



ARTISTIC LICENSE: Local artists Jacquie Cameron, Beth Cameron, and Brandi Gillett were exhibiting recent works as The Country Road Artisans kicked off their annual tour last weekend. The artists all live in rural Georgetown. This unidentified art enthusiast is admiring one of Jacquie's paintings. (Jamie Harrison photo)

Skateboarding still a 'hot' issue

BY JAMIE HARRISON
The Georgetown Gemini

For the second time in four nights, a crowd of nearly 200 gathered to further debate the skateboard issue in Georgetown.

With representatives of all parties present, the meeting was also attended by concerned politicians including Mayor Marilyn Serjeantson, hoping to bring an end to a saga which has dogged Georgetown, its residents and skateboarders for years.

At the crux of the matter is the apparent need by skateboarders to find a venue where they can practise their sport safely, without raising the ire of area homeowners who have seen their streets commandeered, and of proprietors who worry about liability if they allow skateboarders to use their parking lots.

Halton Regional Police Constable Keith Bennett organized the meetings after a summer spent evicting skateboarders from various locations around town.

At a meeting earlier last week, Bennett explained his motivations for getting involved.

"It got to the point where,

for me personally, I felt bad for them. I said, 'If you kids are really serious about this and want to make a difference, one of you is going to have to do more than mouth off to the police about the ideas you have and get serious and do something about it.'"

After Sunday's meeting at the police station, Bennett was surprised and impressed by the number that turned out.

"I was extremely impressed with the attendance. That alone goes to show you that this is a hot issue that needs to be addressed," Bennett said.

Joining Serjeantson and Bennett on the facilitation panel were Hermiana Henderson of Georgetown

Marketplace, Stacey Green and Joy Thompson of the Town of Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department, and David Royce, a skateboarder.

Thompson said the Town first became interested in the skateboarding issue a few years ago but felt the regulations stipulated to by the Town's insurer made officially sanctioning the activity prohibitive, a concern shared by the Georgetown Marketplace management.

"My main concern is the kids' safety," Henderson said. "I couldn't live with myself if a child got hurt by a tractor-trailer."

Following the address, groups broke off for discussions, led by facilitators, to find a solution.

Death threat uttered

Police are investigating an incident alleged to have happened in the early morning hours of Oct. 3.

According to police, a 23-year-old Caledon man entered the police station at 11 Division in Georgetown to file a complaint that he had been threatened with death following an altercation at a

local doughnut shop moments before.

A second male, a Prince Charles Drive resident, entered the station to file a complaint against that Caledon man regarding an alleged incident of dangerous driving in the Guelph Street and Sinclair Avenue area.

Police are investigating.

