

The Telegram

May 25, 2005 — St. John's

Volume 127 — No. 52

LIFE & TIMES

Horray for hip replacement

PAGE B1

BERT RIGGS

A bizarre experiment in dictatorship

PAGE A10

SPORTS

Rimouski pulls out all the stops

PAGE C1



BUSINESS

Artist to create iceberg sculpture

BY TARA BRADBURY
The Telegram

A world-renowned ice artist plans to visit the province next week, where he will perform the first art installation on an iceberg.

Kenneth A. Colorado is coming to St. John's by invitation of Canadian Iceberg Vodka Corp., which manufactures premium vodka from a combination of iceberg water from Newfoundland and Labrador and Ontario-grown sweet corn, and distributes it around the world.

Colorado, who has more than 15 years' experience working with snow and ice, has travelled the world for his art, performing in Scandinavia, France, Switzerland and China. He does projects for an Austrian-based hotel chain — including logos and winter sculptures — and works at wintertime festivals and activities worldwide.

He is also one of the founding organizers and judges for the Winter Arts Festival and Competition in Perm, Russia.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States inhibited Colorado's trav-

el in 2001, he decided to continue his art a little closer to home.

"I decided instead of doing the sculptures on location, I would portray them in some kind of painting, and so I started doing icebergs," Colorado told The Telegram in an interview from his Portland, Ore., studio Tuesday. Colorado, who calls Vancouver home, also has studios in Mexico City and Chicago.

Once he started these works, he was contacted by a research scientist in Argentina, who sponsored him on a working visit to Ushuaia, at the Tierra del Fuego, and to Antarctica, about a year and a half ago. Colorado spent almost three months in the area.

"My idea was to actually get on an iceberg and carve one, but the problem with that was that most of the ships that were in

that area that could get me to one didn't want to venture close enough to put me on it," Colorado explained. "If they had put me on it, I would have had to have radio transport systems and all kinds of devices because the ice moves, and they would have had to locate where I was put off so they could locate me the next day. It was terribly expensive."

See COMPANY, page A2

"I decided instead of doing the sculptures on location, I would portray them in some kind of painting, and so I started doing icebergs."

Ice artist Kenneth A. Colorado

Company excited about project

Continued from page A1

Upon his return, Colorado heard of Canadian Iceberg Vodka Corp., and approached the company with his idea.

The company immediately accepted it.

"We're excited about the expedition and art installation," said David Sacks, president and CEO of Canadian Iceberg Vodka Corp. "It's extremely creative, adventurous, and even very risky — however, Mr. Colorado is prepared to take the risk."

Despite the risks, Colorado said he is not nervous — he's just apprehensive about pulling off a good job.

"Going on this venture, which is a very commercial kind of thing, is quite different for me, but the ability to do this is really terrific," he said.

Colorado plans to work with two assistants on the iceberg. In preparation for the feat, he has been training, doing a lot of hiking and climbing in order to increase his endurance, since he plans to work on his art for approximately five days, from five in the morning to about 10 at night.

Instead of cutting or carving into the ice, Colorado said, this time he plans to build onto it.

"I'm planning to build some kind of sculptural context and place it on the ice," he explained. "There are two different variations I would like to attempt to try. One has to do with habitat, and I'd like to perform some kind of objective between human architectural form and natural form. I'm probably going to use a house or house-like device and place it on the berg."

"The second (theme) has to do with boundary. I want to define a natural sculptural form with the artifice of a boundary line — in other words a human endeavor of boundary on the piece itself."

To do this, Colorado said, he plans to

use tennis balls.

"I was going to try and get a gang of them, like maybe 2,000 tennis balls, and then link them to demarcate left and right or up and down or west and east, some kind of thing like that. Of course, this has to do with what the form of the iceberg is, if it has fissures in it, what kind of iceberg it is."

Colorado plans to travel to St. John's about a week before he is scheduled to go out to the iceberg, in order to begin building the wooden parts of his sculptures, check out weather conditions and go over safety technologies.

He will sail out to the berg from Conception Bay June 8.

tbb@thetelegram.com