

PICKLEBALL IS FOR EVERYBODY!

THE VANCITY PICKLER

March - April 2024 Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S GREETING

*Greg
Feehan*



This will be my last contribution to this newsletter under this title, as I have decided not to continue as President for the 2024-25 year. However, I intend to continue writing for the newsletter and to continue on the Association's board in the capacity of immediate Past President and coordinator for communication.

I have been President for three and a half years, a time that has involved both frustrations and triumphs. If you have been reading this spot over the months, you will be aware that we have found the Park Board's commitment to careful, deliberate planning to be frustrating in the face of our sport's exponential growth. Still, the Park Board has done what they can, outside of the fiscal planning cycle, to provide us with courts wherever possible, including the pop-up project of two summers ago, the indefinite loan of tennis courts to pickleball at Jericho Beach and Champlain Heights, and significant access to the Hillcrest Curling Club for the past two summers.

The people we work with at the Park Board continue to look for creative solutions while

they, like us, await the completion of the Court Sports Strategy document and the subsequent fiscal planning process. I remain hopeful that the next several years will see incremental improvements in court access and that the long-awaited completion of their planning process will eventually result in a substantive increase in courts. It has been a sometimes frustrating, sometimes exhausting, and always exciting three and a half years.



Photo credit: Jacqueline Clarke

I am proud of what our association board has accomplished in that time, including this newsletter, the leagues and ladders, the nets and lockboxes at the temporary courts, the introduction of DUPR, and all the other myriad of things that we have been doing. I look forward to the next several years and all the things that together all of us can accomplish to meet the needs of our addictive sport.

WHAT COURTS MIGHT BE IN OUR FUTURE?

Greg
Feehan



If things unfold as planned, it is likely the Park Board will begin work on their Court Sports Strategic Plan this year. This process is critical for us, as funding for new courts has been held in abeyance while the Park Board awaits the completion of this process. The plan will identify any current and future need for pickleball “hubs” around the city, with a hub being defined as a cluster of six or eight pickleball courts.

When this process begins, the Park Board will hold public hearings. At that time, we will recruit every one of you to write letters and emails, attend meetings, and speak out at whatever venue they make available. The more effort you put in during this process, the more courts we get over the next two decades.

For now, to prime your interest, we have put together a list of some of the places where pickleball might be possible. There are several limitations in what can be made available to us.

The city has formalized regulations for setback of courts from residences to ensure noise does not exceed 50 decibels at the edge of the residential property. If we have a pickleball hub of eight courts, the setback across hard

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ground with no noise mitigation will need to be some 150 metres. There are few such places in the city. Fortunately, noise mitigation will allow the placement of courts much closer to houses. An array of six pickleball courts separated from the houses by acoustic fencing and shrubbery need only be 50 metres from the edge of any residential property. This opens up many more opportunities for us around the city.

Interested in advertising in the VPA's newsletter?

Email newsletter@vancouverpickleball.ca for the 2024 Advertising Rate Schedule

In a strategic document we sent to the Park Board last February, we asked for 22 pickleball hubs, each of eight courts. We were only able to identify 18 possible sites, although much of our search was done on Google maps and we imagine that there are a few sites we missed. Although I think we should continue pushing for 22 hubs, I think it more likely that the final recommendation will be for fewer.



Photo credit: Google Maps

QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK

We thought it would be interesting to discuss some of the more promising sites. We currently have Queen Elizabeth which is centrally located. Ideally, once the Queen Elizabeth area plan is complete, it will include a recommendation for a double size hub of 16 courts, one large enough for tournaments. This is one of the few areas that could house a 16 court pickleball facility. We believe there is suitable land, as the basketball courts and roller hockey rinks just west of the tennis courts are less utilized than is our current pickleball facility.

STRATHCONA PARK

The other site that seems promising for a 16-court hub is Strathcona Park. The Park Board is rebuilding the four tennis courts this summer but unfortunately there is no provision in this rebuilding for pickleball courts. However, if you look on the picture below, you will see a gravel soccer field. This is currently in poor condition and unlikely to be used for anything other than casual pickup kickball. This space meets all the setback requirements and would not involve disturbing grass or trees. As such, it is probably one of our most important targets for the Court Sports Strategy process.

