

# TENNIS NWT ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Prepared by Executive Director

CONTENTS

Meet the Team .....3

Our Mission, Values and Goals .....4

Strategic Plan.....5

Sponsors and Supporters.....6

Year in Review.....7

Winter Programing – COVID FUNDING .....8

Juniors Programming.....11

Summer Camps .....17

MACA Summer Camps .....18

NWT Open.....19

Summer Solstice and Senior Tennis Events .....21

Our Coaches .....23

Equipment .....24

Awards .....25

Affiliate Clubs .....28

Swag.....33

Looking Forward to 2022 .....34

## MEET THE TEAM

### Board of Directors **2020-2021**

President	John St. Louis – Yellowknife, NT
Vice President	Pooja Chugh – Yellowknife, NT
Secretary	Shelley Kapraelian – Yellowknife, NT
Treasurer	Shirley Zhang, Yellowknife, NT
President, Yellowknife Tennis Club	Anna Coles
President, Fort Smith Club	Dennis Bevington
President, Norman Wells Club	Kace Hunter
Director	Slavica Jovic
Director	Nittin Gohil
Director	Spider Jones
Executive Director	Nikola Jovic

### Special Thanks

To all those who serve on the Tennis NWT Board of Directors.

To all the volunteers making a difference to the game of tennis in our territory every day.

## **OUR MISSION**

Tennis NWT is committed to the advancement of tennis in the Northwest Territories by stimulating participation and excellence in the sport at the local, territorial, provincial and national levels. Tennis NWT is dedicated to providing encouragement, support, leadership and opportunity to northern tennis enthusiasts through its many programs.

## **OUR VALUES**

- Leadership
- Accessibility
- Participation
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Collaboration
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Excellence
- Community Partnership
- Teamwork

## **OUR GOALS**

1. Encourage greater participation in tennis throughout the territory
2. Develop and sustain structures that support the development of junior tennis at every level
3. Provide opportunities to increase the number of coaches within the territory
4. Promote the development of new facilities and foster the improvement of existing facilities
5. Partner with organizations throughout the territory to increase the accessibility of tennis

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Develop a four-year strategic plan in alignment with Canada Games

Establish a strategy for the development of new tennis clubs.

Develop and implement a junior development program in alignment with clubs

Promote the development of new and existing facilities and foster the improvement of existing facilities and clubs

Increasing the accessibility of tennis in communities



## SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

To the many partners of Tennis NWT who continue to support our organization, we owe them our ongoing gratitude for their financial and in-kind support of tennis in NWT, with particular thanks to our national counterparts at Tennis Canada, the GNWT and NWT & Nunavut Lotteries.

Tennis NWT is proud to be supported by the following companies and organizations



## YEAR IN REVIEW

Our lives have changed so much over the past year and a half. We've struggled with single person bubbles and countless GoTo meetings, Microsoft Teams calls, mails and texts. At the same time, we've also achieved more during this time than any of us would ever have thought possible. Instead of stopping and waiting for the world to return to normal, we've persevered and created our new normal.

We increased participation in our sport by more than 10 percent this last year. Despite all the lockdowns and restrictions, there are now more people playing tennis. Tennis has emerged as one of the most COVID safe sports and our team has worked tirelessly to deliver better outcomes for coaches, clubs and players.

We successfully hosted winter and summer tournaments, safely delivered year round programming and we enjoyed another successful year. Membership numbers are up for the 4th year in a row. This year we had over 350 members. Participation in competitions and activities continues to grow. Thank you to our clubs, and those who volunteer to run them, and Board for your tremendous contribution to those achievements.

In 2021 Tennis NWT delivered a year-round tennis program with outdoor activities (May-September) and indoor activities (October-April) in cooperation with the City of Yellowknife. This is especially important for juniors as it provides continuous tennis skill development throughout the full year.

Tennis NWT partnered with the Yellowknife Tennis Club in hiring a Tennis Professional, Jan Martinek from Vancouver. He provided coaching for Tennis NWT at the Junior Beginner/Intermediate/High Performance developmental clinics, and led the Le Petit Tennis Summer Program for 3-5 year olds. As well, he coached 4 weeks of Tennis/Multisport Camp organized in cooperation with the City of Yellowknife and 4 weeks of Tennis NWT Summer Camp. Jan also provided coaching for Yellowknife Tennis Club for ladies and men's clinics.

This year Tennis NWT had 5 assistant coaches that helped with juniors and adults' clinics.

Tennis NWT participated in Get Active Programs funded by NWT Recreation and Parks. Summer Solstice Event was held on June 21, 2021 and Senior Tennis Event was held on June 29, 2021.

## WINTER PROGRAMS

Tennis NWT received Emergency Covid funding to support tennis play during the Covid-19 pandemic. We were able to play tennis all winter and organize tournaments in December and March. The City of Yellowknife installed lines on the Rio Tinto field so we were able to use both fields for our clinics and tournaments. Previously only Northwestel field had lines and net for tennis.

NWT Open Indoor Tennis Tournament was held December 27 - 29, 2020 in the Fieldhouse. It was well attended. Here are the results:

### sports & recreation YELLOWKNIFE, Wednesday, January 6, 2021 19

## No rest for the tennis fanatics



**Rob Johnson, left, and Darren Campbell took on the father-son duo of Mike and Chris Mathison in the men's doubles final of the inaugural NWT Open Indoor Tennis Tournament at the Fieldhouse late last month. The Mathisons were victorious in straight sets.**

### Inaugural NWT Open Indoor Tennis Tournament takes place at Fieldhouse

by Blair McBride  
Northern News Services

The tennis season in the NWT finished up this past September, one of the most successful in recent memory all thanks to Covid-19.

