

### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - Rod Hamilton**

Hi everyone, what a beautiful summer it has been, it's so nice to get out and spend some of our precious time on the pickleball courts.

I normally play during the late afternoons these days and am continually amazed at how busy the courts are with non-CVPA members playing from 6:00 pm until dark.

Great to see our new Paul Deeton memorial bench at the Rotary Highland courts getting so well used. What a great bench Doug Stauber built for us all and thanks to John Czegledi for laying down the cement base and donation of concrete by Hyland Precast.

Our tournament players have had some outstanding results this last month in both the Provincials and Nationals and congrats to them. Their hard work is paying dividends. Find their names, pics and results below in our section titled: *The Medal Round*.

The Board has had a number of calls and interactions with the City of Courtenay on plans to build six outdoor courts in Courtenay. The consulting group hired by the City has completed their report and they led a Zoom meeting with the City and CVPA Board to present their findings. The report stipulated that as a result of growth in the sport, there is a need for additional courts and further went on to identify two potential locations. Based on the report and interactions with the City, the Board has responded with some ideas, suggestions and recommendations, including a proposed CVPA contribution of \$50,000 if certain conditions are met.

The sub-committee continues their work on exploring all options for an indoor facility. I'm visiting the Okotoks, Alberta project on Sept 5<sup>th</sup> to meet with the organizers and view their building progress of a new \$3,500,000 facility.

The Board purchased twelve new paddles for the youth program run by Tim Dugas, it was a great success and something we want to expand and continue if we can find the courts to run it. When the kids don't need the paddles they are in the CVPA inventory to loan out for other programs or general use for beginners. This purchase was funded through a grant provided by BC Pickleball.

The Board is introducing a new program which will become active on the website in September called Membership Benefits. Once fully operational, members will click on the "soon to be added" Member Benefit Tab providing direct access to 200 businesses located in the Comox Valley offering discounts, promotions and sales to CVPA members. Stay tuned for that one.

Lastly, Rod Hamilton and Jane Kolmatycki will not be running as Board members at this year's upcoming AGM. With those two seats available we encourage anyone interested in becoming a Board Member to contact Donna <a href="mailto:cvpa2015@gmail.com">cvpa2015@gmail.com</a> and let her know of your interest.



Jenny Kennedy unveiling the Paul Deeton memorial bench at the Comox Rotary Highland Courts

#### The 2025 CVPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Comox Valley Pickleball Association is holding our Annual General Meeting and election of officers on TUESDAY, October 09 at the Comox Community Centre, 1855 Noel Avenue, Comox starting at 7:00pm.

The board would like to hear from you on how we have been doing and what you would like us to work on for the coming year. The Facilities Sub-Committee will have an update on our exciting project and would value any comments and suggestions you may wish to pass along to us.

Watch for further information coming soon.....

### **CLUB MERCHANDISE**

Don't forget you can now purchase CVPA merchandise online, including:

- Name tags with the CVPA logo
- Indoor balls
- Outdoor balls

And clothing with the CVPA logo (with placement options) and a variety of colours and fabrics, including:



- Short sleeve t-shirts
- Long sleeve t-shirts
- Baseball caps
- Hooded sweatshirts
- Vests

Order Processing: To save on shipping costs for both you and CVPA we'll coordinate delivery of your item at the pickleball courts or a location convenient to both parties.

How to: The shop is online at

https://secure.pickleballcanada.org/register/cvpa-store/37940/.

Scroll down for photos and descriptions of the items, select the quantity, color, size of the items you want to purchase, then fill out the order form at the top of the page and click the PROCEED TO NEXT STEP button and complete your purchase.

We have new name tags with logo available now - order online.



If there are any questions, please contact Denise at cvpashop@gmail.com

#### **FACILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

As we reported in April, 2025 the Town of Comox has applied to the Province of BC to have the land at 900, 910 and 920 Pritchard Road, Comox transferred to the Town of Comox.

At our meeting in July, CAO Wall advised that he has made a request to have this issue added to the agenda of the Union of BC Municipalities meeting, scheduled for 22 - 26 September. CAO Wall feels that request will "get some action" and he expects to hear something in the weeks following that meeting. As soon as we hear from him we will be letting our membership know what's going on.

