we played at home. Not the least, all of the members who participated in this league and represented WTC so well. Congratulations on another fine year!

**Men:** Chris Edwards, Rudy Gatzke, Andrew Gillard, Kelvin Hui, Tony Pimenoff, Derek Prada, Juan Roman, Graham Snyder, Ed Twardus

**Women:** Pat Craton, Suzanne Edwards, Ann Facey, Nancy-Lee Ledgley, April Manahan, Carmen Miron, Joanne Raymond, Mary Ruehlicke, Susan Seredynsky

***Submitted by Pat Craton (team member)***

# Club Championships Results - Singles



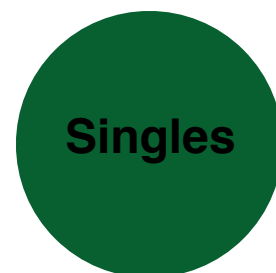
## Women's Singles

**L-R: Thea Bozsitz (Champion)  
Natasha Seth (Finalist)**



## Men's Singles

**L-R: Ryan MacLean (Champion)  
Steven Nieboer (Finalist)**



## Women's Singles 'B'

**L-R: Stephanie Jordan (Finalist)  
Ann MacMillan (Champion)**



## Men's Singles 'B'

**Lars McKenzie (Finalist)  
Daniel Kolesar (Champion)**



## Men's Singles 'C'

**Ed Twardus (Finalist)  
Doug Laginskie (Champion)**



# Club Championships Results - Doubles



**L-R**

**Women's Doubles 'A'**

**Marina Seth & Michelle Rogers (Finalists)**  
**Thea Bozsitz & Annabelle Ganesu (Champions)**



**L-R**

**Men's Doubles 'A'**

**L-R: Filbert Nghiem & Steven Nieboer (Champions)**  
**Alex Siuda & Kristian Kopic (Finalists)**



**L-R**

**Women's Doubles 'B'**

**Mary Ruehlicke & Helen McArdle (Finalists)**  
**Natasha Seth & Stephanie Jordan (Champions)**



**L-R**

**Men's Doubles 'B'**

**Chris Edwards & Saifullah Shoaib (Champions)**  
**Lars & Anders McKenzie (Finalists)**



**L-R**

**Women's Doubles 'C'**

**Linda McDougall & Amy Sproule-Jones (Finalists)**  
**Ann MacMillan & Kristyn Clairmont (Champions)**



**L-R**

**Men's Doubles 'C'**

**Bao Lam & Ryan Hummel (Champions)**  
**Shaman Seth & Kelvin Hui (Finalists)**

# Club Championships Results

## Mixed Doubles



**L-R**

**Mixed Doubles 'A'**

**Filbert Nghiem & Pat Babcock (Finalists)**  
**Michelle Rogers & Kristian Kopic (Champions)**



**L-R**

**Mixed Doubles 'B'**

**Suzanne & Chris Edwards (Finalists)**  
**Mary Ruehlicke & Bao Lam (Champions)**



**L-R**

**Mixed Doubles 'C'**

**Chris Zeigler & Julie Zwarych (Finalists)**  
**Nancy-Lee Ledgley & Kelvin Hui (Champions)**



**Some of the Mixed Doubles Participants**



# Century Invitational Tournament

## September 22, 2019

Four teams, two from Waterloo along with teams from Northfield and Royal City competed against each other in this year's Century Challenge Invitational Tournament. Each club team was made up of six players. The combined ages of each of the pairings in men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles had to be a minimum of 100.

Our thanks to club members, Ken Rae and Dennis Huss and the RaeLipskie Partnership for sponsoring the tournament.

After some extremely competitive matches, the team from Royal City emerged victorious.



