



## TOWN STATEMENT

# Virgil Sports Park Pickleball Courts

**For Immediate Release**

**February 12, 2026**

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake recognizes the strong community interest regarding the potential temporary closure of the pickleball courts at Virgil Sports Park.

At its February 10, 2026, Committee of the Whole - General meeting, Council rose from Closed Session with direction to keep the courts closed for the remainder of the 2026 outdoor season and to develop a solution that provides pickleball players with access to an appropriate outdoor court this season. This direction will be considered for final approval at the February 24, 2026, Council meeting. Staff are already working to identify options for the 2026 season and will share more following Council's decision.

As this matter includes confidential legal considerations, certain discussions were required to take place in Closed Session in accordance with the Municipal Act. The Town remains committed to transparency and will continue sharing updates publicly whenever it is legally permissible to do so.

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in North America, with participation increasing rapidly across all age groups. As the sport continues to evolve, we remain committed to thoughtfully evaluating its impacts and ensuring our approach supports both community interest and long-term sustainability.

If Council approves the recommendation of the Committee, Staff will work with the NOTL Pickleball Club to determine next steps and explore appropriate outdoor alternatives for the 2026 season, in a manner that is in the best interests of the public. Any long-term plan will be communicated following the completion of the related investigation and Council consideration.

Pickleball opportunities remain available, including:

- Indoor: NOTL Community Centre (year-round) and Centennial Arena (spring and summer)
- Outdoor: Queenston Heights Park

The Town's goal is a balanced, sustainable solution that supports active recreation and strengthens community wellbeing.