

## **Funding for Guelph Pickleball Courts**

### **Guelph Wellington Seniors Association Pickleball Club**

January 17, 2023

#### **Support Letter: "Guelph Pickleball Courts"**

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Guelph City Council:

We are writing to you in full support of the Pickleball Guelph Association's request for funding from the City of Guelph for the development of dedicated pickleball courts. We represent the GWSA Pickleball Club at the Guelph Wellington Senior Association, 683 Woolwich St. Guelph, ON N1H3Y8

Our senior 55+ pickleball club has 180 playing members, which we have skill-oriented into three different groups, Beginner/Intermediate, Intermediate/Advanced, and Advanced. We have 13 playtimes in which each member can only play twice/week; the duration of those playtimes ranges from 1.5 hrs. to 3 hrs.

Unfortunately, it is still not enough, as we have 120 potential pickleball players on a waitlist, most of them brand new to the sport. We play at two facilities, our own Senior Centre & the West End Community Centre.

My partner and I volunteer for this position as organizers, teachers, mentors, friends and partners in laughter. Some of our members travel 30 to 40 km. to play, exercise, and join in the social during and after the games. This is why we support this game so much.

The availability of dedicated pickleball courts will enable the Pickleball Guelph Association and the GWSA Pickleball Club to work together to meet the demand for playing space well beyond what exists today. The dedicated pickleball courts open the door to many options for programming and training for the ever-growing list of seniors eager to learn pickleball and keep active and engaged socially. Over the years that we have convened GWSA Pickleball, we have seen the friendships created, keeping seniors connected and active for a purpose.

My partner and I believe in the following: We try so hard to enable older adults to be active, involved, make friends and age with dignity.

We endorse the application for funding for the development of dedicated pickleball courts as it will support local and community needs, such as giving seniors a reason to get up in the morning. The availability of dedicated pickleball courts and scheduling will benefit our community. We are trying to bring the kid back into the grown-up through pickleball.

For the reasons noted above, we are excited to support the Pickleball Guelph Association in its bid for the development of both outdoor and indoor pickleball courts.

Yours Sincerely,  
Rudy Simon & Cheryl Muir  
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