

President’s Message

2022

Welcome to the delegates. This is the first year that Pickleball Ontario has representation from many of its affiliated clubs. I want to thank you for attending and taking part in this new process.

As for the last 12 months, it can be said that it has been quite an experience. Dealing with the many aspects of Covid and its effect on everyone has made this a very busy year but with the effort of many, Pickleball Ontario was able to accomplish a great deal.

Covid and its many versions of reactions by government made it difficult for pickleball to continue in some areas. But we learned that our members are resourceful. There were many examples of making things work including those amazing people who shuffled snow just so they could play outdoors.

Accomplishments

The following is a list of some of the things that Pickleball Ontario managed to do even in the unusual times.

1. Many new outdoor facilities were opened as a result of the initiative of local pickleball players in cooperation with municipalities and other interest people.
2. Membership grew more quickly than anyone could have predicted.
3. The number of affiliated clubs more than doubled. Just added one today.
4. Players competed in more tournaments as the ability to play opened up.
5. Pickleball Ontario completed its ongoing Trillium Grant which was stalled due to Covid. The completed coaching modules and videos were passed along to Pickleball Canada as per its agreement with PCO.
6. Several Level 1 Coaching Workshop were held in Ontario this past year and Level 2 workshops are planned for the new year.

Pickleball Ontario created or continued several programs which were beneficial to both clubs and individuals.

1. Let’s Get Started Initiative which provided small grants to new clubs or clubs restarting their programs.
2. Paddle Loaner Program which provides paddles to groups that wish to hold activities to introduce or promote pickleball in their community.
3. Referee Certification which provided opportunities for more referees to become certified. Many were certified at the Nationals in Kingston.
4. National System adopted by Pickleball Ontario and provided much support to its affiliated clubs and Pickleball Ontario itself.
5. Marketing Committee developed a relationship with Cosmos, a marketing company, to create an effective marketing campaign.

Pickleball Ontario also made its presence known throughout the province by attending different events as things opened up. Some of them included

1. Sport Camp - Nike
2. Various Open Houses and Clinics
3. Guelph Games
4. Tecumseh Grand Opening of new courts
5. Pickleball Canada Nationals in Kingston

Lastly, Pickleball Ontario took on the task of updating its Bylaws to comply with ONCA and new legislation that has been implemented.

In September, the current membership accepted the new bylaws and with them, several new initiatives which are in place at this Annual General Meeting. This was a huge undertaking and deserves a special thanks to the VP Bryan Merritt for his outstanding effort.

As you can see, Pickleball Ontario kept itself very busy this last year. However,

one of the negative effects of Covid was the cancellation of the Provincial Tournament in 2020 and 2021.

Going forward, Pickleball has several plans in the works, one being the development of a Championship Tournament Series which will involve hosting tournament within the six regions of Ontario leading up a final Championship.

At this time, I would like to give a special thank you to those who have taken time out of their own lives to help promote pickleball over the year. Your time and efforts were much appreciated.

Pickleball Ontario, its Directors and its affiliate Clubs are excited and eagerly looking forward to the next year and all that can be accomplished to further the growth of Pickleball in Ontario.

Submitted by



President, Pickleball Ontario