**The competitors**



**Sponsor Dennis Huss and his wife Elizabeth  
enjoying the social time after lunch.**



**The winning Royal City team getting their prizes  
from sponsor Ken Rae & Dennis Huss.**

**L to R: Erin Mares, Ken Rae, Janet Hofstra, Mark Greenan,  
Harry Greenan, Dennis Huss & MaryAnn Gaskin**

2019/2020 - Fall 2019 / Winter 2020 Singles Ladder - Oct 15 - Nov 30

Box 1

Players	Matches Played	Match Points	Bonus Points	Tie Breaker Points	Total Points
Sheinfeld, Leonid	3	12		14	12
Osyga, Konstantin	1	4		4	4
Wolfe, Duane	2	2		0	2
Eys, Mark	0	0		0	0
Kofman, Jonathan	0	0		0	0
D'Agostino, Martha	0	0		0	0
Farrington, Deion	0	0		0	0
Irvine, Tom	0	0		0	0
Koka, Mike	0	0		0	0

Box 2

Players	Matches Played	Match Points	Bonus Points	Tie Breaker Points	Total Points
Perez, Fabio	4	13		17	13
Crosby, Michael	3	12		14	12
MacLean, Brittany	3	9		10	9
Monaghan, Eugene M.	6	9		3	9
Kofman, Violeta	2	8		9	8
Bahar, Deniz	5	5		0	5
Li, Yuanyuan	1	1		0	1
Kanu-Oji, Nwachukwu (Chuks)	0	0		0	0
Torre Gimenez, Juan Ignacio	0	0		0	0

Box 3

Players	Matches Played	Match Points	Bonus Points	Tie Breaker Points	Total Points
Page, Allan	4	13		9	13
John, David	3	12		21	12
Irvine, Joseph	4	10		9	10
Peoples, Jim	1	4		6	4
Ran, Sonya	3	3		0	3
Dinh, Lisa	3	3		0	3
Kunkel, Maggie	0	0		0	0
Amorim, Jack	0	0		0	0

## Summer Ladder Results

The singles ladder had over 50 players competing over the summer. Congratulations to Mark Eys for winning the top box of the ladder. Congrats also to Colin Stranc, Rajaram Singaravelu and Nancy Corbett for winning their respective boxes.

## Winter Ladder

Our winter singles ladder has started and new member Leonid Sheinfeld is currently on the top rung. The box ladder format we're using is a good way to encourage more competitive and consistent play for all players. With this format, ladder participants will begin each month in a box consisting of players of similar levels. Within a certain time period (usually a month and a half), players will arrange to play each of the other players within their box. At the end of the period, our tennis co-ordinator Andrew Gillard will regroup the players in the boxes to ensure that the level of play is fairly even. Typically the top two players will move up a box and the bottom two players will move down a box. If you are interested in joining the ladder you can sign up on the club website or at the front desk. New players are normally added at the start of each month. However if you're keen to start, send an email to [andrew@waterlootennis.com](mailto:andrew@waterlootennis.com) to let Andrew know and he'll do his best to get you in.

**CELEBRATE  
NEW YEAR'S EVE  
AT THE WATERLOO TENNIS CLUB**

Doors open at 7 pm

Social Tennis from 7-9 pm  
Cost for tennis \$10 (paid in advance)

Ring in the New Year with your tennis friends.  
No charge for the party but to gain access  
you must bring an appetizer or dessert to share!

Open to members and their guests only.

Cash bar and music provided

**Junior/Parent  
Appreciation Day**

**Jan 1st**  
noon - 2 pm  
**Admission free**



We invite all junior members and non-member participants in junior lessons, along with their immediate families, to join us for a day of tennis and fun to celebrate the New Year. Admission is free but we request each family bring an appetizer or dessert to share for the pot luck social which will follow the tennis.

You must signup on the club bulletin board for the event.





GET INSPIRED WATCHING  
THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN,  
THEN COME COMPETE IN FAST TIEBREAKER  
MATCHES AGAINST OTHER PLAYERS!

**GREAT PRIZES!**  
**ONLY \$20**

## Marten Johnston Memorial Tournament



Cost \$20/member \$25/non-member

**Sunday Mar 22nd**  
**9-5pm**

### TEAM TENNIS FORMAT

Each team will be made up of four players, two men and two women.

Each round you will play a doubles match and a mixed doubles match against another team. The matches will be FAST as each will just be a tiebreaker!

Make up your own team or signup individually on the bulletin board.

