



Sparks Tae Kwon Do Constance Bay

Constance Bay club is under new management/ownership!

Sounds like a big announcement, but what does it really mean?

When I first opened the Tae Kwon Do school in the Constance & Buckham's Bay Community Centre in 1994, I had been training in martial arts for almost 10 years - nearly 6 years in Tae Kwon Do and 4 years in Karate. I was an instructor at the Kanata Tae Kwon Do Academy for more than 3 years, and had just received my 2nd Dan black belt when we offered our first classes at the Community Centre. After years of training and teaching under my masters, I was excited at the prospect of building and operating my own club/school. The "little club" in Constance Bay grew very gradually, with only 3 students in our first few months, but we persevered and kept our classes going every Tuesday evening and Saturday morning, even if it meant private & semi-private lessons! Mr. Henderson will remember those early days. Slowly, word got out that we were offering martial arts sessions in "the Bay", and soon we had both children and adult classes. By the start of the second year, we had more than a dozen students.

Our club's affiliation with Winning Circle Tae Kwon Do began in mid-1996 when my two sons (also black belts by this time) and I, looking for some technical advancement and opportunities for competition, began training under the direction of Master Eric Ah-Yuen in Kanata. Until then, we operated as Constance Bay Tae Kwon Do but we then decided to align the club as a sub-branch of Master Ah-Yuen's Winning Circle Tae Kwon Do School. Little changed for

our students in class. I continued as Sabuhmnim (Head Instructor) in Constance Bay; however, I worked with Master Ah-Yuen to establish a new curriculum; we switched to uniforms with the Winning Circle logo; and Master Ah-Yuen took responsibility for testing and certification. Meanwhile, the main branch in Kanata took care of the business side of the school, managing student records, renewals and payments.

In the intervening years our little club has grown; it has developed a strong social fabric and a unique identity. I continued to see the benefits of our association with a larger school and an international federation, but I also had clear aspirations for our local club/school, our students, and our instructors.

By the fall of 2002, Master Ah-Yuen and I began a series of discussions about the Constance Bay club which culminated in an agreement that I re-assume full control and ownership of the Constance Bay club, effective January 1st 2003. The agreement means that the Constance Bay club will operate as an independent martial arts school, technically and legally called "Sparks Tae Kwon Do - Constance Bay"; however, we will remain closely affiliated with Winning Circle Tae Kwon Do, similar to a franchise. Students and instructors in Constance Bay will continue to wear Winning Circle uniforms, and Master Ah-Yuen will still be responsible for testing and certifying all ranks.

I believe the Constance Bay club/school gains a certain independence and flexibility now, providing benefits to our members, including:

- Access to more and better equipment (blockers, targets, cushioned mats, etc.)
- Regular newsletters



- Our own martial arts library
- More guest instructors
- Broader-based curriculum
- Improved storage facilities, signage & a permanent display case at the Community Centre
- Lower membership fees, especially for families. (see Sabuhmnim for details)
- More special/social events for members and families. (I'm looking forward to establishing a parent/student association that will help with events, demos, etc.)

Going forward, the new club/school assumes responsibility for student records, renewals and membership fees. If you renewed your annual membership with Winning Circle Tae Kwon Do in Kanata before December 31st, 2002, the new club will honour your membership. Future renewals will be made with Sparks Tae Kwon Do - Constance Bay. I will contact students before their renewal dates to discuss details.

I'm looking forward to a great year in 2003...hope you are too. Thanks for your understanding and continued support,

Ron Sparks, Sabuhmnim

Here we grow in 2003

Experience tells us that "word-of-mouth" is the best way to increase membership. You, the students and family members are our best advertisement. We encourage you to tell a friend about Tae Kwon Do...bring a friend or family member for a free intro class ...let's help our membership grow. As an incentive:

- You will receive a 1- month extension to your membership for every new member you refer in 2003.
- For every new member you refer in 2003, your name will be put into a draw for valuable prizes, such as: a 1-year free membership, sparring gear, kick targets, Ottawa Senators' hockey tickets.

Enter early & often!!!

*Prizes will depend on the number of entries received and will be finalized later in the year.



Testing and promotion

Students continue to test at Winning Circle in Kanata. All tests are scheduled to start at 11:30 am on the following dates:

January 25, 2003
March 1, 2003
April 12, 2003
May 10, 2003
July 5, 2003
October 4
November 8, 2003
December 13, 2003

Completed applications for testing, including payment in full, must be delivered to the club by the Tuesday prior to the test date. No exceptions will be made.

Students who are testing must be at the school (in uniform, stretching & ready to start) a minimum of 15 minutes before the designated test time.

Students must present themselves for their test in a clean and complete Winning Circle Tae Kwon Do uniform. Club t-shirts that are permitted in class during the hot summer months, are NOT acceptable at a test.

Students may be asked to spar during the test and must bring their own sparring gear. Note: Winning Circle requires all students green belt and up to have access to their own sparring gear.

