

Plans for Heslop Rd. sidewalk get nixed

Residents pleased with revision to road's reconstruction project

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Heslop Road residents got what they asked for last week when council cancelled plans for a sidewalk that would've run across their boulevards.

Council approved a Heslop Road reconstruction project at its February 26 meeting, minus the sidewalk that was supposed to be installed on the south side of the road between Thomas and Commercial streets.

Prior to that, council heard from Heslop Road resident Jennifer Mirosolin, who spoke on behalf of the majority of her neighbours who opposed the sidewalk.

She said the affected Heslop Road residents conducted a pedestrian survey in front of their homes and found, on average, that only three people walked by per hour during the week, with that number dropping on the weekend.

"We do not see it (the sidewalk) as justified," she said.

She also pointed to the greenspace and mature trees that would be lost with the sidewalk installation.

Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Colin

Best told council he talked to the affected Heslop Road residents and not one was in favour of the sidewalk.

"I don't see a need for a sidewalk," he said. "This area is not going to change."

Sidewalks important: Schau

Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau countered that if the town is to have walkable neighbourhoods, there have to be sidewalks on both sides of roads.

She also reminded council that Heslop Road is a potential future transit route — something that would likely generate more pedestrian activity.

In the end, a motion to approve the reconstruction project with the sidewalk lost. Best then called for the sidewalk plans to be removed from the work in an amended motion, which carried.

The \$1.9-million undertaking on Heslop between Bronte and Commercial streets will include resurfacing and slightly widening the road and putting a sidewalk in on the north side of the road from Bronte Street to about 110 metres east.

Construction is expected to start in late April or early May and wrap up later in the year.

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A SUPER KICK-OFF: Mike Shepherd, the honorary co-chair of this year's MS Super Cities Walk for Milton and Halton Hills, holds up this year's campaign t-shirt while getting a hug from wife Linda during the campaign kick-off. Mike is also the top fundraiser for the Milton walk and has a personal connection to the cause, with Linda being diagnosed with MS at age 18.

Be wary of flooding: CH warns

Conservation Halton (CH) is warning residents to be careful around rivers and lakes as warmer spring weather approaches.

Increased temperatures and rain will result in melting snow, which in turn will increase

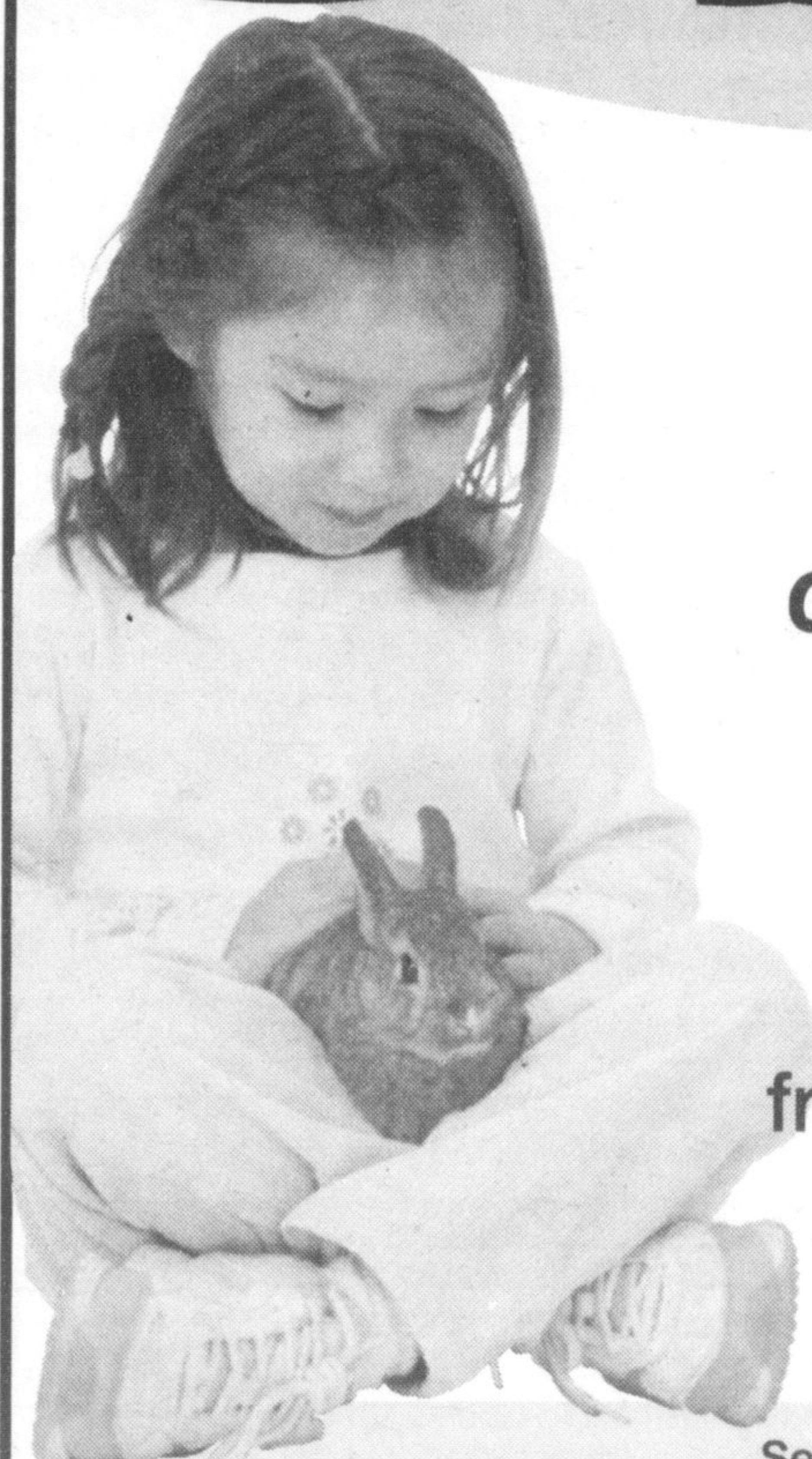
water levels and speed at which streams flow. Heavy rains can lead to flooding and ice jamming.

In addition, slippery and unstable stream banks and cold water temperatures can lead to hazardous conditions near any

body of water.

As March Break nears, parents and caregivers should remind their children about the dangers that exist near water bodies and tell them to avoid these areas.

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