



# The Pickler

April 2024, Issue No. 1

## President's Message

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Welcome to our inaugural issue of *The Pickler*. We are excited to bring you news and stories about all things pickleball from the qathet region. We have all seen first-hand how this game has brought people together – young and not-so young – and has helped to promote the health and well-being of communities like ours. We formed this association because of our shared desire to improve on a good thing, and to create a smooth path for those new to the sport. We also share the City's goal of making this one of the "healthiest and most active communities in British Columbia." We know there's a lot of work to be done to achieve our vision, but we also know that this community has what it takes to move things forward. We've covered a lot of ground in our first year as a non-profit association, but we are just getting started. Come and join us as we dink, drive, and lob our way forward.



## Who is qPA?

We are a non-profit association that incorporated under the *BC Societies Act* on April 18, 2023. Our volunteer board of directors – all of whom are active and avid pickleball players of all levels and abilities – came together with a shared desire to help our region develop and grow its pickleball community.

qPA's vision is to cultivate an inclusive environment where people of all ages, levels and abilities can learn and enjoy the game of pickleball. We envisage an indoor, year-round facility where members can participate in intergenerational play, skill development and social engagement. Join us, and help promote the health and well-being of our community.

Visit our website to learn more about how to become a member.

Visit us at:  
[www.qathetpickleballassociation.ca](http://www.qathetpickleballassociation.ca)

## Meet the Board

Our board of directors is a group of passionate and devoted volunteers, whose aim is to help improve access to pickleball programs and facilities in the qathet region.

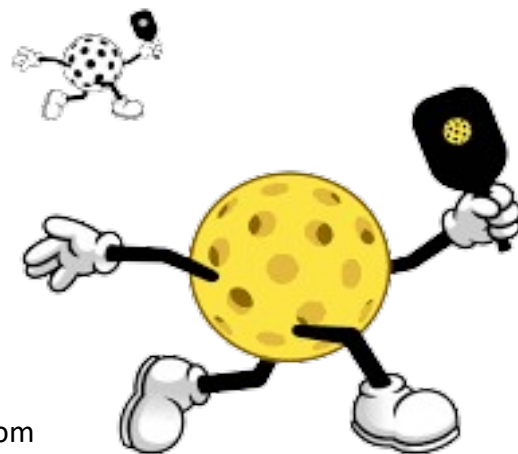
President:	Susan Young
Vice President:	Peter Larlee
Secretary:	Steve Waghorn
Treasurer:	Peter Lee
Directors at Large:	Bruce VanGroenigen
	Pam Iwasiuk
	Dale Sundberg
	Chad McFadyen
	Lynn O'Reilly

## Where Can I Play Pickleball?

Within the qathet region, there are several places to play pickleball on a regular basis. We have three sites with outdoor courts: Townsite, Craig Park (to the north of the city), and Palm Beach (south of the city). All of these courts are first-come, first-served with rules for play posted.

Indoor courts are currently available at two different locations:

1. The Rec Centre hosts indoor “drop-in” play at the Oceanview gym from 4pm to 7pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and on Sundays from 1pm to 5pm. (Check the website for more information: <https://powellriverprc.ca/recreation-programs/arena-sports-programs/>)
2. The Powell River Sports and Fitness Society is a member-driven club for tennis, badminton and pickleball play. They currently offer public drop-in times for pickleball on Tuesdays (4-6pm) and Saturdays (2-4pm). (Check the website for more information: <https://www.prracquets.org/>)



## Where Can I Learn to Play?

qPA offers lessons for beginners and intermediates. Contact Susan Young for more information:

[president.qpa7@gmail.com](mailto:president.qpa7@gmail.com)

## Membership News

We are excited to share that three of our members have successfully passed the Coaching Association of Canada’s Pickleball Instructor 1 course. Congratulations to Susan Young, Bruce VanGroenigen, and Peter Lee.

At last count, our qPA membership was at 85.  
Look at us grow!!

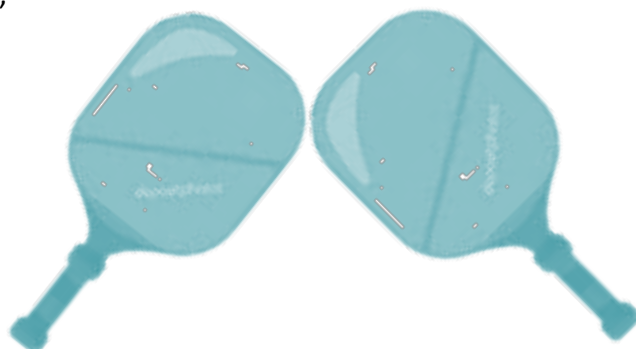
## Why Join qPA?

Besides the opportunity to get to know a lot of fun, active people, and have a say in how our community can foster the growth and development of this sport, there are several reasons to join qPA:

- You become a member of Pickleball Canada and Pickleball BC, therefore increasing your access to event information across the country and the province
- Your membership provides you with supplemental sport and personal liability through our affiliate membership with Pickleball Canada and Pickleball BC
- Most importantly, help us to advocate for better and more sustainable facilities for our region, where we can grow this sport for players of all ages, skills and abilities.

## The Survey Says...

A huge “thanks” to all who participated in our survey. The results are in and a summary can be found on our website. Take a look to see how many respondents (spoiler alert...a lot!) told us that they want more courts, more opportunities for recreational play, and more lessons.



## Upcoming Events

qPA is planning on having a booth at the following events:

- Canada Day Festival
- Logger Sports
- Blackberry Festival