# Davis Cup Madrid



This past spring, Helen and I learned that the Davis Cup finals were going to be in a different format this year. All of the final matches would be held in Madrid during the week of November 18th. The Davis Cup is the men's World Cup of Tennis. Teams from 133 nations competed in the event this year, with the final 18 competing in Madrid for the Championship. Each country plays in a "tie" that consists of two singles and one doubles match. The rules require each team's top ranked players play each other, and their second highest ranked players play each other. This results in great matches that are more typical of a major ATP or Grand Slam final.

If you're even a casual tennis fan, you will know that 2019 has been a great year for Canadian tennis. The breakout star has been Bianca Andreescu, with her incredible year capped off with both a Rogers Cup win at home, followed by a US Open victory in a great Rogers Cup rematch against Serena Williams. But our Canadian men have been incredible as well. Denis Shapovalov and Felix Auger-Aliassime have had breakout years. Shapo is 15th on the ATP Tour rankings and Felix has reached 21st. These two young stars are joined by Davis Cup veteran Vasek Pospisil, who, coming back from back surgery is ranked 150th in singles. Vasek's current rank doesn't reflect his Davis Cup performance however. He really seems to rise to the occasion when playing for our country. Rookie Brayden Schnur rounded out our squad,

with Frank Dancevic as captain and Daniel Nestor as doubles coach.

Helen and I made the decision to fly to Madrid to support our team and watch some great tennis. We shared the details of this event with some of our tennis friends, and before we knew it, we had a group of six Waterloo Tennis Club members signed up. Joining us was Sean and Sheri Gartner, and Greg and Kristyn Clairmont.

We knew that a Davis Cup final was going to be different from any other tennis tournament we'd attended. Fans cheer after every point. Non stop. It was going to be loud. It was going to be very patriotic. So we went shopping for lots of Canadian shirts, hats and flags.

We arrived in Madrid and prepared for our first tie against the formidable Italian squad. Tennis Canada had arranged a pre-match rally at a small pub across the street from the "Magic Box" site. This was a fantastic way for fans to get to know each other, and to learn the cheers. The head cheerleader was Tennis Canada's Tulla Bateman. She came armed with noise makers, cow bells and there were red Tennis Canada t-shirts for sale. This became our ritual before each match, and we would all march across the street singing and chanting our Canadian cheers. We made quite an impression!



**Trebol restaurant "Canada House"**

Tennis Canada CEO Michael Downey and VP Professional Events Gavin Ziv gave short speeches about the team, and the importance the fans are to their game. Downey pointed out we had Canadians from all over the country in

Madrid. It was a great testament to how passionate Canadians are about their tennis.



I was hopeful, but not overly confident that we would prevail. I learned at the pre-match rally that Felix was still nursing an ankle injury and would not be playing. The first match was Vasek Pospisil versus “Fabulous” Fabio Fognini. The fact that Fognini is ranked 12th and Pospisil is ranked 150th should have told the story of this match. For the first time ever at a sporting event, I really felt that the support of the crowd had an effect on the outcome. We were lifting Pospisil after every point, win or loss. We were out there with him, helping him push through incredibly tough odds. And true to his Davis Cup form, Vasek played an unbelievably gutsy match, besting Fognini in two sets (7-6, 7-5).

Next up was Shapo taking on powerhouse Matteo Berrettini (ranked 8th). This was a real battle. There were incredibly long rallies and after splitting sets, Shapo pulled off a victory with a 3rd set tiebreak win. We had won our first tie in the finals! But because the results of the 3rd set may come into play if there was a tie in our group, Team Canada sent Shapo and Vasek out against Berrettini and Fognini. We lost this match, but won the tie.

Tuesday night we were playing the US. I really wanted us to win this one! Pospisil played Reilly Opelka (ranked 36th). Opelka is a giant, standing at 6’ 11” and he has a booming serve. But once again, the giant killer Pospisil toppled Opelka in two sets, both ending in a tie breaker.

Shapo then took on Taylor Fritz (ranked 32nd) and had a good match, winning 7-6, 6-3. We had beaten the US and were now assured a spot in the quarter finals! The final doubles match didn’t matter, so we decided to all head off for food.



**Clairmonts, Sean Gartner & McArdles**

Helen and I now had a decision to make. We had originally planned to fly home on Saturday. But our boys were playing so well. We pulled the trigger and changed our flights so we could be there for the Final, hoping our good fortune would continue. And worst case, we’d see some great tennis even if Canada didn’t make it all the way.

