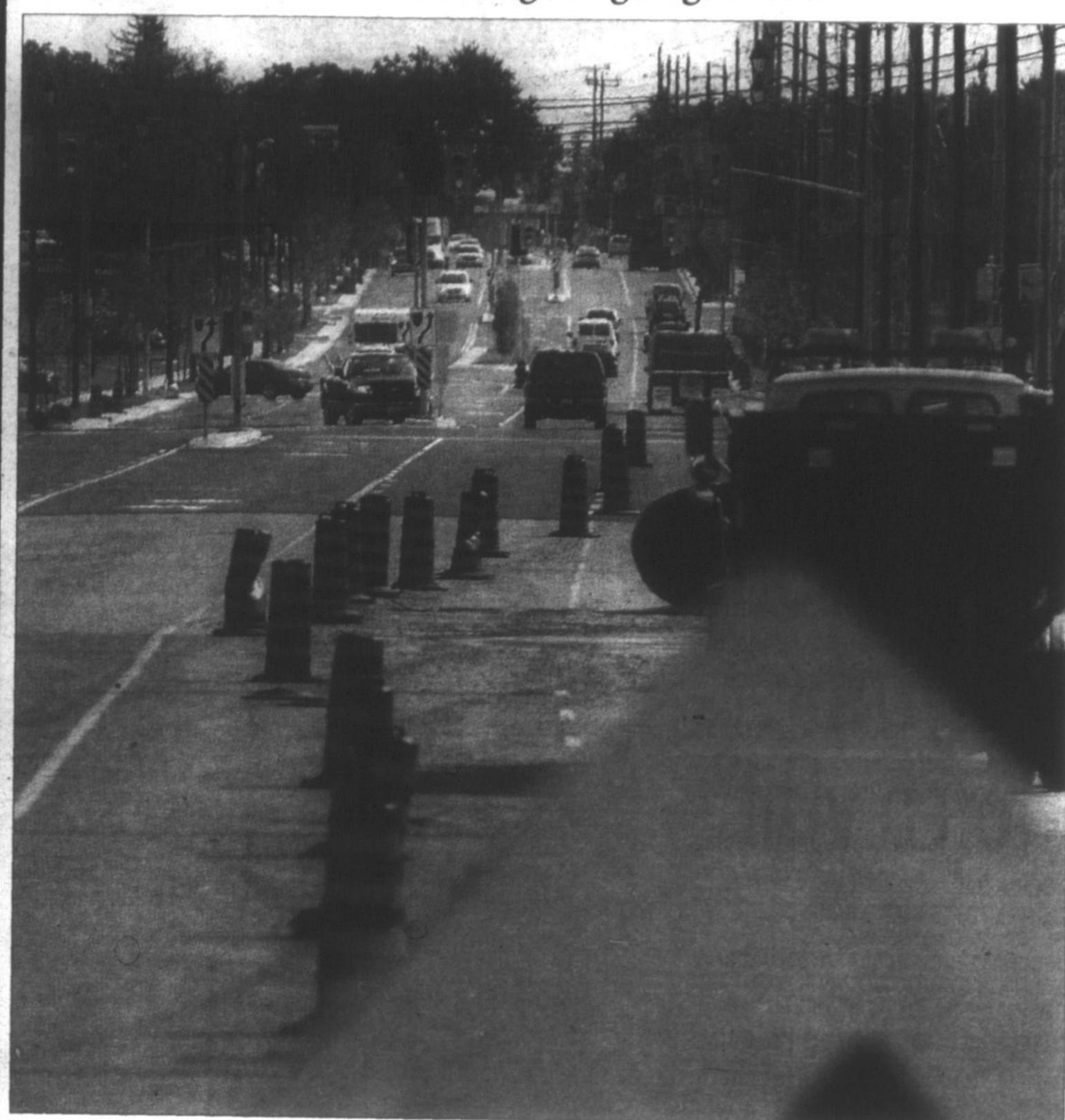
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TRANSPORTATION: Main drag's ongoing facelift



STAFF FILE PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Navigating construction zones on Main Street has been common for Stouffville motorists during the last two years. Work, being done by York Reigon, has shifted west of Ringwood, but more work is also planned for Stouffville.

## Ringwood, Ninth Line intersections on to-do list

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The first two phases of Main Street's overhaul are on the verge of completion.

"I know it hasn't been easy," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

For the past 17 months, Main Street's west end from around Winona Drive to Hwy. 48 has been dug up, widened, reduced to a single lane and re-aligned, all in an effort to widen and pretty-up the thoroughfare.

"I think we're moving the yardsticks," Mr. Emmerson said. "It's a benefit to the community."

The second of three phases, which is the widening and re-aligning of the Stouffville Road and Hwy. 48 intersection at Ringwood, could wrap up as early as the end of this year, providing York Region, which is leading the majority of this work, receives its permits and approvals from the Ministry of Transportation in a timely fashion.

"Any delay in receiving the permit will result in construction carrying over to spring 2010," according to the Sept. 22 report to council by Paul Whitehouse, the municipality's director of public works.

Residents will then get a slight reprieve from the backhoes and pavers lining Main Street, but in 2013 York Region is expected to start work on its re-alignment and jog elimination of the Ninth Line at Main Street.

"The region is currently undertaking engineering design and land acquisition for the project and will continue these activities through 2010," according to Mr. Whitehouse's report.

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Despite the seemingly never-ending construction, there is some good news in all of this. The three phases of the project are expected to come in under budget.

The entire project was expected to cost \$13,705,000, but as of Sept. 22, that figure is estimated to be \$13,520,062.

"We're certainly hoping this will come in under budget," said Marc Pourvahidi, Whitchurch-Stouffville's treasurer and director of finance.