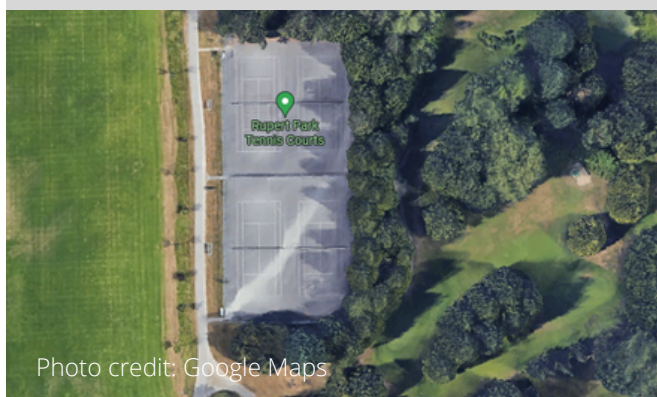


Photo credit: Google Maps



SHAUGHNESSY STREET PARK

Another opportunity is presented by Shaughnessy Street Park, depicted above. There is ample room beside the beach volleyball courts for eight pickleball courts and this site would require no noise mitigation. As with Strathcona Park, it is centrally located from an east-west perspective.



RUPERT PARK

Another possibility is the area beside the Rupert Park tennis courts, which also would not require noise mitigation.

JERICO

And, of course, many people are interested in the prospect of a permanent Jericho pickleball centre. The land immediately south of our current temporary courts would not require any sound mitigation and would involve the removal of only a small number of trees, certainly less than the Park Board are removing from Stanley Park this summer.



None of these possibilities are a certainty. We will have to await the Court Sport Strategic process. If you know of other places that are suitable, we would love to hear of your discoveries. Remember that a cluster of eight courts will require somewhere around a hundred metres distance from the closest residence and, even then, may require sound mitigation. If you know of a park in your area that has the acceptable setback from residences, we would love to hear about it. You can email us at info@vancouverpickleball.ca. Perhaps your idea will show up in a future newsletter.



STEVE DEAKIN

PICKLEBALL



Register now
Learn to play pickleball
Harry Jerome
May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4

Apprentice Series

This series is an introduction to the game of pickleball and teaches rules, scoring, and provides an overview of the main elements of the game. We'll also share some game-winning strategy that will get you up to speed and succeeding on the court quickly!

- **Session 1:** Scoring and general rules
- **Session 2:** Third shot & transition
- **Session 3:** Dinking strategies
- **Session 4:** Drives, volleys, fast hands
- **Session 5:** Live game analysis

www.stevedeakinpickleball.com

ready. set. win



Scan QR code

THE INSIDE DROP: VPA SESSIONS IN THE CURLING RINK

Last year, the Vancouver Park Board (VPB) turned the Curling Rink into Vancouver's first pickle hub (hopefully with more to come!). Based on the successful response, the VPB is repeating this initiative in Summer 2024. The VPB is scheduling its own pickleball activities ([available via Vancouver Recreation website](#))

and gave the VPA two slots per week – Friday nights, 6 to 9pm and Saturdays, 9am to 1pm. Several coaches and other volunteers responded to the VPA's call to host activities for our members. We are thrilled to offer tournaments, clinics and playing sessions thanks to these volunteers. In this issue, we speak to our volunteer heroes to get the story behind their commitment to bringing pickleball options to our community.

Register [here](#) for VPA events.



Session details: Saturdays, 9-11am, 5 courts, 9 sessions, sold individually.

Description: Open play, older people who are still competitive.

Excited about: Having fun hanging out with a group of regulars.

Members should know: Parking can be an issue when there's a Canadians baseball game scheduled on the same day.



Session details: Fridays, 6-9pm, 4 courts, 11 sessions, May - July.

Description: Open play for the 2SLGBTQ1+ with intro sessions for new players.

Excited about: Providing a space to be ourselves, make new friends and play pickleball!

Members should know: Paddles are available for newbies to come and try the sport. Rainbow attire is always welcome!

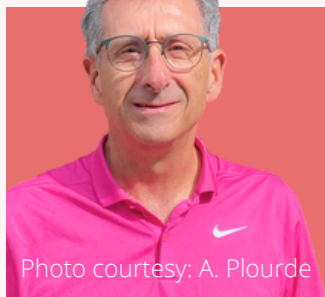


Photo courtesy: A. Plourde

**Volunteer
Coordinator:**
Andre
*Friday Night
DUPR*

Session details: Fridays, 6-9pm, 5 courts, 13 sessions, sold individually.

Description: Play by skill level. Game results entered into the DUPR rating system.

Excited about: The opportunity for players to figure out where they fit in the game. Democratisation!

Members should know: Last year, participants played 6 - 8 games per session.