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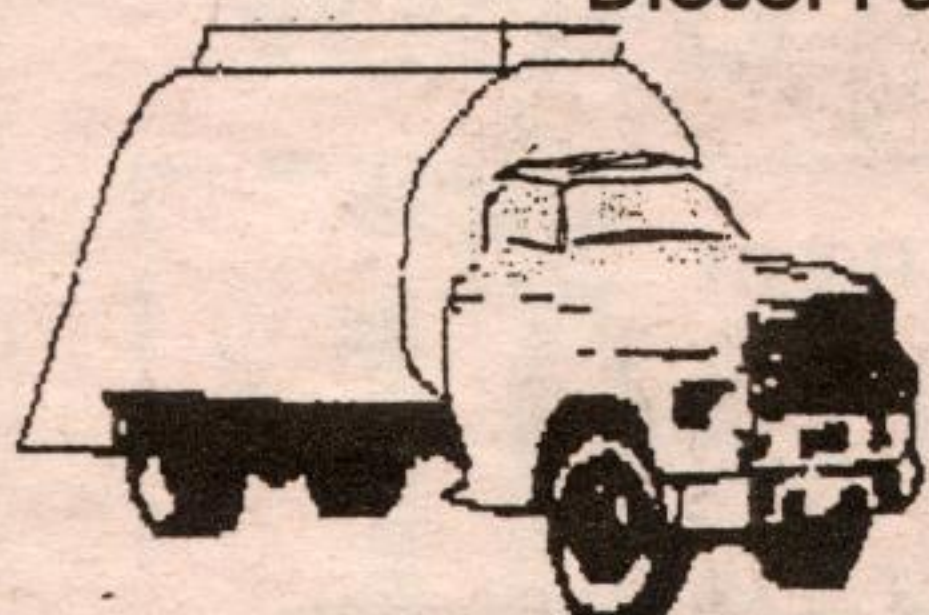
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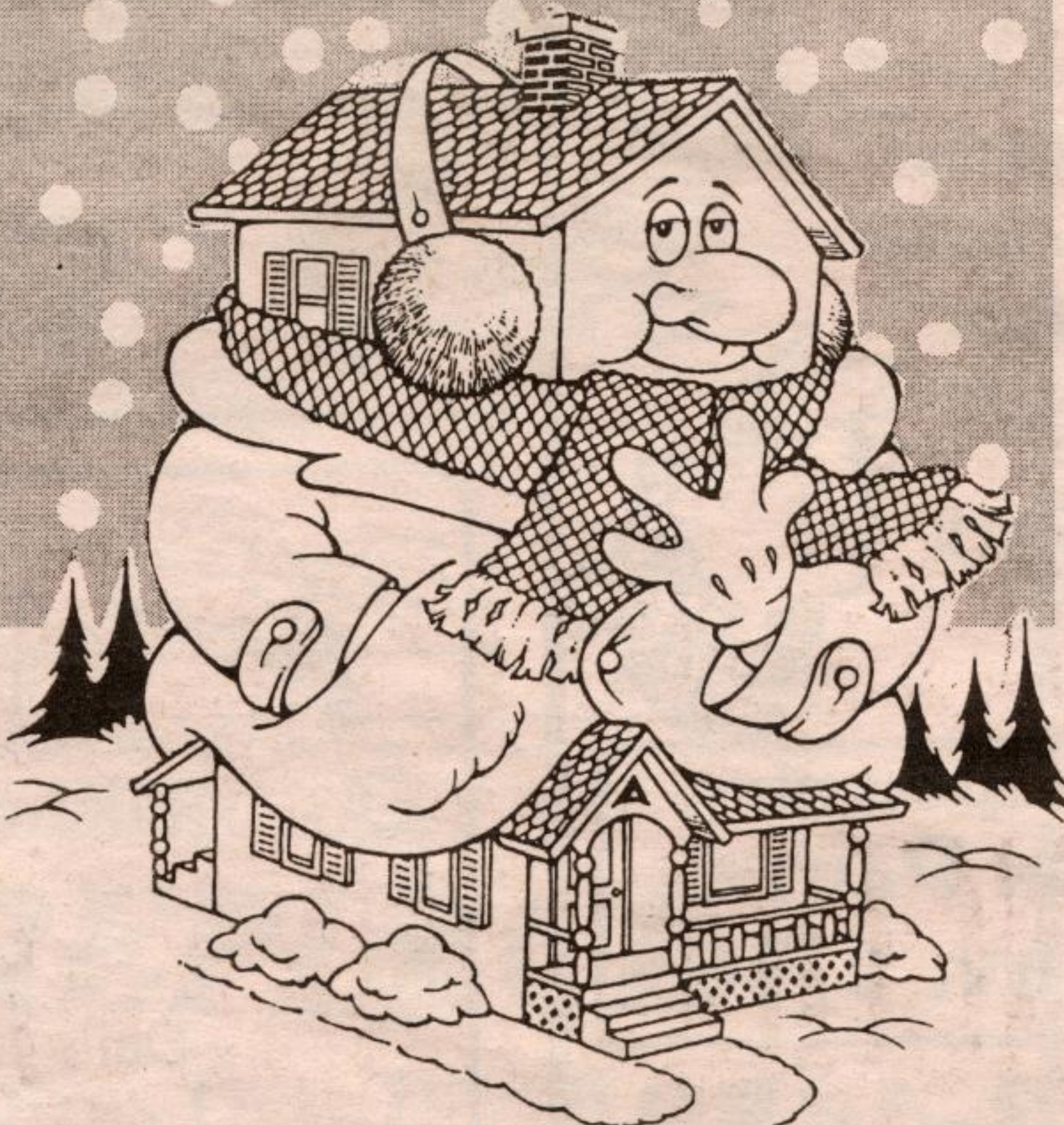
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