But not so fast – Tennis NWT decided to keep the ball rolling just after Christmas, so to speak, and did so in the friendly confines of the Fieldhouse.

It hosted the inaugural NWT Open Indoor Tennis Tournament from Dec. 27 to 29 with a total of 25 players playing on both turf fields.

The Northwestel Field already had tennis court markings on it with the city installing the lines on the Rio Tinto Field to allow for action on both sides, said Slavica Jovic of Tennis NWT.

"We had approached the city about getting the lines put in and another net," she said. "The net didn't arrive in time for the tournament so we used two mini-nets and it worked out just fine." As for the net, Jovic said she's been told that it's currently sitting in Calgary awaiting delivery.

As for the action, Tamara Jovic had a successful tournament as she won the women's singles over Neomi Jayaratne in straight sets – 6-0, 6-1 – and followed that up by teaming with her father, Nikola Jovic, to win the mixed doubles over the tandem of Randy Rivers and Hiro Kobayashi, 6-3, 6-3.

Tamara Jovic said some timely breaks of serve at the right time helped carry them over the top.

"We were up 4-1 in the second and they got it back to 4-3, so they made it close," she said. "We got the break to make it 5-3 and I held serve in the next game to win it."

Kobayashi and Jayaratne wouldn't leave empty-handed as they teamed up to win the women's doubles crown over Catherine Boyd and Tami Johnson, 6-1, 6-1. On the men's side, KM Safat Rashif defeated Chris Mathison to claim the singles title, 6-3, 6-4 while the men's doubles final saw Mathison team up with his dad, Mike Mathison, to beat the duo of Darren Campbell and Rob Johnson, 6-3, 6-4.

The tournament was able to happen courtesy of emergency funding from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, said Slavica Jovic.

"We applied for funding to help with court rental, coaching and travel, in case some people from out of town wanted to come and play," she said. "Everyone really enjoyed having the chance to play."

Because the funding must be used by March 31, the end of the fiscal year, Slavica Jovic said there will be another tournament at the Fieldhouse sometime in March.



**Neomi Jayaratne, left, and Tamara Jovic contested the women's singles final in the inaugural NWT Open Indoor Tennis Tournament at the Fieldhouse late last month. Jovic came out on top in straight sets.**

### fact FILE

#### TOURNAMENT RESULTS

**Men's singles**  
KM Safat Rashif def. Chris Mathison, 6-3, 6-4

**Women's singles**  
Tamara Jovic def. Neomi Jayaratne, 6-0, 6-1

**Men's doubles**  
Chris and Mike Mathison def. Darren Campbell and Rob Johnson, 6-4, 6-4

**Women's doubles**  
Hiro Kobayashi and Neomi Jayaratne def. Catherine Boyd and Tami Johnson, 6-1, 6-1

**Mixed doubles**  
Tamara and Nikola Jovic def. Randy Rivers and Hiro Kobayashi, 6-3, 6-3

### Ladies Singles 6:0 & 6:1

Tamara Jovic - winner

Neomi Jayaratne - runner up

### Mens Singles 6:3 & 6:4

K M Safat Rashif - winner

Chris Mathison - runner up

### Mixed Doubles 6:3 & 6:3

Tamara Jovic and Nikola Jovic - winners

Hiro Kobayashi and Randy Rivers - runners up

### Ladies Doubles 6:1 & 6:1

Hiro Kobayashi & Neomi Jayaratne - winners

Catherine Boyd and Tami Johnson - runners up

### Mens Doubles 6:4 & 6:4

Chris Mathison and Mike Mathison - winners

Darren Campbell and Rob Johnson - runners up



## March Tournament

We had a great March Tournament. 8 people from Fort Smith participated. In this tournament we had lots of doubles team. We played 37 matches over 4 days (Thursday to Sunday - March 25 - 29). Below are results:

14 YELLOWKNIFE, Fri., April 2, 2021



# Sports & Recreation

SPORTS HOTLINE • JAMES MCCARTHY  
Phone (867) 873-8031 • Email sport@nwt.com • Fax (867) 873-8507



# Have racquet, will play



Randy Rivers, left, Hiro Kobayashi, Elizabeth du Plessis and K M Safat Rashif were the finalists in the Tennis NWT March Tournament's men's singles division at the Fieldhouse on Sunday evening. Rivers and Kobayashi teamed up to win in straight sets.



Brooke Harker, left, and Jerry Wald were the finalists in the Tennis NWT March Tournament's men's singles division at the Fieldhouse on Sunday evening. Wald won out in what could possibly be his final tournament in the NWT.

## Tennis NWT hosts March Tournament at Fieldhouse

By James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

Tennis was one of those sports which benefited greatly from the outdoor sport boom in Yellowknife this past summer thanks to Covid-19.

It would appear that popularity carried over to the indoor version of the sport last weekend.

Tennis NWT hosted its March Tournament at the Fieldhouse with both fields in action over the course of the weekend. A majority of the players hailed from Yellowknife with a total of eight making the trip in from Fort Smith to join in.

It was the second indoor tournament of the season, following the event held in December 2020.

Slavica Jovic of Tennis NWT said the tournament was held thanks to some extra funding from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' Emergency Support Funding for Sport Organizations.

"We received \$21,000 for the winter and we had to spend it by March 31," she said. "The tournament was a part of that funding and we were able to help cover the cost of travel for those coming in from Fort Smith." The money also went toward renting the fields at the Fieldhouse for Sunday sessions for the duration of the winter, she added.

