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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR TENNIS MANITOBA

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# 2010

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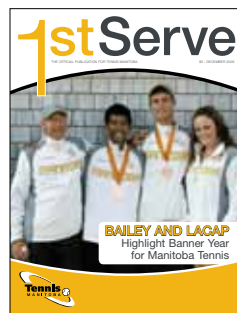


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#### ON THE COVER:

Canada Games Head Coach Peter Otto (L) with Men's  
Doubles Bronze Medalists, (L-R) Chad LaCap, Sean  
Bailey and Canada Games Manager, Kyla McNicol

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## CHAIR'S Message



Jim Millican  
Chair, *Raising a Racquet*  
for Kids Organizing Committee



On behalf of the *Raising a Racquet for Kids* organizing committee it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 4th Annual Tennis Manitoba Awards Banquet. This special event is one of the highlights of the year when the tennis community comes together to recognize the accomplishments of the top players and volunteers in the province.

Looking back, it is clear that 2009 was a banner year for tennis in Manitoba. Winnipeg's Lee Carter recently captured his 3rd consecutive Birmingham National Wheelchair Championship. Sean Bailey and Chad LaCap earned Manitoba's first Canada Summer Games tennis medal since 1973 by defeating Alberta to win the Bronze Medal in Men's Doubles at the Games in Prince Edward Island. With the tremendous support of Kids Dental 500 racquets were given to children at the Kids TennisFest at Sargent Park in the spring. Manitoba was second only to Ontario in number of Rogers Rookie Tour events and number of participants. Progressive Tennis programs continued to expand as evidenced by the \$30,000 worth of equipment sold to clubs, schools, community centers and universities during the past year.

A special thank you to Frank Dancevic, Peter Polansky, Philip Bester and Martin Laurendeau for contributing their time, energy and talent to our efforts to raise funds for tennis development. Tennis Canada continues to be a great partner as we work together to grow the game at all levels.

Finally, our thanks to the major sponsors of the *Raising a Racquet for Kids* fundraiser. Kids Dental, John Pollard and the Paletta Group are generous and committed supporters that enable us to grow tennis development programs in this province. We are grateful for their investment and belief that tennis matters in Manitoba. ●



# MEMBER CLUB AWARDS

## Club Champions

**Kildonan Tennis Club** ..... Mark Arndt  
**Deer Lodge Tennis Club** ..... Nathan Bodnarchuk  
**Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club** ..... Joseph Langan

## Volunteers

**Kildonan Tennis Club** ..... Shirley Jones  
**Portage Tennis Club** ..... Jim Malenchak  
**Glendale Golf & CC** ..... Rick Meurrons  
**Deer Lodge Tennis Club** ..... Petra Nicolaus & Louis Gaal  
**Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club** ..... Les Karakas  
**Winnipeg Winter Club** ..... Lisa Lucht  
**Taylor Tennis** ..... Werner Krempin

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## 2009 Tennis Manitoba Awards Banquet

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# 2009 TENNIS MANITOBA POINTS LEADERS

## Open Tour

<b>Men's Open Singles</b> .....	Doug DeVriendt
<b>Women's Open Singles</b> .....	Evann Waschuk
<b>Men's 4.5 Singles</b> .....	Alan Gardiner
<b>Women's 4.5 Singles</b> .....	Lori Mann
<b>Men's 3.5 Singles</b> .....	Jake Bergen

<b>Men's Open Doubles</b> .....	Jared Connell
<b>Women's Open Doubles</b> .....	Evann Waschuk
<b>Mixed Open Doubles</b> .....	Evann Waschuk
<b>Men's 4.5 Doubles</b> .....	Gregg Tkachuk
<b>Women's 4.5 Doubles</b> .....	Lori Mann

## Junior Tour

<b>U12 Girls Singles</b> .....	Lea Chowdhury
<b>U14 Girls Singles</b> .....	Alexia Cholakis
<b>U16 Girls Singles</b> .....	Alexia Cholakis
<b>U18 Girls Singles</b> .....	Clarissa Chen

<b>U12 Boys Singles</b> .....	Connor Davies
<b>U14 Boys Singles</b> .....	Eagan Peters
<b>U16 Boys Singles</b> .....	Igal Mostkov
<b>U18 Boys Singles</b> .....	Igal Mostkov / Chad LaCap

## Senior Tour

<b>Men's 35+ Singles</b> .....	Marc Lloyd
<b>Women's 35+ Singles</b> .....	Lori Mann
<b>Men's 55+ Singles</b> .....	Jim Gillies

