



Newsletter



President's Message



Greetings to all at WTC

What a year 2025 was! I continue to be thankful for the amazing tennis community we have at the Waterloo Tennis Club. The members, the staff and the Board are so engaged and invested in

making the club the best it can be. Thank you to April and all WTC staff for being attentive, thoughtful, helpful and welcoming. Thank you to the Board for your support in making difficult decisions and for the great dialogue that comes from trying to resolve issues. And a big thank you to the members for caring about your club.

I want to acknowledge that there is still some frustration regarding court bookings but also regarding the booking decisions the Board made before last winter. We continue to adjust our approach and while we cannot please everyone, we hope you can appreciate that we are doing our best to address member feedback. I am hopeful that moving to a new booking system sometime in 2026, will allow us to better use analytics and booking programming to make informed decisions. There will be more

information to come on this in the New Year.

I would like to ask for your patience as we continue to look for better ways to make full use of our courts. We know court availability is high in the afternoons, and we also know that booking for prime-time courts has gotten easier. We are looking at how to make changes that will see our courts as full as can be all day. While it may seem there is an easy solution to this, I want to remind you that our system capabilities are limited at the moment and nothing is as easy as it seems.

On behalf of the Board, as we close out 2025, I want to thank you for being supportive members of WTC. I look forward to seeing you on court or in the club in 2026.

Best Wishes to all!

Roxanne Chartrand
President
board@waterlootennis.com

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Manager's Message: Reflections on the Past, Looking Ahead to 2026



The publication of this newsletter is a perfect opportunity to reflect on both the good and the challenging times of the past couple of years. As I look back, I am filled with gratitude and a sense of pride. Celebrating the **110th anniversary of the Waterloo Tennis Club** was a meaningful reminder of just how special this club is — not only because of its rich history or beautiful park setting,

but because of the people who have sustained it for generations. From members who helped carry the club through its most difficult moments to those who continue to fill it with life throughout the year, the past two years have reinforced for me the strength, resilience, and sense of community that define WTC. While there have certainly been challenges along the way, I believe those moments also create opportunities for growth, fresh ideas, and renewed excitement.

I remain deeply grateful for the many individuals who keep the club running smoothly throughout the year. Our front desk staff, facilities team, coaching professionals, management team,

volunteers, and Board of Directors each play a vital role in the day-to-day and long-term success of the club. Their dedication, care, and willingness to give their time and energy do not go unnoticed, and I feel fortunate to work alongside such a committed group of people.

The year **2025** marked the celebration of two significant milestones at WTC. As mentioned earlier, our **110th anniversary**

provided a wonderful opportunity to honour the rich history of the Waterloo Tennis Club and the incredible community that has grown over the years. Former and current members came together to commemorate this special occasion, sharing stories, laughter, and

Manager's Message (con't)

memories that reminded us of the enduring legacy of tennis in the park. We were also pleased to mark **Courts Plus' 30th anniversary in business** during the Courts Plus Mixed Doubles Tournament.

On the tennis front, our juniors excelled on both the local and global stage, with one of our own representing Canada at the World Junior Championships and becoming the first Canadian to win the **Junior Orange Bowl Doubles title**. Not to be outdone, some of our more "seasoned" athletes also achieved incredible milestones in their respective categories.

The **2025 Club Championships** saw both new faces and

returning champions, with more than **125 matches played across eight divisions**.

Championship weekends were filled with energy, as family and friends gathered in large numbers to cheer on the competitors. By all accounts, it was one of the best Club Championships in recent years, with a strong sense of community shining through as the defining theme.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities in front of us. The WTC staff will continue to focus on enhancing the member experience, including exploring a new court booking system and finding ways to make the best possible use of our courts throughout the day. Just as importantly, we look forward to supporting our existing

members, welcoming new faces, and continuing to foster the sense of community that makes this club such a rewarding place to be.

Thank you to our members, staff, volunteers, and Board for your continued trust, support, and dedication. It is a privilege to be part of this club, and I look forward to another strong and positive year ahead.

Take care,

April Manahan
Club Manager
april@waterlootennis.com

Coaches Corner

With Head Pro - Kye Allen

Hello WTC Family! Coach Kye here with another riveting edition of Coaches Corner! As we gear up for the cold season ahead I wanted to talk about something a bit different this time. Usually we touch on the topic of how to improve something from a technical or tactical perspective. Today however, I would like to talk about something that might make you feel a little more warm and cozy – communication. Now you might be wondering how in the world communication relates to tennis. Well that's easy, the way you speak to yourself while on court, or off court, the way you speak with your family – it all impacts your game!

What I would like to specifically speak to in this article is the way that we as athletes, talk with ourselves and how it can impact our performance.

“You’re so stupid! Why did you hit that?! How did you miss that?! I can’t hit a serve to save my life!” Most of us have said things like this, or these phrases to ourselves throughout our respective tennis careers. Tennis is one of the most challenging sports in the world, if not the most challenging. This is a hill I will fight on. As such, emotions can run high very quickly and with this so can the level of your game, depending on how you handle them. The first line of defence for dealing with heightened emotions is the way you speak to yourself and treat yourself. We are typically very quick to blame ourselves or get angry with the way we are performing; this leads to us getting angry with ourselves and coincidentally, start taking it out on ourselves as well. Being empathetic towards yourself and showing some understanding can go a long way in the long run with your performance and even your mental health.

I welcome you to try challenging this (which inherently can be challenging!). The next time you find your emotions getting heightened try one of the following:

- Forgive yourself and move on, don’t linger on the mistake (Again tennis isn’t easy, especially when someone else is trying to win as well).
- Congratulate the other player on making a good shot – hey at the end of the day everyone makes good shots from time to time, so congratulate them on a good shot and move on.