In anticipation of the land being granted to the Town and the Town leasing it to the CVPA, the sub-committee is working with several contractors, pickleball building companies and other parties to get a quote on a 12 indoor court facility. We have received 3 quotes and design options and will be compiling our list to present to the board in the near future.

Once the design is settled on we will move into Phase 3 of this project - fundraising. As we get nearer to having to "take up shovels", the sub-committee needs your help!!!

This will need to be a collaborative effort and we will soon be calling on our members to be willing to step up and lend a hand or offer some of that amazing expertise we know is out there!

If you are interested in joining our sub-committee or if you have any skills that you can contribute to this project please let us know at cvpa2015@gmail.com.

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### **ROTARY HIGHLAND EMERGENCY SHED ACCESS**

- 1) A sign is posted on the shed door with the fire hall phone number and 4 CVPA members phone numbers so that, in an emergency, anyone can call to get the code in order to access the AED & first aid kit. Don't forget to call 911 for any immediate medical attention needed.
- 2) That access to the code be given to only a few individuals in order to ensure the integrity of the AED so that it is fully functioning if it is ever needed again
- 3) That the code is only given out in the case of an emergency.

The board agreed that only the program coordinators and the coaches be given the code.

PLEASE NOTE - the courts are not the property of the CVPA & therefore it is not the CVPA's responsibility to ensure access to the AED. However, we have willingly worked with the Town of Comox to come up with a solution that will address any medical situation that arises at the courts.

Under Fire Chief Schreiner's guidance, this new system will provide access to the AED and first aid kit for all players on the courts - CVPA members and the public.

#### **ROTARY HIGHLAND COURT USE**

We all need to follow the posted rules of court use until we get more courts. Every court can be utilized for one game (lasting 25 minutes). If no one is waiting, the players can continue on. If players are waiting the court must be vacated on a normal rotation using the paddle system. Doesn't matter if you are drilling, playing singles or teaching. The paddle system takes precedent on the public courts at Rotary Highland.

With 658 members and probably as many non-members playing, we need to follow the posted rules of use on the courts.

## **PLAY TIMES - SCHEDULES**

Remember to check the schedule on the CVPA website for any updates and changes. This is your "go to place" for information on where to play, when to play and what's going on with pickleball in the valley. Note the school use schedule (Rotary Highland) is sent to the organized play coordinators and posted on the two Facebook pages.

https://secure.pickleballcanada.org/club/comox-valley-pickleball-association/1059/

### YOUTH PROGRAM

A Youth Program was added to the schedule this June and a huge THANK YOU goes out to Tim DuGas, Jeff Lucas and Pati Creamer for volunteering their time, energy and commitment to coaching these young players, all the while keeping the kids engaged, entertained and wanting more.

# **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Membership as of 31 August, 2025 - 658 members of the CVPA

### PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

The Comox Valley Pickleball Association strongly encourages all members to wear protective eyewear during all scheduled play times. The use of protective eyewear is mandatory for CVPA members that use the ball machine during Tuesday/Sunday skills sessions. There have been devastating injuries caused by balls and paddles in Canada and even in our own club.

### TRAINING TIPS, LESSONS AND DRILLS - Rod Hamilton

Over the last month I have spent time working with Advanced players (4.0 and above) and had the privilege of playing with a number of groups at various levels. We are working on one simple concept, "get the ball on the ground". Unless you are specifically speeding up a "GREEN" ball (a ball higher than the net and your waist) each shot you hit should be intended to bounce on the ground before the opponent can hit it. Banging the ball back and forth at waist level or above is not pickleball. The skills required to get the ball on the ground include being able to dink effectively, usually with top spin, reset into the kitchen and consistently hit a third shot drop.

# **Meet Jenny Kennedy**

Jenny Kennedy is one of our club's founders and key organizers.

It's just past 6 AM on a soon-to-be scorching July day. Jenny is up, and the coffee is brewing. Pepper, her seven-year-old four-legged companion, is not so patiently waiting at the door, eager to begin her early morning walk. Soon, Jenny will be off to the Highland Courts, where she will find players waiting to register for the day's pickleball session.



