



## **TPA Announces the 2020 Excellence Award Winners**

August 10, 2021 - Tennis Canada announced on Tuesday that several important figures in the Canadian tennis landscape were honoured for their service to the sport with TPA Excellence Awards.

The 2020 Coaching Excellence Award was given to Aref Jallali, a certified Coach 4 and HP Mentor Program Graduate, teaching out of the Burlington Fitness & Racquet Club. Jallali has over 20 years of coaching experience, both at the national and international level, and most recently worked with top nationally and ITF ranked players Alvin Tudorica, Marko Stakusic, Marina Stakusic as well as Bianca Andreescu from the age of 11 to 14.

Henry Choi of British Columbia was the recipient of the 2020 Club Professional Excellence Award. A certified Coach 3, Choi is responsible for leading the overall tennis program at the Richmond Golf & Country Club. In his role as Director of Tennis, he has led the progression of the junior and adult programs and is an inspiration to many players of all ages and abilities.

An indoor facility was also recognized for its outstanding contribution to the sport and their community this year. The Veneto Tennis Centre in Ontario was named the winner of the Year-Round Facility Excellence Award. The club boasts over 400 members and plays host to annual TPA seminars. They host various charity events throughout the year and typically host over 30 OTA tournaments per year, including national selection events, an ITF junior event as well as a men's/women's open event. Veneto Tennis Centre also employs active, TPA-certified staff only.

The Association de tennis de Drummondville was also recognized for their outstanding contribution to the sport and their community this year. The Association de tennis de Drummondville in Quebec was named the winner of the Seasonal Facility Excellence Award. The club boasts over 650 members and plays host to a number of activities/events including certification courses, professional development, junior provincial tournaments, Wilson Doubles clinics, Singles tournaments 35+, competitive and recreational doubles leagues, high-intensity training for men and women, thematic clinics, and junior lessons for recreational players and junior development programs. The Association de tennis de Drummondville also employs active, TPA-certified staff only.

The 2020 Course Facilitator Excellence Award was awarded to Paul Cairns of Ontario. Cairns has been The Boulevard Club's Tennis Director since 2010 and is a certified Coach 3 and Club Pro 3. The award is presented to a TPA Course Facilitator who has consistently demonstrated excellence in the delivery of Certification courses in Canada. Over the past 15 years, Cairns has played a significant role in player and coach development in Ontario as a Team Ontario coach, Provincial Training Center Coach, a certified Coach 2, and Club Professional 2 Course Facilitator. Cairns' energy, positiveness, professionalism, and high standards are key ingredients to the impacts he has on players and coaches. Cairns has been a key contributor to the development of the current Club Professional 2 course.

Ontario's Gary Caron was the winner of the TPA Service to the Game Excellence Award. He has been involved in tennis for over 25 years, is a certified Coach 3 and Club Pro 3, and the current Director of Athletics at the Granite Club in Toronto. Not only has he kept tennis expanding at his home club, but has also been instrumental in improving the Tennis Canada club professional certification program while facilitating courses and various TPA seminars. Caron is also a sounding board for coaches and club leaders all over the country. In addition, Gary has been a key member of the TPA Advisory Committee since its inception in 2004, always stepping up to help where he can.

Nikki Carnovale of Ontario was announced as the fourth recipient of the Rene Simpson-Collins Excellence Award for outstanding female coaching, which is accompanied by a \$2,000 scholarship to help offset training and



development costs. A certified Coach 2 and Club Pro 2, Carnovale works with provincial and national level juniors at Peak Performance Tennis Academy located at Mayfair West. and is currently enrolled in the Coach 3 certification course.

The Gary Caron Scholarship was awarded to Ontario native Adam Taylor, a certified Coach 3, who has participated in U12 national training camps and has been a member of Team Ontario's coaching team at the U14 and U16 nationals. Taylor is also currently involved in the advanced coaching diploma with the Coaching Association of Canada and recently coached Canadian young players on international tours.

Congratulations once again to each recipient on their incredible achievement.

The Tennis Professionals Association (TPA) is a member-based association devoted to growing the profession of tennis coaching throughout Canada. The TPA was developed by Tennis Canada for Canadian Certified Instructors, Coaches, and Club Professionals. All funds raised from the membership go directly back into coaching development. For more information visit [www.tpacanada.com](http://www.tpacanada.com).