



An E-Newsletter for Canadian Pickleball Players

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Meet Mr. All-Around Athlete and Pickleball Canada Founding Member – Bill Furse



At the ripe old age of 21, Bill Furse started his teaching career at McKillop P.S. in Richmond Hill, Ontario. He was the first male teacher for the grade 4's. After one more year, Bill decided to enter University as an adult student and majored in Geography.

After graduation, Bill accepted a job at Midland Ave C.I. in Scarborough, Ontario. As a new teacher Bill plowed his energies

into his teaching, and coached football, skiing, cross-country running and swimming.

In 1975, Bill became the Head of Geography at Winston Churchill C.I. It was here that he was first involved in curriculum writing. Bill says, "The highlight of my teaching career was taking on an exchange to Sydney Australia. We exchanged jobs, houses and cars. My wife Linda and I enjoyed a great year of travelling, and learning about another country's culture. My 16 year old daughter was so influenced by this experience, that after graduation from University she travelled around the world on her own, "experiencing life."

Bill goes on to say, "The major interests in my life have revolved around sports and travelling. Skiing, biking, tennis, and hockey have been my favourites until I discovered Pickleball in The Villages in Florida in 2003. I love competition and meeting new people in the various activities. Competing at both the Canadian Championships and at the International level as a duathlete has helped me measure athletics at a high level. "

Now as a grandfather, Bill has a chance to participate in his favourite activities with his grandchildren.

Bill is looking forward to spending November, December, March and April playing pickle ball in The Villages. Bill comments, "I have yet to see anyone coming off the pickleball courts without a smile on their face".

Bill has already used his skills from his curriculum writing days to chair the writing of the training material that is a very welcome addition to our website. He organized a demonstration of Pickleball at the Dome in Blue Mountain Resort back in June and has organized the Collingwood Pickleball Club starting this fall.

Editor's Comment



I get tired just thinking of all the physical activities Bill is involved in. He recently completed an 855 km bike ride around Lake Ontario. The next oldest rider in the group was 15 years his junior. The trip was not only a test of physical endurance but with the weather conditions, mental endurance really became the true test of an athlete.

I have to share this with everyone. When Bill is at The Villages, he rides his bike to the courts as his warm up. After playing at one centre for several games, he rides to the next centre to play (remember there are 104 courts to play on). The picture on the left shows him in his bike-pickleball attire playing at The Villages.

Pickleball at CFB North Bay, Ontario

By Nicole and Ken Macintosh



Nicole and Ken Macintosh started to play pickleball in Arizona last winter, and like many other snow birds really liked it. When they returned home to North Bay this spring, they consulted some community centres and some schools but Nicole says, “We finally settled on the gymnasium on the Canada Armed Forces Base, North Bay.”

Nicole and Ken have established a group that is currently playing from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on Wednesdays in the gymnasium of the base that is located near the North Bay Airport. Ken informs, “The person in charge of the facilities was a little upset that signs were being put up around the base, so he has taken over that function.” Ken remarks, “That’s fine with me because it is attracting more players from the families on the base and I do not have to do the work.”



I have written many times about the ingenuity of Canadian Picklers in coming up with unique places to play. I have to give a royal salute to Nicole and Ken for finding this one. It is great that the Armed forces are allowing their facilities to be used for this great sport. The fact that personnel on the base have the opportunity to play is fantastic.

Meet Our PC Web Designer - Christopher Luft



Christopher started Be Loud Web Services in his final year of university and has been in business for 3 years now.

Chris holds a degree in computer science with the software engineering option from the University of Victoria. In April of 2009, Chris left his job to run the

company full-time. Chris says, "The work completed by my company is done primarily by me; however, I maintain a relationship with several talented developers for projects where the scope is too big for me or when I am particularly busy. All the people that work with me are University educated and some of the most talented people I have met in my field... I try to hang onto the good ones."

Chris summarizes his company's efforts to date, "Websites have been the bread and butter for my Be Loud Web Services over the last few years but as we gain credibility we are making the welcome transition to full-time web application development (my website is also in transition right now). From a developers point of view making static websites is not very exciting. Web application development is much closer to a geek's heart and we are very excited to have the opportunity to work on more and more technically challenging projects. I am very passionate about what I do and believe my company's reputation is only as good as the results of the last project we completed."

To give you an idea of some of the projects Chris has worked on in his professional career, and free-time.

A Data Warehouse Distribution Service for a Victoria based company called Refractions Research Inc. This flagship application for the Land and Resource Data Warehouse has thousands of users and manages all of the public and private GIS data for the provincial government. The Snapshots Face book Application that will populate your desktop screen saver with yours and your friends' most recent photographs. The Sound wave Music Festival Website is a site that features 6 different radio stations that artists can upload their own music to. And of course, the Pickleball Canada Website that Chris says "has the unique challenge of allowing clients, who are a large group of middle aged sports enthusiasts, to manage the content of their website without giving them enough control to break things." (I wonder who he is referring to in his last comments).

