



WELCOME TO
SQUASH ONTARIO



FEBRUARY 2012

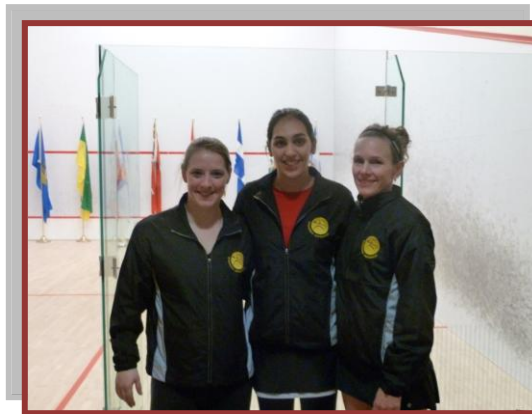


NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – ONTARIO RESULTS

Canadian Men's and Women's Teams Championships

The holiday season ended quickly for Ontario athletes. In January, Micaala Keating and Stephanie Edmison Halifax to represent Ontario in the Women's Teams Championship. As Nova Scotia staged a fantastic event, teams to the traditional Maritimes

Team Ontario won every match until it a very tough Quebec team – the team silver medal. Congratulations to Micaala and Seanna (the 3 "S's") as 3 Amigos – you did a brilliant job Ontario and being terrific ambassadors squash.



Steph Edmison, Micaala Seth, Seanna Keating

some of our Seth, Seanna travelled to Canadian usual, Squash treating the 8 hospitality.

came up against brought home a Stephanie, opposed to the representing for women's

In London, at the same time, the newly renovated London Squash Racquets Club was hosting the Canadian Men's Teams Championship. The Canadian Men's Teams Championship, featured 12 teams from all over the country including the return of a Canadian Forces Team after a 7-year absence in the event. Ontario, as the host province was permitted to enter a second team so the province was ably represented by Team Ontario #1, Ian Power, Matt Serediak and Fred Reid and Team Ontario # 3 was comprised of David Sly, Sheldon Zimmerman and Brad Hanebury.



Alberta fielded a strong team and in the final, against Team Ontario # 1, Alberta's #2 player, Graeme Schnell defeated Ontario's # 2 Matthew Serediak 8-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-4 in the closely contested opening match. In the second encounter, Alberta's #1 player Andrew Schnell

defeated Ontario's #1 Fred Reid 11-8, 11-1, 11-9 to claim the title. Ontario's Ian Power defeated Grayson Wicher 7-11, 9-11, 11-2, 11-4, 11-5.

Congratulations to London Squash Racquets Club and club professional David Morrish on staging such an outstanding event.

Canadian Masters Teams Championship

Synchronized Squash-A new Olympic Sport

By Lisa Coates

As Ontario was blasted with its first official winter storm on Friday January 13th, members of the 7 person Ontario Masters Squash Team (Scott Kemp-Gee, Trent Haase, Mike Bertin, Walter Bentley, Julie Hisey, Elka Markus, and Lisa Coates) made their trek along the 401, 416, and 417, arriving at



Team Ontario, Doing what we do best! Lisa Coates, Scott Kemp-Gee, Mike Bertin, Walter Bentley, Elka Markus, Trent Haase and Julie Hisey

La Sparteque in Gatineau, Quebec for the Canadian Masters Team Squash Championships.

There were 8 teams in the draw with a first ever representation by the Atlantic Provinces. Ontario was seeded #1 after last year's fine performance with silver and gold medal winnings at Cedar Springs Racquet Club.

The provinces were divided into two pools: Ontario, Quebec 1, BC and Atlantic Canada in Pool A; and Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec 2, and Saskatchewan in Pool B.

Round Robin play began Friday afternoon. Ontario beat BC with a solid 7-0 victory and a good stress release after the white knuckle drive. On Friday evening, Ontario experienced another solid win over the Atlantic Provinces.

Things were looking up as Ontario headed into its final round robin match-up against Quebec at 9 am Saturday morning. Quebec proved worthy opponents as they edged Ontario 4-3, leaving Ontario with a 2nd place finish overall in pool A.

