
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the holiday season, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey we've shared as a community throughout the year. It is with immense gratitude and joy that we extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones.

Your membership and support have been instrumental in making Pickleball Ontario what it is today. We want to express our sincere appreciation for your ongoing commitment to us. Your membership plays a vital role in fueling the growth of our game and fostering a sense of camaraderie within our community.

One of the key aspects that make Pickleball Ontario special is our collective dedication to giving back. We are excited to announce the formation of committees who will focus on community outreach initiatives. Our goal is to support local clubs and youth by providing valuable resources, mentorship, and opportunities for growth. We welcome your input and involvement in these worthwhile endeavors.

During our recent AGM, we heard loud and clear the need for a universal approach when engaging with municipalities. Understanding the specific requirements for our communities is essential; court types, how to engage with local councils, budgetary concerns to name a few.

A committee, chaired by our VP Junior Bent, with committee members, Michael Bowcott, delegate from Richmond Hill Pickleball Club, Ken Haggert, delegate from Kawartha Lakes Pickleball Club, and Marsha O'Connor, delegate from West Nipissing Ovest Pickleball Club has been formed to address this challenge and work toward a solution that benefits all.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan Committee chaired by Director Kitty Chow is scheduling the unveiling of the Strategic plan for January, right after our current plan concludes in December. This plan will set ambitious goals for our organization and it will incorporate clear milestones and key performance indicators (KPIs) ensuring that we stay on track and make significant progress.

Luc Grenon

We have a recent change to our Board of Directors. We announce that Luc Grenon, our Secretary, has recently accepted the position of VP of Operations at Pickleball Canada. While we will miss Luc's contributions to Pickleball Ontario, we are excited to see him embark on this new chapter.

We would like to extend an invitation to all those who are interested in joining our board to send in your resume. We are actively seeking passionate individuals who are eager to make a positive impact on the direction and success of Pickleball Ontario. The role of board members is both rewarding and crucial to the growth and sustainability of our organization.

Championship Series

In the coming weeks we will be unveiling the cities selected to host our qualifying tournaments. We are also very excited to soon announce our venue for the Championship Series Finals. It is going to be such an exciting event. Besides our competing players, we hope to see many of you at our tournaments as spectators.

As we wrap up the year let's celebrate the spirit of togetherness and the positive impact we can make in the lives of others. We are confident that with your continued support Pickleball Ontario will thrive and make a lasting difference in our community.

May your holidays be filled with warmth, joy and the company of loved ones.
Wishing all of you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Daphne Reid

2023 Volunteer Awards



It is with great joy that we announce the winners of our Volunteer Awards. This year we received an unprecedented 41 nominations, a testament to the incredible dedication and commitment of our community. Each nominee is very deserving which of course made our decisions very challenging.

After careful consideration here are the 2023 Volunteer Awards recipients.

Wayne Roswell Builder Award
Community Award
Ambassador Award

Bruce Bozec - Peterborough Pickleball Association
Linda Marasco - Soo Pickleball
Michael Bowcott - Richmond Hill Pickleball Club

Congratulations to all and thank you.

New Award of Distinction

We are delighted to share some exciting news from a recent board meeting. In recognition of the exceptional dedication and contributions of individuals who go above and beyond for the love of Pickleball in Ontario, our board has unanimously voted to introduce a prestigious new accolade -

The Award of Distinction.

Unlike our annual Volunteer Awards, **The Award of Distinction**, will be reserved for individuals who demonstrate outstanding and sustained dedication to the advancement and flourishing of pickleball in our province at the local and provincial level. This distinction will not adhere to a fixed schedule but will be bestowed upon deserving recipients as their exceptional contributions unfold.

We believe that creating this special award will allow us to properly honour and acknowledge those individuals whose impact goes beyond the ordinary, leaving an enduring mark on the pickleball community in Ontario. The criteria for this award will encompass various aspects, including but not limited to leadership, innovation, mentorship and a lasting positive influence on the Pickleball community. We encourage you to keep us informed about any individual you believe may be deserving of this prestigious honour.

