

# James L. Gray Youth Tennis Outreach Program



## **INTRODUCTION:**

The James L. Gray Youth Tennis Outreach Program started in 2006 and became a registered not-for-profit Ontario Corporation on January 3, 2008.

The objects for which the corporation was incorporated are:

To foster goodwill, sportsmanship and the opportunity for self-development through the promotion of the game of tennis throughout the Region of Peel and adjacent Regions, in particular

- Providing professional instruction to children as well as training to teachers in the basics of the game of tennis within schools throughout these Regions;
- Arranging matches and competitions; establishing and granting prizes, awards and distinctions;
- And such other complementary purposes not inconsistent with these objects.

The special provisions are:

- The corporation shall be carried on without the purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the corporation shall be used in promoting its objects.

## **PROGRAM DETAILS:**

### **The 2006 Program**

The OTA Member Tennis Clubs of Caledon and Dufferin (Belfountain, Bolton, Caledon, Caledon East, Mono Centre, Orangeville and Palgrave) established a program to introduce the youth of our communities to tennis. In 2006, **over 1,400 school children** were introduced to



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tennis in three physical education classes over a 3-week period in late spring. The OTA member tennis clubs in the Headwaters area provided their certified OTA professional instructors to teach the school children in our community. Two qualified instructors provided instruction on three full days in each school. All instructors generously offered their services at a reduced rate to assist us in meeting our objective. We collaborated with the principals and the teachers in six local schools (Belfountain, Bolton, Caledon, Caledon East, Palgrave, and Macville) to create a program that met their needs. The target ages for the program were grades 4 through 6. The local tennis clubs also provided volunteers to support the instructors and the teachers during the instruction. Following the in-school program, the students were invited to attend get-acquainted events at the closest or most convenient club facilities and encouraged to bring their families to follow-up sessions. The funding for this pilot project was provided by the James L. Gray Youth Tennis Outreach Program.

### The 2007 Program

In 2007 we expanded the program to include 3 additional schools from the Caledon area (Elwood, Creditview and Alton) along with 2 from Mono Centre (Primrose and Mono-Amareth @ Springbrook) and one from Orangeville (Princess Margaret), giving us a total of 12 schools (doubling our numbers from 2006) and reaching **close to 3,000 school children**. Once again funding for this project was primarily provided by the James L. Gray Youth Tennis Outreach Program, with the help of a \$2000 grant from the OTA.

In 2007, three of the schools purchased their own equipment packages at a cost of \$1,140 (*see equipment list and price breakdown below*), as our future plans include teaching the local physical education teachers on how to use this equipment to continue to introduce the game of tennis to their students.

Qty	Item	Price	Total
4	Mini-nets	\$110.00	\$ 440.00
40	Junior Racquets	\$ 14.40	\$ 580.00
48	Nerf Balls	\$ 2.50	\$ 120.00
			<b>\$1,140.00</b>

Local tennis clubs like Caledon Village also use this program as an introduction to their own free outdoor program in June thus completing the loop for children and connecting them to the low cost activity of tennis in their own community.

With our expansion in 2007, the program would benefit by providing each of the 9 remaining schools currently enrolled in the program with their own equipment packages at a cost of \$1140 each. In order to achieve our objective, we need funds to support the required equipment.

**Calculation: 9 schools x \$1140 (cost of 1 equipment package) = \$10,260.00**



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### **The 2008 Program**

This year we are very excited to have James Kwon taking the lead on coordinating the program, by securing qualified tennis pros to teach the program and working with the principals of the schools in scheduling the “Tennis in Schools” program throughout the months of May and June.

With limited funds available this year we will hold the 2008 program to the 12 schools currently enrolled, while we work on writing our submission for a Trillium Grant. In the meantime we will endeavour to raise funds with the help of our local tennis clubs, by way of contributions generated through club tournaments.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The success of the James L. Gray Youth Tennis Outreach Program has been overwhelming, reaching over 1,400 youth in our community in 2006, and close to 3,000 in 2007. This achievement would not have happened without the help and commitment from the following people: Michael Logue, Principal at MacVille Public School, who acted as our liaison with the Caledon School Board; Phil & Beth Staite, who coordinated the schedules for the “Tennis in Schools” program; and most importantly, the qualified tennis pros who willingly gave their time and talent to help us grow this program over the past two years. Special thanks to James Kwon, Greg Schwarze, Fred Greenwood, Brian Price, Ashley Hooper, Cassie Greenwood, Misha Buob, Nell Gallagher, Steve Gibson, and Steve Theodoropoulos for their contribution.

It is our goal to continue to reach out to more youth and their families by encouraging them to continue learning and enjoying tennis at their local OTA clubs. We hope that you recognize the value of this program and would appreciate your financial support in helping us to achieve our goal.

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact one of our executive below.

Thank you.

The James L. Gray Youth Tennis Outreach Program

Wendy Gray  
(905) 880-3439

Gail Grant  
(905) 880-8484

Steve Dean  
(416) 427-8515

Phil Staite  
(519) 927-3349

Willie Grove  
(519) 927-3551