Coaches Corner

With Head Pro Kye Allen

- Slow the cadence of your play – don't just grab a ball and try to start the next point immediately. Walk to the back, check your strings, use some positive self-talk and when you're ready, start the next point.
- Refrain from slamming the racquet, or hitting yourself – this can intensify the emotions you're feeling and lead you to spiral downwards fast or even cause injury.
- Breath deep - Slow controlled breathing especially after intense points can help center you and help you perform better in the next point.
- One of the most important points here is to celebrate the great shots you make - we are quick to criticize and slow to congratulate. If you play a good point and won then give a little fist pump, say "C'MON!" - you deserve it, you've worked hard to get to this point so congratulate yourself on being the player you are!

A quote I'd like to share: "Same hands, same racquet, same balls, different feel every day." Sports are inherently challenging for so many reasons, the prime one being that everyday is different. Some days you'll be on top of the world and others you feel like it's the first time you picked up a racquet. Knowing this I encourage you to do yourself a kindness and be gentle with yourself, talk to yourself in an uplifting manner, and always remember that you'll always have another chance to hit that huge winner.

Kye Allen
Head Pro
kye@waterlootennis.com



Marten Johnston Team Tennis Tournament



“A” Champions

L-R: Steven Liu, Christine Johnstone, Jianchu (Tarn) Huang and Liz Demers



“B” Champions

L-R: Amy Sproule Jones, Kartika Nataprawira, Rajaram Singaravelu and Chris Ziegler



“A” Finalists

L-R: Ben Langlois, Tracey Langlois, Mary Ruehlicke and Dan Langlois



“B” Finalists

L-R: Marissa Liu, Meghan Tracy, Miguel Gallardo absent - Frank Henigman



“A” Consolation Champions

L-R: Scott Jones, Beate Gauer, Nicole and Tom Irvine



“B” Consolation Champions

L-R: Kirstie Golden, Hugh Mellow, Jennifer and Dan Berry



“A” Consolation Finalists

L-R: Tiaotiao Chen, Michelle Wang, Toby Wang and Roger Qi



“B” Consolation Finalists

L-R: Mark and Helen McArdle, Jennifer and Wido Westbroek

SOCIAL MIXERS



Australian Open Mixer



Spring Mixer



Woodies & Whites Mixer

Spring Doubles Tournament



Women's Doubles

L-R: Paquita Freire and Carla Perez (Finalists)
Jovelyn Merle and Christine Johnstone (Champions)

Women's Doubles

L-R: Michelle Rogers and Nancy-Lee Ledgley
3rd Place



Men's Doubles

L-R: Dan and Ben Langlois (Champions)
Jamie Li and Toby Wang (Finalists)

Men's Doubles

L-R: Kinson Ho and Victor Kteily
3rd Place

Courts Plus Doubles Tournament



“A” Finals

L-R: John Ferland and Christine Johnstone (Champions)
Jovelyn Merle and Steven Liu (Finalists)



**Tournament sponsors from Courts Plus,
Chris Edwards and Selena West pulling
names for door prizes they provided to
celebrate their 30th year in business!**



“B” Finals
L-R: Dan and Tracey Langlois (Champions)
Kartika Nataprawira and Rajaram Singaravelu (Finalists)



Member Appreciation Day



In August, WTC held a Member Appreciation Day to celebrate its 110th Anniversary. The OTA Smash Cage was set up for members to test their serve speed and win some prizes. Coach Ben from the OTA was onsite running some free drills to warm everyone up. While members took a break and enjoyed the delicious cupcakes and chocolates, former manager, Helen McArdle teamed up with staff member, Kristin Kopic to take on Assistant Manager/ Coach, Ryan MacLean and former President, Michelle Rogers in an Exhibition Match. After the match, members played on the courts and tried out what they'd learnt in the drills and hopefully NOT what they saw in the exhibition match!



Club Championships Results 2025

From early morning matches to late night battles, Club Championships 2025 saw new and old faces duking it out on court for the glory and their name on the Wall of Champions. Through 4 days of play, 8 different divisions, and over 125 matches played, Club Championships was a huge success this year. But only one can come out on top. Here are your 2025 Champions!

Newcomer Christine Johnstone made quite the statement by winning her first Ladies Singles title 6-0, 6-0 over Pelin Gul while only dropping 6 games throughout the entire singles tournament. In the Ladies B Singles, Yow-Chan Lozada battled past Beatrice Li to secure the consolation draw win 6-4, 7-5. In the Men's Singles, a rematch of the 2024 final was set between Ryan MacLean and Lev Sherifali. Ryan was able to secure the win 7-6 (11), 7-6(5) in a 2.5-hour battle to claim his third singles championship in a row. With a merge of the two age divisions from last year (40+ and 60+) a Men's 50+ division was created. The matches did not disappoint as Joel Blit took down Daryl Howes-Jones 6-4, 7-6(6) to win the Men's 50+ Singles title. The Men's 50+ consolation final saw Greg Knight take down his doubles partner Ike Husain 6-3, 6-4.