In the afternoon, Ontario crossed over to play Alberta, the top finisher in pool B, and once again had a daunting 6-1 win in the semi-final match up. Meanwhile, Quebec stomped Manitoba 6-1 in the other cross-over semi to secure a re-match of Ontario vs. Quebec 1 set for Sunday morning at 11 am.

The Saturday night banquet took place in the lounge at La Sparteque. We had been warned in advance that each province was to prepare a skit for the banquet. Rehearsal for us took place secretly on Saturday between matches. After many trial runs, Team Ontario performed their version of "Synchronized Squash-The New Olympic Sport". Sporting black Speedo bathing caps with two offset yellow dots, Team Ontario took to the stage with rhythm and synchronization to the tune of Mama Mia...here I go again...my, my...

A trophy was awarded to the finest act. Ontario's skit and BC's "Occupy Gatinaeu" skit were by far the best contenders, but, in what was believed to be an unfair ruling by the judges (the referees), the combined team of Quebec 1 and 2 walked away with the inaugural trophy, "The Netty", in memory of Steve Wren's father, who passed away at this time last year.



In the finals vs. Quebec on Sunday, we knew we needed to overturn one of our previous losses and still maintain the other 3 wins. After the first 5 matches, we were up 3-2 on Quebec. In the 6th match, Julie Hisey took a 2-0 lead over Louise Lefebvre of Quebec. Louise battled back and tied it up at 2-2. Down 6-8 in the fifth, Julie took a racquet to the face, was cut and had to take an injury time out. Calling a let as she stepped back onto the court, Julie, with all pistons firing, came back to tie it up 8-8 but eventually fell to Louise 11-8. This setup the final match of the tourney between Quebec's Glen Wilson

(former PSA #20 in the world) versus our #1 man Scott Kemp-Gee. Scott gave Glen a run in true Scott style, looking like he was never tiring, with relentless rallying and fetching. Unfortunately Scott eventually succumbed 11-6, 11-6, 11-8 giving Quebec the championship and Ontario a very honourable 2nd place finish.

I would like to thank all of my team mates for a wonderful weekend of competition, camaraderie, and synchronized squashing. I have had the privilege of representing Ontario at 5 of these National Championships and the best outcome of the weekend is walking away with a tremendous feeling of bonding with my brothers and sisters through sport. I would also like to thank Steve Wren and his organizing committee for putting on such a flawless and fun weekend. And of course the referees for volunteering their time...but we should have won "The Netty". What do you mean we didn't have the best skit?...Appeal!

CANADIAN JUNIOR DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Jessica DiMauro

The inaugural Canadian Junior Doubles Championships was an amazing weekend. There were 66 kids playing. Some of the kids were top level singles players and some were new to the game. It was exciting to see the terrific mix of levels. Everyone played at least 3 matches but many played 4 or 5. With 62 matches to be completed, the kids played from 4pm to 10pm on Friday, 8:30am to 9:30pm on Saturday night and 8:30am to 4pm on Sunday. Lots of Doubles!

We had some terrific sponsors for the event: the Ontario Squash Doubles League and Harrow Sports were, once again, our Title Sponsors. They continue to be supportive each year and help us grow our event and the game of Junior Doubles! Thanks to them, we had amazing hoodies as our tournament giveaway. We also had about 40 prizes for our tournament raffle, ensuring that more than half of the kids in the tournament received a prize. The Granite Club and the Cambridge Club supported the event as well. We were also lucky to receive a last minute prize donation by Slight Communications. The highlight of the raffle became two Platinum Club Raptors tickets won by Mohammed Salemwalla!



Future of Doubles – looking good!

This year, we had a nice addition of referees! Thanks to Squash Ontario for sponsoring the refs for the weekend.

Doubles can be frustrating for some as it is different from singles. Some kids who may beat their opponents handily in singles may lose to them in doubles. It's a different game but is loads of fun once you get the hang of it. The teamwork aspect is a great change from the pressures of singles.