*Note: The 2009 Tennis Manitoba points leaders were determined by tallying points earned at each of the sanctioned tournaments over the past 12 months. An individual had to have results from at least 3 tournaments in order to be declared a points leader in that event category.*



Lea Chowdhury



Doug DeVriendt



Alan Gardiner



Connor Davies



Chad LaCap



Alexia Cholakis



Clarissa Chen



Eagan Peters

# JUNIOR

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

### ERIKA FRIDRIK

Erika represented our province at the U18 Indoor and Outdoor Junior Nationals and was an important member of the 2009 Canada Summer Games team that represented Manitoba in Prince Edward Island this past summer. Erika captured the U18 Girls Singles championship at the Big Sand Junior Classic last April and is currently the # 2 ranked player in the U18 Girls category.



### IGAL MOSTKOV

Igal is the top junior player in Manitoba and represented our province at the U16 Indoor and Outdoor Junior Nationals. He won four events this past year on the Junior Tour and climbed up the Open Tour standings to finish the year in 6th. Igal was a strong contributor for Manitoba at the 2009 Canada Summer Games, helping lead the team to a 5th place finish in the team standings.



# PRAIRIE

## TENNIS NEWS



### Prairie Tennis Alliance

The Prairie Tennis Alliance position was created to support the ongoing work done by Tennis Manitoba and Tennis Saskatchewan. Besides supporting and growing the existing programs, there are new initiatives to be implemented in partnership with Tennis Manitoba and Tennis Canada. Our goal is to strengthen the 4 pillars identified in the regions strategic plan; Community Development, High Performance Development, Resources and Competitive Development. A four year plan has been designed to deliver and meet our goals and objectives. By building partnerships and strengthening our resources we believe tennis will be played by everyone, everywhere, and that tennis will be a sport of choice in every home in the Prairies.

### Creating a Sustainable Structure

To create an environment in Manitoba for tennis to be played by Everyone Everywhere, from able and disabled kids and adults, beginner to advanced players, and in every corner of society, a defined pathway needs to be implemented. To allow this pathway to be a positive experience to anyone regardless of where they join the pathway, as a 3 year old or a 93 year old, there needs to be the right mix of resources and programs to make it easy and affordable for all to play a "Sport for Life".

Tennis has been played in Manitoba for over 100 years with lots of success during the 60's to 80's. Unfortunately tennis has had to compete with many cultural sports as well as the successful introduction of mini soccer. Tennis has also lost the pizzazz to be a "sport of choice" as it is perceived to be an elitist sport and can only be played with regular tennis balls on a regular court size. Until we create awareness throughout Manitoba with the introduction of progressive tennis equipment; slower balls, smaller racquets and mini courts, tennis will always play second fiddle to other sports.

With this new tennis equipment, programming and an accessible pathway, tennis can be played in the street, school gyms, communities or any flat area. Tennis can now be a sport of choice in every household.

TENNIS CAN BE PLAYED  
BY "EVERYONE EVERYWHERE"

### Resources:

To help deliver tennis into every corner of society we offer courses to educators specifically designed to meet the needs of their audience.

- In September this year a 6 hour community coach's course was given to 17 participants in Winnipeg. We will now have help to manage and run the Community Team Tennis program.
- A ½ court 6 hour clinic focusing more on coaching skills and technique was well attended by over 25 players from Winnipeg and rural areas.
- 45 teachers from Winnipeg schools and many others from ongoing in- service days and conferences have been given a 3 hour clinic on delivering tennis to kids during their PE periods.
- Four participants successfully completed the instructor course this year.

### Tennis in Communities

For tennis to be a sport of choice we need to bring it into our communities and compete with the many other sports by offering organized programming.

- Tennis Manitoba has partnered with the City of Winnipeg SPIN program, to bring Team Tennis to 17 inner city centers. These recreation centers will each receive progressive tennis equipment from SPIN.
- 4 communities started Community Team Tennis this fall with over 37 elementary school kids participating.

A very effective way of programming is making sure there is a pathway for everyone that is accessible. The pathway consists of 3 components.

**TRY:** This activity can be organized as a community tennis rally, where kids and adults can try the game in a fun environment; these events can be held in school gyms, local outdoor courts, or any other flat paved area. Street tennis and school tennis programs are other areas where tennis can be experienced.

