

Gladstone News

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Gladstone Community Complex highly innovative design

By Ken Waddell

THE NEEPAWA BANNER

If all goes well Gladstone will soon be showcasing innovation, recycling and radical design in the form of the new Community Complex. Harkening back to its prairie roots, the complex will feature a sod roof. No, really a sod roof!

Wins Bridgman of DAPR Architecture presented the unique design to the Gladstone Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 20 at their annual meeting. "We aim to bring the client what the client wants and needs and at the same time minimizing the life cycle costs of operating the building," said Bridgman

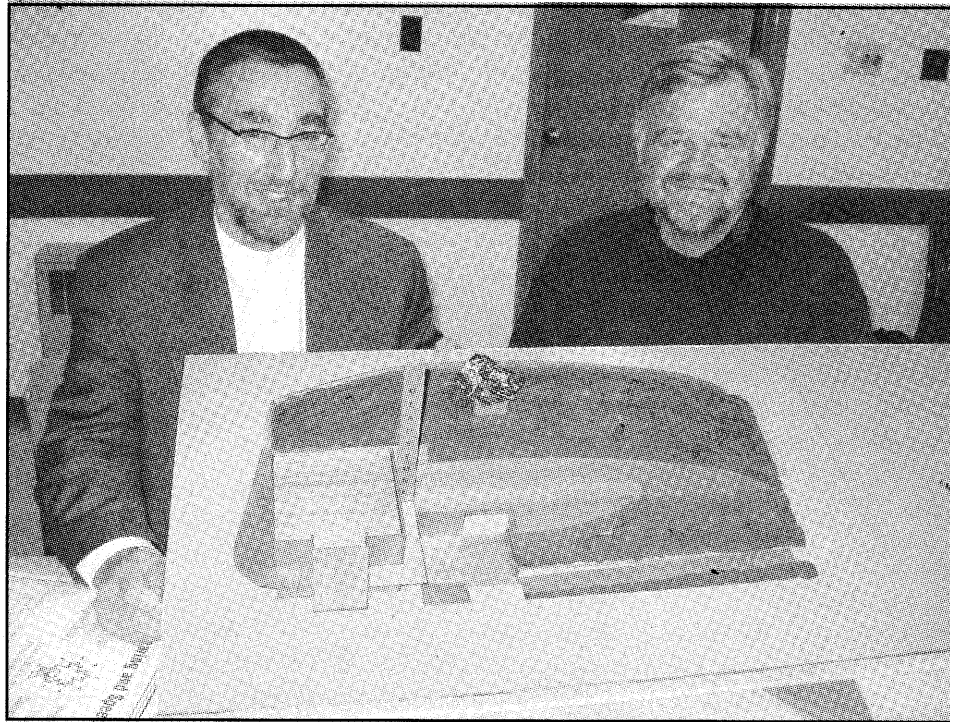
The design includes utilizing the existing Gladstone Town Hall and joining the refurbished existing building to a beautiful new hall. While the old facility will still house the

town offices, a portion of the hall will be used for council meetings. The hall is planned to be divided into several sections with folding walls. When maximum capacity is needed all areas will have a good view of the stage area. The central feature of the hall will be a tall stack which will facilitate natural ventilation of the building which will reduce air conditioning costs. The unique roof will be constructed of used steel beams, recycled wood decking and soil and sod. The plan is to plant native prairie grasses and flowers on the roof which will slope to the west. It's even been suggested that kids will be able to toboggan down the roof in the winter safely and easily because of the design. Bridgman and his partner Gerry Humphreys informed the Chamber that

the unique roof design will save heating costs and reduce cooling costs. The building will be sunk into the ground a few feet, again to reduce heating and cooling costs.

Nick Beavington, who has been very active in the Community Complex committee said, "This project is at the gold standard level for LEEDS which stands for Leadership in Environmental Design. The LEEDS rating will gain the project high points with granting organizations and government because it is so environmentally friendly. The design will likely bring extra publicity because it has a historical touch with the sod roof, its unique design and because of the recycling of materials.

The community will have another chance to review the plan on Feb. 1 at 7:00 at WMCI.



Gladstone's proposed new Community Complex was on display by architect Wins Bridgman and project coordinator Gerry Humphreys at the Gladstone Chamber of Commerce meeting.