

## Pamela Martin

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**From:** Brad Franklyn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** May 22, 2025 9:22 AM  
**To:** Municipal Hall  
**Subject:** Re: Support for four pickleball courts at court #1 at Centennial Park

**Categories:** Pickleball

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Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to you in regards (and in support) of a motion that was made from a Councillor at a recent council meeting to convert tennis court #1 at Centennial Park to four purpose-built and permanent pickleball-only courts.

I grew up in Central Saanich (on Mahon Place) and Centennial Park where I played all of my youth baseball, soccer, BMX, slo-pitch and decades of tennis as a youth and as an adult. Centennial Park is a beautiful and an amazing sports park and having four purpose-built and permanent pickleball courts on site would only add to the park's usage, enhance its majestic character, and it would further cement itself as one of the best and progressive all-around sports parks on the South Island.

And as pickleball players know, there are currently no purpose-built and permanent pickleball courts on the Saanich Peninsula.

With the closure of the pickleball courts in North Saanich the demand for pickleball courts is at an all-time high on the peninsula. There are fifteen tennis courts and zero pickleball courts on the peninsula. How is this right or fair? There is a distinct and concerning court inequity here (and has been for many years now). And this is coming from a sports player and enthusiast who has played a variety of sports (including tennis) for decades. Converting court #1 at Centennial Park would be a great start in solving this court inequity for this amazing, fun and growing sport of pickleball (and for the grand and growing number of people who participate and play the game).

\*Pickleball has recently surpassed tennis in participation numbers in North America.


And with all due respect, the multi-sports box being built in Centennial Park is a band-aid solution and is not a viable long-term plan for the sport of pickleball (temporary pickleball nets on a multi-court usage site is not the answer). In addition, access to use the pickleball courts will be limited and severely restricted as lacrosse is the primary tenant (and rightfully so). Lacrosse will block out a lot of court time along with other sports and panorama programs.

A purpose-built and permanent pickleball site (such as this current court conversion motion and proposal) has permanent pickleball nets, painted lines for only pickleball, and is not shared with any other sports. If the motion is passed and the proposed court conversion is executed, it will be one of the busiest and most used sports areas in Centennial Park throughout the year (as pickleball can be played year-round, even when the courts are slightly damp). In further, it will be a very efficient use of the land and court area (per square footage) in relation to the joy that it will bring to hundreds (if not thousands) of people. Four purpose-built and permanent pickleball courts (in the same amount of area as one tennis court) can facilitate 16 players (while a tennis court can facilitate a maximum of 4 players).

It is my understanding as a VRPA member and as a longstanding pickleball and tennis player that the pickleball associations and the pickleball community will finance (or help and aid to at least partly finance) this court conversion, and thus, at no cost (or at a reduced cost) to the Municipality of Central Saanich.

It is with hope and happiness that Mayor and Council can come to a decision that would make this juncture an amazing experience and a promising future for the sport of pickleball on the Saanich Peninsula. Converting tennis court #1 at Centennial Park makes ideal, perfect and complete sense and would put this park on the map as one of the best (if not the best) all-around sports parks on the South Island. And, in all honesty, it would also afford me another good reason to move up the road and back into my homeland of Central Saanich.

Sincerely and with thanks and gratitude,

Brad Franklyn  
Pickleball and Tennis Player  
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Sent from my Commodore VIC-20

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