



Nipissing Ridge Tennis Club Report from the Board

TBM/NRTC Agreement

We are pleased to announce that we have a signed agreement with the Town of the Blue Mountains for use of the courts at Nipissing Ridge. The agreement is in place for 2025 and will renew annually, subject to review. The agreement was developed as a model for shared responsibility of Town facilities and addresses such items as facility usage and maintenance, terms, fees, cancellation, insurance and indemnification.

Agreement for Hours at Boyer and Bayview Courts

The Town has approved our proposal to block hours at the **Boyer and Bayview courts** for NRTC member use. Boyer has two courts at 101 Crossan Court in Craighleith and Bayview has two courts at 60 Bay St. East in Thornbury. NRTC hours will be mornings (7am to noon) as follows:

- Boyer on Tuesday and Thursday
- Bayview on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

This expansion will allow NRTC to offer more bookable hours to members via our court booking system, while the Nipissing Ridge courts remain the hub for NRTC's organized activities.

2025 Plans

Organized social play will be expanded to 10 weeks beginning June 3rd. It will be open to 72 regular players and 60 spares on a first come basis. A link to the application form is included in the membership confirmation email which is sent to members once their NRTC application and payment are completed. Women will meet on Wednesday mornings between 9am and noon, men on Tuesday mornings between 9am and noon and mixed doubles will play on Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 5pm. Thank you to Sandee Roberts who developed this year's schedule and Cathy Bannon who is managing the program.

John Long will lead **Spring Tune-Up** again from May 12 to 16. There will be two clinics each morning (9am and 10am) with a limit of eight participants each. Groups will be divided into levels. Members may sign up for any or all sessions. **Clinic** plans for the balance of the season are still being developed.

We will continue to offer **drop-ins** at their traditional times: women's on Mondays and Fridays from 10am to noon, men's on Wednesdays from 3pm to 5pm and mixed on Mondays and Fridays from 3pm to 5pm. Drop-ins will begin May 19th. Tennis balls will be provided.

Socials will be organized periodically through the summer. Our first date will be Saturday May 24th (rain date on Sunday May 25th). The theme is Spring Blossom Smash.

We plan to introduce **Tournaments** this year now that we have finalized the agreement with the Town. We are also exploring opportunities for **inter-club play** with Collingwood Tennis Club.

Membership Fee

The membership fee remains at \$40 per person again this year. This is the third year at \$40 and we are pleased to be able to continue to offer, and even expand, our programs at this level.

2024 Recap

2024 saw changes in NRTC hours, programming and facilities. In particular:

- We added **Tuesday and Thursday mornings (dawn to 1pm) to NRTC hours** with approval from the Town of the Blue Mountains. The additional hours were booked for women's OSP on Tuesdays (three hours) and clinics on Thursdays (two hours). The rest of the time was available for court booking through Skedda. Per the agreement with TBM, these hours will be adjusted slightly in future to mirror our Saturday time (ending at noon).
- **Organized Social Play (OSP)** was introduced to provide participants with fun, social games with other players of a similar ability. Members were invited to apply once they had completed their NRTC membership form and payment and were accepted on a first come basis. It ran as a pilot program for eight weeks beginning June 4th with 75 participants (including spares) and five volunteer coordinators. A meeting of coordinators and survey of participants provided good feedback for improving the program in 2025. We are very grateful to Shelley Young who coordinated this program and the volunteers who helped run the six groups — Monica Jensen, Cathy Bannon, Mark Carlin, Sandra Church and Ann Stewart.
- We introduced **Spring Tune-up**, a series of ten clinics from May 13th to 17th with Quality Ball Striking at 9am and Doubles Strategies at 10am. Run by our Pro, John Long, the program was 96% full (48 of the 50 slots) with many participants booking multiple days.
- For the first time, we provided **tennis balls** at drop-ins (10 tins/week) and supplied them for OSP (12 tins/week). They were stored in a locked bin chained to the fence with the combination provided to OSP coordinators and shared by word of mouth for drop-ins. A total of 10½ cases were used over the season. We thank Michael Crabtree who made sure there were enough tins on hand each week.
- NRTC-branded caps using our new logo were introduced this year. The cap is polyester pearl nylon with great features for tennis — UPF50+ sun protection, moisture wicking, quick dry sweatband and self-adjusting Velcro back strap. It was offered to members at \$23.05 and 26 were ordered. A minimum of 12 is required for each order. Thank you to Michael Thompson who took the lead on this project.
- The Town replaced the pergola with expanded the patio and paths. An area at the back of Court 2 was regraded to redirect water away from the court. The garden around the pergola was replanted thanks to Pollinate TBM and the berm has new plantings through the work of the Tree Trust. We are thankful for their work and that of NRTC members who volunteered their time to plant, water, mulch and weed.

We also continued popular programs:

- **Women's, men's and mixed drop-ins.** Offered five times per week, they provided an opportunity to meet other members, find playing partners, and socialize.
- **Socials**, each with its own theme and fun activities (line dancing, corn hole, target practice, etc). Some 50 - 60 people participated in each of the three events — Pergola Party on May 26th, Mini Olympics on July 27th, and Country Hoedown Season Roundup on October 19th. Thanks to Sandee Roberts and Marty Kilby for their enthusiastic and creative leadership and to their cadre of volunteers (who are too numerous to name).
- Our Pro, John Long offered **clinics** twice a week from the middle of May to the end of June as well as private and semi-private lessons throughout the season.

Membership Survey

We conducted a member survey at the end of the tennis season again this year. We had 100 respondents representing almost 40% of our membership. Most of us (82%) are full-time in the southern Georgian Bay area, play at NRTC at least weekly (59%), are very satisfied with how the club is run (83%) and with the condition of the courts and surrounding area (91%). Our most popular opportunities were the ability to book a court (71%), join a drop-in (48%), and participate in OSP (44%). Half of the respondents reported no or little difficulty booking court time (and the other half said n/a). Tennis balls at drop-ins were popular — 40% liked new balls at each session.

The survey asked about two new ideas:

- Inter-club play — more competitive play with Collingwood Tennis Club. Women's and mixed doubles were of interest to 56% of respondents and men's doubles to 40%. We will explore this idea with Collingwood Tennis Club.
- Additional hours at Boyer and Bayview courts. Over 60% were interested in NRTC acquiring some court time at each of these venues. This response laid the basis for our successful proposal to TBM.

Board Elections

Shelley Young and Nancy Muzar stepped down from the Board this year. In their respective roles as Vice-President and Membership Director, they were key in establishing many of the base operations of the club. Jackie McCluskey has also announced her retirement as Treasurer of NRTC. We are grateful for their leadership and many contributions over the last two+ years.

Under NRTC By-Laws, elections are scheduled every two years and will be held at the 2025 AGM. The Board consists of a minimum of four and a maximum of eight members who serve for a two year term. Board members must be members in good standing of the Club and at least 18 years old. Board members serve on a voluntary basis without remuneration.

Following a recruitment process last summer, three members stepped up to fulfil roles left vacant by the retiring members. In addition, several current members of the Board are running for the next term. The following people are standing for election at the AGM: Laurey Gillies, Michael Thompson, Sandee Roberts, Patti Norris, Sandra Church and Heather Macnaughton. If anyone else is interested in standing for election, they may submit their name to the Secretary at tennis.nrtcgeneral@gmail.com. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Volunteers

NRTC could not run without the support of many kind and generous volunteers — thank you so much for your support. And remember, new volunteers are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
NRTC Board of Directors