



An E-Newsletter for Canadian Pickleball Players

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Mr Pickleball Promoter and Founding Member – Wayne Roswell



Wayne, an educator for the Toronto District School board, retired in 2001 after 34 years of teaching. During his last years of teaching and his first year of retirement he did contract work for the Ministry of Education in curriculum development and worked for three different book publishers.

While wintering at The Villages, near Ocala, Florida, in 2005 Wayne took a Pickleball lesson from George Brewer, Mr. Pickleball, in that area, and was immediately hooked. In 2007, Wayne and his wife, Lois, decided they wanted to spend their winters in Florida, so they purchased a home near Sebring, FL. The community had to meet two criteria, golf for Lois, and Pickleball for Wayne. Pickleball was in the works, but hadn't actually arrived yet. Wayne immediately became involved with the Tanglewood Pickleball Club and worked on the founding committee of the club to convince the owner to build four Pickleball courts. Wayne remembers the owner saying, "If I spend all this money building these courts, can you promise me they will be used?" Wayne immediately responded, "If you build them, I will fill them."

The courts were built, lessons offered to all, and tournaments hosted. Membership rose from 8 to 80 in six months. In its first year, the club reached 100+ members and hosted a usapa sanctioned tournament that involved over 100 participants.

Wayne became a member of the usapa in January, 2008 and an ambassador for the Sebring area in March. In August of 2008, Wayne was phoned by Earl Hill, the director of ambassadors and international relations for the usapa, and asked if he would like to take over as editor of the E-Newsletter and become director of communications on the board of the usapa. Wayne felt honoured and accepted the position. He has since left that position and is working with Pickleball Canada.

Wayne's involvement with Pickleball Ontario started in the spring of 2008. As happens to many snow birds, he was suffering from Pickleball withdrawal – Pickleitis. He contacted the ambassador for the Greater Toronto area, Tony Sequeira, to find out where Pickleball was being played in Ontario. That spring and summer, Tony took Wayne to several of the clubs in the GTA to meet the players and play.

Wayne went on a mission to find out where Pickleball was being played in Ontario and where it had started. He decided a blog was necessary to let others know what he had found out about Pickleball in Ontario and keep players informed. He established Pickleball Ontario at <http://pickleballontario.blogspot.com>.

Wayne e-mailed Bill Franzman in 2008 about the need for a Canadian version of the usapa. Bill had already put a lot of thought into the idea but felt it was too much for him at his stage in life. When Chuck Lefaive contacted Wayne about the idea of Pickleball Canada, he knew this was the right direction for Canadian Pickleball to take.

Wayne says, "There are many similarities between the game south of the border and here, but there are some major differences. One of the major differences is the focus on competition and on tournament play in the US. Canada is more about recreational play and getting exercise. "The recreational aspect is my focus not the competitive." Wayne jokes, "If I live to be 90 and show up at a tournament, I may win gold for showing up." Wayne also knew that as Pickleball grows internationally, this is a given, each country needs its own association to address the needs of that nation's players.

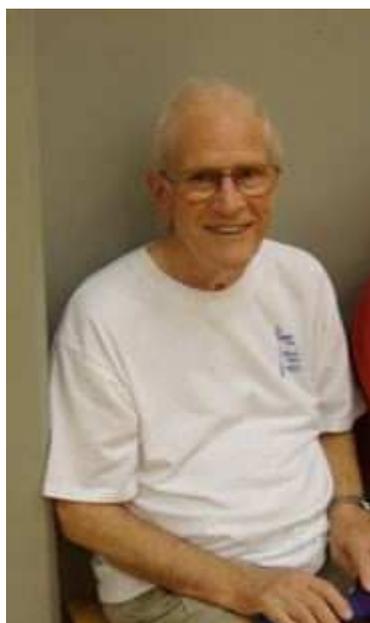
Wayne recently started a Pickleball Club in his home town of Port Perry. Wayne hopes the game will catch on so he has a place to play when he returns from his winter home next spring.

