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GRAND OPENING: The Champion and 875 Main St. neighbour Ste Antonio Bistro and Marketplace hold their joint grand opening Tuesday evening with many special guests. Cutting the ribbon are (from left) Town councillors Mark Curtis and Jan Mowbray, Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh, Ste Antonio owner Nick Cortese and Champion advertising director Wendy McNab and editor Karen Smith.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Roadwork starts soon

Further construction of James Snow Parkway will soon get underway.

Regional council approved building two more sections of the thoroughfare at its meeting Wednesday — between Britannia and Derry roads and from Waldie Avenue to 300 metres north of Main Street.

The latter, which will involve constructing a four-lane road with an underpass at the proposed CPR train tracks south of Main Street, will get underway by late spring or early summer and wrap up in summer 2007.

The Region has already approved about \$13.5 million for the work. Construction of the two lanes from Britannia to Derry is expected to start this summer and be largely complete by next spring.

The \$6-million project is part of the recently approved Accelerated Capital Roads Program — a joint initiative between the Town, Region and Mattamy Homes.

Mixed reviews on smoke-free Legion

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It's a typical Wednesday afternoon at Milton's Royal Canadian Legion clubroom, with veterans and members sitting around enjoying beer and playing pool.

But on this particular day, something's a bit different. While there may still be a faint smell of cigarettes in the air, there's no cloud of smoke to go along with it now that the Smoke-Free Ontario Act has kicked in.

The new legislation, which came into effect Wednesday, bans smoking in all enclosed public and work places — something that's drawing mixed reactions from local Legion mem-

bers. Up until now, smoking had been permitted in a section of the Legion's downtown building.

For Second World War veteran Murray Boyd, the act couldn't come into effect fast enough.

"We're all very thankful that it's smoke-free because it was getting terrible in here," the 86-year-old said, motioning to the group of fellow veterans he socializes with on Wednesday afternoons in the clubroom.

And according to Boyd, his wife is happy with the new smoking ban as well.

"When I'd come home (from the clubhouse), my wife would make me take off my clothes and have a shower," he said with a

smile.

Meanwhile, 76-year-old Legion member Jack Pearson is sitting near the club room's bar — the section where smoking used to be allowed.

The long-time smoker said he feels everyone's rights are being infringed upon with the new act.

"Why are they taking away this right from us? It's legalized. We pay taxes on it," he said. "I thought this was something that was free to me once I was of age, but all of a sudden they're clamping down on everybody. We're not a free world."

Milton Legion first vice-president Laurie
• see OTHER on page A13

Inside Today's Champion

OPINION A6

DATELINE A15

CLASSIFIED A29

REAL ESTATE B16

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