



# Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club



An exhibition of the history and champions  
of the WLTC, 1881-2016

## Acknowledgements:

Brandon University

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Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club

City of Winnipeg Archives

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Brandon Photographics

Murray Peterson

Sarah Ramsden

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Trevor Borland, Leanne Hiebert, Bill Rannard, Lucy Slusky, Lillian Wong.

Curated by Angela Narth and Alison Marshall

Lady Patroness of WLTC  
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Jane Aikins  
1882

In 1882, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Jane Aikins was named Lady Patroness of the newly formed Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club (WLTC Archives). She was the wife of James Cox Aikins, who was Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba From 1882-1888.



Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Jane Aikins, 1903.  
Credit: Henry James Morgan

Judge James Andrews Miller (1839-1886) was the first President of WLTC, serving from 1882-1883.

An enthusiastic tennis supporter and player, Miller was Manitoba's Attorney-General from 1883-1884. He subsequently became Registrar-General, a post he held until his death in 1886. He is commemorated by Miller Road in Winnipeg.



A mixed pairs match at the WLTC c. 1900s



St. Paul's College, looking northwest from Portage and Edmonton. 1927



## Not So Humble Beginnings 1881

In 1881, the year of the first U.S. Tennis Championships in New York City, a small group of prominent Winnipeg citizens (among them A.H. Dickens, a nephew of Charles Dickens) met to play organized tennis in Winnipeg.

One year later, the Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club was formally established. In 1883, 40 members, all men, played tennis on one grass court laid out at the Winnipeg Club, on land that is now Memorial Park.

Photo credit: Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame & Museum Inc.

## An Early Temporary Home 1884

By 1884, club membership had grown to 200. Three grass courts were laid on the grounds of Manitoba College on Ellice Avenue (photo above). This building later became St. Paul's College. In 1886, 180 members entered the club tournament.

From 1887 to 1897, WLTC occupied an unspecified location near the corner of Broadway and Osborne. No photos of this site have been located.

Photo credit: Archives of Manitoba, Thomas Burns Collection, photo 669

## First Permanent Home 1897

In 1897, WLTC finally found a permanent home at 150 Roslyn Road. Five grass courts were laid that first year. In 1905, the grass courts were replaced with shale. A clubhouse with a screened in pavillion was built on the grounds. Free tennis balls on WLTC courts were offered for the first time in 1908, a tradition that has held ever since.

Tennis thrived in Winnipeg for the next 30 years, and WLTC became home to a number of champions.

Photo credit: Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club Archives

## A Place of Their Own 1972

In 1972, WLTC moved to its current location on the Red River at 761 North Drive, adjacent to the Wildewood Golf and Country Club. Pictured here in 1974, the clubhouse featured eight asphalt courts, four of them lighted for night-time play. Two more courts were added in 1977.

