President’s Message by Val Vollmin

The Board of Pickleball Canada is currently working on a 5-10 year plan to have pickleball given a national identity by Sport Canada. One part of the plan is to have By-Laws which support the re-alignment of our organization. By hiring a sport- ing organization lawyer to assist us and by receiving input on these from a number of the Provincial Organizations we are hoping players across the country recognize that PCO is actively pursuing our goal of becoming a truly national organization. We are planning to present the re-written By-Laws at our AGM on July 12 in Kelowna. If you are going to the Nationals in Kelowna, please mark your calendar and plan to join us.

We are also currently working to improve the profile of PCO... updating our Website, improving our Newsletters and getting everyone, everywhere to hear & learn more about the sport of pickleball.

Our Ambassador Program is an essential part of our profile. To this end we are updating the list of Ambassadors and printing contact info on the PCO Website making it easier for players across the country to find places to play and learn more about the sport in any particular area. You will often find PCO Ambassadors on the courts helping new players learn to play or helping others improve their game!

I sometimes get the question, “Why should I join PCO, what’s in it for me”?

When I joined PCO a few years ago, I did so because I love the sport of pickleball and sincerely wanted to see it grow. I still feel the same. This is truly an exciting time to be involved with pickleball as I’m certain the growth explosion will continue over the next few years!

PCO is aware that not all pickleball players want to compete in tournaments. We want our organization to be relevant to those recreational players as well. We have an excellent beginner lesson program on our website to help new players and our clubs where beginner lessons are offered. PCO has started the net initiative to assist clubs & individuals with the purchase of portable nets at an affordable price! We will continue to look for new reasons for all pickleball players to want to join our organization.

Our Past President Shirley Shepherd, has this week, re-signed from the Board of Pickleball Canada. She has decided she would like to enjoy her retirement. I want to thank Shirley for the tremendous time and effort that she put into PCO over the last 6 years. Shirley, enjoy your retirement, you have earned it!

Val Vollmin, President

Your Board of Directors

Val Vollmin, President
val@pickleballcanada.org

Carolyn Stevens, Treasurer
treasurer@pickleballcanada.org

Merrie Lee, Membership
membership@pickleballcanada.org

Ellen Dale, Ambassador Chair
ambassadorchair@pickleballcanada.org

Mike Cooper, Tournament Director
tournaments@pickleballcanada.org

Directors at Large
Jim Scorgie, Claude Gauthier,
Carol Martens-Clappison and
Alan Thompson
A TRIBUTE TO CAROL METCALFE
By Roberta Meakin, PCO Area Ambassador for Penticton, B.C.

Carol Metcalfe passed away in early 2016. She was the PCO Area Ambassador for Osoyoos, B.C.

When I started playing pickleball in Osoyoos, BC there were only 2 others playing. This was summer of 2010. Shortly after I started playing with them they both quit for different reasons. It was during this time, that Carol Metcalfe came into the picture.

Carol had never played racquet sports and saw us playing in the gym. She decided that pickleball would be something she would enjoy in her retirement years. When Carol joined us, we were a handful of players. At many drop-ins, Carol and I would be the only 2 players. On those days, we would go after anyone walking through the gym and try to recruit them to play pickleball. I was not as outgoing and gregarious as Carol, so she did most of the fast talking and I did the teaching. It was through this experience that we became ambassadors of pickleball in Osoyoos. We later joined Pickleball Canada in 2011 to become official Area Ambassadors. Carol and I both became very dedicated to this sport. We began driving to Penticton to play there on the weekend, where we had more competition. It was during these car trips to Penticton, that I found out what a lovely lady Carol was. She had a great smile that would light up a room and a contagious laugh that I still hear when I think of her. I moved to Penticton in 2013, and Carol remained Pickleball Canada Area Ambassador for Osoyoos, while I became the Ambassador in Penticton. It was also at this time, that I began instructing pickleball clinics with Peter Neumann. Carol was our ball retriever. She was also the source of information for newbie pickleball players in Osoyoos. The three of us worked together to grow the sport in the little town of Osoyoos from a handful of players to over 80 players today and pickleball play at the rec centre, 6 days per week, sometimes with 2 sessions a day.

Carol worked tirelessly for the sport she loved and was a go between with the Town of Osoyoos Rec Centre staff and pickleball participants, with her own personal mission, to make pickleball an organized and happy experience for all. Carol was diagnosed with cancer in the Fall of 2015. She continued to help in my clinics until December when she moved to Edmonton to be with her daughter, Brenda. Even towards the end of her journey here on earth, Carol would still email me and ask how pickleball was doing in the Okanagan, her thoughts still with the sport she loved. This special lady will be missed by many.

May her generous spirit and love for pickleball live on in all of us who are lucky enough to have found this game.

Off to a Great Start Pickleball in Whitby Ontario!