Photo credit: J. Clarke

**Volunteer
Coordinators:**
Catalin & Cyndi
*Pickled? Not
Today!*

Session details: May 18

Description: First hour - skills & drills, strategies & practice. 3 hours - a mini-tournament, round robin format.

Excited about: Fostering physical activity, social connections and a sense of belonging.

Members should know: This is a warm welcome back for a visit from Catalin!



Photo courtesy: Brandon

**Volunteer
Coordinators:**
Brandon & Ross
Drill 'Til You Drop

Session details: Saturdays, time varies, 4 courts, 9 sessions, sold individually.

Description: Organized drills geared towards upgrading skill level from 3.5 to 4.0.

Excited about: Filling the gap in Vancouver's learning landscape.

Members should know: There will be more drill time than play time.

The volunteer coordinators will be helped out by a few other VPA stalwarts: Janet Martini and Joe Nifco will support Andre for the DUPR Nights and Sheila Marshall will be assisting John for the Seniors 65+.

The VPA is also grateful to the volunteers who will be setting up the Curling Rink in early May (taping lines, setting up nets, etc.): Catalin Costea, Margaret Ellis, Janet Martini, Cheryl Clausen, Sandra Franke, John Cringan, Sheila Marshall and Andre Plourde.

And, we've arranged for the Curling Lounge to be open 8-10pm on week nights (except Wed). Bring on the summer fun!

1, 2, 3, BOX!



Bulbs are blooming, cherries are in blossom; must be time for VPA Box League! Whether you are a seasoned veteran or new to the VPA and our League, there's room for everyone. Box League is a great way to add matches into your DUPR account, gauge your standing, meet new players, hone your game, and visit our different pickleball courts around the city.

It also provides an opportunity to review your game. Many players record their matches and see how they play versus how they *think* they play. It's a great learning tool to see if you're keeping your paddle up, hitting the ball in front of you, moving in sync with your partner and any other aspect of your game you want to focus on.

Box League participation is included with your VPA membership. We are happy to coordinate participants and

track your scores. Full information on each of the Divisions is available on our website, as well as tentative pod assignments. Log-in is required. <https://vancouverpickleball.ca/box-leagues/>

CATEGORY	PARTICIPANTS
Men's Individual Round Robin	48 players
Women's Individual Round Robin	60 players
Singles	22 players
Men's Doubles	16 teams
Mixed Doubles	28 teams
Women's Doubles	28 teams

Box League runs from mid-April until the end of September, but it's not a 4-month commitment. Sign up for a round, leave if necessary and come back when you're ready to commit again.

We are especially looking for Men's Doubles Team for our May 1st start date. Give it a shot! Here's to a fun-filled 2024 Box League season.

Announcing...

BC Lung Foundation & IPOP have joined forces in partnership to prove that pickleball is the pathway to a new standard of treatment in recovering patients from respiratory illnesses.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

ipop.fun | @ipopfun





Celebrating Her Life: Lilian Yiau

On March 29th, friends and loved ones gathered together to celebrate Lilian Yiau. Lilian's daughter Casara joined her pickleball friends for a play session at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre followed by a Celebration at Steamworks. A fundraising initiative raised money for the MPCCA charity food program.



Photo credit: Colleen O'Gorman

Have Your Say!

Why are you participating in the VPA Box League?



Adjusting my game to new players is a fun challenge.
Owen W., VPA member for 2 years



It's great for getting good, competitive games outdoors.
Cindy L., VPA member for 3 years



Great to be able to play with more, and different, players.
Rav S., VPA member for 1 year

GET IN THE GAME

Join Rackets & Runners on May 18 at the Curling Rink to demo more than 20 of the latest paddles!

For full details of this fun opportunity and other upcoming events, see the [R&R newsletter](#).



Photo courtesy: Rackets & Runners

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to VPA members who won medals in March and April at tournaments in BC: Allan, F., Brett G., Carol C., Caitlin B., Devon A., Francesca F., Jackie S., Jamal H., Justin L., Justin M., Liz H., Lynelle A., Margaret E., Mario B., Marisa G., Ruth J., Velissia G., Yumi Y. Full results are available at pickleballbrackets.com.



Photo courtesy: Justin Mah

CATALIN UPDATE!

Academy of Pickleball opened brand new courts in Huatulco, Mexico. The school promotes a healthy lifestyle through pickleball, fitness and nutrition. [Check out the courts!](#)



Photo courtesy: Catalin Costea



Photo courtesy: Howard Jang



PANDORA PLAY

What do you do when you can't find somewhere to play pickleball at your level? In VPA member Howard Jang's case, he created his own group.

