



Hillside Tennis Club

Club de Tennis Hillside

Dear fellow Hillside members,

With the arrival of cooler temperatures, falling leaves, and snowflakes, comes the closing of Hillside's successful 92nd season. Beautiful autumn weather allowed the tennis courts, pool and club services to stay open, serving members well into October.

At the club's Annual General Meeting in April, the Board of Directors stated a goal to encourage maximum use of the club by all members. As you will see in the various reports below, there is still further work to do to reach our goal, but your Board was encouraged to see the club's activities and events well attended this year. I am also pleased to report that the club's facilities were frequently enjoyed by many over the extraordinarily long season in 2017.

A massive thank you to Michel & Jennifer for their excellent administration. Under very challenging kitchen conditions relative to other restaurants and clubs, Pascal, his team in the kitchen and the wait staff worked diligently to maintain service at the highest standard. A thank you also needs to go to Felicia and Andrew who ensured members received a warm and personalized touch that makes Hillside truly special.

FACILITIES ENHANCEMENT PROJECT – PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

As many of you are aware, there has been no significant upgrade to the club's facilities for nearly 40 years. Meanwhile, members' needs and their ways of using the club have changed. In this context, preliminary architectural plans for the Facilities Enhancement Project were unveiled earlier this year and an extensive consultative process was launched.

This once-in-a-generation Facilities Enhancement Project has many aspects:

- A larger, modernized and reengineered kitchen for faster and more efficient dining service;

- A significantly enlarged outdoor pool deck (including hot tub) & family dining area;
- An expanded indoor casual lounge with a relocated bar;
- A retractable and wrapped awning over the formal dining patio that will enable comfortable formal and event dining even during inclement or cooler weather;
- Lift access to the full clubhouse for members with reduced mobility (including a bathroom on the dining floor); and
- An enlarged women's changing room.

Members have told us that these improvements are essential to allow more frequent and active club use across all ages and categories throughout the entire season—rain or shine.

Nearly 200 members attended project information sessions held throughout the winter and early summer. Following your considered feedback and encouragement, we have further refined our design plans and are now submitting the project for the city's urban planning review. Hillside sits on protected land on Mount Royal and some rezoning of club land for the expansion is required. We are happy to report that several members have made generous donations to cover the full cost of the rezoning application.

PROJECT FUNDING

I am very pleased to report that Capital Campaign fundraising towards reaching our project target of \$1.6 million is well underway and we have started to receive significant donations from exceptional members who believe deeply in the future of the club. Their financial support is based on their clear view that the proposed improvements are absolutely necessary. Already, past presidents, long-standing members, newer members, social members and playing members have made significant pledges and financial contributions on average between \$5k and \$25K each, or more.

We are also pleased to offer five lifetime memberships for donors who wish to contribute \$50k or more towards the project. Subject to certain conditions, these lifetime memberships can be gifted to family members.

Our campaign co-chairs Peter Dunn, Tony Layton and Maryse Rouillard, supported by a team of canvassers lead by William Daly, are available to meet you to discuss your pledge and answer questions.

Please contact the club anytime in confidence, or write to us at capitalcampaign@hillsideennis.ca. We also encourage you to talk to other members about making a donation of consequence.

Our Capital Campaign activities will actively continue during the winter in parallel with zoning approval from the City of Montreal. We will keep you posted on our progress, and will soon be unveiling our recently updated architectural plans and improved design renderings.

Our goal is to report our financing status and project progress to the membership at the Annual General meeting in April. At that time, we will seek member approval towards an official project start and construction either in October 2018, or one year later.

YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL

In an ever-changing urban and social landscape, Hillside is an oasis, and a beacon for our community. Our Facilities Enhancement Project will ensure our club's continued excellent standing in Montreal's past, present and future. Hillside acts in good part as a family extension, and in that light, we, as members, have an obligation to keep it strong and viable for generations to come.

One way or the other, it will be up to the generosity of each and every member to make this once-in-a-generation project a reality. This is why we strongly encourage your financial support now through a donation of consequence.