Many teams planned their matching outfits and several even made team shirts. They looked AMAZING! There were tons of smiles from kids, their partners, their opponents and from all of the spectators. The kids continue to improve each year. I see them getting the hang of it more and more as the tournament continues.

Thank you all for playing and supporting. This is my favourite event of the year and I look forward to hopefully adding a Mixed Doubles event in the spring.

DUNLOP CANADIAN JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Dunlop Canadian Junior Open, held at White Oaks Resort & Spa in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario from December 10 – 13, 2011 featured a strong international contingent with players representing Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Bermuda, USA, Guyana, England, Peru, Egypt and Canada.

The Dunlop Canadian Junior Open is part of the World Squash Federation's World Junior Squash Circuit. This year's event also featured an all glass court supplied by Manta Sports.

Ontario's **Ravi Seth** and **Amy Commisso** captured the U13 Boys & Girls titles while Chloe Chemtob of Quebec defeated Ontario's Madlen O'Connor to claim the Girls U15 title. Several other Ontario junior athletes participated in the finals of the event and they included: Vince Commisso (Boys U15) finalist; Alyssa Mehta (Girls U17 Finalist); Hollie Naughton (Girls U19 Finalist) and Ryan Todd (Boys U19 Finalist).



COMING SOON!

Squash Ontario Annual Meeting and Charity Golf Tournament

The Royal Woodbine Golf Club will play host to both the Squash Ontario Annual General Meeting of Members and the Squash Ontario Charity Golf tournament which raises funds for junior squash in Ontario. **Mark your calendars – June 16th!**

We want all club owners, managers and squash professionals and programmers to join us for the day – the morning activities will include the formal annual meeting and will be followed by a major presentation on trends in squash and how to market to the diverse population in Ontario.

The golf tournament has become a fixture on everyone's calendar - it raises much needed funds for junior squash – funds to assist regional development outside of the GTA. We raise monies not just through the donation part of your golf registration fee but also from our silent and live auctions.

PLEASE – anyone out there who has a keen interest in junior squash – who has children involved in the game at any level – please help us out by donating items for both auctions. For information on how to do this, please contact *Geoff Johnson* at gjohnson@squashontario.com or call him at 416-426-7203. And most importantdon't forget to play!



Canadian Mixed Doubles Championships

Toronto Cricket Skating & Curling Club – March 2 – 4; to register squash.ca



Canadian Doubles Championships

Toronto – April 13 – 15; to register squash.ca



Canadian Junior Closed Championships

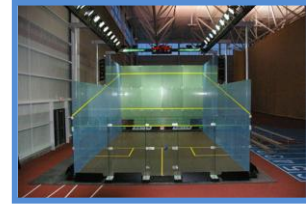
National Squash Academy, Toronto – April 19 – 27; to register squash.ca



Canadian Singles and Masters Championships

The Club at White Oaks, Niagara-on-the-Lake – May 2 – 6; to register squash.ca

Featuring the Manta Glass Court!



Ontario Winter Games

Barrie Athletic Club, Barrie – March 8 – 11

The Ontario Winter Games is Ontario's largest multi-sport event and provides young athletes with development and competitive opportunities. As an integral component of athlete development in Ontario, it also prepares them for competition on the national and international stage.

- 3,500 participants are anticipated, including athletes, coaches and officials
- Approximately 5,000-7,500 spectators are expected to visit the area for the games, primarily consisting of parents and friends of the athletes

Each of Squash Ontario's 9 regions fields a team of young athletes in 4 different age categories – boys and girls under 19, under 17, under 15 and under 13. Teams are coached by experienced and certified coaches, each with a manager.

The regional leagues in many cases are extremely supportive of their teams – for example, Toronto & District Men's and Women's Leagues are both supporting Team Toronto – Ottawa has a strong support system in place and we thank, on behalf of the Southwestern Team, Imperial Oil for its sponsorship of the team.

Ontario Regional Open and Masters Teams Championship **NEW!**

Cedar Springs Health, Racquet & Sports Club, Burlington – March 30 – April 1

Format: Teams of 10 from 9 regions – open (male and female), 30-39 (male and female), 45+ (male and female), 50+ (male and female) and 55+ (male and female).

