

**COMOX VALLEY
PICKLEBALL**
July 2026 Newsletter

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE - Rod Hamilton

July has brought fantastic weather, and it has been wonderful to see the courts so busy. Each time I play at Rotary Highland, I'm pleased to see familiar friends and many new faces enjoying the game.

The Provincial Championships run from July 22–26 at the new facility in Tsawwassen. A number of CVPA members will be competing, and we wish every one of them the very best of luck. I plan to attend, tour the new courts and cheer on our players.

The CVPA Board has been busy, with several important initiatives underway. On August 8, the club will celebrate National Pickleball Day by hosting a Community Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Rotary Highland courts.

The new Member Benefit Platform is now live, planning for the six new pickleball courts at Lewis Park continues to move forward, and the exterior access door for the AED has been installed. Every CVPA member will receive the access combination in a separate email.

Pacific Playgrounds has also built four new courts and a beautiful pickleball facility. They have invited CVPA members to a free Fun Day to showcase the courts. Please watch for more information about the date and time—it promises to be a fun club get-together.

Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you on the courts!

National Pickleball Day Community Open House

CVPA will celebrate National Pickleball Day on August 8 by hosting a Community Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Rotary Highland courts. The event is open to CVPA members and the entire community.

Invitations have been sent to mayors, councillors and recreation department representatives from across the Comox Valley. Based on the success of previous open houses, we are expecting another excellent turnout.

There will be complimentary food and refreshments, along with plenty of fun activities. CVPA members are encouraged to stop by, enjoy some pickleball and help welcome members of the public to our sport.

A special focus of the day will be introducing pickleball to people who have never played before. We are fortunate to have several volunteer coaches available to help new players learn the basics and get started safely and confidently.

The CVPA Indoor Facility Subcommittee will also have an information table at the event. Stop by, meet the committee members and learn more about the progress being made toward a proposed indoor pickleball facility for the Comox Valley.

Please join us for a fun day of pickleball.



The poster is for the National Pickleball Day Community Open House. At the top left is the Comox Valley Pickleball logo, and at the top right is the National Pickleball Day logo featuring a red maple leaf. The main title 'NATIONAL PICKLEBALL DAY!' is in large, bold, green and black letters, with a green pickleball icon to the right. Below the title is the tagline 'CELEBRATE CANADA'S FASTEST GROWING SPORT!'. The date and time 'AUGUST 8, 2026 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM' are displayed in a green banner with a calendar icon. To the right of the banner is a green circle with the text 'EVERYONE WELCOME! ALL AGES. ALL SKILL LEVELS. ALL FREE!'. Below this is the text 'PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE' and 'ROTARY HIGHLAND PICKLEBALL COURTS 775 Torrence Road, Comox'. A central image shows a group of people playing pickleball on an outdoor court. Below the image is the slogan 'COME PLAY. HAVE FUN. DISCOVER PICKLEBALL!'. The bottom section is titled 'FUN ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE!' and lists six activities: 'LEARN TO PLAY' (New to pickleball? We'll get you started!), 'BALL MACHINE DRILLS' (Try your skills and improve!), 'CLINICS & DEMONSTRATIONS' (Presented by our certified staff and advanced players), 'DROP-IN ROUND ROBIN' (All levels welcome. Play for fun!), 'KID'S COURT' (Special activities just for kids!), and 'FREE SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS' (Because play is better together!). At the bottom, there is a QR code and the text 'SCAN TO LEARN MORE!'. The footer includes the website 'comoxvalleypickleball.ca', social media handles '@comoxvalleypickleball', and the text 'PADDLES AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.'

Pacific Playgrounds Pickleball Fun Day - Tuesday July 28th

Pacific Playgrounds Oceanside Resort has generously offered a free fun day of play on July 28th from noon until 4pm for CVPA members. Come out and check out these great new courts.

CVPA
PICKLEBALL
FUN DAY

PACIFIC PLAYGROUNDS

Come See & Play on Four Beautiful New Courts!

JULY 28 | **NOON - 4:00 PM**

FREE FOR CVPA MEMBERS

An afternoon of pickleball, refreshments, food and fun with friends.
Bring some lunch and your drink of choice.

Pacific Playgrounds Oceanside Resort
9082 Clarkson Avenue, Black Creek, BC

COME PLAY. HAVE FUN. ENJOY THE AFTERNOON!

Proposed Lewis Park Courts

The six new pickleball courts planned for Lewis Park remain on track for completion next year.

