



New Tec Times

Spring 2025



President Robert Meerburg

From the President's Paddle!

Since my last message to you all, so many great things have happened with your club. Thank you to everyone who made that possible and to all those who participated. By now, I trust you are all checking your club's Facebook page and website for upcoming events and news.

Your directors have worked at several activities and several more are in the works so do keep checking those pages. We have seen so many successes so far and we are not even a year old. Banting pickleball nights— what an overwhelming response we had, so successful that we are planning to offer additional opportunities for our members to participate in “Learn to Play” sessions. Keep watching for the upcoming registration details.

Our first fun-time tournament is shaping up as well as a few other events. I know many of you have said, “I will help” but very few have stepped forward so far. Please reach out directly and get involved. Take that step to make this club *your* club.

New Tec Pickleball club is your organization, whether you are an amateur, social or advanced player. We are dedicated to promoting and facilitating participation in pickleball. There are recreational, social, and competitive opportunities for you. Let's be Frank. I get it; we all just want to show up and play, but sadly there is no “I” in team. We need you to step forward and get involved now. Your club is counting on you!

Soon we will become reacquainted with our Snowbirds. We welcome you all back and look forward to learning about all the wonders from the pickleball capitals. But have you thought , Where will we all go to play? I have! To date I have had 3 meetings with our town asking that exact question: “Are you going to provide the residents of New Tecumseth additional courts to play on?”

Where there's a will there's a way. We have had some great discussions, shared the opportunities and currently our request is in the hands of Adam Mobbs, the newly appointed Recreation Director. He has promised to share with me a plan moving forward by the end of March. Stay tuned!



Board of Directors

President: Robert Meerburg

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Vice-President: Jody Macdonald

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Treasurer: Gary Levine

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Director: Sue Miadovnik

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Director: Sarah van Ryn

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Director: Helen Wilks

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Membership Matters!

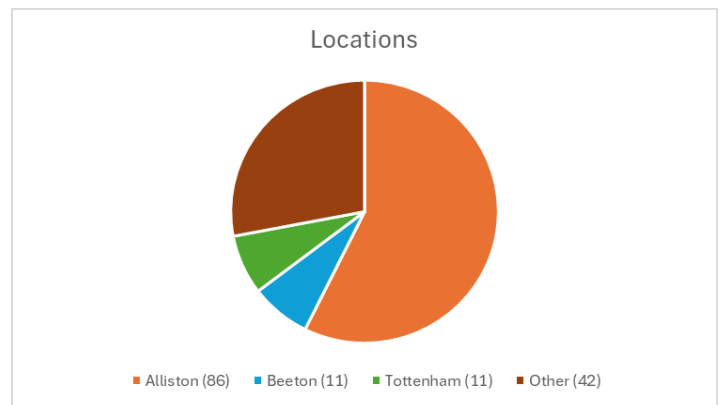
Hello Fellow Picklers,

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Sue Miadovnik. You can see me playing on the courts in New Tecumseth and Florida. I have lived in Alliston for the past 5 years, moving from Mississauga after retiring. As I was looking for something to do, a friend suggested that I should try pickleball. I didn't know what to think, but I thought that I would try it. I have Jody and Julia to thank or curse (depending on the day) as they were some of the first people I played with. This past summer, I joined a group of pickleball enthusiasts, as we felt we needed to make this wonderful sport easily available to all regardless of age or abilities.



Sue Miadovnik

From the inception of our club (Sep 30, 2024) we have grown to 150 members. **THANK YOU!** We never thought we would have such interest and without this wonderful group we wouldn't be where we are today. My role is to keep the numbers growing while retaining happy members. I also look after the web-site which is free to clubs through Pickleball Canada and Ontario. www.newtecpickleball.org



Here are some New Tec facts: Our average age is 58 so it isn't "Just a retired person's sport". The mix is 61% women and 39% men. I wonder if that's because women love to "stay out of the kitchen"?

As Membership Chair, I ask you to think about volunteering. We have many things we want to do, but without volunteers we sadly may not be able to do them. It takes many picklers to put on tournaments (coming **VERY** soon), drills and skills (working on it), and club play held at Banting during the evening for those of you unable to play during the day.

We have accomplished so much in just a few months, but we want to do so much more with your help. We already have members who have stepped up to create our newsletter, write a grant, offer Sunshine Outreach, and organize social events. Please become engaged in growing this club to help us make it a successful one while meeting new people and having fun.



Pickleballer Profile!



Harold Dierken

My name is Harold Dierken. I am in my early 60's and still working but with the hopes of retiring in the very near future. I moved from the city to the Alliston area in the early 1990's. Like many kids growing up in the 60's and 70's there were no computer games and minimal TV to watch so unless you wanted to get stuck doing chores around the house you had to disappear. The easiest thing to do was to find an old racquet and a buddy and ride your bike around hoping to find an empty tennis court or find a wall at the school to hit the ball against. I have played competitive sports for most of my life, but due to injuries, work and family commitments (priorities), I had come to grips with the fact that I was now just a spectator for everything. Or was I?

I had heard about this new game called pickleball and I was intrigued. Is this a sport I could play now that I am older? I had never played or even watched a game of pickleball so I went on the internet to see if there was a place I could try it. Everything I saw would require me to drive a far distance. I just put it on the back burner.

Then one day, as I was going through my regular routine of getting up early listening to the radio, I heard on myFM that Alliston was having a town meeting to start a new pickleball club. I thought this was a good opportunity to get out of my comfort zone and go and check this out. My first impression was there were a lot of people there and they seemed to be in the same situation as I was. They were looking for a place that they can just come out and play pickleball. The next thing that impressed me was how professionally it was run for a first-time meeting. I thought this is serious. This is going to be great. I must join.