Because of popular demand, the Whitby, Ontario Seniors’ started a Pickleball for Beginners Programme with instruction and capped enrollment of 16 on 3 courts at its Brooklin site, starting in September 2015 and ending in June 2016. The programme consisted of the following: 1 hour a week for 12 weeks of Learn-to-Play, followed by 2 1/2 hours for 4 weeks of Beginner League; then 1 hour a week for 12 weeks of Drills; and now 1 hour a week for 10 weeks of Beginner League. See the photo for some of the happy participants who have enjoyed learning pickleball through a structured programme. Onwards they go.

RIP Garth Matthews

Garth Matthews, a director on the PCO Board and the Provincial Ambassador for PEI, passed away on Saturday May 7, 2016.

Bruce Fitchett who is the newly appointed Provincial Ambassador writes....

Garth and Rosemary were very influential in getting Pickleball going on P.E.I. and Garth was always trying to promote the sport here on the island. He was a big reason I started to play the game.

Bruce wrote that many of the Pickleball players from the Stratford area were planning to attend Garth’s funeral on May 14.

Our condolences go to Rosemary and the rest of Garth’s family.
**Provincial Ambassadors**

AB– Brenda Feser  PCOprovincialambassadorAB@gmail.com  
BC– TBA  
SK– Carol Martens-Clappison  carolsarahmartens@sasktel.net  
MB– Brian Shippam  brian@shippam.com and George Rodrigue  gdrodrigue@gmail.com  
ON– Dave Hill  twoboomers@yahoo.com  
QC– Claude Gauthier  claudeetlyne@yahoo.com  
NB– TBA  
PEI– Bruce Fitchett  bruceandrobin54@eastlink.ca  
NS– Frank Rossiter  fjrossiter@ns.sympatico.ca

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**PICKLEBALL + PIES + RAFFLE + FOOD = GREAT FUN AT WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO**  
by Carol Doughty- Pickleball Canada Ambassador for Whitby, Ontario

The 3rd Annual Pickleball and Pies tournament held in Woodstock, Ontario raised $4,050.00 in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities Toronto thanks to Marg Johnson, her team, and all the participants and their friends. This was a really fun team tournament organized by Marg, the grandmother of Aleeda who was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome in 2012. She recovered from 3 surgeries and is now a healthy, happy, active 4-year-old who honoured the attendees with her presence, smile, and stickers which she stuck on just about everyone. Aleeda’s mom, Tania, stayed at RMHC Toronto for a total of 527 days during the wait for Aleeda’s heart transplant. The money raised will go directly to RMHC Toronto to help other families. The Shoe Fly Pie Team won over the Twinkle Pie, Grasshopper Pie, and Cheeseburger Picklepie, but overall, we all won because of the fun we had playing and meeting different players from the Windsor, Hamilton, London, Woodstock, Whitby, and Bowmanville areas; enjoying the abundance of snack foods, cold drinks, subs, and pies that were generously donated by Al and Alice Schut of The Pie Place, Embro; and participating in the raffle and Silent Auction while taking part in an excellently organized and fun, timed tournament. Please see the photos, especially the ones of Aleeda and her family. Mark your calendars for next year’s Pickleball and Pies on the Saturday before Mother’s Day. Next year, the participants will sign up as singles and be placed with another player to give everyone a chance to meet and play with other pickleballers in a fun, timed, team tournament that supports a needed cause.

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**Southern Alberta Open Pickleball Tournament High River, AB.**

On the weekend of April 22-24, High River Alberta held its first tournament called “The Southern Alberta Open Pickleball Tournament.” The success of this event was due to the town of High River, sponsorship from local businesses and over 50 plus volunteers working together to put on a fun and competitive weekend. One hundred forty two players, 106 teams at all levels from Alberta and as far away as Saskatchewan participated in great competitive action on 9 indoor courts. The players were treated to a well-organized tournament, door prizes, and barbeque both Friday and Saturday night, and a pancake breakfast Sunday morning. Planning is already underway for 2017 tournament. Paddle on!
VERNON- NO BIRDS First Annual Sanctioned tournament Jan 23/24, 2016

