

New intersection with traffic lights planned at centre

By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Town of Milton plans to create a new intersection with traffic lights on Main Street East at the Milton Leisure Centre.

The new signalized intersection will be located at the western limit of the existing leisure centre parking lot, according to Paul Cripps, the Town's director of engineering services. The existing entrance to the parking lot will be closed off.

The Town will also construct a right in/right out access to the new arts and entertainment centre/central library (AECCL) about 65 metres to the west.

Both projects are part of a greater traffic and parking plan for the two facilities along with the adjacent Milton Memorial Arena, Lions Sports Park and possibly Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School. The five facilities are located in a large institutional quadrant bounded by Thompson Road to the west, Main to the north, Harris Boulevard to the east and the CP Rail tracks to the south.

As part of the plan, the Town is building a new north-south access road running up from Drew Centre to the parking lot of the AECCL, currently under construction. The road will run between memorial

arena and the baseball diamonds at Lions park. To protect vehicles from foul balls, new safety nets will be installed along the road corridor by the baseball diamonds.

An east-west access road will also be built to the south of the AECCL, running from Thompson Road to the parking lot of the leisure centre. The new road will go between the parking lots of both memorial arena and the AECCL and be just above the northernmost baseball diamond and soccer field.

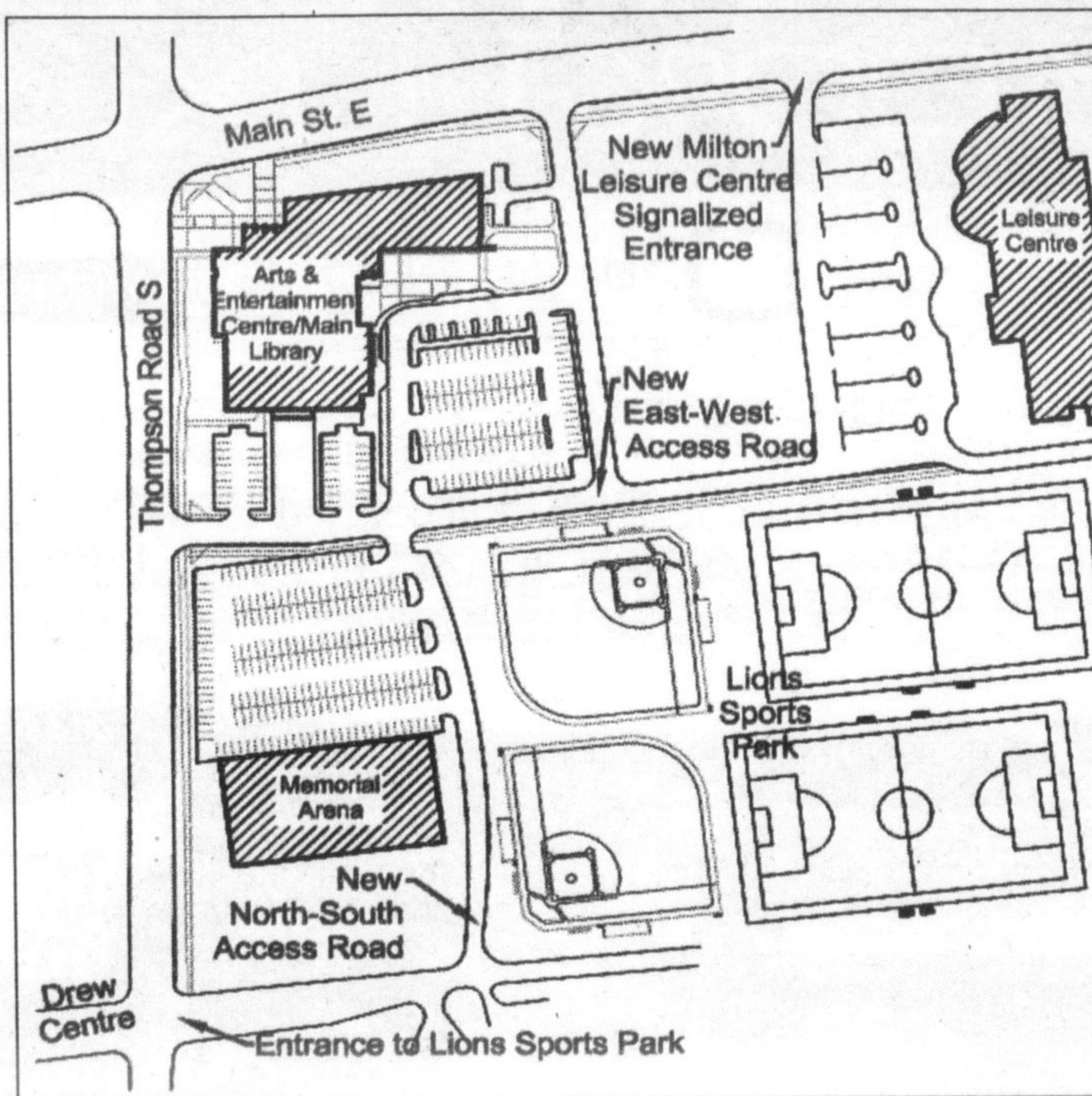
The Town will also resurface the leisure centre's parking lot and add more spaces.

The changes will occasionally impact vehicle access and parking for some of the sites over the next few months, according to a construction notice available on the Town's website (www.milton.ca).

Cripps said Milton has also offered to extend the east-west access road to the parking lot of Bishop Reding. A Catholic board spokesperson said those talks are continuing.

However, the board wasn't aware of the details of the Town's plans for a new traffic signal outside the leisure centre rather than the high school.

"We have tried for several years to obtain a traffic light at the west



entrance to Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School," said Giacomo Corbacio, the board's superintendent of facilities. "If the traffic signal at the leisure centre jeopardizes a signalized traffic light for Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School, then the board would have a concern with this Town decision."

The board has hoped the municipality will install lights near the front of Bishop Reding for the safety of students walking to school.

However, town council turned the board down in 2003 in part because such a signal, presumably at the intersection of Robarts Drive and a realigned and combined

entrance between the leisure centre and the high school, would be only 250 metres from an existing signal at the intersection of Main and Harris.

"The required separation distance between signalized intersections on arterial roads is approximately 400 metres in order to optimize signal cycle lengths and maintain an appropriate traffic progression speed in both directions as platoons of vehicles travel through successive intersections without stopping," a staff report explained at the time.

The Town has now decided to place the signal about 100 metres west of Robarts, but that location is itself less than 250 metres from Thompson.

"With the location that has been selected for the new signalized entrance, we are keeping the new signals as far away from Thompson as we can, without affecting the operation of the Robarts Drive intersection," explained Cripps.

Because the stretch of Main between Thompson and Harris is only 600 metres, it would be impossible to have a location for the new traffic signal within that stretch that meets the 400 metre requirement.

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