Photo credit: Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club Archives

# A Very Early WLTC Member

L. H. Northrop, Winner Open  
Singles, Province of Manitoba  
Championships, 1903.



Photo credit: Archives of Manitoba



## Tennis In Manitoba c. 1910

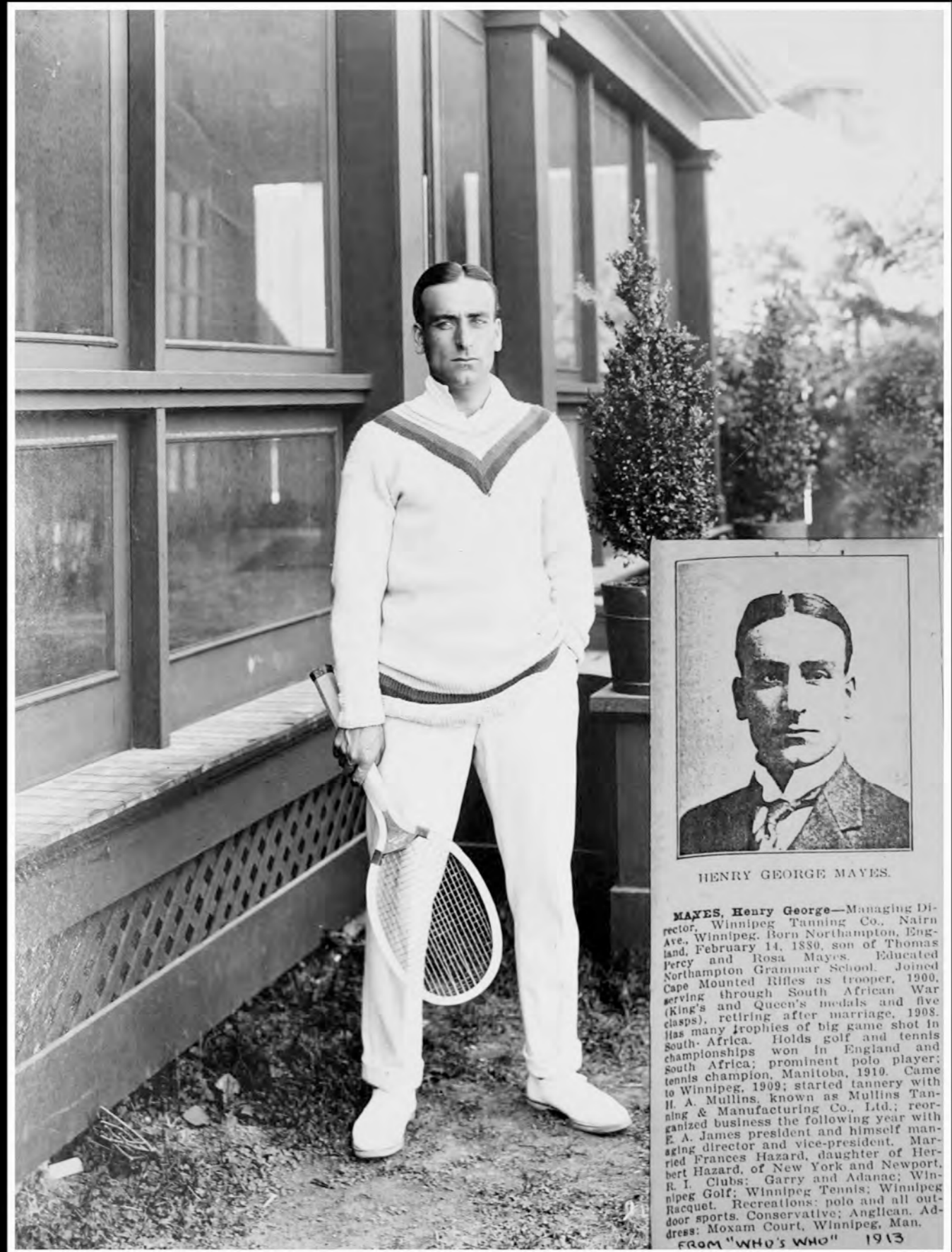
By 1910, tennis had become a popular sport in Winnipeg and beyond, as evidenced by this group of female players at Brandon College.

Photo credit: Brandon University Collection (BUPC 4.20), S.J. McKee Archives, Brandon University

# Henry George Mayes

(1880-1928)

A champion golf and tennis player, Mayes came to Winnipeg in 1909 and won the open singles Province of Manitoba Championships in 1910 and 1912.



## WLTC and the Davis Cup 1913

Henry George Mayes was WLTC's first internationally recognized champion. In 1913, Mayes was selected as a member of the first team to compete in the Davis Cup (photo on right): L to R, Mayes, Bernie Schwengers, J. F. Foulkes, and Robert Powell, team captain, seated). Mayes and his team were defeated in the final by the United States. A highly decorated soldier, Mayes fought in the Boer War and the First World War, and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. Mayes became a regular on the ATP circuit, winning the Queen's Cup Championship in 1922 and 1926. He won his last Wimbledon singles competition in 1927 at the age of 47. He was admitted to the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame in 2008.



