



## Community Services

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## Media Release

For Immediate Release

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### SUMMERLAND—Pickleball Court Upgrades

Pickleball has been dubbed the fastest-growing sport in Canada. The District of Summerland has responded to the local popularity of the sport and requests by the Summerland Pickleball Club to expand the number of dedicated pickleball courts in town.

With a contribution of \$5,000 from the Summerland Pickleball Club and an allocation of \$37,000 from the District's Asset Management Capital Works Reserve Fund, the multiuse court at Peach Orchard Campground was resurfaced to create four new dedicated pickleball courts. This brings the total pickleball courts at this location to six – a big step forward to meeting the needs of local pickleball players.

"Pickleball is a fun, yet competitive sport for all ages, primarily enjoyed by mature adults," said Summerland Pickleball Club president, Henry Sielmann. "There are 7,500 registered pickleball players in British Columbia, and well over 20,000 across the nation. The Summerland Pickleball Club was formed five years ago and now has over 150 members. We are entirely self-funded and perform our sport year-round, using leased gyms and outdoor courts. As we are emerging from COVID restrictions, we are excited to offer our membership improved facilities at the Peach Orchard Campground. We have worked closely with Community Services staff in the conversion of two outdated tennis courts to first two, then six pickleball courts. In addition to a one-time contribution of \$5,000, the club members pay fees for the use of the courts. In addition, all our members are insured through Pickleball Canada. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor and Council for their support of this project, and wish to express my appreciation for the excellent cooperation offered by all District staff."

"The District's updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2018) indicated that Summerland was relatively lacking in pickleball courts," said Summerland Mayor Toni Boot. "Resurfacing existing facilities to create four new courts is a great way to bring an underused, yet still functional, recreational amenity back to life. In addition, the six courts are surrounded by natural beauty—including Eneas Creek—and are a short walk to two of Summerland's three municipal beaches."

The new pickleball courts are now open for public play from 9:00 am to dusk at the Peach Orchard Campground (6321 Peach Orchard Road). The Summerland Pickleball Club has dedicated Club times Monday – Saturday from 9:00 – 10:30 am and Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:00 – 7:00 pm however one court is always open for public play during these bookings.

For more information on the pickleball courts, email [recreation@summerland.ca](mailto:recreation@summerland.ca) or call 250-494-0447.

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