

**From:** Silvia Rotolo  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 9:03 AM  
**To:** Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>  
**Subject:** re Member motion Pickleball Courts item 14.2

I started playing this wonderful game of pickleball seven years ago. At that time, I could simply drop into any of the indoor locations in Richmond Hill that offered the activity and play with whomever was there. Once the school year ended, and children's activities took over the facilities, that marked the end of playing pickleball until September. That forced me to start looking around for some outdoor courts. There were none to be found at that time in Richmond Hill, so I travelled in order to be able to play.

As recently as this past summer, I was driving to Newmarket several times a week in order to play at one of their outdoor facilities. The two dedicated courts in town at King's College Park were far too busy, with long wait times in between games. The courts at Town Park were only designated for pickleball during specified times. Even then, the nets were not lowered from the height for tennis to the height for pickleball, so that made for a different game.

How sad that I drive around Richmond Hill during good weather, see a number of tennis courts that are not being used, and wonder why some of them have not been converted to pickleball play. There is no doubt in my mind that any outdoor pickleball courts would be well used. This game has so many wonderful aspects to it. It is an easy game to learn and can be played at any level of expertise. It is a good form of exercise for everyone, no matter the age. Many of the players that I see are in their 70s. I believe that outdoor courts would also encourage more families to play because it is a much easier game than tennis so older children would be able to play with their parents or each other.

Whereas this game was thought to be for "older" people, the younger generation has certainly caught on to its benefits. When you see 20 year olds, with their quick reflexes, play pickleball, it is a totally different game from the one I play. I now find myself competing for court time with a much younger demographic.

When you watch a group of people playing, they are laughing and chatting and having a wonderful time. This applies both to those on the courts and those waiting to play. I have met a wonderful group of people, most of whom live in Richmond Hill, that I would not have otherwise met.

There is absolutely no doubt that Richmond Hill needs more dedicated outdoor pickleball courts. Even the town of Bradford, with a much smaller population, has more outdoor pickleball courts than Richmond Hill.

Given the population size of our city, and the demand for places to play, we need these courts as soon as possible.

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