On the court, Jerry Wald of Fort Smith took the men's singles crown by beating Brooke Harker of Yellowknife in straight sets, 7-5, 6-1. Wald then teamed up with Larry Van Beek for the men's doubles but they fell to

the Yellowknife pairing of K M Safat Rashif and Nikki Gohil, 6-4, 6-3.

The women's doubles champions were Tamara Jovic and Joan Bevington of Fort Smith as they defeated Anita Aogaa and Hiro Kobayashi, both from Yellowknife, in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, but Kobayashi would turn around to win the mixed doubles with Randy Rivers as they downed Elizabeth du Plessis and K M Safat Rashif by the same scoreline as the women's doubles.

"All of the matches were really close and there was lots of good games," said Jovic. "We had seven different winners and it was good to see some variety."

You may notice the lack of a women's singles division and that's because of a combination of a lack of women who wanted to play singles and restrictions on how many divisions a player could enter.

Jovic said three players had registered but two of them decided to play doubles instead.

"We only allowed players to sign up for two categories and people just preferred to play doubles," she said.

Wald's win in the men's singles could be the final time he plays in a tournament in the NWT as he's moving to Cranbrook, B.C.

Jovic said it's a big loss for tennis in the territory.

"He was a great addition to the tennis community in Fort Smith," she said. "He coached a lot of people and he would play with or against

anyone. He loves the sport and he told us he may come back to play if the rules on Covid-19 change."

The indoor season is set to continue until the end of April, said Jovic, with the plan of starting the outdoor season by May 31 in Yellowknife.

She said Jan Martinek of Vancouver will return as the head pro at the Yellowknife Tennis Club for another season.

### fact FILE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

**Men's singles**  
Jerry Wald def. Brooke Harker, 7-5, 6-1

**Men's doubles**  
K M Safat Rashif and Nikki Gohil def. Jerry Wald and Larry Van Beek, 6-4, 6-3

**Women's doubles**  
Tamara Jovic and Joan Bevington def. Anita Aogaa and Hiro Kobayashi, 6-4, 6-1

**Mixed doubles**  
Randy Rivers and Hiro Kobayashi def. Elizabeth du Plessis and K M Safat Rashif, 6-4, 6-4

JONAS THORNTON

### Mens Singles 7:6 & 6:1

Jerry Wald - winner  
Brooke Harker - runner up

### Mens Doubles 6:4 & 6:3

K M Safat Rashif and Nikki Gohil- winners  
Jerry Wald and Larry Van Beek - runners up

### Ladies Doubles 6:4 & 6:4

Tamara Jovic and Joan Bevington - winners  
Hiro Kobayashi and Anita Aogaa- runners up

### Mixed Doubles 6:4 & 6:4

Hiro Kobayashi and Randy Rivers - winners  
Elizabeth du Plessis and K M Safat Rashif - runners up

**TENNIS NWT**

**March Tennis Tournament**

March 26 - 28, 2021  
Fieldhouse, Yellowknife

To register email  
nwttennis@gmail.com  
or call 445-6562

Registration deadline  
March 20, 2021

tennisnwt.com | #tennisnwt

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

This year summer season started on May 31, 2021.

www.NNSL.com Yellowknife Friday, May 28, 2021 A19



# Sports & Recreation

SPORTS HOTLINE • JAMES MCCARTHY  
Phone: (867) 873-4031 • Email: sports@nnsi.com • Fax: (867) 873-8507



# Racquets at the ready again



The coaches at the Yellowknife Tennis Club this season include, from left, head pro Jan Martinek, Obed Duru Jr., Anna Coles, Nikola Jovic, Tamara Jovic, Brian Liang and Jean Tutyshime. Photo courtesy of Slavica Jovic

## Yellowknife Tennis Club gears up for 2021 season

By James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

Tennis was the breakout star in the midst of the heavy portion of the COVID-19 pandemic in Yellowknife.

Could it be again this year? Who's to say but the Yellowknife Tennis Club is gearing up to start its season with opening night set for this coming Monday, May 31, at the McViven Tennis Courts, the club's home base. Clinics will be the first order of business for the club this season with the juniors hitting the courts first.

Slavica Jovic, the club's com-

munications co-ordinator, said the schedule has been changed from last year to reflect better scheduling.

"Our juniors are playing Mondays and Wednesdays, men on Tuesdays and ladies on Thursdays," she said. "We've changed our league night to Fridays because when we have tournaments, we need the Friday court times to start and almost everyone plays in tournament, anyway."

The club will be operating this season under the rules it had in place at the end of last season with no more than 50 people within one

space at any time, including the patio. Distancing rules are in effect except for youth under the age of 12; they can be at any distance without having to wear a mask.

The club is encouraging people to bring their own balls for play or practice and avoid handling other tennis balls that are not their own, if possible.

The first tournament of the season is the Season Opener, which is scheduled to begin on June 4. There are a total of five tournaments scheduled to happen in town this year, including the NWT Open and Yellowknife Open in

July and the Doubles Tournament in August.

Jan Martinek is back from Vancouver for his third consecutive year as the club's head professional and he excited his 14-day isolation period yesterday, said Jovic.

"Just in time for him to take to the courts and begin teaching," she said.

The club will host two multi-sport camps this summer through Tennis NWT but Jovic said they won't last the entire month.

"They will be in the first two weeks of July and the first two weeks of August," she said. "We

are having a part-time camp in the last part of July and that's being done through the city."

