



Bob Monette

Photo by Étienne Ranger

Mural competition planned to keep taggers away

Continued from page 1

Though logistics on how to best utilize the new tool remain to be seen, continued Anita MacDonald, executive director of the BIA, it will without a doubt play an important role in keeping neighbourhood buildings and facilities looking good.

"(Graffiti) makes it look like a business owner doesn't necessarily care for the business," she explained. "A clean building is much more inviting."

Orléans Autotech owner Ian Copland, who said he deals with graffiti vandalism on his building half a dozen times a year, also took time at the announcement to declare an upcoming mural competition that will see the business covered by the work of local tal-

ents, possibly in partnership with area high schools.

Murals perform the dual role of beautifying the community's landscape and discouraging blatant vandalism in the community, Copland continued, by offering sanctioned, "true art" in potential graffiti hotspots.

"Taggers seem to have a measure of respect for real graffiti art," he said. "This is the first step."

MacDonald also offered her support for the mural initiative, adding that she hopes it's a trend that will continue throughout the neighbourhood.

"There are a lot of open canvasses (along St. Joseph)," she said. "We can make it look much nicer."