

## ONEC TENNIS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – SUMMER 2016

### i. General

It was a successful year for tennis at ONEC. Membership remained level but membership revenues rose. Feedback from tennis members suggested that, above all, members were very pleased with the condition and maintenance of the courts. Members also indicated they were pleased with the outdoor seating area, recently equipped with new chairs and a large awning. This upgrade added to the relaxing and collegial atmosphere many associate closely with the club.

The sport of pickleball also made its debut at ONEC this summer. The far hard court was repainted with pickleball lines and ONEC attracted 16 pickleball members.

Continuing the trend of years past, ONEC lost members to other clubs that either have competitive membership rates or offer a superior facility. ONEC nonetheless attracted several groups of members who brought their energy and participation to the club and made its atmosphere more attractive. The key for next year will be to retain as many current members as possible, while attracting as many new members as we can find.

Tennis day camp numbers were below the numbers attained last year. There were several weeks this summer when our camps had the most attendance they have had in at least six years. However, on a couple of weeks the numbers were quite low and, bigger picture, ONEC held day camps for only eight weeks this year instead of the usual nine. Our instructors again displayed maturity and leadership; I heard very few complaints from day campers, parents and members and heard, for the most part, mostly compliments from.

### ii. Expenditures

Expenditures were spread around a variety of purchases this year.

The main planned expenditure for next year is a new roller. Clay will also have to be purchased before spring 2017, but as this represents three years' worth of clay, its expense can be amortized over that longer period. The club is also looking at having the backboard hitting area resurfaced.

### iii. Big news items

During the third week of August, ONEC was honoured to host most of the over 70s draws for the Steve Stephens National Seniors tournament held in Ottawa. The calibre of play among these most eldest age categories drew many spectators and garnered much admiration. The weather cooperated, for the most part, during the week. Participants were very complimentary of the job ONEC did in hosting the tournament and, likewise, ONEC's tournament organizers and volunteers found the participants in the tournament to be cheery and great ambassadors for the game. Special thanks to Bernie, the volunteers and the staff (Sasha Stojanovic in particular, as tournament coordinator) for pulling off a successful event.

ONEC also forged a new relationship with the Noble Tennis School. This program garnered ONEC 11 new junior members and helped to increase court usage during the club's slowest period during the day.

### iv. Issues

Some issues of note include:

- Some members expressed an interest in participating more closely in the decision-making of the club. As such, tennis will seek to organize and convene a tennis committee for next year.
- Many of the staff hired for the summer departed earlier than usual in the summer (mid-August). This created extra work in terms of hiring and training new staff, along with the associated headaches for the manager of having to deal with the learning curve of these new staff as they attempted to learn the job. This situation was far from ideal and ONEC's staff structure will need to be re-examined before next summer.

**v. Miscellaneous information**

Other items of note:

- The summer pavilion staff were very strong and competent this year. Four were returnees from last summer, two new. Members were very complimentary of their work. My thanks to them.
- The club would not have been able to function without the effort and time put in by numerous volunteers, including Phil Hurcomb, Bob Cyr, Marc Barnes, Louis Rozman, Russ Stubbert, Yvonne Malbasha, Denis Bureau and others.
- ONEC again hosted the NCTA over 45/65 tournament. Feedback from participants about the courts, the facilities, and the atmosphere was positive.
- ONEC continued and solidified its relationship with Elwood. For several weeks in the spring and fall, students from Elmwood used ONEC's hard courts twice per week.
- The ONEC tournament had a large number of participants. The second annual MacKellar Cup was also held.
- The Davis Cup was extremely well attended. 70 to 75 members participated. Thanks to the organizer Cait Hurcomb.
- Tennis members turned out in large numbers to the Thursday Night Boathouse Pub Night. This was a brilliant initiative and I think tennis members look forward to taking advantage of more opportunities to check out ONEC's boathouse and its unparalleled view of the Ottawa River.
- A group of ONEC tennis players organized a large, successful and fun end of the season banquet (potluck featuring Bernard Fortier's band) at the Boathouse. Special thanks to the committee of tennis members who organized this fun event.
- Last but not least, tennis members would like to thank Bernie once again for his hard work and dedication to the club that are unsurpassed by any manager I've seen in my time at ONEC. Bernie is the heart and mind of the club.

Forgive me if I did not recognize your contribution to ONEC. It was a great summer and I enjoyed being ONEC's tennis director immensely. Thank you for this opportunity.

Andre Barnes