In a previous interview with Yellowknife, Tami Johnson, the club's general manager, said that she's hopeful there will be as much interest in the club this year as there was in 2020 with programs filling up fast.

Jovic said there's no way to know how well people have responded to programs as of yet.

"Ladies Night was popular last year but we won't know who has signed up until they show up," she said. "We



Abigail Dewling pulls off a two-handed forehand return during a junior high performance camp run by Tennis NWT at the Yellowknife Tennis Club in July 2020. The camps will return as part of the new season at the club. NNSL file photo



Natalie Kuzma returns a forehand during the Yellowknife Tennis Club's junior tournament in August 2020. The tournament season for the club begins on June 4 with the Season Opener. NNSL file photo



## JUNIORS PROGRAMS

The following juniors' programs were delivered for 13 weeks from the end of May to the end of August: Le Petit Tennis, Beginner, Intermediate/Advance, High Performance and Juniors League.

### Le Petit Tennis

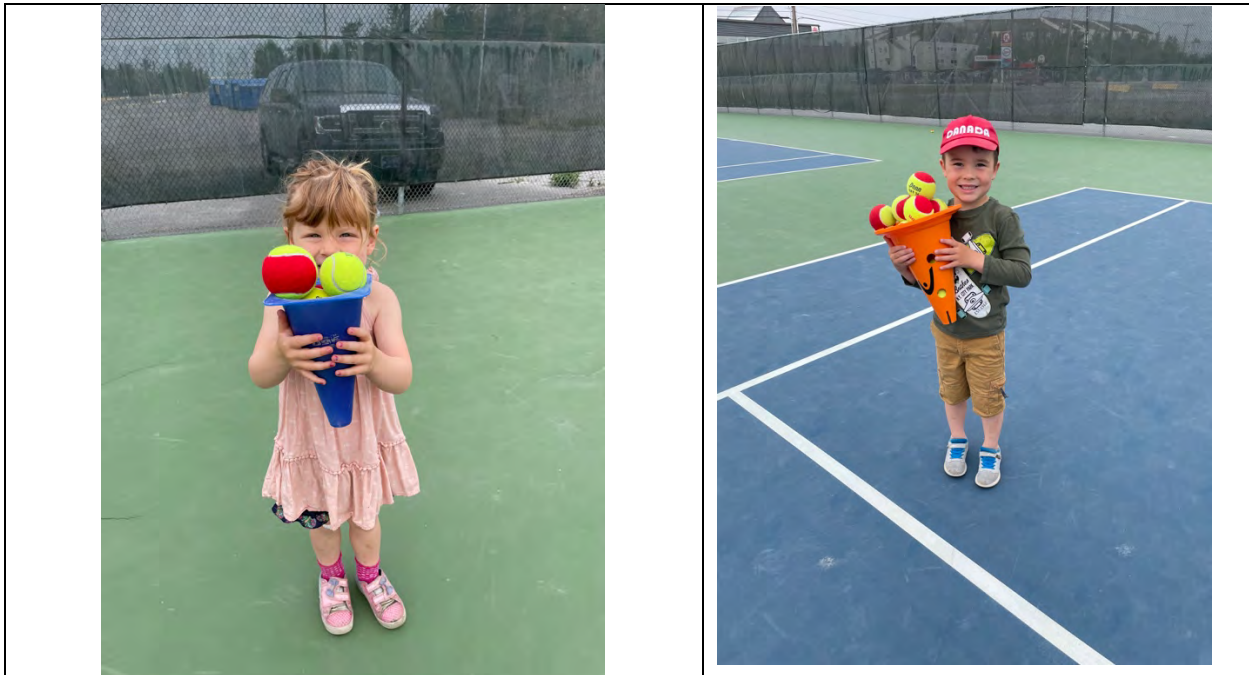
Tennis NWT Association is using Le Petit Tennis (LPT) to get kids engaged in tennis at a young age. LPT is a visual story program to help children of ages 3-5 to discover tennis through a series of engaging stories while travelling across countries and cultures reaching all backgrounds.

### **Active Start**

This stage of development is to promote the love of physical activity while laying the foundation for future enjoyment of tennis. Participants learn moving patterns, balance and coordination while having fun doing a variety of physical activities.

### **General Objectives**

Instill a love of sport and being physically active by introducing kids to tennis using the appropriate modified progressive tennis equipment.



## Juniors Beginners and Intermediate Clinics

Kids Tennis introduces the sport of tennis in a fun and interactive way and ensures immediate success for young players ages 6-12. Using modified tennis balls, racquets, nets and courts, young players are properly equipped to enjoy rallies and learn the fundamentals of the game early on. Skills are developed much quicker, allowing for an easy transition to full court. Our Junior Program for beginner and intermediate players involved training in all aspects of the game including stroke technique, footwork, strategy, consistency, and match play.



## Juniors Advance/High Performance Clinics

These clinics are for juniors from ages of 10 to 15 who have demonstrated a keen interest in tennis and like a more intense training environment and smaller group ratio. The purpose is to develop higher-level tennis playing skills amongst youth from the North. The goal is to develop junior tennis in Yellowknife and NWT and have a junior team that will participate in Canada Summer Games. As well, we would like to provide younger players an opportunity to become certified instructors, which would provide coaching resources for Yellowknife in the future.



## Juniors League

This year on Saturday afternoons we introduced Juniors League to provide additional practice for kids who wanted to improve their game. The requirement of this program was that kids can rally, serve and score. We had two age groups for Intermediate and High Performance juniors.





