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24 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



# Roads big challenge in 2005, says mayor

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**  
*The Champion*

Looking ahead to 2005, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz predicts the town will "stay the course" it's been on, with an estimated population growth of about 4,000 people.

Mr. Krantz took time to discuss with *The Champion* some of the challenges he sees Milton facing next year, along with some of the long-range projects that will impact the town down the road.

The primary hurdles he identified are managing growth while making sure new services needed are in place, along with keeping up on roads construction.

"That (roads) certainly will be the big challenge," he said.

In terms of development, he noted that ground could break in the Sherwood Survey secondary plan area sometime next year.

The Sherwood lands cover about 5,000 acres primarily bounded by Hwy. 401, Tremaine Road, Regional Road 25 and the future Louis St. Laurent Avenue south of Derry Road. When this area in south Milton is fully developed, it will be home to about 35,000 new residents.



**Gord Krantz**

"It will be a learning curve for all of us," Mr. Krantz said of the large development.

Keeping the Town budgets reasonably balanced is another tough job staff and council will be faced with in the new year.

While property taxes haven't been set yet, Mr. Krantz noted that Milton currently has the second-best tax rate in the GTA — a position he'd like to see the town hold on to in 2005.

"When you're second, you try harder for the top," he explained.

Mr. Krantz pointed out that Milton residents paid substantially less in taxes this year than people in some other nearby towns and cities. For example, an Oshawa resident dished out \$1,700 more in property taxes than the same Milton homeowner.

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## Thrills and spills

Six-year-old Taylor DaSilva and her mom, Arianne, take a tumble while sledding down the popular hill near Robert Baldwin School Wednesday. See more photos of winter holiday fun on page 8.

Photo by **GRAHAM PAINE**

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