

**VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)**

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**VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm.**

**At the People Place, 3402 - 27 Ave, Vernon**

**Come and be a part of the VTA, and learn what we have in store for the 2024 season. Once fees have been approved (\$80/adult) at the AGM, our website will be open for Membership Registration.**



**Our Board is looking for new Board members – once a month meeting in the spring to fall session. You don't have to have an official position, just be a Board members at large and help where ever you are needed. No particular skills are needed, just a desire to see tennis in Vernon have a really good future!**

**Marshall Field Tennis Courts will be reserved for VTA Members only, from April 29 to August 31, 2024 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Monday to Friday, and Saturday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 am. The Weekly Schedule will be emailed to you and posted on our website when it is finalized.**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**GRAHAM COOPER, VTA PRESIDENT**

(Excerpt taken from Castanet, February 18, 2024)

Vernon Tennis Association president **Graham Cooper** has been named to receive a Presidents' Award from Sport BC.

“Sport BC recognizes the importance of volunteers in sport. The significant role volunteers play in the sport

sector is celebrated through Sport BC’s Presidents’ Awards,” Sport BC said in a press release.

“The Presidents’ Awards presented by Sports with Balls are given to volunteers from Sport BC member and partner organizations who demonstrate the spirit of volunteerism through the dedication, commitment, and tireless energy they give to their sport organizations.”

Cooper is one of 49 recipients who will be celebrated during Sport BC’s 56th Athlete of the Year Awards March 7 in Vancouver.

The Vernon Tennis Association (VTA) was started in October 2008 to bring together tennis players of all skill levels within the Vernon area. It offers both competitive and social tennis programs that are not currently available to players. Presently the VTA operates adult and children’s programs from April to the end of September in partnership with Greater Vernon Parks, Recreation and Culture. The association offers professional tennis instruction, tournament play and league competition to its membership, residents of Greater Vernon, and the surrounding area, as a means of enhancing community relations in general.

Way to go, Graham  
You’re our own Champion.



**TENNIS IS ALIVE AND VERY WELL INDEED!!**

- YouGov Canada study finds nearly 5 million Canadians played tennis in 2023.
- National Growth and Development Strategy set to be rolled out in 2024.
- Survey conducted by YouGov Canada among 1493 Canadians aged 12+. Fieldwork was undertaken between October 12-23, 2023. The survey was carried out online in English and French

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**[TORONTO, ON] January 29, 2024, –** Tennis in Canada is set to soar after the sport saw a spike in interest and participation rates in 2023, according to the results of a YouGov Canada study commissioned by Tennis Canada. Nearly 5 million Canadians picked up a racquet in the past year with participation among youth (6–17 year-olds) seeing notable growth (+11% over 2022).

Marking the first time it has experienced a significant rise in both categories since COVID-19, the sport is on course to reach pre-pandemic levels in the near future. In 2023, tennis ranked as the fourth\* most popular sport in terms of interest and fifth\*\* for participation in Canada. Versus 2022, 10% more young Canadians claimed to have an interest in tennis this past year.

The study suggests tennis shows no signs of double faulting in 2024. Twenty-five per cent of Canadians under-12 played tennis last year and even more indicated they are likely to continue in the next 12 months. Thirty-one per cent of Canadians aged 12+ say they definitely or probably will play tennis in the next year - the highest rate since 2019 - while 30% of Canadians are prepared to enroll their children in programming next year, up from 23% in 2022.

\*1. Hockey; 2. Soccer; 3. Basketball; 4. **TENNIS**; 5. Golf; 6. Badminton; 7. Curling; 8. Pickleball; 9. Squash  
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**The entire publication may be found on Tennis Canada's website – [www.tenniscanada.com](http://www.tenniscanada.com)**

## **PRESIDENT'S PASSING SHOTS**

Sure exciting times for tennis. Last year there were 807 registrations in tennis club memberships, programs and youth tournaments in Vernon/Coldstream. This was up from 375 in 2018 or in other words an over 100% increase.

With the VTA planning to reintroduce our skills and drills along with the FAST (Fun Adult Starter Tennis) along with continuing our leagues and drop in opportunities, there are certainly some exciting times ahead.

For the first time, the VTA will be offering the opportunity for junior players to play organized tennis through April to the end of June. Our program will then be reviewed. Our usual summer lessons for juniors will still be offered.

Finally, a very big thanks to Joachim Nierfeld at Predator Ridge for putting forward my name to be nominated for the Sport BC President's Award for tennis and thanks to Tennis BC for nominating me. However, the success of our association is a direct result of the work of our volunteers who so willingly take on the lead positions in

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our programs and activities. A big thank you to you all. I actually see this award as an award to our association.

Graham Cooper, VTA President

## **COACHING TIPS**

Why do the professional players select the balls they use when they serve?

When a can of balls is first opened the balls are smooth. However, as the match moves on the balls will tend to fluff as the outer layer starts to wear. The smoother the ball the faster it will fly.

## **WHY NOT TRY "TOUCHTENNIS"? ITS WARM INSIDE**

Touchtennis is an addictively simple alternative to regular tennis. It's played on a badminton-size court with a mini tennis net, 21" tennis racket and 3" -diameter foam balls. The game is designed to create long, intense rallies and clever angle play in an attempt to outwit your opponent. Quick reflex actions, gentle touch, and controlled power is quickly recognized in this game. If you wish to see more about the rules of play go to: <http://www.touchtennis.com/gb/rules.php>.

All equipment is supplied. Please wear non-marking shoes and comfortable clothing. Touch Tennis is good exercise and a great way to retain and sharpen your tennis skills over the winter. It is a Drop-in sport with the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department. Just go to the City's website, log-in, find Touchtennis under Drop-in Sports, then Register.

## **RACQUET STRINGING – NOW'S THE TIME!**

### **Racquet stringing**

Jeremy Bell

236-768-6828



Vernon's Vasek Pospisil was a crucial part of Team Canada's success in defeating Korea 3-1 to advance to the 2024 Davis Cup finals. (Martin Sidorjak photo)  
(Picture originally in the Vernon Morning Star February 8, 2024)

