

Beamsville chosen as investigation headquarters

The police task force investigating the murder of Kristen French has moved to Beamsville.

Last Wednesday, the team of 33 investigators from Niagara, Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton police forces moved to the old town hall building on King Street.

The investigating team is now known as Project Green Ribbon, after the green ribbons Kristen's Holy Cross Secondary School distributed after her abduction last month.

Kristen was abducted April 16 from a church parking lot while walking home from her high school in north St. Catharines. Her body was found two weeks later near a sideroad in Burlington.

The task force is also investigating possible connections to the death of Burlington's Leslie Mahaffy and the disappearance of St. Catharines teen Terri Anderson.

The former municipal headquarters will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays to Fridays. The location will function as an operational facility with media releases and interviews still being conducted in St. Catharines, police said in a press release.

The King Street building has been vacant since October of 1990 when town staff moved to the new municipal headquarters on the South Service Road in Beamsville.

OMHA recognizes Robinsons for service

Two of the pioneers of the Lincoln Minor Hockey Association were recently named the 45th winners of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association Honour Award for outstanding service to minor hockey.

Doug and Iris Robinson of Beamsville were instrumental in the beginnings of minor hockey here in 1966-67 when the Centennial Centre was built.

They have been two of the town's biggest hockey boosters as numerous local clubs have brought home OMHA championships.

Mr. Robinson's first involvement in minor hockey came as manager of his son Frank's bantam team in Winona in 1963.

They have served as OMHA conveners for all age levels since

the early 1970s, and have especially enjoyed novice and juvenile hockey.

During the past dozen years, the Robinsons have been involved primarily with 'AAA' hockey. They now convene 70 teams from London to Niagara Falls from minor novice to midget.

Mr. Robinson also helped get the Beamsville District Softball Association started in 1951, and was the original president of the Niagara District Softball Association from 1965 to 1980. After he gave up the presidency, Mrs. Robinson took over as secretary. The couple is still involved in local softball.

They have also contributed to the community as members of the Beamsville Lions/Lioness club.



Doug and Iris Robinson display a silver tray recognizing them for winning the Ontario Minor Hockey Association Honor Award.

Project will make BDSS wheelchair accessible

Beamsville District Secondary School will be undergoing a \$110,000 renovation project to provide better accessibility for wheelchairs.

Last week, Lincoln MPP Ron Hansen announced the school would receive a \$78,243 grant from the provincial government to improve access at BDSS for physically challenged students and staff members, as well as members of the public who use the school.

The Lincoln County Board of Education will cover the remaining costs of the construction project, which includes installing an elevator plus other improvements.

NO SCHOOLS WITH ACCESSIBILITY

Lincoln trustee Sue Culp said there are currently no high schools in the west end of the county suitable for wheelchairs. With the renovations, BDSS will offer an option for wheelchair students who want "more complete" access to a school, she said.

NEW PROGRAM

The funds from the province are part of a five-year, \$2.3-billion infrastructure investment program announced by Treasurer Floyd Laughren in this year's budget.

"We are working with school boards across the province to improve the quality of our schools and to help boost the local economies," Mr. Hansen said in a news release.

Sachdeva gets high Lions' honour

Beamsville Lions president Om Sachdeva was presented with the Lions Clubs International Foundation's (LCIF) highest honour recently.

Mr. Sachdeva was given and plaque and a pin for being named a Melvin Jones Fellow. This is the highest honour conferred by the foundation, and in receiving it, Mr. Sachdeva joins the ranks of some of the most prominent Lions of the world.

Earning the Melvin Jones Fellowship requires more than a financial commitment to LCIF. The status also recognizes a deep commitment to the ideals of Lionism.

"Through your actions, you have shown deep concern for the welfare of your fellow man," wrote William Biggs, chairman of the board of trustees. "For this we convey our deepest respect."

As a Melvin Jones Fellow, Mr. Sachdeva will be recognized as a leader among Lions. The foundation depends on people like the Beamsville man to promote its work and services.



Eileen Turnbull, Dorothy Burtch, Maureen Kimberley, Swadesh Sachdeva, Barbara Stones

Pick Up Week
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