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NEWS

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

BOARDED-UP MCGIBBON HOTEL GETS A LITTLE LIFT

ALEXANDRA HECK
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No, it's not graffiti. The boards covering up with windows at the McGibbon Hotel have been up for months, and the once plain, black boards are now a canvas for the town.

"We painted it with chalkboard paint," said 13-year-old Allyda King, who helped the BIA and local businesses paint the boards with the special coating and write prompts on the top of the boards.

Phrases like "Before I die I want to ..." and "The world needs more ..." were written to encourage passersby to write an answer below.

"I think it's a really nice way to draw the community together," said Sarina King, Allyda's grandmother, who is visiting from Alberta.

She and her husband Bob King said they aren't familiar with the history of the project underway at the site, which has gone to the Ontario Municipal Board over heritage and building concerns and remains stalled while



ALEXANDRA HECK/METROLAND

investors evaluate the condominium's feasibility.

"I think it's great for kids and teen to share ideas," said the visiting grandmother. "I love the fact that it's meant to be an inspirational board."

Allyda said that multiple people had already written on the boards on the first day they were painted.

A chalk bucket hangs on the site for interested participants.

WHAT'S GOING ON

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