Editors Comments

I would like to thank Christopher for his hard work on our Pickleball Canada Website. Without his efforts, we would not have the site we enjoy today. Chris has been very gracious about answering my questions and helping me start posting items to the site. Can you imagine a pickler and a geek trying to communicate? Tough eh, pickleygeek! Thanks Chris for a great job.

If you or anyone you know have need of web design services, get in touch with Chris at beloud.ca.

Picklebirds take flight



I am sure you have quickly figured out what or who picklebirds are. These are picklers who suffer from snowitis and colditis. In other words, they like the birds, recognize that daylight hours are getting shorter and it is time to pack the dog sled and head to warmer climates for the next few months.

However, it is the picklebirds that have been so instrumental in growing this great sport in Canada. Many were the first to bring Pickleball back to their Canadian communities. They learned to play the game in Arizona, California, Florida or some other southern destination, became addicted, and then set out with determination to start a club here in Canada.

They have taught their friends and neighbours in their home communities to play Pickleball and have worked hard to promote the game and establish new centres. Without their dedication, many areas would still have no idea what Pickleball is. They are Pickleball pioneers. Some are ambassadors and even founding members of Pickleball Canada. Their impact on Canadian Pickleball is very significant.

Many of these picklebirds play significant roles in the clubs and centres they belong to in the US. Even though they are leaving the Canadian Pickleball scene for a few months, they continue to play and promote the game in the US as well. Many belong to the usapa and support our southern affiliate. They are involved in their home clubs and many play in tournaments at those, and surrounding clubs. Whatever they learn there to advance pickleball, they bring back with them to enrich our game.

We are sorry to see them leave because they leave big holes to fill in the roles they play here. However, we thank them for all they have done for Canadian Pickleball and know that they will return with even more enthusiasm for the Canadian game.

We wish all Pickleballers heading south a safe trip and hope to see you back real soon. I can also assure you that many of us will still be involved with what is happening back here, thanks to the Internet. The web has made the Pickleball universe a very small court.

How to promote your Pickleball group

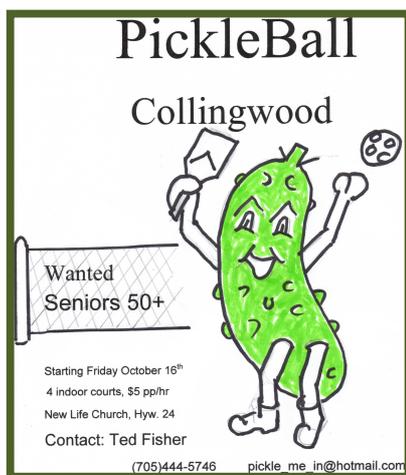
By Wayne Roswell

One of the most difficult tasks as an organizer and promoter of a new Pickleball club is how to attract players to start the club and how to add new players as you go along. I would like to make a few suggestions and ask readers to help me add to this list with their own unique ways.

The first and best way is to try and get some local media coverage. This is often difficult and sometimes depends on just pure luck. I must admit I have been fortunate both for my club in Florida and here in Port Perry. In both scenarios, I walked into the newspaper office right off the street, paddle and ball in hand, and asked if I could speak to someone about doing an article on Pickleball.

In my most recent experience, I think curiosity "killed the cat" and everyone just had to find out about Pickleball including the girl at the front desk. Within seconds, I found myself seated beside Tracey Coveart, a featured reporter, I talked, and she typed. Fifteen minutes later I got up to leave and Tracey said, "Send me your best photo by early tomorrow morning and it will be in this week's edition." I did and sure enough a half page article appeared in Thursday's paper.

I was also fortunate enough to be able to do my own write up for the Scugog Activities calendar. Usually, the descriptions in these calendars consist of a few sentences or in some cases just another activity in a massive calendar that the reader will have to search through to find the activity they want. Since I wrote my own, I got the space I needed. Making the job easy for others, goes a long way to getting the information you want printed.



Many use posters and flyers to promote their group. I am including a few examples so you have some ideas for your group. The first is for a group from Collingwood, Ontario that started on October 16, 2009.

A Pickleball demonstration was held last June in Collingwood and with the success of that endeavor they have found a permanent location for Pickleball.

Pickleball
For fun and exercise
Wednesday evenings
6:30-8:00
at the tennis courts
Club Contact
Dennis Birmingham
416-497-5632
SkyGarden
Pickleballers
enjoy introducing
people to this sport
Drop by on Wednesday for a few
minutes to take a look or try it out

The one below is for a small group of dedicated players in Toronto, formerly Scarborough, Ontario that have introduced Pickleball in their Skygarden Condominium development. They are using tennis courts that have a special rubberized interlocking surface and hope to attract enough interest to convince the condo board to redo two old tennis courts that are in disrepair. They are actively looking for indoor

Pickleball Courts painted on a Lacrosse Box at Parkinson Recreation Centre

By Bill Franzman



Another first in Canadian Pickleball, a Lacrosse Box is converted into Pickleball courts. Does this mean that Pickleball will join Lacrosse and become another national sport for Canada? Let's hope.