The quarter final match against Australia was going to be tough. My voice was feeling the effects of two nights of shouting and cheering. Fortunately, Spain is known for great wine with restorative powers (ok, I might be making up that last part).

We also wanted to play some tennis on Spain’s famous red clay. So Helen, Sean and I went to the Ciudad del la Raqueta for a couple of hours of fun. The red clay is so much finer than Har-Tru. But it gets everywhere!





In preparation for the Aussie match, I created a new cheer, sung to the tune of “If you’re happy and you know it”. It was for use when playing one of my least favourite players – Nick Kyrgios. Some of his antics are just beyond juvenile, and I’m not a fan. The new cheer refers to a particularly egregious antic: “If you’re grumpy and you know it, chuck a chair!”.

Sadly (or maybe fortunately), Kyrgios was not in the lineup for our tie. Pospisil started the night against John Millman (ranked 48th). Pospisil served well and kept getting everything back and triumphed 7-6, 6-4. Next up was Shapo against Alex De Minaur (ranked 18th). This would be a very tough battle, and Shapo pressed hard but lost in 3 sets 6-3, 3-6, 7-5. Our pass to the semi-finals was dependant on Shapo and Pospisil beating John Peers and Jordan Thompson in the doubles match.

This was a spectacular display of doubles. The ball ricocheted from side to side and we cheered along with every point. We had done it! We beat Australia in the doubles 6-4, 6-4 and had a spot in the Davis Cup semi-finals against Russia!



**Canadian fans walking into the stadium cheering!**

I wanted us to beat Russia even more than I wanted us to beat the US. But this would require a lot of skill and perseverance. Pospisil was riding high on what was arguably his best week of tennis ever, and he found an even higher gear against Andrey Rublev (ranked 23rd). During one dramatic point, Pospisil fell near the post at the umpire’s chair and cut his leg. He battled through the pain (and blood) but lost 6-4, 6-4. He needed stitches after the match. It was up to Shapo to keep our Davis Cup dreams alive. His match against Karen

Khachanov (ranked 17th) was a loud and stressful 3 setter. The Canadian fans definitely outnumbered the Russian ones, and we were much louder. Shapo fought hard and ultimately delivered with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 win. It was once again down to the doubles.

Pospisil demonstrated his leadership and experience in Davis Cup in this critical match against Khachanov and Rublev. After exchanging sets, it came down to the third set. And in a tie breaker that had us on the verge of a nervous breakdown, we prevailed! Canada had just made history, and we were there to see it, and participate. We were going to the Davis Cup Final for the first time in our nation’s history.



As the week progressed, the size of our Canadian contingent reduced. Some had to get back home, others had travel plans beyond Madrid. Some tried to get their flights changed but could not make it work. The remaining ~70 of us would have to make up for our departed compatriots.

We celebrated at one of our favourite local restaurants Teitu and got some rest. Sunday was going to be a big day. Canada versus Spain. In Spain. We were going to be outnumbered. In my mind, Canada had already won. We had played great tennis against much higher ranked players, and our passionate group of supporters was with them for every swing of the racquet.

Throughout the week we were getting messages from friends and family back home saying they had seen us on TV.



**McArdles & Gartners**

On Sunday, we met up with Sean and Sheri (the Clairmonts moved on to a sunnier locale to finish their week). We headed off to the pre-match rally at the usual meeting spot and enjoyed the special bonding that Canadians abroad experience when attending a big sporting event. We applied (temporary) tattoos to our arms and held our flags high as we marched to the Magic Box.

We met briefly before the Shakira opening concert with another Waterloo Tennis Club member – Kashia Radwan-Cho. As an ITF Silver Badge umpire, Kasia was working as a review official for the Davis Cup Finals. Whenever there was a challenge to a line call, the review official would oversee the Hawkeye team to ensure the correct incident was being reviewed, and the proper call was made.



The Shakira concert was entertaining. The stage was removed pretty quickly, and the formal introductions of the officials and teams commenced. My voice was pretty much gone before the finals, but I still gave it my best. It was time for the anthems. I can't count the number of times I've heard our anthem, but I

will never forget this one. It was the loudest I've ever sang it, and, arm in arm with Helen, Sheri and Sean we sang our hearts out with the rest of the Team Canada. It was the most patriotic moment I've ever experienced. We were so proud of our team for reaching the finals, and we wanted them to hear us.

