



Green Iron Bridge Work Rivals Christo Installment

By Roger Turner

The artist Christo is famous for draping structures, such as the Reichstag in Berlin, the Pont-Neuf Bridge in Paris, and Snoopy's doghouse, in order to create works of art. The Renaud Brothers of Vernon, Vermont have draped the West Dummerston green iron bridge, which should result in our own work of art, a gleaming, totally refurbished and repainted historic bridge. The actual draping was the focus of Christo's projects. What's going on under the draping is the focus of the draping on our bridge. So what is going on under there?

Dummerston School Graduates Eleven

*By Jo Carol Ratti
Principle, Dummerston School*

Eleven students graduated from Dummerston School on Tuesday, June 15, 2010. The graduates were led by Marshals Laura Rollins and Cooper Turner-Renaud and the gymnasium was decorated with flowers from Ruth Marx. The student class speakers were Libby Annis and Riley Johnson who introduced this year's guest speaker, Mr. Paul Hoak. Paul shared his experiences working with the graduates for several years and praised them for their hard work and accomplishments over the past two years.

Awards and scholarships were presented to the following students:

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"They are completely sandblasting off the old paint from the steel so there will be total lead removal. Basically, we're throwing rocks at the bridge to chip off all the old paint," explained Mike Renaud. The equipment sitting next to the bridge is sucking in and filtering all the air from inside the tarpaulin. When the metal is stripped clean, it will be painted, and when the tarpaulin is shifted from the east side to the middle of the bridge, the finished product will be on view.

Additionally, the bridge was lifted off of its foundation, concrete was poured to cap the foundations on each side of the river, new bearings were installed on the ends of the bridge, and the bridge has now been lowered back into place.

"When the painting is finished, we'll work on the approaches and install new guard rails, and then we'll be ready to reopen the bridge. We've probably got eight more weeks of work," Mike predicted at the end of the first week of July.



CHEAPER THAN CHRISTO

Air filtration and sandblasting equipment in place outside the east end of the bridge.

Please turn to page 9 for a photograph of the graduating class.