



MEDIA RELEASE

Niagara-on-the-Lake Preparing to Reopen Outdoor Pickleball Courts

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2024

Get your paddles ready, Niagara-on-the-Lake! The Town is happy to share that its outdoor pickleball courts at the Virgil Sportspark (1565 Four Mile Creek Road) will reopen on June 17, 2024, just in time for summer.

The pickleball courts will be open to the public on the following days:

- **Monday – Friday**
 - **One court:** 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 - **Six courts:** 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - **Three courts:** 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- **Saturday and Sunday**
 - **One court:** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - **Three courts:** 12:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

“The pickleball courts have always been a popular hub for the community, and the reopening has been highly anticipated,” stated Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. “Recreational activities, such as pickleball, are essential to maintaining a healthy lifestyle and promoting social involvement within the community.”

In 2022, the Town faced a legal challenge regarding its Noise By-law due to concerns about noise levels from the outdoor pickleball courts. The Town's defense was unsuccessful. On June 15, 2022, the Provincial Court judge temporarily paused the use of the outdoor courts for two years. Despite the legal proceedings, this period provided an opportunity for constructive dialogue and community engagement. During this two-year hiatus, Staff accommodated pickleball on the dry pad in the Centennial Arena from mid-April to mid-August.

The court ruling lifts on June 15, 2024, marking a new chapter of collaboration and shared understanding within the community.

To help reduce noise levels, acoustic panels are being installed on the pickleball courts in the summer.



"Pickleball is a sport that transcends age and skill levels, making it a perfect community activity," stated CAO Bruce Zvaniga. "The Niagara-on-the-Lake community has shown great passion for the sport, and we're excited to welcome everyone back to the courts. A special thanks to our Parks and Recreation Division for their dedication to providing enjoyable recreational opportunities for all members of our community."

The Town encourages residents to come out and enjoy the newly reopened pickleball courts after they open on June 17, 2024. Whether you are a seasoned player or just starting, we welcome you to join the fun.

Information related to pickleball can be found at <https://www.notl.com/recreation-events/programs-activities/pickleball>.

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