

St. Albert Tennis Club

1961-2021



St. Albert Tennis Club in 2003 -The Mission Courts and Clubhouse



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Preface

This didn't start out to be a St Albert Tennis Club history. I had been taking pictures of Club events for around 20 years. Pictures sitting in a file on my computer were of no use to anyone. So, in 2020, I decided to compile a short photo-book containing stories of Club members and memorable events illustrated by the pictures. Grant Jerace and Stephen Bouska suggested expanding it to be a complete Club history and interviewing some longstanding Club members. The timing was right - Covid isolation gave me lots of spare time to work on the project.

There were few records to draw upon. There was a collection of Board minutes, newspaper clippings, old newsletters, photographs, financial information, membership lists and other miscellaneous material dating back to the Club's inception in a file cabinet in the clubhouse. Alas, it was discarded during a housekeeping exercise in the mid-2010s.

I had a hard copy of a history of the Club from 1961 to 1988 that was compiled by Cynthia Sage who was president in 1978 and 1979 and secretary for many years (See Appendix 1). I also had some tennis Club information in digital form from about 1997. Several Club members were interviewed and contributed interesting stories and recollections. As time went on other information surfaced. Rawle Howard provided a file with old newsletters, membership lists and other information for the years from 2003 to 2011. One day during the summer in 2021 someone placed a binder belonging to Heidi Stoyke in the seniors' lounge. Heidi, a previous Club president, had passed away in 2019. It contained a wealth of information from the early 1990s to 2005, including a history of the St. Albert Tennis Club prepared by Judy Wood (See Appendix 2). Judy was a member of the club in the early days and president in 1969 and 1976. Unfortunately, it contained only pages 1 and 3 (covering the period 1961 to 1968 and 1971 to 1974) of what was obviously a longer document.

One might expect a tennis-club history would include records of tournament winners and yearly club champions. The histories compiled by Cynthia Sage and Judy Wood list winners and champions up until 1988, but after that date there are few surviving records. To even attempt to compile a complete accurate list now would be a futile task. So, this history is more an informal compilation of events and stories about members. Reading about how things were done in the past might be of interest to those involved in guiding the Club in the future. I hope the words and pictures will bring back some fond memories to longstanding members and illustrate what has made the St. Albert Tennis Club the great club that it is. Last but not least, if you notice any errors and can fill in any missing details or have a great story or picture from the past, let me know.

Gord Olsson, May 2022

The Beginning

According to a history of the St Albert Tennis Club compiled in 1988, by Judy Wood, the Club began operating in 1961 on the skating rink adjacent to Sir Alexander Mackenzie school.¹ Judy also writes at that time that there was one tennis court beside the Mission. The first documented president was Morris Robbins who was president in 1963.

By 1966 the surface had deteriorated so greatly that many people decided not to play and did not become members. A submission had been made to the Recreation Commission in 1964 regarding the need for proper tennis facilities to no avail. In 1966 two members of the Club, the president Jack Harding and Frank Carnahan, made another submission to the Recreation Board and the Town Council, assuring the Town² that the Club would maintain them. Following the presentation, the Town approved the construction of four courts. In 1967, when the estimated costs rose, the Town balked, so the Club donated \$600 to the cost. The Town paid \$10,500 and in July of that year four new courts at the current Mission site were completed.

With the new courts, senior membership jumped from 21 in 1967 to 88 in 1968 and junior membership jumped from 29 to 108 in the same period. That year, Floyd Maybee was president, vice president was Paul Stanley, Secretary was Judy Wood, Treasurer was Jack Harding, Tournament Director was Lorne Wood and Junior Coordinator was Betty Ontkean. Lorne and Judy Wood and Betty Ontkean remained active members of the Club for many years after, and Frank Carnahan who was a member as far back as 1962 was still on the membership list in 1995.

From 1968 to 1973, lessons were free to Club members. This resulted in a high membership with senior membership ranging from 88 in 1968 to a high of 143 in 1973 and junior membership from 108 in 1968 to a high of 169 in 1971. Membership fees were low. In 1972 a junior membership was \$3.00, Senior \$5.00, Couple \$7.50, and Family \$10.00. For non-members, lesson costs were \$2.00 for juniors and \$4.00 for seniors. Even with the low fees, at the end of 1973 the Club had a bank balance of \$2619.

In 1968 trophies and records were established. At the time the Club was very focused on interclub play and tournament play with keeping of detailed records of tournament results.



Although the St. Albert Tennis Club began in 1961, tennis had been played in St Albert for many years. The picture above is titled "St. Albert Tennis Players in 1910 Enjoying Some Refreshments."

Source of picture is unknown

¹ See Appendix 2. A slightly different version is presented by Cynthia Sage in a history which covers the period 1961 to 1988 (See Appendix 1). Cynthia writes "1961- Club began operation on two courts adjacent to Sir Alexander Mackenzie School."

² St Albert became a city in 1977.

Membership

Early Club Members

Judy and Lorne Wood joined the Club in the mid 1960s. Judy was president in 1969 and 1976 and Lorne was president in 1973 and 1974. Club presidents came and went, but for many of the years Judy was the *de facto* leader. Judy and Lorne were active Club members until the 1990s when they retired to Vancouver Island. Marg O'Donnell recollects "When Jim and I joined the Club in 1976, Judy Wood basically ran the Club and the Club flourished under her direction."

Another notable member was Betty Ontkian. Betty, also joined in the mid 1960s. She won the Club "A" Ladies singles championship 15 times from 1968 to 1988. She also played in several provincial and national events. After Betty's untimely passing from cancer in 1990, the Club named its provincial senior tournament after her. Both Judy and Betty were teachers and they organized school tennis activities and encouraged many students to join the Club. Judy and Betty were two of the top players in the Club. One member recalls "a group of us had a game of doubles all set up, when one of the players cancelled because she had been invited to play with Judy Wood and Betty Ontkian at the same time as our game. I guess that member thought it was a privilege to play with top-ranked players, but we had a different opinion as she abandoned us."

David and Ann Kirk and their two children, Stephen and Dorothy were all excellent players and very active in the Club. David was Club president in 1972 and 1981. Stephen was the Club pro from 1983 to 1985 and Dorothy was the pro a few years later. They inspired many junior players in the Club. Rawle Howard remembers the Kirk family. "David and Anne Kirk and their children Stephen and Dorothy were just friendly, genuine people." David and Anne moved to Calgary in 1993.

Rawle also remembers the Hammel family, David and Flo and their two children. He recalls "When I first joined, I came to the Club and sat on the bench. Within 5 minutes Flo invited me to join them on court 4. They were like that, always making sure everyone was included."

Bob and Cynthia Sage were also active in the tennis community in St. Albert and Edmonton and were very good players. Cynthia was president of the St Albert Club in 1978 and 1979 and for many years was the Club secretary. She also compiled a Club history from 1961 to 1988 (See Appendix 1).

Marg O'Donnell recalls taking lessons from Cynthia Sage and mentions a few other members. "Tom and Lee Dioszeghy contributed a lot to the Club. Lee was treasurer and social director for many years. Heidi Stoyke, who was president in 1994 and 1995 was a sweet gentle person, but she could also be tough - I remember her one time dressing down an overly competitive, obnoxious player."

Ron Riley who was president in 1988 and 1989 and vice president of Tennis Alberta in 1990 recalls: "People like Judy Wood, Bob and Cynthia Sage, Betty Ontkian and the Kirk family made the Club one of the best in Alberta. Another member, Lloyd Scherer was a great guy and excellent tennis player. Lots of members volunteered and contributed to the Club. In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s there was a lot going on – Club tournaments or socials every second weekend with three or four being provincial tournaments. The Club had several inter-club teams and a year-end dinner and dance with trophies awarded to everyone who had won a year-end tournament event."

Club Member's Testimonials.

"We were, or were not, tennis material" Jane Moroney – member since 1974

"I played tennis in school in England. I particularly remember one day when someone came to our school and did an evaluation to see who was "tennis material". You either made the cut or you didn't. Those who didn't were relegated to non-playing roles such as umpires and line judges. I also played at University in London. In 1974 after we moved to St. Albert. Vince and I joined the Club for a few years when our son Damien was about 3 ½ years old. At that time the Club was very competitive. There was an enclosed sandbox where parents could leave their kids while they played. We joined again about 10 years later when Damien was about 14 years old and had joined as a junior member. At that time the Club had a large group of juniors who spent most of their summer days at the Club. I remember doing a lot of driving to other clubs for junior interclub games. It was great for the kids. After a few years Damien got to work as assistant pro. We have been members since then, until the last few years."

"Tennis was a sport we could play together" Marg O'Donnell - member since 1976

"Jim and I moved to St. Albert from Edmonton in 1969, the year that we were married. We joined the Club in 1976. Jim had played in school before, but I had never played. It was a sport we could play together and with our kids - they still remember fun, family times playing tennis. I enjoyed the social aspect and tennis is great exercise - a good way to keep in shape, particularly as we got older. I don't think I was really competitive, but Jim and I did play in tournaments, mainly Club tournaments. I enjoyed that, and we won quite a few mixed doubles; then the Club came up with a rule that if a team won a doubles tournament, they were not allowed to play together the following year."

"Only the wealthy and people of high status played tennis" Rawle Howard – member since 1983

"I am from Grenada. I was born there in 1933. My ancestry is African and Scottish - also some of my ancestors came from Barbados. I didn't play tennis in Grenada. In Grenada only the wealthy and people of high status played, but I always thought it was something I would like to do. In Grenada I worked for the Windwards Islands Broadcasting Service. I also spent some time in England while taking a broadcasting course with the BBC. In 1968 I immigrated to Canada and settled in Edmonton where I worked for various broadcasting companies, the last being CFRN FM Radio – spinning discs (playing records), giving the news, interviewing (I even interviewed Harry Belafonte). I chose Edmonton because my brother was going to the University of Alberta. In 1974 When I was 41, I took some city lessons at Jasper High School and I played at the Mayfield indoor tennis centre. I became a member of the St. Albert Tennis Club on June 1, 1983. I am pretty sure I was the first black member of the Club.

"Soon I met Felix Damo, another Filipino" Jose Lardizabal – member since 1992

"I am from the Philippines. I had my visa and was all set to go to Canada in 1968, however my father became very sick, so I opted to stay in the Philippines. After he passed away in 1970, I asked for my visa to be renewed. At that time there was a shortage of nurses in Canada, so I was immediately accepted. Ellen, a friend and a classmate from school and my future wife, had immigrated to Montreal in 1968 so that is where I went. In 1975, we moved to Edmonton and a year later, to St Albert. I joined the Club in 1992. I had only played a bit before with a few friends. I enjoyed playing. One of my friends belonged to a tennis club in Edmonton and enjoyed it so I decided to join the St. Albert Club. Soon I met Felix Damo, another Filipino who joined just after I did. We started playing together, and as we got better, we participated more and more in Club play. I wasn't the first Filipino in the Club. There was a guy named Campbell before me, but he moved to

Vancouver. A few years later a whole bunch of Filipinos joined the club. They were good players and had played together in Edmonton before joining. “

“Breakfast at Wimbledon” Sally Thomas – member since 1978

“In England I played competitively, all through my school years - I started when I was 6 or 7 years old. I belonged to the Jesmond Lawn Tennis Club in Newcastle, England and played there on grass courts. I came to Canada in 1972 where I met Ivor, who became my husband. Ivor and I joined the Club around 1978. We both played tennis, but Ivor’s first sport was rugby, so he played intermittently. The legendary sand box for kids was there at the time where Adam, our four-year-old son, and other kids could play while the parents played tennis. I played a lot with Doreen Golden and Bob and Cynthia Sage. Bob and Cynthia Sage are now retired in Victoria. Ivor was an organizer. Every year for several years he organized “Breakfast at Wimbledon” during Wimbledon week - fun play, pancakes and strawberries.”



Left to Right: Sally Thomas, Sheila Kennedy (in white hat), John Sherritt, Ivor Thomas (in shirt with Hawaii 82 on the sleeve), Ron Riley and Ann Kennedy (with blue shorts on the top row of the bleacher). The date on Ivor’s shirt indicates that the picture was taken in 1982 or shortly after. Their attire shows they were not there to play tennis. Were they watching an exhibition match? One was held around that time with one of the players being Robert Bettauer, a former Canadian Davis Cup team member.

