

Examiner Letters to the Editor: Aug. 28

An Examiner has high praise for Peterborough Folk Festival.

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July Talk performs on the Miskin Law Main Stage during the return of the 35th annual Peterborough Folk Festival at Nicholls Oval Park in Peterborough this month. A reader says organization for the two-day event was exceptional.

Clifford Skarstedt photo

Praise for Peterborough Folk Festival

Our city should be proud of the fabulous venue at Nicholls Oval Park for the folk festival earlier this month. There was something for everyone and, indeed, large crowds came. Every age group was represented from toddlers

to older adults. Everyone was extremely well behaved, even the pets. The organization for the two-day event was exceptional. The parking was especially amazing. There were a large number of vehicles, most of which were accommodated on the grounds. Cars moved smoothly, entering and exiting under the capable assistance of many attendants.

A thunderstorm and downpour on Saturday night was handled smoothly with adjustments made, so the festival was able to continue.

Sunday was truly a sun day. Perfect weather for a wonderful closing program to a great festival.

I am a longtime resident of this city. My heart was warmed by the great people who attended. It renewed my faith in what has always been a wonderful place to live.

Arlene Petrany (Payne), Peterborough

Park plan upsets more than neighbours

It's not only the immediate neighbours who are upset at the city's plan to site a pickleball complex at Bonnerworth Park. Data from the sale of more than 400 lawn signs shows opposition to the plan is brewing in all parts of Peterborough.

Save Bonnerworth Park's petition against the project has garnered roughly 7,800 signatures in a city of 92,219: that's 8.5 per cent of the population.

In comparison, the Connect Peterborough consultation received 840 responses, representing less than one per cent of the population.

Save Bonnerworth Park volunteers have reached out to thousands about the city's plan for Bonnerworth and vastly increased public awareness about the issues involved. The Catholic school board, Peterborough Baseball Association, past arena parks and recreation advisory committee members and those displaying Save Bonnerworth Park lawn signs tell the story. There is widespread opposition to the plan to pave the park's green space for pickleball. Why won't city council listen?

I recently travelled to Victoria, B.C., where noise complaints have forced more than one pickleball facility to close or limit playing time.

One solution in Victoria's Beacon Hill Park caught my eye. After the park went car-free, pickleball lines were drawn and nets put up on unused parking areas. This solution is one that could be used in Peterborough — both Fleming and Trent have huge parking areas that are lightly used in the summer, when outdoor pickleball is being played.

There are likely many other such locations that could be brainstormed. This is the type of win-win solution that Save Bonnerworth Park is trying to highlight. There are enough hard surfaces in Peterborough — let's protect our green spaces and put pickleball on existing pavement.

Erin McGauley, Peterborough

Reader sounds off on pickleball noise

Anyone who thinks pickleball noise is not going to affect surrounding neighbours is not aware of how the decibel scale works. It is logarithmic, not linear.

Our minds always default to linear comparisons when we see incremental increases in measurements. A simple way to think of the decibel (dB) scale is that an increase of three dB represents roughly a doubling of the sound energy. Three dB is the range of increase due to pickleball noise that the noise impact study predicts for Bonnerworth.

Pickleball noise falls into humans' most sensitive frequency range, so we hear it better from further away. Simply put, the high-frequency noise carries and this noise is the very reason the courts are being moved from Knights of Columbus Park. This fact has somehow been lost sight of.

Peterborough Pickleball Association (PPA) president Shelley's Moloney's suggestion that "asking pickleball players to use quieter rackets is like asking golf players to use different equipment" is ridiculous.

Golfers do not hit their balls with the noise, frequency and proximity to people's homes that pickleball is going to subject the Bonnerworth neighbourhood to. Golfers pay for their own places to play and are not expecting the taxpayer to pick up the tab for their facilities.

Golfers do not seem to be in the habit of pushing kids and students out of their playgrounds so they can whack a ball around. Golf does not generate noise complaints from surrounding residential neighbourhoods.

Please don't insult the intelligence of the taxpaying citizens of this city at the same time you are trying to get them to pay for what is, for all practical purposes, the PPA's private tournament facility.

Elaine Gerelus, Peterborough

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