

Pickleball is flourishing at the Acton Arena



Submitted photos

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By: Jane Dougan

If you haven't heard of pickleball before now, get ready to hear a lot more about it—it's the fastest growing sport in Ontario and, thanks to the enthusiastic Halton Hills Pickleball Players Group (PPG), it's flourishing in Acton. The 30 plus pickleball players turn up Wednesdays mid-afternoon at the arena. The game owes its origins to an American family dog named Pickle that had a habit of running away with the ball. Played with a smooth plastic whiffle ball, it's a combination of tennis, badminton and table tennis. It took several decades to spread north but, according to Halton Hills PPG President Roy Yardley, "It's infectious. It's a very social game where people interact; it creates a big gathering of very happy people, and it attracts everybody—tennis players, golfers, all ages."

The Canadian Pickleball Association was established in 2012. The Halton Hills PPG began promoting Pickleball in early 2016 after productive discussions with the Town of Halton Hills and the support of the Halton Hills Active Living

Centres. During spring and summer, pickleball is played at the Acton Arena each Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome at a nominal charge, to play or simply to enjoy. There are now over 100 members on the circulation list. Their winter venue was the Alliance Church gymnasium in Georgetown which can accommodate about 20 players. With more than 30 players showing up to play most Wednesdays over the summer, they may have to approach the Town for more accommodation this fall.

As Yardley explained, "We go and we coach people right from the very beginning, even if they know absolutely nothing about it. Even if they've never picked up a paddle before, we will take them from the ground up to a level where they can enjoy the game." In August, the PPG will participate in two local kid's camps. For more information, visit the Acton Arena on Wednesday afternoons, or contact the group by email at, haltonhills.pickleball@gyardley.com

We will be closed Monday August 7 for the Civic Holiday

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