

BC Residents picks Pickleball as #2 Favourite Activity!

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RESIDENTS IN BC have more and more venues and opportunities to learn and play picklball today; on January 9th, 2017, Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre became the 15th community centre in Vancouver to schedule a weekly pickleball program. The admission-free open house was attended by 18 players on four-courts: 10 bland new players were given Level I introductory course by volunteer instructors, joined by other experienced players. A Level I instructors' course was simultaneously conducted by Mr. Chuck LeFaive, President of BC Pickleball Association. A couple of the newly trained and certified instructors came up to offer to serve as volunteer facilitators for the newly installed program at the Centre, as their roles are indispensable to maintain and develop this fun sports.



AS OF WINTER, 2017, pickleball program is offered throughout Vancouver community centres, which are scheduling the total of 31 programs each week. In Lower Mainland, at least 40 community centres now offer 103 programs per week, as **pickleball was voted #2 favourite activity by the BC residents to help celebrate Canada's 150th birthday**, according to the Vancouver Sun (Jan 9, 2017):

*"What do Canadians rate as their favourite activities? Well, here in British Columbia hiking tops the list. Across Canada, hiking is also tops although if you're in Saskatchewan baton twirling — yes you heard that right — is number one. After hiking, **pickleball** and biking round out the top three activities as voted by British Columbians. In case you're wondering, the second has nothing to do with pickles and everything to do with a little perforated plastic ball and you hit with paddles over a net — a cross between table tennis on steroids and badminton but without the birdie." (<http://vancouversun.com/health/diet-fitness/crawl-off-the-couch-and-chop-wood-participation-marks-canadas-150th-anniversary-with-its-150-play-list-challenge>)*

BC PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION also reaches out to schools and other remote regions of BC to introduce the popular sport. The week starting on January 16, a several volunteers visited Forsyth Road Elementary School to teach some 200 students (3rd – 7th) how to play pickleball, using the existing three badminton courts in its gymnasium.



HERE IS THE 2017 SCHEDULE of instructions to be given by the members of BC Pickleball Association:

- 1) January 26th - April 27 @ Timms Community Center – Langley
- 2) Feb 14-17 @ St. Bernadette Elementary School, Surrey, BC
- 3) Feb 20-21 @ Star of the Sea Elementary School, Surrey, BC
- 4) April 27-28 in Williams Lake, BC for adult and school children