





### **Dear members**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the summer issue of our newsletter. I'd like to thank everyone who has made this possible. I would also like to thank each of you, the members of PO for your contributions to Pickleball Ontario. Our organization is only as strong as its members. Each of you plays a vital role in our success no matter how small or how large that role may be. It is my hope that this newsletter will be a source of information, stimulate discussions and continue to move this amazing game forward.

This past fiscal year we earmarked \$70,000 to give back to our clubs with two initiatives, Grow the Game and Plant the Seeds. These initiatives are Pickleball Ontario giving back to member clubs for grassroots programs. We have over 70 clubs doing great work.

Our scholarship program was a great success, and we thank Kitty Chow, who spearheaded this initiative. You will find her report and the recipients of our scholarship bursaries further in our newsletter. We congratulate them and wish them great success.

We are also very excited by the number of partners and sponsors we have this year. We thank Junior Bent, head of the Marketing Committee. <u>Did you know that we work with our sponsors to help provide equipment</u> for various elementary schools? This year we are providing nets, paddles and balls to several school boards resource centres who in turn provide hundreds of students the opportunity to play pickleball. Our goals are lofty. We would like pickleball included in the school curriculum and why not have pickleball as an OFSAA sport?

We have been in discussions with many municipalities and other stakeholders to tackle one of the biggest concerns of our membership: lack of pickleball venues throughout our province. We are hoping to be able to make some significant announcements regarding this, soon.

Pickleball Ontario is the largest pickleball provincial sports organization in Canada, and with your support, we will continue to grow and offer more programs to benefit all members. But we need your support.

Our tournaments are ongoing, and we are looking forward to a fantastic time at our finals scheduled for August 8 - 10 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. It promises to be our premier tournament of the season. This year, we are using the Swish platform, and we have received very positive feedback from all who participated in our tournaments and used this platform.

We are hoping that more of you get excited about joining us at our tournaments. They are a lot of fun. Some people hesitate because they feel they are not good enough to compete. On the contrary, you are the very people we want to have participate. It is just like any other time when you play pickleball but with prizes and medals. Don't ever forget that we all play pickleball for the sheer enjoyment of the sport whether at your local club or at one of Pickleball Ontario's tournaments. Please remember that the Championship Series helps support grassroot programming.

The pickleball community has always had the reputation of being full of fun loving people; gregarious, inclusive, welcoming, respectful. As the sport explodes, we face new challenges but with your continued support we will not only be able to adapt as an organization but continue to thrive.

**ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER. SEE YOU ON THE COURTS.** DAPHNE REID President of Pickleball Ontario



#### **Pickleball Ontario Scholarship Program** Director of Strategy - Kitty Chow

The following applicants have been selected to receive the 2024 Pickleball Ontario Scholarships. **Congratulations to:** 

- Lauren Goldsack, London Pickleball Club
- Ava Gooding, Cambridge Pickleball Club
- Noah Olauson, Peterborough Pickleball Association
- Juliana Sin, Markham Pickleball Club
- Travis Tuszynski, V-Club

In addition to meeting the minimum program criteria, these young adults are passionate players of the sport and have also volunteered to advance the sport within their community and/or club. Keep up the great work.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The more detailed annual plan is being formulated within the FY25-27 Strategic Plan outline which was shared earlier this year. **Stay tuned for more details to follow.** 



We currently have 72 Member Clubs affiliated with Pickleball Ontario (PO) and Pickleball Canada (PCO), enjoying all of the benefits that come with "Club" membership.The following clubs have recently joined as Member Clubs:

- Tillsonburg Pickleball Club
- Ramsden Pickleball Club Toronto
- Latchford Pickleball Association
- LaSalle Pickleball Club
- Orillia Pickleball Club

Welcome aboard! We are happy to have you as a part of Pickleball Ontario! Through your continued membership you will be supporting the growth of pickleball through the provincial and federal sports organizations, as well as grassroots clubs.

Pickleball Ontario continues to support and strengthen our current grassroots Member Clubs. 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.

