

Nareka Jacques

From: Roger Graves <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 3:56 PM
To: Municipal Hall
Subject: Support for 4 pickleball courts at court #1 at Centennial Park

Categories: Pickleball

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Dear Mayor and Councillors:

I write as President of the Victoria Regional Pickleball Association, the largest organization representing the interests of pickleball players in the South Island. With over 900 members total and well over 100 members in Central and North Saanich, we are committed to helping people of all ages, races, and abilities enjoy pickleball and realize the many health and social benefits associated with playing pickleball.

As a relatively new sport and as the fastest growing sport in the world, pickleball has become something of a phenomenon: interest and participation levels have taken off in the past ten years. While that can be a good thing, it has also put a lot of pressure on existing facilities throughout the region. The 2024 regional strategy report (<https://files.trackie.com/uploads/redactor/2024-03-06-04-20-27-1760401427-51759.pdf>) for Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich, and Esquimalt identified this lack of facilities. In response, Victoria is currently constructing 11 courts at Topaz Park; Saanich is constructing 6 courts at Fowler Park, and Juan de Fuca recreation centre has another 6 courts set to open in the next couple of months. In the North and Central Saanich areas, 4 courts have been lost. Our members on the peninsula (and the many others who are not members but do play) need access to public courts.

The proposal before council is an important step forward to creating spaces for pickleball players to thrive, both physically and socially. I hope that council will approve the motion and create a new space for the residents of Central Saanich to meet and play.

Respectfully,

Roger Graves
President, Victoria Regional Pickleball Association
Level 2, National Coaching Certification Program

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