Spain's team is tough. Roberto Bautista Agut is ranked 9th in the world. And he was having a very tough emotional week. His father passed away at the start of the week, but he returned to his team to help them win the Davis Cup. Obviously, everyone felt for him.

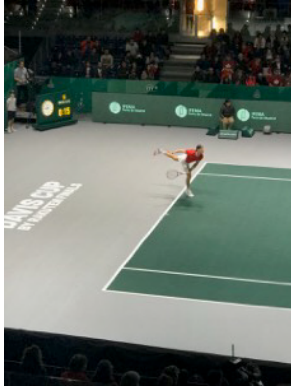
Spain's other singles player is a lad named Rafael Nadal. He's quite good. He's won a few tournaments. And he's won over \$119M USD. He's tough to beat.

For the first time of the week, Felix Auger-Aliassime was going to be playing in the first match. Vasek Pospisil was feeling the toll of a tough week. But he still wanted to play. I'm sure a lot of you watched this match, and the next one between Shapovalov and Nadal. It was fantastic tennis.



Felix played very well, but no one was going to beat Bautista Agut that day. Felix took him to a tie breaker in the first set before falling behind a break and losing the second set. But he was a winner as far as we were concerned. He represented himself, his team and his country with class. The entire team did.

At match point, Bautista Agut looked to the sky and pointed. What a moment. I'm sure his dad was very proud. You couldn't help but be happy for him.



Now it was up to Shapo to try and keep our Championship hopes alive by defeating Nadal. Helen and I have seen Nadal play many times, including here in the Magic Box at the Madrid Open. But we weren't playing on the famous red clay. This was hard court. Surely that would help Shapo. Our cheering grew louder, and squeakier in my case. All week the crowd had been very respectful of the players. When they started into their service motion, the crowd was quiet. But sometimes it took longer for the crowd to be quiet than the chair umpire desired. Especially when a Canadian player had won the previous point. We saw a few arms waved in our direction from the chair, as well as hearing "Thank you, players are ready". On a couple of occasions, Sean and I would shout "Sooooorrrrryyy" back. All in good fun.

But in the Final, a few of the Spanish fans were inexplicably shouting during their own player's serve. Strange, but certainly better than them doing it during one of our player's serve.

Nadal was Nadal. He won the first set 6-3. But the second set was different. Shapo had him shaken. He took Nadal to a tie breaker, where Nadal used all his remaining challenges. Shapo pressed hard, but you don't get to Nadal's level without being able to get yourself out of a hole.

And that's what he did. He won the tie breaker 9-7, giving Spain its sixth Davis Cup Championship. Well done, Spain.



We stayed to watch the award ceremony and give our boys one more cheer. We got to see Kasia receive her ITF medallion for officiating in the Finals. As our players marched across the stage to receive their finalist awards, we cheered one final time before packing up our flags and gear for the final time.



**Kasia Radwan-Cho**  
with her medal

It was an incredible week of tennis, and our results far exceeded my expectations. We have a young, very talented team and they are only going to get better with experience. Our Davis Cup adventures haven't peaked. Instead, we're on a journey to one day see our team holding that big cup over their heads. Will it be next year, or 5 years from now? I don't know. But it's going to be a lot of fun to watch.

All the teams that reached the semi-finals were given a wild card to next year's Davis Cup Finals. It's being played once again in the Magic Box in Madrid. We highly recommend looking into joining Team Canada if you're interested. But be warned, if you go, you'll probably lose your voice!

**Submitted by Mark McArdle**



# Where in the world are our club members?



**Doris Ernst at Indian Wells  
watching Bianca**



**Sean Gartner at Wimbledon  
watching Shapo**



**Murray Young at  
the ATP Finals in  
London**



**Over 50 WTC club members attended the Tuesday night session at the Rogers Cup where Bianca Andreescu started her title run by beating fellow Canadian, Genie Bouchard 1-6 6-1 6-4.**

# Recap of 2019 UW OUA varsity season

The 2019-20 University of Waterloo varsity season was one of the more satisfying and successful ones for the school for almost a decade. The men ended a 10-year team medal drought by winning the bronze medal at this past season's Ontario Universities Athletic Association (OUA) and while the women did not bring home any hardware, this year's team was a much stronger team than those of the recent past. More impressive was that the 2019-20 teams consisted of almost an equal mix of rookies and returning members - four rookies out of 10 on the men's team and five of eight for the women.