**LEARN AND PLAY:** For certain ages school gyms provide an excellent environment for learning. Spring and summer outdoor programs cater to all ages and family learning opportunities. Community Team Tennis is similar to a local soccer or basket ball league, where children are coached for the first part and then they play league scrimmages.

**COMPETE:** A series of rookie events are organized through the local clubs and recreation courts throughout the year.

So far this fall we have successfully been able to deliver the following programs.

IT IS REALLY ENCOURAGING TO SEE ALL THESE PEOPLE INTERESTED IN LEARNING TO HELP DELIVER TENNIS TO SO MANY DIFFERENT AREAS IN COMMUNITIES. IT IS THESE CHAMPIONS THAT WILL CREATE A SUSTAINABLE STRUCTURE FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY A SPORT FOR LIFE.

## Province Wide Talent Search and Development

A new program to identify young tennis athletes was introduced this summer. The concept is simple; identify kids at a young age who show an aptitude for learning tennis, design a program for them to train on a regular basis with our national and provincial coaches and give them a chance to compete on a national stage. On September 12th, 30 plus U8-U12 girls and boys attended a try-out camp where 25 players were selected to attend regular regroupings until June 2010.

Bob Brett, Canada's U12 National coach, will be attending some of the regroupings to train and guide our players to meet their national age playing standards.

## Competitive Development

Tennis tournaments have usually catered to the traditional tournament format and scoring. With the introduction of progressive tennis equipment we are now able to offer beginner juniors and adults an opportunity to compete in the same environment they are coached in. This summer we had 484 juniors compete in the Rogers Rookie Tour events which are non-elimination events for 6-16 year olds. From a recent Tennis Canada study indicating that 80% of players play unorganized tennis on public courts we are planning a Winnipeg Community Tennis Tournament for late summer in 2010. This event will hopefully attract the many recreational players as well as our regular players. The tournament will be for juniors and adults of all abilities and will be played on public courts.

This will give Tennis Manitoba an opportunity to expand into the seasonal and recreational market.

We are working hard to improve our junior competitive structure to give our competitive juniors an environment that meets the competencies of the Long Term Athlete Development guide (LTAD).

### WAY TO GO!

- Jared Connell, Peter Otto, Geoff Kirbyson won national titles at the Western Indoor Senior Nationals
- Lee Carter won his 3rd consecutive singles title at the wheelchair Nationals in November 09
- Jared Connell received a Tennis Canada Coaches Excellence Award

## Why is tennis becoming so popular?

Some popular sports have modified the equipment, playing area and rules to make it easier for anyone to try, learn and play the sport. Tennis has also modified the equipment used to play tennis. We have introduced a range of balls that are slower, allowing for players to control the ball easier, over a smaller net, "and on a smaller player area". The introduction of progressive tennis equipment combined with educating the educators as well as a national marketing campaign is making tennis an easy game to play and access; enabling players to have fun and reap the health and social benefits of playing tennis.

### TIDBITS

- Kids Dental & Tennis Manitoba handed out 500 racquets to kids at a Kids Tennis Fest held at Sargent Park
- Over \$30,000 of progressive tennis equipment was sold this year, compared to a total of \$10,000 over the last 4 years
- Manitoba was second to Ontario for the most Rogers Rookie Tour events and participants in Canada
- 9 clubs received \$500 worth of progressive tennis equipment from Tennis Manitoba
- Kids Dental have sponsored a Kids Tennis Fest to be organized prior to every Rogers Rookie Tour event in 2010
- Manitoba won a Bronze Medal in the Canada Games, first since 1973
- After school learn and play programs are running in 3 schools with over 53 elementary kids participating
- In May 2010 we are planning a schools progressive tournament with the St. James-Assiniboia School Division
- Tennis in Dauphin is alive. Over 40 kids participated in the first Rogers Rookie Tour event held in October in Dauphin

“DID YOU KNOW THAT 80% OF PEOPLE, WHO PLAY TENNIS, PLAY ON PUBLIC COURTS IN UNORGANIZED PLAY?”

## A Look at the Recreational Pathway

### TRY PROGRAMS

These are organized events where kids and adults can try tennis. These programs are delivered through in-school programs, community days, Kids Fests, club and leisure services programs.

### LEARN AND PLAY

These are programs where players are coached and play. Programs are organized in after school programs, community team tennis, clubs and offered through leisure services

### PLAY / COMPETE

Non - elimination Rogers Rookie events are organized through clubs, communities and parks and recreation. These are fun events usually running for 2-3 hours, for kids' ages 6 – 16 year old. Adult recreation tournaments are organized through clubs and in the future leisure services programs.

