



## An E-Newsletter for Canadian Pickleball Players

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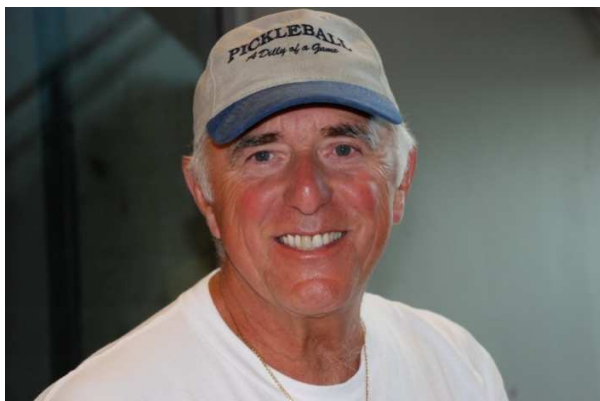
### *Table of Contents*

- Introducing Chuck Lefaive
- West Kelowna Adult Pickleball Event
- Pickleball is Iced in Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Pickleball in Quebec
- Pickleball in Calgary is on a Stampede
- Some Cross Border Pickleball
- Pickleball Takes Root in Muskoka
- Pickleball a Canadian Game, eh!
- Some Quick "Tim Bits"
- Editors Comments

### Introducing Chuck Lefaive

Since Pickleball Canada was launched on April 25, 2009 in Kelowna, BC, I felt it was about time that the founding members introduced themselves to you. I will publish a profile of each of your founding members over the next several months. It is only fitting that we start with the person who started the Pickleball rolling, Chuck Lefaive.

After completing 30 years in pharmaceutical sales with Wyeth Ltd, soon to be Pfizer Corp., Chuck retired in 2003. He and wife Rita raised two sons. Chuck says, "our grand-daughters, Summer and Madeleine, are now the focus of our lives."



Chuck's first goal was to see Canada, so he and Rita took a four and a half- month tour from coast to coast, also including St. Pierre and Miquelon (French Islands) off the Newfoundland coast. In 2005, they

went to Canyon Lake, Texas, and learned to play Pickleball in a hangar that had been converted to a rec center. In 2008, Rita and Chuck took a two and a half month Eastern seaboard trip from Montreal to New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Beaufort, Hilton Head, and Florida. "We saw many pickleball programs, and encouraged a few to become ambassadors-at-large", says Chuck.

Upon return, Chuck accepted the role of regional ambassador for the USAPA, Canada West. He had already operated the local White Rock, South Surrey Pickleball Association for three years. The region grew from four places to play Pickleball to 70, and continues to grow.

This year, in April – May, with the help of the founding members - Pickleball Canada was launched at the spring tournament in Kelowna, BC. The winners of this tournament are pictured on [okpickleball.ca](http://okpickleball.ca). This club has the longest running program in the West, therefore, a most appropriate location for the launch. Chuck says "the response for membership has been very encouraging and Kelowna leads with the most registrations in Canada."

Finally, Chuck hopes "that we will soon see a national tournament in Canada-- perhaps the Canada Cup or Canadian Open, eh". We will also attempt to lead the international efforts for the sport - at least five countries have Pickleball now. Contact has been made with Sports Canada. "As founding members, and until our numbers are sufficient to hold a meaningful election, I and the founders will be at your service to answer questions, to respond to requests for help in setting up programs, or to help in any other way we can".

### West Kelowna Adult Pickleball Tournament

By Bill Franzman



The West Kelowna Adult Pickleball Tournament was held on June 27, 2009 at Mount Boucherie Secondary School Gymnasium, 2751 Cameron Road, West Kelowna.

This tournament consisted of two divisions, the recreational division and the competitive division. The competitive division had mixed doubles, men's and ladies' doubles.

Here are the results for the two divisions.

Event: **RECREATIONAL DIVISION - OPEN DOUBLES ROUND ROBIN**

**Gold:** Ed Gardner

**Silver:** Hans Skudelny  
**Bronze:** Peter Newmann

Event: **COMPETITIVE DIVISION – OPEN MIXED DOUBLES**

**Gold:** Dawna den Otter - Kees den Otter  
**Silver (tie):** Deborah Mitchell - Franz Wagner  
Jim Saunders - Terry Saunders



**Bronze:** Leo Touw - Anne Touw

Event: **COMPETITIVE DIVISION – OPEN MEN’S DOUBLES**

**Gold:** Kees den Otter - Franz Wagner  
**Silver:** Jim Saunders - Bill Adamson  
**Bronze:** Bill Franzman - Brian Stovel

Event: **COMPETITIVE DIVISION – OPEN LADIES DOUBLES**

**Gold:** Dawna den Otter - Deborah Mitchell  
**Silver:** Jenny McGilvray - Christine Perras  
**Bronze:** Anne Touw - Shirley Edwards

A great deal of effort went into this tournament and new ground was broken. The experience gained will help in future planning of tournaments. A big thank you to all those who participated as a player, a volunteer or a spectator. We all know that things just don't happen!