The women had a 2-3 win/loss record after the regular season, with one of the wins being a notable one over York. They had a good win, (6-1), over a much improved Brock women's team. The Waterloo losses were against power houses, Toronto and Western. The third loss was a close one to McMaster, (3-4) which was their first match of the season and the debuts of four rookies out of the six players playing that day. Nerves and inexperience, for sure were factors that day but happily the women settled down and played better as the season progressed. Unfortunately, the loss to McMaster would have a far-reaching effect; it resulted in the Warriors having to play York in the first round at the season-ending OUA championships due to the seeding based on the regular season results. The Lions were obviously out for revenge evidenced by their aggressive play and behaviour. Unfortunately the Warriors, were not at full strength because a couple of key players had only just recovered from the flu the week before and were not at their optimum form against the pumped up Lions. Waterloo lost 1-6 with rookie Mackenzie Dumais at no. 6 preventing a clean sweep.

Overall, the women's team this past season was one of the stronger and certainly deepest Waterloo has had in a while with several very competent players with great attitudes, on and off the court. If they continue to play and practice, there is no reason why they won't be able to do even better next year.

The men by virtue of their 4-1 win-loss record after the regular season, were the second seeds behind the Toronto Blues who were seeded number 1 at the OUA's season-ending tournament. The seedings of these two schools placed them automatically in the semi-finals. Waterloo awaited the winner of

Western and Brock which predictably was Western. The Mustangs were in full force and form against Waterloo beating the Warriors 6-1. Like the women, the Mustangs were primed for revenge having been beaten by the Warriors in the last match of the regular season. While it was a disappointment for the Warriors, it was not completely a surprise as the Mustangs fielded their strongest team at the OUAs which was not the case in the regular season game. The Western team continued their fine form in the final against Toronto to win the OUA title 5-2.

Undaunted by the loss to the Mustangs the Warriors turned their focus and efforts to the bronze medal match the following day which was to be contested between them and the York Lions who had lost to Toronto in the other semi-final. The men were able to fend off the Lions with spirited and determined play despite losing the opening doubles point. The Warriors went on to win five of the six singles matches to win 5-2 and their first team medal in a decade. As a team, it was the most successful year since 2009 for the men when they finished with silver medals. As well, in 2015 the Warriors and coach had a banner year winning individual medals and honours. The hope is that this year's success will continue to establish the men's team as a perennial top three contender. With four key senior players graduating after this year, it is encouraging to note that three rookies, and a second - year team member played the final match alongside three seniors. The experience gained this season will no doubt be invaluable to the younger ones if they are to lead the team to higher achievements in the future.

Very fine performances over the course of the season were provided by all members of the team notably freshmen, Pavle Milic who played at no. 1 and was voted OUA Rookie of the Year and selected as one of six OUA all stars; Alex Oancea at no. 2 was a rock throughout the entire season in singles and second-year Eitan Rozin at no. 4, who played with growing confidence in both singles and doubles as the season progressed.

Though the Warriors will be losing five experienced players in total (four men and one woman) after this season, the future is promising as hopefully this year's results will attract many more talented fine men and women student/athletes to study and play here.

A big thank you to the asst. Coaches Nancy Baloesescu, Matt Buckley, Filbert Nghiem and Robert Rotaru who gave of what time they could spare from their own busy schedules to help with the training of the players and development of the varsity program. Without their assistance, the program would not



be able to run as well and successfully. On this note, this year may well have been my swan song too, from the position of Head Coach. I have been ten years with the teams, nine of them as Head Coach. It has been a learning and often very gratifying experience for me working with the young men and women, many away from home for the first time and to see them develop into more responsible, aware and confident young adults by the time they graduate four years later. It has been a privilege for me to share that journey of growth with them.

