



An E-Newsletter for Canadian Pickleball Players

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In this edition

- Meet Mr. Pickleball Canada – Bill Franzman
- Pickleball on the Western Frontier
- Bill Franzman updates on Kelowna
- Pickleball Comes to “Our Place in the Sun” – Kamloops, BC
- Updates on Pickleball in Alberta
- Keep Pickleball going at the West Richmond Community Centre
- “Canadian Pickleballisms”
- This “game is my game.”
- Pickleball is added to the Richmond 2009 BC Senior Games
- Upcoming Tournaments
- Editors Comments

Hold on to your Stetsons, think oil sands and prairie wheat, snow capped mountains, and Olympic games as you prepare to read this newsletter that covers our Western Pickleball scene. Since the roots of Pickleball started in the west and continued to spread, this issue will concentrate on the fruits of those seedlings.

Meet Mr. Pickleball Canada - Bill Franzman

By Bill Franzman

This month we meet the person who had the foresight to realize that Canada needed its own Pickleball Association. If any of you know the name George Brewer from The Villages, Florida, you will know he gets the title Mr. Pickleball. Well, in my opinion Bill



Franzman, deserves the title Mr. Pickleball Canada. I am sure many of you recognize Bill's name and the picture from his website, okpickleball.ca.

Bill Franzman was introduced to pickleball after playing badminton at the Seniors Centre in Kelowna, BC in 2000. He says, "I never went back to badminton and have been playing pickleball ever since."

After joining the USA Pickleball Association, Mr. Franzman accepted the task of Ambassador for Kelowna, BC. His area expanded to include the entire Okanagan Valley.

Later on Bill accepted the Regional Ambassador appointment for Washington, Oregon, Yukon and British Columbia. Reorganization changed this territory to British Columbia and Alberta.

Bill relates, "I was a member of the USAPA Rules Committee for more than a year. This was a very big job...we read, edited, changed and re-changed the rules one by one as needed. The result is what we now have as the "USA Pickleball Association Official Rules. "

He continues, "these appointments kept me busy with clinics, teaching, finding new places to play and conducting tournaments. All of this happened with help from others. Pickleball is an addictive sport because it is so easy to play, costs very little and is available to all ages. It's a great family game."

During all this time Bill operated his okpickleball.ca website, which was incidental to his on-line pickleball store. I made contact, via this website, with many places within Canada, the USA and several other countries. Bill was instrumental in starting the first complete list of places to play in Canada on his website.

Some year's back Bill was asked to form a Canadian Pickleball Association, but he comments, "I was too busy to take on any more and it sort of faded away, but was never forgotten."

"As a founding member of the new and recently formed Pickleball Canada organization, I contribute experience and information to the Board for the promotion and advancement of pickleball within Canada", inputs Bill modestly.

Bill still plays throughout the Valley but mainly in Kelowna at several different venues both indoors and outdoors. "I have given up my ambassador appointments but still 'help-where-I-can' ", relates Bill.

Bill summarizes, "I am still actively involved in pickleball, playing and promoting the game and enjoying every minute of it.

Pickleball on the Western Frontier

By Chuck Lefaive

I hope to show players and our audience at large some of the wonderful facilities we have in the West for recreation and fitness. Also, I would like to feature some of the people who spend many hours anchoring and looking after the myriad of details involved in running a program for very little thanks or congratulations. They do it for the love of Pickleball and the players who come to their centres.

Four years ago there were few programs in the Okanagan playing out of poor facilities and maybe four other locations in the Lower Mainland. Now, we are nearing 70 programs, most of them indoor and new. It is this group that I would like to feature for you. Here is a list of the location, programs, and facilities:

| Location | Programs | Facilities |
|--|---|---|
| Victoria | Five new programs in the past year | All in first rate facilities |
| Nanaimo | One program | New this year |
| Abbotsford | New Program | First rate with eight courts |
| Port Moody | New Program | Six courts, again first rate |
| North Vancouver | Lovely Recreation Centre | Eight Courts |
| West Vancouver | New Centre | Three first class courts with the possibility of several more |
| Holleyburn | Due to Start this September | First rate private Club |
| Vancouver Sunset | Due to reopen after being closed for the the summer | Four courts, first rate |
| Walnut Grove | New Facility | Six indoor courts, first rate |
| Ladner Senior Centre | Existing Program | Two courts, good setup |
| Vancouver Riley Park Rec Center - Main and 30th Street | New program Thursday and Sat 1-3 pm, starting Sept 15th | contact person- Brittney Wong 604-257-8545 |

Ladysmith has begun Pickleball on the Island and Cloverdale and Kennedy Senior Centers are also running successful programs. The beauty of the Lower mainland is all these centers are 30 - 60 minutes apart. This lends itself to travel clubs visiting from one to the other to provide support for fledgling operations. The Okanagan has now moved into a nice multi-court recreation center and hosts several tournaments per year. South Surrey (picture on left) is into its third annual tournament, Saturday, September 12, 2009.