**Highland Pickleball Court Intermediate A's**Jenny is standing second from the left in the front row

Now, let's roll back the calendar to the spring of 2010. Upon returning from the South, several local "Snowbirds" were enthusiastic about a virtually unknown sport called "Pickleball." What? A sport named "PICKLEBALL" - are you serious? Yup! And it did not take long for Jenny Kennedy to step onto the soon-to-be fast-moving pickleball bandwagon.

Jenny had recently retired from the Comox Community Center. Although she had never played a racquet sport, she could see that pickleball would provide just the right amount of exercise for her. True to form, as a dedicated "Organizer Supremo", Jenny's enthusiasm and perseverance were critical in opening the doors of our community for this unlikely-named sport. Now, 15 years later, Jenny's commitment to pickleball continues to bloom.

Jenny has instilled her love for the game in hundreds of players. Of course, this has not come without dedication and tremendous effort. With the support of many other volunteers who have worked tirelessly to promote the sport, we now have a vibrant pickleball community.

Jenny has worn many hats along her journey, including a crown, as our club's "Pickleball Queen". She is an original member of our club's Board of Directors. In the club's early days, she organized refreshments for social events and tournaments, sold memberships and t-shirts, and even instructed new players at beginners' clinics.



Along with her good friend **Carol Bissell**, Jenny is a recipient of Pickleball British Columbia's esteemed Service Award.

Jenny and Carol enjoying a moment on the bench honouring **Paul Deeton**, another dedicated pickleball volunteer.

Jenny admits, "The pickleball community is an important part of my life— along with Pepper, it's what gets me up in the morning." Above all, she treasures both the play and, more importantly, the social relationships made through pickleball.

## So - who is Jenny Kennedy?

A native of the Comox Valley, Jenny met and married Norton Kennedy soon after completing high school. Nort's armed services career took them to Germany, to Cold Lake, Alberta and back to the best place on earth, the Comox Valley. After 52 years of marriage, Nort passed in 2020. Their daughter, Theresa, lives with Jenny. Daughter Dawn and her family are in Victoria.

Throughout her life, Jenny has exemplified selflessness, which is partially defined as "the quality of caring more about what other people need and want than about what you need and want."



Our hats are off to you, Jenny, and to all the dedicated club builders and volunteers who have worked hard and effectively to make our club what it is today.

## Excerpt from an article on Jenny by Mike Davis

Background: I first met Jenny about 10 years ago, when she and Carol were teaching an "Introduction to Pickleball" session at the Rec Center. A few days after that initial session, I met Jenny, my pickleball instructor, just around the corner from our home...a neighbour I had never met! She and her husband, Nort, become immediate friends with my wife and I. Her husband has since passed away from prostate cancer and my wife and I, along with Jenny and her daughter, share regular dinner outings, backyard bbq, etc. Jenny and I, after our evening dinners, have been walking together most evenings for close to seven years. So I know Jenny the 'pickleball player' and....Jenny "the neighbour and friend".

# Jenny: Baker for the Masses

Those of us who remember when pickleball was only played at the Rec Center, will remember the large container of sliced oranges she would provide during play. Many other treats make their way from her home to hungry pickleball players including sea salt caramels, endless variations of 'protein balls' along with a huge list of other chocolate covered goodness. If all commercial bakeries in the Comox Valley were to cease to exist, Jenny's freezer could feed the hungry masses for an extended period of time! Close to Christmas time, Jenny gets to work on making huge containers of chocolatey sweet treats, which she piles up and stores in her cool garage.

If you happen to be visiting her home close to Christmas and her garage door opens, you will feel like you have entered a Willy Wonka zone and......expect to sample A LOT of goodies. Did I forget to mention the hot chocolate she sometimes makes in the winter time for her outdoor pickleball group? And during the Comox Valley pickleball tourney, you can expect Jenny, along with a crew of hard workers, providing a spread of food which has been described as "the best food" at any tournament on Vancouver Island!

# Jenny: CEO for her pickleball group

Jenny is fondly known by many as 'Mamma Jenny, Miss Jenny' and privately she sometimes laughs when she calls herself 'Boss Bitch'. Her dedication to pickleball through the years includes head of the Social Committee and she still is, years later, an active volunteer assisting in this same committee. For the CVPA Christmas Party, her house is one of several homes where the social committee meets to plan the Christmas event. Of course, her freezer provides 'snacks' for the hungry planners.