The doubles competition kept the action and entertainment going as teams fought until the very end for the win. The Ladies Doubles saw returning champions Helen McArdle and Michelle Rogers take on Christine Johnstone and Jovelyn Merle. In a back-and-forth match, the defending champions were defeated 6-3, 6-3 crowning Christine and Jovelyn. In the Ladies B Doubles, it was a battle of youth vs experience with Nikhila Kalia and Riona Berbatovci taking down Jennifer Berry and Amy Sproule-Jones 6-2, 6-0. In the Men's Doubles final Alex Siuda and Ryan MacLean defeated Steve Nieboer and Filbert Nghiem in a tooth-and-nail match 6-4, 7-5. Kinson Ho and Ben Langois fell to the eventual champions in the first round, but made their way through the Men's B Doubles to take down Rajiv Kaushik and Steven Liu 7-5, 6-3. Defending champs Helen McArdle and Matt Buckley had their hands full with Christine Johnstone and John Ferland on the other side of the net in the Mixed Doubles. With a 7-5, 7-6 win, Christine and John came up victorious. Jovelyn Merle and Steven Liu took to the court to face Kartika Nataprawira and Scott Jones in the Mixed B Final. Jovy and Steven came out on top with a 6-4, 6-3 win.

This year also saw the introduction of sponsors for the tournament. There were 6 sponsors that made this tournament such a success and donated some amazing prizes for our champions and raffle winners. A huge thank you to: Courts Plus, Esta Chocolates, The Yeti Café, Blowing Smoke Hot Sauce, Civilian Screen Printing and Westmount Signs. Thank you to all these incredible sponsors for their donations and making this event better than ever!

A massive thank you to everyone who came out for this year's Club Championships. This event is not possible without you! Thank you to all the spectators. Whether tournament participants, family, friends, or even just people walking through the park, this event had everyone out and enjoying the matches and perfect weather that we had. Thank you to Grill Master, Ike, for BBQing up some amazing burgers, hotdogs and sausages over the two weekends for everyone to enjoy. We hope to see you all out next year!

By Ryan MacLean

Club Championships Results - Singles



Women's Singles

L-R: Pelin Gul (Finalist)
Christine Johnstone (Champion)

Men's Singles

L-R: Ryan MacLean (Champion)
Lev Sherifali (Finalist)

Singles



Women's Singles 'B'

L-R:
Yow-Chan Lozada (Champion)
Beatrice Li (Finalist)

Men's 50+ Singles

L-R:
Daryl Howes-Jones (Finalist)
Joel Blit (Champion)

Men's 50+ Singles Consolation

L-R:
Greg Knight (Champion)
Ike Husain (Finalist)

Club Championships Results - Doubles



Women's Doubles

L-R: Christine Johnstone & Jovy Merle (Champions)
Helen McArdle & Michelle Rogers (Finalists)



Men's Doubles

L-R: Steve Nieboer & Filbert Nghiem (Finalists)
Ryan MacLean & Alex Siuda (Champions)



Women's Doubles Consolation

L-R: Jen Berry & Amy Sproule Jones (Finalists)
Nikhila Kalia & Riona Berbatovci (Champions)



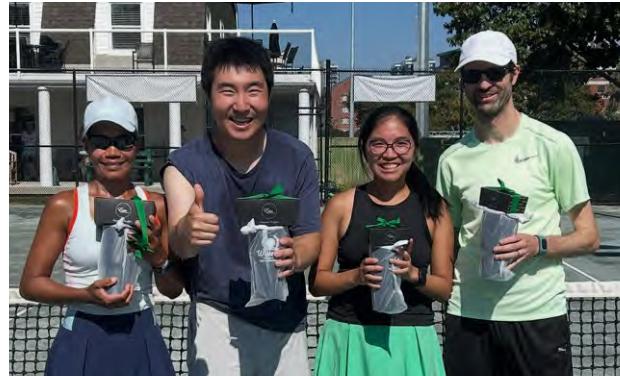
Men's Doubles Consolation

Steven Liu & Rajiv Kaushik (Finalists)
Kinson Ho & Ben Langlois (Champions)



Mixed Doubles

L-R: Matt Buckley & Helen McArdle (Finalists)
Christine Johnstone & John Ferland (Champions)



Mixed Doubles Consolation

L-R: Jovy Merle & Steven Liu (Champions)
Kartika Nataprawira & Scott Jones (Finalists)

Interurban Report

The 2025 Interurban Season started with tryouts on Apr 29 and May 1, where we had over 35 people try out! This year because of the depth of players at our club, it was decided to enter two teams into the Interurban League. After tryouts the captains of each team, Michelle Rogers (last year's captain) and Beate Gauer (who stepped up to captain the second team) along with former captain Alex Siuda and coaches Mike, Mo and Matt divided the players into two teams of similar levels. Over the summer the teams competed against each other as well as teams from Cambridge Tennis Club, Hespeler Tennis Club, Royal City Tennis Club and Victoria Park Tennis Club.

The league tried an altered game format this year, in an effort to limit the length of play. A timed format was used, with the mixed doubles teams playing for 55 minutes followed by doubles for another 55 minutes, so players would be done in 2 hours.

Team 1

Our team enjoyed the competitive matches and not late nights of this season's interurban play. The competition was the most fun when we had to play our fellow club members on Team 2. In both cases we won the "Battle of Waterloo"!



At the end of the regular season we were in fourth place for the league. Because of the new format, this unfortunately meant that we could not compete for the cup as only the top three teams had this honour. The bottom three teams would compete to determine 4th to 6th place. We got a bye into the finals as we awaited which team would emerge from the semis. We were victorious in the finals to retain our number four spot in the league.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our team, and as always, to the staff at WTC for facilitating our practices and games. A special shout-out to Nikki for going 'above-and-beyond', doing extra sweeps to try to dry the wet courts. The effort was truly appreciated, although I believe that it was in vain – the rain won.

