

The Challenger Comes to Waterloo



Club member Dennis Huss in the chair



Canadian Sharon Fichman setting up for a volley



2008 Champion Alexandra Mueller and Finalist Sharon Fichman with tournament organizers



2008 Champion Alexandra Mueller and Finalist Sharon Fichman

It was in June 2007 that the idea came up to move the BC Decker Challenger tournament to Waterloo for 2008. Tony Cho, Dennis and Elizabeth Huss along with Tennis Canada (who provided the prize money) got the ball rolling. Joanne Raymond was contacted and so the plans began. This was a \$25,000 Challenger event for women to be played on our har – tru courts. Sheila Brown, Marten Johnson and Dennis Long joined the core organizing committee. We named the \$25,000 tournament the WOW Challenger - Waterloo Open Women's Challenger! Plans were developed and volunteers were signed up. What a learning experience for all involved. With the superb response from the Community and the club and most importantly the players, we made plans for 2009! The most challenging part of the endeavour was to attain corporate sponsors. Blackberry joined us and we were on our way to another terrific success. The support of the players and our club members through their many hours of volunteering paved the way for the future!

Since its inception the Tournament has grown and evolved into a \$50,000 Challenger event with major involvement of corporate donors.

Cooper Construction and Victoria Star Motors joined forces with several other very important donors to allow the tournament to expand. John Bezear, Helen McArdle, Mark McArdle, Jim McGill, Doris Ernst and Monica Heinrich joined the team. To date The Waterloo Tennis Club has been the host of the event for 6 years and hopes are that it will return in the near future.

Written by Joanne Raymond. Photos by Mark McArdle.

2009 Tournament



Canadian Heidi El Tabakh made it to the finals of both singles and doubles



Heidi El Tabakh congratulating champion Johanna Konta



Champion Johanna Konta

2010 Tournament



Organizers with players and sponsors at media event.



Pros and amateurs have a blast during the Pro-Am



Champion Julia Cohen competing in front of a full house



Tournament organizers

2011 Tournament



Eugenie Bouchard & Megan Moulton-Levy competing in the finals



Doubles champs Alexandra Mueller and Asia Muhammed



Finalist Julia Boserup with champion Sharon Fichman

2012 Tournament



The crowds waiting for the start of the finals



Doubles champions Sharon Fichman & Marie-Eve Pelletier with ball kids



Champion Sharon Fichman with finalist Julia Glushko

2013 Tournament



Doubles champions Gaby Dabrowski and Sharon Fichman



Singles Champion Julia Glushko and Finalist Gaby Dabrowski with ball kids



Singles Champion Julia Glushko with tournament organizers