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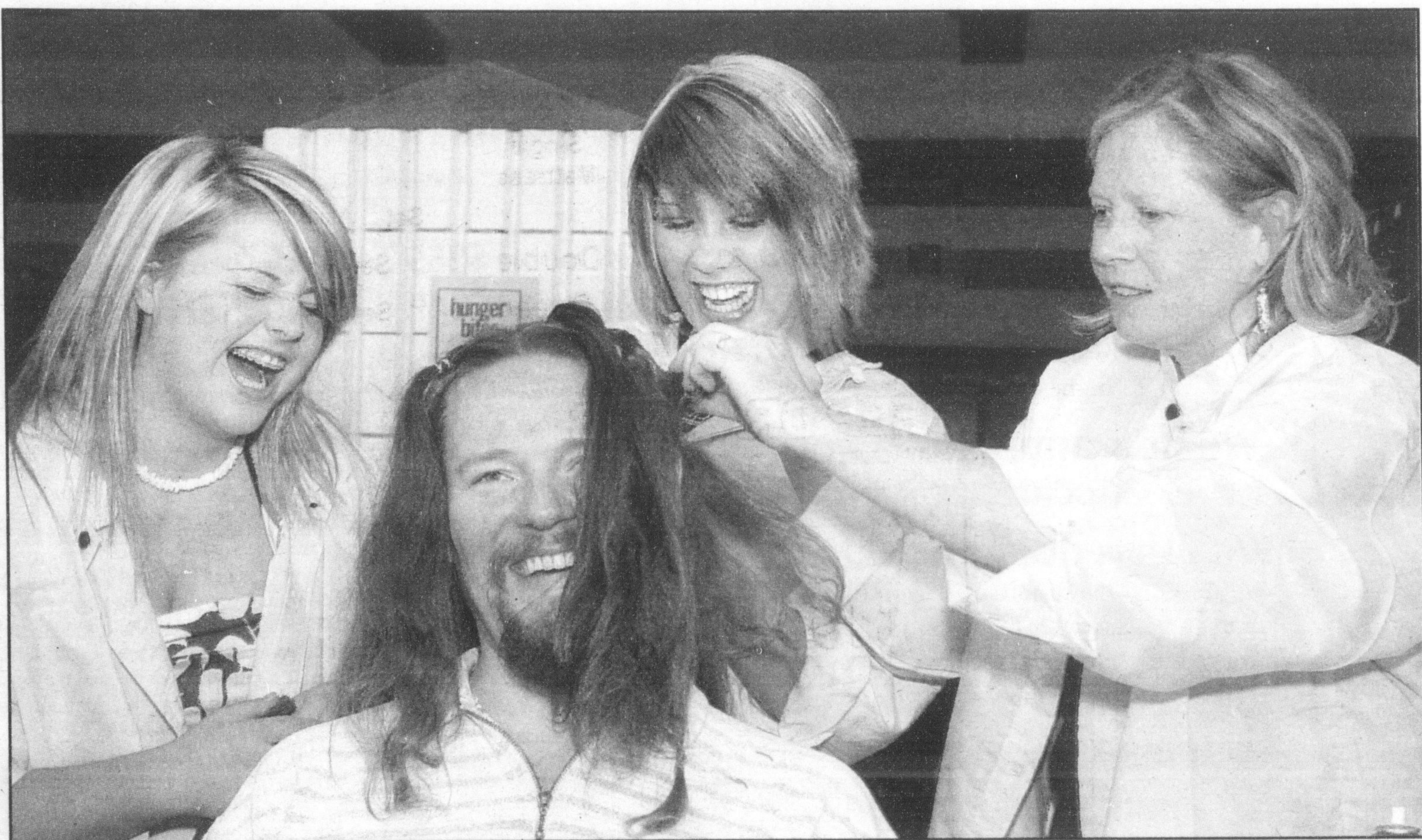


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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 146 NO. 18 FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2005 \$1.00 (GST included) 52 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



✓ Hair today, gone....

E.C. Drury High School history teacher Don Featherstone shares a laugh with cosmetology students Rachel Nadaline, left, and Monica Szymezka as their teacher Heather Lane (right) prepares to snip off some hair during the Cut for the Cure fundraising event. In total, 17 students and three teachers had their heads shaved. The school raised almost \$5,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Mr. Featherstone's hair will be used to make wigs for cancer patients.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Underpass work could begin soon

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion

Groundwork could be laid as early as this summer for a proposed road underpass at the Thompson Road South rail crossing if Milton council and the Canadian Pacific Railway give the necessary approvals.

Preliminary plans for the Thompson Road work, as well as a proposed underpass — or grade separation — on Main Street East, were outlined at a public open house Tuesday evening at the Milton Sports Centre.

"There's a warrant for grade separation at both of these crossings," said Leslie Scott of McCormick Rankin, the consultant firm the Town has retained to help carry out an environmental assessment

study at these locations. She noted the need is based on existing rail and road traffic volumes at both crossings.

While both overpasses and underpasses have been considered as part of the study process, underpasses are being recommended as the most feasible way to go since an overpass would end up being twice as high.

Ms Scott said they're building on the work completed as part of an earlier Thompson Road environmental study report (ESR), which recommended the stretch from Derry Road to Steeles Avenue be widened to four lanes.

While the Thompson Road underpass and expansion between Main Street East and Derry Road weren't scheduled for construction until 2008 or 2009, GO Transit is proposing that a third track be constructed crossing Thompson starting

this year as part of its new layover facility project.

Ms Scott said therefore, the Town is looking to stage and advance the work on Thompson Road.

Bob Rook, also with McCormick Rankin, outlined the proposed timeline for the work, which is still subject to council approval.

"The intent is to start this summer," he said, noting the first task would be regrading in preparation for a rail detour.

Next year, the tracks would be detoured, the rail bridge would be constructed and Thompson Road would be regraded at the rail crossing. This work would require a few weekend road closures.

The road work on Thompson is proposed to start in 2007, after James Snow Parkway construction is complete.

Since the need for the underpass is being driven primarily by road traffic volumes, Mr. Rook

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