



Email: info@pickleballontario.org

Website: <https://www.pickleballontario.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/PickleballOntario/>

PO Box 471

Station P

Toronto, ON M5S 2S9

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TO: Mayor and Members of Aurora Town Council:

Pickleball Ontario is fully supportive of the efforts of Rachel Gilliland and Ron Weese to add much needed pickleball courts to the city of Aurora. Pickleball has been experiencing an unbelievable upward trajectory in terms of participation and visibility. Since 2020, the sport has experienced a 40% growth.

Previously, pickleball had been considered an older person's sport with many retirement communities enthusiastically playing it. As much as it is a wonderful sport for older players, this perception and reality are quickly and vastly changing. At present 33% of players are 65+ years of age, 35% between the ages of 8 and 34. The under 54 years of age participants are the largest growing sector with a 46% growth.

Pickleball offers something for everyone in your community. It is a fun and social way to stay healthy. Pickleball works on your balance, agility, cardiovascular health and hand and eye coordination. It is also much easier on your joints than many other sports. In a 90-minute session you can burn 250 calories. In a 30-minute session, you can get all your 10,000 steps in.

Did I mention this sport is fun? It is also an inclusive sport that has something for everyone in the community. Beginners, youth, league players, tournament players and mixed abilities players can all participate.

The International Federation of Pickleball is working hard to have Pickleball included as an Olympic sport. How great would it be if the next Pickleball Olympic champion hails from Aurora, having perfected the craft at pickleball facilities you provide for your community?

We here at Pickleball Ontario are in full support and hope that the Aurora council will also see the benefits this sport could bring to all your residents.

Regards,

Daphne Micallef Reid

President, Pickleball Ontario