Photo credit: Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame & Museum Inc.

# Paul Bennett and Genevieve Maxwell 1919

In 1919, Paul Bennett won men's doubles in the Canadian Open Doubles Championships (with club President G. H. Holmes) and the men's singles title in the Canadian Lawn Tennis Championships. In the latter event the following year, he won in men's singles, men's doubles with Frank Leistikow, and mixed doubles with Genevieve Maxwell (*WLTC Archives*).

Genevieve Maxwell was the winner of nearly 20 major titles, including Mixed Doubles Champion with Paul Bennett at the 1919 Canadian Lawn Tennis Championships. Genevieve was the sister of Manitoba Hockey Hall of Famer Frederick "Steamer" Maxwell, and the wife of golf legend Jack Cuthbert (*Calgary Herald, May 4, 1955*).

Despite Genevieve's brilliant record, no photo is available, and little has been written of her career.

Photo credit: Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame & Museum Inc.





# L.B. Foote Captures the Early Days of WLTC at Roslyn Road

An L.B. Foote photo of Sir Henry  
Thornton and Arthur Sullivan  
at Roslyn Road, 1923.



Photo credit: Foote Collection, Archives of Manitoba



## Manitoba Lawn Tennis Championships 1922

This formal photo of participants and spectators at the 1922 Manitoba Lawn Tennis Championships features a number of prominent WLTC members, among them William Donald Love (seated 6th from the right, front row), Dr. C. Wood (standing 6th from left, back row), and Walter Gyles (12th man from the right, back row).

William Love was the longest-serving president of WLTC from 1915-1930. An avid tennis player, he held the singles title in the Province of Manitoba Tennis Championships from 1908-1910, and again in 1912. He was awarded the singles title in the Western Canada Tennis Championships in 1929.

Walter W. Gyles succeeded Love as WLTC president in 1931. He served in the position for one year.

Women fill almost the entire second row in the photograph. Although women had been playing since the beginning of tennis history in Manitoba, it was only in 1935 that women were finally admitted as full members of the WLTC. Prior to this they were categorized as “tea members,” with very restricted hours of play.

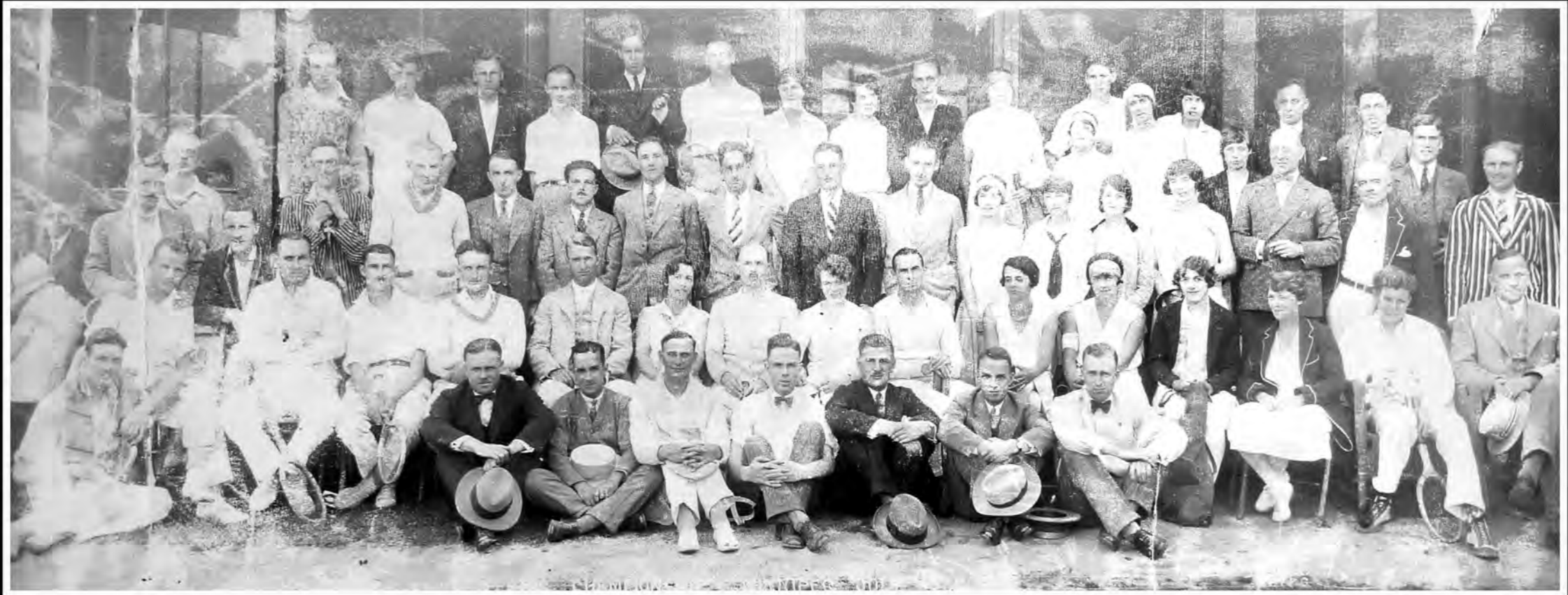
Photo credit: Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club Archives



