

## Murakami Awarded Lifetime Membership



## Jeffrey Joins Exclusive Club at Davisville

*Jeffrey Murakami accepts his Lifetime Membership from Club President Stuart Teather.*

At the annual year-end party, popular Davisville member Jeffrey Murakami was awarded a lifetime membership award by club president Stuart Teather. After the Tournament prizes and awards were handed out, Jeffrey was honoured by the club with this special distinction. Jeffrey accepted the award to a standing ovation from all of his friends in attendance.

“It was a really special moment, both for the club and for me personally”, admitted club president Stuart Teather. “Jeffrey is a wonderful example of sportsmanship, dedication to the club and I was pleased to be lucky enough to present this award to him. Not only is he a tough opponent on the court, but he is also a wonderful resource to have around when looking back on the club’s past.”

Jeffrey Murakami joined Davisville back in 1978 and has been back to the club every year since. He is one of only six people ever to be presented with this award since 1967 when the club

was founded. The other lifetime members are Adrian Alphonso, Alex Kesik, Gord McGregor, Bob Morris, Johann Schmid.

Seeming surprised and yet happy with the spotlight suddenly shining brightly upon him, Jeffrey was very appreciative of the award. He declined to speak but thanked those presenting the award very much for the honour. Congratulations Jeffrey!

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The Year End Party was a huge success this year. The venue changed from the Cricket Club where we have had many fine events in the past to the Toronto Lawn and Tennis Club. The meal was good, the company was exceptional and the general sense of the night was that it was a fitting way to formally end the Davisville Year. Many thanks to Kim Munro for all of her hard work at pulling it off. Let's let the pictures do the rest of the talking...



# Meet the 2005 Executive...



**2005 Board of Directors (l to r):** President–Stuart Teather, Vice-President–Jennifer Smith, Secretary–Leena Jaakimainen, Treasurer–Amitabh Bhatnager, Communications–Leila Rickett, Membership–Alireza Navahandi, Social–Allison Sharpe, Teams & Tournaments–David Yousri, Player Development–Rob Husain, Court Manager–TBD.

## **PRESIDENT**

*Stuart Teather*

It is my pleasure to return as your president for 2005. Thank you for your vote of confidence at the AGM and for all of your help over the past year. We are lucky to have a club where so many people are involved and care passionately.

I would like to take a quick moment to thank the executive from last year for all of their hard work and time. Some of them are returning again this year and I think that your 2005 executive is going to be very strong and will work hard towards another unbelievable year at Davisville.

Plans for 2005 are underway already. I am not going to give away too many goodies of what's in store yet, but you can expect some changes. We hope to shed ourselves of the things that didn't work in 2004, not that there were that many, and strengthen the things that worked quite well. I expect that you will be pleased with the results.

The fall is such a strange season. On November 6 and 7, the courts at the Club were filled to capacity with people playing in the wonderful weather. Today, November 8, it snowed. I mention this because it is our aim to keep the courts open as long as we can. By the time you receive this though, the windscreens should be down and the courts, for the first time in a long time, should be locked for the winter by the city at our request. This should cut down on potential damage to the courts from those that might not respect them the way we do.

Regardless of the weather outside, winter tennis is in full force. If you have not put your name on our sign up list, please email Allison at [social@davisvilletennisclub.com](mailto:social@davisvilletennisclub.com) or call me at 416-504-1070. If you are not coming out, then you are missing out on all the fun!

Your next newsletter should come to you in the new year. Look for it. With our increased membership this year, the possibility that we will reach 500

is good. We would not want any returning members to miss out. We would miss you.

Make sure that your holiday season is safe and happy for you and yours.

## **VICE-PRESIDENT**

*Jennifer Smith*

I'm excited to be returning to the DTC Board for the 2005 season, in the role of Vice President. I'm joining a team of energetic and dedicated volunteers and I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and helping out across the portfolios.

One of my responsibilities will be organizing the 2005 Davisville Cup. It'll be the same great event as in 2004, but with an added focus on charity. Details will be provided later in the season.

Hats off to the team of court stewards who ran the club like a well-oiled machine in 2004. Recruiting for Court Steward positions will be launched in the New Year. Notices will be posted in subsequent communications to the membership.

Volunteers make our club. Whether it's helping out at one event, or a group of events, you make a difference to the club. When you're completing your 2005 registration form, I'd strongly encourage you to add your name to volunteer on a committee.

Have a safe and happy holiday season and I'll see you all in the New Year.

## SECRETARY

*Leena Jaakimainen*

This is my second year on the executive of Davisville Tennis Club. The Board meets regularly at least once every month throughout the year. As Club Secretary, it is my duty to organize the meetings and recording the Board minutes.

Last season was a busy year. The Board accomplished many things including the resurfacing of the tennis courts and painting of the club house.

This year we hope to continue refurbishing the club facilities and improving the quality of the tennis experience we can offer to all club members.

And, as always, I look forward to another year of fantastic tennis!

## TREASURER

*Amitabh Bhatnager*

Greetings fellow DTC players. Most of you may know me as A.B. (Accountant/Beancounter or Atrocious Backhand, take your pick!).

