

Désolé mais l'historique qui suit, a été écrit en anglais seulement sauf pour la lettre de présentation.

Nous n'avons pas eu le temps d'en faire la traduction.

Si quelqu'un peut nous le traduire, ce serait apprécié.

Vous pouvez envoyer la traduction à info@tenniswychwood.com

Merci !

47, rue Saratoga

Aylmer, P.Q.

Chers membres,

Dans le cadre du 50e anniversaire du Club de tennis de Wychwood, il est peut-être utile pour nous de prendre connaissance de l'historique de notre Club.

Cette rétrospective souligne le rôle de premier plan des résidents de Wychwood, surtout, qui par leur civisme et débrouillardise ont réussi à plusieurs reprises à sauver le Club de la faillite.

Grâce au transfert conditionnel des titres à la ville d'Aylmer en 1974 et à la renaissance que le Club a connu en 1977 avec la création d'une structure administrative solide et démocratique et un fond d'amélioration de \$500 par an le Club peut avec votre collaboration continue s'attendre à cinquante années de tennis encore plus extraordinaire que les dernières.

Bien à vous,

Gilbert McElroy (Past President)

- p.j. a) L'historique du CTW 1928 - 1977
b) Rapport et états annuels 1977

Dear Members,

In the context of the 50th anniversary of the Wychwood Tennis Club, it might be useful for us to learn about the history of our Club.

What stands out in this brief review is the sense of civic responsibility and the resourcefulness of the residents of Wychwood, primarily, who over the years repeatedly rescued the Club from financial disaster.

With the conditional transfer of ownership to the City of Aylmer in 1974 and with the renaissance the Club experienced in 1977 through the establishing of a solid democratic structure and a building fund of \$500 per year, the Club with our collaboration can expect another fifty years of even better tennis than in the past.

Your truly,

Gilbert McElroy (Past President)

- encl. a) Short history of the WTC 1928 - 1977
b) 1977 annual report and statements

A short History of the Wychwood Tennis Club
1928 - 1977

To the best of my knowledge the Wychwood Tennis Club was established in 1928 by a group of ten residents (Messrs. Raby, Kemp, Bailey, Richard, Dunlevie, Draper, Barnabe, Coulson, Brulé and Lewis) to provide a centre of social and recreational activity for the community. It should be kept in mind that at this time Wychwood was a summer colony of some thirty or forty families, separated from Aylmer by hay fields and pasture, (it was not uncommon for a cow to be encountered wandering down Lake Street), and connected to Hull and Ottawa by an electric tram line.

The ten shareholders who in 1928 contributed \$200.00 to the construction of the Courts had no greater prescience of coming economic collapse than anyone else. Accordingly, when the depression struck in 1929, it took only about three years for the courts to fall behind in payment of taxes with the prospect of being put up for sale.

The shareholders, several of whom were personally in financial difficulty, could not come up with additional contributions. The women of the community however rose to the occasion and through a series of card parties, dances, home baking sales, etc., raised the necessary funds and rescued the Courts from the tax collector before the property could be sold for back taxes.

Although again financially solvent, the Courts just managed to stay alive during the 1930's. Fees were \$10.00 per family, \$6.00 for a senior and \$3.00 for a junior. In those years the groundsman was paid \$1.00 a day and not paid at all for rainy days.

The Courts themselves were originally all constructed of shale, and this gave rise to many problems both from the standpoint of maintenance and in providing an adequate playing surface. From a maintenance standpoint, they required more water than could be provided from the Club's shaky old pump, and in dry windy summer weather the surface tended to blow away in clouds of dust. Another problem was associated with stapling tapes into a rocky sub-strata which often caused the staples to make a "u" turn after contact with a rock and re-surface. From a playing stand point, the tendency of the shale to accumulate under the tapes gave rise to many odd bounces, disputed line calls, and adverse comments by visiting tennis clubs.

The war years witnessed a renaissance for the Club, as many servicemen interested in tennis located in Wychwood. This fact also generated enthusiasm for related activities such as the Wychwood Follies initiated by Club members. In addition, it was a time for

numerous exhibition matches to raise funds for the Red Cross.

The 1950's were again difficult times financially as membership income tended to remain fairly constant in the face of steadily rising operational costs. The money problem was partly solved by the construction in 1958 or 1959 of the Wychwood Canteen, which was built on the basis of a bank loan underwritten by the Club Directors of the time. The income from renting the Canteen to a concessionaire paid the taxes and covered regular maintenance. It also made possible the resurfacing of the Courts with clay, thereby finally disposing of the much maligned tapes, as the Courts were now lined by an unpredictable lime marker.

Although construction of the Canteen largely solved the financial problems besetting the Club, it did not provide a solution to the larger problem of permanently preserving the property for recreational purposes. To this end, under the chairmanship of Harold Grace, a son-in-law of P.M. Draper, one of the original shareholders, negotiations were initiated to have the Town take over the Courts. While sympathetic to the objective, the Town Council was not prepared to receive the gift without clear title. The Directors therefore hired a lawyer, Mr. Philip Foran, who patiently unravelled the legal tangle- and obtained sign offs from the families of the original shareholders, all of whom were long since deceased. This was finally accomplished about 1974, just in time for the Club to benefit from the renewed interest in tennis as part of the advent of a new life style. Next year, making allowances for unforeseen circumstances, the Club should be able to celebrate its fiftieth year of continuous operation.