

May 7, 2019

Dear Mayor Eadie, Members of City Council, and Karen Kieffer

My name is Carolann Horton and I have been a resident of the Harbour Street Condominiums since 2007. I am writing on behalf of the Condo owners to express concern over the proposed addition of pickle ball to the Harbour Street tennis courts. I will tell you upfront that I am both a tennis player and a pickle ball player, and I am in support of providing outdoor courts for this popular sport. However, as a resident of the Condos, I am strongly opposed to bringing pickle ball into an already overly congested area. In making the decision on whether or not to add the additional activity I find it irresponsible that the residents in the affected area have never been notified about this issue, especially as it will have a significant impact on their lives.

I would like to share three concerns:

1). Safety

Over the past two years the traffic and parking on the lower end of Harbour street has become a safety issue for the residents in the condo. The parking on both sides of the street has made it difficult for the residents to get to our building, and impossible for service and emergency vehicles. This became a very real issue last summer when an ambulance could not get to our building due to the the traffic clogs. Since there is not enough parking already, the addition of 20 or more pickle ball players at one time will only enhance this chaos.

2). Noise

In reading through a number of the Provincial Noise By-Laws, the common thread was best stated by the town of Oakville:

All residents are entitled to a peaceful lifestyle.

According to ontario.ca, Provincial noise guidelines state:

Sound that causes or may cause an adverse effect is defined as a contaminant and requires an Environmental Compliance Approval as established in section 9 of the Environmental Protection Act

Noises are considered to be at an acceptable level if they are between 40 and 60 decibels, or match the ambient background noise- whichever is higher. Any sound above acceptable levels is generally considered noise pollution.

40 decibels is compared to a refrigerator, 60 decibels is compared to a dishwasher
Municipalities can prohibit noise that is likely to disturb peace, rest and quiet living spaces of residents. Municipalities have the authority to create and enforce bylaws that control or prevent noise disturbances.

If a municipal bylaw conflicts with guidance provided by the Environmental Protection Act, the EPA guidance prevails.

As a Pickle ball player, and as any other Pickle ball player will tell you, Pickle ball is a loud sport. It consists of players hitting a hard plastic ball with a wooden paddle, making a loud THWAK sound. Pickle Ball is also a short, fast paced game, usually lasting approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Additional players wait on the sidelines to rotate in for the next game. It is typical to have two or three courts in play at one time. For the people on the court the sound

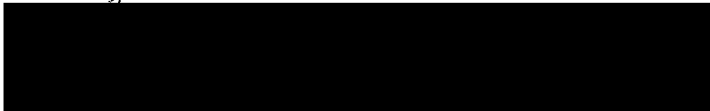
is just the sound of the game; For a person sitting in their living room or entertaining friends, or taking a nap, or watching TV, or sitting on their deck reading a book, the constant THWAK, THWAK, THWAK, THWAK of the ball is aggravating , annoying and completely inconsiderate. Pickle Ball is a definite violation of the Ontario Noise By-laws and should not be allowed to be played in such close proximity to residence and eating establishments, thus depriving people of their entitled peaceful lifestyle.

3.) Property Value

Property Value is frequently defined by "location, location, location ". Location is a big deal when buying or selling a property. Location can be positive, such as view, parks, tennis courts, restaurants. Location can also have a negative impact. Noise disturbances such as train tracks, fire stations, and busy streets can make a home uninviting. Pickle Ball is also a noise disturbance and is NOT a pleasant sound to a potential home buyer. If any of you have any doubt, take a lap or two around the upstairs track at the Davidson Centre while Pickle Ball is going on. Imagine what your life would be like if you had to listen to that from the comfort of your home. The Condo owners here have recently invested a great deal of time and money in improving the looks and function of our home. We hope that you will please respect this and allow us to maintain our peaceful living space.

Please take some time to discuss these very real concerns. Pickle Ball is a fun sport and is appealing to people of all ages and ability levels. Having an outdoor facility would be a benefit to our community. However, it does not belong in the heart of a residential area.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,



Carolann Horton

Carolann Horton