When I first joined the NTPC I was all excited to get going. As I looked at the schedules, I was disappointed to see that I wasn't going to be able play based on my work schedule. Thanks to the hard work of the NTPC they were able to secure the Banting school gyms in the evening which meant I could finally get to play. From the first night, I was hooked and could not get enough. I was disappointed when the school was closed, having to wait an extra week to get out and play. I was like a little kid again and rejuvenated by this game. A new door opened and I was welcomed to this new phenomenon called pickleball. It is like a social gathering while still providing some exercise. I have not had a negative experience yet, except for the pressure that I put on myself.

Be open-minded and willing to learn because as good as you think you are getting, you will get schooled. It is impressive to watch these mild-mannered people turn into pickleball wizards. There is the physical part of the game as well as the strategic part of the game. I am a long way from both, but I am having a good time and laughing a lot. Now when I make a mistake we just laugh about it and add that to my learning box. I don't lose sleep over a missed pickleball shot; I just can't wait to do it all over again!





New Tec's Gotta Have Fun!

Friday Night Picklers @ Banting HS

We have enjoyed starting the Friday night pickleball at Banting Memorial High School. We registered 32 eager picklers to come and enjoy some social time, learning and playing pickleball with like-minded individuals. We have many people who are new to pickleball and some who are more advanced players. The more advanced players have taken the beginners under their wing and taught them a lot. The beginners have advanced their game and have expressed interest in playing again when we have the time.

We recently celebrated Valentine's Day with our group, where we offered a prize for being festively dressed. Brittany Snell won the contest. Here are some pictures of the event. We asked all participants to wear any colours associated with Valentine's Day and they understood the assignment. We look forward to continuing to learn and play together with our Friday Night Picklers until the end of April!



Helen Wilks





New Tec's Gotta Have Fun!



Kim Ellison

The NTPC wanted to secure night play for our members who are still working. I was tasked with this and was able to get some of the Banting Memorial High School gyms on Wednesday and Friday nights from January through to the end of April. Sarah van Ryn and Helen Wilks, with the help of Jason Baird, are running the Fridays. Deb Cowen, Joanne Marceau and Harold Dierken are helping me with Wednesdays. Thank you for the volunteers who stepped up to help.

Wednesdays have a good mix of beginners and intermediate players. It has been fun to watch how quickly the beginners have improved their play. We have mixed it up, including play within your category, open play, ladder play and straight dinking games only. One of the most satisfying things that I have observed, is our intermediate players going out of their way to teach and help out our beginning players. I am sure we all can think back to who helped us out, when we first began in this amazing sport.

On Wednesday, February 12th, Banting was closed. We had to move our Valentine night celebration to the 19th, to dress up in red. We held a lucky draw for those who participated, with Heather Barzo winning the Tim Hortons card. By the time you have read this, we will have celebrated St. Patrick's Day by dressing in green, on March 19th.



Sarah van Ryn

Our Secretary Says...



Janet Hayward

One summer afternoon in Washington, in 1966, Bill Bell and Joel Pritchard came up with an activity to amuse their children, using a mixture of equipment-- wooden paddles cut out of a piece of plywood, a neighbour's wiffle ball, and a badminton net lowered to hip height. The new game made Joel's wife, Joan, think of the "pickle boat" in rowing races popular in their Bainbridge Island home, made up of a crew thrown together at random from leftover available rowers, so they called it pickleball. Long ago, fishing fleets used the term "pickle boat" to refer to a boat that stopped to pickle its catch, making it the last boat to return to port. Janet's Believe It or Not!

For drop-in open-play (not organized play) times and fees, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2bzff6xw> - open play times are run by New Tecumseth

Don't forget to check out our NTPC website: www.newtecpickleball.org



A Fun Day of Play!



Fun Day

Don't Get Pickled



\$50/ea



Saturday, May 24

8:30 am - 4:30 pm



Alliston Memorial Arena

49 Nelson St W, Alliston, ON



Partner Play

Men's, Women's, & Mixed

Registration Opens April 13

register

NewTecPickleball.org

NTPC is having our inaugural fun "Don't Get Pickled" Tournament.

Save this date... Saturday May 24, 2025

Where: the Alliston Memorial Arena

Women's, men's & mixed partner games, all skill levels. It will be run from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Volunteers will be needed for 2-hr. shifts throughout the day.

More news to follow over the coming month. Sarah and I will see you there!



Jody Macdonald



Communication Matters!

We'd like to share our condolences with club members who lose a loved one. Please pass along names to Ingrid Elliott: i_grant_elliott@hotmail.com. We thank Ingrid for stepping forward to be our Sunshine Volunteer to help us communicate with our pickleball family.

VP Jody reminds us that with spring soon upon us, your Board of Directors is actively working behind the scenes planning for spring and summer scheduled play and court permit locations.

We hear your chit-chat and appreciate your keen interest in club play in the coming months. We hope to have further information to share with you as soon as arrangements can be made.

As to chit-chat, here are some lines overheard on our courts...

You know who you are.

“I **never** lose in pickleball... I just run out of time.”

“My paddle and I have a **love-hate** relationship...

it loves to miss, and I hate it for that.”

“Could you *please* try to hit my paddle?”

“**No** more talk of squirrels!!!”

“I *think* that shot was out...”

“That **wasn't** a pop up...just a short lob.”

In the meantime, “paddle up, eye on the ball, be safe and have fun”!



This newsletter comes to you from my desk. Please feel free to let me know if there were any errors or omissions. I won't pay any attention to them but give it a shot...not a headshot though.

If you wish to send something for inclusion in our summer edition, please send it along to me: jlevine@docpc.com.

I will make the call, on my side of the news net, if it is on the line or out. There is no saying sorry in pickleball. Sorry about that...Julia Levine