

Krantz plans to run for mayor

• from LOTS on page A1 around town.

He pointed out some roads are already under construction, such as Thompson Road between Derry Road and Louis St. Laurent Avenue, which is being widened from two lanes to four, and there's money set aside for others.

While he said the Town may be a bit behind in its road work, he noted, "For the most part, we've done reasonably well. Will timing be perfect on all? No."

The mayor pointed out something that's equally important to upgrading infrastructure to accommodate growth is to reconstruct and maintain the existing roads, sidewalks, etc...

"Sometimes municipalities for-

get about that. We haven't," he said, pointing as an example to the \$100,000 allotted in next year's budget for sidewalk repairs. "If you don't keep up, boy can you get into big problems."

Town Hall expansion will go ahead: Krantz

He said he also suspects that the Town Hall expansion project will be going ahead in 2006, which could mean putting on a potential 50,000-square-foot addition to the existing structure.

"There's no question in my mind that it's needed," he said, quickly pointing out that he's declared a conflict of interest on the issue since he lives across the

road from Town Hall.

Mr. Krantz noted he knows the public prefers having a "one-stop shop" for Town services, instead of having staff positioned in various places around town.

The coming year will also hold a municipal election, and Mr. Krantz said he intends to run again for the mayor seat. And although Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline announced she won't be seeking re-election come November, Mr. Krantz said he most likely won't be seeking the position.

"But any politician will always keep their options open," he said.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Town's New Year's traditions to carry on

By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

The Champion

With Christmas tucked neatly behind us, many residents are now eagerly looking forward to this weekend's festivities — one more chance to party before hunkering down for the winter.

The Town is offering a pair of events Saturday and Sunday for residents both new and old to help ring in the new year — literally — in style.

Both the New Year's Eve Bell Ringing and the Mayor and Council New Year's Day Levee have been Milton traditions for nearly 40 years.

The bell ringing will take place Saturday at about 11:45 p.m. when residents are invited to gather around the historic bell in Victoria Park in front of Town Hall, 43 Brown St. The bell will sound at midnight.

The celebration often draws up to 400 people, said Mayor Gord Krantz.

Each year, someone different rings the bell. This year the honour goes to two local veterans in acknowledgement of 2005 being the Year of the Veteran.

"The message is even though 2005 was the Year of the Veteran, let's not forget (them) in 2006 and every year after," Mr. Krantz said.

After the ceremony, residents are invited to Hugh Foster Hall beside Town Hall for refreshments.

The bell was placed at the old Town Hall on Main Street — where the Milton Chamber of Commerce now resides — in 1865. The tradition of ringing in the new year was started by former Champion publisher Jim Dills in 1967, and has continued

ever since.

Seniors looking for a New Year's Eve party just for them might want to check out the celebrations at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, 500 Childs Dr., which will start at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$8 and are available by calling (905) 875-1681.

Sunday, the 19th annual New Year's levee will run from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Milton Town Hall Victoria Park.

Mr. Krantz said the tradition is an old English one adopted by Milton around the time of the first bell ringing.

"Citizens on New Year's Day meet and greet not just the mayor, but members of council," Mr. Krantz said, explaining it gives him a chance to hear what's on residents' minds.

The levee is being put on jointly by the Town and the Milton Historical Society, which will provide a unique glimpse into the town's past through its theme 'Milton's Changing Ways'.

"Milton's Changing Ways looks at the changes that have been happening in Milton in a couple of areas," said Bruce Carlin of the society.

Those areas include communication, transportation — from the buggy to Hwy. 401 — construction, the environment and industry.

There'll be a slide show as well as displays, and musical entertainment will be provided by the Milton Youth Symphony.

"It's an informal, entertaining and hopefully educational way to spend a New Year's afternoon," Mr. Carlin said.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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