**Juniors Tennis Tournament – August 7, 2020**

Juniors Tournament was held on August 7, 2021. This was for juniors 10 Years+. Boston Pizza sponsored this tournament. Tournament winner: Nikki Gohil.



www.nnsl.com

Yellowknife

**Sports & Recreation**

SPORTS HOTLINE • JAMES MCCARTHY  
Phone: (867) 873-4031 • Email: sports@nnsLcom • Fax: (867) 873-8507



Wednesday, August 18, 2021 A15

**Young tennis stars command the court**

Yellowknife Tennis Club hosts tournament just for youth

By James McCarthy  
Northern News Service



Tasir Bhuiyan prepares to hit a running forehand during the high performance division final of the Yellowknife Tennis Club's Junior Invitational Tournament on Aug. 7. Photo courtesy of Slavica Jovic



Joel Naveed, left and Dexter Dungey were finalists in the 10-and-over division. Photo courtesy of Slavica Jovic



Nikhlesh Gohil lines up a forehand return during the high performance division final of the Yellowknife Tennis Club's Junior Invitational Tournament on Aug. 7. Photo courtesy of Slavica Jovic



## High Performance (10 – 15-year-old)

Tennis NWT hosted the 6th annual High Performance Tennis Camp from June 28 to July 2, 2021.

12 kids participated in the camp. Ages 11 - 16. Coaches Jan Martinek and Tamara Jovic led this camp. It was all about drills and there was a lot of work on serving, ground strokes and game play. This camp is being used as a training camp for the 2022 Canada Summer Games.



From left Nikki Gohil, Coach Jan Martinek, Orlee Duru, Oleta Duru, Adam Clinton, Ofira Duru, Joe Curran, Ben Naugler, Adam Naugler, Coach Tamara Jovic, Teresa Martin and Anna Curran





# Sports & Recreation

SPORTS HOTLINE • JAMES MCCARTHY  
Phone: (867) 873-4031 • Email: sports@nnsl.com • Fax: (867) 873-8507



## The prep for Ontario begins



The participants of Tennis NWT's junior high performance camp pose by the net following the final day of the camp at the Yellowknife Tennis Club on July 2. They are, from left, Nikki Gohil, coach Jan Martinek, Orlee Duru, Oleta Duru, Adam Clinton, Ofira Duru, Joe Curran, Ben Naugler, Adam Naugler, coach Tamara Jovic, Teresa Martin and Anna Curren. Photo courtesy of Slavica Jovic

### Tennis NWT hosts junior high performance camp leading up to 2022 Canada Summer Games

By James McCarthy  
Bartlett News Services

We are little more than 13 months away from the start of the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Niagara, Ontario, and the prep has begun for some sports.

Tennis is one of those that will have a presence on Team NT and the next big step toward August 2022 happened last week at the Yellowknife Tennis Club.

Tennis NWT hosted its annual junior high performance camp with 11 players, all from Yellowknife, hitting the courts for a week's worth of drills, skills and game situations. The players were put through their paces by Jan Martinek, head pro at the tennis club this year, and Tamara Jovic, a former Canada Summer Games tennis player herself from 2015.

Jovic said the only day the players didn't hit the court was the Thursday, July 1, because of rain.

When it wasn't raining, the dozen-minus-one were on court all day with a big focus on serving, ground strokes and game play.

Jovic said there was no shortage of movement.

"We had so many drills for the kids," she

said. "Jan was in Vancouver for the winter and it looked like he learned some new drills to show the kids."

One of those drills consisted of something called Star Wars which, at first glance, may look like King of the Court, a game where players remain on the court until they commit an error.

"It's kind of a doubles version of King of the Court but it's a bit different," said Jovic.

Having Martinek come back for another year was a big boost for the junior program, she added, as he's a familiar face to many of the players who took part.

"With Jan coming back, there are a lot of younger players who are getting into it more," she said. "It was going to be a good season again even if Jan didn't come back and I'm sure the kids would have had fun but they all know Jan's style and they're used to it."

The big thing Jovic wants to see from the players is improvement so that they don't go down to Ontario and end up on the wrong end of a battering.

"They're still looking to get better because there's no worse feeling than going and getting beat 6-0, 6-0," she said. "I'm 100 per cent sure they'll get better and we'll have a solid team in Ontario."



Teresa Martin prepares to unload on a forehand during a drill as part of Tennis NWT's junior high performance camp at the Yellowknife Tennis Club on July 2. Photo courtesy of Slavica Jovic



## SUMMER CAMPS

### **Tennis/Multisport Camp**

This year we ran 4 weeks of Tennis/Multisport Camp in cooperation with the City of Yellowknife (July 5-16 and August 2 – 13).

### **Tennis NWT Camps**

Tennis NWT ran 4 weeks of half day summer camps for various age groups.

<b>DATES</b>	<b>AGES</b>	<b>TIME</b>
July 19 – 23	AGE 7 – 9	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
July 26 – 30	AGE 10 – 12	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
August 16 - 20	AGE 7 – 9	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
August 23 - 27	AGE 10 – 12	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### **6-8 years old**

(6:1 Ratio)

This camp is designed to teach all the shots in a fun learning environment using progressive tennis teaching methods. A great camp for beginners and novice players. This camp was delivered Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (July 19 – 23 and August 16 – 20).



### **9-12 years old**

(6:1 Ratio)

This camp is designed for beginner and intermediate players. Learn, improve and play. Mini matches played daily with a tournament on the last day. This camp was delivered Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ( July 26 – 30 and August 23 – 27).



