MEET LINDA DANE, NEW DIRECTOR FOR PCO

I first saw “Pickleball” in 1993 when I visited my sister and brother-in-law in Palm Desert. They had learned the game at Thousand Trails. We didn’t really play the game but swatted the ball around a bit-and that was my first “exposure” to the game. In 1998 my husband and I chose to semi-retire and spend our winters in California. We joined Thousand Trails and once again I saw the game of Pickleball being played. I finally decided to try the game in 2001 so took a lesson with the “first lady of Pickleball” in the Palm Springs Valley - Jessie Dawson - fell down and broke my wrist!!! What a fun game!!! In 2004 I started a Pickleball program in the park we lived in, Indio, CA, and I “dallied” around with the game off and on until 2009 when Pickleball started in Edmonton and I was able to play both summer and winter. I am truly an official Pickleball addict (my poor husband!!!!!). Last year my husband Eldon & I purchased a lot at Outdoor Resort, Indio where my friend and fellow PCO member Dennis Tomkinson runs a first class PB program (that is why I moved there!!), I entered several PB tournaments last winter in CA & AZ and was lucky enough to bring home 6 medals. These were the first medals I have ever won and I have to tell you I was as excited as a little kid. I have been the coordinator of the Pickleball program at CSLA Edmonton since 2009 and we currently have 73 members. I refer to Pickleball players as my “Pickleball Family” because for the most part - I feel Pickleball players are the friendliest and most welcoming of any sports group. I also enjoy working with my committee at Central and we are in the process of planning our first Edmonton Open tournament for August 2012. I also have been an Ambassador for Pickleball Canada since I joined in 2009. I enjoy giving lessons to newcomers and taking lessons myself from those whose game is far beyond my own. Earlier this year I was pleased to be named Pickleball Canada Ambassador for Alberta. I absolutely love to share my enthusiasm for the game with others. In the last two years Pickleball has really started to grow in Alberta and it is so special to be involved with the game during this formative time. Recently I was asked to join the Board of PCO and feel very privileged to be in the company of such dedicated Pickleball players. These people donate so much of their time to promoting our wonderful sport. I am hopeful I will be of some benefit to the Organization.

I was born and raised in the Edmonton, Alberta area and have lived here all my 59 years of life. I have been married to my husband Eldon Dane for 28 years and in our blended family we are blessed with four great children and four beautiful grand children. (The grandchildren will all be Pickleball players I’m sure!!) In our working life Eldon & I operated an electrical contracting business in Edmonton, which our son had now taken over. We started spending six months a year in California in 2003. The other six months we spend enjoying our family, relaxing at our lake lot at Jackfish Lake and going out in our motorhome. Pickleball is a huge part of my life and I am grateful that I discovered the game that has given me so much fun and pleasure in my retirement years.

LINDA DANE, DIRECTOR

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New place to play Pickleball in Leduc, AB, 4330 Black Gold Drive, Tel:(780) 980-7120
You will feel like a Champion playing this exciting paddle game at this new location. Right now it is open to all, on Tuesdays & Thursdays - 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Leduc Recreation Centre.
The fastest growing sport in North America.

PICKLEBALL CANADA MEMBERS DEMO, EDMT.

The Edmonton, Alberta “GO Centre” which is the largest dry floor facility of this type in North America recently celebrated its Grand Opening. It is part of the Saville Sports Complex at the University of Alberta South Campus. Several Pickleball Canada members joined together to put on a demonstration of Pickleball to help promote the sport. Over 1500 people attended the opening. The GO Centre is equipped with 6 Pickleball courts and once it is in full operation we hope to see several new Pickleball clubs call the GO centre their home. Since this is a part of the University there is no doubt Pickleball will soon become a popular sport among the younger patrons. Congratulations to the participants who are from the CLSA Pickleball Club Edmonton and Terwilligar drop in.

Above PCO members in photo:  
Front Row L to R: Hazel Sakaluk, Helena Kissick, Toni Antcil, Carolyn O’Brien, Jean Hui.  
Back Row L to R: Glenn Kissick, Frank Carr, Ken Hurshowy, Linda Dane, Len Leiman, Frank Hui, Ajit Masand, Mike Pain Dinesh Dwivedi.

PIONEER AWARD FOR CANADA’S FIRST LADY OF PICKLEBALL BEVERLEY BUTT  
Presenters: Left, Larry Evans, Director C.P.O.  
Right: Bill Canning Past President/Director C.P.O.

MEET RAYMOND FROM N.B. OUR NEW AMBASSADOR

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our new Ambassador for New Brunswick, Raymond Doiron. On September 27th, 2011 I received an email from Raymond through our contact form at the Pickleball Canada web site. He wanted to know how to post items for discussion on our forum web page and he gave me a brief synopsis of what he was trying to accomplish in New Brunswick.