Women: Marleen Allen-ter Mors, Judy Cooper, Sue Kitchen, Tracey Langlois, Nancy-Lee Ledgley, Yow-Chan Lozada, Helen McArdle, Andy McMurdo, Michelle Rogers

Men: Kelvin Hui, Rajiv Kaushik, Kristian Kopic, Dan Langlois, Steven Liu, Yasong Mo, Steve Nieboer, Tai Nguyen, Reserve players: Harold Lam, Titus Trans

Submitted by Michelle Rogers



Interurban Report Team 2



First Season, Strong Team Spirit – and Only Stopped in the Final

In the very first season, the Waterloo team 2 showed remarkable development. What began as a new group full of excitement and curiosity quickly turned into a true success story filled with energy, unity, and sporting highlights.

A Season Full of Enthusiasm

It became clear early on that this team had much more to offer than just technical skill. The harmony within the group was noticeable from the very first training session, and the shared joy of playing tennis shaped every match. Both on and off the court, the positive atmosphere was evident and reflected in their performances.

Success Up to the Very Last Match

Despite being a newly formed team, the players improved from match to match and managed to surpass several strong opponents. They impressed with determination, fair play, and remarkable mental strength.

The well-deserved reward: reaching the final against Hespeler in their very first season—proof of the great potential within this team. Even though they were narrowly defeated in the final, pride in their achievement and the journey that led them there clearly outweighs any disappointment.

Women: Paquita Freire, Beate Gauer, Monica Heinrich, Nicole Irvine, Nikhila Kalia, Marissa Lui, Jovy Merle, Kartika Nataprawira
Reserves: Irene Jansen, Julie Smyth, Meghan Tracy

Men: Joaquin Bardallo Bandera, Joel Blit, Thomas Irvine, Scott Jones, Stefan Karpuzov, Gregory Knight, Bao Lum, Eric Minardi, Tibor Pal, Nazarii Pavlyshen, Spencer Tully

Submitted by

Beate Gauer

Intercity (Over 55) League 2024/2025 Report

For the second consecutive year, the senior league added another club to its roster in 2024. The existing five - Ancaster, Victoria Park (Cambridge), Rosedale (Hamilton), Port Dover and Waterloo welcomed the Westmount Golf and Country club. With six teams in the draw, a home and away match against every other team provided an ideal number of matches and allowed for a tidier and more equitable schedule than previous years. The season began June 4 and ended September 3 with two weeks in-between left free to accommodate unplayed matches during the season.

The 2024 season was a challenge for Waterloo from start to finish, made so by drawing defending champions of 2023 Victoria Park as its first round opponents played on their hard courts on what was an unusually hot day for early June. Waterloo was beaten handily and for the first time since its participation in the league, the club was in the unfamiliar position of near last, but was fortunate that it occurred early in the season. We were able to improve our standing with some very fine but still inconsistent performances. By mid-season, however, Waterloo had climbed to 3rd place. Our next match at this season's juncture was against Westmount which was then no. 2 in the standing.

During this time, news of the passing of Rudy Gatzke, captain of the senior team from 2016 till 2023, was received. He died August 6. Strangely, our consistent results were to come after this date, starting August 13 in the return match against Westmount. We came away with a 20-4 win on their home turf. This was followed by another dazzling WTC team performance a week later to sweep Port Dover 24-0 to avenge our previous loss to them to close out the regular season in second place behind Victoria Park.

In our semi-final playoff Waterloo hosted third- placed Westmount and had a satisfying 21-3 win to send us to the final against Victoria Park where we lost 9-15. For the second consecutive year, WTC was second in the regular season and finalist in the championship final behind Victoria Park, once again, deserving champions. Our season had come full circle. We started against VP and ended with them. The first was due to luck of the draw; the last was a privilege earned through our efforts.

We dedicated the 2024 achievement to Rudy Gatzke for his efforts in getting WTC to join the league in 2016, and who also succeeded in establishing the club as a perennial title contender.

The 2025 season started with disappointing news of the loss of Ancaster and Rosedale clubs. Still, it left four clubs which were unwavering in their commitment to the league - Port Dover, where it started, Westmount, Victoria Park in Cambridge, and Waterloo. Here, new faces joined the evergreen stalwarts of previous years. The newcomers brought more depth to the WTC team and just as well they did because 2025 was to be a season of closely-contested matches, never before experienced in this league.

Intercity (Over 55) League

The battle for supremacy was fought mainly by the three clubs in the Waterloo Region. The scores became almost monotonous with 13-11 or 11-13 being reported, and with many of those close encounters the result of one error in deciding games. They made for very exciting and nail biting viewing and enjoyable tennis for the players. Only against Port Dover were the scores wide-ranging. This fact, however, was to play a critical role in how the clubs placed after the regular season. With just one bad loss to Port Dover, Westmount ended up in third place leaving Waterloo and Victoria Park tied with the same number of games for first place. Victoria Park, on the basis of their head to head results against Waterloo, were given the nod as top finishers.

The much anticipated playoff semi-final between Waterloo and third- placed Westmount never took place because the latter was not able to field enough qualified players, this being August, the popular vacation time for many. It was an unfortunate way to end what had been a well-played and mostly successful season. Waterloo, given a free pass with the default, faced two-time defending champion Victoria Park in Cambridge which had overwhelmed Port Dover in their semi-final playoff. The final, too, had its own twist and turns when Mother Nature took charge. The day of the final was called off due to the forecast of imminent rain. The following week, play started but under the threat of rain. Before two rounds (of three) could be completed, play was stopped twice when the rain came. It was after the third stoppage that the captains agreed to call it a draw and the two teams declared co-winners of the 2025 season, which I believe was another first in this league's young history, and perhaps a fitting end to this closely-contested season.

