



JUSTFOURTENNIS
457 IGNATIEFNA STREET
PETROLIA ON N0N1R0

January 26, 2022

Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc,
52 Frank Street,
Strathroy ON N7G 2R4
Attn: Darren Dowding – Supervisor of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Re: Cedar Trees and Tennis Courts – Fairgrounds Recreation Complex

Dear Mr. Dowding,

JUSTFOURTENNIS has been involved in the maintenance and improvements for the four tennis courts at the Fairgrounds Recreation Complex on at least 3 separate occasions. As requested, we submit our report regarding the cedar trees along the north-west side of the courts.

Cedar trees are used frequently for wind and shade protection. They are dense in growth and very resistant to adverse weather conditions. There are two types of cedars adjacent to the courts – these are detailed below.



There are however negative impacts on tennis courts.

These are as follows:

1. Court Safety: Shedding from the cedars occurs seasonally with residuals having a significant impact on the court surface. Along with staining, when the residuals break

down, they can fill the course texture of the court surfacing resulting in a smooth surface which is extremely slippery when damp. This can be hazardous for players on the court.

2. Drainage: The cedar shedding residual also accumulates at the base of the exterior fence line. This forms restrictions for court runoff and results in ponding along the court side of the fence line. While the surfacing is very durable to wet conditions, it will quickly degrade if submerged on a continuous basis.
3. Court Surface Structural Base: Cedar trees general have a shallow root structure which can radiate out with the potential to damage adjacent structures. While the lateral root system tends to be the fibrous feeder type, there is evidence of minor surface irregularities associated with tree root damage.
4. As mentioned, drainage flows off the courts towards the cedar trees. To provide the ideal drainage conditions, the crossfall on the adjacent ground should be at least 3%. Currently the grade is 0% (level) with the courts further restricting runoff.

Recommendations.

Given the impact of the cedar trees on the tennis courts, the following is recommended:

1. Remove all cedar trees along the northwest side of the tennis courts. This should include root removal taking care not to upset the tennis court asphalt pavement and perimeter fence foundations.
2. Grade areas after tree removal to create a grade of at least 3% away from the tennis courts.
3. If required, install fence windscreens to provide wind protection for players on the courts.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Barry', with a stylized, cursive script.

Clive Barry
JUSTFOUR TENNIS