Raymond indicated in his message that he had purchased equipment to accommodate 16 players and on September 30th he and a Phys Ed instructor were going to Hazen White St. Francis School in Saint John to teach students Pickleball. My immediate personal response was WOW!, here is a real go-getter and I’m glad he’s on our team.

Raymond, with the help of his son started their own Pickleball New Brunswick website, http://www.pickleballnb.ca with a great logo and informative links for anyone wishing to learn more about the game.

The sport of Pickleball is growing across Canada and it does so because there are motivated individuals like Raymond that give of their time and energy to grow the sport. This growth doesn’t happen by itself. Many of us have witnessed the history of the development of Pickleball in Canada. Pickleball grew from five founding members of Pickleball Canada to today where new enthusiasts across this great land have taken up the sport and want to share it with their neighbours and friends.

So Raymond, I congratulate you on an excellent kick-off in New Brunswick. We at Pickleball Canada look forward to great things happening in our newest Pickleball province.

Colin Caldwell - President  
Pickleball Canada
Player Profile - John Jetelina by Colin Caldwell - South Surrey

John Jetelina is a member of our Cloverdale and South Surrey Pickleball group here in B.C. I first met John at the Palm Creek RV Resort in Casa Grande, AZ in January of 2009. We were vacationing in Arizona for the month and our neighbours were having a sunset “Happy Hour” and John & his lovely wife, Olga, were in attendance.

As with many Happy Hours at Palm Creek the subject of Pickleball soon came to the forefront and I was curious because I'd see the game played at courtside but never participated. Of course, John, or Big John as he is lovingly referred to at Palm Creek, indicated that it was a very serious game and that even though I expressed that I had played racquet sports all my life I would be hard pressed to compete at the level played by some of the advanced players who regularly graced the courts.

I was dying to try out this new game so in the coming days I finagled my way on the court and was caught up in the game.

One of my first real challenges was the early morning “open play” sessions, John who stands 6'3", waved me onto the court with him and took on some pretty stiff competition. He was patient and offered some great advice. He’d say in his heavy Czechoslovakian accent: “Colin (he pronounces my name Colleen), the third volley….you drop the ball just over the net.” “Don’t worry if you don’t make the shot, just keep trying till you get it right.” John’s other excellent advice was: “Colleen, my friend, the middle always good?” Those were the best tips I’ve ever received from another player.

When the lob came my way he’d scare the heck out of me by yelling, BANG!!! That would indicate that I was suppose to whack the ball as hard as I could. Half the time I was so surprised by his outcry that I’d drive the darn ball into the net. I didn’t have enough nerve, till much later, to tell him it was distracting to have someone yelling BANG!!! at me while I was trying to hit the ball.

In 2011 we played a tournament in Tucson, AZ. John wasn’t feeling well that day and though we won one match we lost the next two and were out of the tournament. On the drive back to Casa Grande he was very ill and I found out the next day or so that he had gone to the hospital and been diagnosed with pneumonia. Unfortunately, the diagnosis was incorrect and eventually he was correctly diagnosed with Valley Fever.

John has been recovering ever since. Upon his return to BC he was able to play on occasion but tired quickly. Over the past few months John’s strength has returned and the latest word is that he has fully recovered.

I’m sure Big John is ready for next season at Palm Creek. He is an inspiration to all of us and we will be once more battling back and forth on the court. BANG!!!!
TOURNAMENTS THIS YEAR

Let us list your tournament here. Just send an email to: ed.burke@shaw.ca and if you are a member of Pickleball Canada and follow IFP (International Federation of Pickleball) rules, we will be happy to promote your event here.

Tournaments are a wonderful way to grow our sport. Offering medals and prizes is not always needed. We hear of many tournaments that are held just for the love of the game. They play Round Robin Rules so everyone gets to play from 5 to 7 games with different partners in doubles and mixed. Points scored is how they calculate the individual winners.

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

MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR PICKLEBALL CANADA

New/re-new membership rates are:

One year $12.00
Three years $32.00

PADDLES

The last issue said, Go get your paddle and enjoy playing. There are all kinds of paddles-in different sizes, weights, colours and handle wraps. There are different compositions and some paddles even have fierce names. If you can, try out different ones. See how they feel. See what weight you prefer. If you can't try them out, some websites have good explanations of each paddle.

Paddle Specifications are clearly stated by the International Federation (see 2E of Rules). The criteria, how paddles are tested and results of all paddles tested can be found at www.usapa.org/paddles. Only the Apike and Hush paddles do not meet the criteria. If these paddles are modified to meet the criteria, they will be acceptable for use in sanctioned tournaments. What is important to remember is that it is the player, not the paddle, that wins games (For Rules, see www.ipickleball.org). Send questions/comments to bbutt@sasktel.net

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Bill Franzman, Vice President & Ambassadors - bfran@shaw.ca
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