

C8
COMMUNICATION
CW (2) – June 21, 2022
Item 29

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca
To: [Adelina Bellisario](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Reference #29 Pickleball
Date: June-17-22 9:53:09 AM
Importance: High

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2022 5:13 PM
To: Council@vaughan.ca; Clerks@vaughan.ca
Cc: Gina Ciampa <Gina.Ciampa@vaughan.ca>
Subject: [External] Reference #29 Pickleball
Importance: High

Hi there,

Gina Ciampa suggested that I send you my email regarding item #29 on next week's council agenda.

I would have liked to attend and to meet, but unfortunately, I'm at the Collision conference that afternoon in downtown Toronto and my challenge is knowing what time item 29 will happen (I can't sit in front of my screen unfortunately because of the conference).

But for me – what I think it should be important to Vaughan (and to the councilors of Vaughan) is that pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America – and while it started as a sport for 50+ year olds – the best players in the world are now 20-30 years olds. It is growing at a much faster pace than tennis because frankly it's much easier to play and can be played AND enjoyed by people at multiple skill levels including those of limited mobility.

Most importantly to the city of Vaughan and all of the councilors is that the majority of the players are still the +50 demographic – people with wealth and solid taxpayers and people of influence.

Also, please note that both Etobicoke and Richmond Hill have seen massive growth in numbers of pickleball players in the past year simply because of the large number of courts available. Additionally, the councilors for Etobicoke have recognized the growth of the sport and the attributes of pickleball players and have committed to build more courts including indoor courts that can be used year-round by players. And this can be done economically because 4 pickleball courts can go into the space of a single tennis court.

In the US, most of the courts are fully surfaced courts – similar to surfaced tennis courts – which makes them very consistent. The challenge is that there are only 3 pickleball courts in all of Woodbridge/Vaughan (Maple community center, Giovanni Caboto – which is so poor that it's beyond words - and Maxey Park – and I haven't even been able to find any surfaced tennis courts in

Woodbridge/Vaughan except for the courts in Kleinburg (Bindertwine Park and none have been painted for pickleball). Any of the courts where pickleball lines have been painted on tennis courts in Woodbridge/Vaughan area (see the 3 courts referenced), the court surface is in very bad shape which causes the pickleball to bounce unevenly (a bigger problem for pickleball than tennis) and is very hard on our knees and joints. As someone who has had 5 knee operations and torn Achilles and planter facia, things like that are impactful.

I'm asking that pickleball lines be painted on more courts within Vaughan and in particular on surfaced tennis courts within Vaughan (including Bindertwine Park) which is located near our home in Kleinburg and that time be allocated to allow pickleball players to gain access to those courts.

While I'm happy for tennis players and pickleball players to co-exist on courts, pickleball players should be given the same sorts of access that is granted to tennis players. As a FYI, feel free to do a Google search of pickleball equipment and see how many mainstream retailers carry pickleball gear including SportChek and Decathlon as well virtually every tennis retailer to get a sense of how fast this sport is growing.

I've attached links for those unfamiliar with pickleball so that you have a sense of why this sport is growing so rapidly and how much fun it is play. Let's make Vaughan the pickleball capital of Canada!

<https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqLRRNOpe8U>

Cheers,

chuck

R. Charles (Chuck) Allen
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