### **University of Waterloo varsity teams 2019-20**

Men: Noah Cameron-Howe, John Chan, Daniel J. Fenerty, Pavle Milic, Alex Oancea, Eitan Rozin, Saifullah Shoaib, Eddie Wang, Josh Worme.

Women: Savanna Cornfield, Mackenzie Dumais, Adema Tursunkhanova, Vanessa Seto, Nathalie Skaf, Nancy Wu, Eva Xie, Evi Zafiris

***Pat Craton***  
***Head Coach and club member***



# Senior Competitors



## Pat Babcock

In May Pat went to Calgary to compete in the Western Canadian Senior Indoor National Championships where she made the finals of the both the singles and doubles O60 tournaments. In June, Pat competed in the Mont-Tremblant ITF Cup and made the finals of the singles O60 and the finals of the doubles O50 (see pictures above). In July, Pat and her partner won the O55 doubles at the London Hunt Club ITF Senior event. In early August Pat was part of the Canadian Women's O60 team competing at the Senior Worlds in Portugal (see picture above). The team came in 11th. She then flew home to compete at Nationals where she finished fourth in the O60 singles and made the quarterfinals of the doubles.



## Guido Weber

Guido won both the Singles and the Doubles in the Men's 80 at the Steve Stevens Senior National Tennis Championships in Toronto this summer. Guido also competed at the World Championships in Croatia on the O80 Canadian Team. The team finished 5th out of the 17 teams competing.

# Junior News

## Elite Juniors winning competitions around the world



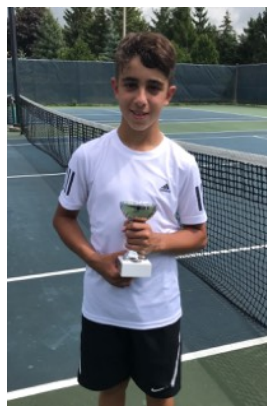
**Thea**  
**Finalist**

**Burlington Provincial U16**  
**June**



**Lauren**  
**Champion**

**IMG Academy Fall Discovery U14**  
**Florida**  
**November**



**Lev**  
**Finalist**

**Headwater Provincial U14**  
**August**



**Aaron with coach Ned**  
**Champion**

**ACE U12 Rookie Tour**  
**April**



**Annabelle**  
**Champion**  
**WTC Provincial U12**  
**July**



**Peter**  
**Finalist**  
**Burlington Future Stars U10**  
**August**



**Ilya**  
**Champion**  
**Veneto Future Stars U10**  
**August**



**Kyden**  
**Champion**  
**Burlington Future Stars U9**  
**August**



## Junior News

### High School Tennis Championships

Congratulations to all the senior High School players who competed in the Fall regional High School tournaments to qualify for the Provincial Championships (OFSAA) to be held in June 2020. The following are players who train or play at the Waterloo Tennis Club. A very good showing by WTC players who qualified in six of ten events. They won Gold in two events and Silver in four events.

OFSAA Qualifiers with their final result in the CWOSSA Tournament

Sadie Wang (Gold: HS Girls Singles)

Kalista Ho (Silver: HS Girls Singles)

Khaled Khalaf (Silver: HS Boys Singles)

Luke Young (Silver: Open Boys Singles)

Matt Gartner (Gold: Open Boys Doubles)

Aldiana Lazoja (Silver: Open Mixed Doubles)



**Aldiana**

**Finalist**

**Henry Farm Open**

**May**

**Aldiana is ranked 48 in the Open category in Canada at only 14 years old**



**L-R: Mateo, Ilya, Coach Ned, Aaron, Kyden**



**L-R: Yikun, Peter, Ilya & Kyden  
with Coach Martin Holy behind them.**

### Aviva U10 & U12 Team Championships November 2019

WTC sent a team to the U12 Aviva Team Championships. Coaches Ned Lazoja and Martin Holy were on court over the weekend to give advice when needed to the players. They were the youngest team in the U12 event and competed well.

U12 Boys: Mateo, Ilya, Kyden & Aaron

Two weeks later we sent a boys team to the U10 Aviva Team Championships. Coach Martin Holy was there to encourage the boys. The U10 team lost in the semifinals of the Championship flight to the eventual champs.

U10 Boys: Kyden, Ilya, Peter & Yikun