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April 30, 2024 *edition 24*

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Belleville ON
September 23-24
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MAY FITNESS CHALLENGE

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Email info@osga55plus.ca and tell us what you did for a chance to win some OSGA merch!

London District 30 has **3 sets of Bocce Balls** to give away. If you're interested, please contact Kim Benke at kim.benke.xx@gmail.com

District 22 Swim meet - Hamilton

The meet went very well. Swimmers enjoyed themselves. Small numbers, but District 22 hopes to make this an annual event and attract more entries next year.



Article about the Electric Collective

Peterborough's Electric Collective won the Ontario 55+ women's hockey championship in February and will represent the province at the Canadian 55+ championships in Quebec City in August.



Great pickleball article on page 2 of Wellington Advertiser! (District 26)

2 | THE WELLINGTON ADVERTISER | APRIL 25, 2024

Local pickleball pair earn spot in Canada games

By Jessica Lovell

KITCHENER – Centre Wellington residents Bryce Richardson and Tim Porter are heading to the 2024 summer games – the Canada 55+ Summer Games that is.

"We're still in shock," Richardson said of learning that he and his pickleball partner had qualified for the national competition.

He and Porter competed in the Ontario Senior Games Association's 65+ men's doubles pickleball tournament in Kitchener on April 16, placing silver and earning them a berth in the Canada-wide competition.

The Canada 55+ Games is a biennial event, taking place this year from Aug. 27 to 30 in Quebec City.

Approximately 2,500 participants from across the country are expected to attend, competing in events that range from track and field, floor shuffleboard and golf to table tennis, slo-pitch, swimming and more.

Porter and Richardson will be focused on one event – pickleball – a sport Richardson said they took up because it's easier than tennis.

"We're originally tennis players," he said, noting he has a court in his backyard and still plays that sport, too.

Richardson took up pickleball seven years ago, and Porter has been playing for about two years, he said.

"It's the fastest growing sport in North America, so there's nothing hotter these days," said Richardson.

The popularity of the sport means competition for space to play can be fierce, but luckily Richardson can practise in his own backyard.

He said he expects the national tournament to be as competitive as it gets, but he and his partner are "as good as anybody."

In preparation, they will continue to practise, do their best to stay healthy, and generally "keep doing what we're doing," he said.



Pickleball silver – From left: Centre Wellington residents Bryce Richardson and Tim Porter pose with opponents Ken McGillivray and Rocco Pepe of Niagara on the Lake, and Ontario Senior Games Association board president Daria Thompson after placing silver in the Ontario 65+ Senior Games men's doubles pickleball tournament and qualifying for national competition. Submitted photo

30 Meeting Your (Life) Partner on the Pickleball Court!



30 Meeting Your (Life) Partner on the Pickleball Court!

By Felicia Urbanski (District 26)

I don't know about you, but whenever I watch yet another movie about an older couple finding love again, I get teary-eyed! I can't get enough of films like these. So when I got to know a lovely couple from Brockville, this past week when our District was hosting a 3.0 level pickleball tournament as a "direct path" to the Canada Games, I was elated! I met Terry Kennedy and Frances Gordon, who played as a mixed doubles team in the 65+ division, then came back to our tournament venue in Kitchener the very next day to help as volunteers when the 55+ group competed. During a moment when we weren't busy with running the tournament, I asked to hear their story.

It all started on January 30, 2016, when Terry and Frances met on the pickleball court at the Brockville YMCA. Terry had played tennis, but had never tried pickleball, so he decided to come that day to learn. Frances had been playing the game for a while, and before long Terry was able to pick up the game quickly. A few games & multiple chats later, he invited Frances out for coffee. Frances' husband had died in 2010, and Terry lost his wife back in 2005. So they were both single for several years, and each developed a mutual love for pickleball. One coffee date led to another and another, then real dating began and an understanding of how much they had in common & how much they liked each other developed. And sure enough, the 'liking' grew into 'loving' and a mutual appreciation of just "how lucky they were to get a second chance at love" !

Terry had been thinking about proposing to Frances at a 'unique venue'. Why not a pickleball court, since that was where they had first met ? He considered an upcoming tournament during the winter of 2020 in Waterloo at RIM Park. He phoned the convenor about the idea and if it would be appropriate to do so ? Jeff, the convenor, thought it was a great idea, got unanimous approval from his committee and indicated after regulation play, while reviewing the playoff format with all participants in the large gym, he would hand Terry the mic. He had even combined the original wedding rings of both of their late spouses at a jewelry store in order to present Frances with a ring for their engagement. He worried the whole time he was playing pickleball that day about the expensive ring just sitting amongst his belongings up in the bleachers!

So the big moment finally came....Terry was handed the mic. He thanked the tournament organizers & players and in front of about 100 55 plusers, he told the crowd he was going to do the ONE KNEE THING and slowly (still stiff from playing), got down on one knee and finally, he proposed !! Frances, still in shock, once able to speak, responded: "Yes....at some point!"

