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Good morning, I represent the Special Olympics Welland Pelham Bocce Club. We have approximately 25 participants in our bocce program which runs weekly from June to August.

I am here to make a request to the Town of Pelham for the construction of 4 permanent 12'x 60' gravel and fines, bocce courts similar to those at Casa Dante in Welland, Port Colborne or West Lincoln which could be called 'home' for our bocce club.

Our Special Olympics athletes range in all ages and abilities, and for some, the grass courts present a challenge due to the unevenness of the ground and height of the grass.

While we currently play on the 3 grass courts at Centennial Park in Fenwick. We are requesting the construction of 4 gravel and fines bocce courts, as there are usually too many athletes to play at one time on the 3 that are provided.

For this season we have split our group into 2 time slots each Thursday evening, so that everyone can enjoy playing their whole time slot, rather than sit out for parts of an hour in order to play.

We are also expecting that with proper bocce courts, our membership will continue to grow.

Bocce is a sport anyone in the community can play, it is simple to learn, easy to play and requires a minimal amount of equipment.

Bocce is an especially good sport for those with disabilities and the elderly. On proper courts it provides light cardio exercise without causing excessive strain.

Bocce gives people an opportunity to get out and socialize with other people in the community.



As the local population is aging, many seniors are looking for activities to keep themselves active and provide a healthy lifestyle, bocce is a natural fit.

Weather permitting, the bocce courts could be used for a much longer period than June to August.

It is a sport which could be promoted to senior residences, service clubs and the community in general. Bocce is an activity which could be easily added to your 55+ program in Pelham.

With permanent courts in Pelham, bocce tournaments could be held, promoting the facility even further.

One last thing, if you do decide to build bocce courts, I as a senior would really appreciate a location with lots of shade.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. I would be pleased to answer any questions at this time.