## MACA SUMMER CAMPS

This summer MACA facilitated multi-sport summer camps across the South Slave Region. They worked with the Mackenzie Recreation Association to assist in programming this summer. We partnered with them to deliver tennis in various communities.

Coaches Jan and Tamara gave them crash course on how to deliver tennis so they were able to include tennis as part of their summer camp in most communities. In Fort Providence, Norman Wells and Fort Smith they used tennis equipment that clubs and schools have. We lent them our equipment (couple of mini nets, racquets, balls etc.) to take to Ndilo, Dettah and Bechocho since they were able to drive there.

From left: Coach Jan, Coach Tamara, MACA Summer Students Healey, Ruby and Ally



## NWT OPEN

2021 NWT Open rose to new levels with a record breaking number of participants – over 60 participants from Yellowknife and Fort Smith. A total of 80 matches were played. Here are the results:



<b>Ladies</b> Winner – Tamara Jovic Runner up – Mercy Mupedziswa	<b>Men's</b> Winner – Cole Clinton Runner Up – Nikhilesh Gohil
<b>Ladies Doubles</b> Winner – Anna Coles & Dawn Keim Runner up – Anita Aogaa & Madeleine Kapraelian	<b>Men's Doubles</b> Winner - Nikhilesh Gohil & KM Safat Rashif Runner up – Nikola Jovic & Stephen Messier
<b>Mixed Doubles</b> Winner – Tamara Jovic & Cole Clinton Runner Up – Sonya Seghal and Alberto Valero	

Tamara and Cole came out with a clean sweep this weekend:





# Territorial champs hold court

## NWT Open tennis tournament sees five new champions for 2021

By James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

When it comes to championship games in any sport, you're expecting a tight, close contest with both sides pushing the other to the limit.

But you also get those games where you wonder why the game was even played in the first place.

This year's NWT Open tennis tournament didn't have any of those games of the latter sort with some entertaining tennis all weekend.

The championship contests were all held on July 25 with five titles up for grabs. The men's singles champion this year is Cole Clinton as he defeated Nikhilesh Gohil but young master Gohil didn't make it easy for Clinton as he pushed him all the way. In the end, Clinton won in three sets; 4-6, 6-3, 7-6.

On the women's side, Tamara Jovic won another singles title but she, like Clinton, was made to work for it as Mercy Mupedziswa also took Jovic to a deciding set. Jovic eventually battled through to win 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Jovic said she wasn't mentally in the game at the start because the times threw her off.

"My match was supposed to happen at 4 p.m. but it got delayed because of mixed doubles," she said. "Once I got into the match mentally, I picked it up."

Never mind the fact that she was also late for work because of it all, she added.

"I was two hours late but my mom texted me and told me not to worry about work," she said.

Jovic and Clinton would then team up to play in the mixed doubles and won that one as well over the duo of Sonya Seghal and Alberto Valero; 7-5,

6-1. Jovic said they've played mixed doubles before but things didn't go as planned at the start.

"We were playing our first match and I was thinking this wasn't going to go well but we found our rhythm as it went on and we ended up playing really well together," she said.

Perhaps one of the more entertaining finals was the women's doubles decider featuring the tandem of Anna Coles and Dawn Keim up against the team of Anita Aogaa and Madeleine Kapraelian. It would be a match filled with plenty of long rallies, multiple deuces in spots and some lively court chatter throughout as Keim and Coles managed to outlast Aogaa and Kapraelian; 6-4, 7-5.

The men's doubles final saw Gohil team up with KM Sahat Rashif to defeat Nikola Jovic and Stephen Messier in straight sets; 6-3, 6-3.

A total of 60 players from Yellowknife and Fort Smith entered to play, said Slavica Jovic of Tennis NWT, and that meant an early start to the proceedings.

"Due to the large number of participants we started on Tuesday (July 20) and Wednesday (July 21) with early round matches," she said. "It rained on Thursday (July 22) and Friday (July 23) so we had to move all matches that were scheduled for Friday to Saturday."

The weather cleared up enough for the weekend that a full schedule could be played, she added.

"We were lucky that the weather was good so we were able to accommodate consolation matches on Saturday and Sunday and give participants another opportunity to play if they lost their first round matches," she said.



Dawn Keim manages to return a tough volley during the women's doubles final of the NWT Open tennis tournament at the Yellowknife Tennis Club on July 25. James McCarthy/NNSL photo



Anita Aogaa returns a forehand during action in the NWT Open tennis tournament at the Yellowknife Tennis Club on July 25. James McCarthy/NNSL photo



Tamara Jovic serves one up during action in the NWT Open tennis tournament at the Yellowknife Tennis Club on July 25. James McCarthy/NNSL photo



**Catering**

Shout out to Bengali Chef for the great food and service at this year NWT Open. We had a curry party.





## SUMMER SOLSTICE AND SENIORS TENNIS EVENTS

Tennis NWT received funding from the NWT Recreation and Parks. To help our community stay Active, Resilient and Connected we hosted two events Summer Solstice and Senior Tennis.

### Summer Solstice

Tennis NWT celebrated Summer Solstice and Nationals Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21, 2021. We held Summer Solstice Tennis Event to celebrate the longest day of the year.



### Senior Tennis Event

On June 29, 2021 Coaches Jan Martinek and Tamara Jovic took the group through some drills to hone their basic tennis skills. After that they retired to the Club's patio to enjoy some snacks.