I just finished my first summer as a member and have now taken on the treasurer position. I am a C.A. by training and will be responsible for the finances and record keeping of the club. I look forward to seeing everyone on the courts.

## COMMUNICATIONS

*Leila Rickett*

If you've read this far then you are now familiar with one of my responsibilities as Communications Executive—the newsletter!

Aside from this, I will also ensure that the membership is kept well informed of all the events and activities that will be happening at the club.

Other initiatives I have in store are:

- Create a year-at-a-glance events calendar for the clubhouse and posted online.
- Design a new logo for the club
- Generate marketing material for the advertising and promotion of club activities
- Distribute the Communications Directory early in the season
- Streamline email communications to members on a scheduled basis

I'm looking forward to a great 2005 season, I hope you all find it enjoyable and memorable!

## MEMBERSHIP

*Alireza Navahandi*

I have been a member at Davisville Tennis Club for four years and this will be my third year being the membership director. Membership in our club has a fairly high turnover and every year almost one third of our members are new. Because of this, every year we meet many new people and make great friendships. The club's visibility and location in the heart of the city certainly helps us to attract new members.

In order to have an organized and accessible membership system we have been trying different things over the last couple of years but the most important one is the online database. We had started working on this last summer and anticipate it being ready for board members' use early in 2005. In the coming season, we plan to have a laptop computer in the clubhouse to access membership information and the club's website.

And finally, all the tags will be replaced with new ones.

Thank you and see you in spring!

## SOCIAL

*Allison Sharpe*

'Social-ization' Continues...

It all starts with some Davisville Winter Tennis. Over the winter months, Davisville Members and their guests will enjoy some friendly social tennis Saturday Nights at Mayfair West.

Billiards, Bowling, Karaoke, Bingo and a Surprise Party will be just some of the fun, exciting après socials planned for Winter Tennis. For \$15 guests will enjoy two chances to play tennis between 7:30–10:30 pm on the designated Saturdays. There is always a social planned afterwards; whether it is a get-together at a local restaurant or a "Super Social" such as Cosmic Bowling you will have a great time Social-izing! If you are interested in receiving Winter Tennis Invitations please email: [social@davisvilletennisclub.com](mailto:social@davisvilletennisclub.com)

Skiing is just around the corner! But that doesn't mean social planning hibernates for the winter. Your team of Social-izers are keen to get some of the great Davisville Parties planned. Here is a sneak preview for Summer 2005:

### House League

What's this? Well we are going to go back to what worked in 2003 and re-energize this great Saturday night program. 10 House League Night's will take place over the summer on Saturday Nights from 6:00–8:00 pm. Much like Winter Tennis, your games will be pre-arranged with other players of the same level. We get to know your game style and really try to focus on finding you a match that you will enjoy and be challenged with. House League will be open for sign ups at our Opening Day and we encourage anyone looking for some social tennis to sign-up.

### Après socials

We are planning to have theme nights such as Salsa Lesson/Dance Night, Golf/Driving Range Night, Movie Night and more to encourage Social-ization among our members.

## Davisville BBQ's & Breakfasts

Something new is in the air! It smells like shish kabobs, roast beef, chicken, sausages and gourmet burgers! We have a new BBQ and we are going to use it for the best Sunday BBQ's you have ever enjoyed! Tournament BBQ's will occur once a month for a total of four great BBQ's. All tournament participants will still receive a complimentary BBQ ticket with their entry fee. You can use this ticket at any of our four feasts. A new addition will be a pilot project called Sunday Courtside Breakfasts. Watch for more details to come! Another great way to Social-ize!

You will hear more about our two signature events as we end the ski season, which is going to be fabulous this year! Start Out Bash will be a not to miss event. New location, new theme, new people to meet and be Social-able with! The Year End Party will be held in a new venue, but that's such a long time away.

There is lots to do to get this all ready for you. So as you get ready to enjoy some fresh powder of 2005 know that your Social Team is working hard for your return. If you can't handle a winter of bumps and jumps then join us at Winter Tennis Nights—we even start late enough for us snow lovers to get back into town to join the fun!

Stay Social out there and play nice with each other!

## TEAMS AND TOURNAMENTS

*David Yousri*

Hello and welcome to all at Davisville!

My name is David Yousri and I will be your guide through the wonderful world of competitive tennis à la Davisville Tennis Club.

For the upcoming summer months (let's just forget about winter for a second) I'll take you through the joy of victory and, yes even, the agony of defeat.

Seriously folks, it is a pleasure to be back on the executive for 2005, and though I enjoyed the role of V.P. in a year where we resurfaced, I am really looking forward to the position of Teams and Tournaments Director.

Why? Well for one, I have played competitive tennis my whole life, and honestly enjoy the sport even better when something is on the line. This is the cornerstone in which our teams for 2005 will be built. We want players who enjoy the competition, love the pressure of a three set match and in turn will do what it takes for their team.

Our teams are our ambassadors to other clubs. As such, they should highlight our team spirit as well as our abilities to compete with anyone in the GTA.

