

Core work to be completed before Victoria Day

• from **BUSINESSES** on page 4
including private lots in the Town's tender means lower prices.

According to engineering and transit coordinator Phil Antoniow, rough estimates show the improvements could cost between \$7 and \$15 per square metre, depending on the specifics of the work.

No tenders have been offered and Mr. Antoniow stressed these prices are "ballpark figures."

Additional saving would come with the Town's GST rebate, which would see the work taxed at 3 per cent instead of 7 per cent.

Businesses interested in taking part in the plan are asked to indicate participation by

Wednesday.

Though business operators expressed some curiosity in the DPI plan, they were more interested in discussing the Main Street construction slated to begin this spring.

Businesses could lose

The timeline of the project is a major concern for downtown businesses, said Peter Haight of Dorland-Haight Galleries. If Main Street is closed off too long, business could be looking at a significant loss.

"I put 15 years into this town. Hard work and taxes cost me everything I had at one point in the '90s. I want something back and I want some guarantees," he told Town staff.

"You'll have your job afterwards. I might not have my business."

The Main Street reconstruction project will see the road closed between Brown and Charles Street for about three months (starting when the ground thaws).

The goal is to have the work completed prior to the Victoria Day weekend, which marks the opening of the Farmers' Market and a busy time for downtown shopping.

Whether the entire section of road will be closed or closings will happen in sections hasn't yet been decided.

"All I can tell you is that date is as important to us as it is to you," Ms Reynolds told Mr. Haight.

"We need to plan for every eventuality," she said, adding that the likely worst case scenario would see a delay in the opening of the Farmers' Market.

The entire design of that portion of road is to be addressed.

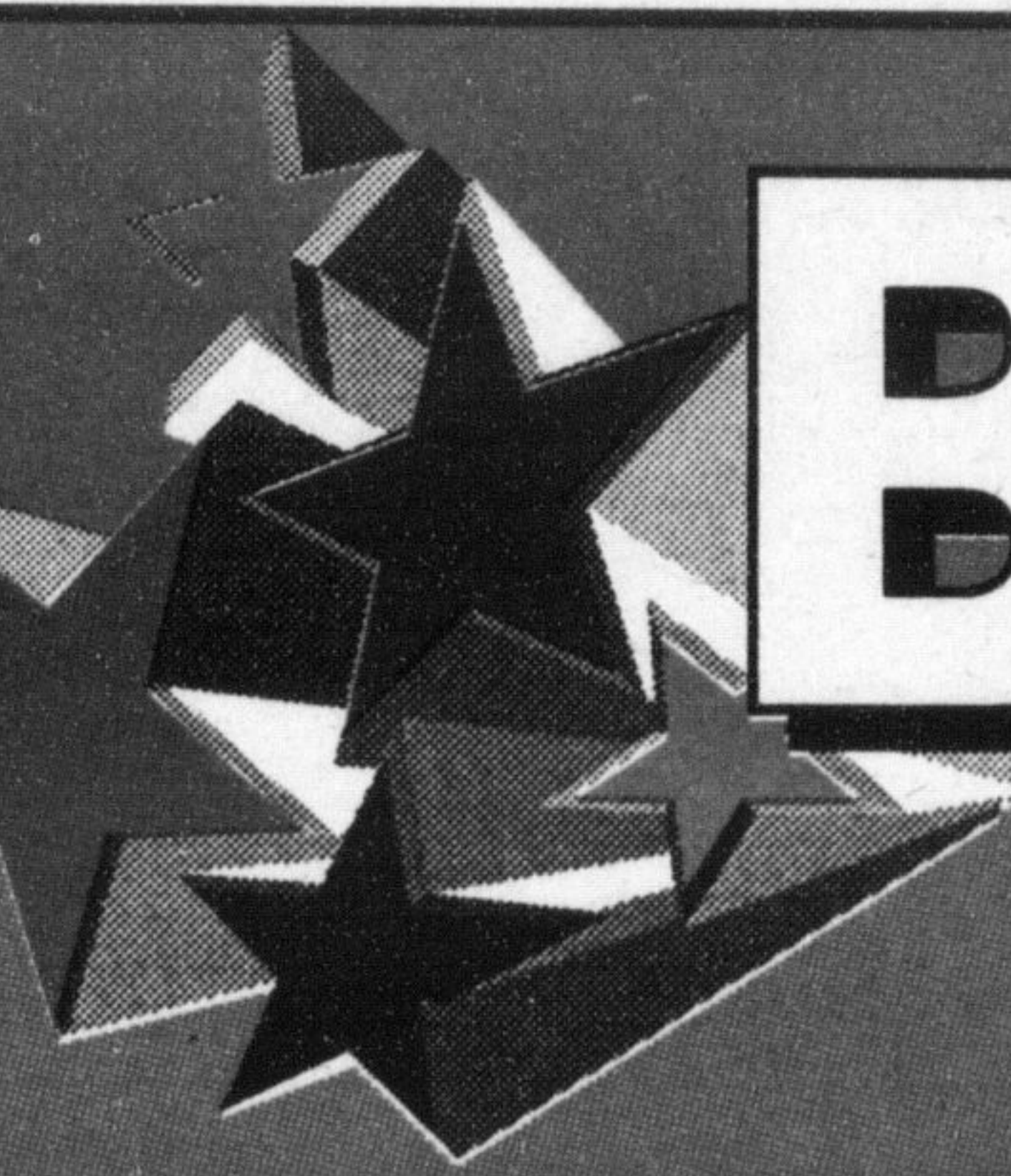
While working to straighten the road and improve its esthetics, other issues such as water, wastewater, and storm sewers lines will be addressed.

The final Streetscape Study is expected to be presented to council August 27.

The Streetscape Study will be used as a guide, in conjunction with public input, to determine the overall design of the street.

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