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METROLAND MEDIA PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Infrastructure in danger of falling apart at the seams

By David Fleischer and Nicole Visschedyk
Metroland Media Special Project

A METROLAND MEDIA SPECIAL REPORT

CONCRETE PROBLEMS

How to fix our crumbling infrastructure

First in a three-part series

If Ontario was your house, *it would be on the verge of falling apart. The roof needs reshingling, the electrical system is ailing and the furnace is on its last legs. Forget about the fact the bathroom hasn't been redone since the 1970s.* **You've taken loans and are maxing out credit cards** *to pay for just part of what needs to be done. A Metroland Special Report shows that's the situation for Ontario municipalities as they struggle to fix our crumbling infrastructure — the roads, buildings, water and sewer systems that underpin our daily life.*

That pothole at the end of the street is just the beginning of Oakville's infrastructure woes. The Town of Oakville projects it will need more than $870 million over the next eight years to maintain everything from libraries to roads and wastewater treatment plants.

Despite more than $30 million in recent government stimulus funding, Oakville will still need to find close to a billion dollars over the next decade for repairs or renewal of the public buildings, sewers and other systems that underpin every community.

Pressure for the infrastructure funds comes at a time when Oakville is already grappling with $40 million of debt.

But the work must be done because

See Cost page 8

Congratulations Class of 2011

The MacLachlan Board of Governors, faculty and staff wish our 2011 graduates well in their post-secondary studies - Class of 2011, you're going places!

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