Howard had heard from some of his pickleball friends that the play at QEP had gotten pretty competitive which was intimidating for some of the newer, and some of the older, players. The opening of the courts at Pandora in 2020, close to where he lived, seemed like the perfect opportunity. He started with 20 - 30 people and over the last four years, the group has grown to 100 members, Howard's

limit! Most of the group meets at Pandora Park every Saturday and Sunday when the weather is good, starting at 8:30am and going until noon.

At first, members of the group would bring their own nets but after the VPA provided the storage box stocked with five nets, scheduling a play time became easier. Since Pandora doesn't have

a paddle holder, Tony Yee brings his sign-up board to facilitate rotational play. Most players mix it up and play with everyone. A few players stick together for more competitive games.

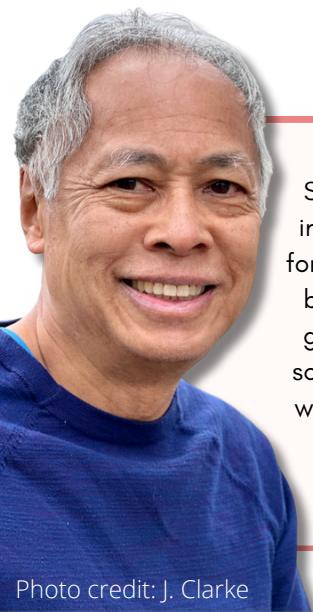
"Everyone is welcome. These are public courts."



Photo courtesy: Howard Jang



Many of the members are over 60 and they appreciate the camaraderie and social vibe that comes with being part of a regular group of players. Recognizing the importance of socializing to the group's members, special events are often organized: an end of summer picnic at Pandora Park, after-play lunch opportunities, a Christmas celebration, and a cruise!



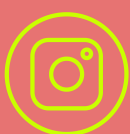
Special thanks to Tom and Sandi Caverly for introducing me to this game, Gary Cummings for organizing play from the start, Ron Jones for being the contact person to many whatsapp group, Janice Wong for organizing numerous social luncheons and dinners and Tony Yee for welcoming, and teaching new players as well as photography.

Photo credit: J. Clarke

When summer is over, Howard ensures the group stays connected by organizing indoor play sessions at community centres in the area.

Interested in starting a group? Howard recommends using WhatsApp and the polling feature to get going!

