



ONTARIO TENNIS ASSOCIATION – MISSION STATEMENT

The Ontario Tennis Association encourages participation in tennis, as part of a healthy lifestyle and promotes the pursuit of excellence for all players.

HISTORY



The Ontario Tennis Association (OTA) is the provincial sport governing body for tennis in Ontario. It is a non-profit organization, incorporated under the Corporation Act. It is the largest provincial tennis association in Canada, boasting 220 clubs and 55,000 adult and child tennis players.

The two basic aims of the OTA are to encourage participation in the sport of tennis in Ontario and to provide a structure of services which will assist players to reach a level of competence consistent with their personal goals and abilities.

The strength of the OTA is seen in both its sheer numbers and exposure to every corner of the province, and for the creation and maintenance of an atmosphere of unlimited tennis opportunities for players of all levels, from grassroots to national calibre athletes.

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The roots of the OTA date back to **1890**, when the first official Canadian men's singles championships was played at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club, September 2nd to 6th, with American E.E. Tanner of Buffalo, NY, taking the title.

The Ontario Tennis Association was founded at a meeting of tennis enthusiasts in Barrie, in **1918**, as the Ontario Lawn Tennis Association. Colonel Blackstock, Jack Boys, Garnet Meldrum and Jack Little, all well known tennis figures, were present. In **1919**, the first Annual General Meeting was held and Blackstock was elected the association's first president.

In **1974**, the OTA established ten regions throughout the province to administrate tennis programs at the local level and coordinate their own individual boards.

The following is a list of past presidents of the OTA:

1919	Colonel Blackstock	1976-79	Dieter Wolff
1920-47	Jack Little, Walter Burns, Ed Condon, Mel Brock	1979-82	Jim Lewis
1948-52	Jack Little	1982-84	Steve Stevens
1953-56	J. Stafford, H. Beck	1985-86	James Varley
1956-58	Lorne Main	1987-89	Gus Daal
1958-59	Jim Bentley	1990-93	Tony Schafer
1959-61	Frank Dimock	1994-95	Oluf Lauridsen
1961-62	Roy Mansell	1995-99	Pam Olley
1962-66	Zouch Palmer	1999-2001	Stan Hannaford
1966-70	Ross Brown	2001-05	Malcom Still
1970-73	Lawrence Strong	2005-07	Keith Porter
1973-76	Klaus Bindhardt	2007-2012	Michel Lecavalier