From left: Tami Johnson, Rob Johnson, Larry Adamson, Diane Baldwin, Bill Boggis, Alan McQuat, Emery Paquin, Nikola Jovic, Coach Jan Martinek, Randy River and Coach Tamara Jovic.



## OUR COACHES

Tennis NWT would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to our coaches and to celebrate the positive impact that they had on kids and adults and made their athletic experience enjoyable.

All of our coaches are Tennis Canada “Active Certified Coaches”. An Active Certified Professional is:

- A fully certified Instructor, Club Professional or Coach
- A current member of the Tennis Professionals Association
- A professional who meets the minimum requirement for ongoing professional development (every 2 years except for: Instructor - every 4 years and Club Professional 1 - every 3 years)

Despite COVID-19 restrictions we had one of the busiest seasons. Our coaches delivered various clinics every day of the week. Le Petit Clinics (for 3-5 years old); Juniors Clinics (Beginner, Intermediate and High Performance); High Performance Camp; Ladies Clinics (Beginners and Intermediate/Advanced) and Men’s Clinics (Beginners and Intermediate/Advance). We were able to provide a good coach to student ratio. All clinics had minimum 3 coaches and juniors had 4 coaches. Our Club Pro, Jan Martinek, came back from Vancouver for another season.

From left: Jean Tuyishime, Brian Liang, Anna Coles, Tamara Jovic, Nikola Jovic, Jan Martinek and Obed Duru.





## EQUIPMENT

Tennis NWT received funding from the City of Yellowknife and purchased another self practice board that was installed at the Pumphouse Courts.





**2021 JUNIORS AWARDS**

To celebrate many successes of our junior players awards were presented to the following:

**Le Petit – Bryson Shu**



**Juniors Beginner – Estelle Murphy**



**Juniors Intermediate – Dexter Dungey**



**Juniors Advance – Jackson Dungey**



**Juniors League – Vanesa Song**



**Newcomer – Logan Doll**



**Most Improved – Luke Dizon**



**Most Dedicated – Orle Duru**





**Juniors Doubles – Teresa and Adam**



**Tournament Winner – Nikki Gohil**



## **SPORT NORTH AWARDS**

### **COVID HEROS**

The year 2020-2021 there was not much sport happening in the North or even in Canada. Due to COVID-19 the 2020-2021 year in sport was largely a year of non-competition. With a lack of tournaments in the NWT and on a national level, it is difficult to distribute awards equitably. Due to the pandemic, Sport North decided to postpone its traditional Sport North Awards Program; and in its place will recognize our 2020-21 TSO's COVID-19 Heroes.

Sport North's COVID Heroes are the people who persisted during the heaviest part of COVID-19 to restart their sports safely! These Heroes are the athletes who continued to train even though they did not have their support group physically with them. They are teams that pushed through and trained together, even though it was difficult. These Heroes are the coaches who created alternate ways to train when the gyms were closed.

John St. Louis, Nikola Jovic and Slavica Jovic have been nominated by our Territorial Sport Organization (TSO) to become one of this year's Sport North "Covid Heroes" in the area of Community Contributor! The TSO submitted their names because they felt strongly that they contributed to Tennis in a significant way that allowed people to continue their sport in both a coaching and athletic capacity!

## AFILIATE CLUBS

### Fort Smith Tennis Club

Fort Smith Tennis Club had 40 members this year. They provided a summer program focused on improving skills. This year they purchased a new club house. Fort Smith Open Tournament was held from July 2 to 4, 2021 with 13 of out-of-town participants. Despite the rain it was a great 36<sup>th</sup> annual tournament followed by a barbecue.



From left bottom row: Dawn Kiem, Joan Bevington, Ryan Connon, Cassandra Trevisani, Anna Coles, Jenny Hickman, Ryan Vanderkruk, Jim Umpherson, Dennis Bevington

Top row from the left: Bernie Bennett, Rashif KM Safat, Richard Daitch, Nittin Gohil, Greg Cameron, Jean-Francois Couvrette, Doug Aubrey, Larry VanBeek, Lou Sebert, Nikki Gohil

Last row from left Diana Bennett and Mary Pat Daitch



Juniors Clinics with Coach Joan were popular this summer. 12 juniors participated in clinics - 4 males and 8 females.



### **Norman Wells Tennis Federation**

The tennis net was damaged last year but they got it fixed and installed for the season. One of the Instructors was away all summer so they didn't have any tennis clinics. They were hoping to have the Norman Wells open tennis tournament in late August/start of September as part of Norman Wells Black Bear Jamboree but due to a Covid outbreak in Norman wells and the Sahtu region it was postponed. They will look at hosting 2 tournaments next summer and offering tennis clinics again. They retained all funding from Tennis NWT and didn't make any club expenditures for the 2021 season. They have a positive bank balance with \$4,249.26 in their account.

# Yellowknife Tennis Club

YK Tennis Club had another good season. The membership number increased this year compared to last year. Adults clinics were well attended with average of 15-20 men and 20 women per clinic. Four tournaments were held this summer.



## A messy opening weekend on the courts

Conditions play havoc with tennis club's Season Opener



Tamara Jovic sets down the ball with a backhand return during mixed doubles action in the Yellowknife Tennis Club's Season Opener tournament at the McWen Tennis Courts on June 5. Jovic would end up winning the mixed doubles and women's singles events. James McCarthy/NSI photo

**By James McCarthy**  
Sports Editor

Was this year's tennis tournament with four seasons rolled into one weeks? The Yellowknife Tennis Club calls it June.

