



Eric Knoespel, owner of Artcast in Georgetown, stands beside the recently completed bronze sculpture of equestrian Ian Millar and his horse Big Ben. The piece will be installed in Perth, Millar's hometown, this weekend. Photo by Yves Desjardins

Artcast work will be everywhere

In the next few weeks several sculptures that have been cast in bronze at Georgetown's Artcast will be installed in public places throughout Ontario.

Canada's leading art foundry has completed, or is putting the final touches on, several important sculptures including one of painter Tom Thomson, Olympians Ian Millar and Big Ben, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, pioneer Alexander Wood and Franklin the Turtle.

The figure of Thomson, seated on a log near a canoe, with a box of paints on his knee and a brush in his hand, is to be unveiled today (Wednesday) at the Civic Square in Huntsville, Ont.

The six-foot-high, 550 lb. sculpture was commissioned by the Town of Huntsville and created by Brenda Wainman Goulet. The canoe is 13-feet long and weighs 900 lbs. Both pieces are cast in bronze and patinated.

The figure of Millar on Big Ben in mid-jump is to be installed in Perth, Ontario's Code Park on Sunday. It was created by Stewart Smith, Ruth Abernethy and Jean Abernethy, who worked from photographs to form the life-sized figures.

Big Ben is 12 ft. long and soars over a triple jump. The horse and rider weigh 1,150 lbs and both are cast in bronze and patinated.

"Ian Millar approved the figure of Big Ben, but Ian's mother approved the statue of him," said Eric Knoespel, Artcast's founder and owner.

"And why not? Could you approve a sculpture of yourself?"

The statue of Prime Minister King as a young man will be revealed at Kitchener Collegiate in Kitchener next Friday (May 27) to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the school, which King attended in 1886. The sculpture, cast in bronze and patinated, is done by Ruth Abernethy and weighs 250 lbs.

The historical figure of Alexander Wood, a public servant for York, the former name of Toronto, was sculpted by Del Newbigging. Wood was involved in a homophobic scandal in 1810 and has been championed as a gay pioneer by Toronto's Church/Wellesley Village BIA Monument Committee. The eight-foot, 1,300 lb statue will be unveiled at the northwest corner of Church St. and Alexander St. on next Saturday (May 28).

A sculpture of Franklin the Turtle and some of his friends, all cast in bronze at Artcast have been installed at Toronto's Centre Island. The statues are to be officially unveiled on June 10.

Casting at Artcast is done using the lost wax process, which requires making a rubber mould from the original sculpture, using the mould to make a wax duplicate, encasing the wax form in a ceramic shell, melting the wax out and then finally pouring the molten bronze into the ceramic shell to form the final sculpture.

"Artcast's bronze sculpture will last a few thousand years," said Knoespel.

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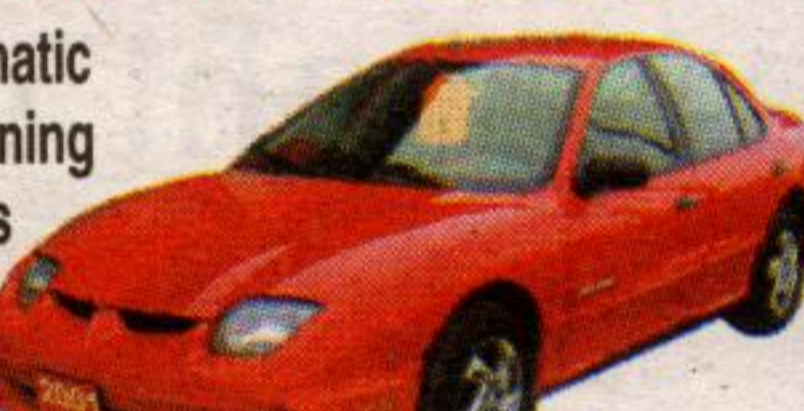


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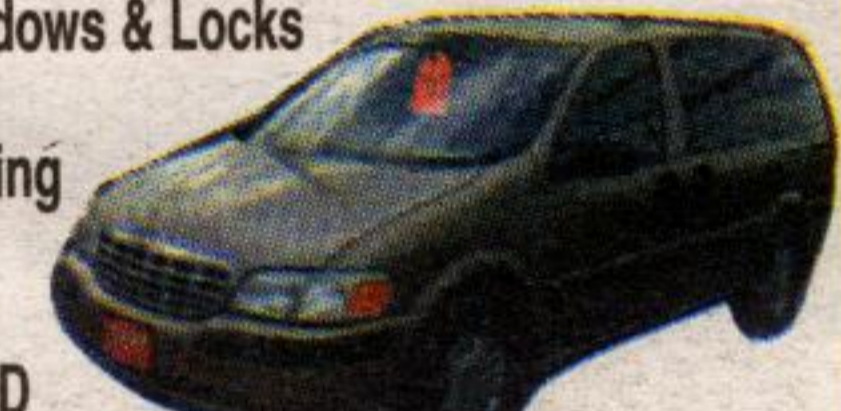


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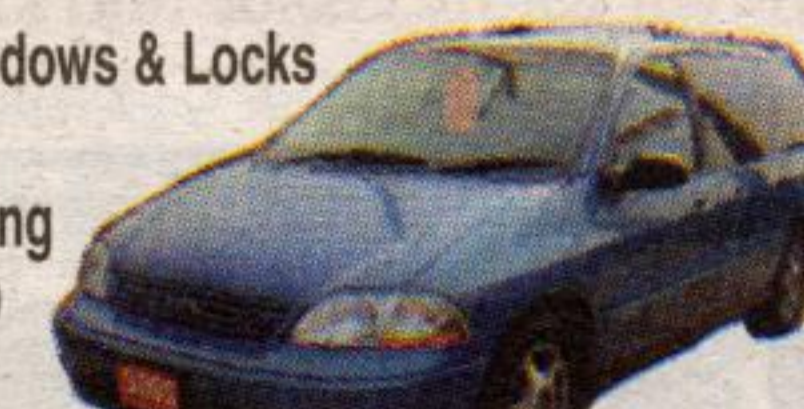


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