

From: Barri Ranieri

Sent: Monday, February 21, 2022 11:44 PM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

Subject: Pickle Ball Facilities in the Town of Richmond Hill - Key Findings Report

Good morning,

I'm emailing this morning in advance of the Council meeting on February 23 2022 where the key findings report for Parks and Recreation will be presented - item #13.4 on the agenda. The report has missed the mark where it recommends only 8 additional courts by 2031. We presently have only 2 outdoor courts. The Global Pickle Ball Network in Richmond Hill grew exponentially during 2020 and 2021 from a handful of members to hundreds of members and this only includes those players who registered with the network. There are just as many players, if not more, who haven't registered but play regularly. I myself have been playing for more than a year and have introduced several new players to the game and I am just one resident. The demand for courts is high now and this demand will only grow. We need a proper dedicated facility to accommodate our sport. To take a line from the movie Field of Dreams - Build it and they will come. Well, you don't have to wait for players to come, we are already here!

I have met many new faces over the last year from many different areas of Richmond Hill and from many different age groups. This sport is quickly picking up traction with the younger set for sure. It's a low cost sport requiring a ball and a paddle unlike other sports. Since joining, it has renewed my sense of community which was most assuredly waning over the last several years. I have been a Richmond Hill resident for over 27 years.

My dedicated group of players search high and low for opportunities to play. We presently book courts in Vaughan and Markham and are eagerly waiting for the new courts in Markham to open. Why should we have to go outside our community to gain this type of access? Why shouldn't we spend our dollars in Richmond Hill?

Attached are a few articles that further our cause and, before Council signs off on this 'out of touch' recommendation, you should consider what these other communities have done or are in the process of doing. If you need any further proof just try registering for a drop in program through the town's website. Registration usually opens at 7:00 am the week before. Don't sleep in because at 7:01 am the activities are full!

I thank you in advance for your time in reading this email and trust you will give this issue your full consideration.

<https://www.thestar.com/local-newmarket/opinion/columnists/2021/02/19/cuddy-shark-cold-blooded-newmarket-pickleball-crowd-keeps-swinging-despite-winter-s-fury.html>

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/popularity-of-pickleball-surges-in-ottawa-1.5444269>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/headlines/what-is-pickleball-and-why-hamilton-needs-12-new-pickleball-courts-1.3718538>

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