The latest update from the City of Courtenay confirms that the required studies are well underway and nearing completion. The project has now moved into the design phase, which is being managed by City engineers. Once the design is complete, the project is expected to proceed to the tendering stage.

The CVPA Board has committed to supporting this important project with a contribution of \$50,000 toward the overall cost. Fundraising will begin once the final design and estimated construction costs have been confirmed.

We will continue to keep members informed as the project progresses. More information here. <https://engagecomoxvalley.ca/courtenay-pickleball-courts>



NEW INDOOR FACILITY REPORT

Over the past year the Sub-Committee has worked tirelessly at our task of bringing a dedicated indoor pickleball facility to the Comox Valley. In the fall we met with staff from the Town of Comox to assess the feasibility of using land on Pritchard Road for this project. We also met with representatives from local tennis, volleyball and Performing Arts organizations to explore the possibility of collaborating on a much larger vision. All of these meetings have been positive which has been energizing & motivating in our resolve to get this done!

In March K'omoks First Nations gave its approval for this development to proceed. Subsequent meetings with the Town of Comox Chief Administrative Officer, Jordan Wall, have been very encouraging. With Jordan's assistance, we are working through the necessary steps to move this project forward.

On Wednesday July 22nd we presented a PowerPoint and oral presentation to the CVRD staff to seek their support. Following our meeting with CVRD staff, we were encouraged to have pickleball players attend and show support for the proposed indoor facility, our funding request, and the work being done to improve pickleball facilities in the Comox Valley.

We encourage you to join us and help demonstrate the strong community support for a dedicated indoor pickleball facility! This meeting will be held Tuesday July 28th at 2pm at the CVRD offices at 770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay.

Although it may sometimes feel as though we are moving at a snail's pace, progress is in fact, being made!!!! We continue to remind ourselves - "baby steps", in the hopes that before long those steps will turn into a run!!!

At the recommendation of Chief Administration Officer Wall, we are now turning to our membership for some help. If you or someone you know has experience in or expertise in any of the following areas:

- Surveying
- Architectural plans
- Environmental assessments
- Geotechnical studies
- General contractor

Please contact the sub-committee at cvpa2015@gmail.com

We are preparing for a feasibility study to determine whether the property can accommodate our proposed facility. Anyone who can offer knowledge, experience, or guidance at this stage would be an invaluable asset to the Subcommittee and a tremendous help in moving this project forward.

Lessons and Skill Development

One of the ongoing challenges for the club continues to be court availability for lessons, clinics, and player development programs. With membership growth and increasing demand for instructional play, court space remains limited at the Rotary Highland courts.

The good news is that the addition of the new courts in Courtenay, it is expected to significantly improve the situation. The preliminary plan is to move much of our scheduled lessons and training programs to the new facility, where dedicated instructional times can be booked in advance on a more consistent basis.

In the meantime, we continue to make the best use of the court time currently available. Joe has once again launched his popular Skills & Drills sessions on Tuesday afternoons, which continue to attract strong participation and positive feedback from members.

Joe has also restarted the Sunday morning Beginner Sessions, designed specifically for new players learning the fundamentals of the game in a fun and welcoming environment. In addition, lessons continue to be offered for members looking to further develop and elevate their game. Due to limited court availability, lesson times cannot currently be scheduled on a fixed weekly basis.

Members interested in instruction are encouraged to contact Rod directly to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Membership

As of 17 July, 2026 the CVPA membership stands at 652 - a slight increase from 647 members at the same time last year. We currently have 344 females (average age 63.4) and 308 males (average age 64.4). Our youngest member is 11 years old while our most senior member, Bud, is 96 years young and still playing 3 times a week!!!!

Membership Renewal

For those of you that have not renewed your 2026 CVPA membership this gentle reminder should be just what you need to get the job done. A reminder all players at scheduled playtimes must be CVPA members.

The membership fee is \$37.88 and will be valid until December 31st, 2026.

When renewing your membership **please remember to use your current membership number** which is accessed on the registration page. This will prevent you having a duplicate membership (2 membership numbers) which makes more work for the CVPA volunteers and could complicate things for you if you register for something (Christmas party, clinic, tournament, etc.) in the future.

