

# Pickleball Club of Grey Highlands

Presentation to  
Municipality of Grey Highlands Council  
July 19, 2023



# Who We Are

A steering committee of 6 local pickleball enthusiasts was formed late April/early May

May 25 – Achieved status of club affiliated with national and provincial bodies

Non-profit; covered by insurance; website and phone app adopted for scheduling play

To date – experiencing rapid growth; currently at 50+ members



# Our Mission Statement

Our initiatives include:

- Promoting and developing the game locally
- Delivering programs for all ages (not just seniors!)
- Being an effective and recognized voice for local pickleball
- Committing to the improvement of existing facilities and the development of new facilities



# Current Trends in Pickleball

North America's fastest-growing sport

Surveys show explosive growth in Canada

Quadrupled in just 3 years!

Not limited to seniors age group

Fastest-rising age group is 18-34

Average age is now under 40

Pickleball is now "destination travel"

Canada	# of Players
2020	350,000
2023 (January)	1,370,000



# Why So Popular? – 7 Key Factors

1. Healthy recreational activity
2. Social
3. Easy to learn
4. Inexpensive equipment
5. Appeals to all ages
6. Promotes gender equity
7. Small physical footprint



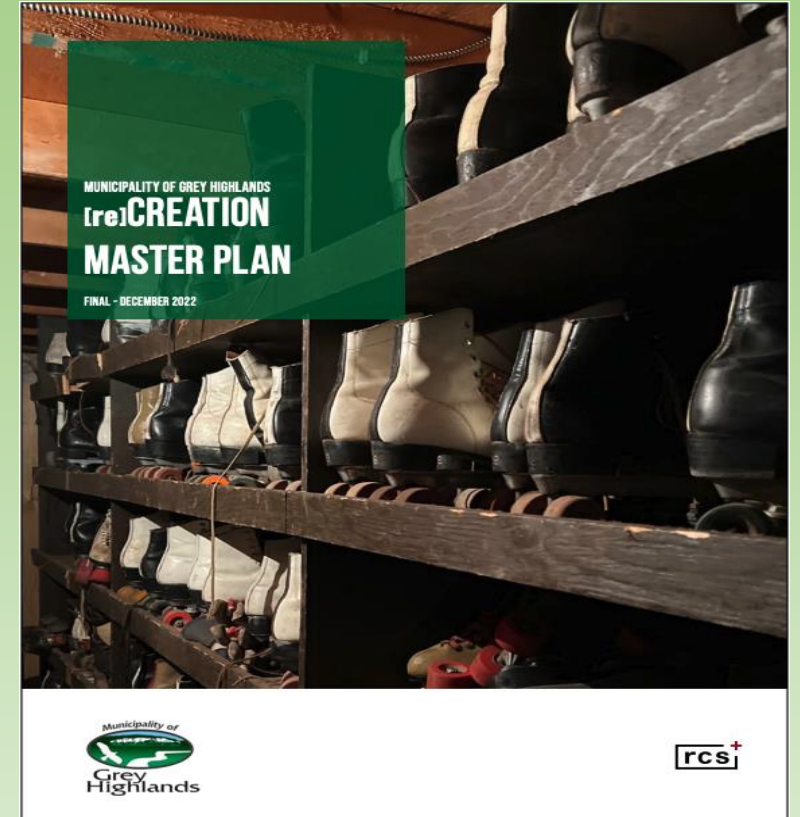
# Recreation Master Plan

*"The emergence of pickleball has resulted in a demand for courts..."*

*"There is evidence of demand for indoor field sport activities and pickleball."*

*"Paint lines for specific court sports based on interest from organized, community-based sport groups"*

*"Dedicated court facilities should be considered... There may be future interest in provision of dedicated pickleball facilities. Private lands ... or school board sites should be considered."*



# What Public Facilities Currently Exist?

## Outdoors:

ONLY 1 COURT EXISTS in Grey Highlands at Flesherton Memorial Park

- Single court is not adequate to meet needs of players
- Shared with basketball and skateboarders
- Also, court improvements are needed:
  - Barrier to prevent debris getting onto the court from steep hill at the back
  - Surface repairs to remove divots and abrasions
  - Proper painting of court and lines