Photograph provided by Sally Thomas

“My objective was to beat Dave Hartt” Ron Riley – member since 1972

“I was transferred to St. Albert by McCain Foods around 1970. A few years later I worked for Seagram’s. A year or so after I arrived in St. Albert - I think it was in 1972 - Dave Hartt, a neighbour and a good friend, introduced me to tennis and got me to join the Club. I had never played tennis before. I liked it. At that time my objective was to beat Dave. I have always been competitive, right from the age of six. I had to be as I had six brothers. I was always challenging people on the box ladder and playing in Club tournaments. I entered lots of provincial tournaments. Also, for several years I played in the Alberta Senior games.”

Competitive Tennis

Club Tournaments

Cynthia Sage's and Judy Wood's histories of the St. Albert Tennis Club are testaments to the Club's success in competition in the early years. Their histories end in 1988. After 1988, competition continued to be the main focus of Club activity for several years, but there are few remaining records of competition results.

In the early years, Club tournament directors usually met in late winter and developed a schedule of tournament for the entire season which was published in the first Club newsletter of the year. There were lots of tournaments. For example, in 1991 the tournament schedule in the first newsletter of the year listed a total of 19 tournaments; competitive, fun, junior and provincial sanctioned tournaments (See Appendix 7). In fact, some members felt there were too many as they infringed on casual weekend play.

The tournament directors did not organize all the tournaments. In many years several tournaments were organized by other volunteers. "Adopt a tournament" guidelines were prepared for volunteers.

In the early years, Club members were rated in categories according to their skill levels. "A" was the highest rank, then "B" and "C". A fourth level, "D", was for beginners. Separate tournaments were held at the A, B and C levels. At the end of the tennis season, a Club ranking committee would meet and rank members. Results in tournament play were a major factor in deciding rankings.

As time went on, interest in competitive play waned. Jane Moroney was a tournament director in the 1990s and organized tournaments for several years with Jacqui Cusworth. She recalls: "At one time there were enough players to have separate events for A, B and C categories but as time went by, tournament registration dropped so we would start off with say 30 or 40 players in the draw. If you lost the first game, you would drop down to B and if you lost the second game, you would drop down to C. It worked, if you didn't mind playing a lot of games and (if you were a C player), getting pulverized in the first and possibly in the second round."



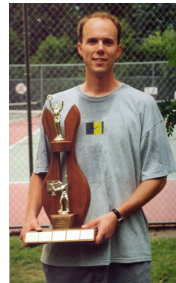
Beside getting their names on permanent trophies, club champions in A, B and C categories were presented with individual trophies at the season end banquet. It was a large expense as each large tournament trophy was engraved and small individual trophies were presented to 30 or more winners each year. By the 2000s the practice was discontinued. The individual trophies were nice, about 20 to 25 centimeters high, but very few of them ended up in home trophy cabinets or on a fireplace mantel.



1999 WD - A Winners
Marg O'Donnell &
Irene Foster



1999 MD - A
Winners
Chris Knight &
Johnny Dorado



1999 MS - A
Winner
Mark McKinley



1999 WS - B
Winner
Diane Emberg

*Club Champions in 1999
The importance of club championships
tournaments declined in the 2000s.*

With the widespread acceptance of the National Tennis Rating Program, the A, B, C, D rating system was eventually discontinued in the Club. An unofficial relationship of the A, B, C, D system to the NTRP system is A player - 4.6 to 5.5; B player - 3.6 to 4.5; C player - 2.6 to 3.5; D player - 2.5 and below. Club players have not been formally rated for many years however, the National Tennis Rating Program is used to give players a general idea of levels of play for tournaments and for some St Albert Club programs.

In the 2000s, club activity gradually moved to more casual or social play. This was a trend for all community clubs. Tennis facilities such as the Royal Glenora Club and the Saville Sports Centre attracted the more serious players. Some years, few if any formal Club tournaments were held by the club.



Club members do well at the 2015 Senior provincial tournament hosted by the St. Albert Tennis Club. Mixed doubles winners: (Left to Right) Margo Jerace and Thuy Cao, Club Pro: Molly James, Runner ups: Kathrin Herren and Ron Riley.

Tennis Alberta Sanctioned Tournaments

According to Judy Wood's history, the Club held an open tournament in 1974. If Tennis Alberta or the Greater Edmonton Tennis Association (GETA), which was very active in those days had a role in it, it is not recorded. What is recorded in Judy's history is that she and Betty Ontkean won the A doubles.

By 1991, the Club was hosting three Tennis Alberta sanctioned tournaments: the Betty Ontkean Open in May, a Junior B tournament in July, and a senior's open tournament in August. The Club continued to host these tournament for several years.

Around the turn of the century, enthusiasm for tournaments waned. The Junior B tournament was last held in 2004. In 2003 the Seniors open tournament was changed to a 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 level tournament, however in 2004 it was rained out and then discontinued. The Betty Ontkean Open tournament was last held in 2005.

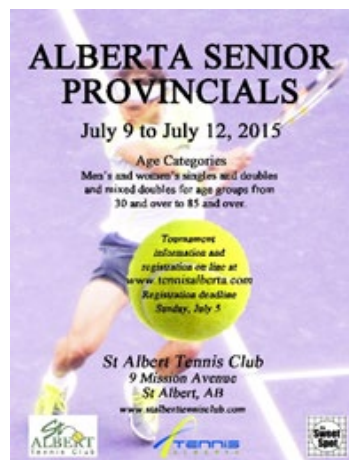
A few Club members, John Dmytrow, Ron Riley and Gord Olsson, decided that the Club should continue to host at least one sanctioned provincial tournament, so they started the St Albert Seniors tournament in 2007. At that time, most tournaments set categories of play by the National Tennis Rating System, however for the St Albert Seniors it was decided that the category of play should be by age group. Thirty-nine players entered the 2007 tournament. In 2008, building on success, 65 players entered. Over the following years the tournament gained a reputation for friendly competition and good food. Play was able to continue on indoor courts when it rained due to the goodwill of the Saville Sports Centre.



Ladies Doubles Play - 2009 St. Albert Seniors Tournament

In 2015, at the request of Tennis Alberta, the tournament changed to the Alberta Senior Provincials. Later Jon Stoochnoff was hired as a roving referee and the Club pro managed the desk. It was not held in 2020 and 2021 because of Covid.

*2015 Alberta Senior Provincial
Tennis Tournament Poster*



Interclub

Judy Wood in her history of the St. Albert Tennis Club writes that in 1963 the “club interclub team won the Brower Shield in its second year of competition – emblematic of the top interclub team in the Edmonton area.” Cynthia Sage in her 1988 history writes: “The Club fields many teams from A, B and C levels and Junior Under 18 and Under 14.” Beside the competition, interclub play was a great way to meet players from other clubs and socialize. After the matches, the host team would supply “refreshments” for the visiting team.

In the last several years, there have been fewer teams because of waning player interest and because evening interclub play infringed on the already limited court time for Club play.

2005 – World Masters Games

The World Masters Games take place every four years in different cities in the world. In 2005, the games came to Edmonton. It was a great way to meet players from all over the world. Several Club members participated including Colin Riley, Mark Steinke, Dante Ajero, John Dmytrow, Gord Olsson, Jose Algara, Robert Jones, Bruce Neuman, Diane Emberg, Kathrin Jenni (Herren), Linda Vermeulen, Karen Bradley, Bonnie Childs, Linda Becket, Peter Mair and Moe Rahemtutlla. Gold medal winners were Jose Algara in men’s 45 singles and doubles, Colin Riley in men’s 30 singles and doubles and Mark Steinke in men’s doubles.

Alberta Senior Games

Over the years many Club members participated in the Alberta senior games. While records of Club participation are sparse, in 2005 Jim O’Donnell and Paul Duteau won gold and Stan Patterson and Chris Veltman won bronze in men’s doubles. For several years Ron Riley played in the games with Bob Sage, Jim O’Donnell and others, winning silver and gold medals. Winning a gold medal could also lead to bigger things. In 2009 Ron and Hans Homfeldt won the Alberta Senior games in doubles and qualified for the 2010 Canadian Nationals which they won. That qualified them to play in the 2011 Senior Olympics in Houston, Texas. The event is known officially as the National Senior Games. It hosts senior athletes from the USA and Canada. Ron and Hans came seventh out of 32 teams. Ron says, “that three-year run was a highlight.”



Jim O'Donnell and Ron Riley. Canadian Championship Winners in Men's 65 plus doubles at the 2014 Senior Summer Games held in Strathcona County, Alberta.

Photograph provided by Ron Riley

Recreational Tennis and Social Activities

The Year End Banquet – It was a big deal

The first Club social activity was a dance in 1962 at the Club Mocombo. The Club Mocombo was a dine and dance hall on the St Albert Trail halfway up the hill on the west side of the trail south of the Sturgeon River. Annual Club banquets and dances continued at the Club Mocombo for many years and later at the Royal Canadian Legion on Tache Street. Big parts of the year-end event were speeches and presentation of trophies to the past-year tournament winners. Not all the trophies were serious - for example there was the John McEnroe trophy.

The John McEnroe Trophy



The St. Albert Tennis Club John McEnroe trophy is long gone, but the racquet in the picture above says it all.

Ron Riley said when asked about the John McEnroe trophy: "It started one day in the 1980s when John Sherritt lost a casual game amongst a group of us. He was so mad at his play that he smashed his racquet over the net post and threw it in the dumpster. We retrieved it and made it into a trophy and that year at the annual banquet presented it to him." It was called the John McEnroe trophy for obvious reasons and was awarded for several years after. When asked if he had ever won it, Ron replied: "Yeah, I won it a few times."

The One and a Half Club

Tennis Club friendships often went beyond the Mission courts. A group of ladies who called themselves the "One and a Half Club" played tennis on Fridays. In the summer they played at the Mission courts and in the winter at the Kinsmen Field House. After tennis they would enjoy a beer together. On a November weekend in 1999 they took the bus to Mary Heathfield's condo in Canmore for a weekend of comradeship and tennis. It snowed but they still had fun with a makeshift game in the snow. Their attire, red sweaters, originated from a sale in a little shop in the industrial area of Canmore. So why was it called the One and a Half Club? Simple: one beer was not enough, two was too many.



Members of the One and a Half Club in Canmore. (Left to Right) Lilian McPhee, Sally Thomas, Mary Heathfield, Lee Dioszeghy, Bonnie Childs, and Linda Beckett (Front).

Photograph provided by Sally Thomas

The Year End Banquet Becomes History

The year-end banquet and dance eventually changed to a more casual event. Individual trophies were no longer given out. The permanent tournament trophies were placed in a top shelf in the clubhouse never to be taken down again. The Club windup party in 2003 held on September 14, started with a reception in the clubhouse and then everyone walked to Louisa's restaurant for dinner.



2003 - Sing song at the year end party at Louisa's Restaurant. Left to right: unknown, Irene Foster, Vince Moroney, Ken Chow, unknown, Peter Mair.

In recent years, the year end event was simply fun play and a barbeque at the tennis Club – no speeches, no presentations, just an informal get together. That's all the membership wanted.



Club member enjoying an afternoon social - casual play and a barbeque.

The Case of the Missing Pig



The jokesters: Ken and Paul



*Club member and Chef
Elfi Homfeldt carves the pig.*

For many years, drop-in “tennis and socials” have been held on Friday nights. One day in 2008 it was decided to have a pig roast - so Paul Tietzen and Ken Nguyen ordered one from a shop in Edmonton’s China Town.

On the designated Friday, Paul and Ken drove to China Town to pick up the pig. About an hour and a half later they returned with a sad story. They had received the pig and put it in the trunk of their car and then went back into the building to pay the bill. Unfortunately, they left the trunk of the car open. When they returned the pig was gone.

Jaws dropped, there were sad faces, and words were not spared. The harshest came from Ken’s brother Tim “How could you be so stupid as to leave a cooked pig unguarded.” Some started to rationalize “Maybe it’s not all that bad feeding hungry people - what a treat they will have,” or “OK, all is not lost - let’s get some wieners and buns and have hot dogs.”

Only after everyone had accepted that the pig was gone and the best had to be made of it, Paul and Ken went to the car and brought out the roasted pig.

It was all a joke!

Drop-in Tennis and Fun Sundays

The Club focus in the early years was competitive tennis, however recreational tennis has always had a place in the club. In the 1990s, drop-in times and fun tournaments became more popular. In 1994, in addition to Club competitive tournament and Tennis Alberta sanctioned tournaments, the Club had five fun Sundays and a junior/seniors doubles tournament (see appendix 7).

Several programs have been running for years in one form or another and certainly will continue in the years to come.

Monday Night Doubles Ladder. This program has been running for at least 20 years. It is for the more proficient player, but intermediate players are also welcome. Players are organized so the more proficient players play on court 1, the next proficient on court 2 and so on. Players advance to the next court or move down depending on their win - loss record.