This is the link that you can use to access the renewal page and the fill in form that you will need to complete -

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

Your CVPA Membership Will:

1. Include membership in Pickleball BC (PBC) & PCO with their benefits
2. Give you access to all the great discounts on Member Benefits
3. Give the CVPA the credibility to go forward in applying for grants;
4. Contribute to the development and utilization of local Pickleball facilities;
5. Enable you to participate in CVPA Training Academy lessons and competitive and non competitive events offered by the CVPA.
6. Maintain the CVPA Training Academy on a cost-neutral basis;
7. Help promote youth involvement through clinics & training sessions
8. Cover operating expenses such as our website cvpickleball.ca pickleball assets (ball machines, gates, signage, protective fence tops, etc.);
9. Include participant sport insurance through Pickleball Canada;
10. Enable you to receive the CVPA member newsletter;
11. Enable you to receive the PCO & PBC newsletters with wonderful articles, timely information, rule updates, very useful tips & lots of other great material
12. Enable you to join in on fun social activities.
13. Enable you to participate in member only tournaments and leagues.

Introducing the New CVPA Member Benefit Platform

We are pleased to introduce a new benefit available for CVPA members!

As part of Pickleball Canada's commitment to providing greater value to its members and affiliated clubs, the new Member Benefit Platform is now live on the CVPA website.

The platform gives CVPA members access to hundreds of special offers, discounts and promotions from local businesses. It is easy to use, offers are simple to redeem, and it can help you save money at establishments you already know and support.

To explore the platform:

1. Log in to the CVPA website

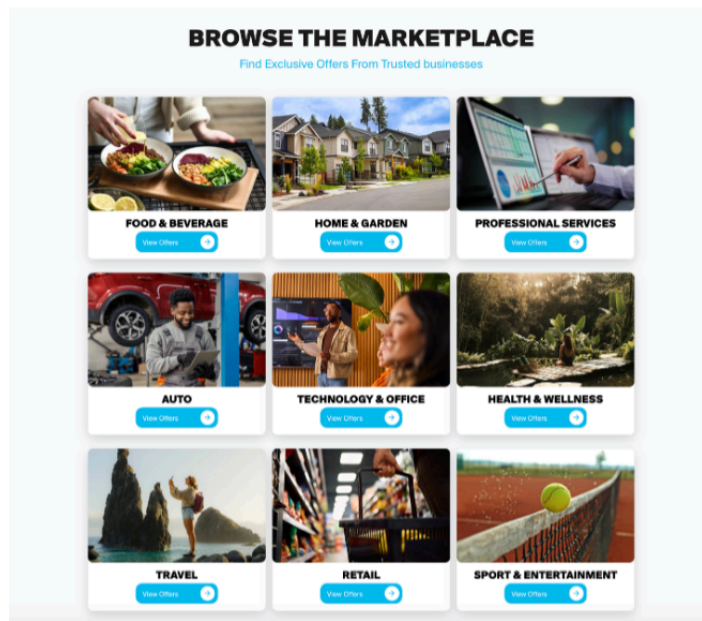
<https://secure.pickleballcanada.org/club/comox-valley-pickleball-association/1059/member-benefits/11852/>

2. Click "Member Benefits."

3. Browse the available offers and follow the simple redemption instructions.

If you are a CVPA member who owns a business and would like it listed on the platform—or if you know of a business you think should be included—please email me at rodhamilton@shaw.ca

Our Member Benefit Committee will follow up with the business and help get it added. Log in today, take a look around, and see what the new Member Benefit Platform has to offer.



AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Access

To ensure that all CVPA members have access to the automated external defibrillator (AED), a new exterior access door has been installed on the back of the storage shed at the Comox Rotary Highland courts.

Every CVPA member will receive the door combination in a separate email. Instructions for opening the access door will also be posted directly below it.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the location of the AED and the access instructions. In an emergency, knowing where it is and how to reach it quickly could save a life.



CVPA Scheduled Play Times - Membership

Your CVPA board has approved the implementation of a “guest fee” for non-members or visitors that wish to play during the Suggested Play Times at the Rotary Highland Courts and at Martin Park Courts.

The reason for this decision was based on several factors:

1) As we continue working to improve pickleball facilities throughout the Valley, the number of CVPA members plays a very important role in advocating for additional courts and the ongoing maintenance of our existing facilities.

For visitors or non-members who plan to play several times, becoming a CVPA member is the most cost-effective option and helps strengthen our voice within the community. Those who only expect to play occasionally may find the \$5.00 drop-in fee to be the better choice.

2) The work of the CVPA has been fully responsible for establishing the pickleball venues currently enjoyed by players throughout the Valley. We encourage all players using these facilities to become members of the CVPA in support of these ongoing efforts.

