Over the past few weeks a great deal of verbiage has emanated from a Calgary group that calls itself Canada Pickleball Association. Obviously, one of its goals is to destroy Pickleball Canada. As President of Pickleball Canada, I must deal with the half truths, untruths, and completely unfounded claims, as well as tactics that no responsible organization would even dream of doing.

“Where did the attacker Canada Pickleball Association get its name.”

As many of you know, that was the name of Pickleball Canada for a very long time. After our Board of Directors was formed by the original founding members of Pickleball Canada, we applied to the federal government to be registered as a non-profit association. In doing so we reserved the name Canada Pickleball Association. A name can only be registered for 90 days. Our application became buried in the federal government bureaucracy, and we were not diligent in renewing the name every 90 days. Right after our Annual General Meeting on Feb. 19th, someone in the Calgary group jumped in and grabbed our name for their own. Is grabbing an association’s name an acceptable business practice? You be the judge.

“Does the Calgary group even exist? Is it registered as claimed?”

Canada Pickleball, as they are known, is not registered as claimed. They have only reserved the name for 90 days. By their own admission, they have no members. It is only an organization on paper. As I understand it, players will not be admitted to membership until May, 2011.

“The current rules prevent Canadian players from participating in tournaments held in their own clubs.”

Once again, this is totally untrue. Players are entitled to use paddles of their choice anywhere they wish, except for Pickleball Canada sanctioned events.

“Calgary’s 2011 Canada Pickleball Championships will allow players from across North America.”

This was posted on the Pickleball Calgary website and is untrue. All players from the USA who registered to play in the championships have been unceremoniously kicked out. Not only that, one of Pickleball Canada’s Board members from Ontario, was also kicked out for no reason.

“In 2010 Mr. Johner was trained as a pickleball instructor at a Pickleball Canada program in Calgary.”

Pickleball Canada never had a training program in Calgary. Pickleball Canada never had any instructors, so could not have trained Mr. Johner. If anyone has any concerns about the statements I have made here, I invite you to contact me at billcanning@pickleballcanada.org.

Pickleball Canada is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to promote the sport of Pickleball, not to sell paddles/lessons for profit.
VENTURE OUT - MESA, AZ - FEB. 2011

Five of your 10 Directors of Pickleball Canada Association, at Venture Out, Mesa, AZ., to observe and play in the PHOENIX ALL CITIES TOURNAMENT Feb. 8-9 & 10th. From left to right are: Ed Burke, Beverley Butt, Larry Evans, Donna Robins and Bill Canning (president).

We were treated to an exciting display of Pickleball on pristine courts in ideal playing conditions. Yes we all got sunburned too.

Yes, it’s only a PICKLEBALL SIGN but it’s the first one I have ever seen around the courts. Lots of Tennis signs and other signage but NO PICKLEBALL SIGNS.

I just thought it looked great, sort of makes me feel we have come of age. Someone actually made a sign for our sport. Hooray!

This was at VENTURE OUT in Mesa, AZ but I am sure there are more out there. Would be nice to see some around Canada too as that would be great advertising for our sport.

FROM A CARDIAC SPECIALIST

DRINKING WATER AT CERTAIN TIMES MAXIMIZES IT’S EFFECTIVENESS ON THE BODY:

- 2 Glasses of water after waking up - helps activate internal organs
- 1 Glass of water 30 minutes before a meal - helps digestion
- 1 Glass of water before taking a bath - helps lower blood pressure
- 1 Glass of water before going to bed - avoids stroke or heart attack

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT.
The fastest growing sport in North America.

BEVERLEY BUTT AND DONNA ROBINS DO IT AGAIN

To be a 4.0 rated player in the U.S.A. and be in your 70’s is amazing. This means you have to take on all comers at this rating, yes even the 40 year olds.

Beverley is one of the best players I have ever seen on the courts, she doesn’t look like a tough contender but believe me she is. I believe she wins many of her matches because she is underestimated by the other team. She is tiny as well so they “pick on her” to win the point and boy are they surprised when the ball comes back faster then it was hit and would you believe “placed” exactly where she wants it to go. That is what makes her play so exceptional.

Beverley doesn’t just play a lot of Pickleball but she is also an avid tennis player and will go from playing tennis to playing Pickleball in the same day. When most players are happy for a good Pickleball workout, she has probably already played a full round or two of tennis before she shows up at the courts.

I have never played with or against Beverley but I have had the opportunity to see her in action at the tournament. Does she have a weak backhand or possibly a weak forehand with certain shots? Well if she does, I never saw it. She is not perfect but she plays an awesome game of Pickleball.

