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Extreme cold alert issued

TRINITY STAR
ST. CATHARINES

With temperatures forecast to reach a low of -18° 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 regionwide coordinates resources, food and other supplies 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 TAYT
TRINITY STAR
WELLAND

A motion for an interim injunction will be brought before a Toronto judge today by members of the Inco-preneur 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-Vincent Gieson. The proceeding will take place at Osgoode Hall at 130 Queen St. W. at 10 a.m.

The minister of consumer and commercial services announced the closure of the Osgoode 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 Inco-preneur community and the Welland County Law Society have joined forces to challenge the closure on Constitutional grounds, citing a loss of services guaranteed under the province's French Language Services Act.

Eye-catching copper

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

BY ANGUS SCOTT
TRINITY STAR
WELLAND

Distinctive.
Eyes.

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 as workers this week laid hundreds of specially made, highly finished copper panels starting going onto the side of the irregularly-shaped central chamber's portion of the building.

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

The Welland, Ont., company is carrying out the actual installation of the 160 custom made copper panels, a job which started a last Tuesday and will take three weeks to complete.

McKnight and his employee Tim Bagwell have been handling a lot of public comments from passers-by 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 Bagwell have found lots of opinions. "Loveable or otherwise — you go with it or the copper panels."

"One guy said he'd pay me to paint

over them," said Bagwell. "Personally, I like it," said McKnight.

The building design comes from architect Craig Goodwin of Caruthers Shaw Architects of Toronto.

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

The copper design performs two functions: it not only fits into the existing downtown Welland streetscape, including the bridge lanes and courtyards, said Carriv, 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 Carriv.

"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 these is the courthouse and its copper copula.

"The central chamber is seen as being in dialogue with the historical courthouse building," said Carriv. "It also looks out via the narrowway canal."

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

"Copper in the most visual materials being used here," said Carriv. "It's a one-way street 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 more brown colour, reflecting the existing colours on the street, said Carriv. In the longer term, the panels will oxidize, obtaining a turquoise green patina similar to the colour of the copper on the courthouse cupola.



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

PLEASE SEE GREEN/A3

Triathlete talks to local students

■ OLYMPIAN IS A MEMBER OF ESTEEM TEAM

BY ALLAN BENNER
TRINITY STAR
WELLAND

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

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

When she was a little older, she



with a goal of inspiring and motivating youth to reach their full potential.

"They can do anything," Turcotte-Bisset 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 education 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-Bisset retired from competing in the sport about two years ago. Since then, she's been concentrating

PLEASE SEE PROVINCE/A3