The club kicked off its season on schedule this past weekend with its annual Season Opener, which wrapped up on Sunday at the McWen Tennis Courts. The weather didn't exactly lead itself to tennis conditions with rain and hail playing havoc with the players and when that died down, along came the wind to make life that much easier.

Shirley Jovic, the club's communications director, said it was one of those weekends where the weather just didn't co-operate at all but it all got done in the end.

"It started out kind of windy and chilly and then it got warm and then it started raining and then started hailing," she said. "It was one of those days where you kind of just have to embrace it."

Once that disappointed, there were single-digit temperatures to greet the players for the entire weekend.

When there wasn't any hail or rain, there was some good tennis on display with five categories in action. The men's singles final featured Nikhilesh Gohil up against KM Sahar Rashid but it didn't last very long as Rashid was forced to



Darwin Campbell returns a forehand during men's singles action in the Yellowknife Tennis Club's Season Opener tournament at the McWen Tennis Courts on June 5. James McCarthy/NSI photo



Nikhilesh Gohil sets up a forehand return during men's singles action in the Yellowknife Tennis Club's Season Opener tournament at the McWen Tennis Courts on June 5. Gohil would go on to win the category. James McCarthy/NSI photo

retire in the first set with Gohil up, 4-1. A Sam Isjney was the only player getting the match and the title to Gohil by default.

Tamara Jovic and Maricou van Overloo dominated the women's singles final and it was Jovic who would come out on top in straight sets: 6-3, 6-2.

Tamara Jovic said the final set was a struggle in trying to control the ball.

"I couldn't hit the ball the way I wanted because the wind was crazy," she said. "And it was swirling, one way then another. It was so weird."

Rashid were an issue the entire match, she added, with not many long rallies deciding points.

"It was basically the first one to make a mistake on every point," she said. "We had a few good rallies but not a lot."

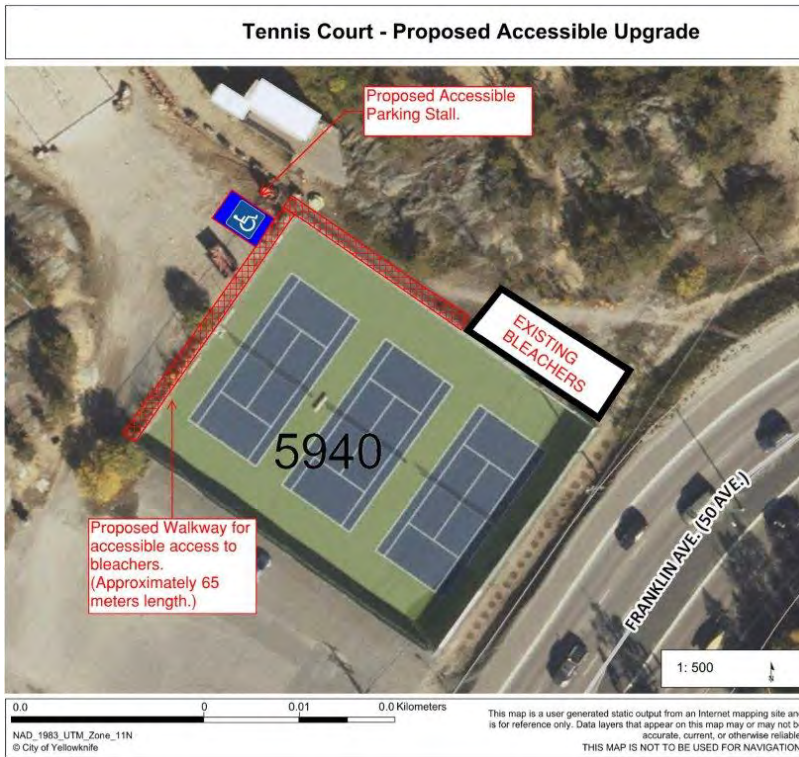
Tamara Jovic then teamed up with her dad, Nikola Jovic, for the mixed doubles final against Hiro Kobayashi and Randy Kibara. The Jovics would emerge victorious in straight sets, 7-5, 6-4, in another match where the wind played havoc.

A somewhat similar story, the mixed doubles was the opening set after being down at one point, 4-0.

"We would get the opponent at the net and try to lob it but the wind caught the ball and they just smashed it back," said Tamara Jovic.

Gohil would also see a double-struggle on the weekend as he teamed up with Joe Curran to claim the men's doubles over the pairing of Rashid and Nikola Jovic in three sets - 6-0, 6-3, 6-1 - while Anna Vigna and Hiro Kobayashi took the women's doubles title over the team of Tina Handrickson and Elizabeth Du Plessis in another three-set affair, 6-5, 3-6, 6-0.





New roof was installed on the shed. As well, a new shelf was purchased for a shed. At McNiven Court dirt and grass that was accumulated by the fence was cleaned up to improve drainage when it rains.



Ladies Clinics were very popular.



Saturday morning socials were very well attended this year. "YK SnowBalls" group played until late September.





## TENNIS NWT SWAG

This year Tennis NWT purchases hoodies for Coaches and High Performance Juniors Players.



## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

Positive Culture

Strategic Planning Session

Safe Sport Initiative

Improved Marketing and Communications

Improve Operational Procedures

Updating of Policies

Development of New Clubs in Communities

Club Development Program

Sponsorships and Grants

Another Great Season of Tennis

Contact us:

Tel: 867-445-6562

Email: [nwttennis@gmail.com](mailto:nwttennis@gmail.com)

Post: PO Box 671,

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N5

[www.tennisnwt.com](http://www.tennisnwt.com)