The \$5.00 drop-in fee has been implemented to help ensure that all players contribute to the development, improvement, and maintenance of local pickleball facilities.

3) As a CVPA member, players are not only investing in the club itself, but also contributing to the development and upkeep of the venues the CVPA has worked hard to establish. The Board felt it was important that all players using these courts contribute in some way.

For that reason, a \$5.00 drop-in fee was introduced for visitors and non-members to help ensure everyone playing on the courts is supporting the facilities and the ongoing work of the CVPA.

4) Most pickleball clubs charge a fee to participate in club play. We have also been advised by Pickleball BC and Pickleball Canada that the CVPA is one of the very few clubs that has allowed visitors and non-members to participate in club play times without paying a fee.

The introduction of the drop-in fee helps bring the CVPA more in line with common practices at other clubs while ensuring continued support for local pickleball facilities and programs.

5) The fee applies only to players who wish to participate in club play with CVPA members during the designated club play times, which are generally in the mornings. Players who wish to use the courts outside of these suggested club play times are welcome to do so without paying the fee.

6) If someone does not wish to pay this fee, the coordinators of all our play times are aware that, if the courts are full, a net must be set up in the lacrosse box to allow access to that area. In this way, we are not preventing anyone from playing and we are adhering to the arrangement we have with the Town of Comox and the City of Courtenay.

Hopefully this helps clarify our new policy. If you have any questions or comments. Please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to respond as quickly as possible.

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. All that at this link below. Note the play time coordinators and our Facebook groups publish the school use times.

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

THANK YOU!!!

In May approximately 30 volunteers responded to our request for help at the BC Bike Race in Cumberland. Our crews worked hard on Thursday evening setting up over 210 tents for the athletes. On Friday volunteers staffed the waiver and registration tables, helping to ensure a smooth and efficient process for participants. The CVPA received a generous contribution of \$1,500 for our efforts, which is the first deposit into the indoor facility fund. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who volunteered and helped get this job done!

As a result of that contact, we were subsequently invited to provide volunteer support at the Filberg Festival over the August long weekend. Lisa Scheck volunteered to take on the coordination of this project and has successfully filled all 60 volunteer shifts over the three-day event.

Our sincere thanks go to Lisa and to all of those wonderful members who will be out in the parking lot helping to park cars. Your willingness to volunteer and support the CVPA is greatly appreciated!

CUMBERLAND FUN DAY FUNDRAISER

Rain didn't dampen the spirits of the CVPA members in Cumberland on July 16th, where the summer fun day fundraiser was held for the food bank.

Thanks to Al Lobban for organizing the event, thank you to Chantal and Paul for providing some lessons and demo Selkirk paddles. Thank you to all those that participated and the funds raised.

A big thank you to Steph and Glenna for hosting participants after for a fabulous lunch.



PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

The Comox Valley Pickleball Association **strongly encourages** all members to wear protective eyewear. 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.

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 max 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 precedence** on the public courts at Rotary Highland.

CVPA Merchandise Sales Coordinator

Thank you to Gail Tellett who has generously volunteered to take on this position as merchandise coordinator. Gail's email address is tellettg@yahoo.ca

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

Check out the items the CVPA has on the online store by clicking on the link above. Ordering is simple and delivery is quick. What more could you ask for? Get some swag today and then you can "represent" on the courts!!!! We have also added golf shirts to available items with the CVPA logo.

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:



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/club/comox-valley-pickleball-association/1059/>

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 Gail at tellettg@yahoo.ca

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

<https://www.facebook.com/cvpickleball.ca>

Comox Valley Pickleball Discussion on Facebook

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

Email cvpa2015@gmail.com

CVPA Newsletter Submissions

We encourage our members to submit ideas for future CVPA newsletters. We welcome fundraising events, write ups on member profiles, we have some amazing members and stories that should be shared.

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 <https://picklepaddles.ca/>

Contact Leanne at kleannewebster@gmail.com

The 2025/2026 Board of Directors as follows:

President	- Rod Hamilton
Vice-President	- Allan Hughes
Treasurer	- Ron Dumbarton
Secretary	- Donna Turner
Facilities Chair	- Todd Southen
Social Chair	- Beau Calnan
Membership/Schedule Chair	- Donna Turner
Communications Chair	- Allan Hughes
Director at Large	- Moira Ashlee
Director at Large	- Russ Portigal