



CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Basilica inspected in preparation for dome removal

Structural engineer Jamie Lester and heritage consultant Carole-Lynne Kerrihan inspect the earthquake-damaged Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Christchurch as part of preparations to remove its main dome. The copper-clad, timber-framed dome was moved horizontally in

the February 22 quake and is causing the northeast corner of the supporting tower to fail. Structural engineer Andrew Brown, of Opus International consultants, said the complex job of removing the dome would not start for several weeks. A 400-tonne crane, one of the largest in the

country, would be used. Yesterday's inspection was the first time the exterior of the dome could be examined using a crane. Brown said the inspection revealed holes in the underpinning stonework, which would be dismantled after the dome had been removed.

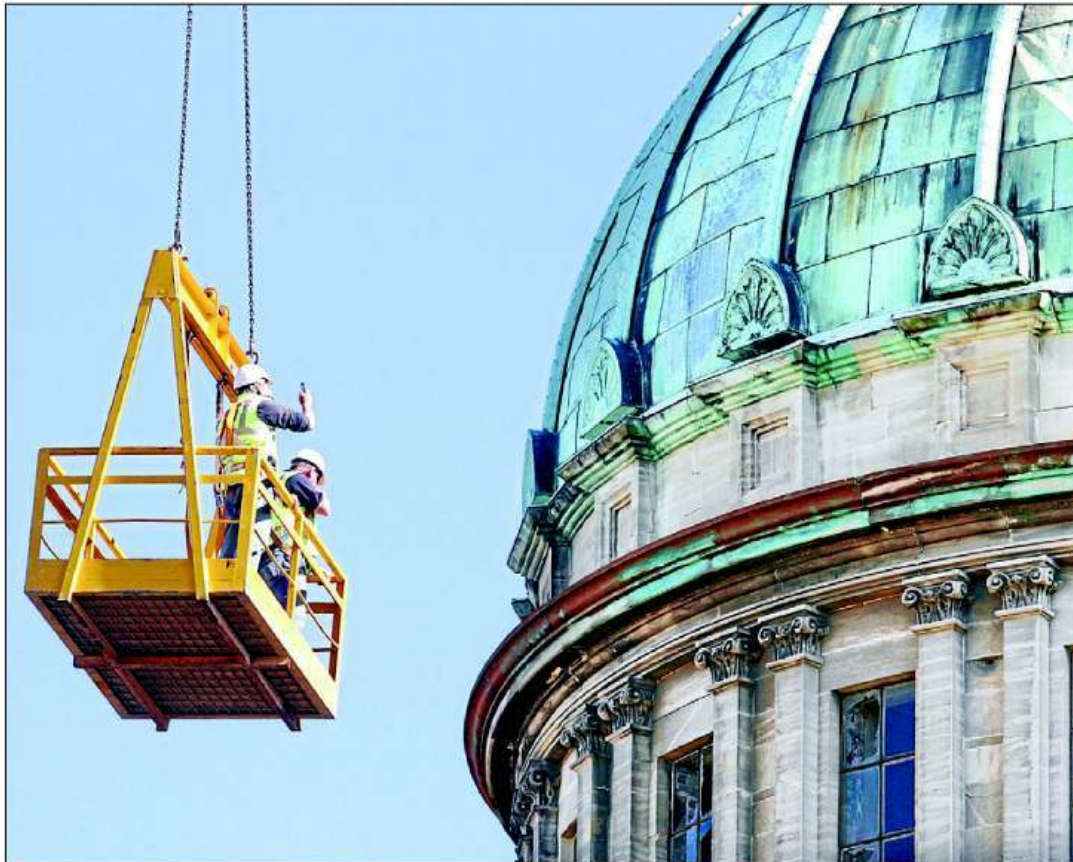


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