

# No Civic Centre access

## Stickers come off doors while city looks for solutions

By DAVID HEYMAN

Prince George Free Press

After months of complaints, the City of Prince George has agreed to take the 'disabled access' stickers off some of the washroom doors in the Civic Centre, but a permanent solution may still be months away.

The stalls in the washrooms are simply too small for some people's wheelchairs and city staff say they're working on the problem. The small stalls were noticed immediately after the Civic Centre was unveiled earlier this year but so far nothing has been done to fix them.

The issue has been championed by Vivian Candy, who tried to get into one of the stalls only to find her wheelchair didn't fit. Ms. Candy says she's been waiting for months for the City to do something about the design flaw. "Well, I don't know if it was the architect or the structural people, it could be

either, but the design was incorrect. The washroom on the second floor and the washroom in the changeroom on the first floor...are not wheelchair accessible. I've been asking the City to take off the emblems on the doors because they're not accessible. One way or another, we can't go on putting up with this kind of thing."

But Ms. Candy says taking the stickers off the door isn't enough. She wants the washrooms fixed soon. "We have put pressure on them from the SNAC (Special Needs Advisory Committee) that we want a time limit, that this really has to be looked into. If they don't do it, then we will start again. I mean, I'm not leaving it like this."

Leisure Services director Tom Madden says the City is moving on the issue and may have a solution by the New Year. "I don't know whether everything will be resolved by then to everyone's satisfaction but we're certainly going

to try to do that. I don't know if it will be by year's end. Some of the things they'd like to see we may have to...budget for in subsequent years to get them done."

Ms. Candy says the washrooms don't conform to the building code, but Mr. Madden says that's not true. "It is built to code. It's just...they would like to see the code expanded, and that's what we're looking at. There's a couple areas where it's just on the code and a slight adjustment to it may allow it to meet the things the SNAC committee has pointed out."

Mr. Madden also says not all the washrooms in the Civic Centre are the same way. "We have some individual units that are downstairs and they're fine. They're excellent examples of access for all, but the ones upstairs are a little tight and the ones in our dressing room areas are a little tight as well."

Not all people in wheelchairs

will have the same problem as Ms. Candy had either. Mr. Madden says it matters how big the wheelchair is. "There are different sizes of wheelchairs. The one washroom that's under consideration, it would work fine for some wheelchairs but not for all."

### SALUTARIS COUNSELLING



Individuals • Couples • Depression  
• Supportive Groups  
• Pulling Out of Ruts Techniques

Day • Evening  
• Weekend Appointments

MADELINE BRUCE

16 Years Counselling  
562-7599

## Four facing charges in kidnapping

Police say they've tracked down the suspects in the beating and robbery of a 26-year-old male which happened two weeks ago.

RCMP have arrested three men and one woman, all of Prince George, on robbery charges and they say more charges are pending against the men.

On November 17, the 26-year-old victim was held against his will for four hours at a residence on Ewert Street.

During the ordeal, he was beaten, had a high-powered rifle pointed at him, and then was robbed of a small amount of cash.

Kyle Baraniuk, 29, Gordon Carpenter, 23, Adrian Briggs and Samantha Belcourt appeared in court November 24 charged with a variety of crimes including robbery, unlawful confinement, attempting to instruct justice, pointing a firearm, possession of a weapon, assault causing bodily harm and uttering threats.

## CHRISTMAS AT HONDA



**P543X 1993 Ford 1 Ton "A  
Duplex On Wheels" 4x4 Lariat  
- fully loaded**

**No Money Down, No  
Payments 'till Spring.  
Call collect for credit approval**

**HONDA NORTH**  
105 Brunswick Street DL 8330 562-9391

## The Manor House Gallery

### ART SHOW & SALE

## SAVE 25% TO 50% STOREWIDE

ON FRAMED/ UNFRAMED LIMITED EDITION PRINTS

*Sale on now just in time for Christmas!*

*Plus* **20% off** Furniture & Clothing

FRAMED/ UNFRAMED LIMITED EDITION PRINTS INCLUDING ITEMS BY ...

- |                  |                 |                  |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| • Robert Bateman | • Carl Brenders | • Daniel Smith   |
| • Bev Doolittle  | • Randy Fehr    | • Dean Morrissey |
| • Jim Daly       | • Carol Evans   | • Steve Hanks    |

... AND MANY MORE!



Why look  
elsewhere  
for great buys...

The Manor House Gallery

8384 Toombs Drive (off N. Nechako Road), Prince George, B.C. • 562-9255

**DOOR PRIZE  
WIN**  
A Print Value At  
**\$290**

**"Your Imagination Deserves Clare's"**

- Rogers' Chocolates
- Travel Bags
- Lingerie
- Baskets & Ornaments
- Candles & Candle Sticks
- Floor Rugs

- Picture Frames
- Table Linens
- Bed Linens
- Duvets
- Decorator Beds
- Futons

Treasures are never found out in the open - they are hidden in special places. Whatever you discover at Clare's it will serve you well... a gift for your friend or a treasure for your home

**Just Arrived**  
Hypo-Allergenic  
Down Quilts

**Many other  
in-store Specials**

**Special!**  
All Blue Glassware  
**20% off**  
**Free Gift  
Wrapping**

**Clare's**  
Bedroom Boutique & Linens  
562-5556  
1233 - 4th Avenue, Prince George, BC

**CHRISTMAS HOURS:**  
Monday - Friday: 9:30 - 8:00  
Sat: 9:30 - 5:30 Sun: 12:00 - 4:00