

Thursday, July 16, 2009

STATUE OF FLYING PHIL TO BE UNVEILED

The latest addition to the city's growing list of public art will be officially unveiled Monday, July 20 at 2 p.m.

A statue of Philip Arthur Gaglardi (better known as Flying Phil during his days as B.C.'s minister of highways) will stand near the entrance to Gaglardi Square at St. Andrew's on the Square.

In addition to serving in the cabinet of Premier W.A.C. Bennett for two decades, Gaglardi was pastor at St. Andrew's when it was known as Calvary Temple.

From the pulpit of his church, Gaglardi would deliver his Sunday sermons with an oratorical fervor that made him famous. That fame would eventually extend around the world as he built highways and bridges throughout the province and spread the word about the wonders of life in British Columbia.

Funding for the statue, sculpted by local artist Terry Norlander, was raised by the Friends of Phil Gaglardi Society through donations. Norlander worked from photographs of Gaglardi and consulted with members of the Gaglardi family in creating the bronze statue.

"We're thrilled to be able to present this statue of one of our most famous citizens to the City," said Friends of Phil Gaglardi president Doug Scott.

"We're sure the community (especially the many people who knew him or know of his accomplishments) will be pleased with it."

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