

Main St. construction nearing completion

Work should be done by end of November

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
The Champion

While part of Main Street East has been under construction for most of the summer, Milton residents will be happy to know it's almost over.

Town Engineering Services Director Paul Cripps said the project is pretty much on schedule and should be wrapping up by the end of November.

"They've (the construction workers) been very fortunate with the weather," he said.

The \$1.7-million initiative involves reconstructing Main Street between Commercial and Ontario streets, taking it down from the current four-lane design to two lanes and a continuous left turn lane.

Sidewalks are being widened from the current 1.5 metres to 2.3 metres, with some interlocking brick, and the traditional concrete street lights are being replaced by decorative lighting.

"It's really to improve the esthetics of the street and promote pedestrian traffic in the area," Mr. Cripps said.

Halton Region has also pumped about \$1 million into the project for sewer and water works.

Mr. Cripps told The Champion Friday that the base asphalt has been laid and work on the lighting and sidewalks is getting underway.

While the construction has been an inconvenience for some, he said the Town appreciates that local residents have been understanding.

"We haven't received a lot of complaints," Mr. Cripps said. "People have been pretty patient."

He said a liaison committee was estab-

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PAUL CRIPPS

lished with the Milton Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Business Improvement Area and representatives from some businesses along the Main Street East stretch to deal with concerns on the road work.

"We've kept the lines of communication open," he said.

Mr. Cripps added that while the Town has offered to have meetings with the liaison group, he was informed that wouldn't be necessary.

"They've basically said there's no problems," he said.

Although the town's Santa Claus parade happens in November and follows a route down Main Street, Mr. Cripps said the reconstruction shouldn't have an effect on the event and at the most, there could be a bit of gravel left on the ground.

About four years ago, town council adopted a plan to upgrade the streetscape along a part of Main Street. Reconstruction in the downtown was completed in 2002 between James and Commercial streets at a cost of \$2 million, making this stretch two lanes with a redesigned streetscape.

This work earned the Town an award from the American Public Works Association.

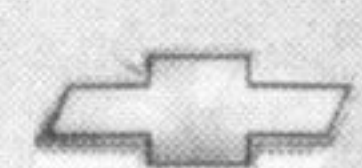
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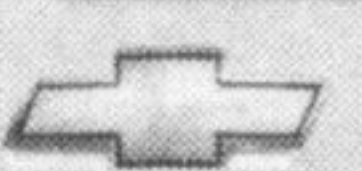
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