Although this important project is critical to our club's future and is therefore a major focus, I can assure you that your Board of Directors and management are continuing their careful monitoring of existing club operations and facilities.

We are pleased to provide the following reports on a successful Hillside season.

MEMBERSHIP

Demand for new membership remains healthy as 48 new members joined Hillside in 2017. However, playing memberships have declined 15% in last six years. On the bright side, membership is becoming more intergenerational which helps support the future for the club.

Children under 12 and young intermediate player categories have increased this year. Our non-playing social category has also increased and is now fostering a vibrant social and family scene at the club. While senior intermediate player levels have remained consistent, the men's senior category increased the most which we hope will attract new senior women to join the club. Reflecting long-standing club loyalty, honorary members continue to be an ever-increasing category.

By encouraging greater use of Hillside by all members, we hope to discourage club resignations. In 2017, 83 members resigned—a level consistent with previous years. Member exit surveys tell us that lack of club use is a factor in a member's decision to leave, so the Board regularly brainstorms new and innovative ways to encourage club participation.

There is no better time to join Hillside. We encourage everyone to propose a new member before May 1, 2018! Play your part. Those who introduce a new member before May 1st will receive a pleasant surprise as a token of appreciation—more details to follow!

[Click here for the online application form](#) which can be emailed to jennifer@hillsideennis.ca. Once the application form is complete, the Hillside Board of Directors is available at any time to assist your applicant receive timely approval for membership.

FINANCES

The club is operating on a stable financial footing. Total revenue was stable for the year and entrance fees were strong again in 2017. Hillside's staff should be commended for another year of excellent service despite strict cost controls. While the club will post a small loss on operations, strong entrance fees will allow for a small overall net profit. I am pleased to report that the unrestricted surplus account is expected to close in excess of \$250K.

While the club achieved positive financial results in 2017, the long-term decline in total membership count needs to be addressed, so that cherished club services can be fully sustained and capital reserves continually replenished.

Of note, new member's entrance fees, which were originally designed to finance the club's capital fund, have been re-allocated to fund the club's ongoing operations. In addition, member's dues have remained at unsustainably low levels for years, thus placing continued pressure to attract new members (and their entrance fees) every season. In the coming years, the club will need to undertake necessary capital projects outside of the Facilities Enhancement Project, such as rebuilding the tennis courts, court lighting, and other to-be-determined projects. For these to be completed, with funds to spare, the club's capital reserves will need to be replenished at a faster rate. We thank our treasurer Francois Leblanc for his diligent supervision of club finances.

TENNIS

Member's heartiness and love of tennis was apparent this summer and tennis participation remained strong. This year, we had our first **Annual Inter-Generational Tennis Event** on THE only warm day in May! This was a great kick-off to the season for intermediates and older folk alike!

Competition in the women's interclub was fierce this year with division 1 finishing 3rd and division 3 finishing 4th.

The club championships were held at the end of August and during the beautiful month of September. This year's champions are:

Intermediate Women's (NEW): Elsa Schlemm

Intermediate Men's (NEW): Ben McAusland

Women's Open Singles: Alicia Hamilton

Women's Doubles: Jill Drummond, Kim Drummond

Women's A/B: Anthea Dawson, Diane Sharpe

Women's AB Combined Singles (NEW): Cynthia Carsley

Men's Open Singles: John Papageorgio

Men's Doubles: Chris Donato, Charles Porteous

Men's A/B: Paul Beattie, Chris Donato

Men's B: Charles Colby

Mixed Doubles: Elise Nesbitt, Chris Donato

90+Tournament: Jorge Schwartz, Colin Brown

The Hillside Cup: Paul Lenzi

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all of you who participated.

On August 5-7, Hillside hosted its **8th Annual Open Mixed Doubles Tournament**. A near record number of 35 teams competed from all over Montreal and Ontario. Dariusz has put Hillside on the map with this increasingly popular event. The winners in the 30+ category were Kim Drummond and Dariusz Kosak. Three-time winners, Susan Dana and Garry Helmkey, won in the 50+ category.