WOMEN'S 3.0
GOLD MARY JOLLEYS & SUZAN ROSS
SILVER JOAN WILKENSON & JANET REINBOLT
BRONZE RYNETTE MARX & LINDA KINGSTON

MEN'S 3.5
GOLD COLIN GILLETTE & ROD TOWNSLEY
SILVER IAN THOMSON & JIM CHAPMAN
BRONZE GREG THOMPSON & JOEY TOOLIE

WOMEN'S 3.5
GOLD JULIE VARRIE & NANCY AGASSIZ
SILVER TRUDY WALKER & MOE REITER
BRONZE CARI GRAYSTONE & JACKIE STAKKESTAD

MEN'S 4.0 OPEN
GOLD MICHAEL EPP & MARK LOWE
SILVER YASANTHA ATHUKORALA & PHILLIP SOO
BRONZE GORD YOUNG & DALE CHARLTON

WOMEN'S 4.0 OPEN
GOLD KIM KOPP & ROBERTA MEAKIN
SILVER JAYNE HACKMAN & NANCY RHEA
BRONZE SHIRLEY KNORR & JACKIE DELANGE

MIXED 3.5
GOLD COLIN GILLETTE & PAT ANDREWS
SILVER PHIL RUTTER & MOE REITER
BRONZE BRUCE SIMPSON & KAREN AUSTIN

MEN'S 4.0 OPEN
GOLD GORD YOUNG & KIM KOPP
SILVER PHILLIP SOO & ROBERTA MEAKIN
BRONZE JAYNE HACKMAN & MICHAEL EPP
KAMLOOPS LEGACY PERFORMANCE TOURNAMENT

April 16 & 17, 2016

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<td>GOLD- RICK SERAFIN &amp; NEVILLE BYLES</td>
<td>GOLD- KATHY WILSON &amp; CHRIS GOUGH</td>
<td>GOLD- JOE CAPONE &amp; RON WITTENBECHER</td>
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<td>SILVER- ROBERT &amp; BILL REID</td>
<td>SILVER- NANCY AGASSIZ &amp; CARI GREYSTONE</td>
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<td>BRONZE- ART JOHNSON &amp; ROD SINDLINGER</td>
<td>BRONZE- TRUDI WALKER &amp; SANDI FORCIER</td>
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<td>GOLD- SUE MCDONALD &amp; ELAINE DAWSON</td>
<td>GOLD- CASEY ROGERS &amp; BREN'T JACKSON</td>
<td>GOLD- DOROTHY TELFORD &amp; KRISTINA LIDSTER</td>
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<td>SILVER- RYNETTE MARKS &amp; SUSAN ROSS</td>
<td>SILVER- BRUCE SIMPSON &amp; KAREN AUSTIN</td>
<td>SILVER- SHIRLEY KNORR &amp; JUDITH HEUNIS</td>
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<td>BRONZE- WILMA STEINKE &amp; CHRISTINE BANFORD</td>
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<td>GOLD- MURRAY DOUBT &amp; ELAINE DAWSON</td>
<td>GOLD- MICHALE WAGNER</td>
<td>GOLD- RUSS GJERNES &amp; SHEILA BALSON</td>
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<td>SILVER- BOB SINDLINGER &amp; SUSAN ROSS</td>
<td>SILVER- DAVE ROYCE</td>
<td>SILVER- RON WITTENBECHER &amp; KATHY WILSON</td>
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<td>GOLD- MARK MCDANIEL &amp; TED SILVERTON</td>
<td>GOLD- DARLENE CHRISTIANSON</td>
<td>GOLD- STU RYAN</td>
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<td>SILVER- JOHN BEEVOR-POTTS &amp; KEVIN FLYNN</td>
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Tournaments – A great Place to meet a partner Ontario 55+ Pickleball Tournament

Tournaments are not only a great venue in which to compete against others, but tournaments also offer excellent events in which to socialize, meet new people, and possibly partner with them for another tournament. Please see the photos for people who have met at tournaments in Ontario and partnered for the Ontario 55+ Pickleball Tournament held at the Pan Am Centre in Markham, Ontario on Monday, April 25 and Tuesday, April 26.
Pickleball Canada Tournament Sanctioning

The Pickleball Canada Organization (PCO) tournament ‘sanctioning’ program offers many benefits which includes liability insurance for members. We are currently reviewing the tournament points system.

Sanctioning is the process through which Pickleball Canada Organization (PCO) grants qualifying tournaments the Sanctioning designation. A Tournament Director who applies and receives sanctioning agrees to meet and abide by all the sanctioning requirements and therefore, the tournament director and players who participate in a sanctioned event are eligible to receive the benefits associated with sanctioning.

Event accident insurance for registered players
Tournament listing on PCO website
IFP rules apply in sanctioned tournaments
Group rate membership discounts offered to players
Public knowledge that your local organization supports PCO

New this year is the opportunity to get a discount when you use Pickleball Tournaments.com (PT.com) program to help organize your tournament. You can access PT.com at https://secure.pickleballtournaments.com/pbt_main.pl PCO sanctioned tournaments will be able to access the discounts same as USAPA Sanctioned tournaments. Under the Training Button you will find several helpful YouTube videos.

I also want to let you know that we are reviewing the whole sanctioning process, if you have any ideas we would love to hear from you. You can contact me at tournaments@pickleballcanada.org
If you have any other questions about tournaments, please feel free to contact me.

Pickle on my friends
Mike Cooper
Tournament Director
Pickleball Canada

The Experts Column by Cookie Drake and Mona Burnett

If you have a question or want some advice why not send in an email to our Experts Column!! You can reach them at expertscolumn@pickleballcanada.org

Remember to keep those paddles up and keep practicing!
Cookie and Mona