# What Public Facilities Currently Exist?

## Indoors:

- 4 courts at Osprey Hall and Markdale Community Hall
  - play must be altered because of physical restrictions
  - safety issues
- 3 courts on arena floor at Centre Grey Rec. Complex
  - summer use only
  - safety issue with smooth concrete

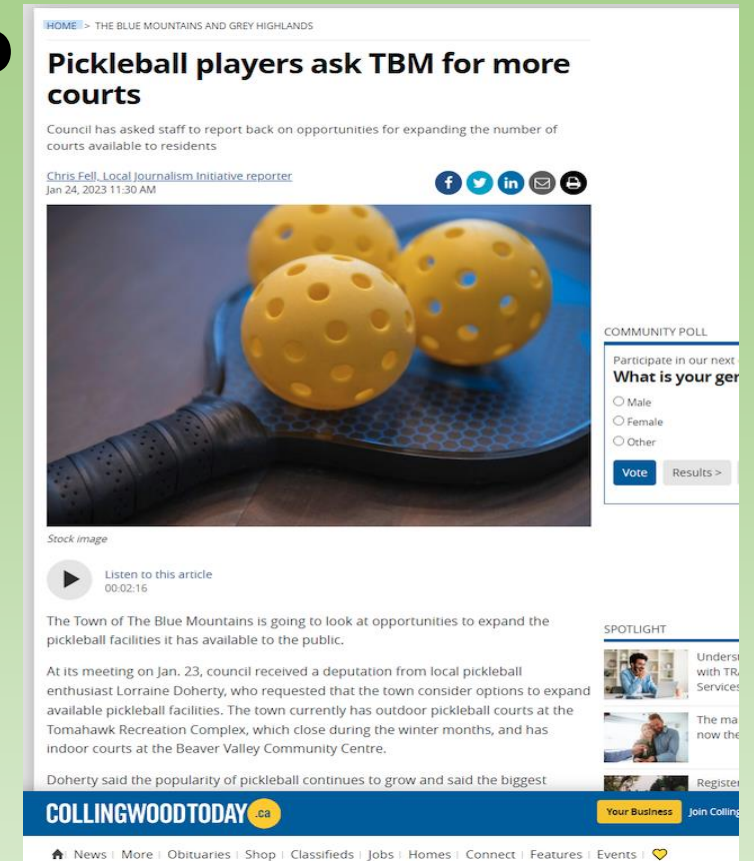


# What Are Our Neighbours Doing?

Town of Blue Mountains, Township of Georgian Bluffs, and Town of Meaford all have efforts underway for the addition of pickleball facilities

## Town of Blue Mountains:

- Four newly constructed dedicated outdoor courts at Tomahawk Recreation Centre
- Six indoor courts At Beaver Valley Community Centre (reduced to 2 courts during winter)



# What Are Our Neighbours Doing?

## Hanover:

- Converted 2 tennis courts to 6 pickleball courts
- Facility owned by Town but managed by the Hanover Tennis and Pickleball Club



# What Does PGH Seek from Council?

A motion of support for the initiatives of Pickleball Club of Grey Highlands.

Acknowledging pickleball as a high priority consideration in the deliberation of the Recreation Master Plan.



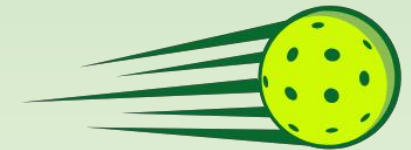
# What Does PGH Seek from Council?

Staff Time to work with us:

- In examining options for the enhancement of the court at Flesherton Memorial Park.
- In examining options to secure new dedicated pickleball facilities in a central location for outdoor play...
- ...and planning inclusion of pickleball courts in any new or repurposed indoor facilities.
- In securing access for our Club events and programs at various community indoor facilities including Markdale Arena, Flesherton Arena, and Osprey Recreation Centre, beyond what is currently offered.



# Thank you



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**PICKLEBALL**  
CLUB OF GREY HIGHLANDS