For more information, contact any of the following members of the Squash Ontario Masters Committee: Lisa Coates (locates@cogeco.ca); Jann Taylor-Dysart (j.taylordysart@gmail.com); Tony Pitoscia (talcpm.@on.aibn.com); Frank Brillinger (vinylvilla@sympatico.ca)

The regional boundaries have been changed for this tournament in order to provide a wider pool of athletes. Each region may enter two teams.

Regional Boundaries For Open and Masters Teams Championship (only)

<u>Ottawa & District</u>	no change
<u>Eastern Ontario</u>	Kingston, Brockville, Gananoque, Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Bowmanville, Cobourg, Belleville, Oshawa, Lindsay, Port Hope, Peterborough, Picton
<u>York North</u>	Newmarket, Barrie, Orangeville, Woodbridge, Markham, Richmond Hill, Aurora
<u>Northern/Muskoka</u>	Kincardine, Port Elgin, Owen Sound, Sudbury, North Bay, Parry Sound, Huntsville, Collingwood, Orillia
<u>Toronto</u>	City of Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Oakville, Georgetown
<u>Southwestern</u>	Windsor, Sarnia, London, Chatham, South Huron, Wingham, Clinton
<u>Western</u>	Woodstock, Stratford, Kitchener, Waterloo, Elora, Brantford, Guelph
<u>Niagara</u>	no change
<u>Northwestern</u>	no change

Club Events

Gateway City Open Championships

CFB North Bay, February 24 – 25 – register:

<http://squashontario.com/Registration/RegistrationSanctioned.aspx>

Mayfair Lakeshore Toronto & District Open

February 24 – 26 – register: <http://squashontario.com/Registration/RegistrationSanctioned.aspx>

Corson's Squash Classic

Barrie Athletic Club, March 2 – 4 – register:

<http://squashontario.com/Registration/RegistrationSanctioned.aspx>

March Madness

London Squash Racquets Club, March 9 – 11 – register:

<http://squashontario.com/Registration/RegistrationSanctioned.aspx>

World's best squash players at Ludwig Financial Cambridge Recruitment Cup February 28-March 1 in Toronto

\$60,000 Ludwig Financial Cambridge Cup

Five of the world's top-10 players and Canadian number-one Shahier Razik are among the entries for the \$60,000 Ludwig Financial Cambridge Cup men's professional squash tournament set for seven venues in Toronto February 28 to March 1.

The eight players in the tournament are Gregory Gaultier of France; Ramy Ashour, Amr Shabana and Karim Darwish, all of Egypt, and ranked third through sixth in the world; Laurens Jan Anjema of the Netherlands, Thierry Lincou of France, Hisham Ashour of Egypt and Razik.

Shabana is a four-time world champion, Ashour took the world crown in 2009 and Lincou was tops in 2004.

"This is our third consecutive year, it's growing each year with more clubs looking to host matches and fans contacting us in advance for dates/tickets/etc," said Razik, also the tournament director.

"The goal is to keep growing the interest and build up to a glass court event in a Toronto venue. It would be a dream to bring the Canadian Open back! We have a fantastic field this year and we think the Toronto squash fans will really enjoy the squash!"

The venues hosting the event are the main host Cambridge Group of Clubs (Toronto Athletic Club, the Adelaide Club, the Cambridge Club) as well as the Toronto Lawn and Tennis Club, the Georgetown Racquet Club, the Barrie Athletic Club, and the Cricket Club.

"The Cambridge Group of Clubs is proud to continue our tradition of supporting the game of squash. The Cambridge Cup is a prime example. Not only does it provide our members the ability to watch the finest squash in the World, but also ensures that professional squash continues to have a home in the city of Toronto" Dean Brown Executive Vice President, Cambridge Group of Clubs.