Connect with the VPA



Upcoming Tournaments

DPA Dash 'N' Smash,
May 31 - Jun 2, Delta

WRC Canada Day Classic, Jun 28 - 30,
Whistler

2024 Douglas Park Charity Tournament, Jul 4 - 7, Langley

Shake & Bake, Jul 12 - 14,
Burnaby

Youth Summer Slam 2024, Jul 18, Surrey

Mid-Summer Slam 2024,
Jul 19 - 21, Surrey

2024 Western Regional Championships, Jul 25 - 28, Vernon

Fraser Valley Open 2024,
Aug 10 - Aug 11, Surrey

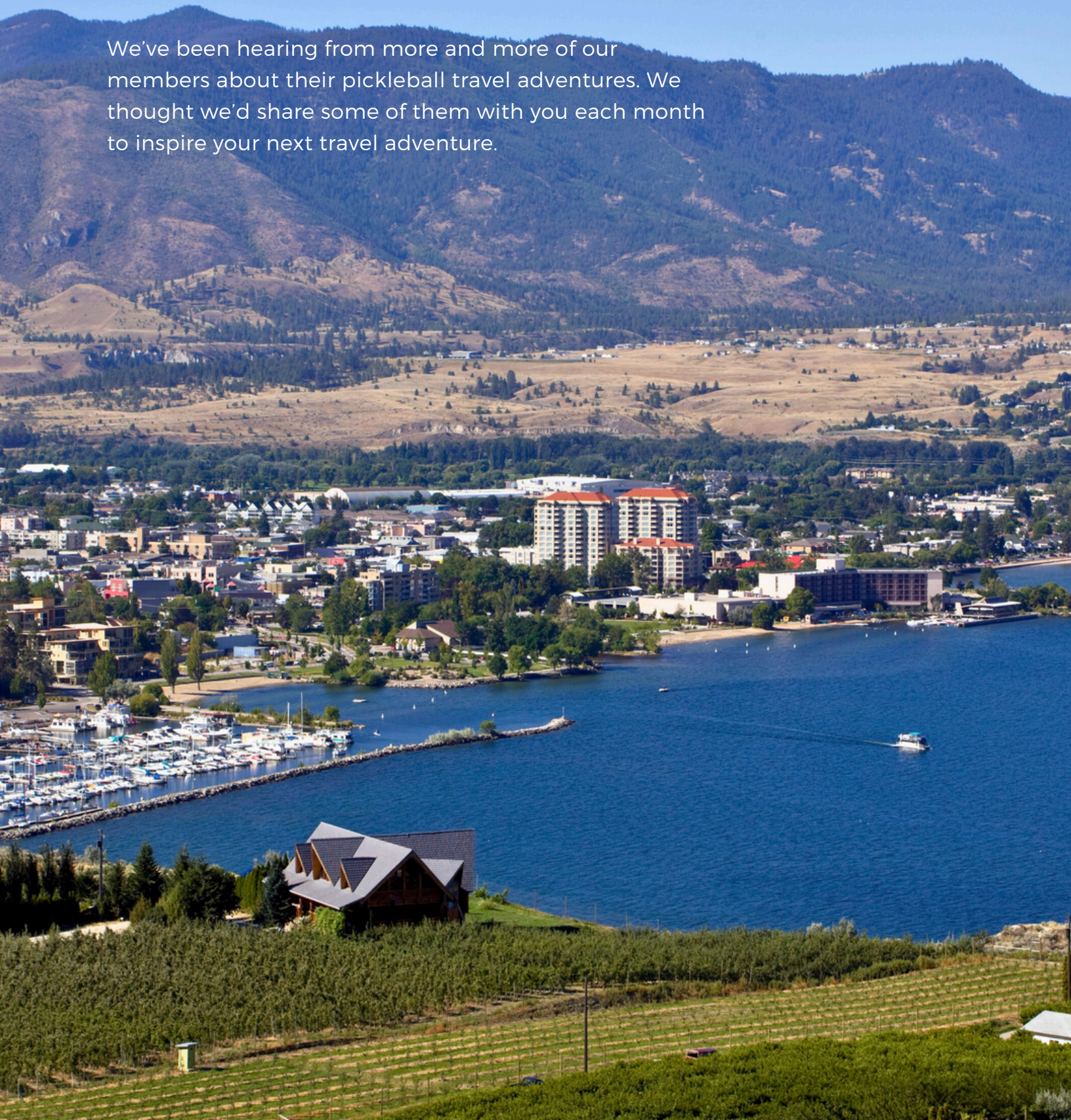
WRC Summer Classic,
Aug 16 - 18, Whistler

Golden Ears Pickleball Club Summer Classic,
Aug 17, Pitt Meadows

For more information or to register, visit:
pickleballbrackets.com

DESTINATION PICKLEBALL: OKANAGAN, BC

We've been hearing from more and more of our members about their pickleball travel adventures. We thought we'd share some of them with you each month to inspire your next travel adventure.



Recommended by:

Jacqueline Clarke, VPA member

Location:

The Okanagan Valley extends from the US border in the south to Vernon in the north. Within these borders there are many pickleball destinations to choose from.

When to go:

May or September to avoid the extreme heat and the possibility of forest fires. The statutory holiday in either month provides a great opportunity for a long weekend getaway.

Where to stay:

Where the courts are included on property! La Casa Cottages is a good option for families or small groups. 2-, 3- or 4-bedroom cottages with resort amenities. Hotel Eldorado has a shared pickleball court. Predator Ridge Resort features 4 dedicated pickleball courts.



Photo credit: Jacqueline Clarke





Where to play:

- Vernon - Marshall Field, 12 dedicated indoor courts
- Predator Ridge - play under the bubble in drop-in sessions.
- Kelowna - 3 outdoor acrylic courts are free, bring your own net.
- Osoyoos, 4 outdoor asphalt courts at West Bench Complex.

Where to eat:

The "[Best Restaurants Guide](#)" from Okanagan Life magazine has something for every taste.

For non-picklers:

- Wine-tasting (+ 150 wineries)
- Ride the Kettle Valley Steam Railway
- Float the Penticton River Channel
- Visit the Lavender Herb Farm
- Cycle Myra Canyon Trestles
- Swim in Lake Okanagan.



Photo credit: Jacqueline Clarke



Bonus:

- Shop at Pickleball Depot, Kelowna

LOOKING TO GO SOLAR?