Donna Robins and Beverley won SILVER medals at the PHOENIX ALL CITIES TOURNAMENT, Feb. 9th, 2011. Donna is an excellent 4.0 player and a tournament junky. I think she is saving up her medals for her eventual retirement from the sport. With all the GOLD and SILVER medals she has won maybe she’ll retire early so more of us can win some of those medals.

Here are the GOLD and SILVER medal winners at VENTURE OUT, Phoenix All Cities Tournament at the 4.0 level. Bev’s partner is Bob Robillard, they have won many tournaments together.

Beverley was just appointed Provincial Ambassador for Saskatchewan, she will be wearing many hats in her province.

Our local up and coming star is ANNE TOUW, last year she managed to win a silver medal but at this tournament she STRUCK GOLD at her 3.5 skill level for Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

Anne’s partner in the photo on the left is Shirley Edwards from Port Moody. Anne’s partner on the right is Bill Copland from the lower mainland (Greater Vancouver area).

I estimated each team had to play approximately 15 to 18 games to win a medal. They were allowed time-outs of course and the play was very intense.

What I liked most about this tournament was the professional way each player presented themselves. No flare ups, accepting questionable calls in stride and a genuine appreciation for their team mate as well as their competitors. Sure there were very serious moments but there was more happy, smiling, cheerful moments that made even the losers feel like winners.

Anne has already booked into the West Kelowna Pickleball Tournament scheduled for May 14th in Double & Mixed.

This was my first visit to a U.S.A. tournament and it was exciting. I arrived too late to experience the Men’s Doubles and I am told they all play Pickleball like we have never seen in Canada. They rank each player and then they play by their specific ranking. This is very fair so an average player will not be put up against a top player.

Venture Out has 6 beautiful courts with blue surface, lots of room around and behind the courts with chain link fencing between each court. To move to the next step up the ladder you might have to play the same team 3 times. There are hard fought battles and every single medal is well earned.

This is called PHOENIX ALL CITIES TOURNAMENT if you are a U.S.A.P.A. member you get a discount on your entry fee. The fees are very reasonable and they supply a very nourishing lunch as well. Everyone had a good time.

This is a very well run tournament. Instructions are clear, standard equipment is used. No one has an advantage, you win because of your skills. They switch sides so there is no advantage by playing into the sun or wind. They have line judges too so there are few disagreements.

Was I impressed. You bet. These are some of the best Pickleball players in North America and would you believe some are Canadians playing at the top levels.

Our local up and coming star is ANNE TOUW, last year she managed to win a silver medal but at this tournament she STRUCK GOLD at her 3.5 skill level for Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles.
COMING TOURNAMENTS IN 2011

SNOWBIRDS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW - BIG TOURNAMENT KELOWNA - MAY 14TH, 2011 - 50+
Sanctioned and supported by Pickleball Canada Association, USAPA members welcome, Book early
Your application form is attached to this newsletter email.

OSHAWA ONTARIO Pickleball Open Tournament - University of Ontario Institute of Tech. Aug. 13th & 14th, 2011
website: http://sites.google.com/site/ontariopickleballtournament/

Please re-new or join PICKLEBALL CANADA
Your support is needed to help us grow & meet our commitments to communities across Canada.
If you have questions - we'll try to answer them quickly.
If you are already a member, please share your information with us.
Membership is a privilege - we want your participation in all decisions.
Help us grow - with your input and support we'll have so much more to offer all members.
There is strength in numbers. Contact us below or go to: www.pickleballcanada.org

NEW ADDRESS
PICKLEBALL CANADA ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 26115 WESTBANK, B.C. V4T 2G3
NEW ADDRESS

Madeleine St. Cyr (Kelowna, B.C.) and John McLeod (Vancouver Island) - won SILVER in a hard fought tournament at the Yuma, AZ. Senior Games held Feb. 19th and 20th. Madeleine has only been playing for a couple of years now and is a excellent player. She is a snowbird and during the winter plays out of this indoor complex in Yuma where they have climate controlled conditions with a very low drop-in fee. I had the opportunity to play at this facility last month and was impressed with the conditions and excellent players.

Your Board of Directors

Bill Canning, President - email: president@pickleballcanada.org
Wayne Roswell, Vice President - rwroswell@gmail.com
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Donna Robins, Chair-Rules Comm. - email: morg28@msn.com
Colin Cadwell, Tournaments/Sanctioning - cbcadwell@shaw.ca
Bill Franzman - Ambassador Program - email: bfran@shaw.ca

Linda Danes from Edmonton (on the left) won Bronze in the USAPA Palm Springs Tournament last week and then went on to win another Bronze medal at the Palm Creek, Casa Grande tournament. Linda is a very enthusiastic Pickleball player who truly loves the game. She is also the newly appointed Pickleball Canada Provincial Ambassador for Alberta. Congratulations Linda, we are looking forward to hearing more from you each month.