## New 'joint-friendly' surface to be installed at Memorial courts

**Penny Coles** Niagara Advance

Thanks to a provincial grant, the Memorial Park tennis courts will be receive a new 'joint-friendly' playing surface, with work beginning this fall for completion next spring.

"You've never seen a happier group of people. It was great to see all those smiling faces," said Lord Mayor Dave Eke, who attended Sunday's announcement of funding at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club.

"This is a very positive thing for our community."

Discussions began more than a year ago between the tennis club and the Town over the need for court resurfacing, with the understanding that the expensive project would wait until grant money was available.

The courts were last resurfaced in 2001 when an artificial turf was installed, but it didn't last as well as expected, and required extensive maintenance.

A \$70,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant announced last week will go toward removing the existing carpet and replace it with a new surface that meets the need of the Town and the tennis club-an rubberized asphalt

surface that is easier on the joints for tennis players.

"Hopefully," said tennis club president Ian Waddell, "this improvement will encourage even more residents to take up this great sport."

The 2013 parks and recreation budget includes \$95,000 for the resurfacing of the courts, which will cost \$181,621.

The difference, includ-

ing any increase in costs above what is budgeted. will be picked up by the tennis club, which is transferring \$20,000 to the town for funding the resurfacing.

"This is a good example of a great partnership," said Coun. Jim Collard, of the relationship between the

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Town and the tennis club.

"Every time we've needed something, they've stepped up."

The work will take place over seven weeks this fall, with another two and a half weeks to colour the courts next spring before the season begins.

9 a.m.-10 p.m.



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Ross Robinson of the NOTL Tennis Club, MPP Kim Craitor, Harvey Haggert of the Trillium Foundation. Lord Mayor Eke and Ian Waddell of the tennis club were on hand Sunday for the announcement of the good news about a new surface for tennis courts.

Photo provided

