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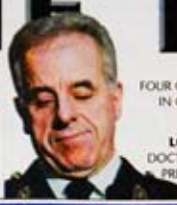

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE...DAILY

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2005

$1.07

Extreme cold alert issued

TRIBUNE STAFF
ST. CATHARINES

With temperatures forecast to reach a low of -16° Celsius again tonight, an extreme cold weather alert issued Thursday by Niagara's health department remains in effect.

The alerts are aimed at ensuring that the homeless and others vulnerable to the effects of extreme winter weather are protected during the cold spell.

A voluntary network of agencies region-wide coordinates resources, locates shelter spaces, and transports those vulnerable to exposure, if necessary.

An alert is issued when temperatures fall below -15° C or when wind chills and weather are severe.

Injunction request in land registry office battle

BY MARK TAYTI
TRIBUNE STAFF
WELLAND

A motion for an interim injunction will be brought before a Toronto judge today by members of the francophone community trying to prevent the closure of the Welland land registry office.

The motion will be brought by Welland lawyer J. Ross MacFarlane on behalf of Marc-Yvain Giroux. The proceeding will take place at Osgoode Hall at 130 Queens St. W. at 10 a.m.

The minister of consumer and commercial services announced the closure of the Division Street land registry office last October. The plan is to consolidate services for the Niagara region in St. Catharines.

At the time of the announcement, Consumer and Commercial Services Minister Jim Watson said the closure was tied to legislation preventing two land registry offices in one district.

The consolidation of services is expected to save taxpayers $300,000 per year.

The francophone community and the Welland County Law Society have joined forces to challenge the closure on Constitutional grounds, citing a lack of services guaranteed under the province's French Language Services Act.

PLEASE SEE PROVINCE/A3

Eye-catching copper

■ OVER TIME, PANELS WILL TURN THE SAME COLOUR AS THOSE ON COURTHOUSE ROOF: ARCHITECT

BY ANGUS SCOTT
TRIBUNE STAFF
WELLAND

Distinctive.

Iconic.

Those are two words being used to describe the latest developments in Welland's civic square construction project.

The building took on a new perspective for residents this week as hundreds of specially made, brightly burnished copper panels started going onto the side of the irregularly-shaped council chamber's portion of the building.

"People either love it or they hate it," said David McKnight of David McKnight Construction.

The Bellwood, Ont., company is carrying out the actual installation of the 180 custom made copper panels, a job which started a last Tuesday and and will take three weeks to complete.

McKnight and his employee Tim Bagnell have been hearing a lot of public comment from passersby on Welland's East Main Street.

This is the largest job McKnight has done with copper. He normally installs aluminum panels.

"This is all work to me," he says. "But I do like the idea of this being such a high-profile project. There are a lot of people walking by and looking up, seeing what I do."

McKnight and Bagnell have heard lots of opinions – favourable or otherwise – about the copper panels.

"One guy said he'd pay me to paint over them," said Bagnell.

"Personally, I like it," said McKnight.

The building design comes from architect Craig Goodman of Carruthers Shaw Architects of Toronto.

"I think we wanted to create a structure with an iconic quality," said project director Paul Cavit of Carruthers Shaw.

The copper design performs two functions: it not only fits into the existing downtown Welland streetscape, including the bridge towers and courthouse, said Cavit, but it also gives the building a distinctive look.

"There were a number of considerations taken into account to give it a special quality," said Cavit.

"There is a very distinctive quality to the downtown streetscape, with lots of stone and red brickwork, and there is a fair amount of copper being used in other buildings."

One of those is the courthouse and its copper cupola.

"The council chamber is seen as being in dialogue with the historical courthouse building," said Cavit. "It also looks out on the waterway, the canal."

Copper and stone are civic construction materials, said Cavit, but in this project they are being used in a very visual way.

"Copper is the major visual material being used here," said Cavit. "It's a one-of-a-kind and when you see this it works as part of a complete visual package. The metal building will be seen in relation to the metal bridge towers."

While the copper is currently extremely bright, it will turn to a natural brown colour, reflecting the existing colours on the street, said Cavit. In the longer term, the panels will oxidize, obtaining a turquoise green patina similar to the colour of the copper on the courthouse cupola.

PLEASE SEE GREEN/A3

DAN MACNEIL/ T. STAFF

Dave McKnight, of Dave McKnight Construction of Bellwood, Ont., installs copper panels on the new city hall in Welland on Thursday.

Triathlete talks to local students

■ OLYMPIAN IS A MEMBER OF ESTEEM TEAM

BY ALLAN BENNER
TRIBUNE STAFF
WELLAND

When Isabelle Turcotte-Baird was a child growing up in Quebec City, she remembers cheering on her father as he competed in triathlon events.

"In the summer every weekend we were going to triathlon events in Quebec," she recalled.

Whether she was a little older, she with a goal of inspiring and educating youth to reach their full potential.

"They can do anything," Turcotte-Baird said in an interview prior to her presentation. She told the students to set goals for themselves and develop a strategy to reach them – and to keep a positive outlook.

"Anything is achievable and possible when you have a positive attitude."

As a physiotherapist, health and wellness educator is part of her job. And drawing from her personal experience and talking to children as an ESTEEM Team athlete is a unique way to do it, she said.

Turcotte-Baird retired from competing in the sport about two years ago.

Since then, she's been concentrat-