Wayne hopes to continue his role as “pickleball promoter” by teaching and writing about Pickleball both in Canada and in the US for many years to come. Notice, he uses the words “pickleball promoter” not “pickleball player” and that is for obvious reasons when you see him on the court. However, Wayne says, “I represent the 95% of pickleball players who are not great athletes but we are all winners because we are keeping ourselves fit both physically and mentally. Fortunately at this age, Wayne says, “You have trouble enough remembering the score of the game you are playing let alone yesterday’s scores.”

Wayne summarizes his goals in Pickleball, “I hope to be remembered as a good promoter of this game. I hope my talents as a teacher of the game and a writer will have left their mark on the Pickleball scene both in Canada and the US. I want others to enjoy this game and the health benefits it provides as much as I do.”

Our Featured Pickleball Player and Volunteer of the Month – Ed Gardner

By Jenice Lewandowski



Here in South Surrey, B.C., we are extremely lucky to have a great indoor facility to play Pickleball.

The South Surrey Recreation Centre, facilitates a 55+ drop in pickleball program. This program hosts a large number of players. Whether 4 or 8 courts are available, it is not uncommon to have the courts full, with as many players waiting their turn.

With so many players, of different temperaments and levels of play, it is necessary to have a court captain. This person addresses management on behalf of the players. Also, if management needs to address an issue or pass on information, this person is the facilitator.

Ed Gardner is our diplomat working behind the scenes to keep us all on an even keel.

On a rare occasion, he has had to defuse an overly competitive temperament or two. He does this in a polite, calm manner. Ed is a cheerful, approachable gentleman. He is fun to play with as a partner or an opponent. A jokester at times, Ed also happens to be pretty sharp pickleball player into the bargain!

We appreciate his efforts on the player's behalf.

South Okanagan Open Pickleball Tournament Winners

By Colleen Powers

Thirty competitors from Lake Country through Penticton, and also from the Lower Mainland, took part in the South Okanagan Open Pickleball Tournament held at the Penticton Community Centre on Sunday, October 25th, 2009.

The results of the tournament were as follows:

Ladies Doubles A	Dawna denOtter, Summerland Colleen Power, Summerland
Ladies Doubles B	Carol Ecklund, St. Andrews Madeleine St Cyr, Lake Country
Mens Doubles A	Franz Wagner, Summerland Doug Power, Summerland
Mens Doubles B	Lloyd Wright, Penticton Miles Kereliuk, Penticton
Mixed Doubles A	Colleen Power, Summerland Doug Power, Summerland
Mixed Doubles A Runners Up	Dawna denOtter, Summerland Kees denOtter, Summerland
Mixed Doubles B	Miles Kereliuk, Penticton Carol Ecklund, St. Andrews
Mixed Doubles B Runners Up	Janet Cornett-Ching, Summerland Bill Franzman, Kelowna

Creating a Website for your Pickleball Club

By Dave Hall

First and foremost let's be clear on one thing....I am not a geek. I just happen to have produced a couple of websites and was asked to provide my thoughts on websites as they pertain to pickleball clubs. So here goes.....



There is nothing better than a website to provide a presence for your club. Alternatively, a blog will do a similar job but I will have more to say about that later. A website tells the world you are serious about your sport. It can be used to promote pickleball, keep members up to

date on club activities, solicit funding and provide a platform for visual content such as photos and video clips. For example, new players or the general public can be referred to your website for a quick orientation to your club and the sport in general. To illustrate this point take a look at our club's website at users.eastlink.ca/~pickleball/.

There are several ways that your club can acquire its own website. If you have the funds you can have it made professionally. The design, maintenance and uploading of content are all looked after for you. Most clubs can't afford to go this route.

A more economical route would be to have a club member or friend produce a website. Is there someone in your club who has a high degree of computer literacy or who has made websites before? Ask them to volunteer for the job. This was the route we took and our website was produced in one day at no cost to the club.