The **Lorne Webster Memorial Cup** was held on October 1. Although the weather gods were on our side, the tennis gods were not. Mount Royal Tennis Club kept the Cup for the second year in a row.

We owe a huge thank you to Dariusz and André and their team. From introductory junior tennis to high-level interclub training and everything in between, Dariusz and André had all bases covered. Their dedication at organizing the tournaments, clinics and round robins, not to mention encouraging maximum participation, did not go unnoticed by all playing members. Thanks to their passion for tennis, solid efforts and hard work, club spirit and tennis friendships were strengthened.

Next year, due to many requests over the years, we will roll out our newest addition to the tennis team: 'The Red Lobster' ball machine. Details will be announced at the start of the 2018 tennis season, so stay tuned!

A big thank you to Martha Legge Fitzpatrick for her role in supporting the tennis program.

SOCIAL LIFE

As we all know firsthand, the 2017 tennis season was subject to some unpredictable weather. However, rain or shine, the social buzz at the club was strong.

The Ladies' Opening Luncheon started the season off hot with remarkable early-season weather that permitted the Fashion Show to be held on the club's outdoor veranda. Many thanks to Gael Fraser-Tytler, her models and this year's clothing and accessory sponsor Promenade Greene for a wonderful display.

The December Ladies' Night will be held at the University Club as usual. For future Ladies' Nights during the winter season, please stay tuned for official communications with more information.

The Men's Nights also maintained their place on the agenda on Monday nights, and were always well attended when weather was cooperative.

A first for the club was the inaugural Diner en Blanc held in mid-August. The event witnessed a fantastic turnout with quality dishes carefully prepared by the head chef. This event will likely be repeated in years to come.

Another first for the club was the Discovery Night, an evening under the stars offering members a unique menu with fresh local sustainable items with excellent quality wine pairings from the club's private selection.

We would like to highlight the club's famed Oyster Nights, which were very well attended at every occasion. This year the club 'upped its game' with a high-quality buffet paired with its traditional Malpeque, Raspberry Point, and Lucky Lime oysters. We also saw a new selection oysters presented this year, the mouth-watering Gooseberry Bay and Shiny Sea.

Watch for an enhanced social dining format coming out next season! If you have ideas for our social events, please feel free to reach out to Michel Deslauriers or our Board representative Stylianos Manios.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT

The Hillside made some exciting changes this summer that greatly benefitted families and encouraged use of the club by a new generation of parents and children alike.

In response to growing pool use, a lifeguard was hired for weekends and Hillside family events such as BBQs and tennis tournaments. Throughout the summer, the lifeguard not only kept an eye on children to make sure rules were being followed, but also encouraged safety and courtesy for all users of an increasingly busy Hillside pool.

The club also decided to waive any guest fees for members who bring a babysitter with them to help keep an eye on their children. This measure was designed to encourage parents to come to the Hillside to play tennis together as a break from their busy family schedule.

The Junior Tennis program continued to offer a wide range of lessons for children of all ages, and camps were extremely well attended this summer, with more than 100 children participating throughout the summer.

This year's junior champions are:

Champions:	Finalists:
Boys 8 & Under: Charles Phillipe Beauchemin	Lukas Dancik
Girls 10 & Under: Mila Elman	Vera Gaty
Boys 10 & Under: Aaron Beckerleg	Frazer Dunn
Girls 12 & Under: Isobel Hamilton	Vera Gaty
Boys 12 & Under: Conrad Porteous	Aaron Beckerleg
Girls' Open: Mary Roper	Isobel Hamilton
Boys' Open: Brian Heward	Luc Drymer
Girls' Doubles: Vera Gaty Anne-Charlotte Dal Soglio	Isobel Hamilton Olivia Darlington
Boys' Doubles: Brian Heward Luc Drymer	Alex Henderson William De Courcy-Ireland
Mixed Doubles: Vera Gaty Luc Drymer	Isobel Hamilton Brian Heward
Most improved Junior: Girl: Vera Gaty Boy: Aaron Beckerleg	
Parent & Child Champions: Aaron & Mathew Beckerleg and Conrad & Charles Porteous.	

