

OTTAWA TENNIS AND LAWN BOWLING CLUB

Spring is springing! Tennis is bouncing! The tennis club opens on May 4

By Janet Uren

May has arrived, with all the joyful promise of summer at the neighbourhood's "Cottage in the City." On May 4, the doors of the Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club (OTLBC) will open for the 143rd season. A frenzy of work has been underway this winter, culminating in April and the first few days of May, as club staff works to get everything ready – to hire the seasonal staff, prepare the building, maintain the pool and, most importantly, prepare the tennis courts. This means laying down new clay and nailing the lines on the club's 18 superb courts. Thanks to this work, the doors will swing open on May 4, when the management team – Mike, Claire, Kailah and Austin – will be waiting to welcome you.

If you stroll down along Cameron Avenue, you will see some of the promise of summer laid out in front of you in the form of a newly painted front of the Clubhouse. Last year, the club mourned the loss of two old magnificent shade trees that had adorned the property for most of a century and had, at last, become too dangerous to spare. In their place this spring, you will see two newly planted flowering trees. Be sure to stop and look at a small outdoor exhibit featuring the history of the club over nearly a century and a half.

Saturday, May 4, is a day to mark on the calendar! For members, the annual opening will be celebrated with an invitation to renew old friendships on the court with the round-robin event, which is open to all ages and levels of players. If you are not a member and are considering joining, this is the perfect time to meet existing members by dropping into the OTLBC, having fun, and seeing what the club is all about.

On the morning of Opening Day, the club will offer a continental breakfast on the lawn and a barbecue lunch. As the month progresses, you will notice the club celebrating its own little Tulip Festival, with

an array of glorious spring colours bordering the courts and the lawn.

Also, on opening day, the club has invited beach tennis instructors to run a clinic for anyone interested in learning the sport. We will have Saturday clinics starting in June. Everyone is welcome, from teens to seniors, to enjoy the kick-off of a season of instruction and organized games.

On Sunday, May 5, the tennis club invites the public and members alike to taste the difference at the Courtside Café, with a much-enhanced menu. To tempt your appetites, complimentary samples of sandwiches, muffins, and other treats will be offered between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm. Everyone is welcome this summer – neighbours, local businesspeople, members – to enjoy a café lunch on the lawn.

Mother's Day is scheduled for Sunday, May 12. On that Friday evening preceding, come and enjoy a barbecue feast on the lawn, while, on Sunday, the club offers a Mother's Day Brunch. Call the club at 613-730-7207 to reserve a table. The Cameron restaurant, which is well on its way to becoming a neighbourhood institution, will open the following Monday.

The pool will open at the start of June, with May being reserved for annual maintenance and upgrading. In mid-May, children can enrol for swimming lessons or join the Swim Team; both offer a season of skill improvement and fun, ending up with a friendly competition in the fall. Registration for that will open in mid-May.

All clinics and programs are available for registration and will open at various times during the summer, beginning as early as May 6. Please consult the website at otlbc.com to see the full range of what is

being offered. The camps – which are a feature of the club for hundreds of Ottawa children – still have some room. These include the Tennis/Sports Camps (with tennis and more), Beach Volleyball Camps, a brand-new Arts and Crafts Camp, an LIT program, and the Noble School Programs for more competitive tennis youth.

The Ottawa Tennis and Lawn

Bowling Club has programs for the public as well as for members, and you don't have to be a member to get your name on the list for a monthly newsletter. Enrol on the website and stay up to date on what's happening right on your doorstep this summer.

Janet Uren is a professional writer who lives in Ottawa.



A new management team, headed by Mike Tait and supported by Claire, Kailah, and Austin, will manage the club and its many programs this year.

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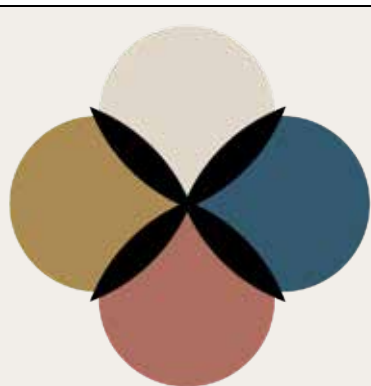
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