Nimbletons. This is a daytime program for non-competitive social play for players at all levels. It started in the 1990s. For most years the number of players exceeds the available courts so it requires a rotation every half hour, with everyone taking a turn sitting out. No one complains as the break is a good time to socialize. Nimbletons is popular among retired seniors. This group plays on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.



Morning recreation players social distancing in 2020 because of Covid. Left to right: Art Derrien, Janet Natyshen, Keven McClean, Grant Jerace, Donna Belley. Dave Belley, Ted Furigay.

Source of photograph is unknown

Lobsters. This program is for players at the 3.5 and above level. Play is semi-serious doubles. Play which was on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons was changed to Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in 2021.

Friday Night Lights. It is a popular night for players at the end of week. As it is on a Friday night, players often stay a bit longer, socialize and maybe fire up the BBQ.

SYSTEM (Start Your Saturday Tennis Early in the Morning). It is a program for early birds of all levels who like camaraderie and recreational tennis. Play starts at 7:00 am on Saturday mornings.

Besides the programs mentioned above, there is usually lots of opportunity to arrange casual games with friends if courts are available. Also in most years, fun tournaments are organized and evening times are scheduled for mixed-doubles play, ladies play and beginners nights where instruction is offered.



Steve Bouska, club president from 2018 to 2020, announces that it is time for the winners to move to the next court and switch doubles partners.

August 2019 Fun Tournament. Ed Landry wearing the red hat.

Management

The Early Years

Right from the start, the St. Albert Tennis Club has relied on volunteers. The first mention of any paid help was in 1974 when a Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) grant was obtained, and two students were hired for part of June, July, and August. The club used the STEP program to hire student help for nearly 40 years.

In 1979 the first teaching pro was hired. Later, the pro took on some management and maintenance functions such as taking applications for memberships and entries for tournaments, scheduling lessons, supervising assistants and carrying out routine clubhouse and court upkeep.

In the 1990s, organizations were developing Mission, Vision and Values statements. Same with the Club – a Mission statement was developed in 1999, the year that Jim O'Donnell was president. It read:

The St. Albert Tennis Club is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Act. The bylaws of the club as registered with the Registrar of Corporations for the Province of Alberta. Periodically the bylaws are updated with the latest version posted on the club's website.

"The Mission of The St. Albert Tennis Club is to encourage, sponsor and promote both competitive and recreational tennis, and to provide for the recreation of members through friendly and social activities, and to participate in and co-operate with appropriate recreational programs of the City of St. Albert."

Financial Management

Over the years the Board of Directors has practiced good financial management. Judy Wood in her History of the St Albert Tennis Club states that the Club bank balance at the end of 1970, was \$1,988. This was the earliest financial record that could be found.

By 1995 total Club assets were \$24,204. Most annual surpluses were in the range of \$2,000 to \$3000. With accumulated surpluses, and revenues of \$15,000 to \$20,000 from casinos every couple of years, the Club has been able to resurface the courts every six or seven years. Additional funding for major capital expenditures came from grants, such as the Communities Facilities Improvement Grant and contributions from the City of St. Albert.

Under Club bylaws, the Club may borrow money but only under the authority of a special resolution. At the 1998 AGM it was suggested that Club surplus funds be invested in mutual funds. Some board members, concerned about stock market volatility, felt that this was gambling the Club's money and proposed the motion "That investments remain as they are with GIC's reinvested in six-month or yearly terms to enable accessing the funds..." which was passed. Donna Belley, Club treasurer, reported at the 2021 AGM that the Club had a cash balance of \$70,886.

Relationship with the City of St. Albert

Since its inception in the 1960s, the Club has enjoyed good relations with the City of St. Albert. The Mission Courts, surrounding grounds and the clubhouse are owned by the City and the Club uses these facilities under a license of occupation. A link to the license of occupation is available on the Club's website. The current license, executed in 2021 is for a five-year period. During the summer months from April 1 to October 31 the Club has priority use of the courts and exclusive use of the clubhouse.

Under the terms of the license of occupation the Club is required to provide an annual schedule to the city that includes times for public use and for the provision of public lessons. On several occasions, the City has worked with the Club and contributed funds for capital improvements. The Club has always been appreciative of its partnership with the city to contribute to community life in St. Albert.

Part time Manager

Due to the booming economy in the early 2000s the Club had difficulty hiring a pro/manager. The solution was to hire a part-time manager. Jim O'Donnell served as manager from 2003 to 2007. His duties were extensive. He took membership and lesson applications, looked after court and clubhouse maintenance, provided junior supervision, and managed sanctioned tournaments. He also organized work bees and hired qualified instructors for lessons on an as-required basis.



Jim O'Donnell, Club president in 1999, club manager from 2003 to 2006 and honorary life member is showing Jose Algara how to do a good court cleaning job.

Kathrin Herren took over the position in 2008. During the first year of Kathrin's tenure the market for hiring tennis pros improved and the Club was again able to hire university students to give lessons. In 2011 the part-time management position was abandoned. The work was taken over by Club volunteers, except for the actual provision of lessons which was conducted by the Club pro. After 2017 Club pros were engaged under contract.

*Kathrin Herren (Left) club manager from 2007 to 2009.
Also in the picture Rawle Howard, Lounge Manager
and Honorary Life member and Marg Nelsen.
Picture taken at the 2008 Seniors Tournament*



Facility Improvements

Early Court and Clubhouse Improvements

The four courts at Mission established in 1967 are in a relatively quiet location that is well protected from the wind. The one drawback was that until 2010 the courts were subject to severe cracking (See the Section: *A Major Resurfacing Project*).

In 1974, the City built a clubhouse at the Mission Courts that could be used by the Club during the tennis season. Prior to that a portable structure was used by the Club during tennis season. In the winter it was moved to the top of the hill as a changing room for outdoor hockey. The new clubhouse was a big boost for the Club and lawn chairs, a fridge and a table tennis table were purchased.

In 1978 a proposal was presented to the city for additional courts adjacent to the four already at Mission. As well the Club started to investigate court lighting. As it turned out the Alberta Summer Games were held in St Albert in 1979 so the city resurfaced the Mission courts and established two new city courts - not at Mission - but at Fountain Park. Umpire chairs and two small sets of bleachers were also put on the Mission courts by the city – they remained for about 25 years. It would be a few years before court lighting would be installed.

During these early years, several changes were also made to the clubhouse. In 1983, the seniors lounge was built and an office for the pro was added at the northwest corner of the clubhouse where the equipment room is now. Ron Riley recalls Club members Dave Hartt and Ivor Thomas doing the work.

After several years of discussion, lights were installed on the four Mission courts in 1986 at a cost of \$20,000. The work was managed by the Club and the cost was subsidized by an Alberta Parks and Recreation grant of \$5,000 which was matched by the City of St. Albert.

In 1988 further Improvements were made to the clubhouse which included adding ladies' and men's showers. The showers were welcomed by out-of-town players who had to drive back to their homes after playing in Club-hosted tournaments. Also, about that time an area for the juniors was established in the southeast corner of the clubhouse, (where the kitchen is now) with a ping pong table for use during rain delays.

A resurfacing in 1990 included a new fence all at a cost of \$21,000.

In 1995 timers were installed for the court lights as an electricity cost-saving measure. They were set to last 60 minutes so they needed to be reset before the 60 minutes expired in order to have continuous lighting. They were also set to turn off at 11:00 pm, which was later changed to 10:00 pm in consideration of the nearby neighbours.

2004 - A Landscaping Project



John Grootelaar painting the bleacher in 2003, a year before the paving stone patio was constructed.

By 2004 the grass between the clubhouse and courts had become so trodden that it was a source of dirt ending up in the clubhouse and on the courts. As well, the area between the parking lot and the courts provided such poor drainage that water from the spring melt and heavy rains accumulated on Court 3 at the northwest corner.

The proposal was to place a paving stone patio between the clubhouse and courts, to re-grade the area between the parking lot and the courts so that a swale could drain water away from the courts, and to plant new bushes and shrubs.

The City of St. Albert agreed to let the Club manage the project. The cost was \$61,457 covered by a \$31,747 CFEP grant and \$26,598 Casino money with the remainder from Club funds. The work was carried out by Jade Landscaping. The City's contribution was to pave the parking lot, which was welcomed by the Club as for years it had been a source of dust that ended up on the courts.

2008 - 40th year celebration on the patio to commemorate the original opening of the Mission courts.

Front Table: Jack Jeffery, past president and club treasurer (back view), Mary Heathfield (partly hidden by Jack) and Ken Allred, St Albert MLA. At the table with the red and white tablecloth: Lee Dioszeghy, Kathrin Herren and John Colourne, club president,





The patio after the 2012 extension

In 2012 the patio was extended to cover an additional area. A few years later a paving stone walkway was placed along the southeast side of the courts. Both these projects were carried out by Patio Magic.

2008 - Clubhouse Renovations

During the winter and spring of 2008, a major clubhouse renovation project was spearheaded by Reg Nelsen, past president. The project included creating a kitchen and improving storage facilities. The final cost of the work was \$36,476 which was partly covered by a CFEP grant.



Storage area before construction of the new kitchen.

Wheelchair access to one of the washrooms was considered and included in the grant application. However, it was not done due to the extra cost and because it was not required by the city for old buildings.

Carrol Clarke, Elfi Homfeldt, Elaine Stonehouse and Maureen Brown enjoy the new kitchen while volunteering for the St. Albert Seniors tournament.



Facilities Planning Formalized

In 2008, during John Colourne's tenure as president, a formal facilities planning committee was established with a mandate to plan for future Club facilities such as court lighting, tennis courts, grounds, and the clubhouse. The initial members were David Brown, Jim O'Donnell, John Colbourne, Reg Nelsen, Gord Olsson and Jack Jeffery. David Brown, the chairman, was a past treasurer and had been involved in revising the Club bylaws in 2003. Besides managing and planning the projects the committee successfully applied for grants. Successful projects included updating of court lighting in 2009, extension of the patio and walkways with paving stones and a 2010 major resurfacing project.

Besides grants, facilities improvement projects are funded by casinos which generate about \$15,000 to \$20,000. As well each year the Club has a surplus of a few thousand dollars which is available for projects if needed.

For several years members were able to start playing earlier and continue playing later in the season so the period that the Club has use of the clubhouse and courts was expanded to be from April 1 to October 31. In 2011, the Club's license of occupation with the city was renegotiated.

How Fast is Your Serve?

Sometime around 2005 a radar gun that tracked the speed of balls on the court was purchased. Only a couple of club players could reach speeds of 90 mph and good luck if their serves ever landed in the service box. Most were less than 60 mph. Hmm... Milos Raonic's top speed is around 155 mph.

2010 - A Major Resurfacing Project

For as long as any member of the Club can remember the St Albert Tennis Club's courts had been subject to cracking in the asphalt. As the courts are at the bottom of a hill there is a belief that ground water has collected and/or flows under the courts resulting in severe cracking due to subsurface pressure and frost heaving. For many years surface cracks were filled and the court surface covered with a finishing acrylic paint.

Finally, in 2010 a major project was proposed to fix the court cracking issue. The \$180,000 estimated cost was significant. The cost were to be covered by a \$75,000 contribution from the City of St. Albert, \$18,539 carried forward from a previous Community Facilities Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant, \$71,461 from a new CFEP grant being applied for and \$15,000 of Tennis Club funds. A motion at the 2009 AGM gave authority to use Club funds for the shortfall, if the new CFEP funds could not be obtained. In the spring of 2010, a contract was awarded to Tomko Sports Systems, Inc. to carry out the work.



A synthetic geotechnical fabric layer (Petromat) was placed on top of the old asphalt surface, then a new 75 mm asphalt layer was laid. For the final surface, an Acrylic Plexipave layer colored blue was applied. The club hoped that this solution would stop cracks in the old surface transmitting to the upper layer. The project was successful as ten years later only minor surface cracks appeared.

The photograph shows a 75 mm layer of asphalt being added to the courts.



St. Albert mayor Nolan Crouse, assisted by club president John Clarke, cuts the ribbon to the resurfaced courts on Friday, August 20th, 2010.



Mayor Nolan Crouse addresses the tennis club membership. The City of St Albert had contributed \$75,000 to the project.

More Courts – an elusive goal

The current four courts at Mission used by the Tennis Club were built in 1967. Just over ten years later, in 1978, the Club made a proposal to the city for improved tennis facilities which included additional courts at Mission.³ While no additional courts were built at Mission, in 1979 the Alberta Summer Games came to St. Albert so the City built two new courts at Fountain Park and resurfaced the Mission Courts.

