

March 5, 2025

**Re: Submission to Council for the March 10, 2025 Council Meeting regarding the proposed fee increase to Thornbury Pickleball Club**

I am an active member and volunteer of the Thornbury Pickleball Club (TPC), and I am writing to object to the increase in our fees. What Council is currently proposing for the Thornbury Pickleball Club is discriminatory, inequitable and not transparent. I have the following questions and comments for your consideration:

1. I do not understand why any user groups are given subsidies. Shouldn't the costs of renting space for pickleball be equitably divided amongst all users? Giving different user groups a different subsidy rate is discriminatory. Better transparency on fees across all pickleball user groups is needed.
2. One of the documents on the Town's website is the Town of The Blue Mountains 2021 Leisure Activities Plan.
  - a. On page 15 it states that the Town will...“Explore potential partnership...with community groups...to assist in provision of equitable program offerings across the entire Town...”  
My comment: Penalizing Thornbury Pickleball Club with inequitable fees is a direct contradiction of this Town document.
  - b. On page 27 the Plan states: “The older adult population remains a strong influence in the community. ...The Blue Mountains can offer retirees a healthy, active lifestyle.... They will continue to be a growing market...”  
My comment: If you overprice our fees, some of the “older adult population” of the Town who are members of the TPC will not be able to afford to play pickleball and maintain their active and healthy lifestyle! Again, the increase in the TPC fees is a direct contradiction to the Town's document.
3. One of the values on the Town's website under the Mission, Vision and Values page is “Integrity: Being honest, consistent and fair in all we do”. Again, Council is not being consistent or fair regarding the fees they are proposing to charge Thornbury Pickleball Club compared to other user groups.

I respectfully ask that Council take into consideration my concerns. Thank you.

Shelley Young