"Once I, and some members of the Georgetown Racquet Club (GRC), saw a round in the Cambridge Cup last year, we were so impressed that we immediately agreed that we just had to get these world class players to the GRC," said Murray Jans, Squash Director, GRC. "So far, there is great excitement about this event, not only from our members but from surrounding clubs and people from the town".

In total, 12 matches will be played across the host venues.

For information and tickets www.raziksquash.com



Robert Brooks Junior Scholarship Fund

The Robert Brooks Squash Scholarship was established by the Braff Family and Friends in March 2011 in order to offer financial support to Ontario grade 12 students who have excelled in both school and squash. The successful recipients of the Scholarship will be individuals (one male and one female) who have continually shown passion and sportsmanship, both on and off the court, and who are entering higher education (college or university). Successful recipients will have demonstrated a long time commitment to the programming of Squash Ontario.

The Robert Brooks Squash Scholarship offers an annual bursary of not less than \$850.00 to one female and one male who meet the criteria as stated above and who will have been accepted for continuing education in an accredited college or university.

Squash players, coaches, and parents from across Ontario contributed an amazing \$11,000 to seed the fund. We were so successful that we were able to award our first bursary to the first recipient – Kyle Ogilvy – in August 2011. This fantastic start brought us closer than we ever imagined to our goal of raising \$25,000 over 5 years which would ensure a sustainable base for the fund.

As 2011 winds to a close, we are asking you to once again consider making a tax-deductible contribution to **The Rob Brooks Squash Scholarship Award.**

Please help us reach our goal and support junior squash in Ontario!

On behalf of the Braff family

Donate by phone: 416-426-7201

Donate online:

<http://www.squashontario.com>



ONTARIO CHAMPIONS

Ontario Veterans Doubles Champions

Hosted by Toronto Racquet Club with assistance from Mayfair Lakeshore, Toronto Lawn Tennis, Badminton & Racquet, and the Toronto Cricket Club. Kudos to tournament chairs Chuck Van Kempen, Tim Loat and Michael Callaghan.

Women's 40+: Jody Warden and Michelle Ramsey

Women's 50+: Leslie Freeman and Anne Brayley

Men's 40+: Scott Dulmage and Richard Thomson

Men's 50+: Greg Lloyd and Namsoo Oh

Men's 55+: Pat Richardson and Tim Bovaird

Men's 60+: John Boynton and Tim Griffin

Men's 65+: Tony Swift and Molson Robertson

Men's 75+: Ed Bracht and Norm Lee



Upcoming Coaching Clinics

COACHING FOUNDATIONS

Barrhaven Squash Club
Nepean, ON
February 17-19, 2012

COACHING FOUNDATIONS

YMCA Sudbury
Sudbury, ON
March 16-18, 2012

INTERMEDIATE COACHING

Mayfair Lakeshore
Toronto, ON
March 16-18, 2012

COACHING FOUNDATIONS

Mayfair Lakeshore Racquet Club
Toronto, ON
March 30 - April 1, 2012

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SQUASH ONTARIO AWARDS PROGRAM

Call for Nominations for the Coaching Achievement Award

The Coaching Achievement Award is not to recognize a Coach of the Year – rather it is an award to recognize a squash coach who has consistently exhibited, espoused and taught the principles of respect, integrity, and fair play and is a person who portrays a positive role model both for the game of squash and for the coaching profession. **This is NOT a coach of the year award** – it is an award to recognize a coach who is exceptional every day, day after day, year after year.

Your nominee must be fully certified under the coaching program and will have achieved at least a level 1 certification or CBET equivalent and is actively involved coaching squash and has been for a minimum of 3 years. This person must also be a resident of Ontario for a minimum of 5 years.

We are looking for a coach who teaches and practices respect – for one’s opponent, for the official, for oneself and for the game; for a coach who has integrity – is honest, sincere and honourable in relationships with others; a coach who not only teaches but practices fair play – a coach who focuses on the positive aspects of sport; and finally, a coach who is a role model for coaching – one who generally projects an image favourable to squash and to the profession of coaching.