Your webmaster will need a software program like Microsoft Frontpage to do the job. The ability to do HTML coding is not necessary and there are free Frontpage tutorials available on the net. Programs like Frontpage will do the complete design and can be used to upload your website to the net. However, you will need to have some web space. Space can be purchased but most internet service providers provide free space for personal websites or non-profit organizations. My ISP allows for 30 MB of space which is plenty. If you can't use Frontpage to upload files there are free FTP (File Transfer Protocol) programs available on the net (thefreesite.com) which you can download and then use to upload your website files to the ISP's server. Once your site is done you will have to contact your ISP tech department to get a web address and do the first upload. They will usually help you through the initial steps and then you are on your own. If you want your website to have a unique address (URL) you will have to pay for a domain name. Many companies sell domain names. Directnic.com is one such company and they charge about \$15 a year for the name registration.

If you or another club member knows how to use Photoshop you can make a unique logo for your website that will appear at the top of each page. However, you can keep it simple by using a free internet logo design program such as cooltext.com. Otherwise, make up your own logo with some fancy text and a pickleball photo or two.

If all this sounds too complicated there are several places on the net where you can make your own free website. Web.com and weebly.com are two such sites. You don't have to be a geek to use these sites. A simple website is fairly easy to make and they provide the web space for uploading your files to the net. The downside is that your site will not look as professional and since it's free you may have to put up with some ads popping up on your web pages. Also, if you want some of their enhanced features you will have to pay extra.

I did mention blogs at the beginning of this article. Many clubs might prefer a blog as it is free, easier to make and maintain. It might depend on what your goal is and how much time and effort you want to put into the project. Blogs are more journalistic and provide a platform for the owner to share their views. The content is often changed on a regular basis. Websites tend to be more static and are more of a chore to produce. I personally prefer a website as it gives one the ability to categorize information into separate pages which can be kept simple and uncluttered. Navigating is a snap with the use of hyper linked buttons or text. I like the professional look you get with a website. Our club's website incorporates a blog-like feature as I can post ongoing events, news, etc. on the Announcements and News page. Items are dated from most recent to oldest so readers can see the latest postings at the top of the page.

You can set up your free blog on the net by using sites such as wordpress.org or blogger.com.

If your club decides to do its own website and has questions or needs advice feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.

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Manitoulin Pickleball Club (users.eastlink.ca/~pickleball)

Editor's Comments

I agree fully with Dave on the importance of a website or blog to keep your club informed. Players love to see photos of themselves. I am a blogger because of lack of knowledge. Blog sites are easier to set up and are free. I would like to see each club move toward having their own site, not as a competition but so that players can find out what is happening in other clubs. My blogs in Florida and in Ontario get an average 150

Updating Places to Play on the Pickleball Canada Website

One of the concerns we have been working on with our Pickleball Canada Website is keeping the places to play link up-to-date. This is a great problem to have as we add more sites on an ongoing basis. Unfortunately, with the design we had, our webmaster Christopher Luft was the only one who could do the updates. Chris came up with what I hope you will agree is a great improvement.

Christopher suggested we link our places to play with Google Maps. This free service allows you to show your location on a map and also provides the user with the space to list all the details about that centre or club that we want. So now if you go to www.pickleballcanada.org and click on the link, "Places to Play", you will get a map of the province. If you scroll to the bottom and click on large map you will get a listing of all clubs and centres in that province. When you click on the location, you get all the details of the centre and directions to find your way.

The next step is the one I need your help with. Since the information on centres, changes at various times, such as summer hours, I would ask every club or recreation centre to update their information right on line if they feel comfortable. Any player can do this by following these steps.