Congratulations and grateful thanks to all the players who represented the club and remained faithful to the cause throughout the season. It is never smooth sailing when so many factors can play a part in upsetting the best well-laid plans. However, due to the depth of the Waterloo team, and the dedication of its members, we have been able to acquit ourselves honourably on and off the court, year after year. Next year, 2026, the senior team will have this year's co-captain, Kelvin Hui at the helm. Kelvin has been one of its most dedicated and experienced player. The team is fortunate that he has agreed to take over the reins and I'm sure all will benefit from his leadership. It has been my privilege to work in that capacity for the past four years, two years helping Rudy, and the last two as the official captain. I am certain Kelvin will receive the same cooperation and support given to me during my tenure. We thank the club management and staff for facilitating our practice times and matches.

The 2024 team members:

Women: Anne Brisland, Leovina Canete, Anne Cerar, Pat Craton, Martha D'Agostino, Janet Haraszthy, Irene Janzen, Nancy-Lee Ledgley, Susan Ovenden, Joanne Patterson

Men: Chris Batchelor, Chris Edwards, Ed D'Agostino, Marek Gwozdz, Kelvin Hui, Ike Hussain, Hugh Mellow, Mike Watson, Ed Twardus.

Intercity (Over 55) League

The 2025 team members:

Women: Ruth Brydges, Martha D'Agostino, Irene Janzen, Nancy-Lee Ledgley, Kirstie Golden, Susan Ovenden, Joanne Patterson, Michelle Rogers, Ayling Wang. Reserves: Leovina Canete, Anne Cerar, Pat Craton, Janet Cooke.

Men: Chris Batchelor, Chris Edwards, Dan Berry, Marek Gwozdz, Ike Hussain, Kelvin Hui, Ed Twardus. Reserves: Hugh Mellow, Michael Watson, Jim Weiler.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Craton

Captain 2024/2025



L-R Nancy Lee-Ledgley, Ay-ling Wang, Pat Craton, Martha D'Agostino, Irene Janzen, Kelvin Hui.

Not pictured: Chris Batchelor, Dan Berry and Chris Edwards.

Photo courtesy of Gwen Chiasson, VP's captain

WTC Members Competing in Masters Events

2025 saw many of our senior athletes competing in ITF Masters tournaments around the country. Pat Babcock triumphed in four 65+ Ladies' events this year! She won the singles events in London and Mississauga and the doubles events in Mont-Tremblant and London. Helen McArdle and Michelle Rogers claimed the 55+ Ladies' Doubles title in Mississauga. Ed Twardus won the 70+ Head Mixed Doubles event. John Tibbits won two ITF titles in the 80+ category in London and Vancouver and competed at Worlds in Croatia.



Pat Babcock (left)



Helen McArdle & Michelle Rogers (far right)



Ed Twardus



John Tibbits

The Canadian ITF Masters Nationals was held in Vancouver, BC from August 24 to August 30th. Five club members made the long trip out west to compete, Pat Babcock, Helen McArdle, Michelle Rogers, Daryl Howes-Jones and John Tibbits. Everyone made at least the quarterfinals of their events. Daryl made the finals of the 70+ event and John won the 80+ event! Pat came in 3rd in the 65+ singles and made the finals of the 65+ doubles event. Helen and Michelle were playing in their first nationals and made the quarterfinals before losing to the eventual champs.

Pat Babcock
(3rd from left)Daryl Howes-Jones
(Far right)John Tibbits
(Far right)Helen & Michelle
(Left)

WTC Junior Profile

Ilya Sherifali

Ilya Sherifali is a 14-year-old junior who's been training at the Waterloo Tennis Club since he was 4. He's a very well-rounded all-court player and is very committed with WTC's high performance programs, private lessons and fitness sessions.

Ilya continues to grow his game each year and 2025 has brought him many successful experiences. Ilya's been on the road a lot (British Columbia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Brazil, USA, Sweden, France, Czechia, Slovakia) and he's becoming a very disciplined student-athlete.

Internationally, he accomplished his goal of representing Team Canada at the World Junior Championships! Ilya's also a Doubles Champion at the Junior Orange Bowl (First Canadian to do so)! He competed in the ITF J30 (twice a finalist) and J60 categories (semifinals). His confidence really grew when he was battling with the top seeds at the ITF Tennis Europe Super Series in Sweden.

Nationally, he won the Doubles Outdoor Championships and he was the Finalist for Singles and Doubles at the Indoor Championships.

The Waterloo Tennis Club is extremely proud of him and we look forward to seeing where his game goes in 2026!

Submitted by
Milos Jovkovic



Ilya Sherifali (right)
Junior Orange Bowl
Doubles Champion
Florida



Junior Club Champions

U12 Co-ed Singles
L-R: Ridit Singh (Champion)
Robyn Allen (Finalist)



U16 Girls Singles
L-R: Aarna Kaushik (Champion)
Ava Allen (Finalist)

Fall Events

1
1
1
0



**Let's Be
Thankful
Mixed
Doubles
Tournament**



**L-R: Kat Hintze & Spencer Tully (Champions)
Nicole Irvine & Bao Lam (Finalists)**

Halloween Mixer



There were lots of great costumes worn at the Halloween Mixer in 2025! After the votes were counted, Marissa Liu-Glaister riding the inflatable rainbow chicken (see left) won the Best Costume of the night. Steven Liu as pickleball (see right) was a close second!