If you think you've got what it takes to join either the 'A' or 'B' teams, stay tuned for website updates on our try-outs (Making the Cut II). If you're full of spirit, but not ready to join the team, don't fret! There will be plenty of opportunities to show your enthusiasm as we will post the dates of all our home games both at the club and on the website. I will also provide you with weekly updates on the website on how our teams are doing.

Second, I'm inheriting a portfolio that was well managed last year, especially when it came to our tournaments. We participated in record numbers in 2004 and that was in no small part thanks to Natasha Stoddart. By having such a good framework in place this allows me to only focus on a couple of small details to make our tournaments that much better.

I am already looking for volunteers to referee tournament matches—I think Stuart is all ref-ed out! Please email me and I will gladly take you on as part of the team.

Thanks, and see you soon!

## PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

*Rob Husain*

As tennis enthusiasts, we all want to improve some aspect of our game. It is my job next year to see that we have the correct structure and programs in place to make it possible for you to do so.

To that end, I am happy to confirm that Chris Field will be returning to us next year. This will be Chris' third year at the club and we are happy to have been able to retain his services once again. If you are serious about getting better, Chris is your man!

We will be having shot clinics and group lessons as usual. These are a great way to develop your skill with others at your level. Get in fast though...we generally sell out early.

We will also try to get those of you starting out more opportunity to come and learn the basics. Early season round robins and even select level days will all be considered. We will also be promoting Saturday evening House League as a good way to develop your skills.

Last year, the ladder was active for the first time in a couple of years. I am going to look at the ladder and see if any improvements can be made there to encourage even greater participation.

We are considering some early morning practices on Sunday for the teams to help them as well.

I understand that it may be possible for us to use the 'new and improved' website to sign up for a lot of this. Stay tuned for details.

If you want to get better, then Davisville is the place.

*Happy Holidays!*

## NEW TORONTO POLICY WILL CHANGE DAVISVILLE

When the City of Toronto expanded and merged with surrounding jurisdictions over five years ago, one of the tasks they were faced with was 'harmonizing' all of the different regions under one comprehensive policy. Because their existing system for dealing with tennis clubs was working quite well, we were one of the last groups to be dealt with. The time has now come.

Just before this newsletter went to print, the Economic Development and Parks Committee (EDPC) for the City of Toronto approved Draft #18 of the Tennis Harmonization Policy. This draft has been worked on by members of Tennis Toronto (a group representing our clubs) and the City Committee. While this policy still has to be passed by City Council, it appears that this will be done and the policy will prevail over the 2005 season of all clubs in the city. This policy will be in effect for a year to see how it works and then made permanent with any changes that are needed for 2006.

Some of the more compelling parts of Tennis Harmonization Draft #18 are

1. Clubs will be responsible for paying permit fees. Until now, our permit to operate as a club was given to us free of charge. It will now cost us \$2,450 per year for the permit.
2. The City will be responsible for our lighting. We will still be responsible

for the bulbs, but they will be responsible for aiming the lights and installation. This is new.

3. Permit time. We will now have the opportunity to expand the time we have 'control' over the courts at Davisville. It appears that we will be able to have the permit from 8:00 in the morning until 11:00 at night. While this will not change the hours that the club operates, it does create other opportunities and challenges for us.

If City Council does approve this draft, then the 2005 board will decide the best way for the club to proceed in the coming year in accordance with this policy. At the end of the year, we can evaluate the effectiveness of what was implemented and decide how to continue into the coming years. A copy of the Harmonization Policy will be posted on our website if the City approves their EDPC recommendation.

Special thanks should be given to Davisville Club member Cheryl Corness. Cheryl is a part of Tennis Toronto and was an instrumental part of the liaison committee with the city that worked to construct this policy. It is through her efforts that we as an executive are fully aware of where this process is at and how it might affect us down the road. She should also be commended for helping to keep Toronto 'tennis-friendly'.

If anyone has any questions about the policy, they are requested to email [president@davisvilletennisclub.com](mailto:president@davisvilletennisclub.com) and Stuart will do his best to answer them as soon as possible.

## AGM 2004-REVIEW

For those of you that were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, here is a quick of the motions that were passed:

1. To amend the dress code to allow men to wear shirtless sleeves on shirts specifically designed for tennis.
2. To allow Jr. Members, over the age of 13, to participate in winter tennis if accompanied by a guardian
3. To formalize the process by which DTC intercounty teams are chosen.

## COACH'S CORNER

*Chris Field*

### Top Shelf Serve

When you are serving, stretch up with your racquet hand just like you would for a book on the top shelf. That's it; up on your toes and reach with your arm as far as it will go. The key to a good serve is a full extension.

## WINTER TENNIS

Don't forget all the great chances you have to enjoy winter tennis at Mayfair West. For more info, see Allison's write-up in the Executive 2005 Social report on page four.

Winter Tennis Schedule	
2004	2005
Nov. 27	Jan. 15 & 29
Dec. 11	Feb. 12
	Mar. 12
	Apr. 9

## LET DAVISVILLE MEMBERS PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS!

The Davisville Board is looking for donations of corporate promotional material to be used as prizes and giveaways at Davisville events. If your company is willing to donate hats, t-shirts or any other marketing items please let us know.

*This is a great way to get your company name out there!*