## WLTC Group Photo c.1926

A formal photo of members of Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club taken c. 1926. Tennis and golf, once seen as exclusively European male games, entered the mainstream in the interwar period.

Photo credit: Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club Archives



## WLTC Group Photo c.1939

A formal photo of members of WLTC tennis community taken in the late 30s or early 40s. Among the men identified in this photo are: former WLTC president Walter Gyles (seated on a chair, third from the left), Reg Hugo (farthest right, back row), and R.H.G. Bonnycastle (farthest right, middle row).

Reg Hugo was WLTC president from 1946-1950.

Richard Henry Gardyne Bonnycastle was a prominent Winnipeg lawyer and the first Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg. He later became a publisher and was the founder of Harlequin Enterprises, now one of the world's most successful publishers of romantic fiction.

# Don Leyden 1947

Don Leyden was Manitoba Junior Champion in 1940, and University of Manitoba Champion in 1941 and 1942. From there he went on to win many more titles, including all three provincial crowns (men's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles) in 1947. To this day, Don's wife Rita and daughter Leanne continue to be active at WLTC.



Don Leyden



Don Leyden & Heinz Heinrich



L to R: Mary Derrick, George Felstead, Irene Pinkerman, Vi Felstead, Sadie Ludlow, Don Leyden

## The Fabulous Felsteads 1950s

During the late 1940s to mid-1950s, WLTC's George and Vi Felstead, a married couple, dominated the tennis scene at both regional and provincial events. The handwritten poster above shows that there were few contests they didn't win. George also served as WLTC president in 1952 and 1953.

<u>THE FELSTEAD WINS</u>	
<u>★ VI AND GEORGE</u>	
<u>THE WINNIPEG CITY AND DISTRICT</u>	
<u>LADIES SINGLES</u>	
1939 - 1951	
<u>MENS SINGLES</u>	
1950 - 1951 - 1954	
<u>LADIES DOUBLES</u>	
1938 - 1956	
<u>MENS DOUBLES</u>	
1948 - 1949 - 1950 - 1951 - 1953 - 1954 - 1961 - 1963	
<u>MIXED DOUBLES</u>	
VI/GEO - 1950 - 1951 - 1956    GEO/PTNR. 1954	
<hr/>	
<u>THE MANITOBA</u>	
<hr/>	
<u>LADIES SINGLES</u>	
1946 - 1948	
<u>MENS SINGLES</u>	
1949 - 1953	
<u>LADIES DOUBLES</u>	
1938 - 1946 - 1953 - 1956	
<u>MENS DOUBLES</u>	
1941 - 1946 - 1950 - 1952 - 1953 - 1956 - 1959 - 1960	
<u>MIXED DOUBLES</u>	
1941 - 1948 - 1949 - 1950 - 1951 - 1953 - 1954 - 1955 - 1956	

Lucy Slusky and  
Barry Cooper  
win mixed doubles, 1960.

