

From: [Kyra Dunlop](#)
To: [Robert Hunt](#); [Town Clerk](#)
Cc: [Council](#); [SMT](#); [Tracy Nowak](#); [Michael Switzer](#)
Subject: RE: Proposed Pickleball User Fee Increase
Date: Friday, February 14, 2025 9:44:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hello,

Thank you for your below comments relating to the February 18, 2025 Public Meeting: 2025 Draft Budget. By way of copy I am forwarding same to Council and staff for information, and confirm your comments will be included in the followup staff report.

Kyra Dunlop

Deputy Clerk, BA (Hons)

Town of The Blue Mountains, 32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Tel: 519-599-3131 ext. 306| Fax: 519-599-7723

Email: kdunlop@thebluemountains.ca | Website: www.thebluemountains.ca

As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs, require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Robert Hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 9:41 AM
To: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Proposed Pickleball User Fee Increase

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

We are writing to express our concern over information provided to us at a recent neighborhood gathering and through subsequent conversations. Specifically, that the Town's facilities that are currently used by community members for Pickleball will be targeted (i.e., no similar increases for tennis, hockey, soccer and baseball and their facilities) in the 2025 budget for a major (71% ?) increase in user fees.

My friends and neighbours will undoubtedly write to you to emphasize the health and social benefits, especially to seniors, provided through participation in the recreational sport of Pickleball. We emphatically agree with them. However, we would also like to question what we understand was the reason behind the targeted increase.

We were informed that the rationale for this proposed increase was to make the user fee

rates for Pickleball community facilities and services comparable to those charged by private (for profit) sector facilities in Collingwood and Meaford. If true, we think that the underlying basis for this comparison is faulty for a number of reasons, including:

- While that Town's facilities are much appreciated, the service beyond high-level scheduling, fee payment collection and access to the facilities, are fairly basic; the private sector facilities that we believe you are using as a comparison have ongoing scheduling, use-specific courts, access to on-site bar /lounges, pro shops, the organization of lessons and tournaments for their members, etc.
- The Town facilities are subsidized by our tax dollars (which, in turn, fund the community facilities and services provided for the benefit of community members); we don't have a similar mandatory investment in private sector facilities, who in turn do not have an expected obligation to us for preferred access and services.
- We have heard through our Pickleball friends, who are members (or who were considering to be members) of these private sector facilities that the owners appear to be struggling to arrive at competitive and profitable pricing models (with the general opinion being that their fees are considered too high for sustained general membership, even when all the additional facilities and services are factored into the equation). A large part of the appeal of community based Pickleball compared to private clubs is that the average person can actually afford to play it.

Please consider the above, in addition to the other considerations that I am sure will be provided by other members of the large, local Pickleball community, to reconsider the nature and size of the proposed Pickleball user fee increase.

Sincerely,
Chris and Bob Hunt

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

February 14, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed removal of subsidies and the subsequent increase in rental fees for pickleball use both indoors and outdoors, which would result in a 71% increase for players. While I understand the need for responsible fiscal management, this significant fee increase would place an undue burden on one recreational activity and may limit participation in a sport that has brought numerous benefits to our residents.

Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing recreational activities in our town, attracting players of all ages and abilities. It promotes physical activity, mental well-being, and social engagement, contributing to a healthier and more connected community. Many of our local players are seniors who rely on the sport for exercise and social interaction, and such a drastic increase in fees may discourage their continued participation.

Beyond personal benefits, our pickleball community has demonstrated its support for the town in numerous ways, including organizing events, volunteering for community initiatives, and promoting active living among residents. The increase in fees could hinder these positive contributions by making participation less accessible.

I respectfully urge the Town Council to reconsider the removal of subsidies and explore alternative solutions that balance budgetary concerns while maintaining affordability for recreational activities like pickleball. A more moderate fee adjustment or a phased approach would be preferable to ensure continued accessibility and growth of this beneficial sport.

I'd like to commend the town staff who do an outstanding job of managing our recreational facilities and create a safe, clean and welcoming playing environment for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to our community and hope you will take these concerns into account.

Sincerely,
Lorraine Doherty

[REDACTED]

From: [Kyra Dunlop](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Council](#); [SMT](#); [Tracy Nowak](#); [Michael Switzer](#); [Town Clerk](#)
Subject: RE: Webform submission from: Town Clerk
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 12:17:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good afternoon,

I acknowledge receipt of the below comments and by way of copy I am forwarding same to Council and staff for information. Your comments will also be included in the follow-up staff report being provided to Council in the next few weeks. Thank you,

Kyra Dunlop

Deputy Clerk, BA (Hons)

Town of The Blue Mountains, 32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

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As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs, require communication supports or alternate formats.

From: Web Committee <webcommittee@thebluemountains.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 12:16 PM
To: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Webform submission from: Town Clerk

Submitted on Tue, 02/18/2025 - 12:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Name:

Brad Lloyd

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

How can we help you?

Topic.Fees an charges. Pickleball

I realize that I am late filing this email addressing the Fees and charges increases in the 2025 Budget.

I have been involved with Town staff during regular meetings they have with pickleball user groups of the town facilities. To date staff have advised during past meetings that the subsidy will soon be reduced.

The surprise in the budget is the addition of a 33% increase for indoor use and the 100% increase for outdoor use for pickleball fees.

The user groups who meet with the staff,have determined that we have 500 plus residents using these courts between Thornbury Pickleball Club, Independent contract users groups , and others that book time adhoc.

The majority feel as though Pickleball users are being targeted for this extreme increase to contribute revenue to the Town while other user groups of the facilities have very modest increases of 5% or less.

The Large Hall is a money maker for the town within the scope of the Community Centre and Tomahawk. There is no staff required on site during play. Users often clean the floors and are responsible for managing the thermostats and lock up as required. We have all worked closely with staff attempting to help minimize time that staff must engage in contracts by agreeing to longer contract periods for play and recommending online booking apps and software that allows for electronic booking and payments.

By comparing to other facilities that offer rates for play, please understand this may not be apples to apples.

Our indoor space is lanoleum flooring, very slippery, and not the best surface for pickleball. The ceiling is low compared to dedicated pickleball courts, and the nets are portable vs permanent . We are not complaining , as we are happy to have any space given the increased demand and growth for pickleball in our community.

We residents are hopeful you are willing to apply rate increases at a more reasonable rate. Perhaps start with subsidy changes before adding court cost increases on top of the subsidy drops. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Brad Lloyd

I would like a copy of my submission sent to my email address.

Yes

Any accompanying files are attached.