In 1991 the city had a plan for what was then called the Red Willow Urban Park. Part of the plan recommended the relocation of the St. Albert Tennis Club to make way for an interpretive facility and a founders walk. To address the recommendation, in 1993 the Club engaged Randall Conrad & Associates Ltd. to carry out a feasibility study. When members were asked about their choice given a variety of sites a majority preferred the existing location at Mission. The top two sites recommended by the consultants, Willoughby Park and Alpine Park were not acceptable to the Club. No decision was made and as a reprieve the city guaranteed in writing that the Club could stay another seven years at the Mission site. Eventually the proposal to relocate the Mission Courts was abandoned altogether. As a sidenote, regarding a question about the need for improved facilities 75% of Club members that responded requested a tennis bubble (for indoor play) and 69% requested additional courts.

In 2002, when Servus Place was in the planning stage the Club made presentations during several planning meetings and provided written submissions to have indoor tennis included in the new facility. The economics of tennis (only two or four players on one court) were not persuasive. Barr Ryder Architects who were retained to make the final plans for the recreation centre also believed that tennis was an exclusive sport better accommodated in an exclusive private, racquet-sports club. In the end, soccer and hockey were given priority at Servus Place. In April 2003, a brief was presented to city council, expressing the Club's concern that the Regional Multipurpose Recreation Facility Summary Report did not address any of the input provided by the Club. Although our concerns were acknowledged, in the end the Club was not accommodated.

In 2014, attention again returned to the need for additional courts. Two factors were driving the need. At peak hours and during popular programs waiting time was significant. Another need was to be able to facilitate junior play and lessons at Mission. These programs were carried out at the Willoughby and Fountain Park courts however the arrangement was difficult to manage, cumbersome and fragmented the Club. In the fall of 2014, a committee comprised of David Brown, John Clarke and Gord Olsson prepared a ten-page written proposal for four new courts to be established in an area adjacent to the parking lot at Mission that was occupied by a ball diamond. The estimated cost of the four courts was approximately \$600,000. The proposal was submitted to the City of St Albert in October of that year. It was turned down by the City. A problem cited was that the land was subject to a caveat between the La Corporation Episcopale Catholique Romaine and the Municipality of St. Albert. The agreement states that the land was sold to the Municipality on the condition that it will be used for a public park and shall not be used for playgrounds - specifically mentioned are "Football, Baseball and Tennis Lawn." While the Tennis Club was aware of the caveat it was also aware that it had not been enforced in the past and that the ball diamond has been allowed to remain despite the caveat.

It is understandable that members want the Club to remain at the Mission site. It has been the Club home for over 50 years, is central, is in a beautiful location, is relatively quiet and is well protected from the elements. Play on extreme windy days at Mission can be enjoyable when it would be impossible on other sites.

³ Cynthia Sages Tennis Club History, Appendix A.

St. Albert Tennis Club Professionals

Right from the start, the Tennis Club has provided lessons to members and the public. After the four courts were built in 1967 lessons were provided by Club members. Betty Ontkian, Frank Carnahan, Judy Wood, Cynthia Sage, David Kirk are a few of those listed in Judy Wood's history.

The St Albert Tennis Club hired its first tennis professional in 1979. Club professionals hired from 1979 to 1988 are listed in Appendix 1 - Cynthia Sage's history and from 1989 to 2021 in Appendix 5 - Club Managers and Professionals 1989 to 2021.

Stephen Kirk was the Club tennis pro from 1983 to 1985 and Dorothy Kirk was the pro a few years later. Stephen and Dorothy were a couple of the kids who spent a lot of time in the legendary sand box while their parents played tennis in the 1960s and 1970s. Rawle Howard recalls "Stephen became the number one singles player in Alberta and was the Club pro when I first joined. I particularly remember Steve because he would invite beginners to play with him, taking the opportunity to give them a few pointers – not all the Club pros did that. Dorothy was also a top player and was the Club pro a few years later. Both Dorothy and Stephen were great with the juniors."

By the 1980s the job description for the pro-manager was very broad. Rawle recalls "When I first joined the Club the pro worked full time during the season and basically ran the Club: answering the phone, organizing and giving lessons, looking after the juniors, and running provincial tournaments." As well, the pro provided stroke improvement clinics for members (sometimes free, sometimes for a token fee), kept the clubhouse tidy, did some court maintenance and gave private lessons. Tennis instructor-certified students in the Sports and Recreation program, University of Alberta, were hired and their wages partly covered by government grants. Often older junior Club players were hired as court supervisors to assist the pro, and parents were asked to help by driving juniors to tournaments and interclub play.

A popular pro/manager was Dan Traxler. In 1991 when he was hired, he had graduated from the University of Alberta with a bachelor's degree of Physical Education, was ranked as one of the top ten players in Alberta and was a level 2 tennis instructor. Dan's enthusiasm went as far as to take several keen players to an elite tennis camp in 1992 where they all camped at Gull Lake. In 1992, he was selected to coach the U-16 Alberta team that competed in Ontario. He was also the Club pro in 1993. Because Dan participated in many activities, qualified Club members such as Ken and Mary Heathfield and Cynthia Sage gave lessons when Dan was busy.

Lindsay Anderson was a popular Club pro/manager, who served for five years from 1998 to 2002. She was a highly qualified player reaching a rank of 6th in Alberta Open Singles and 4th in Alberta Open Doubles. She was a captain of the University of Alberta Tennis Team, voted Tennis Team MVP in 2000 and 2001, and represented Canada at the Universiade Games in Beijing, China in 2001.

In 2002, when the economy in Alberta was booming and students were able to obtain lucrative jobs elsewhere the Club did not receive one application for the pro-manager position from a student. All clubs were experiencing the same difficulty. Fortunately, Lindsey Anderson agreed to stay another year, however the STEP grant could not cover her wages, as she had graduated.

In 2003, part-time manager, Jim O'Donnell provided some lessons himself and hired other qualified Club members including Margaret Asquith, Marg O'Donnell and Thuy Cao to provide instruction on a part-time basis. This arrangement worked well for several years.

In 2008, during the first year of Kathrin Herren's tenure as part-time manager, the market for hiring tennis pros improved and the Club was again able to hire university students. However, their duties were primarily to provide lessons – a substantial reduction from the broad range of duties before. Junior membership had fallen dramatically so junior court supervision was not required. After 2008 junior membership continued to decline until 2011 when the program was revitalized (See the next section).

Rohit George, Club pro in 2008 and 2009 giving lessons to a group of Junior players.



Club pro Molly James presents prizes to 2014 St. Albert Seniors MS 35 winners: First place Neil Balos (right) and Runner up Edgar Reyes (left).

Club pro Jeff James in 2019 shows a junior the correct grip to hold a tennis racquet.



The Junior Program

From its inception, the Club has provided for a junior program. Junior membership really took off in the early years. From 1968-1973, a junior, who had taken tennis lessons, could become a member of the Club for a small fee. In 1971, junior membership reached 169 which is remarkable as the population of St Albert was barely above 10,000.

Until a pro was hired in 1979, lessons were given by Club members. A good outline of the junior program in the late 1980s is given in Cynthia Sage's history *What the Tennis Club Offers*.

In the early 1990s the St. Albert Tennis Club was purported to have the largest active junior membership in the greater Edmonton area.⁴ Not only were junior members active on the St Albert courts, but they also participated and had great results winning in several age categories in greater Edmonton tournaments, junior provincial tournaments and junior interclub.

1994 was an impressive year for St Albert junior tournament play. In the 1994 Greater Edmonton Tennis Association tournament Tim Chow, Kelly Mack and Jill Chow came first in their age categories. In the Jr. B Provincials Lindsay Anderson was the winner of the U-18 age category. Lindsay later became the pro/manager for the St Albert Tennis Club from 1998 to 2002. Mike Gregoire, Kelly Mark and Trevor Stride also came first in their age categories in the 1994 Jr. B Provincials. In interclub, St Albert placed first in U-18 interclub and 3rd in U-14 categories.⁵

Despite the very active junior program in St Albert, junior membership declined in the early 1990s. This was also a trend with other clubs in the greater Edmonton area. By 2011, St. Albert only had two junior members!

In April 2011 Bonnie Childs assisted by Linda Beckett and several other Club members set about to rejuvenate the St. Albert junior tennis program believing that the future of the Club is dependent on junior membership. Bonnie had been president in 1992 and 1993 and for many years during the 1990s had been involved in the junior program. In 2011 she took on the role of junior program director for a three-year term.

Bonnie strongly believed that to build junior membership it would be important to generate interest through the schools, so she initiated a school instructional program. In 2011, four St. Albert schools participated. In 2012, 13 schools participated and in 2013, 17 schools participated. Junior lessons were also provided to the public. As the program developed, the Club was able to hire tennis pro Zach MacDonald, assistant pro Matt Ormandy, and later, pro Molly James to conduct the lessons and look after the junior membership. Molly James, who was a U of A sports and recreation student and who played for the University of Alberta Tennis teams continued as pro from 2014 to 2016. The pros also provided adult lessons. In 2013, junior membership was back up to 102. Full credit is due to Bonnie and Linda and all the others who helped to successfully rejuvenate the junior program.

⁴ Jack Jeffery, Presidents Report, October 23, 1991.

⁵ Lynn Chow, Junior Coordinator, Report on the 1994 junior program at the 1994 AGM.



Back Row: tennis pro Zach MacDonald with Assistant Matt Ormandy with junior tennis players at the Club's Mission courts in 2012.

Photograph credit: Bonnie Childs



Pro Jeff James (blue hat) with Daniel Henschel (yellow shirt) giving lessons to a group of juniors at Willoughby courts in 2019

After Bonnie's term ended, Dr. Grant Jerace was junior coordinator from 2014 to 2017. Molly James' brother, Jeff who had helped Molly during her tenure, became the pro in 2017 and continued on until 2019. Jeff was also a U of A sports and recreation student who also played for the University of Alberta Tennis team.

Dave Hildebrand took over as junior coordinator in 2018. Junior activity was focused on Club activity with no involvement in interclub or provincial tournaments. Nevertheless the junior program continued to flourish reaching a high of 110 in 2019. Unfortunately, during Dave's term, Covid took its toll. In 2020 the junior program was abandoned altogether. 2021 was a little bit better. Dave hired two qualified instructors, Jena Cheng and Lydia Samis, both recreation students from the University of Alberta that were on the U of A tennis team. Because of Covid restrictions in May and June the Club was not able to provide tennis instruction for the local elementary schools as was done in the previous years and only 19 juniors joined the Club. However, a summer junior drop-in program was very successful with 49 participants, as were junior tennis camps with 122 participants.

The Club Embraces Technology

Yesterday's Newsletters

For many years Club newsletters were prepared several times a year, with the first one being mailed out at the beginning of the tennis season. Preparing, printing, folding, and mailing out newsletters to members was a major task usually managed by the secretary with help from other Club members. A couple of names of the many Club secretaries who managed the task are Dorothy Sombach and Wilma Gonsalvos.

In 2002, when Mark Steinke set up the Club website (See next section), and for several years after, not all Club members had internet access so a newsletter was still necessary. It seemed most efficient for the manager of the website to look after all communication so Mark Steinke also looked after production of the newsletter. After Mark, Lisette Turcotte took over. As time went on most if not all Club members had internet access so during Lisette's tenure newsletters were posted on the Club's website. Eventually they were abandoned altogether, in favor of emails and posted information on the website.

A Club Website

As mentioned in the previous section, vice president, Mark Steinke, brought the Club into the electronic communication age by setting up the Club website which was available for the 2002 tennis season. In 2002 members were also asked to provide their email addresses on their registration forms so that they could be contacted quickly and efficiently. The website included information on tournaments, lessons, socials and other Club events, as well as board policy, Club bylaws and links to other tennis websites.

For the 2011 season a webcam was installed on the roof of the clubhouse. Then, anyone could go to the Tennis Club's website and see who was playing and if there were available courts. Members living some distance from the Club could also check to see what the weather was like.

Mark continued to manage the website for several years after. Following Mark, Lisette Turcotte managed it until 2017. Then Stephen Bouska, managed it while president from 2018 to 2020. In 2021, Bruce McGillivray took over.

Tournament Software – Just like the Grand Slams

Tennis Canada's cloud-based tournament software was used at the St. Albert Tennis Club for Tennis Alberta sanctioned tournaments starting around 2015. No longer was it necessary for players to submit hard copy entry forms and for tournament volunteers to phone players with times of matches. Match results and times for upcoming matches could be updated in real time on a computer in the club house and accessed online by anyone, anywhere.

