

Nude statue under cover

By DAVE ROWNEY
Herald Staff

Georgetown has a nude statue, but she's under cover.

The controversial "Lover's Bench" is patiently waiting for an overcoat of rubber while lying on her back.

Shipped to Georgetown from Montreal, Lover's Bench has found a new home under the roof of Artcast Inc. on Armstrong Avenue.

Artcast is a firm that specializes in moulds for artists, mostly for bronze works.

Lover's Bench is being duplicated and the artist Lea Vivot-Fishman is hoping a Toronto buyer can be found for the copied statue.

She's already found a buyer in the United States who bought the original for more than the \$150,000 asking price.

Six years ago the bronze statue was removed from a downtown Toronto location after complaints were made by citizens. It ended up on a fashionable Sherbrooke Street West location in Montreal and was rented by two merchants.

Mrs. Vivot-Fishman thinks Toronto is now ready for a return of her nude sculpture and she already has a buyer interested.

The owner of Artcast, Eric Knoespel, said his employees started working on the sculpture "full blast" Monday.

The 20 year old firm have done other moulds for Mrs. Vivot-Fishman, including a statue of a mother and child on a bench in front of St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto.

A 12-foot statue by Mrs. Vivot-Fishman of people sitting on a bench in front of the Hospital for Sick Children was also moulded by Artcast, Mr. Knoespel said.

The entire project is expected to take about two weeks to complete, the Artcast owner said. The controversial sculpture in Georgetown is of a nude couple together on a bench with a woman sitting next to them.

High level paint job

If Academy Painting Company Ltd. of Scarborough passes the region's tight reference checks, it's going to have a paint job on its hands this fall.

The company's bid of \$35,000 to repaint the Georgetown water tower is substantially lower than bids by two other companies.

Last week, regional councillors, after an in-camera session, decided to accept Academy's bid, and the hiring of Ran Steel Works Limited. Ran Steel will supervise and inspect the work at \$25 an hour, up to a limit of \$5,000.

If regional staff aren't completely satisfied with the reference checks of Academy, then the tender for this work will go to the second lowest bidder, R. Rodgers and Company Ltd. of Burlington. R. Rodgers bid \$56,777 for the job.

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Dianne Tooze

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