Please note - Outstanding contributions of the nominee may include but not be limited to:

- Successful junior programming
- Successful adult programming
- Successful women’s programming
- Innovative athlete programming
- Local or regional contributions – for example, volunteering on regional executive committee
- Hosting of local, regional, provincial, national or international tournaments
- Mentoring role with young athletes
- Level of certification

Nominations for the Squash Ontario Coaching Achievement Award may be submitted by players, coaches, regional executive members, Squash Ontario Board members, parents and officials. All nominations must be received in writing by APRIL 30TH, 2012

Send your written nomination to sfunston@squashontario.com or fax to 416-426-7393. Be sure to include your name and telephone number with your submission.

Past recipients include Mark Sachvie, Heather Wallace, Jim Paton, Ruth Ann McBride, Bob Shine, Mike Way, Barb Cooper, Patrick Hartunian and Patrick Richardson, Robert Brooks, Johnny Wilson, Cindy Sachvie, Jessica DiMauro, Bob Tkachuk and Gary Delavigne.

Call for Nominations for the Jim Mason Fair Play Award

Who was Jim Mason? And why are these Fair Play Awards named after him? Jim Mason left an indelible mark on squash in Ontario at the junior level – his commitment to and passion for junior squash laid the groundwork for the programming which is in place now – he mentored coaches who carried the banner and he encouraged young athletes, many of whom went on to achieve national and international acclaim. But through it all, he believed in fair play – on the court and off the court.

Fair Play – integrity, fairness and respect – these are the principles of fair play. It means showing respect for the rules – for the officials and their decisions – and respect for your opponent. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. It is, in fact, more a way of thinking than a way of behaving.

Nominations for the Jim Mason Fair Play Awards can be submitted by anyone – a coach, an official, a parent, an athlete – if you know a boy or girl who exemplifies the tenets of fair play – who is a role model to younger athletes – who is an extraordinary ambassador for the game of squash – we want to recognize them!

For nomination form, squashontario.com – home page



IN THE NEWS



Squash Canada is proud to announce Ontario's **Wayne Smith** has been named the Chair of the Pan Am Squash Federation Rules and Refereeing Committee, effective immediately. He will also be the Pan Am Squash Federation representative on the World Squash Federation Rules and Refereeing Committee.

Toronto and surrounding areas will be hosting the 2015 Pan American Games – the squash venue will be announced sometime in March or April but is likely to be clustered with other sports in the downtown area –

Exhibition Park.

Squash success comes naturally for young siblings – Those Deverill Kids!

David Bebee/Record staff

The Kitchener-Waterloo Racquet Club turns 50 this year, but it's no museum piece. Last year, I wrote about Matthew Haffey, an up-and-coming 15-year-old squash player who trained at the venerable old Duke Street facility.

The club's future squash stars just keep getting younger. This time, it's the Deverill kids, Danica and Dylan.

Danica, 11, and Dylan, 9, who are coached by their dad and long-time club member Jeff Deverill, have earned some recognition for themselves with recent wins.

"They must have it in their genes," says Jeff. "They seem to have come by it naturally. They always seemed to be able to pick up a racquet, and swing and hit the ball properly - Intuitively without any instruction."

Over two weekends in January, the siblings accomplished a clean sweep of the Canadian and U.S. junior doubles titles for their age groups. First, at the Granite Club in Toronto on Jan. 15, Danica and her partner Lindsay Kuracina won the under-13 Canadian doubles championship, defeating the top two seeds on their way to a 4-0 record.

At the same tournament, Dylan and Oakville's Scott Holtshousen, 10 years old, took the under-11 doubles title and then finished third in the under-13 category.

The next weekend, the Deverills and their partners completed the international sweep by winning the U.S. equivalents at a tournament in Wilmington, Del. Both Danica and Dylan have dabbled in singles, but seem to excel at doubles. "Doubles requires a higher level of skill," says Jeff, who played varsity squash at the University of Waterloo from 1987 to 1991, and has worked in the business of sports ever since, first as a squash instructor and now as president of Planet Kids, which operates summer camp programs.