More Automation

Dr. Grant Jerace, who was Club treasurer from 2015 to 2020, moved the technology yardsticks even further ahead. As treasurer of the Club, he streamlined and automated the Club registration and financial system.

In 2016, the Club began using Moneydance financial software for financial record keeping. In that same year a major change was made to the structure of it's financial statements to better meet Club requirements and to be more intuitive and readable.

In 2017, through links on the Club website, online registrations for Club memberships and programs was implemented with links to the Jotform and PayPal platforms. This system which enabled convenient registration from home was greatly welcomed by members and the public. It also facilitated financial management, but still required some record keeping with Excel.

In 2019, the Club decided to review available online, club-management software which was becoming more sophisticated and a reduced price-tag. The Board, under the leadership of then president, Stephen Bouska and Grant Jerace, after a careful review, decided to go with a Canadian platform, RacquetClubSoft by Jegysoft, with a link to the payment platform PayPal. At that time RacquetClubSoft's functionality included: membership and public program registrations, bulk communications to all or specific groups of club membership, and on-line access to the membership directory with the ability to connect to other players to set up matches . Although not implemented to date it also provides a court booking function. At the time of writing, due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021, only the registration and junior program management functions have been applied.

With the rapid development of cloud technology, further improvement in intuitiveness and ease-of-use in club-management software are expected.

Grant Jerace, tournament director and Hilda Schweitzer, on-court supervisor, discussing tournament rules at the 2015 St. Albert Junior Invitational Tournament. Junior players from the Edmonton area participated in the tournament. Grant, besides being treasurer at the time, was also junior coordinator from 2014 to 2017.



An International Sport

Tennis is an international sport and the membership in the St Albert Tennis Club attests to that. A non-inclusive list of countries that members of the Club in 2021 are known to have emigrated from includes: China, Vietnam, Philippines, Jamaica, Grenada, Trinidad, Ethiopia, England, Iraq, Germany, Poland, New Zealand, and Romania.

Marg O'Donnell: "One thing stands out – tennis is an international game. Jim and I traveled a lot after we retired – to Japan, Ecuador, Bali, Hawaii and all over the United States. There was always a tennis court where you could play and meet other tennis players. We met some wonderful people that way."

In the years 2005 to 2010 when the Edmonton Hospital Board held a recruitment drive to bring much needed qualified nurses to the city. Many recruits came from the Philippines. One of the highlights of the year for Filipino members is an annual tennis tournament which alternates between greater Edmonton and Calgary. In 2010 the Filipino members of the St. Albert Club hosted the tournament and has continued to do so every second year since.



St Albert Tennis Club Tournament - September, 2019

Standing (Left to Right): Ernie, Alvin I, Medel. Sitting (Left to Right) Kent, Edgar, Fidel, Alvin A, Gerard, Renato, Earl and RJ.

Photograph provided y by Kent Acosta

Volunteers contribute to the Club's Success

Volunteerism makes a great Club

Right from the start in 1961 the Club has benefitted from willing volunteers.

"I like to do my part. The Club depends on volunteers, and I like to contribute." Jose Lardizabal's reply to the comment: "I see you volunteering around the Club a lot: looking after the weekly curbside pickup, volunteering for work bees, doing the BBQing for socials and tournaments and working with Dave Rudge looking after the flowers":

Bruce Neumann, Casino Chairperson for the 2021 Tennis Club Casino writes: "This was the easiest time I had getting volunteers for any fundraising event I have been involved with and I thank you all for that. Volunteerism, in many forms, is what makes SATC such a great club and a special part of our community."

Ed and Kathy Landry were also great volunteers. On most days Ed would be at the Club, early in the morning with the leaf blower cleaning the courts, pruning trees and bushes, and doing anything else that looked like it needed attention. The Club was sorry to see them move to Calgary in 2000 to be close to their family.



Washing the Courts in the spring of 2015. Left to right: Jim Fleming, unknown, Thuy Cao, Felix Damo and Jose Lardizabal, unknown, Malcolm Connell.



Planting the caragana hedge along the southeast side of the courts in 2014. Bonnie Childs (left side), Jose Lardizabal (middle with tan hat).

Grounds Cleanup Day in May 2013. Left to right: Maureen Brown, Jane Moroney and Imran Hosein.

Felix Damo and Jose Lardizabal manning the BBQ for the 2009 Seniors Tournament. They, plus Hans and Elfi Homfeldt, Carrol Clarke, Elaine Stonehouse, Maureen Brown, Linda Vermeulen, Lee Diozeghy, Jim O'Donnell, John Clarke, Janet Natyshen, Donna Belley, John Dmytrow, Ron Riley and Gord Olsson, are a few of many volunteers that helped with the tournament over the years.



2018 - Gearing up with the snowblowers. "Let's get some off this snow off the courts so we can play tennis a bit early." Left to Right: Grant Jerace, John O'Donnell, Dave Hildebrand and Jose Lardizabal.



Club member, Hilda Schweitzer, giving players instructions before their tennis match at the 2015 St. Albert Junior Invitational Tournament.



Volunteers for the 2019 St Albert Provincial Seniors Tournament: (Left to Right) Donna Belley, Carole Clarke, Janet Natyshen, and Maureen Brown.

A Botanical Tennis Club

When St. Albert rebranded itself *The Botanic Arts City* in 2014, the Tennis Club jumped on board. Over the subsequent years members including Ed Landry, Bill Rugg and Dave Rudge took leading roles in organizing and maintaining plantings.



The flowers add a nice touch.

*2018 St Albert Senior Provincial
Tournament. Women's doubles finalists.
Margo Jerace, Ainslie Lyons, Sara Jane
McNeill, Caroline Benning.*



A Beautiful Place

*Plantings in 2021 organized by Dave Rudge (in the photograph on the left) and
maintained with help from John and Kelly O'Donnell and Jose Lardizabel.*

Honorary Life Membership

John Clarke, who was moving to White Rock, British Columbia was given an honorary life membership at the 2017 AGM. John had served as president since 2010 – a remarkable 8 years. Before John's tenure, no president had served over two-years in a row.

Other known life memberships given over the years include:

Doreen Golden: Doreen was a longstanding Club member who had contributed to the Club in many roles over the years including several as instructional coordinator. She was given an honorary life membership in the late 1990s.

Rawle Howard: An honorary life membership was given to him in the 1990s. Rawle had managed the lounge since 1984 and each year contributed the profit (about \$600) for the Club's windup party. One year the profit was used to buy a TV for the lounge. He continued to manage the lounge until about 2014. A total of 30 years - a remarkable contribution.

David Brown: Dave was another longstanding Club member who was given an honorary life membership. David had served on the board for many years as treasurer and tournament director. After he was no longer able to play, he continued to serve for several years as chairman of the facilities planning committee.

Jim O'Donnell: Jim was president in 1999 and has served on the board every year since then. He was Club manager from 2003 to 2007. Jim has made significant contributions keeping the facilities (courts, nets, wind screens, lighting, etc.) in good condition for at least 30 years. Jim is the "go-to" guy when anything needs fixing. He was given an honorary life membership during John Clarke's tenure as president.

Gordon Olsson: Gord was president in 2002 and 2003. Prior to that he served as treasurer and was on the tournament committee for several years. He has served on the board for over 20 years. He was given an honorary life membership during John Clarke tenure as president.


The giving of honorary life memberships was put on hold in 2021 as the tennis Club Board of Directors is developing formal criteria for awarding honorary life memberships.

2020 – 2022 Covid 19

In early February of 2020, Covid 19 arrived in North America. By late March it was evident that it would be a serious pandemic and provinces began to lockdown. All indoor tennis, along with other sports, were stopped.

By May with the warmer weather Covid infections rates subsided a bit and gradually some sports started up. For most tennis clubs and facilities singles play only was allowed. by the end of May Steve Bouska, club president, in his negotiations with the City of St. Albert, was able to obtain permission for doubles play with protocols. However, adult organized programs, lessons and the junior programs were cancelled for the year. Informal play, most often with players playing at the same times as in previous years, continued. Club members followed the rules and there is no knowledge of anyone contacting Covid while playing at the club during the summer season.

On the left, a 2020 notice that was posted above the benches on all four courts during Covid restrictions.



St Albert Tennis Club Protocols for play on the Mission Courts

- Hours of Operation are 7 am - 10 pm daily
- Practice physical distancing at all times. This means remaining at least 2 metres apart from other individuals outside of your own household
- Doubles play permitted as long as physical distancing can be maintained (only 4 per court).
- Stay home if you are not feeling well. If you are sick do not play or visit the facility
- Each player must bring and handle only their own clearly identifiable tennis balls
- Each player must bring their own water and hand sanitizer
- Players must not congregate at the club before or after play
- The clubhouse will only be open for emergency washroom use. All other rooms are off limits. One person at a time will be allowed to enter. There will be green and red signs, like a porta potty, on the door to the clubhouse. Soap and water, sanitizer, and wipes will be available

Approved by City of St Albert on May 29, 2020

If you have played for one hour or, if you have completed one set please relinquish the court to waiting players

St. Albert Tennis Club Board of Directors



Ron Riley, Jose Lardizabal, Liviu Bogdan, and Gord Olsson in 2020 social distancing during a break between games.

In the fall of 2020 when the weather turned nasty some Club members started to play indoors at the Kinsmen Sports Centre and the Saville Community Sports Centre in Edmonton but it was not long before that was shut down as Covid cases were rising. A few snowbird members headed south despite the government advisory against crossing the border. Most decided to re-experience the Alberta winter.

Everyone thought that by the time 2021 came around Covid cases would be declining and the world would be on-the-way to normal. In the spring, things gradually opened up for tennis but only singles play was allowed. Finally on July 1, 2021, all Covid-related restrictions were lifted by the Alberta government. Covid hurt the club. Lobsters returned to near normal participation and Nimbletons returned but with less attendance. There were few social activities. Two pros were hired to conduct public lessons and look after the Junior program. Only 9 juniors joined the Club. However, a summer junior drop-in program was very successful, as were the junior tennis camps.

The year 2021 was a milestone - 60 years after the club had began operation – but because of Covid there was no celebration. At the end of the season most members were just happy to have been able to play tennis during the year.

In September it was obvious that the Alberta Government had been overly optimistic in returning to normal in July and restrictions were imposed again. The end- of-season social was cancelled and the October 16 AGM was held “on-line”. Outdoor tennis was still allowed and continued until late October. Indoor sports activities, including tennis were allowed, however proof of vaccination and masks were required, except while engaged in actual play. Most snowbird members who owned accommodation in the USA headed south even though the government advised against traveling. Others who normally would have taken overseas vacations stayed home because of the stringent border requirements for testing and isolation. A new, more contagious variant Omicron, surfaced in late November of 2021 however the symptoms were less severe, particularly for the vaccinated, so by February of 2022 activities started to return to normal. Stephen Bouska Club president in 2020 and Greg Morris the Club president in 2021 and 2022 and the respective boards did a commendable job of communicating with members and keeping things together during the challenging years of Covid 19.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Rawle Howard, Jane Moroney, Jose Lardizabal, Sally Thomas, Marg O'Donnell and Ron Riley who were interviewed and provided valuable information -they represent a total of just over 240 years of membership. Thanks to Grant Jerace and Stephen Bouska who suggested that this be as complete history as possible of the Tennis Club and who also reviewed the final version. Thanks also to Donna Belley, the 2021 club treasurer who provided stats for the years 2019 to 2021, Linda Beckett who helped by fact checking and providing some missing information, John Clarke who provided names of the club executive during his tenure as president and Kent Acosta who also provided names. The source of photographs is shown with each photograph - those not so noted were taken by Gord Olsson.

Appendices

1. St. Albert Tennis Club 1961 to 1988 by Cynthia Sage

ST. ALBERT TENNIS CLUB

CLUB HISTORY

- **1961**
 - Club began operation on two courts adjacent to Sir Alexander MacKenzie School.
- **1962**
 - First Annual Tennis Dance at Club Mocombo.
- **1963**
 - Interclub Team won the Brower Shield in the Edmonton District League.
- **1964**
 - Submission to the Recreation Commission for need for proper tennis facilities.
- **1966**
 - Club participated in the Rodeo Parade.
- **1967**
 - Club Donated \$600 toward new courts at Mission. Four courts installed. Club commenced play at Mission.
- **1968**
 - Lessons provided by Club instructors through membership in the Club in conjunction with the Town of St. Albert.
 - Trophies and records established.
- **1969**
 - Portable structure for hockey/tennis changing rooms approved by Town. Moved seasonally from top of hill after hockey to courts.
- **1970**
 - Brief to Town for seal coat and lights.
- **1974**
 - Present Club House opened June.
 - Resurfacing commenced in fall.
- **1975**
 - Courts resurfaced.
- **1976**
 - Presentation to Council to resurface.
- **1977**
 - Constitution revised.
 - First Open House established first Sunday in May.
- **1978**
 - More investigation into lights.
 - Proposal put forth to City regarding the improvement of tennis facilities in City; additional courts at Mission; lease agreement, etc.
- **1979**
 - First teaching professional hired.
 - Alberta Summer Games in St. Albert.
 - Fountain Park Courts established for Games.
 - Mission resurfaced for Games.
- **1983**
 - New Seniors Lounge created.
- **1985**
 - \$5,000 grant received from Alberta Parks & Recreation.
 - Lights installed on four Mission courts.
 - \$5,000 matching grant from City.
- **1987**
 - B.B.Q. and picnic tables purchased.
 - Box ladder introduced.
 - Plans made to provide Junior Lounge in Club House.