Pickleball is "Iced" in Whitchurch-Stouffville



***From left to right Art Woodruff, Mayor Wayne Emmerson and Leo McGuire***

If this looks like a hockey rink and that object in Leo's hand looks like a Pickleball paddle, you are absolutely right. Why are these gentlemen posing on a hockey rink? You might want to think of it as Pickleball on Ice, without the ice, or Arena Pickleball.

On Thursday, July 2, 2009, the town of Whitchurch-Stouffville held a Pickleball Open House on Pad B of the Stouffville Hockey arena. When it comes to finding places to play this great game, Canadians are becoming very resourceful. In Collingwood, a tennis dome was used, in Little Current, Manitoulin Island players are using a curling rink and in North Bay the gymnasium of an army base. Where there is suitable space the nets and poles go up and the games begin.

The open house at the Stouffville arena was a huge success attracting 80 – 90 players and spectators. In his opening remarks to the large crowd Mayor Emmerson said, “I have just played my first game of Pickleball and I like it a lot. It’s fun. With all these players here today, we have to find a permanent place for Pickleball.” To applause from the audience, he commented that a combination indoor tennis-pickleball facility was being considered. It is this kind of support by politicians that will really help Pickleball grow.



Art Woodruff came up with the idea of a Pickleball facility for Stouffville and approached the mayor’s office with some material on Pickleball while going for physiotherapy in the same building. He pointed out that 50 or so players from the area were driving to the Magna Centre in Newmarket to play and they needed a facility closer to home. Leo McQuire and Rudy Niessink joined Art in putting all the plans in place.

The mayor agreed and the lines for six Pickleball courts were painted on one ice pad. Portable nets and equipment were purchased by the town and within four weeks the local paper announced an open house. This proves with a will and some resourceful people, you can find a place to play this great game.

Thanks Ballantrae Pickleball Club for showing us your ingenuity.

### Pickleball in Quebec

By Susan Guest

Quebec City, one of the oldest cities in North America, internationally known for the Winter Carnival, the Chateau Frontenac, Vieux Quebec, the Plains of Abraham, Montmorency Falls, and maple syrup, of course, can now boast about having pickleball!



In mid-June, I made a second trip to Quebec from BC to visit my friends Georges and Ginette Rodrigue whom I had met 3 years ago in Kelowna where they had come to brush up on their English speaking skills. Not only did I help them with their English, I introduced them to pickleball. Georges immediately loved the sport (Who can blame him!) and ended up playing several times a week for the next four months. Returning to St. Jean Chrysostome, which is about 20 km from Quebec City on the south bank

of the St. Lawrence, they had a grand idea of turning a large old barn into a pickleball court; however, it didn't materialize as he and Ginette got hooked on cruising instead!



Needless to say, Georges still loves the game so on this second visit I asked him to find a place to play during my week there. Not only did he find a couple of tennis courts, he and Ginette brought along their nephew Charles, Charles' friend Mary Lynn, Annie, their daughter, and Seng, Annie's boyfriend. We had some great games and good fun playing pickleball using the tennis court lines. Charles, especially, worked up a good sweat (note green t-shirt). All the new players really liked the game (and my Apike

paddle) and were darn good, so I'm hoping they will continue to play.

East-West, Francophone-Anglophone, young-old--pickleball is great fun for all!

### Pickleball in Calgary is on a Stampede

By Brent Johner

In last month's E-newsletter, there was an article by Brent on Pickleball and its introduction to Calgary. Here is an update by Brent in an e-mail to Chuck Lefaive.

"Meanwhile here in Calgary --

The Oakridge Community Association has decided to move ahead with the creation of a full-fledged outdoor pickleball club for the 2010 season.

They have also submitted a proposal to the City of Calgary to build a new \$3 million multi-use outdoor court facility adjacent to their building.



This facility will have room for up to 32 pickleball courts. Construction is proposed to start in the spring of 2010.

With your help, the OCA hopes to host a national tournament within a few years of opening.”

Pickleball Canada wants to thank Brent for all his efforts in promoting Pickleball in the Calgary area.

### Some Cross Border Pickleball

By Donna Robin

When we think of cross border, the immediate thought, is cross border shopping. Well, in the case of Donna and Morgan Robin it was cross border Pickleball.



Donna and Morgan travelled from Miller Lake on the Bruce Peninsula to Rochester, Michigan to compete in the Michigan Senior Olympics.

Here is what Donna reports,

“The Michigan Senior Olympics for Pickleball was held Tuesday through Friday, July 7 - 10. Morgan won the gold medal with his friend Doug Kant from Arizona in the 65-69 age

category. Morgan and I won the bronze in the mixed doubles on Thursday in the 50-54 age group.

