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Please see story on page C5

New stadium planned

Partly covered facility would include water park and hotel

By David O'Brien and Aldo Santin

THE Winnipeg Blue Bombers and a major hotel chain will unveil an ambitious plan today that could see a partially enclosed stadium attached to a new hotel and indoor water park built on land west of the city. The football club, Canad Inns and the Red River Exhibition Association are

launching a study on the feasibility of building a major sports and entertainment complex.

It would be built on land owned by the Red River Ex on the west side of the Perimeter Highway near the Assiniboia Downs racetrack.

"The study will allow us to have a peek into the future to determine what is possible and what are the options," said Gene Dunn, chairman of the board of

directors of the football club.

Dunn said the existing 29,500-seat stadium near Polo Park Shopping Centre is 50 years old and showing its age, but the feasibility study will also look at the possibility of renovation instead of relocation.

A source involved in the project said a proposed design for the complex would create space beneath the viewing stands for indoor events.

That space would be the enclosed portion of the stadium, he explained.

"The playing field itself would be largely protected, but not covered over," the source said, adding the concept will be understood better when an architect's rendering is released today.

Continued

Please see **STADIUM A2**

EDITORIAL: BUILDING MOMENTUM A14

Inside

Ex-water boss jailed

Stan Koebel was yesterday sentenced to a year in jail for his role in the Walkerton tainted-water tragedy, while his brother, Frank, was sentenced to nine months of house arrest **A3**

Clash in Ukraine

Ukraine's two rivals for the presidency clashed in a heated televised debate yesterday before a rerun of their disputed election **A9**

Anger over Crocus

Angry Crocus investors are calling for a special meeting of the investment fund to demand answers after shares were frozen this month **B1**

Inbusiness

House prices ease

After three straight years of double-digit growth, the pace at which Winnipeg housing prices are expected to rise should slow slightly in 2005, says Royal LePage Real Estate Services **C8**

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Winnipeg gives wild welcome to Team Canada juniors



JOE BRYKSA / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Team Canada's Clarke MacArthur (above) celebrates second-period goal against Finland in exhibition game in Winnipeg last night. Our juniors sported replica Winnipeg Falcons jerseys.

Canada trounces Finland 6-0



Gary Lawless

THERE will be moments during the upcoming World Junior Hockey Championship when Team Canada will be down on its luck and need a boost. They'll only have to think back to Winnipeg and the pandemonium that welcomed them last night.

Dressed in replica Winnipeg Falcons jerseys — "they're so ugly they're beautiful," remarked one fan — Team Canada skated onto MTS Centre ice and the reverberations could be heard in every corner of our country as TSN broadcasters Gord Miller and Pierre McGuire were drowned out by 15,015

throaty Manitobans.

Defending champion Team USA likely felt the earth shake down in Grand Forks, where they'll host this tournament. If they had any doubts, Winnipeg let the Yanks know last night. The Canadians are coming.

The players did their part on this night, too, spanking Finland 6-0 to kick off this week's three-game pre-tournament series.

Continued

Please see **HOCKEY A4**

COMPLETE GAME COVERAGE C1, C2



JOE BRYKSA / WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Another black eye for housing department

Group home shut over spending flap

By Leah Janzen

A Winnipeg group home for troubled youth has been shut by the province after auditors found owners of the house apparently misspent \$50,000 of public money on personal expenses.

This marks the second time this year an agency funded by Manitoba Family

Services and Housing has been closed or had its funding yanked due to misspending of government funds.

And another agency faces the loss of its funding Dec. 31 unless it satisfies the province with a detailed financial plan.

It's the third time in 10 years that the province has had concerns with how Halldorsson's Group Home cares for its residents and how it spends its public

funds. In 2003/2004, the province provided \$389,186 to the group home.

Last year, owners of Halldorsson's Group Home — an eight-bed, private, for-profit facility for troubled teen girls — approached the province seeking more money to run their facility.

Continued

Please see **SPENDING A4**

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