ATP/WTA Finals Doubles Tournament



**L-R: Ariel Xu & Vera Sobotka (finalists), Beate Gauer & Paquita Freire (champions),
Jason Erb & Bob Tamblyn (champions), Frank Bonet and Justin Lahey (finalists)**

Winter Events 2024



“G’day Mate” Social Mixer and Aussie Open Watch Party

Marten Johnston Team Tennis Tournament



“A” Champion Team

L-R: Ryan Hummel & Roxanne Chartrand
Ann MacMillan & Anton Charko

“B” Champion Team

L-R: Marcel Rybensky & Kartika Nataprawira
Raj Singaravelu & Amy Sproule Jones



Left: Ilya & Lev Sherifali (Men’s Champs)
Right: Jovy Merle & Beate Gauer (Women’s Champs)



Opening Day Boot Camp 2024

On Victoria Day the club held our Opening Day Boot Camp. Our coaches, Kye Allen, Martin Holy, Milos Jovkovic, Mohsen Soleimaniipour, Mike Ratcliff, and Lev Sherifali put members through their paces to get them ready for the summer season.



Spring Mixer



Courts Plus Mixed Doubles Tournament



On Saturday June 1st, 48 players came out to compete in the Courts Plus Mixed Doubles tournament. Kristian Kopic was the tournament director. Here he is getting the prizes that were donated by Chris Edwards, owner of Courts Plus.



Mixed Doubles 'A'

L-R

Seth Simmons & Nikki Kalia (Champions),
Tiago Costa & Marissa Liu (Finalists)



Mixed Doubles 'B'

L-R

Dan & Tracey Langlois (Champions),
Heidi & Greg Knight (Finalists)

Woodies & Whites Mixer



Club Championships Results 2024

This year Club Championships went back to its original format for the first time in 4 years where a dedicated weekend was set for each draw. Under the blazing sun, gusty winds, and even a few rain showers, players battled it out on the tennis courts, all vying for a place in history and their name on the coveted trophies. Over the course of 7 intense draws and 100 action-packed matches, familiar faces battled to defend their titles, while fresh new talent made their Championship debut, adding an exciting twist to this unforgettable competition.

Here are your Champions! The Ladies Singles saw Michelle Rogers claim a back-to-back Club Championship title with a 2-6, 6-4, 10-7 victory over Jovy Merle. In the Ladies B Singles, newcomer Julie Smyth triumphed over Tiaotiao Chen 6-4, 7-5 to win the consolation draw. On the Men's side, Ryan MacLean secured his second consecutive Men's Singles title with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Lev Sherifali. This year also marked the introduction of two new divisions in the Men's Singles: the 40+ and 60+ categories. In a thrilling 40+ final, Wayne Rabley defeated Moez Kanoun 2-6, 7-6, 12-10. Meanwhile, in the 60+ division, Mark Carlin defeated Hugh Mellow 6-2, 6-1 to close out the singles events.

The doubles competitions were packed with excitement! The Ladies Doubles saw the dynamic duo of Helen McArdle and Michelle Rogers defeat Roxanne Chartrand and Ann MacMillan 6-0, 6-0 to secure their second consecutive title. In the Ladies B Doubles, Ava Allen and Nikhila Kalia emerged victorious, defeating Pat Craton and Kartika Nataprawira 6-4, 6-3. The Men's Doubles draw was full of drama, with Ryan MacLean and Filbert Nghiem securing their second consecutive title after a 6-1, 6-4 win over Hendrick Scheele and Kristian Kopic. In a thrilling back-and-forth battle, Frank Bonet and Stefan Karpuzov clinched the win against Marek Gwozdz and Scott Jones 4-6, 7-6, 10-4. In the Mixed Doubles Club Championship, Helen McArdle and Matt Buckley returned to the winner's circle with a victory over Jie-Hee Park and Kristian Kopic 6-4, 7-5. In the Mixed Doubles B draw, Nikhila Kalia and Lev Sherifali triumphed over Jovy Merle and Kinson Ho 6-3, 6-1.

A huge thank you to all the players who competed in this year's Club Championships. Your dedication, skill, and sportsmanship made these tournaments exciting and memorable events. Whether you were defending a title or making your debut, every match showcased the incredible talent within our community.

A special thank you to our Tournament Director, Ryan MacLean, for your tireless effort in organizing and running such smooth and enjoyable competitions. Your hard work behind the scenes ensured everything went off without a hitch, and we are truly grateful for all your planning, coordination, and attention to detail.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Club Championships Results



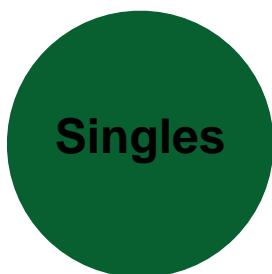
Women's Singles

L-R: Michelle Rogers (Champion)
Jovelyn Merle (Finalist)



Men's Singles

L-R: Lev Sherifali (Finalist)
Ryan MacLean (Champion)



Men's 40+ Singles

L-R: Moez Kanoun (Finalist)
Wayne Rabley (Champion)



Women's Singles 'B'

L-R: Tiaotiao Chen (Finalist)
Julie Smyth (Champion)



Men's 60+ Singles

L-R: Mark Carlin (Champion)
Hugh Mellow (Finalist)

Club Championships Results - Doubles



Women's 'A' Doubles

L-R: Helen McArdle & Michelle Rogers (Champions)
Ann MacMillan & Roxanne Chartrand (Finalists)



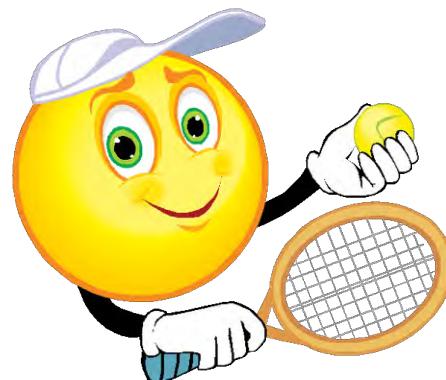
Men's 'A' Doubles

L-R: Hendrick Scheele and Kristian Kopic (Finalists)
Filbert Nghiem & Ryan MacLean (Champions)