The crowd roared and gave them a standing ovation ! A man in the crowd yelled out: "At least she didn't say no!" Another big ovation from the crowd ! So big congratulations were in order, and it seemed like everyone in the crowd came by to meet them and wish them well, as they prepared to play the playoffs....

Fast forward..... as they are both over 70, each with grown children from their previous marriages and 6 grandchildren, they sold their respective homes, and purchased one together on the river, east of Brockville. No, they have not been married (yet!). Yes, they are living happily together, this second chance at love. Their theory - "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" !!

Terry and Frances played well in our OSGA 3.0 Pickleball tournament on April 16th, but they did not qualify to play in the Canada Games. However....our Ontario representative, Sheran Barker, invited them to play tennis as a doubles team in the age 70+ division of the Canada Games! So they are going to Quebec City after all. Il n'est jamais trop tard pour l'amour! (It's never too late for love.)

District 5: Remembering Glenn Arthur and Irene Churchill



The District 5 Board of Directors is sad to share the loss of long-time Senior Games Board Members Glenn Arthur and Irene Churchill. Both were dedicated individuals who tirelessly championed the cause of seniors.

Irene served as the District Coordinator for many years, where she expanded the scope of card activities and inspired many as a master card player. She was a fervent supporter of all participants, emphasizing the importance of competitive sportsmanship and fair play. Alongside her husband Gary, Irene played a pivotal role in overseeing various responsibilities within OSGA and District 5. Remarkably, she even took up baseball in her later years!

Glenn, as Vice President of the District, took charge of organizing numerous sports activities. Known for his hearty laugh and adept tournament organization, Glenn was always ready to tackle any task that came his way.

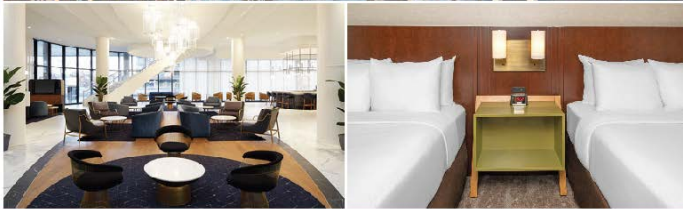
Saying goodbye to our dear friends is indeed difficult. Our hearts are with their families. They will be missed!

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**Venngo Memberperks:
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Get ready to enjoy some Memberperks fun! ?If you're unsure how to log in to your Memberperks account, email us at admin@osga55plus.ca for assistance.

Our OSGA Merchandise is in stock!

Unisex sizing, right now sizes come in Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large.

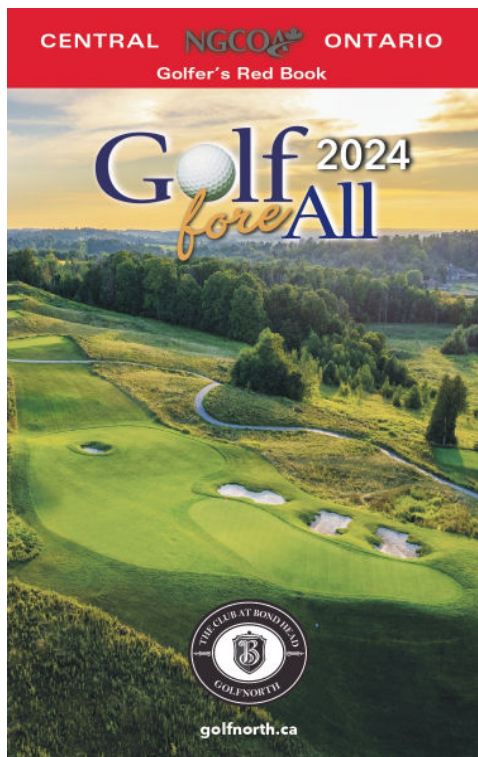
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OSGA MERCHANDISE



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OSGA VOLUNTEERS

We are still looking for Committee members!

The OSGA is always looking for more volunteers. There are different ways that you can get involved:

Board of Directors

It is the time of year again where the OSGA starts looking for interested and qualified individuals to join our Board of Directors. The AGM is in September and most positions stand for a two year term.
1-4 Hours a month time commitment- meetings held Virtually

Committees

If you have a skillset that could be of use to the OSGA, but do not have the time to serve as a Board Member, we urge you to consider joining one of our committees so we can continue to grow and move forward. Marketing, Technology, Revitalization, Rules & Events.
1-2 hours a month time commitment- Meetings held virtually

Districts

Our District's have their own committees that work to put on the local Games that you all know and play in. The Districts cannot operate with one person, so building a group to share the workload is imperative.

[District Committees information](#)

Please e-mail the office if you have any questions or would like to be connected with someone to talk to about your future volunteer opportunities. info@osga55plus.ca



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