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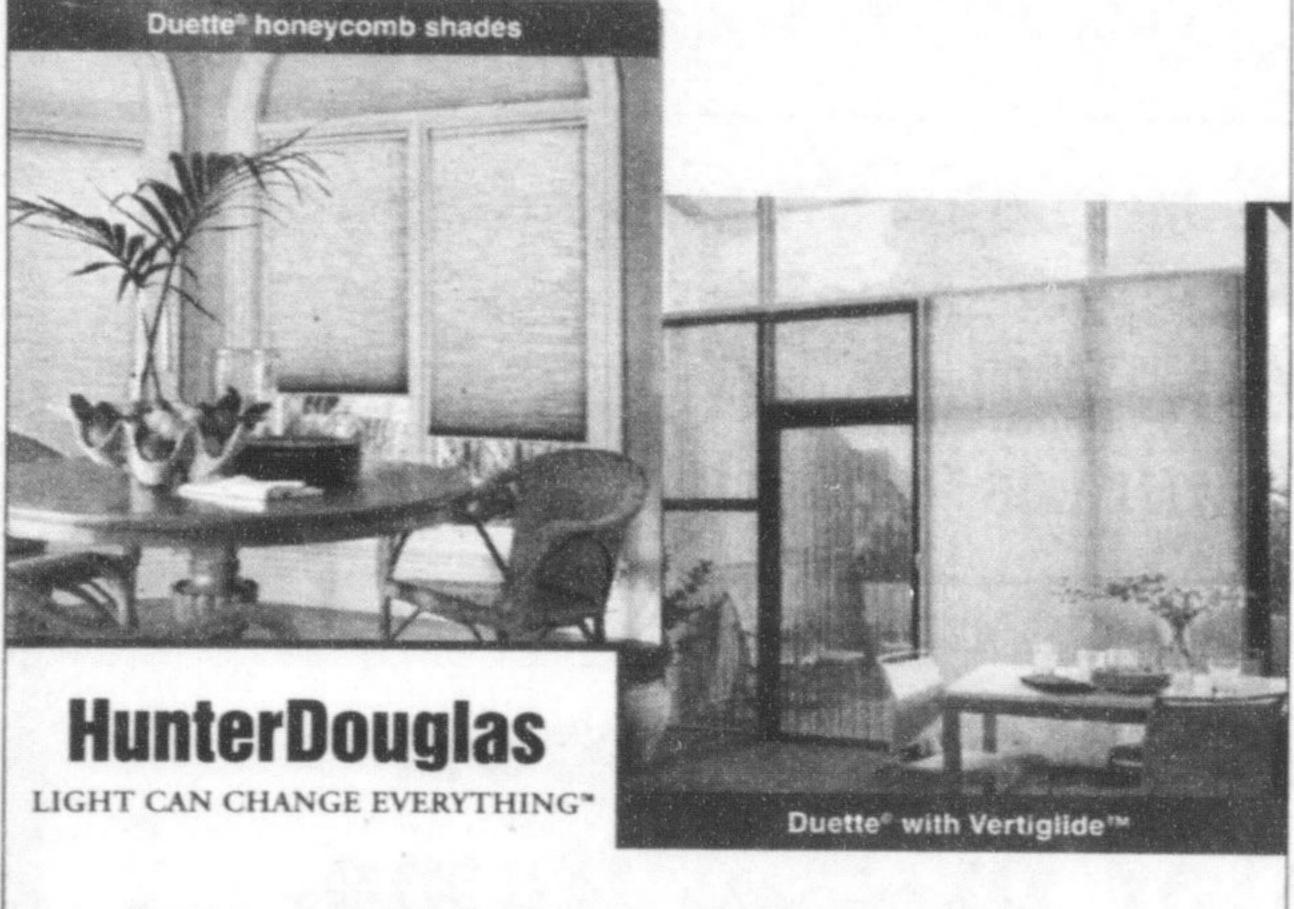


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Town council approves railway bridge design for Thompson Rd.

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

Milton council approved the final design for a new railway bridge on Thompson Road South this week.

The concrete structure — which will be part of a future road underpass, also known as a grade separation — is expected to be finished by the end of the year, according to Bob Rook of Town-hired engineering firm McCormick Rankin.

It has been designed to carry three rail tracks and allow for four lanes of traffic to pass under it. The bridge will also accommodate a multi-use sidewalk/pathway on each side of the road.

Work has already begun on the underpass project, with grading being undertaken recently in preparation for a temporary track diversion.

It's expected that Thompson Road will need to be closed for three consecutive weekends in April to facilitate more work on the diversion tracks.

"We are on a very tight schedule for this bridge work," Mr. Rook noted.

Plans are also on the horizon to reconstruct and widen Thompson Road between Main Street and Derry Road, which will follow the Region's completion of construction on James Snow Parkway and Derry Road.

Design work for the widening will take place this year and construction will start in 2007.

While the Thompson Road underpass

and expansion weren't scheduled for construction until 2008 or 2009, GO Transit's proposal to create a third track that'll cross Thompson as part of its new layover facility project led to the Town advancing the work.

The bridge's construction will be tendered next month, with work scheduled to start in early May.

The \$15.3-million grade separation is expected to cost the Town about \$12 million, with anticipated contributions of \$1.2 million from GO Transit and around \$2 million from CP Rail making up the difference.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.c om.

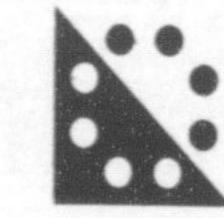


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