

# Town budget includes \$32 million for roadwork

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

While Milton's rapid growth continues to cause traffic snarls and gridlock, next year's planned road construction projects should bring at least a bit of relief for frustrated local motorists.

More than \$32 million has been earmarked for roadwork in the 2010 Town budget, which was approved by Milton council last week.

Topping the list is the road underpass at the railway tracks on Main Street, east of Ontario Street, with \$7.9 million set aside to get the ball rolling on the much-needed grade separation.

Town Engineering Services Director Paul Cripps said the bulk of next year's work will focus on cleaning up and removing contaminated materials from the former Pigment Chemical Company site, adjacent to the Milton GO station on Main Street, to get it ready for use in the underpass project.

The steel girders needed for the rail crossing will also be ordered next year. Construction of the underpass is expected to continue throughout 2011 and 2012.

Some major road projects are also planned for south Milton to help keep the traffic flowing out of the new development areas.

More than \$6 million will be spent next year on the design and reconstruction of Bronte Street from Louis St. Laurent Avenue to Derry Road, with completion slated for 2011.

"This road will be the backbone of the transportation system through that area," noted Cripps.

Work will also get underway on a new section of Louis St. Laurent Avenue from Bronte Street to Regional Road 25 at a cost of \$5.9 million.

While the project wasn't scheduled to start until 2011, Ward 4 Councillor Paul Scherer pushed to have the timeline advanced. He was supported by the budget committee and council.

With new home construction on the horizon around the Bronte/Louis St. Laurent intersection, Scherer said getting the road built is absolutely critical.

A project that's already well underway and scheduled for completion next year is the section of Louis St. Laurent Avenue between Regional Road 25 and James Snow Parkway.

A \$7.5-million contract was awarded by council earlier this year for the two-lane extension of Louis St. Laurent from Yates Drive to Regional Road 25. The work also includes a bridge over the Sixteen Mile Creek.

"Getting that finished in 2010 is crucial," said Cripps. "It will provide a new linkage from the new development area to Hwy. 25 and an alternative route to James Snow Parkway."

Over on Main Street West, \$4.4 million has been set aside to realign the stretch from Bronte Street to Tremaine Road. The work will also include the construction of a roundabout and a connector road from the new

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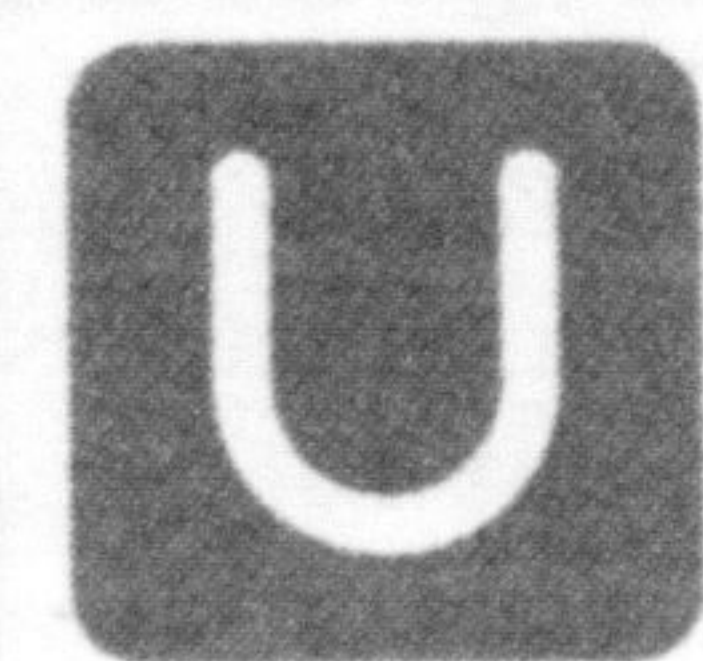
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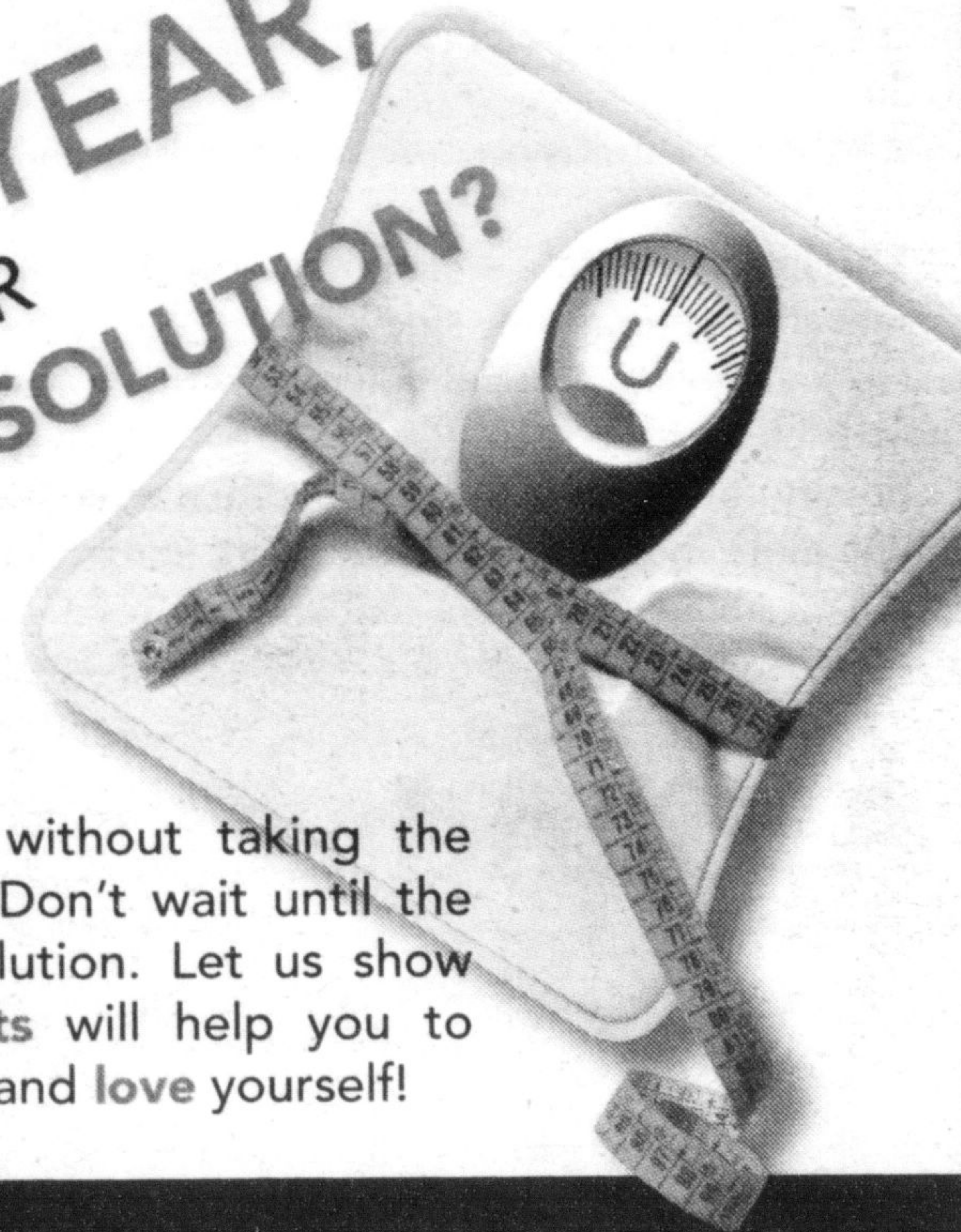
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