

# Town seeking funds to reconstruct Lower Base Line bridges

By MELANIE HENNESSEY  
The Champion

The Town is hoping to soon receive \$5 million from the provincial and federal governments to reconstruct bridges on Lower Base Line.

Staff is applying for the money through the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program to replace two one-lane bridges — known as the Henderson Park and Barnstable bridges — that the Town has said are in “severely deteriorated condition.”

Council endorsed deeming the bridge work as the highest priority project for funding at its August 29 meeting.

The structures would be replaced with two-lane bridges, which is something Ward 1 Councillor Rick Day argued isn't what area residents are looking for.

“Nobody in the neighbourhood down there wants to replace the one-way bridges,” he said. “To me, we're spending our money where people don't want it spent.”

He noted staff should find somewhere else in town to put the funds to use.

Mr. Day recently asked staff, Heritage Milton and the Milton Historical Society to look into the possibility of designating the one-lane bridges as heritage structures.

But, staff recommended and council supported not proceeding with this due to the lack of significant historical value, the fact

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**RICK DAY**

the existing structures are continuing to decay and their safety and operational liabilities.

If the Town receives the funding, the Henderson Park bridge just east of Regional Road 25 is proposed to be the primary project, with construction potentially starting next year.

Work on the Barnstable bridge between Fifth and Sixth lines could take place in 2008.

Both bridges are in the area on Lower Base Line — between Regional Road 25 and Trafalgar Road — that's currently the subject of an environmental assessment.

The study, scheduled to be completed this fall, is being done to address the poor condition of the bridges, slope stability concerns where the road is in close proximity to tributaries of Sixteen Mile Creek and road conditions in general.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at [mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

# Suicide prevention help available through help lines

Every 10 hours a suicide occurs in Ontario.

This tragic and unnecessary loss of life affects people of all ages and walks of life, and leaves in its wake grieving families and friends who must deal with feelings of confusion, guilt and sadness.

Tomorrow is World Suicide Prevention Day, which offers a golden opportunity to reflect on suicide and break down the cloak of silence surrounding the issue.

The first step toward preventing suicide is providing education on its symptoms.

For those concerned about a loved one's behaviour or state of mind, be aware that signs and symptoms of a suicidal person may often include but are not limited to:

- repeated statements about wanting to die; feelings of hopelessness
- changes in behaviour, routines, mood or demeanour
- changes in sleep patterns and appetite
- inability to think of the future
- making final arrangements, giving away prized possessions

Experiencing a stressful event involving loss may be a contributing factor for a suicidal person. Those looking to help such a person should trust their instincts and not be afraid to talk to the person about the subject of suicide. This will not give the person the idea of taking his or her life, but may well help them open up and discuss the suicidal feelings being experienced.

Sometimes the warning signs

may be hidden or difficult to see. Those who suspect a person is suicidal should ask them directly, hear what they have to say and be supportive. Do not promise to keep their suicide plans or feelings a secret.

For those feeling suicidal or know someone who does, help is just a phone call away, with a number of crisis lines available in Halton. They include:

Telecare Burlington — (905) 681-1488

North Halton Distress and Information — (905) 877-1211

Distress Centre Oakville — (905) 849-4541

Kids Help Line — 1-800-668-6868

Or dial 911

# Compost give-away starts Mon.

Call it a win-win swap.

Halton Region will hold its 11th annual fall compost give-away from Monday to September 17, with pickups available between 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day at the Halton Waste Management Site on Regional Road 25.

As part of Halton's strategy to divert waste away from the local landfill site, residential yard waste picked up from curbsides is recycled into garden-

friendly compost.

This time around, Halton residents are asked to bring along non-perishable food donations to aid recently-depleted area food banks. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Residents must bring their own bags or containers — with a maximum of seven per household — and a shovel in order to bag their own compost. More than 2,000 tonnes of compost will be available next week.



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