



Matthews wants time to re-evaluate street plans due to outcry

By ANGELA BLACKBURN
The Champion

In a surprise wrinkle for the south Martin Street road-widening debate, town public works director John Matthews said Tuesday he will recommend delaying a scheduled August report back to council to explore other options with the public.

Just Monday, staff decided to ask council next week to change the previously set August decision date. Mr. Matthews stressed, however, that the final word on his delaying suggestion rests with councillors.

"Because of the concerns, we are looking at other alternatives," said Mr. Matthews. "What those options involved, or when they'll be presented, isn't yet known."

Martin Street residents are suspicious and keeping up their fight against plans to possibly widen their street to three lanes from Main Street to Woodward Avenue.

Armed with an 800-signature petition, they hoped to get 1,000 names before council was to deal with the issue next month.

"I don't think Milton council is being up front with us. I think they're hiding things from us," charged Vera Delacourt, a Martin Street resident and owner of Delacourt's china and giftware shop at Martin and Main streets.

Eight residents, in a Monday interview with *The Canadian Champion*, agreed.

But Milton's Mayor Gord Krantz doesn't.

The fight began with a two-option Martin Street upgrade and road widening plan at the town's general committee in June. A week later, it

was at council, but so were opposing residents. Council tabled it until August. Residents want upgrades, but the road left largely alone.

Town staff had recommended, and general committee had endorsed, road widening for a centre turn lane, which would mean cutting down 17 trees. That was "safer" said staff, than widening for left turn lanes at Millside Drive and Woodward Avenue, which would destroy 14 trees.

Residents are concerned about tree loss and pedestrian traffic near Martin Street's two schools, seniors' apartments and the Mill Pond.

"They've spent all that money • see RESIDENTS on page 4

Donna Kewley holds up some of the hundreds of petitions area residents have gathered protesting the potential destruction of mature trees on Martin Street in order to stage a controversial road widening.

Photo by Graham Paine

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