1. Go to the Places to Play link on Pickleball Canada, <http://pickleballcanada.org/node/16>
2. Click on the province your centre or club is in
3. Click Places to Play in Province at the bottom of the map
4. Click EDIT at the top beside the map
5. Scroll down the list of places and click on your club name
6. A window opens containing your club information
7. Use your cursor and keyboard to edit the information as required
8. Click OK when editing is finished
9. Scroll back to the top of the list of clubs and Click SAVE
10. Click DONE and you are finished.

If you feel uncomfortable making changes or updating information this way, just email me the information and I will be pleased to do it for you. I hope you agree that this gives us easy access to more information and saves the time of the webmaster in making these changes.

Pictures of Pickleball in Chong Qing China

In case some readers may have missed this article on the website, I am taking the liberty of repeating it here. It is important that we recognize that this truly is an international sport.

The age group that is playing the game is something we do not see this much of in our country.



I will be featuring Pickleball in India in the future.

Tim Bits

Players in Ontario are asked to sign up as volunteers for the demonstration Pickleball Event to be held during Activifest 2010 in Oshawa, Ontario. If you can help, please go to <http://www.actifest2010.com/volunteer/index.html> and sign up online.



Two new portable nets will be added to the okpickleball store. Details and price will be posted soon. See one of the net packages on the left.

Chuck Lefaive continues to add more items to meet the needs of new clubs for portable nets. There are always questions about portable nets and where to get them.

Chuck is planning an exciting new five year membership plan that includes a free carry case for three paddles, wallet, keys, paper, pen, and shoulder strap in the new year. The bag will be available with the Pickleball Canada logo if you so desire.

A new Pickleball centre has opened in Bolton, Ontario, with 3 great courts. Tom Brown and Rick Gowdy have started Pickleball in Bolton on Thursdays. If you live in the Bolton area and would like more information, contact Rick at 905 857-4139. Congratulations gentlemen and I hope to find out more about your club soon.

This is Beverley Butt one of the founding members of Pickleball Canada and “first lady”.



One would think she was headed for the pickleball courts in a getup like this, right? Well guess what Bev is displaying her Canadian loyalty to her Saskatchewan Roughriders who have just won a birth in the Grey Cup final.

Here are Bev’s comments on the angel, in very bad condition that her husband rescued from a dumpster in Mesa, AZ.

“Now, a day later, the angel stands proudly on a pedestal in front of our trailer unit. Her head is crowned with a green toque (cap for American residents), a green fleece scarf with white ribbons is draped around her neck and over one shoulder, her dress is “embroidered” with white ribbons.”

We all hope the angel brings the Roughriders the Grey Cup Bev is hoping for but if not a pickleball paddle in hand might be the next make over. Some of us could use a Pickleball angel or any other help we can get for our games.

Pickleball Humour

By Brian Stovel

An avid pickleball player gets up at 7:00 am for his regular Saturday outdoor games. But when he opens the garage door he sees a light rain and high winds. Turns on the radio for the weather report which predicts the same for the rest of the day, so he goes back inside to the bedroom very quietly and gets into bed and snuggles up to his wife's back. She says, sleepily, "Can you believe that dumb husband of mine playing pickleball on a day like today?" And that's when the fight started.....

Editors Comments

Each of our previous E-newsletters has contained the bio of one of the founding members. In this letter, we are featuring a founding member and a key member of a club or centre. We would like to continue to feature individuals that make this the great game that it is. I need your help in writing a short article about a special person in your club. It does not have to be a player but a volunteer or a recreation director that has been instrumental in getting your club going.

I would also like to get an article from each club in Canada telling us about your group and where you play. I get comments from readers telling me how much they enjoy finding out about other clubs and where this game is being played. No matter how big or small, please send me something I can publish about your club. This is what makes this newsletter and our Canadian game unique.

For those of you still looking for a small gift for a fellow pickler, how about a membership in Pickleball Canada? I am sure they will appreciate your practical nature and help us increase our membership at the same time.



Finally, I wish all pickleball players, families, and loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Just maybe, Santa will bring you a new paddle and a few W's in the new year.

"Merry Christmas and to all a good pickleball year"

