

Hi all,

40 years ago in 1976, All Canadian started its operations at Cedar Springs in Burlington. The first fully fledged Canadian tennis Academy was a breeding ground of future leaders in Canadian Tennis: Simon Bartram, Tennis Director at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club, his best friend Ari Novick, Senior Director for Tennis Development at Tennis Canada and Marianne Groat, Junior, Open, Senior National champion and Fed Cup player. This was a sign of the future of All Canadian.

The next 40 years have been an eventful road from All Canadian to Ace, from Mississauga at ORC, Hamilton, London, Sudbury, Brantford, at the national center at York in Markham, Montreal at Nun's Island, Vaughan and now in Toronto at Toronto Tennis City and back in Burlington at Cedar Springs. The constant has been first class coaches, leading edge programs, national and provincial champions, US scholarships worth over 15 million dollars and most of all an unbelievable group of players, parents, coaches and supporters committed to the values of Ace/All Canadian "Discipline, Pride, Courage".

Douglas Burke, a former All Canadian player and national icon in Jamaica is now the president and operating partner of Ace Tennis. His support, his friendship, his commitment, his caring, insures that All Canadian will keep on servicing junior players in the development of the sport of a lifetime. The tennis development landscape in Canada has changed tremendously with Tennis Canada's direct involvement in player development and with the creations of a handful of very good tennis Academies in the greater Toronto area. Canadian tennis future seems to be in good hands.

For me the journey is not finished, I am trying to insure the long term well being of Ace tennis, its staff and families as well as our players and their families. It is a great on-going journey and I am so proud of the champions that I have been associated with over the years. By champions I do not mean tennis champions but life champions. What a great gift to be able to learn from such great kids and future contributors to our great country.

In closing, my advice from my experiences is believe in your dreams if you are committed to making them happen and have the determination to deal with all the obstacles that present themselves while taking full responsibility . From being in Mississippi at 22, wanting to be a lawyer, to a financial manager, I followed my dream, played pro tennis for five years, and then created an Academy which is now turning 40. Thank you to the special people that worked with us over the years. A special thanks to Harry Fauquier and Ken Sinclair, Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame Members who have been mentors, friends and partners. Thank you Doug and Ari for your friendship and partnership.

Thank you all for the great journey and the journey ahead.

Respect,

Pierre Lamarche
All Canadian Sports Management, Inc.