WHAT THE CLUB OFFERS

- For seniors, the Club offers social tennis. Come to the courts and pick up a game or arrange your own game. Doubles has preference over singles when players waiting. Contact the Supervisor or Pro/Manager to arrange a game.
- Lights on all four courts, 9:00 - 11:00 p.m. (approx.)
- Men's/Ladies night or a social activity take precedent on designated nights. After scheduled events, open play is available under the lights. Watch for various announcements regarding week-end activities. Check the various newsletters and the Club House for times of play for seniors and juniors and special events.
- Club Tournaments at various times during the season. Excellent method of getting to know more members in the Club - finding someone your level to play with or against.
- Various Open/Invitational Tournaments hosted by the Club - usually in conjunction with the Greater Edmonton Tennis Association and/or Alberta Tennis Association.
- Club Championships at the end of the season.
- Club Banquet at the end of the season.
- A variety of socials are offered during the season, often following one of our club tournaments. Guests are always welcome. Members are expected to assist Social Committee and/or Tournament Committee when called upon to do so.
- Pro/Manager hired for the entire season - sometimes assisted by Court Supervisors. Pro/Manager instructs all group and private lessons. Contact Pro/Manager for lessons.
- For Juniors, play after school and weekends. Various times allocated and open playing times. See Club House and newsletters for times.
- Pro/Manager in attendance. Provides court supervision to juniors; stroke improvement; arranges games where necessary; use of ball machine. Supervises and arranges various junior tournaments/ ladder matches, etc... Generally the Pro/Manager assists the Juniors in as many ways possible.
- Junior Interclub: teams under 18 and under 14 formed from the first Club Tournament results.
- Junior Circuit: a series of tournaments designed for the more novice tennis players. Junior Interclub and Circuit are part of the Greater Edmonton Tennis Association. Clubs participate from the Edmonton area.
- Parents are asked to assist with transportation to Junior Interclub or Circuit matches.
- The last few years we have enjoyed over 100 juniors in our membership and they are an extremely active and eager group. With this in mind, we have sought to make changes inside the Club House to provide the juniors with their own lounge.
- Juniors are advised to have received a group of beginner lessons and/or have knowledge of the game before joining the club in order to feel comfortable and be able to mix in with the other juniors.
- Private or small group lessons can be arranged with the Pro/Manager and group lessons taken as offered by the Club in conjunction with the City of St. Albert.
- Various junior tournaments are arranged throughout the season with the Club Junior Championships at the end of the season. The Juniors usually windup their season with a B.B.Q. party.

- Also available are Junior and Senior High School Tournaments. Juniors should check with their Phys. Ed. teacher regarding playing on the school team. Usually our tennis club members excel in these two events.

INTERCLUB

- The Club fields many teams from A, B, C levels and Juniors Under 18 and Under 14. More than one team in each division if enough players are interested. Leagues formed under the Greater Edmonton Tennis Association. Play runs from about May 15 to July with playoffs commencing in August. We encourage as many as possible to play on a team. The format for seniors is usually one men's doubles, one ladies' doubles and two mixed teams each match - usually two men and two ladies per match. Juniors: four players, usually three boys and one girl. Juniors play singles and doubles match. Parents are asked to assist with transportation.
- Contact the Pro/Manager regarding playing or a team. Watch for newsletters and/or Club House regarding playing on a team. Contact the Pro/Manager regarding the team that suits your level of play.

LESSONS

- Group beginner lessons are provided by the City of St. Albert in conjunction with the St. Albert Tennis Club. Our Pro/Manager instructs in all these lessons. The Club offers this facility to the City of St. Albert in return for (almost) full use of the Mission Courts and Mission Club House.
- Lessons are provided on various Community Courts throughout the City. These group lessons are advertised through the various schools and local newspapers. For private, semi-private, or small group lessons, contact the Pro/Manager.

COURT USE

- As per our lease agreement, St. Albert Tennis Club members have almost full use of the Mission Courts. Schools are allotted certain day times during May and June (sometimes September).
- On designated Club playing times, members have priority over non-members. Non-members can play if the courts are not fully used and if members are not waiting to play. On times other than designated times, members have priority over non-members.
- Members are asked to be courteous to non-members and explain that members have priority on the courts. Try and encourage non-members to join the Club!
- Members are asked to observe the designated times, i.e.: juniors have priority over seniors when designated junior times and vice versa.
- Seniors do not have preference over juniors. Please observe one set or one hour rule if other members are waiting to play. Please be courteous to each other at all times and limit your games if others are waiting.
- Proper tennis attire shall be worn on the courts at all times. No player shall be permitted on the courts without a shirt (male or female).

TENNIS CHAMPIONS

CLUB PRESIDENTS

1963 Morris Robbins
1964 Jack Harding
1965 Frank Carnahan
1966 Floyd Maybe
1967 Judy Wood
1968 Clark Warren
1969 Frank Carnahan
1970 David Kirk
1971 Lorne Wood
1972 Lorne Wood
1973 Frank Carnahan
1974 Judy Wood
1975 Reiner Satter
1976 Cynthia Sage
1977 Frank Carnahan
1978 David Kirk
1979 Ken Heathfield
1980 Dan Lahey
1981 Dan Lahey
1982 Dorothy Sornbach
1983 Dorothy Sornbach
1984 Ron Riley

CLUB PROFESSIONALS

1979 Bill Osborne
1980 David Jackson
1981 Guy Cook
1982 Guy Cook
1983 Steven Kirk
1984 Steven Kirk
1985 Steven Kirk
1986 Ralph Stevens
1987 Ralph Stevens
1988 Frank Walls

"A" LADIES SINGLES

1968 Betty Ontkean
1969 Betty Ontkean
1970 Betty Ontkean
1971 Judy Wood
1972 Betty Ontkean
1973 Betty Ontkean
1974 Cynthia Sage
1975 Betty Ontkean
1976 Betty Ontkean
1977 Betty Ontkean
1978 Betty Ontkean
1979 Betty Ontkean
1980 Betty Ontkean
1981 Dorothy Kirk
1982 Betty Ontkean
1983 Flo Hamel
1984 Betty Ontkean
1985 Betty Ontkean
1986 Pat Wilson
1987 Sally Thomas
1988 Betty Ontkean

"B" LADIES SINGLES STANDARD GENERAL CONSTRUCTION LTD. TROPHY

1981 Jeannette Titus
1982 Sally Toft
1983 Jeannette Titus
1984 Sally Thomas
1985 Jeannette Titus
1986 Pat Wilson
1987 Sally Thomas
1988 Sally Thomas

"C" LADIES STEWART & CAMPBELL INSURANCES TROPHY

1981 Nancy Hesson
1982 Doreen Rockliffe
1983 Elaine Wandier
1984 Denise Monville
1985 Corren Jeffery
1986 Marg Allard
1987 Bonnie Reid
1988 Ingrid Johnston

"A" MEN'S SINGLES

1968 David Kirk
1969 David Kirk
1970 Fred Rudolph
1971 Fred Rudolph
1972 Fred Rudolph
1973 Clark Warren
1974 Roman Mureika
1975 Roman Mureika
1976 Firoz Dalal

1977 Steven Kirk
1978 Steven Kirk
1979 Peter Miller
1980 David Jackson
1981 Ashley Sage
1982 Guy Cook
1983 Steven Kirk
1984 Lloyd Scherer
1985 Danny Leblanc
1986 Danny Leblanc
1987 Riyaz Kanjee
1988 Frank Walls

"B" MEN'S SINGLES COWLEY & KEITH TROPHY

1981 Ken Heathfield
1982 Neil Hesson
1983 Neil Hesson
1984 Peter Maier
1985 Hervig Ronovsky
1986 Riyaz Kanjee
1987 Mike Polvere
1988 Frank Walls

"C" MEN'S SINGLES TOWER MORTGAGE TROPHY

1981 Eric Sadee
1982 John Sherritt
1983 Ben Lee
1984 Ron Harlthy
1985 Jack Jeffery
1986 Craig Flewelling
1987 Jerry Krol
1988 Paul Duteau

"A" LADIES DOUBLES IMPERIAL LUMBER TROPHY

1968 Betty Ontkean & Judy Wood
1969 Betty Ontkean & Betty Harding
1970 Betty Ontkean & Anne Kirk
1971 Cynthia Sage & Betty Ontkean
1972 Betty Ontkean & Cynthia Sage
1973 Betty Ontkean & Judy Wood
1974 Betty Ontkean & Angela Miller
1975 Betty Ontkean & Cynthia Sage
1976 Betty Ontkean & Judy Wood
1977 Judy Wood & Joan Green
1978 Betty Ontkean & Cynthia Sage
1979 Judy Wood & Angela Miller
1980 Judy Wood & Jeannette Titus
1981 Betty Ontkean & Judy Wood
1982 Judy Wood & Flo Hamel
1983 Betty Ontkean & Judy Wood
1984 Betty Ontkean & Anne Kirk
1985 Betty Ontkean & Judy Wood
1986 Judy Wood & Flo Hamel
1987 Diane Anderson & Doreen Golden
1988 Betty Ontkean & Judy Wood

"B" LADIES DOUBLES BUDGET PRINTING LTD. TROPHY

1982 Flo Hamel & Sheryl Hamel
1983 Jeannette Titus & Sally Toft
1984 Doreen Golden & Anne Kirk
1985 Elaine Wandier & Jeannette Titus
1986 Diane Anderson & Pat Wilson
1987 Diane Anderson & Doreen Golden

1988 Ingrid Johnston & Bonnie Reid

"C" LADIES DOUBLES JASPER PLACE PRINTING TROPHY

1981 Mary Heathfield & Nancy Hesson
1982 Diane Anderson & Shelaigh Kennedy
1983 Anne Nuttall & Pam Fleming
1984 Dorothy Sornbach & Ingrid Johnston
1985 Dorothy Sornbach & Jane Moroney
1986 Dorothy Sornbach & Marg Allard
1987 Dorothy Sornbach & Ingrid Johnston
1988 Ingrid Johnston & Bonnie Reid

"A" MEN'S DOUBLES BRUN HOTEL CO. LTD. TROPHY

1968 David Kirk & Frank Carnahan
1969 David Kirk & Lorne Wood
1970 Dale Jackson & Lorne Wood
1971 Roman Mureika & Max Ostrovitz
1972 Roman Mureika & David Kirk
1973 Clark Warren & Fred Rudolph
1974 Roman Mureika & Bob Sage
1975 Roman Mureika & Clark Warren
1976 David Kirk & Steven Kirk
1977 Firoz Dalal & Peter Miller
1978 David Kirk & Peter Miller
1979 Peter Miller & Lloyd Scherer
1980 Lloyd Scherer & Firoz Dalal
1981 Ashley Sage & Bob Sage
1982 Ashley Sage & Rob Girvan
1983 Neil Hesson & Rob Girvan
1984 Neil Hesson & Lloyd Scherer
1985 Danny Leblanc & Ron Riley
1986 Lloyd Scherer & Ed Kazakoff
1987 Ron Riley & Dave Hamel
1988 Ken Heathfield & Frank Walls

"B" MEN'S DOUBLES

1982 Neil Hesson & Ken Heathfield
1986 Brent Hite & Guy Lafreniere
1987 Al Summers & Ralph Stevens
1988 Ken Heathfield & Frank Walls

"C" MEN'S DOUBLES CHRISTIANSEN & MCLEAN ROOFING TROPHY

1981 Glynn Lyons & Garry Morton
1982 John Sherritt & Bob Heyworth
1983 Ben Lee & Carson Smiley
1984 Ron Harlthy & Gord Olsson
1985 Joe Sornbach & Gord Olsson
1986 Joe Sornbach & Les Johnston
1987 Jack Grunsten & Bob Dobie
1988 Joe Lomback & Gord Olsson

