



A brief History of The Pickering Squash Club from 1985 and on into the Future...

It all started with four friends who had formerly played squash in Ajax...

Yes the Ajax Squash Club at the Ajax Recreation Complex can be considered the parent club of the Pickering Squash Club but it was the hard work of four individuals that birthed a concept and nurtured it along in its fledgling years. **Rosemary Aiken, Rod Ryde, Vinod Parmar and Chris Doona** formulated the concept and headed up the first year of the club. Of no less importance is the insight of the Pickering Town Council of the time, influenced I am sure, by **Tom Quinn** the Recreation Director at the time and an avid squash player. The Council saw fit to include 6 international squash courts in the design of the newly built **Pickering Recreation Complex**.

When the Rec Complex, as we like to call it, opened its doors to the public in the fall of 1983 a large number of Pickering residents were thrilled to find that they no longer had to trek to Ajax to get their squash fix.

Over the years the club has grown and nurtured its talent under the tutelage of many fine Squash Professionals. **Sandy Moore, John Evans, Dave MacDonald, Bob Jean, Scott Coleman, Nicole Carroll, James Hayes** and to the present Pro, who thankfully returned to us in 2007, **Nicole (ne: Carroll) Pirko**.

One of the many highlights of the Pickering Squash Club came in 1991 when we had the honour of hosting the Canadian Junior Squash Championships. It was a yearlong effort by every club member to pull off what is still talked about as the best run Canadian Junior Squash Championships ever. The highlight of the weekend of May 9th to 12th was taking 150+ junior players to a Bluejays Baseball game at the newly opened Toronto SkyDome. What a thrill for all concerned.

In 1994 we lost a great friend, **Lee Hanebury**. She was a wonderful supporter of

Junior Squash, not only in our club but across the Squash Community of Ontario. Squash Ontario, with the support of ongoing donations from the Pickering Squash Club, created the **Lee Hanebury Foundation for Junior Squash**. Each year the club holds the **Lee Hanebury Memorial Tournament** with proceeds going to the Foundation and junior development at our own club. The tournament is in its 17th year.

Over the years the Pickering Squash Club has made a name for itself in The Toronto and surrounding area interclub squash play. Most notably in 2001 when we fielded no less than 10 teams in T&D Women's, T&D Men's and Black Knight E Leagues. All went to the finals. Most were successful in bringing home the gold that year.

Second only to the 1991 Canadian Junior Squash Championships is the opening of our new doubles courts in 2009. This again was a club wide effort that stretched over 10 years. It started as a dream of **Ian Parsons**. He enlisted the help of **Kevin Cahill** and **Grant Bridge** among others too numerous to name. The City's CEO, **Tom Quinn** (remember him from 1983?) got behind the project and soon we had the City council on our side as well. With a good sum raised by the club and a wonderful grant organized by our Provincial Representatives, **Wayne Arthurs** and **Joe Dickson**, the City Council lead by **Mayor David Ryan** approved the addition in 2007. It opened on September 19th 2009.

The future is bright for the club. We've survived 25 years. Here is to the next 25 and beyond.