

From: Earl Chong
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 9:04 PM
To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>
Subject: 14.2 Pickleball Courts in Richmond Hill

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to you regarding pickleball courts item 14.2 on the agenda (steps to install 20 pickleball courts by end of year).

My name is Earl Chong. I live on Rockwell Rd., Richmond Hill. My wife and I have been playing pickleball for 3 years, since being retired. We were introduced to pickleball at the R.H. community centre and have been playing throughout the pandemic at the outdoor courts at Kings College Park (KCP). We have introduced pickleball to our adult children and grandchildren. We would play every day if we could.

The reason we need more pickleball courts:

- Since KCP has been revitalized to include the 2 pickleball courts, the number of people using the courts have steadily increased as the awareness of the courts have become known throughout the community. So much so, that the availability and rotation wait times have been annoyingly long.
- Because it's an easy sport to learn, it has become very popular within a large demographic age spread. We've played with people as young as 7 up to 80 years of age. The young adult age group have rapidly expanded.
- More and more tennis (or other racquet) players are turning to pickleball for a less physically stressful sport
- But more importantly, the open play allows individual players to show up and play, not having to prearrange groups as is usually required in other racquet sports

The bottom line is that we don't have enough pickleball courts to accommodate the growing number of players. This physical activity is required for my physical, mental health and marital wellbeing!

When parks with tennis courts are being revitalized, I hope you will consider adding pickleball courts. The space of one tennis court can possibly be converted into 4 pickleball courts (space required 120 feet x 60 feet)

My understanding is that Bayview Hill community park has 2 concepts under consideration. I hope that you will promote concept #1 adding the pickleball courts, which is a step in the right direction.

Yours truly,

Earl Chong