"A" MIXED DOUBLES THE MAYOR'S CUP

1968 Betty Ontkean & Jack Harding
1969 Betty Ontkean & Clark Warren
1970 Anne Kirk & David Kirk
1971 Judy Wood & David Kirk
1972 Betty Ontkean & Fred Rudolph
1973 Judy Wood & Clark Warren
1974 Betty Ontkean & David Kirk
1975 Cynthia Sage & Roman Mureika
1976 Cynthia Sage & David Kirk
1977 Judy Wood & Firoz Dalal
1978 Anne Kirk & David Kirk
1979 Judy Wood & Lloyd Scherer
1980 Cynthia Sage & Ashley Sage
1981 Betty Ontkean & Lloyd Scherer
1982 Betty Ontkean & Firoz Dalal
1983 Neil Hesson & Sally Toft
1984 Judy Wood & Lloyd Scherer
1985 Cynthia Sage & Danny Leblanc
1986 Flo Hamel & David Hamel
1987 Flo Hamel & Riyaz Kanjee
1988 Flo Hamel & Brent Hite

"B" MIXED DOUBLES R & M CHEMICALS TROPHY

1982 Sally Thomas & Bill Bradley
1983 Flo Hamel & Dave Hamel
1984 Sally Thomas & Ken Heathfield
1985 Elaine Wandier & Riyaz Kanjee
1986 Pat Wilson & Dan Lahey
1987 Diane Anderson & Ralph Stevens
1988 Bonnie Reid & Frank Walls

FAMILY TOURNAMENT

1973 Cynthia & Bob Sage
1974 Anne & David Kirk
1975 Judy & Lorne Wood
1976 Judy & Lorne Wood
1977 Judy & Lorne Wood
1978 Bob & Ashley Sage
1979 Bob & Ashley Sage
1980 Ron & Bruce Riley
1981 Cynthia & Kevin Sage
1982 Ron & Bruce Riley
1983 Cynthia & Ashley Sage
1984 Judy Wood & Frank Walls
1985 Cynthia & Ashley Sage
1986 Firoz & Yusuf Dalal
1987 Firoz & Yusuf Dalal
1988 Mary & Ken Heathfield
1989 Sanyee Bhardwaj
1990 Riyaz Kanjee & Yusuf Dalal
1991 Riyaz Kanjee & Yusuf Dalal
1992 Mike & Richard Polvere
1993 Mike & Richard Polvere

ST. ALBERT MASTERS DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

1986 MEN'S DOUBLES
Ron Riley & Paul Duteau
1987 WOMEN'S DOUBLES
Sally Thomas & Carole Clarke

JUNIOR/SENIOR TOURNAMENT THE CHILD'S FAMILY TROPHY

1987 Mark Dallano & Ron Riley

BOY'S SINGLES UNDER 18

1968 Doug Kane
1969 Dave Almond
1970 Dave Almond
1971 Kent Richardson
1972 Kent Richardson
1973 Phil Kemp
1974 Bill Keetch
1975 Steven Kirk
1976 Steven Kirk
1977 Steven Kirk
1978 Steven Kirk
1979 Ashley Sage
1980 Ashley Sage
1981 Ashley Sage
1982 Michael Bang
1983 Ian Stenke
1984 Brent Hite
1985 Brent Hite
1986 Sanyee Bhardwaj
1987 Yusuf Dalal
1988 Damion Moroney

GIRL'S SINGLES UNDER 18

1968 Bernice Parsons
1969 Bernice Parsons
1970 Bernice Parsons
1971 Bernice Parsons
1972 Cassie Kemp
1973 Cassie Kemp
1974 Valerie Green
1975 Dorothy Kirk
1976 Shauna Hite
1977 Shauna Hite
1978 Dorothy Kirk
1979 Dorothy Kirk
1980 Sheryl Hamel
1981 Sheryl Hamel
1982 Tracy Wood
1983 Tracy Wood
1984 Tracy Wood
1985 Tracy Wood
1986 Tracy Wood
1987 Tracy Wood

BOY'S SINGLES UNDER 16

1988 Armin Esblare

THE MOST SPORTSMAN- LIKE AWARD THE HAMEL TROPHY

1982 Ian Stenke
1983 Mike Taylor
1986 Dave Alan
1987 Pat Chromczyk
1988 Mark McKinley

MOST IMPROVED MAN CANADA SAFEWAY TROPHY

1980 Neil Hesson
1981 Ron Riley
1982 John Sherritt
1983 Rob Girvan
1984 Ben Lee
1985 Riyaz Kanjee
1986 Ron Harlthy & Fred Cox
1987 Jack Jeffery & Craig Flewelling
1988 Tim Heaton

MOST IMPROVED WOMAN CANADA SAFEWAY TROPHY

1980 Dorothy Kirk
1981 Nancy Hesson
1982 Diane Anderson
1983 Elaine Wandier
1984 Diane Anderson
1985 Elaine Wandier
1986 Ingrid Johnston
1987 Bonnie Reid
1988 Robin Heaton

2. History St. Albert Tennis Club, 1988, by Judy Wood

(Unfortunately, only pages 1 and 3 (covering the period 1961 to 1968 and 1971 to 1974) remain of what was obviously a longer document.)

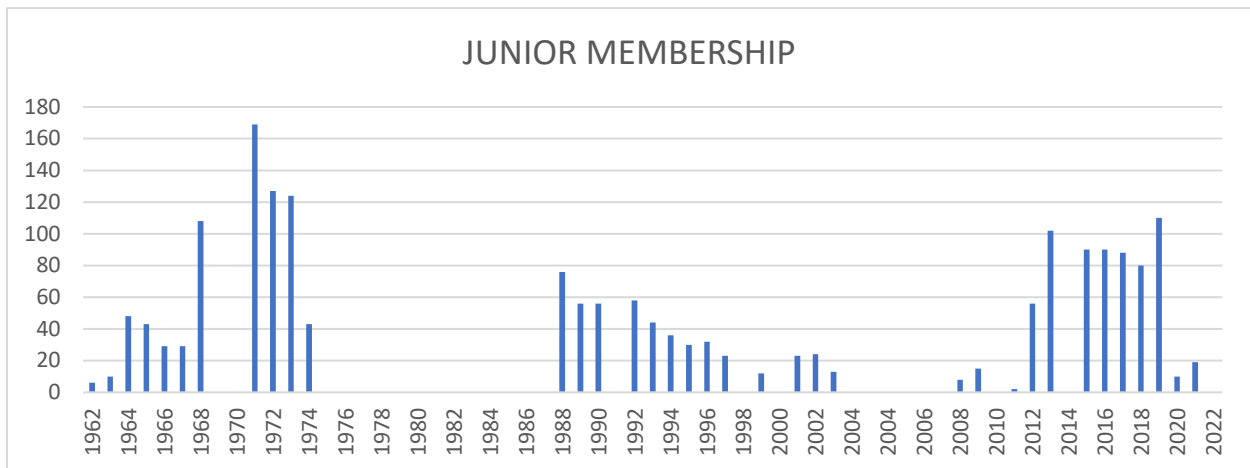
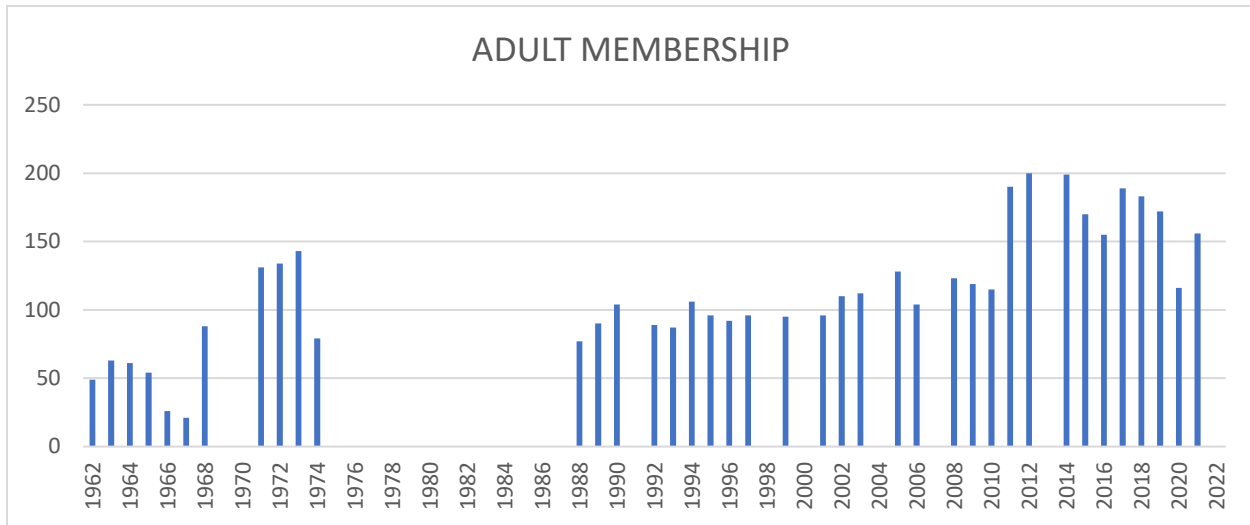
History of the St. Albert Tennis Club

- prepared by Judy Wood in 1988

- 1961 - The club began operating on the skating rink adjacent to Sir Alexander MacKenzie school- in an agreement with St. Albert S.D. #6. One tennis court beside the Mission.
- 1962 - The club had 49 Senior members(including Frank Carnahan- presently a club member) and 6 juniors. (I summarized membership slips for the years from 1962 to 1966 and included them in the file). First annual Tennis dance at the Mocombo. Two courts .
- 1963 - 63 Seniors and 10 juniors. Pres- Morris Robbins, Vice- Frank Senior, Treas.- Doreen Dolman, Secretary- Pam Jackson, Tourn, Directors- Frank Senior & Audrey Kenny, Interclub- Audrey Kenny, Publicity- Angela Sonntag. (All have moved away) The Interclub team won the Brower Shield in its second year of competition- emblematic of the top interclub team in the Edmonton area, and were presented with their trophy at the Dance at the Mocombo- which was the Edmonton District Interclub Dance. Alf and Audrey Kenny were on the team.
- 1964 - 61 Seniors, 48 Juniors. Fees- Jr. \$2, Adult \$5, couple \$7, family \$10. (remained the same in 65). Submission to the Recreation Commission regarding the need for proper tennis facilities- Jack Harding, Morris Robbins.
- 1965 - 54 Seniors, 43 Juniors. Pres- Frank Carnahan, Vice- Floyd Maybee, Treas.- Bob Parkes, Sec.-Angela Sonntag, Tourn.- Frank Senior. Participated in interclub. Letters to Recreation Board- Floyd and Angela.
- 1966 - 26 Seniors, 29 Juniors.(The court had deteriorated greatly and many people did not want to play on them). Frank C. was not a member, nor were we. Pres.-Jack Harding, Vice- Floyd, Sec-Treas- Doreen Dolman, Tourn.-Bert Sonntag, Publ.- Arch McPherson. Decided not to participate in interclub because of the poor courts. Participated in the Rodeo Parade. September Dance at the Mocombo. Club (Frank C. & Jack H. presents a submission to the Recreation Board and Town Council regarding the need for proper tennis courts and assuring the city that the club would maintain them. A large delegation of tennis players present (us also). Approved.
- 1967 - The city balked on building the courts when the costs rose so the club donated \$600 to the cost of the construction in order to see the project go ahead. The city paid \$10,500. (Jack Harding). Membership -21 Seniors (incl.Frank C, Lorne & Judy Wood) and 29 Juniors. The membership was so low because the old courts were disbanded and the new ones not completed until mid July. Pres.-Floyd, Vice- Jack, Sec-Treas- Edna Harris, Publ- Willy Sauer. Rodeo Parade, Tennis clinic, Jr. barbecue, Senior wind up party. Club operated on the 4 new courts at Mission.
- 1968 - Seniors 88, Juniors 108.Pres- Floyd, Vice- Paul Stanley, Sec-Judy Wood, Treas- Jack, Tourn, Dir- Lorne Wood, Jr.Coordinator- Betty Ontkian. At this time the lessons were free to members- hence the high membership numbers. Instruction- 104 juniors, 42 adults. Judy- Lesson Coordinator. Instructors- Betty, Frank,