Women's 'B' Doubles

L-R: Nikhila Kalia & Ava Allen (Champions)
Pat Craton & Kartika Nataprawira (Finalists)



Men's 'B' Doubles

Frank Bonet and Stefan Karpuzov (Champions)
Marek Gwozdz and Scott Jones (Finalists)



Mixed 'A' Doubles

L-R: Matt Buckley & Helen McArdle (Champions)
Kristian Kopic & Jie-Hee Park (Finalists)



Mixed 'B' Doubles

L-R: Kinson Ho & Jovy Merle (Finalists)
Nikhila Kalia & Lev Sherifali (Champions)

Interurban League



Our Interurban league has been around since the 1950's. It offers a rich history of competitive and fun play, while building our tennis community in the Waterloo region.

The 2024 season was short, but action packed. With Greystone not able to participate, our league was limited to only four powerhouse teams: WTC, Royal City, Hespeler and Cambridge. Our season began May 21st, with the last game July 30th. Despite there being only 4 teams, the league was very competitive.

We welcomed back a number players, with the addition of some first time players. Being on the team requires players to practice on Sundays and play match games on Tuesday evenings, sometimes until 11 pm. We went into the semi-finals in 3rd place and faced Hespeler, the number 2 team. We narrowly beat Hespeler in the semi's, and then faced the number 1 team, Royal City in the finals. I am happy and super proud to report that WTC was victorious, bringing home the trophy again. Thank you to each and every one of you for your commitment, camaraderie and dedication to our team's success this year.

Thank you to everyone at WTC for coming out to support our team, and to the staff at WTC for helping to facilitate our practices and games. A special shout-out to Nikki for her extra efforts to dry the courts when it rained. The team appreciates everyone's support!

A personal thank you to Alex Suida for mentoring me in my inaugural year as IU captain!!

Wishing everyone at WTC a Happy Holiday Season, with much fun and competitive tennis in 2025!!

Women: Liz Demers, Paquita Freire, Beate Gauer, Ioana Hungerford, Nicole Irvine, Marissa Liu, Helen McArdle, Andy McMurdo, Jovy Merle, Kartika Nataprawira, Michelle Rogers.

Reserves – Martha D'Agostino, Irene Janzen, Tracey Langlois, Nancy-Lee Ledgley

Men: Joaquin Bandera, Joel Blit, Anton Charko, Kelvin Hui, Tom Irvine, Scott Jones, Moez Kanoun, Bao Lam, Dan Langlois, Eric Minardi, Bob Tamblyn **Reserves** – Tiago Costa

Written by Michelle Rogers

Let's Be Thankful Mixed Doubles Tournament

On Thanksgiving Monday, we held our "Let's Be Thankful" Mixed Doubles Tournament. Participants donated food or money to the The Food Bank of Waterloo Region! Everyone enjoyed the competition and being able to work off their Thanksgiving dinner. Congrats to the winners, Paquita Freire and Fabricio Perez and runner-ups Liz Demers and Victor Kteily.



**L-R: Victor Kteily and Liz Demers (Finalists)
Paquita Freire and Fabricio Perez (Champions)**



Halloween Mixer



There were some creative costumes worn at the Halloween Mixer this year! After the votes were counted, Steven Liu as the tooth fairy (see left) won the Best Costume of the night. Toby Wang being hugged by an alien (see right) was a close second!



Fall Boot Camp



On November 9 we held our Fall Boot Camp to get members ready for the indoor season. A big thank you to our coaches Kye, Lev, Martin and Mike for running this spectacular event!

Fall Doubles Tournament

On November 17 the club hosted a Men's and Women's Doubles Tournament. At the end of the day, Bob Tamblyn and John Ferland defeated Dan and Ben Langlois in the Men's final and Jovy Merle and Christine Shamji defeated Helen McArdle and Tracey Langlois in the Women's final.



L-R: Bob Tamblyn & John Ferland (Champions)
Ben & Dan Langlois (Finalists)



L-R: Christine Shamji & Jovy Merle (Champions)
Helen McArdle & Tracey Langlois (Finalists)

University of Waterloo Varsity

Warriors Finish Fourth at OUA Tennis Championship

The OUA Tennis Championships returned to the Mayfair Club (East) from October 11-13, uniting eight teams for a weekend of high-level competition. The Waterloo Warriors entered with determination, ready to make their mark.

On the opening day, both Waterloo teams delivered impressive performances. The women's team triumphed over the Ottawa Gee-Gees with a 5-2 victory, while the men's team secured a solid 5-2 win over Brock, earning both squads spots in the semifinals.

In the semifinals, Waterloo faced formidable opponents. The women's team met McMaster and fell 6-1, while the men's team was swept 7-0 by Western. Despite these setbacks, the Warriors approached Sunday's bronze medal matches with renewed focus.

The women's team faced a familiar opponent in the Western Mustangs. Western took an early lead by capturing both doubles matches. In singles, Waterloo mounted a strong comeback, led by Aldiana Lazoja (Kitchener) with a decisive 6-4, 6-0 win, and Madeleine Alexander (London), who dominated with a 6-3, 6-0 victory. Despite these efforts, the Mustangs ultimately clinched the bronze, winning the remaining singles points. Alexander's consistent season performance earned her an OUA All-Star title, placing her among the top six athletes in the league. Reflecting on the season, she said, "The biggest strengths of the team are that we have positive energy and are very supportive of each other on and off the court. These attributes helped us win many close matches." Nicole Fitzpatrick (Caledon), who concluded a distinguished five-year career with the Warriors, will be moving on, leaving a lasting legacy.