"The ball ([in doubles]) is hard instead of soft, so the ball travels so much faster." The court size differs as well, with doubles squash being played on a surface that is 13 feet longer and four feet wider.

The kids were less interested in such details and more pumped about their first big international competition. "The (Wilmington) tournament was a lot of fun," says Danica, a Grade 6 student at Saginaw Public School in Cambridge. "But we were pretty tired after an 11-hour bus ride." The arduous journey meant that Danica and her partner started slow before improving on Day 2 and winning the tournament without losing a match.

Danica enjoys the social aspects of the sport, but also thrives on the competition. She splits her time with volleyball as a member of the under-13 competitive Hespeler Scorpions. For Dylan, interest in squash started with something rather typical for a 9-year-old boy: hitting stuff. "I just loved the feeling of hitting balls into the wall," says Dylan, who, along with his partner Scott, also swept every match at the U.S. championship tournament.

Next up for the Deverills is the Ontario Winter Games that run March 8 to 11 in Barrie. Danica and Dylan join six other junior squash players in representing the western region at an event that will attract over 2,000 athletes. And the KW Racquet Club's history of excellence will have another chapter written.

Urban Squash Comes to Toronto

Urban Squash Toronto is a charitable organization that combines an intense after-school education program with concentrated squash training to help at-risk youth reach their full academic, athletic and personal potential.

The Jane and Finch neighbourhood is a Priority Neighbourhood, defined as one where there are insufficient social services to address the growing needs of the community. According to Urban Squash Executive Director, Adrian Griffin, "*We believe Urban Squash Toronto (UST) is part of the solution for at-risk youth in the Jane and Finch area.*"

Urban Squash Toronto is modeled after the National Urban Squash and Education Association (NUSEA, www.nationalurbansquash.org). This highly successful US initiative — started in the mid-1990s — has now grown to ten sister charities operating under the NUSEA umbrella spanning 10 US cities. NUSEA has had 1,000 students participate in their urban squash program: 100% of NUSEA students graduated from high school, an impressive 93% went on to earn a college degree.

Urban Squash Toronto is located at Downsview Park which is steps away from the Jane and Finch corridor. We have received a three-year rent free commitment from the National Squash Academy.

This new, 10 court training facility is considered one of the best in North America. We have also received a three-year rent free commitment from the Premiere Elite Athletic College (which is a three minute walk from the NSA). PEAC is where the academic tutoring and mentoring will be conducted.

For more information on Urban Squash Toronto or how you can help, contact Adrian Griffin, adrian@urbansquashtoronto.org

OLYMPIC BID UPDATE

President Ramachandran recently had a personal meeting with IOC President Count Jacques Rogge in Lausanne. There was further clarification of the bid process provided in advance of our Olympic Bid Steering Group (WSF, PSA, WSA and Vero) meeting again on 6th January to continue to prepare for all the steps ahead. This followed a media round table held in London in early November where the campaign slogan was revealed.....

SQUASH – SPORT AT ITS BEST

At the meeting Mr Ramachandran stressed to journalists that innovation will be a core element of squash's campaign for inclusion into the 2020 Olympic Games. He also outlined the significant growth the sport has achieved in recent years and some of the major enhancements that have been introduced since Squash's most recent campaign for Olympic inclusion for 2016.

He said: "We know we have to show the International Olympic Committee that Squash is a fantastic product, and that we are not scared to innovate. Over the past few years, since our last campaign for Olympic inclusion, the sport has progressed significantly with the introduction of SquashTV by PSA, 'Video Review' technology, new and exciting showcourts with revolutionary lighting and surfaces, together with the WSF Ambassador Programme. It is vital over this next campaign that we communicate these innovations to the IOC to show just how far the sport has come, and what the exciting plans are for the future".

It is also positive to report that the President and Secretary General have now been accredited for the London Olympics this summer, allowing some excellent integration opportunities where our case can continue to be pressed.

Meanwhile, during the course of the year we shall be asking all Federations for assistance with statistics to answer the some 80+ page questionnaire the IOC Programme Commission will be sending us – your cooperation over this is vital, please make it a high priority.