

# NOTL Tennis Club hoping for grant to resurface and expand courts

Project depends on federal government infrastructure grants for improvements to recreational facilities

**Penny Coles**  
Niagara Advance

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club could have two new courts and a new surface on the four existing courts for the start of the 2014 season.

Parks and recreation director Clive Buist hopes to take advantage of a federal government infrastructure grant that could pay up to half the cost of the improvements to the Memorial Park tennis courts, with the town and the tennis club funding the remainder of an estimated \$280,000 project.

The courts are currently surfaced with an artificial turf that was installed in 2001, and that hasn't lasted as well as expected.

It was anticipated to be a low-maintenance surface when installed, but instead, has to be brushed often to redistribute the sand on the turf, and the more play the courts receive, the more brushing is required.

The membership of the club has increased significantly in recent years, adding more wear and tear to the existing carpet than anticipated.

The cost of the carpet has increased substantially since it was first installed—Buist says he has been quoted \$156,000 for just the four courts.

The estimated \$280,000 includes resurfacing the courts with an asphalt or concrete base with an acrylic finish, adding the tow new courts, and replacing the fencing and lighting.

If the grant is not successful, the Town has budgeted \$90,000 just for a new surface in 2015, but if approved, the town will pay \$95,000 toward the \$280,000 project.

In a letter to the parks and recreation department, tennis club president Ian Waddell says that

this summer, with the hot and dry conditions, a lot of loose sand rises to the top of the carpet, creating unsafe playing conditions and by causing players to slip, slide and fall.

Ideally the courts should be resurfaced for next season, but it is understood that this will not be feasible, he said in his letter to the town.

With most of the members over 55 in age—some in their 80s—a "gentle" surface is required, and acrylic on a durable base meets that requirement and eliminates the problem of the sand, he said.

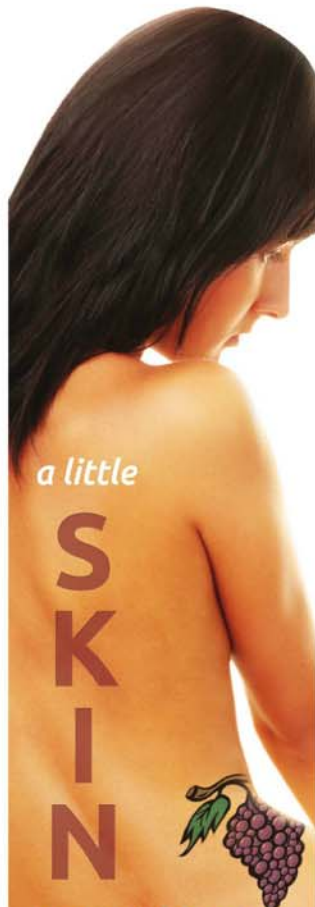
The club membership continues to increase, and courts are often fully booked, except during the mid-day when the sun is most intense, leading to the request for the two additional courts "to ensure future demand can be satisfied."

The club has offered \$45,000 toward the cost of the project.



Finalists in the 2012 Mixed Doubles Tournament held at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club, Thitima Christopher and Hugo Lirio.

Niagara Winemakers.



COME 'LOUNGE' WITH US  
RAGGIHIS

SILVER GOLD UNWANTED OLD OR BROKEN

### Great effort



Queenston Volunteer Firefighters' Zach Middleton Mazzone kicks the ball in a match with Penner Building Centre in minor atom action of the NOTL Minor Soccer Association. Penner shut out Queenston 6-0.

### NOTL Realty Trophy winners



Scott McGregor and Dorothy Booth were winners of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty Trophy in the doubles tournament at the NOTL Tennis Club.