The men's team, meanwhile, squared off in a rematch with York in a repeat of last year's bronze medal contest. York took control with two doubles wins, though Pavle Milic (Toronto) and Matthew Li (Guelph) prevented a sweep with a hard-fought doubles victory. However, York's dominance in the singles matches ultimately secured their bronze medal. Milic's strong season also earned him OUA All-Star recognition, marking his impactful contributions. Reflecting on his time with the Warriors, Milic remarked, "The bond we built through shared victories and defeats will always remind me of what it truly means to be part of something bigger than myself."

Both Waterloo teams closed the championships in fourth place, capping a season defined by resilience and skill. The Warriors demonstrated their tenacity and have set their sights on a strong return next season.

Submitted by Ned Lazoja (UW Varsity Coach)



WTC Juniors Compete Away From Home

In 2024, several of our rising tennis stars have made their mark in impressive ways!

Dania Ahmed dominated the U10 girls' singles Rookie Tour, securing an incredible three event victories. Asena Kiamil claimed victory in one U10 girls' Rookie Tour event. Bardia Hashemi had a successful season as well, making the finals of three U10 boys' Rookie Tour events. Deniz Aydemir also made waves, where he achieved significant results in three U10 boys' singles Rookie Tour while Haris Hadziavdic was a finalist in one U10 boys Rising Stars tournament.



Dania Ahmed



Asena Kiamil



Bardia Hashemi



Deniz Aydemir



Haris Hadziavdic

Emma Allen showcased her exceptional skills, taking home 14 titles, including three U12 girls' 3-star tournaments. Meanwhile, Emma Dobrean shone in Florida, winning the Girls U12 L5 USTA Diadem Junior Championships. Sunandita Pal took home an impressive 5 titles this year, including a Girls U12 3-star victory. In December, Devin Sum made it to the finals of her first 3 star tournament. This was her 51st match of the year.



Emma Allen



Emma Dobrean



Devin Sum

WTC Juniors Compete Away From Home

Ava Allen celebrated a major milestone by winning her first U14 girls' singles title at the OTA Transition Tour. Seemontini Pal made a mark in doubles, winning a U14 girls' doubles title, and also triumphed in the U18 girls' singles 2-star event. Riona Berbatovci brought home two titles in U14 events.



Ava Allen



Riona Berbatovci

Ilya Sherifali had a standout year with 2 titles, one in U16 and one in U18 at the 3-star level. Ilya was also named to the U15 Canadian Prospect Team, a testament to his rising potential. We wish him luck as he competes for Canada at the Tim Essonne J1 in Paris and the Kungens Kanna & Drottningens Pris Super Series event in Stockholm Sweden in February. Ilya's older brother, Lev made the semi-finals in singles and the finals in doubles in the Justin Bourassa Memorial tournament in Sarnia which featured ATP players.



Ilya Sherifali



Lev Sherifali

What an incredible year for these talented junior athletes!

Submitted by Ryan MacLean

WTC Members Compete Away From Home

Our adult athletes also had an outstanding year with some remarkable results! Pat Babcock triumphed in the Over 65+ Ladies' Singles at the MT700 in Mississauga. Helen McArdle claimed the 55+ Ladies' Doubles title at the MT400 in London. Michelle Rogers partnered up to take home the 50+ Women's Doubles title at the MT700 in Mississauga.



Pat Babcock



Helen McArdle (left)



Michelle Rogers (left)

Ryan MacLean had an exceptional season, capturing the 5.0 Men's Singles Provincials title in Davisville and the 5.0 title at WTC this summer. Alex Siuda clinched the MT200 Calgary Men's 30+ Doubles title. Hugh Mellow shone at the Kingston Masters, winning the 75+ Men's Singles title. John Tibbits dominated with 4 ITF titles in the 75+ and 80+ categories.



Ryan MacLean



Alex Siuda (left)



Hugh Mellow (left)



John Tibbits (right)

WTC Members Compete Away From Home

At the 2024 Stratford Doubles Invitational, WTC had an impressive showing, with over 20 members competing. In an all-WTC men's final, Kristian Kopic and Ryan MacLean defeated Matt Gartner and Spencer Tully in a rain-soaked match. On the women's side, Michelle Rogers and Ay-Ling Wang fought their way to the final, overcoming fellow members, but ultimately lost to the Stratford home team after an extended rain delay.



A fantastic year for our adult competitors!

As we wrap up the year, we want to congratulate all of our juniors and adults for your amazing achievements in the tournaments. While we may not have every name, we truly appreciate all the hard work and dedication you've shown.

Whether you were new to the competition or building on past successes, your effort and sportsmanship have made this year special. We're excited to see even more great things from you in the year ahead.

Submitted by Ryan MacLean

Coaches



Kye Allen
Head Pro



Neil Fogarty



Pelin Gul



Martin Holy



Milos Jovkovic
Tennis Director



Matt Kovacs



Ryan MacLean



Kartika Nataprawira



Mike Ratcliff



Harir
Shaghaghigandovani



Lev Sherifali



Olivia Szczepanek

Interested in lessons with one of the above coaches? Log on and click 'Book A Private Lesson' under the 'Register for Programs, Lessons, Camps & Events' tab. You will see the contact info and pricing for coaches offering lessons.

WTC STAFF



Neil Fogarty



Andrew Gillard



Kathy Gregory



Kat Hintze



Kristian Kopic

Ryan MacLean
Assistant ManagerApril Manahan
Manager

Michael Plaksa

Bill Roth
Maintenance Manager

Lev Sherifali



Spencer Tully



Nick White

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