The Board of Pickleball Ontario, would like to present our very first Award of Distinction to a very deserving **Gail Prior**.

Gail has played a significant role in the development and promotion of Pickleball in Ontario. Her dedication is evident through her involvement in various leadership positions, including being past president of Pickleball Ontario, and the Ontario Senior Games and is president of the Komoka Pickleball Club. Having served on the board of PCO and is now serving on the Pickleball Federation of the Americas, further indicates her commitment to the sport, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. We thank her for her multifaceted contribution to the growth of Pickleball.

Congratulations!

From Junior Bent Vice President:

The **Pickleball Ontario Scholarships Program** has been established through the generosity of **Economical Insurance**, in support of academic excellence for Pickleball Ontario Members.

The Board of Pickleball Ontario also elected to match the 2023 contributions of Economical Insurance.

Founded in 1871, Economical Insurance is a leading property and casualty insurance company in Canada, offering a wide range of personal, commercial, farm, and surety products. The scholarships are granted through competition, based on academic merit, to full-time students.

Are you eligible for a scholarship?

From Suzanne Penner Director of Clubs:

WOW we are growing!

Well, it has been a very busy year for Member Club membership! We currently have **64** Member Clubs affiliated with Pickleball Ontario and Pickleball Canada, enjoying all of the benefits that come with "Club" membership as well as supporting pickleball at the grassroots level.

Since our last newsletter in the spring, we have welcomed the following clubs:

Blue Coast Pickleball Club – Sarnia; Cambridge Pickleball Club; CPCC Pickle Club - Carlton Place; Grand Bend Pickleball Club; Grippers Pickleball Club – Collingwood; Hamilton Senior Pickleball Assoc.; Horseshoe Valley Pickleball Club; Pickleball Brantford; Pickleball Club of Grey Highlands; Pickleball Sudbury; Sarnia Lambton Pickleball Club;

Application for Pickleball Ontario scholarship is open to candidates pursuing full-time post-secondary studies fulfilling the following criteria:

- Candidate must maintain an 80% (or equivalent) overall academic average.
- Candidate must be a registered member in good standing of Pickleball Ontario/Pickleball Canada.
- Candidate must be able to demonstrate their involvement in pickleball.
- Be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident in Ontario; or have proof of status as a Protected Person or Convention Refugee from Immigration and Citizenship Canada (claimants are not eligible)
- Must be entering or already enrolled in full-time Diploma or Post-Graduate Certificate studies in an eligible field of study at an eligible institution*
- Candidate must be able to demonstrate their involvement in the game of Pickleball.
- Program must be a minimum length of two semesters
- Have not previously received the award

*Eligible institutions: Canadian educational institutions which have recognized degree/diploma-granting powers, or their affiliates (e.g., universities and colleges).

*Five scholarships in total. \$2,000 available for each scholarship.

*For more information, please email info@pickleballontario.org

Upper Ottawa Valley Pickleball Club; Wawa Pickleball Club

If you know of any new clubs in your area wishing to become a member club with Pickleball Ontario please reach out to info@pickleballontario.org and put Club Membership in the subject line or contact the Director of Clubs at suzannepenner@pickleballontario.org for more information.

Grow the Game:

This funding Initiative was offered to our Member Clubs to come up with and implement activities in their communities that would foster the growth of pickleball at the grassroots level. Ideas and activities relating to the growth of new members, awareness, social marketing, clinics, workshops, open houses, dialogue with community officials were all welcomed with the application process.

23 Member Clubs were successful in obtaining grant dollars to complete these activities and to continue to “Grow the Game!”

Ambassador Program:

This is a valuable and important program with Pickleball Ontario and we are looking to establish a working group to reevaluate and revitalize our ambassador program. If you are a current Ambassador and willing to be part of this group, please contact info@pickleballontario.org or suzannepenner@pickleballontario.org and indicate your intentions to join this dialogue.

**Happy Holidays everyone,
stay safe and have fun on the courts.**