*More solar incentives
are coming!*

Photo courtesy: Shift

The recent Federal budget unveiled Canada's commitment to allocate \$800 million over five years, starting in 2025-2026, to initiate the Canada Greener Homes Affordability Program. This plan focuses on directly installing energy efficiency retrofits, including solar panels, in Canadian households, with a special emphasis

on those with low to median incomes. This program will be complemented by CMHC's current Loan Program, which offers interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 for energy efficiency retrofits, encompassing solar installations. Shift welcomes this initiative as it supports our mission to empower all Canadians to

harness the sun's energy. Life is already expensive enough; this will help those looking to lock in their energy costs and save with solar get some help to make the transition to a greener future. We Power Change."

For a free quotation: <https://shift.ca/solar-landing/>

BENEFITS OF GOING SOLAR

1. **Smart financial investment:** Over the last decade, the cost of solar has decreased by 90%. Investing in solar can provide a return of 4-8% per year over 30 years, outperforming traditional investments like a GIC.
2. **Earn credits for excess electricity:** Surplus energy can be banked through the Net Metering Program without the need for batteries, helping you save more.
3. **Incentives and rebates:** Government incentives include a 0% interest, 10-year payback loan to enhance energy efficiency, offering significant savings.
4. **Resale value: Solar panel installation:** increases property value by an amount equivalent to the system's cost. Growing demand for home self-generation will further drive-up resale value.
5. **Energy independence and green contribution:** Solar installation provides clean energy and electricity bill savings for 25+ years, protecting against rate increases. Additionally, it reduces carbon footprint and allows charging of electric vehicles with solar power, with 8 panels providing enough range for 40,000 km per year. Shift provides even more peace of mind with our industry leading, 25 year production warranty.

In the Neighbourhood

The District of **West Vancouver** will spend \$350,000 to build four new outdoor pickleball courts in Ambleside Park this summer. The decision to build the courts comes following a recommendation this Fall from West Vancouver's Pickleball Advisory Round Table. The funding for the pickleball courts comes from \$800,000 previously approved for Tennis BC's indoor tennis/pickleball facility, which the district still aims to build at Hugo Ray Park. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer, with completion expected in the Fall of 2024.



West Coast Pickleball, a private 24-hour indoor facility, opened in **Surrey** on March 18th.



Jericho
Bill Dorfmann



QEP
Tom Liao



QEP
Mona Lee



Pandora
Park
Walt Woo



Brewers
Tony Yee



Champlain
Heights
Todd Dulmage

THANK YOU TO THE COURT MANAGERS!

As the outdoor season heats up, the VPA wants to say thank you (in advance!) to our court managers. These volunteers ensure that the VPA-supplied nets are in good condition, the court cleaning equipment is available and all necessary signage is in place.

If you notice any issues at your favourite outdoor playing location, check out the posted signage for contact information for the Court Manager.

FROM THE BOARDROOM

The VPA's Board meets once a month. Here's what we've been up to in the last two months.

Future planning. This year's AGM will be held on May 22nd via [Zoom](#). With 4 members stepping down, there are many opportunities for VPA members to get involved with moving pickleball forward in Vancouver. Email info@vancouverpickleball.ca for more information on serving on the VPA Board.

Thank you. The Board wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Bill Dorfmann and Greg Feehan for more than 3 years of dedicated service. The VPA has seen significant growth in membership, playing locations and influence under their stewardship.

Supporting pickleball venues in Vancouver. While the Vancouver Park Board (VPB) provides pickleball locations, in most cases, the VPA provides the infrastructure to support these locations (nets, storage boxes, cleaning equipment, etc.). Additional enhancements will be coming this

summer:

- Canopies will be installed at Champlain Heights, Jericho and QEP
- Windscreens are being ordered for all courts

Advocating for more playing opportunities.

- A promotional effort was successful in increasing attendance at the Raycam Community Centre's pickleball drop-in activity, ensuring that pickleball continues to be available for the financially challenged in East Van.
- 80% of the slots are committed for the Curling Rink initiative. Registration went live on the VPA website and on the Vancouver Recreation website earlier in April. Inquiries were made to 24 other "curling rink converted to pickleball locations" for best practices related to flooring safety. Relevant information has been passed onto the VPB.
- Efforts are ongoing to source a public-private partnership for a new pickleball venue.

The **VanCity Pickler** is the Vancouver Pickleball Association's bi-monthly newsletter publication:

Building and keeping our community connected

Have an idea for a future edition? Have a question? Email: newsletter@vancouverpickleball.ca