Outside of the pickleball group, Jenny volunteers in other events such as supervising dances and special events at the Rec Centre. Jenny was born and raised in the Comox Valley and she knows many people. If you ever go with her to something like the Rotary Book Sale, plan to build in extra time there as she will need time to 'catch up' with people from her past. Almost everyone knows Jenny......and they all think she is the amazing woman we have all come to admire!

# **THE MEDAL ROUND**

Congrats to our tournament players who have done so well over the last month. A special note to Diane Dol and Sandra Barr who won Gold at the Canadian Nationals this last week. To the best of my knowledge this is the first Canadian National Gold Medal won by a CVPA member.



Pickleball Canada National Championships - Winnipeg Gold Medal 4.5 Womens 50+ Sandra Bars, Diane Dol



Pickleball Canada National Championships - Winnipeg Mixed 4.0+ 30+ Bronze Medal Sandra Bars, Sean Sonego



Pickleball BC Provincial Championships - Vernon BC Silver Medal 4.5 Mixed, 50+ Bill Kelly & Phyllis Money

Pickleball BC Provincial Championships 4.5 Womens Doubles under 50 Gold Medal Sandra Bars & Melissa Ruel





B.C. Provincials Gold Medal Sandra Bars, Martin Haaf 4.5 Mixed, under 50

#### KNOW THE RULES - Rick Folk - Head Referee Pickleball BC

### LINE CALLING RESPONSIBILITIES

One of the most important components of pickleball that causes a lot of conflict and confusion is the line calling responsibilities. I have outlined the rules to be followed in line calling:

- 1. It is up to the players to make the line call on **THEIR END OF THE COURT**.
- 2. If the partners disagree on the call (one called the ball in, and the other called it out), the ball is considered to be "in".
- 3. If one partner calls the ball out, and the other cannot make a call or is uncertain, the ball is considered "out".
- 4. If the players cannot make the call on their end of the court (both are uncertain), they may ask their opponents if they could clearly make the call. If the opponent can clearly make the call, their call stands. Once the players on their end of the court ask their opponents if they saw the ball land clearly, they can no longer make the call....the opposition's call stands.
- 5. As a follow-up to point 4.....if none of the players can make the line call, the ball is considered IN. *There is no such thing as a replay or re-serve in this case.*
- 6. It is considered good pickleball sportsmanship and etiquette that if you are uncertain of the line call on your end of the court, the call goes in favor of your opposition. If you cannot call it out, it was in.

I have witnessed too many situations where players feel they are entitled to make the line call on their opponent's end of the court. THIS IS NOT THE CASE. They can only express their opinion if asked by the players on whose end the ball landed.

Rick Folk Head Referee, Pickleball BC

## 2024/25 CVPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Rod Hamilton

Treasurer - Ron Dumbarton

Secretary - Donna Turner

Past-President - Rick Folk

Director - Allan Hughes

Director - Jane Kolmatycki

Director - Glynnis Freeman

Director - Todd Southen

Director - Russ Portigal

# Visit the Comox Valley Pickleball Association websites and social media

Comox Valley Pickleball Association Website

https://secure.pickleballcanada.org/event/comox-valley-pickleball-association/1059/

Comox Valley Pickleball Association on Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/cvpickleball.ca">https://www.facebook.com/cvpickleball.ca</a>

Comox Valley Pickleball Discussion on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/groups/741799624629434

Email cvpa2015@gmail.com

# **Comox Valley Pickleball Association Sponsors**

The CVPA has partnered with Pickleball Paddles Canada as a CVPA sponsor. Check out their website and use code COMOX for 10% off your order.

https://pickleballpaddlescanada.ca/



### Klahanie & Company - Pickleball Paddle Sales & Rentals

Our mission is to be the go-to *courtside* paddle supplier for Comox Valley pickleball enthusiasts.

We aim to enhance the local pickleball experience by representing top-quality Canadian paddles for purchase, convenient rental, and "try before you buy" options.



Visit our website at <a href="https://picklepaddles.ca/">https://picklepaddles.ca/</a> Contact Leanne at kleannewebster@gmail.com