



# The Pickler

Summer 2024, Issue No. 2

## President's Message

As many of you know, we recently celebrated our one-year anniversary as a non-profit association at the "Pickleball Evolution Expo". The qPA is not just about playing pickleball; it's about fostering connections, supporting each other, and advocating for the sport we all love to play and learn. Being part of an association means more than just membership; it signifies our collective commitment to the sport. Associations like ours are crucial because they provide structure, support, and a unified voice. Together, we can accomplish far more than we ever could individually. Whether it's organizing tournaments, providing training sessions, or simply enjoying social games, our association is striving to make this possible.

### Advocating for the Sport of Pickleball

One of our key roles is to advocate for pickleball within our community. This is essential to ensure pickleball continues to grow and thrive in our region. Currently we are advocating for adding one more pickleball court at the Townsite courts. Earlier this summer we explored the idea of adding another court at Palm Beach; unfortunately, that tennis court is too small to include another pickleball court.

### Increasing Awareness; Taking Collective Action to Build Our Own Facility

A major goal is to secure a dedicated, year-round pickleball facility. While we appreciate the shared spaces we currently use, having a facility specifically designed for pickleball would significantly enhance the playing experience by providing a reliable, weather-proof location for us to play, train, and host events. To raise awareness about this need, qPA eagerly participates in community events. This summer, we were privileged to be part of several events, including the qathet Pride Parade, the Canada Day festivities at Willingdon Beach and the Blackberry Festival.

As Fall approaches, we are eagerly anticipating our presentation to the PR Council Meeting of the Whole in October, where we hope to make a compelling case for our facility and to demonstrate that we have a vibrant, committed community behind it.

To our members, we say "Thank you" for being an essential part of the qPA. Let's keep playing, advocating, and working towards our shared dreams.

*Cheers! Susan*



Want to look cool on the court?  
Don't delay, get your qPA Merch today.

Available at the [Powell River Visitor Centre](#)  
(4760 Joyce Ave.), or by contacting  
Steve Waghorn at [secretary1.qpa@gmail.com](mailto:secretary1.qpa@gmail.com)

## 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 Iwasjuk  
Dale Sundberg  
Chad McFadyen  
Lynn O'Reilly

Visit us at:

[www.qathetpickleballassociation.ca](http://www.qathetpickleballassociation.ca)



Welcome to a new feature in our newsletter, where we bring you tips and tidbits from our resident pickleball instructors. In this issue, we've asked three of our instructors to introduce themselves and tell us why they have chosen to help others – and themselves – learn more about playing pickleball.

**Bruce VanGroenigan**  
**(NCCP Level 1 Instructor)**

Pickleball is a fun, social sport that also provides good exercise. Emphasis on "FUN". When I started to play, there were no coaches available in Powell River. I had never played any racquet sports before this. I developed a few bad habits that slowed my progress. It has taken some time but I am now considered an intermediate player. I became a level 1 instructor to help others enjoy this sport and develop good habits from the start.

**Peter Lee**  
**(NCCP Level 1 Instructor)**

I became a pickleball instructor to share my passion for this incredible sport. There's nothing like the joy of introducing new players to pickleball—a game that's easy to learn but challenging to master. As a coach/instructor I get to foster a love for this sport while building community, and help players of all levels experience the fun, excitement, and camaraderie that pickleball offers.

**Where Can I Learn to Play?**

qPA offers lessons for beginners and intermediates. See below for the latest information, and contact Bruce VanGroengin for more information: [director6.qpa@gmail.com](mailto:director6.qpa@gmail.com)

**Susan Young**  
**(NCCP Level 1 Instructor)**

I became a pickleball instructor because I believe in the power of community building through sports. Pickleball is easy to learn, which helps newcomers quickly feel included, yet it takes time to master, providing a rewarding challenge that keeps players engaged. By teaching pickleball, I can contribute to the growth of a sport that promotes both physical health and social interaction, helping individuals lead happier, more connected lives.

**Membership News**

qPA member participation is vital to our success. Whether through donating time or resources, spreading the word, or participating in our events and initiatives, we need you. With your continued support and enthusiasm, we are confident that we can achieve our goal creating a permanent home for pickleball in our region.

We currently have 107 registered members. As a member, you receive several benefits, including sport liability and personal injury insurance coverage. See our website for more information:

<https://www.qathetpickleballassociation.ca/membership.html>

**Community Comments**

Our Modules 1 and 2 lessons have been very popular, attracting newcomers to the sport as well as those who want to improve their skills. When asked what they especially liked about the course, here's what a few members had to say:

"Loved it!"; "Learning the basics and how to play—so fun!"; "Very in-depth learning!"; Incredible instructions that were so clear." "Coaches are friendly and approachable." "Fun atmosphere while learning skills."

**Inspiring Youth**

qPA recently received a generous donation from an anonymous donor with the sole directive to use it to support pickleball programming for youth in our region, which we are happily doing. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to this donor for their belief in our mission and commitment to growing youth pickleball.

**Upcoming Events**

Take a look at what's coming up for the pickleball community.

**Beginner and "Next Step" Lessons:**

- Module 1: Four sessions beginning Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Module 2: Four sessions beginning Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Powell River Sports & Fitness "Cutting Edge" Pickleball Tournament**—Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the PR Racquet Centre.

For more information, contact: [vicepresident.prfs@gmail.com](mailto:vicepresident.prfs@gmail.com)



Get involved. Join qPA today!