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| **AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER**Shape, circle  Description automatically generated**Welcome to our August 2021 Newsletter. Included herein you will find information on our Membership, Inclusive Play & Scheduling, Facilitators, our Annual Club Tournament, League Play, Concussion Awareness, Washroom Facilities, Places to Play Indoor and Winter Programming.  Unfortunately, the planned ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for August 11 has been POSTPONED. Esther Pauls, our local Ward Councillor and supporter of Pickleball Hamilton, will be having surgery that day. We wish her well and a speedy recovery. We will let you know the new date once it has been rescheduled.** **COVID REMINDERS**As we all adapt to opening up post-COVID, please remember that protocols are still in place that impact our sessions. Please keep a 6-foot distance from others or wear a mask. NO paddle touching. Sanitize your hands and the ball after **EVERY** game.This is an exciting time to be part of the growth of Pickleball Hamilton. Your Board is always open to receiving feedback from you on your experiences and your suggestions for improvements.Linda Kawamoto               lkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com         Carolyn Buck                    cbuck@pickleballhamilton.comJessica Kawamoto            jkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com   Matt Cunningham              matthewmarrcunningham@gmail.comJohn Sharp                       jsharp843@me.com                           Haig Saadetian                 haig.saadetian@gmail.comRay Munro                        rays325e@yahoo.caMatt Kawamoto                 m.kawamoto@live.caFinally, if you would like to offer your time/expertise by volunteering to help run aspects of the Club or work on one of our Sub-Committees, we would be especially delighted to hear from you. Happy Pickleballing!Linda Kawamoto,Club President, Pickleball Hamilton Association   |

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|   **MEMBERSHIPLogo, company name  Description automatically generated** We are delighted to report that we have hit our 200 regular membership cap! We have 22 people on our waiting list. We have openings for more youth/family memberships (restricted to weekends from 4-8pm). Our cap was set in order that we can best cater for the pickleball play needs of our members over the Winter Season when we move indoors and facilities are limited. |

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| **WASHROOM ACCESS**A drawing of a house  Description automatically generated with medium confidence The Hill Park Recreation Centre will be opened from 5-8 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays from July 26 to September 6. We also now have a porta-potty on site, thanks to requests from Nora Grancich and Gabe Battaglia to Esther Pauls, who approached the city to get us the porta-potty. |

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| **INCLUSIVE PLAY & SCHEDULINGA picture containing clipart  Description automatically generated** As our membership has grown, we have endeavoured to ensure that everyone has equal opportunities for enjoyable and challenging play in accordance with their preferences. We have issued Inclusive Play Guidelines and have further modified our schedule based on observations and feedback. Whilst it is early in the process and there is room for improvement, we would like to thank all members for their fabulous efforts to help out any players in a lower level. We have noticed who you are and have seen some great mixing at open play. We are becoming one big happy pickleball family!! |

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| **FACILITATORS**A picture containing shape  Description automatically generated We have issued a guide for the role of a Facilitator at our sessions. This is an important role that comes with responsibilities. Without our volunteer Facilitators, there will be no sessions at Hill Park. Please respect your volunteer Facilitator and their decisions at all times. Raise any concerns you may have with the volunteer Facilitator in a respectful and private manner. As we have grown, there is more demand for game time and that means we need more Facilitators. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Facilitator – please contact Jessica Kawamoto (jkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com).  |

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| **ANNUAL CLUB TOURNAMENTA picture containing clipart  Description automatically generated** **Cost:**$5 per person per event **Format:*** Courts 7-12
* Double elimination
* Games to 15, win by 2, cap at 17
* Medal Matches are 2 out of 3 games to 11

 **REGISTER by August 21st, 2021.**All members **(and only members)**are welcome to play!

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| **SATURDAY, AUGUST 28****Start Time:**8AM**Rain Date:**September 4 | **SUNDAY, AUGUST 29****Start Time:**8AM**Rain Date:**September 5 |
| **Categories** |
| * Men’s Doubles
* Ladies Doubles
* Mixed Doubles

 These categories will be further separated by Skill Levels. We are hoping for 3 categories:* 3.0 and under
* 3.0-3.5
* 4.0+

We will add/combine skill level draws based on entrants after registration closes. You may register with any partner for 2 events on this day. | * FUN Blind Doubles

   Register and you will be randomly assigned another member for your partner in a club-wide draw! |

 To enter, please send your name, event(s) and partner(s), and eTransfer $5 per person per event to jkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com by Friday, August 21st, 2021. Any member interested in playing on Saturday but looking for a partner should contact our organizers, Matt and Jessica Kawamoto (m.kawamoto@live.ca or jkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com). |

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| **LEAGUE PLAY**A picture containing transport, baby buggy, clipart  Description automatically generated Thank you to **Carolyn Buck,** **Rob Hill, John Sharp and Matt Cunningham** for getting the **league** up and running. 100 players across all skill levels playing in 10 Teams. Some pairs have yet to start but all those that have are having a blast! |

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| **CONCUSSION AWARENESS**Logo, company name  Description automatically generated Following receipt of a grant from The Sport Information Resource Center ([https://sirc.ca](https://sirc.ca/) ) in Ottawa, we are in the midst of a campaign to raise awareness of the real risk of concussions in Pickleball and mitigation measures. You should have seen two videos recently released featuring Matt Kawamoto, retreiving a lob in a safe manner. These videos have benefitted from the professional services of Brian Willrich. Further efforts are underway for more videos, posters from Scott Hardwick and Concussion Protocols and Policy. |

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| **PLACES TO PLAY (INDOOR)Chart, diagram  Description automatically generated**Beginning on July 26, 2021, there are 3 Hamilton Recreation Centres that have indoor play (**singles only**). Check it out on the rainy days!<https://www.hamilton.ca/recreation/pickleball> **Westmount**: Saturdays and Sundays**Central Memorial Recreation Centr**e: Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays**Huntington Park**: Saturdays |

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| **WINTER PROGRAMMING – HELP REQUIRED!** A picture containing different, several  Description automatically generatedWe have started inquiring about places to rent for the winter. For those of you who are new to Pickleball Hamilton, we have historically rented from school gyms for the winter. Unfortunately, due to COVID and increased demand, schools are getting harder to secure. We are looking to rent anywhere that we can that we can fit in pickleball courts. WE NEED YOUR HELP. Please let Linda know if you have a place in mind at lkawamoto@pickleballhamilton.com.We have already tried (or are trying) Schools (HWDSB, HWCDSB, HWFCDSB & HDCH), Mohawk College, McMaster University, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #163, indoor soccer facilities and local churches that have gyms. |

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| ***Pickleball Hamilton is dedicated to introducing, teaching and growing the game within the Greater Hamilton Community.    We are passionate about --and committed to--providing inclusive, varied and accessible programming in a well-maintained and safe environment.*** |

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