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A groundbreaking moment for Tri-Area Medical Centre

BY DIANE SHERMAN

Madoc — As the construction crew from Dalren Ltd. of Cobourg began preparations for construction Aug. 6, members of local councils and both federal and Ontario members of parliament attended the official groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Tri-Area Medical Centre. The building will serve the three municipalities of

Tudor-Casheh, Madoc Township and Centre Hastings.

Dalren Ltd. submitted the lowest bid of three tenders received by the medical centre board. Bids were opened June 24. Centre Hastings has agreed to contribute approximately \$1.5 million dollars, over and above the \$1.1 million that is being raised by the medical centre board.

Continued on page 27

Police on alert for 150th

BY JANET RICHARDS

Stirling — Chief Brian Foley says the Stirling-Rawdon Police will uphold the law and not ignore public drinking during the village's upcoming 150th anniversary celebrations.

In a statement released Aug. 6, Foley said police have been told by many residents that the celebrations are "believed to be one massive party."

"For some reason it is believed that the police are going to turn a blind eye and allow people to do as they please, e.g. walking, driving, etc. with alcoholic beverages in their hand," Foley said in the statement. "This is not 25 years ago. All officers have and will be instructed again to perform their duties to the letter of the law."

Foley told *The Community Press* that 25 years ago during 125th anniversary celebrations things were "a little more lenient."

"The way the police are looked at now you're either the bad guy or the good guy," Foley said, adding he will be the "bad guy" to ensure law and order is kept and everybody is safe.

He also wanted residents to "have a heads up before they get down there" so they are aware that alcohol must be kept in licensed areas. Foley said the same will apply to any other law that is broken whether it be Criminal Code, provincial statute or bylaw.

The police have been preparing for both traffic tie-ups and crowds during the celebrations and Foley said his officers have known for two years there would be no holidays, time off or leave during the anniversary week.

"I think there will be a lot more people than what organizers even expect," Foley said.

With the Stirling-Rawdon police service out in full force, they will also be receiving assistance from other police services, Foley said. Belleville Police Service will be assisting both with RIDE checks and patrols during 150th anniversary events.

In light of the traffic delays and detours expected, anniversary organizers are recommending people to park free at the fairgrounds and take advantage of free shuttles that will run downtown.



■ Prehistoric pal — John Davies, an artist with Research Castings International, inspects a Triceratops for repairs. The skeleton will be displayed at the 150th Stirling Fair. Story on page 10.

Photo by Bill Tremblay

Trenton triceratops on display at Stirling Fair

BY BILL TREMBLAY

Trenton — While growing up, Peter May had no interest in dinosaurs.

Today, he makes a living recreating the giant reptiles for some of the most reputable museums in the world.

"I was born in England and they teach them in school at a later age. I came to Canada at

age eight and missed dinosaurs completely," May said who is president of Research Castings International. "I've grown to appreciate them. There are no complaints there."

May majored in sculpting while studying in Guelph. He then landed a job at the Royal Ontario Museum as a restoration technician in paleontology.

"I started getting calls to mount a dinosaur in my spare time and the business grew from there," May said.

RCI is now in its 21st year of operation. May moved the business from St. Catharines to Trenton 18 months ago. "We had to expand by either building more buildings or moving," May said.

After searching Eastern Ontario for a suitable location, May eventually found a new 48,000-square-foot home for the business on Dufferin Avenue. "We polled our staff to see who would move here and about 80 per cent agreed," May said.

The company employs more than 20 artists and craftsmen in its restoration projects.

May explained the city's proximity to the United States and airport as well as the lower cost of living attracted RCI to Trenton.

"It is the quality of life more than anything," May said. "It is so pretty out here."

RCI's portfolio includes work for the ROM, the American Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian, British Museum and the Museum Fur Naturkunde in Berlin.

"We have worked with every major museum in the world pretty much," May said. "We are the largest company doing this."

A triceratops created by RCI will be on display at the 150th Stirling Fair before heading to the Shannon Doyle Museum in Virginia.

"It is not often that we have a skeleton available to go out like this," May said.

Construction of the prehistoric creatures starts with the fossils. Usually the full skeleton is not found.

"Water washed it away or scavengers will come and take parts of specimens," May said.

To replace missing bones, RCI will three-dimensionally digitize a similar piece and create a mirror image of the fossil. The image is then recreated using a three-dimensional printer.

"We used to have a sculpture sculpt it," May said. "But now with the scanning and printing, we can do this quicker and more accurately."

Fossil material is used in some of the exhibits, while others are made from molds of the original bones. The fossils are the property of the museums, but RCI keeps molds of the bones in their warehouse for future use. Museums are consulted before duplicates are made of their artifacts.

Currently, 100 full skeletons and 70 skull molds are stored on site at the Trenton location.

RCI also refurbishes existing collections for museums by removing older materials used to hold the skeleton together.

"Older materials are falling apart," May said. "Now we are using much better adhesives and consolidants."

May explained using molds of the bones are an advantage as the replicates are lighter and more durable than the fossils.

"With cast materials, you can have more dynamic positions in the poses," May said.

Creating the animals can take from 350 to 500 hours of work depending on the size of the dinosaur and the amount of fossil material used.

"As a rule we like to have three months," May said. "But it depends on how busy we are on the floor."

Price of the exhibits range from \$2,500 for a baby hadrosaur to \$500,000 for a bronze Tyrannosaurus rex. However, the fossils used are considered priceless.

"The preparation is pretty straight forward, but first you have to make that discovery," May said. "If anything happened to the fossils, you would have to find another one."



■ Research Castings International president Peter May and artist John Davies inspect a Triceratops for repairs. The skeleton will be displayed at the Stirling 150 Agricultural fair.



Photos by Bill Tremblay

■ Jessica Wilson, a technician with Research Castings International, restores a fossil from a lambeosaurus, at the businesses Trenton location.

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