

## Artist keeps quite busy with several projects

• from SHANTZ on page B1

says the clients' input is extremely important when she takes on a project and tries to incorporate their vision with hers.

"I have been commissioned to do some children's portraits as well as people with their animals in the past," she said. "It is nice when they lead me and tell me what they would like and I can work with their vision of the final piece."

Ms Shantz has a few projects on the go, including a compilation work that will portray a series of the great Canadian thoroughbred horses throughout the years and may be auctioned at a later date to raise funds for the LongRun

Thoroughbred Retirement Society, an organization close to Ms Shantz's heart.

She's also working on an equine activity book for kids, which teaches children to draw horses. It's due out this summer.

She has several art shows and competitions lined up for 2005 and continues to work on new pieces. She's also releasing a few new limited-edition pieces that she expects will do well. Her Web site has images of some of her art, as well as news on upcoming events and a gift shop to purchase prints, paintings, and even clothing.

To date, Ms Shantz estimated she has completed hundreds of paintings, each capturing the beauty and essence of the animals she loves most.

## Youth theatre group's upcoming show groovy

Take a step back in time with Milton Youth Theatre Productions' 'Friday Knight Fever' February 17, 18 and 19 at Meadowvale Theatre.

Based in the '70s, the show involves a group of high school students desperately wanting to jive to the sounds of the era at a disco dance.

The all-youth production, featuring 95 artists and 10 musicians in a live orchestra, will offer tunes with a '70s beat, comic relief and many plot twists.

Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for children aged 12 years and under, and can be purchased by calling the box office at (905) 615-4721.

## Glaring inequalities still exist within Islamic law

• from ISLAMIC on page B7

keep records of the proceedings or that both parties have consented to them, nor any training for negotiators. Without written reports even about the decisions made, she said, the system fails everyone who uses it.

In a review of the 1991 Arbitration Act, former attorney general Marion Boyd affirmed the need for religious-based alternative resolution.

The act was initially introduced to relieve the backlog in Ontario courts, but only covered business and labour disputes. It was later expanded to include family conflicts as well. According to Ms Fahmy, a distinction has to be made between Sharia and Islamic law and cultural practices versus religious beliefs among Muslims.

For example, the Koran, Islam's holy book, stipulates equality among men and women, with economic, political and legal parity, and that women be educated, enti-

led to own property and vote. Sharia is an all-encompassing word that dictates an ideal way of life from praying to dealing with finances, diet, morality and social conduct.

In theory, Islamic religion allows married women to keep their own income. Women also keep their own name upon marriage.

"Muslim women love Canada because they can live here without the cultural baggage," said Ms Fahmy.

However, politically-speaking, there are glaring inequalities in Islamic law:

- Regarding inheritance — daughters receive only half the portion of sons, however, males are deemed responsible for the costs of the family.

- In custody matters, Islamic law automatically awards custody of male children once they have reached the age of seven and girls at age nine, to their father.

- A wife is only entitled to

receive financial support from her husband in divorce cases for three months to one year.

- There's a double standard in marriage where women are not allowed to marry non-Muslim men; yet men are allowed to wed non-Muslim women.

- To be granted a divorce the wife must go to court, while the husband can simply repudiate the union on his own.

There's a move underfoot by the International Campaign Against Sharia Court in Canada to prohibit the Muslim Arbitration Courts from dealing with family disputes.

Ms Fahmy is equally concerned that without accountability in this judicial system, there's potential for abuse.

"Until better measures are included in these faith-based tribunals, Canadians have to know what their rights are, that they don't have to agree to an arbitration hearing, or if they do, they can also appeal the outcome," she added.

## Ball fundraiser coming up soon

Get dolled up for a good cause February 26 at the Foundation for Halton Child and Youth Services inaugural Venetian Ball fundraiser.

The black tie event will be held at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club, with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. There'll be a silent auction, dancing,

Grammy Award-winning live music, Cirque Sublime performers and more. Masks will also be provided.

Tickets cost \$175 each, or corporate tables can be purchased for \$1,500. For tickets or donations, call Kirsten at (905) 639-2800, ext. 221, or Melissa at ext. 222.