The Ambassador program has been a great help here to solidify these locations and look after details. Recently, they all helped organize the whole province for the senior games and elicited other members to help in this big job. We will be in the senior games for BC for the first time Sept 17-18, 2009 in Richmond BC. All are welcome to attend and root for their favourite team. Enjoy the coverage by these people who are there at every session and make our sport work.

Here are reports by various individuals on their areas.

Bill Franzman updates us on Kelwona



"This summer was very slow in coming. I had arranged and confirmed that we would get four new dedicated pickleball courts at our Parkinson Recreation Centre. Well, here it is August and the courts are not yet finished. We have the lines down and the nets just waiting for the portable posts.

I called the powers that be and am advised work will start on the posts today!!! If we get our posts later this month we will probably not be using two outdoor tennis courts lined for Pickleball, as it will no longer be necessary to share a space with the tennis players.

Several newspaper articles have been written to the Editor stating the lack of facilities for Pickleball. Some comments were posted by tennis players regarding our interfering with their time on their tennis courts. I answered that very nicely and politely telling them that we were just as unhappy having to use tennis courts because it was time we Pickleball players had a few dedicated courts for our game just as the tennis players have dedicated courts all over the city for their game.

This seems to have cooled the air, and I am not pursuing further Editorial letters. I have been trying for dedicated pickleball courts for about seven years and finally see an end

to my quest. We need to remember we are working with government who work at a snail's pace unless a VIP is involved."

Pickleball Comes to "Our Place in the Sun" – Kamloops, BC

By Earle Thompson



Canada's Tournament Capital

"I was introduced to Pickleball in Yuma, Arizona, a few years ago and returned home to Kamloops absolutely filled with enthusiasm as an ambassador.

I ran around Kamloops trying out halls and church gymnasiums but couldn't put anything together (I did find one place but had to tape the courts before the game and strip after). Labour intensive!! I all but started to think maybe this isn't going to happen....In complete desperation I went to the Kamloops City Recreation Department and was pleasantly surprised to hear that they had heard of the name of the game..."an oxymoron," I explained, "in as much as pickles do not have balls."

K-J Klontz, city representative worked with me to get this off the ground. We did local T.V., the local press. I wrote articles for regional and local seniors papers and we had our grand opening...K-J and I waited for the crowds...Not one person came!

Fortunately I had two paddles and taught K.J the game while we waited. She was smitten and kept the city door open for me.

Today (11 months later) Kamloops Pickleball Club has 42 members, play on three indoor courts, and are waiting for four outdoor courts to be finished next month. Four additional courts are on the horizon.

It's been said but worth repeating, "give em a paddle and face them in the right direction then stand back"

Keeping "Pickleball" going at the West Richmond Community Centre

By Sid and Irene Kalnins

Sid and Irene Kalnins are volunteers that are working very hard to keep the wonderful sport of Pickleball alive at the West Richmond Community Centre located at 9180 No.1 Road.

Sid and Irene comment, "It is a great sport for everyone. It is an easy sport to play and we will take the time to teach you. It is wonderful for seniors. Everyone is welcome!

We have offered it at the West Richmond Community Centre since September 2007, and although we have a few faithful members we would love to have more people come out and join us in this fun activity.

We truly love this sport and would love to share it with many others.

Please come and join us this September and see what Pickle Ball is all about."

Updates on Pickleball from Alberta

Of recent note, is the fact that Alberta is expanding its Pickleball programs at several centres. Brent Johner has done a tremendous job in the Calgary area and other areas have come to the fore in, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton

Pauline Wilson sends the following report from Medicine Hat.



"We are in Medicine Hat, Alberta and have been playing PB for about 5 years (maybe longer for some of us). We are a small group (max 12) although people are looking for other sports like this to join. We are all 55 plus and have been trying to have this sport included in the Alberta 55 plus Summer or Winter Games which are held every two years. At the moment we only have one court which is accessible to us, so we are quite limited. We recently discovered there are a few people playing PB in Lethbridge, Alta. so we will perhaps get together with them soon."

Linda Dane makes the following report on the Pickleball scene in Edmonton.



"Pickleball is being played at Central Lions Senior Recreation Centre, 11113 - 113 Street, Thursday mornings, 9 AM to Noon. Drop in fee \$1.00. A Fall session of play will be starting: Thursday Sept 10th, 9AM to Noon (We may also play Tuesday Mornings if we get enough players). Cost \$15.00 plus CLSA Yearly membership \$30.00.

The North Edmonton Seniors Association, c/o Northgate Lions Senior Recreation Centre, 7524 - 139 Avenue will be starting a Fall session of play: Sept 18th 12 Noon to 2 PM. Drop in fee \$1.00 plus NESAs Yearly membership fee \$30.00.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan are both increasing new programs and mature programs; most within a short distance of each other.

"Canadian Pickleballisms"

In the first E-newsletters, I have attempted to give a Canadian flavour to Pickleball, not as in maple syrup or poutine, but in Pickleball terms to use in Canada. I am amazed that some people actually read this section and some even e-mailed me to tell me they liked it. Maybe this does say something for the fact that we Canadians like our Pickleball but do not take ourselves too seriously and see the fun side of the game. "Let's never forget that."

