

Tennis Newfoundland and Labrador

President's Report – April 25, 2010

During my term as president of TNL (since 2008), I believe that there has been good progress in sustaining and growing the sport of tennis in the Province. Some of TNL's material ongoing and expanded initiatives in the past 2 years include the following:

Expansion of Professional Teaching and Coaching Resources

There have been significant developments in TNL's professional teaching and coaching resources:

- In September, 2007, TNL continued its prior cost-sharing arrangement with Greenbelt Tennis Club to co-fund Ryan Maarschalk's position. Ryan succeeded Danny DaCosta, who was similarly a cost-shared position with TNL and Greenbelt, as the TNL Executive Director and Greenbelt's Director of Tennis.
- In mid-2008, TNL was actively involved in the process of recruiting and hiring a new Senior Director of Tennis Development for the Atlantic Tennis Alliance. This led to the engagement of Christophe Lambert, and the negotiation with ATA of favourable time-sharing of Christophe with the other ATA members. The current arrangement is that Christophe spends approximately 1 week per month in Newfoundland.
- Effective July 1, 2009, Mike Gibson was hired as the TNL Community Tennis Director in a cost-shared position with Greenbelt.

Ryan, Christophe and Mike have worked very well together and in a remarkably short period of time have forged what I believe to be the most formidable tennis teaching/coaching team in the Atlantic region.

Improved ATA Structure and Relationship

TNL has developed a stronger and more structured relationship with the Atlantic Tennis Alliance (now formalized with a Board of Directors, quarterly meetings, and formalized governance procedures and policies). Recent positive initiatives have included:

- significant participation with the ATA in the search for and engagement of Christophe Lambert as the ATA's new Senior Director, and in this Province's sharing of Christophe's time;
- settling policy and process respecting previously contentious issues like the qualifying residency policy for Canada Games and Atlantic Championships, and a dispute resolution mechanism;
- supporting the ATA "Raise-a-Racquet" fundraising event in Halifax – October, 2008; and
- dealing with ongoing issues regarding qualifications for Atlantic and National Championships.

TNL Programs and Actions

TNL's ongoing and recent programs and initiatives include the following:

- TNL has continued its support and development of the Schools Program and the new FUNDamentals (under 8) Program, and its support of and involvement in the Building Tennis Communities initiatives (with Tennis Canada).
- TNL has continued its strong commitment to the junior competitive tennis program in the Province and the Atlantic region, via:
 - participation and support of the Atlantic Tennis Centre at Halifax (coaches have included Bob Brett, Andre Labelle and Christophe Lambert); and
 - support of the Provincial Program (Ryan, Christophe and other local coaches).
- TNL has initiated and supported Club memberships (which involves some direct training and support by Ryan and his team), and concluded Club memberships with Greenbelt, Riverdale Tennis Club, the Gander Tennis Club and the Corner Brook Tennis Club.
- At the more routine/administrative level, TNL has:
 - been revived and reinstated as a corporation properly registered with the Registry of Companies for Newfoundland and Labrador;
 - negotiated and contracted appropriate insurance to permit access to schools for the Schools Program and access to the Provincial Training Centre for our competitive juniors;
 - negotiated and is in the process of finalizing an on-line registration system with Moneris;
 - facilitated ongoing Greenbelt-Riverdale Summer tennis synergies discussions; and
 - concluded an Access Agreement for our competitive junior players with the Provincial Training Centre.

These are but some of the activities of TNL during the past two years. None of this would be possible without a committed and dedicated Board and professional staff. I have enjoyed strong contributions from all TNL Board members and from Ryan Maarschalk during the past two years, and from Christophe Lambert and Mike Gibson since their arrival last year. With the team of Ryan Maarschalk and Mike Gibson, supported by Christophe Lambert, I believe that TNL has never been better positioned to support and advance the sport of tennis in the Province. My successor and the new Board will face the always-present challenges of reaching out to all of the tennis communities in the Province and extending TNL's support to the teaching, coaching and growth of tennis in the Province's regions. There will also be challenges in sustaining and funding the ambitious TNL programs, including the Provincial Program.

Thank you for your support over the past two years.

Colm St. R. Seviour, President, TNL