Congratulations to all our juniors! We look forward to another great season next year. We thank Amanda Jelowicki for initiating valuable improvements to the Junior Program.

FACILITIES AND STEWARDSHIP

After many years of loyal service, Hillside's tennis court roller retired and was replaced at the beginning of the season. The children's play area was improved, and the wading pool was removed in order to create a new children's eating area. With the help of our vigilant staff and mother nature, the caterpillars that appeared early in the season retreated, permitting guests to enjoy the rest of the season without unwanted guests.

Initial plans for spring 2018 include the replacement of the pool deck after many years of service, and the appearance of rotting wood. In addition, an arborist will be hired to apply the necessary treatment to trees around the club house area early next spring to prevent a reoccurrence of caterpillars.

Notwithstanding any future major renovations associated with the Facilities Enhancement Project, we continue to monitor the state of the grounds, clubhouse and tennis courts to ensure they meet our membership's standards. As required, the Board will authorize necessary expenditures to ensure all facilities remain in full working order. A special thanks to Craig Duncan and his team for their exceptional effort and diligence in always keeping Hillside in top shape. We thank Jean-Simon Cleroux who has been instrumental in guiding priorities for club maintenance.

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

A new Board level position of communications was created this year to address the evolving needs of members to stay abreast of club developments and activities. As such, we are developing new ways to reach out to our membership.

A new Facebook page was launched and featured almost daily posts to ensure member were informed and entertained—photos taken at almost all the social events were posted! If you have not had a chance to like or follow the Hillside on Facebook, please do so now. That way you will be informed of all the news for our upcoming season even before it starts!

The members' approval to go paperless in 2018 will ensure other means of communications are introduced. Ideas include a Hillside news screen set up by the bar area; an improved and more user-friendly website; email invitations to social events that are linked directly to your calendar, and more.

Leveraging her professional expertise and experience, Jasmin Uhthoff is leading the way to improve club communications.

[The Annual Membership Information Form](#) is attached for your completion and return, should there be changes to your contact, credit card or membership information. Please return it to the attention of Jennifer Chappell by mail or scan/email by December 31, 2017. If you do not have any changes to report then you do not need to return the form.

Please note: all changes to membership category MUST be received by March 15, 2018.

If you are moving, please ensure that you keep the club informed over the winter. The usual mailing address and telephone number for the club will continue to work during the winter.

For those of you still receiving this letter by Canada Post, please let us know if you have an email address. We are now implementing the resolution adopted at the April AGM mandating Hillside to go "green" by December through the elimination of paper mailings, helping us save on postal costs. However, if you still wish to receive paper versions of documents, such as this one, please advise Jennifer, and we will gladly continue to send you a copy in the post.

With another successful season now complete, your Board and club management will be working this winter in preparation for the 2018 season. In the meantime, since Hillside is member owned, we welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please never hesitate to reach out to us with your ideas and comments.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued support of our club. We eagerly await seeing you at Hillside in 2018!

Kind regards,

Charles Porteous
President



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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION FORM**

CHANGE IN ADDRESS OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Member: _____

Spouse (Member): _____

Membership Number: _____

Address Change: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Please Print Name: _____ Date: _____

SPLIT-BILLING

I wish to have my annual dues for 2018 billed in two equal installments on March 1st and June 1st.
(NOT AVAILABLE FOR NON-RESIDENT OR HONORARY MEMBERS)

COMMUNICATION

If you have not provided us with your email address, please do so below:

E-mail address (1): _____

E-mail address (2): _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY CHANGE

If you wish to change your membership category, please remit this form with your request indicated below.
All changes must be made by March 15th 2018.

Send to:

HILLSIDE TENNIS CLUB
4818 Cote des Neiges, Montreal, Quebec H3V 1G2
Or email to: jennifer@hillside tennis.ca