

**From:** S. Anker  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 12:02 PM  
**To:** Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>  
**Subject:** Pickleball Courts - Item 14.2

In case My speaking conflicts with my dental appointment.

## Pickleball

1. I was introduced to the sport by friends 4 years ago. I was 80 pounds heavier and in poor shape. I now play 3 to 5 times a week. This sport contributes to health and wellness of all age groups. I have played with 30 year olds and 80 year olds. I have never played a sport that is so easy to learn and play consistently with all kinds of people. I have made many new friends playing the sport. I am a firm believer that this sport brings communities together. It is always a positive social experience.
2. Every friend I have now plays Pickleball. No matter what Community my friends live in, the Pickleball community is exploding with growth and there are not enough courts.
3. The sport is attracting racket ball, squash, badminton, and especially tennis players - as it is much easier on the body. Many tennis courts that I have seen converted to dual purpose with pickle ball are almost exclusively occupied with pickle ball players. Almost all of the new players I have met recently come from tennis. If we want to age well I believe we need to devote more resources to Pickleball. Pickleball organizations are growing exponentially. Prior to the pandemic it was so busy at the community center courts and every week there were new people arriving. Even now for sessions you have to arrive up to 30 minutes early to be able to get into a scheduled session. I have been turned away due to overwhelming numbers
4. I believe there is such interest in this sport in richmond hill that a dedicated facility is necessary and will further the expansion of the sport.
5. There is only one dedicated court near highway 7 and two shared tennis courts at Elgin barrow arena in richmond hill that i am aware of. The community Center's are a great backup forum but many of the spaces are not designed fully for Pickleball eg with limited space at the back of the courts to enable full game play. Players adapt. But full proper courts that I have played at in other communities do enhance the enjoyment of the game further.
6. I believe this game will continue to grow and expand and competition level will increase. The city of richmond hill could be a leader in its growth.
7. I love this game and the numerous people I play with do also. The pandemic only stopped us when the facilities were closed and even then we sought out outdoor places to play. I bought a net and have played with friends in their driveways and parking lots. I have played all kinds of racket sports but nothing grabbed my attention like Pickleball. "Great shot" is what opponents yell to each other all the time. Please now make a great shot by deciding to expand Pickleball courts in richmond hill.

Steve Anker  
75 Belvedere ctescent