After the recreation pathway players have an option to continue as recreation players or move onto the high performance pathway. Please refer to Tennis Canada's LTAD model for more detail. <http://flipflashpages.uniflip.com/1/3881/39108/pub/>

## Our Partners

A key component to the future and success of our initiatives is building lasting relationships with our partners. We would like to thank the following partners for their involvement in building a better tennis environment for the citizens of Manitoba.

- Kids Dental Presenting Sponsor for the "Kids Dental Raise a Racquet" exhibition and fundraiser.
- Rogers Communications
- Tennis Canada for their resources and technical support
- Dairy Farmers of Canada
- Wilson Sporting Goods
- Winnipeg Winter Club
- Taylor Tennis
- City of Winnipeg SPIN program
- Tennis Manitoba board members
- All the outdoor clubs in Winnipeg
- Affiliated rural clubs
- All our coaches, volunteers, teachers and community leaders
- Manitoba Lotteries
- General Council of Winnipeg Community Centers.

## Q & A

- Q. DO I NEED TO BE A CERTIFIED COACH TO HELP WITH COMMUNITY TEAM TENNIS?
- A. No, you don't even have to know how to play tennis. Our Community Tennis Course gives you all the tools to help with the program.
- Q. IS THERE GOING TO BE A COMMITTEE TO HELP RUN THE COMMUNITY TENNIS TOURNAMENT NEXT SUMMER?
- A. Yes, if you are interested in helping please contact Rufus.
- Q. HOW DO WE INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN MB?
- A. There are a large number of people playing, however we need to promote and create an awareness of tennis with the 25 – 40 yr old age group through family and community involvement.
- Q. HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?
- A. We are continuously looking for volunteers, community champions and leaders. Please contact Tennis Manitoba if you are interested in helping grow the game.
- Q. IS THERE INFORMATION ON A RECREATION AND A COMPETITIVE PATHWAY FOR NEW COMERS ?
- A. Yes, we have completed a pathway brochure showing a pathway for recreation juniors for try programs to compete programs.
- Q. I AM A SCHOOL TEACHER HOW CAN I HELP?
- A. School teachers are given a 3 hour workshop and plenty of guidance on delivering tennis during school times. Please contact Rufus on how to get your school started.
- Q. HOW DO WE WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE TENNIS A SPORT OF CHOICE?
- A. If we all work together and build a huge foundation through all our programming and make people realize tennis can be played everywhere tennis will grow to be a sport of choice. We need you, the converted player, to help build tennis for our future generations! 🙌

# BORIS BACHYNSKI

## Community Champion Award



**B**oris Bachynski's tennis endeavors had their beginnings in the late 1940s and early 1950s at Beachside Sport Center located in Boundary Park, Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba. This particular park with its three tennis courts was constructed back in the 1920s during an era of tennis popularity, but then allowed to decay for a couple of decades or more. All that was left was weeds growing on lumpy, hard shale courts, six net posts and a surrounding high fence. Boris and a friend at the beach decided to rejuvenate the best court by deweeding and then chopping up the baked shale, leveling with hand-made scrapers and an old repaired drum roller. After measuring out a singles court, they found and nailed down some old canvas tapes. The net was devised from a single thin rope stretched across the net posts from which single strands of string were hung in short intervals from the rope to the court surface. Back court rallies were the order of the day. This initiative prompted two summer jobs which saw all three courts totally revived for both singles and doubles play.

The next tennis endeavor for Boris was forming a tennis committee to save the outdoor shale courts at Taylor Tennis Club from the City of Winnipeg Appropriation Committee. The timely

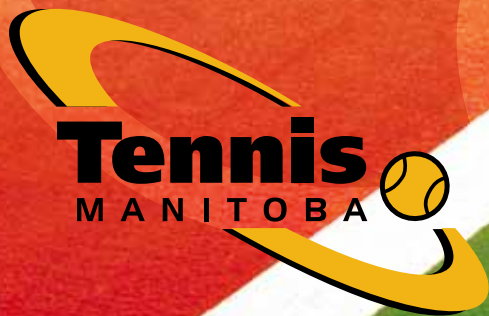
presentations and continued perseverance not only saved the property for outdoor tennis, but prevented a prohibitive rise in annual property rent.

Between these endeavors Boris assisted Bill Serbin and Robert Kennedy for a number of springs with the Tennis Futures program at the Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club.