- History- St. Albert Tennis Club- p3 - compiled by J.Wood-1988
Bank balance - \$1788
- 1971 - 131 Seniors, 169 Juniors. Pres- Frank, Vice- Clark, Sec- Sheila Fairweather, Treas- Fraser, Tourn. Dave, Fred, Junior- Bernice.(Inst & Pub- Judy). Lessons free to members, non memb- jr. \$2, Sr. \$3.50. Lessons -97 Senior, 91 Junior. Instructors- Bernice, Dave, Frank, Judy, Dale. Interclub divided into A & B leagues- Judy A interclub Director. A team finished thrid- Dave, Betty, Judy, Clark. B team lost city final- Clark, Fred, Al Hoge, Bernice & Roberta Parsons, Cynthia Sage. Final Tourn. - sgls- Judy, Fred, dbls- Judy & Cynthia, Max Ostovits & Roman Mureika, mixed- Dave & Judy. Temporary clubhouse. Cynthia became A player at end of season.
- 1972 - 134 Seniors, 127 Juniors. Pres- Dave, Vice-Judy, Sec- Joan Green, Treas- Cynthia, Tourn- Bernice & Clark, Jr.- Brian Harvie (Inst & Pub-Judy). Fees Jr.\$3, Sr\$5, Couple- \$7.50, Fam-10. Non memb lessons- jr.2, adult4. Lessons May & June only. Instructors Judy, Cynthia, Dave, Betty, Roman. Interclub- A team- Clark, Dave, Betty, Judy, Cynthia. B1 team won city championship- Roman, Fred, ^{Bernice & Roberta Parsons} Sandy Warren, Angela Miller. B2- Al Hoge, Lorne, Frank, Angela Sonntag, Anne. Final Tourn.- sgls- Betty, Fred, dbls- Betty & Cynthia, Dave & Roman, mxd- Betty & Fred. A players added- Clark, Fred, Roman. Newsletters annually- Judy. Bank balance \$2065
- 1973 - 143 Seniors, 124 Juniors. Pres- Lorne, Vice- Dave, Sec- Sue Taylor, Treas-Cynthia, Tourn.- Bob Green, Roman, Jr.- Al Hoge. (Inst. & Pub- Judy). Submission regarding resurfacing(Lorne) A team lost final- Clark, Roman, Dave, Fred, Betty, Judy, Cynthia. B1 team lost semi-final- Al, Brian Mansfield, Jay Taylor, Peter Miller, Alexandra Kincaid, Shannon Foran, Angela Miller. A2- Bob Sage, Lorne, Bob Green, Sandy Warren, Anne K. Made A players at end of season- Al Hoge, Alex Kincaide. Final Tourn.sgls- Clark, Betty, dbls- Betty & Judy, Clark & Fred, mxd- Clark & Judy Final tourn. moved to August. First family tournament. ^{Dave & Anne K} Sunset courts built. Junior tournaments- June & Sept. Investigate possibility of STEP students. Bank bal. \$2619
- 1974 - 79 Adults, 43 Juniors (The membership was separated from the lessons totally this year thus causing a drop in numbers- but an overall raise in revenue.)Bank bal. \$3839. Pres. Lorne, Vice-Cynthia, Sec.Donna Jackson, Treas- Toman, Tourn.-Bob Green & Angela Miller, Jr- Al, Instr- Judy(also Publ). Thursday night added to the club times- and used for interclub. Clubhouse opened in June (1350sq.ft.). Club fees- Junior\$3, Adult \$7.50. Club purchased lawn chairs, fridge, table tennis table. Step grant approved- students Bill Keech and Colleen Neeland hired for part of June, Jul, Aug. Began Jr. aft., small Jr. Interclub. Invitational Tourn. became an"Open" so that all St. A club members (including A's) could participate(Betty & Judy won dbls). Added ladies aft. 1-3p.m. Submitted request to lower the windows. Hosted Zone 7 playoffs for Alta. Summer Games in Calgary- total team from St. A. Betty & Dave- bronze-mxd over 35, Clark & Roman- bronze mens. Hosted City B in August. Lessons- 135 adults, 107 students. Fee Ad.\$7, st.\$4. Held twice weekly for 4 weeks. class size reduced to 15, minimum age raised to 11, added 3 daytime adult classes. Instructors-Betty, Judy, Cynthia, Dave, Roman, Al. Re-surfacing begun in fall- finished in spring 75. A team lost finals. B's fin'shed 6th & 8th. Final Tourn.-

3. Adult and Junior Membership Numbers 1961 TO 2021



Notes

1. Membership records for the years 1969-1971, 1975-1987 and 2004-2007 could not be located.
2. Cynthia Sage in her Tennis Club history states that for the years 1982 to 1987 the Club had over 100 juniors.
3. A high membership for the years 1968 to 1973 was because membership included free lessons.
4. The high Junior membership starting in 2012 resulted from the rejuvenation of the junior program.
5. In 2020 there was not a junior program because of Covid.

4. Club Executive 1989 to 2021

| | President | Vice President | Treasurer | Secretary |
|------|------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 1989 | Ron Riley | Jack Jeffery | | |
| 1990 | Jack Jeffery | Doreen Golden | Les Johnson | Cynthia Sage |
| 1991 | Jack Jeffery | Vacant | Les Johnson | Cynthia Sage |
| 1992 | Bonnie Childs | Dorothy Sombach | John Grootelaar | Jacqui Cusworth |
| 1993 | Bonnie Childs | Dorothy Sombach | John Grootelaar | Jacqui Cusworth |
| 1994 | Heidi Stoyke | Audrey Suelzie | Frank Polanski | Rae Robinson |
| 1995 | Heidi Stoyke | Audrey Suelzie | Frank Polanski | Rae Robinson |
| 1996 | Ken Chow | Ron Gegolick | David Brown | Vacant |
| 1997 | Ken Chow | Ron Gegolick | David Brown | Marg O'Donnell |
| 1998 | Ron Gegolick | | | |
| 1999 | Jim O'Donnell | | | |
| 2000 | Paul Duteau | | | |
| 2001 | Diana Anderson | Asghedom Gebrehmichael | Rubin Jeffery | Glen Hill |
| 2002 | Gord Olsson | Mark Steinke | Rubin Jeffery | Glenn Hill |
| 2003 | Gord Olsson | Mark Steinke | Ruben Jeffery | Mike Polvere |
| 2004 | Mark Steinke | Mike Polvere | Mira Seliga | Mike Polvere |
| 2005 | Mike Polvere | Reg Nelson | Mira Seuga | Marg Nelsen |
| 2006 | Reg Nelsen | Stan Patterson | Mira Seliga | Marg Nelsen |
| 2007 | Reg Nelsen | Stan Patterson | Jack Jeffery | Marg Nelsen |
| 2008 | John Colourne | Vacant | Jack Jeffery | Linda Becket |
| 2009 | John Colourne | John Clarke | Jack Jeffery | Linda Becket |
| 2010 | John Clarke | Thuy Cao | Jack Jeffery | Linda Becket |
| 2011 | John Clarke | Thuy Cao | Carol Burlaka | Linda Becket |
| 2012 | John Clarke | Thuy Cao | Carol Burlaka | Linda Becket |
| 2013 | John Clarke | Thuy Cao | Carol Burlaka | David Brown |
| 2014 | John Clarke | Vacant | Carol Burlaka | David Brown |
| 2015 | John Clarke | Vacant | Carol Burlaka | John Clarke |
| 2016 | John Clarke | Vacant | Dr. Grant Jerace | John Clarke |
| 2017 | John Clarke | Vacant | Dr. Grant Jerace | John Clarke |
| 2018 | Stephen Bouska | Peter Rothwell | Dr. Grant Jerace | Gord Olsson |
| 2019 | Stephen Bouska | Peter Rothwell | Dr. Grant Jerace | Gord Olsson |
| 2020 | Stephen Bouska | Vacant | Dr. Grant Jerace | Greg Morris |
| 2021 | Greg Morris | Vacant | Peter Abrams | Donna Belley |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

5. Club Managers and Professionals 1989 to 2021

| | Managers | Pros | Notes |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| 1989 | | unknown | |
| 1990 | | Frank Walls | Assistant: Jay Mason |
| 1991 | | Dan Traxler | |
| 1992 | | Dan Traxler | |
| 1993 | | Dan Traxler | Assistant: Tim O'Neil |
| 1994 | | Sam Cooper | |
| 1995 | | John Cheng | Assistant: Tim O'Neil |
| 1996 | | John Cheng | |
| 1997 | | John Cheng | |
| 1998 | | Lindsay Anderson | |
| 1999 | | Lindsay Anderson | |
| 2000 | | Lindsay Anderson | |
| 2001 | | Lindsay Anderson | |
| 2002 | | Lindsay Anderson | |
| 2003 | Jim O'Donnell (Mgr.) | Jacek Woliciki * | Lessons also provided by |
| 2004 | Jim O'Donnell (Mgr.) | # | Club members |
| 2005 | Jim O'Donnell (Mgr.) | Sven Lang | " |
| 2006 | Jim O'Donnell (Mgr.) | # | " |
| 2007 | Jim O'Donnell (Mgr.) | # | " |
| 2008 | Kathrin Herren (Mgr.) | Rohit George | |
| 2009 | Kathrin Herren (Mgr.) | Rohit George | |
| 2010 | Kathrin Herren (Mgr.) | Unknown | |
| 2011 | | Barett McKay | |
| 2012 | | Zak MacDonald | Assistant: Matt Ormandy |
| 2013 | | Zak MacDonald | Assistant: Matt Ormandy |
| 2014 | | Molly James | |
| 2015 | | Molly James | |
| 2016 | | Molly James | |
| 2017 | | Jeff James | |
| 2018 | | Jeff James, Daniel Henschel | |
| 2019 | | Jeff James, Daniel Henschel | |
| 2020 | | No pro (Covid) | |
| 2021 | | Jena Cheng, Lydia Samis | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

* In 2003 Jacek Woliciki worked part time providing senior lessons in the evening.

#During the years 2004 to 2007 due to the difficulty in hiring a tennis pro, Club members having tennis instructor qualifications provided lessons for juniors, seniors and the public.

6. Tennis Lesson Information – 1995



in cooperation with the City of St. Albert offers:

Tennis Lessons

for all levels in groups of 5 days !

Registration on Fridays

at the Mission Clubhouse, 9 Mission Ave (north of Perron St.)



from 3:00 - 7:00 pm:

May 3rd, '95

May 7th **Open House** 1:00 - 4:00 pm

May 31st

June 30th

July 28th

Junior Camps

at Mission Clubhouse
every week of July starting

July 3 - 7

followed by July

10 - 14

17 - 21

24 - 28

Fees: Adults \$35.- Juniors \$25.-

age group time (p.m)

6-11 years 4:00 - 5:00

12-18 6:45 - 7:45

adults 8:00 - 9:00

Date Location

May 8 - 12 Willoughby Dr.

May 22 - 26 Alpine Blvd

June 5 - 9 Larose Dr.

June 19 - 23 Sunset Blvd.

July 3 - 7 Willoughby Dr.

July 17 - 21 Alpine Blvd

July 31 - Aug 8 Larose Dr.

Aug 14 - 18 Sunset Blvd.

Special

Ladies only June 19, 21, 23

Men only July 3, 5, 7

Mixed July 10, 12, 14

Ladies only July 17, 19, 21

at the Mission Clubhouse,
9 Mission Ave (north of Perron St.)

10:00 - 11:00 am

(including coffee, snack & social)

time pm

junior beginners

2:00 - 3:00

junior advanced

3:00 - 4:00

If you are unable to register on the above days or if you need more information please call Heidi Stoyke ph: 460-9304 or Doreen Golden ph: 458 - 2706

7. *Tournament Schedule - 1991*

1994 St Albert Tennis Club Tournament Schedule

| | |
|----------------|--|
| May 7 | Fun Sunday (Saturday edition) |
| May 14-15 | Opening Doubles |
| May 28-29 | Masters Doubles |
| June 4 | Junior-Senior Challenge Singles |
| June 4-10 | Betty Ontkern open * |
| June 18 | Junior-Senior Doubles |
| June 19 | Fun Sunday |
| July 3 | Fun Sunday |
| July 16-17 | Masters Singles |
| July 17 | Fun Sunday |
| August 7 | Fun Sunday |
| August 11-14 | Junior B Provincials * |
| August 20-21 | Club Singles Championships |
| August 22-25 | Club Junior Championships |
| August 26 - 28 | St. Albert Seniors * |
| Sept. 10 - 11 | Club Doubles Championships (mens' and ladies') |
| Sept. 17 | Club Mixed Doubles Championships |
| Sept. 18 | Year Ending Fun Sunday |
| Sept. 24 | Family Tournament |

* *Tennis Alberta Sanctioned Tournaments*