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### MAIN STREET EAST & THOMPSON ROAD SOUTH CPR GRADE SEPARATIONS CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY

#### NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT

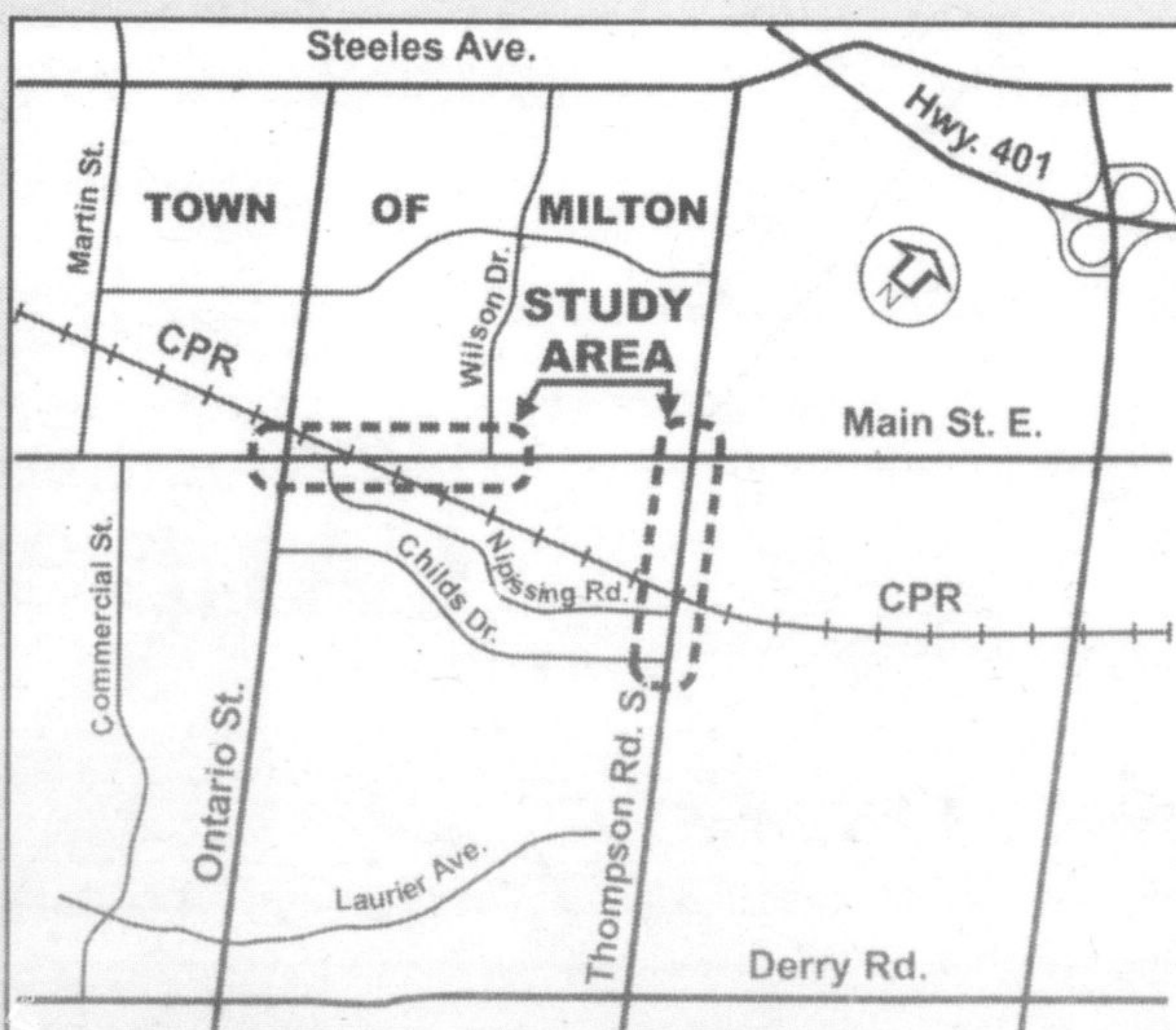
The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) has two level crossings within the urban area of Milton. One is located on Main Street East, immediately east of Ontario Street. The other is located on Thompson Road South, south of Main Street East. These level crossings presently impact the operation of both roadways and the surrounding road network. Grade separations are warranted at both locations based on rail and road traffic volumes.

Therefore, the Town of Milton is commencing a study of Main Street East & Thompson Road South CPR Grade Separations, in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) process, which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. McCormick Rankin Corporation has been retained to assist in carrying out the study.

The study areas for both crossings are shown below. In 2001, the Town completed an Environmental Study Report recommending the widening of Thompson Road to 4 lanes from Derry Road to Steeles Avenue. Construction is currently planned for 2008 and 2009. As a grade separation is now warranted, the Town is considering combining these projects.

During the study, it is proposed to hold two public information centres: the first in Spring 2005 to review the collection

of background information, the problem being addressed and the alternatives; and, the second later in 2005 to review the preferred alternative and associated mitigation measures. Notices of the public information centres will be sent



to property owners within the study area and any others who request to be added to the study mailing list.

If you would like to be added to the study mailing list to receive notices of the public information centres, please contact one of the following:

**Ms. Leslie Scott**  
McCormick Rankin Corporation  
2655 North Sheridan Way  
Mississauga, ON, L5K 2P8  
Phone: (905) 823-8500  
Fax: (905) 823-8503  
e-mail: lscott@mrc.ca

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Town of Milton  
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This Notice first issued on January 28, 2005.