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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Rescue training

Firefighter Gord Hurley reaches for a life ring while wearing a protective immersion suit during rescue training in the frigid waters of Kelso Conservation Area Wednesday. The Milton Fire Department is warning area residents that despite the relatively mild weather these days, rivers and streams are still extremely cold and anyone falling in can develop hypothermia in a matter of minutes.

Council's ruling on designated smoking rooms still in the works

April 28 is the earliest decision expected on DSRs

By JASON MISNER
 The Champion

If you're a bar or restaurant owner waiting for Milton's draft bylaw to allow designated smoking rooms (DSR) or to mandate patio design, be patient.

The Town's plan is to release these bylaws at the April 28 council meeting, and that's a "best-case scenario," said clerk Troy McHarg. Originally, town staff hoped the bylaws would be ready by the end of March.

A patio bylaw isn't proving too difficult to cre-

ate, he said, but legal issues ensuring a DSR bylaw follows the current smoking bylaw, which prohibits smoking from bars and restaurants, are holding things up.

"Council's direction is pretty clear on what they're looking for and taking direction and putting it into legislation is taking some time," Mr. McHarg said of the DSR motion.

In late January, town council voted overwhelmingly to have staff create a draft bylaw allowing DSRs in bars and restaurants. It's a move, if approved by council, that could drastically alter the current bylaw, which is still in its infancy, being that it's only 294 days old.

Councillors also voted unanimously for the creation of a patio bylaw. Patios are being used for smoking by bar and restaurant owners and town

staff are concerned they're being abused to circumvent the smoking bylaw.

Councillor Rick Malboeuf, a staunch opponent of smoking in public places, doesn't think council will pass a bylaw allowing DSRs.

"I don't think it's going to pass, but I've been wrong before," he said.

Mr. Malboeuf said he's spoken to a number of bars and restaurant owners who haven't welcomed the potential bylaw with open arms.

He said he's been told by these establishments that the bylaw has been in effect for months now and they're growing accustomed to it.

"I haven't seen one (owner) overly thrilled with the concept," Mr. Malboeuf said. "People are accepting it, though we still have some compli-

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