Lucy Slusky was one of  
several Jewish WLTC  
members beginning in  
the 1950s.

Several Manitoba clubs,  
and residential and  
recreational neighborhoods,  
were known to exclude Jews.



Photo credit: Lucy Slusky

# Jim Ioanidis 1960s

Jim Ioanidis (1937-2002) won the Winnipeg and District Junior Championships at 14. In 1959, he was chosen to attend the trials for the Junior Davis Cup Squad in Ottawa. For the next 14 years, Ioanidis dominated the Manitoba Men's Junior and Senior championships.

Ioanidis was invited to participate in the Senior Davis Trials in Montreal in 1964. He was inducted into the Manitoba Tennis Hall of Fame in 2007.





“The Borland Boys” above and L to R: Lloyd, Jonathan Trevor, Rick c. 1990



Rick and Judy

## The Borland Family 1970s

The Borland family became a vital part of the WLTC community at its new location: Lloyd served as a member of the WLTC board as recently as 1981, and developed a number of junior champions.

Lloyd’s son Rick and daughter Judy (later Peake) became strong contenders in local and regional tournaments. They both represented Manitoba at the first Canada Summer Games (Halifax) in 1981 where Judy won a silver medal in ladies doubles, and Rick came in 4th in men’s singles. In 1972, Rick served the first of his 3 terms as President of WLTC.

Rick’s son Trevor has won a number of regional and provincial tennis titles over the years in both singles and doubles. He is currently head coach of Manitoba’s junior squash team and squash pro at the Winnipeg Winter Club.

Photo credit: Borland Family collection



# The Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Company Limited

The Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Company was incorporated in 1894. It owns the Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club building, which the club pays an annual fee to use. The Company's role is to ensure the long-term viability of the WLTC. While the club has its own reserve funds collected through member fees, large expenditures, such as the new lighting system, are partially financed by the Company.

Current Directors of the Company:

*President-Bill Rannard* joined WLTC after volunteering for the 1999 Pan Am Games. He was elected to the WLTC Board in 2006, he served as WLTC President 2007-2014. He was elected to the Board of the Company in 2015.

*Vice-President-Joseph Langan* has been a member of WLTC since he was old enough to swing a racket. The Langans have had a family membership at WLTC since 1978. Joseph was WLTC's head pro 1999-2000. He was elected to the Board of WLTC and served as its Vice-President in 2014.

*Secretary-Dave Quinton* is a long-time member of the Winnipeg Lawn Tennis Club. He was President of WLTC from 1991-1994, and previously served as President of the Company.

*Director-Ken Callis* was President of WLTC from 1976-1978. He was also the manager of the club for 32 years. When he retired in 2014, he was voted Honorary Lifetime Member in recognition of his many years of service to the members and the club.

*Director-Bob Gowenlock* was a member of the WLTC for many years and was President of the club from 1997-1999. He was guest speaker at our 125th Anniversary and has also served as President of the Company.

*Director-Greg Giles* is a long-time member of the club and was WLTC President in 1996. He is currently a director of the Company and has been for many years.

# Current President Lillian Wong 2015

An avid player and member of Team Tennis Manitoba, Lillian was elected WLTC's 46th President at the November 2015 AGM. A member of the Board of Tennis Manitoba, she has been instrumental in organizing WLTC's hosting of the annual ATP/WTF Tournament.

Photo credit: L. Wong





## A Home to Be Proud of 2016

With the demolition of the Wildewood Golf & Country Club clubhouse to make way for a condominium development, many upgrades were made at WLTC: a liquor licence was obtained from the City of Winnipeg, a member lounge with large-screen TV was created on the main floor, with an adjacent outdoor seating area, and our own water line was installed. State-of-the-art lighting was installed on all courts. WLTC can boast of being one of the finest tennis facilities in Winnipeg!



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