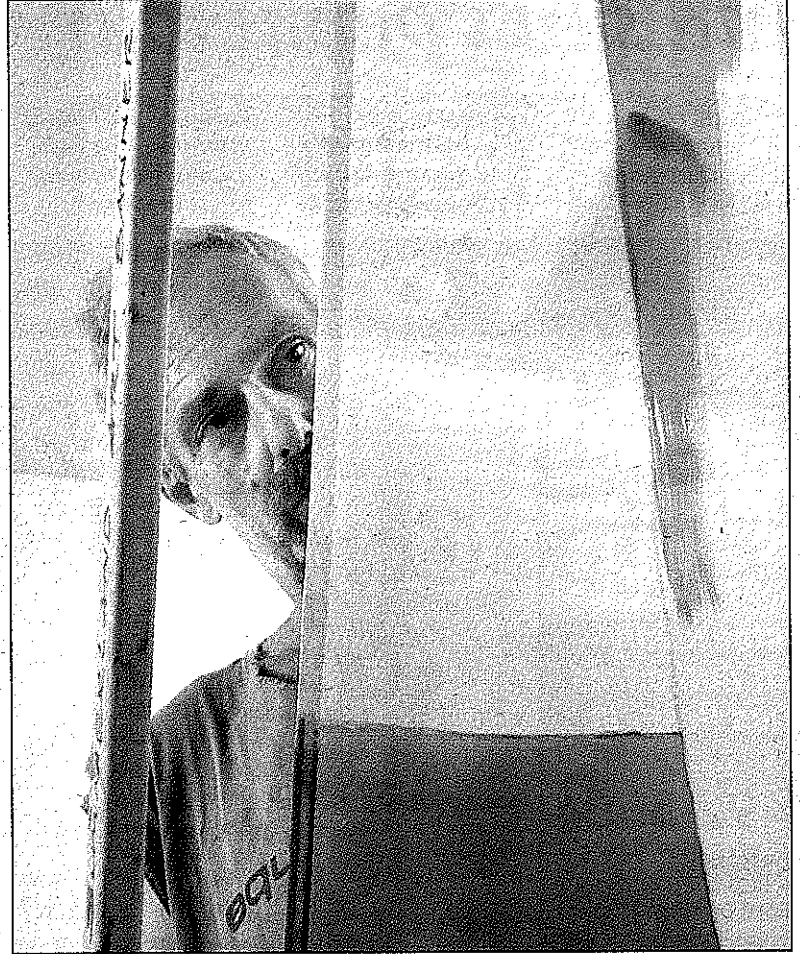


Arts & Entertainment



Steve Kidd/Western News

PUZZLE PIECES — Derek Visser tries his hand at painting a street banner, working on one element of the latest 24tych produced by the Okanagan School of the Arts. The 24 panels, which will soon be appearing on light standards in Penticton's downtown are designed to form a single artwork when joined together.

Ryga award list released

The long list for the seventh annual George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature was announced this week.

The top 10 books submitted for this year's award are *Hope in the Shadows*, Brad Cran & Gillian Jerome; *A Slice of Voice At the Edge of Hearing*, Brian Dedora, *Guantanamo North*, Robert Diab; *Silent Girl*, Tricia Dower; *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, Steven Galloway; *The Truth About Canada*, Mel Hurtig; *In The Realm of the Hungry Ghosts*, Gabor Mate, M.D.; *Five Ring Circus*, Christopher Shaw; *Reena*, Manjit Virk and *What is America?* by Ronald Wright.

"It's a stunning field of books," said John Lent, Okanagan College's north regional dean. "In a year that

provided the most books from publishers that we've ever had. It wasn't easy to get to these final 10, but I know we will find another incredible winner."

The long-list will collapse into a short list of three books that will be announced officially by Sept. 1 when a national judge will choose the winner to be announced in Vernon at Okanagan College during a gala celebration of the Ryga Award on Nov. 7.

Sponsored by the George Ryga Society of Summerland along with CBC Radio and Okanagan College, this literary prize is granted to a B.C. writer who has achieved an outstanding degree of social awareness in a new book published in the preceding calendar year.