

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

We, the undersigned, are a Committee that represents the interests of a group of pickleball players in the Town of St Marys.

Pickleball, as you know, is one of the fastest growing sports in North America, and offers opportunities for all ages of life, from youth to adulthood and long into senior years. It is now being taught in some Secondary and Elementary Schools in Ontario and young people and families are encouraged everywhere to partake in the sport, which is beneficial for fitness, camaraderie, and personal growth.

Currently, through the Seniors Program at The Friendship Centre in St Mary's, there are 52 people who regularly play Pickleball two days a week at the Friendship Centre and one evening a week at the High School, where the marked Pickleball courts are shared with Badminton, Basketball and Volleyball. The available courts are often operating at capacity, with people waiting for the opportunity to take part in a game.

However because of the times that the courts are available, and the cost involved, many residents of St Marys are not being given the opportunity to enjoy the sport and the benefits it provides.

Many of us in this active 'Senior' pickleball group have been approached by people outside of the 'Senior' group who have expressed interest and desire to learn and play Pickleball.

The Town of St. Marys hired a consulting group to extensively research and prepare a **Recreational and Leisure Services Master Plan** for the benefit of all residents of St. Marys.

On March 27th, 2018, after discussion, Council voted to accept the recommended report which stated, in part, as follows:

“48. Delineate playing boundaries for pickleball on two of the existing tennis courts (tennis court lines are to remain). Consideration should be given to using a distinct boundary colour to differentiate playing areas in order to avoid confusion between the two sports as well as installing a strap system to allow the net to be adjusted. The Town should subsequently monitor utilization, as well as work with the St. Marys Social Tennis Club and pickleball players to ensure that game scheduling does not conflict between the two activities, particularly during tournaments and special events. The need to expand the supply of outdoor tennis and pickleball courts should be evaluated during an update to the Master Plan, which should be based on court usage and demand.”

This would not prevent the Courts from also being used for Tennis and would create an opportunity for more people, including youths, adults and families, to enjoy a healthy and assist in promoting a Healthy Lifestyle. We believe the pickleball community should have the opportunity to access free outdoor recreation and to play at their discretion.

We, the committee, respectfully urge Council to adopt this recommendation to mark Pickleball Lines on 2 of the 4 existing Tennis Courts as soon as possible to enable the summer of 2018 to become one of enhanced recreational opportunities for residents of and visitors to St Marys.

(signed) Doug Diplock, Angela Leis, Marg Angus, Cathy Gough, Dave Baxter, Marianne DeBrabandere