A great time was had by all and the friendships made in Pickleball are just as much fun or more so than winning a medal.

We had the pleasure of meeting Dick Manasseri. He and I took on Morgan and Doug (the gold medal winners) in a match outdoors and they beat us 11 to 10 so it was a great match and a fun way to end the week.”

Janet Razz posted this on her MI blog, “Michigan Senior Olympics fostered an opportunity for international pickleball friendships to bask in the Northern Summer Sun. Snowbirds Donna and Morgan Robins (ON/AZ traveled to compete in the MSO 2009 Summer games with snowbird Doug Kant (MI/AZ).”

Congratulations Donna and Morgan for representing both Ontario and Pickleball Canada by participating in this USAPA sanctioned event and bringing home the hardware.

*Editor's Note: I hope more players take advantage of the opportunity to compete in tournaments in Michigan and other bordering states in the future. What a great way to promote the international nature of Pickleball that Janet mentions above.*

## Pickleball Takes Root in Muskoka

By Beverley Butt



**Linda Furse, Dave Butt, Bev Butt and Bill Furse**

Two members of the founding committee of Pickleball Canada, Bev Butt and Bill Furse, and their spouses got together for some fun Pickleball on tennis courts in the Muskokas.

Here is Beverley's report.

"Here are some photos of our small pickleball event in Muskoka

(Gravenhurst/Bala area) yesterday July 13th (our 47th wedding anniversary- and I am wearing my new PB Canada T shirt!)

Bill and Linda Furse of Collingwood joined Dave and me from their cottage in Algonquin Park. We measured and put down tape on the tennis court (not easy in the wind) and played 3 exciting sets.



Then we invited tennis players on the next court to learn to play PB. When more adults came along, we had them join us to learn to play. The beginners were really interested, especially a young boy, and we can see that one of the ladies was already becoming addicted. Three hours of fun- and the start of Pickleball in Muskoka!"

## Pickleball A Canadian Game, eh!

In the first two E-newsletters, I have attempted to give a Canadian flavour to Pickleball. A few people, well one actually, have commented that they like my attempt at humour, if that is the correct term.

This month I have played Pickleball in a hockey rink and I received an e-mail from Dave Hall from Little Current, Manitoulin Island telling me they were playing in a curling rink.

These two venues should be good for a few new Pickleball terms, don't you think.



**Puckleball** – a Canadian version of Pickleball played with a hockey puck instead of a ball.

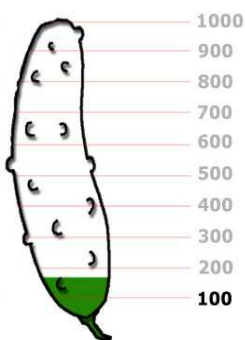
**The Box** – the Canadian term for the Non-Volley Zone. As they say in hockey, “stay out of the box!”

**Hurry..., Hurry..., Hard...!** –a new term to yell at your partner when the ball is lobbed over your head and you are not even going to attempt to run it down.

**Double, Double** – using a Tim Horton term to announce that the score is 2 – 2. If you play in the US, they will have no idea what the heck you are talking about. How about 7 Up when the score is tied 7-7.

**Pickleball** – in Ontario at least, this has become the Canadian way of announcing the final point in a game. The server announces 10 – 8 – Pickleball. I declare this a Canadian Pickleball tradition.

## Some Quick “Tim Bits”



**Drive to 1000!**

The pickle is turning greener as the summer months progress. Memberships continue to “vine” their way in. Chuck reported that July 13 was a lucky day with 20 memberships arriving, the most ever on one day to date. The month of July will see our membership top 175. What a milestone for such a young organization! You can do your part by going to [pickleballcanada.org](http://pickleballcanada.org) and filling out your registration form today. Your founding committee is working hard on your behalf. We need your support.

The South Surrey Recreation Centre will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual 50+ South Surrey Pickleball Tournament on September 12 from 7:30 am to 8:00 pm. It will be, “An amazing day of pickleball competition, wonderful social atmosphere and great food, so don't miss your opportunity to participate in the fastest growing sport in Canada.” Call 604-592-6970 for registration information or click on the following link to register <http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Parks+and+Recreation/3rd+Annual+Pickle+Ball+Tournament.htm>.

### Editors Comments

When I first thought of doing the E-newsletter for Pickleball Canada, I thought I would be lucky to get enough material to put out four editions a year. I am pleasantly surprised at how many things are going on in our Pickleball nation and I want you to know about them, now. This is the reason I am continuing to churn out a monthly letter.

I know I am missing some areas and centres and this is by no means intentional. Please send material to me either directly at [rwroswell@gmail.com](mailto:rwroswell@gmail.com) or to the Pickleball Canada website. If you have suggestions for improvement to this newsletter, let me know about those as well. “Remember a negative is just a false positive.”