This month I got some help from Brian Stovel of Kelowna, BC. After last month's newsletter Brian sent me an e-mail with a little western flavour to add to our Canadian Pickleball blend. Thanks Brian and I ask others to add their flavour to the recipe.

Brain says, "thought I would add some comments re scores. Yes, here in Kelowna when we are at the game point we usually say 'pickle' (not 'pickleball'). If the score is say 10-7-1, we say 'double pickle'. Some other calls we use include: 2-2-2 for we need CPR, 2-4-1 is Safeway (or in Ontario, a former pizza chain), 9-1-1 is 'call for emergency, quick', and 4-4-2 is 'Oldsmobile'.

John included the following Pickleball joke as well. "A guy goes to his doctor, not feeling well. The doc asks about his diet. "He says he is cutting down on calories, so he eats a yellow pickleball for breakfast, a white pickleball for lunch, and an orange pickleball for supper". Doctor says, 'I see your problem--you're not getting your greens!'"

I will add a couple of extras to John's. I think we need to give tennis players a break when they say luv-3-1 but since we love this game, they must spell it love-3-1 unless they are French speaking.

An expression that I often hear in the US is "no bagels", when a team being wiped scores a point. That definitely has to be changed to "no donuts" for Canadian Picklers especially if they happen to be retired from the police force.

"This Game is my game."

The words of the Canadian version of "This Land is Our Land" might be rewritten to go something like this, "This land is your land, this game is my game, from L'archoise Cape Breton Island to Kamloops, British Columbia, from Manitoulin Island to the Great Lake Shores, this game was made for you and me."



Charles MacIntyre sent an e-mail telling us that he plays twice a week at the L'ardoise Community Seniors Hall in L'ardoise Cape Breton Island. The game was introduced by Don and Elaine Lavallee from Boston and The Villages, USA.

“Another international effort that has paid off in spades.”



With the withdrawal of equestrian, pickleball has been added to the Richmond 2009 BC Seniors Games as a demonstration sport. This is the first time Pickleball has been included in any provincial senior games.

“Richmond is proud to have been selected to host the 2009 BC Seniors Games to be held September 16-19, 2009. The Richmond 2009 Games will attract over 4,000 participants and will be the largest sports event ever held in Richmond. As a community-led initiative, the games are a collaboration of the city's seniors, sports associations, and multicultural communities.

Richmond's bid was developed by Richmond Sports Council, the collective body of the city's sports groups. Directed by a community volunteer board, the games will be supported by over 1,200 event volunteers, as 40 community groups work together to “showcase our city. “



For details on all events in the Richmond 2009 BC Senior Games, go to <http://www.bcseniorgames2009.ca/index.php>. Pickleball will be held at the Thompson Community Centre in Richmond, BC.

This is a very positive step towards having Pickleball included as an event in all Provincial Senior Games. Congratulations, BC on setting another precedent.

Upcoming Tournaments

In addition to the Richmond 2009 Senior Games, here are some additional tournaments for all players.

The 3rd Annual 50+ South Surrey Pickleball Tournament is taking place on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the South Surrey Recreation Centre, 14601 20 Avenue. Registration is limited to 90 players and closed on August 12, but for information on whether spots are still available, call (604) 592-6970 or www.janderson@surrey.ca

The South Okanagan pickleball players will be hosting a tournament on Sunday October 25th at the Penticton Recreation Centre. The format is yet to be decided but there will be lots of pickleball played as we have the use of a large gym that has 6 courts. We have some pretty competitive players in the area so there is a good variety in the level of play with some very challenging teams. Lunch will be included. Cost will be determined once we find out how much the rec centre is charging us for the gym. To get your name on the list of participants, contact me, Dawna den Otter at ddotter@shaw.ca or 250-494-3372.

Players are asked to check the tournament link on the Pickleball Canada Website at <http://pickleballcanada.org/node/21> .

Editors Comments

I would like to thank all of you who took the time to e-mail me with comments on the August issue of the Pickleball Canada E-newsletter. It was even more delightful to hear from those of you that gave me an update on what is happening in your neck of the woods. It is exciting to learn of the places that play Pickleball in this great nation and I take pride in sharing that with everyone. I would love to hear from more of you that are involved in Pickleball no matter how big or small. All efforts need to be recognized and I will do that if you let me know.

I have actually heard from readers who like the fact that we are trying to give Pickleball a Canadian flavour. I would like to give Brian Stovel a "paddle shake" for sending me some of the Kelowna "flavourisms" to add to my list of "Canadian Pickleballisms". I like making up words as you have probably already gathered.

E-mail me about your club or send me some novel sayings or other traditions your club has and I will include them in the next newsletter. Send them to rwroswell@gmail.com .

Last Minute News Flash

Special congratulations to Rod Koch, ambassador for Abbotsford, who won gold in mixed doubles and silver in men's doubles at the Idaho Senior Games in Boise, ID. August 15 -16, 2009.

And

John Hylton-Foster, ambassador for Coquitlan, who has distinguished himself by winning four gold and silver medals on the tennis circuit this summer.