His last, and most enduring, project centered around the Victoria Beach Club. After serving for a couple of years as the director of the Victoria Beach Masters Tournament, Boris became the Tennis Convener from 2003-2005. This three-year stint witnessed new programs such as additional levels of play within existing tournaments, instruction for all ages and ability levels and court maintenance assistance by club members. Boris became the leader in providing a Wimbledon stain look for the existing wooden structures, replacing and modifying the chain link fence and overseeing the court resurfacing project. He was instrumental in accessing local and provincial funding to make sure the revitalization of the Victoria Beach tennis courts would become a reality. This project was his pride and joy upon completion and continues to be so to this very day. 🏆

## Tennis Manitoba eNews

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# PLAYERS

## OF THE YEAR

### EMILY FRIDRIK

#### Most Improved Player Award

Emily showed steady improvement throughout the past season and this was reflected in her climb up the Rogers Rankings. She gained more points from the start of the season than any other player in the province and has therefore been crowned as this year's Most Improved Player. After failing to win a tournament in 2008, Emily captured the U16 Girls Singles Championship at the Big Sand Junior Classic in April and the U14 Girls Singles Championship at the LM Architectural Junior Open in July. Emily also competed on the Open Tour in 2009, finishing the year as the # 4 player in the Women's 4.5 Singles rankings after winning the Kildonan Open.



### EVANN WASCHUK

#### Female Player of the Year

Evann finished the year as the top ranked female player in the province and captured three Open Tour events. Among her tournament victories was a first ever Manitoba Open Singles Championship. In addition to the singles title at Manitoba's premier tournament of the year, Evann added the Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles championships to earn the Triple Crown. She represented Manitoba at the U16 and U18 Junior Nationals and was also an integral part of Team Manitoba at the 2009 Canada Summer Games.



### SEAN BAILEY

#### Male Player of the Year

Sean completed his junior tennis career by teaming up with Chad LaCap to win the Bronze Medal in Men's Doubles at the 2009 Canada Summer Games. This was Manitoba's first medal at the Games since 1973! Sean also represented our province at the U18 Junior Nationals and reached the quarter-finals at the ITF Junior tournament in Burlington. On the local scene Sean captured the Men's Singles title at the Kildonan Open and was the top Manitoban at the Manitoba Open.



# MOST SPORTSMANLIKE PLAYERS

## ANIKA CAMPEAU

### Art Foster Most Sportsmanlike Junior Award



Anika was a tremendous teammate as a member of the Canada Summer Games training team this past year. Although she was not named to the final roster she continued to work extremely hard in an effort to support the other members of the team.

Anika always shows respect for her opponents, coaches and officials and displays

a positive attitude on and off the tennis court. Her great work ethic and desire to win, combined with her focus on fair play, make her a complete player. Anika is a great role model for the young junior players that are competing in our sport.

## JAKE BERGEN

### Most Sportsmanlike Player Award



A longtime member of the Kildonan Tennis Club, Jake has been a fixture in the tennis community for many years. His pleasant demeanor has been appreciated by tournament directors and officials at tennis tournaments in Manitoba for quite some time. Jake continues to be a calm and steady player on the tennis court and he has the utmost respect for the game

which is reflected in his attitude toward his opponents. His conduct on the court sets a great example for all tennis players in the province. Jake also continues to post strong results, finishing the year as the # 1 player in the Men's 3.5 Singles rankings.

# CARTER EARNS THIRD CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



History was made as the White Oaks Resort and Spa in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario played host to the 2009 Birmingham Wheelchair Tennis National Championships in early November. Lee Carter of Winnipeg became just the third Canadian to three-peat in the men's division after a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 victory over his doubles partner, Corey Blatchford (Saskatoon). Carter joins Colin McKeage (2001-04) and Paul Johnson (1991-98) as the only men to claim three or more consecutive titles.

"Corey (Blatchford) played a sensational match today and I really had to fight to win this one," said Carter. "It's pretty special to win the national championship, especially three times in a row."

In the first all-Prairie final, Carter needed three sets and three match points. Blatchford earned a service break at 4-3 in the final frame but couldn't close the door on Carter, a 2008 Paralympian, who reeled off three straight games to end another perfect week.

Blatchford, playing in his first singles final, clawed back from an

early break in the second set to take the last three games and force the deciding frame. It took the first six service games of the match before a hold was made by Carter, who was eight-for-15 in break point chances.

Congratulations to Lee from all of us in the tennis community on this outstanding accomplishment!



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