Bill Franzman sends this report on the newly opened outdoor courts at Parkinson Recreational Centre (PRC) Kelowna.



“After several years of asking for pickleball courts at our recreational centre we now have 4-outdoor pickleball courts lined on a Lacrosse box, using portable net-sets. Hopefully as time goes by we will be able to set permanent posts. It was a hot and sunny day September 24th when the work was finally completed. “

Bill goes on to comment, “Our next new place to play will happen in January 2010 when we open 3-indoor courts at PRC.”

Completing the courts on a hot and sunny day, September 24, 2009

Pickleball in Windsor, Ontario

By Barbie Dean



Windsor Pickleball is up and running at the Riverside Minor Baseball Club as of September 29th. We have three courts and average about 22 players per day.

Everyone is learning the game, (rules, scoring, etc) quickly and they appear to be very excited about PICKLEBALL. Since we are funded by WECSO(Windsor Essex County Senior Sports Organization) everyone must be 55 years of age and older.

We play every Tuesday and Thursday from 10-12 noon but can see how we may have to add a day or two to our schedule. Paddles and wiffle balls are provided but many players seem interested in obtaining their own paddles.



We started playing PICKLEBALL at the Puce Recreation Center last February where they still play on Monday and Friday from 10-12 noon and Thursday nights at 6:30 pm. Any age can play at Puce where there are three courts.

For a slide show of photos taken on October 6, 2009 by Ruth Haliburton go to the following link, <http://picasaweb.google.ca/wayneroswell/Windsor?feat=directlink> .

Editors Note

Barbie found out about the game of Pickleball from a friend in Rochester, Michigan With the help of Dick Manasseri and Janet Razz, Barbie and Alice Bell started a club at the Puce Recreation Centre last year. They have now moved on to their new digs at the Riverside Minor Baseball Club. Thanks to the hard work of these ladies pickleball is a new sport taking Windsor by storm.

Tim Bits

The Ontario Senior Games Association is fully supporting Pickleball as part of next year's Ontario Senior Games, Actifest, 2010 in Oshawa. The dates for the games are August 11 – 13, 2010 with more details on Pickleball to follow. More regions in Ontario are being encouraged to include Pickleball as one of the events in their senior games. This is excellent news for our great sport.

With regards to Actifest, 2010, a website has been set up at <http://actifest2010.com/index.html> to provide participants in Ontario with the latest information on the various events. As you can expect, many volunteers are needed behind the scenes to make these games happen. If you would like to be a volunteer to help with Pickleball or any aspect of the games, go to the above website and sign up as a volunteer.

The places-to-play link on our Pickleball Canada website is being updated and a new feature added. In the near future, all clubs will be listed on Google maps. Not only will you be able to find out the contact information but you will be able to click and get directions as well.

To make sure we have the most current information on your club, please send any changes to the Pickleball Canada website.

The Port Perry Pickleball Club launched on September 24th at the Scugog Community Centre. I will have more to report next month but this is an endeavour that was a long time in the making but proves, "that where there is a will, there is a way."

Pickleball has started in Bolton Ontario. The group is playing on Thursdays and for more information contact Tom Brown at 905-857-4139. This game just keeps on rolling.

Editors Comments

I am sending this edition of the E-newsletter from my winter home in Sebring, Florida. I left Ontario with mixed feelings. I had just started a new club in my home town, there were other new clubs getting under way, I was looking forward to working with the Ontario Senior Games Association to promote Pickleball. Most important Pickleball Canada and its importance to our game have a special place in my heart. I hated leaving this unfinished business but I know there are many others who will carry the torch in my place.

On the other hand, I am looking forward to getting back playing with the group I grew up playing Pickleball with. I was part of the founding group here at the Tanglewood Pickleball Club. It is great to be able to walk or ride a bike to the courts, play every day it is not raining, and play in a new environment, outdoors. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoy the Canadian game and players. This is just a change.

I still plan to work as hard as ever for Pickleball Canada. Since I am about 2300 kilometers removed from the scene, I need the assistance of everyone in sending me material for both Pickleball Canada and this E-newsletter. Send it directly to rwroswell@gmail.com

And now back to pronouncing my eh's correctly, and spelling centre, center and fall colours, colors and pop is a soda and garbage is really just trash. Oh, and I get to celebrate Thanksgiving again and my spouse gets to go shopping on Black Friday.

Lest We Forget



On November 11, please remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice for our freedom and those who have and are still protecting not only we Canadians but also all freedom-loving people of the world.