#### National Pickleball Day Saturday August 10th

Join in the celebrations in your club, offer to help organize some activities at the local level. Do your part to help us "Grow the Game". Information will be shared with club contacts regarding various activities and events that you can plan and organize.

#### How Can You Celebrate?

Find ideas to celebrate, as well as access to National Pickleball Day logos and social media frames in the **National Pickleball Day 2024 Toolkit.** 

You can also access the 2024 logos and social media frames here.

PSIRENITY HEALTH

Psirenity Health is proud to be the official Wellness Partner of Pickleball Ontario!

Psirenity Health provides personalized, convenient tools to help you be your best. Daily liquid nutraceutical to set the tone for your wellness, biomarker analyses, one-to-one health consultation and access to hormone review & therapy. Optimize your energy, mood, sleep, brain health, heart health, appearance and more.

To help support the Pickleball Ontario community, Psirenity Health is launching a series of free webinars covering a variety of Medical and Wellness topics relating to Living Better, Longer. From your 40s to your 80s, the choices we make today have a huge impact on how we live tomorrow.

Our 40 minute webinars will include Q&A with the Psirenity Medical and Executive Team, and allow for feedback on additional webinars or content you wish to receive.



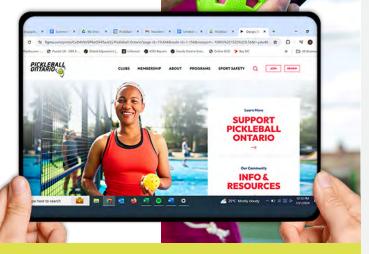
# 03 Ambassador Program

Ambassadors help promote the sport of Pickleball in their respective region. Many of our ambassadors have organized clubs, tournaments and other events. Existing ambassadors can expect to receive communication in the near future about updates to the program and new initiatives.

If you are interested in becoming an ambassador please contact Sara Shearkhani "sara.shearkhani@pickleballontario.org".

### The new PickleballOntario.org website will go live on Tuesday October 1st.

After several months of being in a beta (user testing) phase, and significant engagement with users, Pickleball Ontario will launch a new site that provides a streamlined, inclusive and more engaging experience.



## Highlights and what you need to know

- The new site will be a work in progress and will undergo continuous/on-going improvements.
- ✓ All content pages (pages that are not park pages) will be moved from the legacy website to the new site. Some sections have already been rewritten to be more accessible and clear, while other sections are being rewritten in the coming months.
- Sections have been rearranged and renamed to make it easier to find the most visited information. These changes came as a result of feedback from site users.
- With protected areas pages or sub-sites, Pickleball Ontario is approaching these pages in a phased approach based on site visitation statistics for

each page. Pickleball Ontario will continue to approach based on site visitation statistics for each page. Pickleball Ontario will continue to update links and documents in order of highest visited pages to lowest, until it is complete. Given the low risk associated with these less visited pages, the benefit of launching the site and having folks familiarize themselves with it, prior to the renewal season, outweighs the drawback of members or visitors potentially finding a few broken links.

✓ The legacy website will no longer be accessible to the public but will be archived for record keeping and to ensure Pickleball Ontario maintains internal access should the need arise to use this information.

If you have any questions or concerns please email info@pickleballontario.org



## **Thank You**

To our many partners and sponsors, thank you for your unwavering support. If you can please support these organizations as they continue to provide value add for all Pickleball Ontario members.

- canfitpro
- Planters Peanuts
- Verge Insurance
- Economical
- Sonnet
- Amino Snacks
- NG Media
- Selkirk
- Vulcan
- Pickleball United

- Absolute XM
- Onix
- Psirenity Health
- DUPR
- Jigsaw
- HEALI Medical
- Zax's Original
- BOOMA
- PaddleTek
- Absolute Identity

- Top Knot
- Swish
- Brandior
- Public Storage
- Total Sport Solutions
- Toronto Blue Jays
- Pickleball Superstore
- Club Med
- Carvana PPA Tour
- Sanford Outdoor

