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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 145 NO. 79 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2004 \$1.00 (GST included) 52 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



**Santa's storytime**

Four-year Kylie Lopez and her older sister Justine, 7, helps Santa read a Christmas tale Saturday morning during Family Storytime hosted by the Milton Public Library at Milton Mall. More than a dozen youngsters enjoyed the event, especially the last two stories read by Santa himself.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

**Decision on Fourth Line road closure is deferred after residents complain**

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**  
*The Champion*

Those dreading the closure of Fourth Line from Derry Road to south of Main Street East for construction and safety reasons breathed a sigh of relief last week when council decided to defer the issue to the new year.

The road was scheduled for closure Tuesday, which Town and Region staff felt was necessary to do before construction starts in the area to mitigate the high number of accidents at the intersection of

Derry Road and Fourth Line.

A bylaw to temporarily close the road only received its first and second reading by council Monday, with the third reading put off to early next year.

The section of Fourth Line is scheduled to eventually close permanently, but Town Engineering Services Director Paul Cripps explained it's being deemed temporary for now as a matter of process, since there's a separate procedure involving things like land disposal for the permanent closure.

"Even though we're calling it a temporary closure, it is in fact permanent (to traffic)," Mr. Cripps said.

Council heard from many concerned citizens opposed to the closure, such as Walsh Avenue resident Brian Murphy.

"My wife and I travel this road multiple times per day. This is our most important direct north/south link," he said. "For myself and my neighbours, this is a critical road we rely on each day."

He went on to criticize the proposed detour to Thompson Road, calling it "ill-conceived at best."

"This detour route is not viable, nor is it remotely convenient," he said, adding that council shouldn't close the road, but develop an alternative

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