

Town may get new street signs

By RICHARD VIVIAN
The Champion

Street signs in Milton may be getting a facelift. In conjunction with the Town's Gateway Study — which is currently in the public consultation process — staff have recommended introducing new street signs. No street names would be changed, but the signs would be painted blue to match the Town logo.

"The intent here is to come up with a consistent approach to provide signage that is both way-finding for emergency vehicles and also respect the history of the communities," said Jennifer Reynolds, Milton's director of community services.

"This builds on the notion that Milton has its own branding, using consistent colours and font."

Currently, street sign designs aren't consistent throughout urban and rural areas of town. Milton's community services committee approved the new street sign designs Monday, and the cost will be considered during the 2003 budget discussions.

The committee-approved designs would see signs painted blue with white lettering and possibly contain a symbolic logo, such as a poppy, for some residential roadways.

Collector roads would be painted the same colours, but would also include 'bump-out' labels to include historic community names.

Developers who choose to upgrade sign design with logos or 'bump-outs' before handing over ownership of roads to the Town would be required to contribute to a replacement fund for future Town requirements. Upgraded signs cost approximately \$130, as do larger regional road signs. Existing street signs and new local street signs without a logo cost approximately \$45 and existing street signs with a logo cost about \$70.

If formally approved by town council, the sign replacement program would be phased in over several years.

Milton council hasn't formally adopted the new sign designs, but is expected to consider the issue September 23.

Town may spend \$100,000 in effort to monitor salt use on local roads

The Town is looking to spend \$100,000 to monitor the amount of road salt spread during winter months.

A motion outlining the Town's intent to install computerized monitoring equipment in 10 of its winter maintenance trucks was approved by the community services committee Monday.

"This will allow us to have a base and allow staff to use other methods of winter control to see how we can limit our salt use," said Doug Thompson, manager of operations for the Town.

The push to monitor the amount of salt

used comes from the Region of Halton and Environment Canada.

The Region is looking for quantifiable data related to the amount of salt spread on regional roads. The Town is responsible for maintaining more than 288 km of local regional roads. Currently, salt quantities are estimated based on truck size and weight. More than 642 km of town roads are also maintained.

Environment Canada is also seeking quantity data to use in the creation of best practices related to salt spreading, storage and disposal.

Possible cost-sharing opportunities exist with the Region, as some of the trucks operated locally are owned by the Region, added Mr. Thompson.

Installing the monitors doesn't mean less salt will be spread on area roads, stressed Mayor Gord Krantz.

"If we were to reduce the amount of salt and someone had a fender-bender, we'd be the first ones they'd come back on," he said.

Milton council has yet to formally address the issue, but is expected to consider the motion September 23.



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