

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS



TROY FLEECE / Leader-Post

The annual Santa Claus Parade was held Sunday on South Albert Street where children waved and smiled as the jolly old soul went by.

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“But we knew if we took care not to twist or bend it, we’d be OK.” From the demolition site, the mural, wall and all, was picked up by crane and carted on a flatbed by another industrial contractor turned pro bono archeologist, Stewart Steel of Weyburn, which also fabricated and donated heavy support structures both for the haul downtown from the north-end hospital grounds and for the mural’s eventual display.

“An inch at a time,” is how Louise Rumball, Soo Line museum treasurer recalls the move this fall of the crated mural into the building’s narrow reception area and around right angles of corridors. “Move an inch, prop it up, measure, cut a bit of the frame here or there if need be, and move another inch.”

Since then, the museum has had a fortuitous visit, from Canada’s top art conservator, Ian Hodgkinson. The professor emeritus of Queens University has been working in Saskatoon with a glue rendered from codfish to peel and transfer abstract-art murals from the executive suites of the former Intercontinental Packers building — the old company of Fred Mendel, he of the Mendel Art Gallery — which is soon to be demolished for a freeway expansion of Circle Drive.

Curator Jacquie Mallory awaits Hodgkinson’s suggestions on how best to clean and display the mural. Somewhat damaged by water dripping down the three-storey hospital, and at one point coated in varnish — likely with the best intentions, but over time yellowing the images — the painting in full restoration would likely cost many tens of thousands of dollars.

Although in 1956 Eadie enjoyed a public showing of his works at the Dunlop Gallery in Regina, he suffered repeated lapses with his mind’s demons, and was in and out of the hospital during the 1950s. At times, he couldn’t bring himself to pick up a paint brush, and was encouraged to do so only through the hospital programs of art therapy. Little else is recorded about the man, the person. Those who knew him best, his nurses and therapist, swore patient confidentiality when they took work with the hospital and to this day uphold that oath, politely

declining comment. Eadie eventually returned to his family’s native country, England, never to be heard from again.

Grant money for restoration of the mural is scarce, a problem compounded by the fact that the Soo Line is not an art gallery with the employed expertise of same, and further complicated by the financial books of the society that runs the museum out of the former power plant of the Weyburn Light and Electric Machine Company, a building this year one century old.

A bank account built up by estate bequests in the 1990s is all but exhausted, says Rumball, and with insurance and energy costs ballooning monthly expenses in the tourism slow season to four times revenue, the museum needs city help or will soon have to close its doors for the winter.

For now, at least, the mural is safe and stored, bringing the human side of mental patients to some of the hard, clinical hospital artifacts under the museum’s roof — the electro-shock therapy apparatus, syringes for deliberate insulin overdoses and restraints for cold water submersions in the early half of the 20th century, all common treatments before the advent of effective drugs for mental ailments.

“The mural is so important, on so many levels,” Mallory says. “It depicts major events in Saskatchewan history, it was painted in a mental hospital that touched the lives of families throughout the province, and it was by a patient, one who was recognized as an artist at a time when mental illness still carried a stigma.”

Demolition of the hospital is now virtually complete. The empty space where it stood is as conspicuous now, amid the towering trees of the vast grounds, as was, for so many years, the building itself imposing.

The Eadie mural serves as a memorial. And a lesson in art appreciation. Where experts had given up, men in hard hats wouldn’t.

“We were told the mural was too expensive, too difficult to save, impossible,” says Mallory. “Then these men come along, see the value of the art, and, working on their own time and materials, get it done.”

EDMONTON

Rally held in support of Khadr

By DAVE COOPER
Canwest News Service

EDMONTON — About 250 people rallied in Edmonton on Sunday, hoping to pressure the federal government to bring Omar Khadr back to Canada.

On Friday, the United States said it would soon move Khadr from the prison camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a stateside military prison to stand trial before a military tribunal.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Canada is considering whether to overturn a lower-court ruling that Ottawa make every effort to repatriate Khadr, the only Western prisoner still held at the controversial detention centre.

Khadr was 15 when he was arrested by American troops after a firefight in Afghanistan. He is charged with throwing a grenade which killed a U.S. medic.

“I saw a video of the compound where he was found. It had been flattened, and Omar was largely covered in dust and debris,” Peter Johnston, a former official in the now-defunct Alberta Green Party, told the protesters.

“This was war, and another U.S. soldier could have thrown that grenade. There is no direct evidence Omar threw it,” he said Sunday. “But the military detests casualties from friendly fire.”

Meanwhile, Khadr’s Edmonton-based lawyer expressed support for the protest on Sunday. Dennis Edney helped to present the case to the Supreme Court on Friday. The court has reserved its decision. “All we are asking is that our government make a request to the Americans to return Omar Khadr home. That is probably the only get-out-of-jail card he has, other than public opinion,” he said in an interview from Ottawa.

Edmonton Journal

Q.B. No. 1461 of 2009

IN THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH
JUDICIAL CENTRE OF SASKATOON

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES'
CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C.
1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED (the “CCAA”)

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED PLAN
OF ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CREDITORS OF
BIG SKY FARMS INC., DRY CAST SYSTEMS
INC. and BIG SKY MANAGEMENT CONSULTING
CORP. (collectively “Big Sky”)

Take notice that Big Sky commenced proceedings under the CCAA on November 10, 2009 and was granted an *ex parte* order of the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan (the “Initial Order”).

The Initial Order granted Big Sky various relief, including, *inter alia*, imposing a stay of proceedings against the creditors in respect to Big Sky and its assets, appointing Ernst & Young Inc. as Monitor, and providing Big Sky an opportunity to prepare and file a plan of arrangement or compromise for the consideration of its creditors and other stakeholders.

Pursuant to the Initial Order, Big Sky is to carry on business in a manner consistent with the commercially reasonable preservation of its respective business and assets.

The Initial Order has been posted on the Monitor's website:
www.ey.com/ca/bigskyfarms

Creditors requiring further information, not made available on the website, should contact:

Monitor:	Applicant:
Sean MacNeil	Accounts Payable Dept.
Ernst & Young Inc.	Big Sky Farms
P.O. Box 10101	P.O. Box 610
700 West Georgia Street	10333 8th Street
Vancouver, BC	Humboldt, SK
V7Y 1C7	S0K 2A0
1-888-283-9867 Ext. 8262	(306) 682-5041

ERNST & YOUNG

Property Assessment Roll
2010

Pursuant to section 187 of *The Cities Act*, notice is hereby given that the City of Regina has mailed property assessment notices for the year 2010 on November 16, 2009.

The assessment roll is prepared and open for inspection in the office of the assessor from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. unless otherwise posted on the following days:

Monday, November 16 to Friday, November 20, 2009
Monday, November 23 to Friday, November 27, 2009
Monday, November 30 to Friday, December 4, 2009
Monday, December 7 to Friday, December 11, 2009
Monday, December 14 to Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment or classification to the Board of Revision is required to file his or her Notice of Appeal with “The Secretary of the Board of Revision, 13th Floor, 2476 Victoria Avenue, City of Regina, Box 1790, Regina, SK S4P 3C8”, before 4:45 p.m. on the 15th day of December, 2009.

Dated this 16th day of November, 2009.

Don Barr
City Assessor



Regina Palliative Care Inc.
supports palliative
care services in the Regina
Qu'Appelle Health Region.

ph. 306.766.2300 | www.rpci.org

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