Halton Hills Arts Council

Yokumberry is town's solution to survive

By GRETCHEN DAY Herald Special

As we eagerly await Globe's production of Li'l Abner, I felt it best to ask its president, Lois Fraser to fill in all the details of the upcoming show.

Globe Productions' annual musical show opens Jan. 30 when they present "Li'l Abner" at the John Elliott Theatre. This is Globe's fifth production to date and it runs for eleven nights, Jan. 30, 31, Feb. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Tickets are available from Maureen and Chris Walker at 877-4323 and are \$7 each (\$6 seniors, students and groups on weekdays).

Li'l Abner is based on Al Capp's cartoon series of the same name. Dogpatch, the home of the Yokum family, has been declared as the most unnecessary town in the U.S.A. and, as such, has been designated as a nuclear

test site. The Dogpatch townfolk must come up with a reason why the town should be saved and they finally come up with the power of Mammy's Yokumberry tonic as a solution. It turns wimpy type males into handsome hunks like her son Li'l Abner who was raised on it.

However, many people, including some villainous type politicians from Washington, are after this magical formula. The Dogpatchers are mainly interested in getting on with the annual Sadie Hawkins Day Race where all the single girls catch the man they want to marry.

Daisy Mae has her sights set on LI'l Abner, who, like every red blooded



deals with Daisy Mae Scraggs. Actors Mike Clipperton and Gloria Munro

American male, avolds being married like the plague. Marrying Sam performs all the ceremonies and leads the group in several upbeat musical numbers. .

The story is hokey, full of puns and one-liners and is a real nostalgic enjoy a light-hearted moment before they return to the regimen of rehearsal in preparation for the hit musical Li'l Abner. (Herald photo)

journey for those who followed the comic strip closely. The music, apart from one romantic duet done by Abner and Dalsy, is the foot stomping variety with lots of acrobatics and movement done by the chorus.

It requires a huge cast of sixty people who must possess a great deal of energy to keep up with the fast-paced music. The singers are backed up by a fifteen member orchestra under the direction of Terry

As in most musicals we have a happy ending here. The audience leaves with a smile on their face and the distinct impression that all those folk up on stage enjoyed themselves tremendously.

Thank you, Lois, We walt with great anticipation for the curtoin to go up. Break a leg.

ARTISTIC NOTES:

-Reminder to visual artists of the Mississauga Library Juried Show. Entries of two works are to be submitted Jan. 24 and Jan. 25 at the

Central Library on Dundas St. -Get your photographs ready for submission to Photoart '86, a juried exhibition at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre to run the month of March. Up to six photographs, but not less than four, may be submitted until Saturday, Feb. 15. Awards will be given in the following categories: City Life, Country Life, People at Work, People at Play, Foreign Countries, Portraits, Abstract, Black and White. Colour and Black and White photographs will be accepted, but not polaroid photographs. A handling fee of \$1 per photograph will be charged. They may range in size from 5" x 7" to no larger

than 16" x 20".

New arts policy group to be selected

By ANI PEDERIAN

Herald Staff The year-old committee to develop an arts policy for the town is being scrapped, on the request of that

committee's chairman. Monday night, Barry Page asked the town's general committee members to set up a new committee with the same goals, but under town

auspices. Supporting Coun. Peter Norton's motion, councillors voted in favor of the formulation of an arts policy by a citizens committee under the auspices of town council. They agreed to advertise, interview, and appoint a committee of 10 members including the current council appointee Coun. Lillias Bowman.

Mr. Page said the reason he was asking for a new committee was to get people from all walks of life, so that the arts policy they come up with won't be seen as a narrow policy by the "artsies" but as a general policy for the community.

"I want the committee to be seen as a cross-section of the community and not just the arts people. It's the only way you're going to get recognition and acceptance for the policy from the community," Mr. Page claimed.

He reminded councillors they had all agreed to support and encourage the formulation and implementation of such a policy at the all-candidates meetings in October. They also agreed to advertise and select a citizens

committee under council auspices. Coun. John McDonald wasn't convinced that an arts policy should be made up by truckers or trade union members or business people or accountants.

"I personally would want to see members of the arts council represented. They're the experts rather than truck drivers or accountants. I can't emphasize more than enough that it should be the arts group making the policy," Coun. McDonald said.

The financial obligations to the town concerned Coun. Pam Sheldon the most about the setting up of a new committee by town council.

"I have a feeling we're getting into some long term financial impacts we're not aware of now because we don't have an arts policy," Coun. Sheldon said. "Are you expecting us to make some commitments to financial impacts...further down the road?"

"I cannot honestly say what financial commitment there is," Mr. Page replied. "Council still has the

prerogative to say, 'We like your policy but it's costing us too much and please go back'."

Right now, the committee would only require space for their meetings and some photocopying and secretarial help, he said. Mr. Page commended the assistance he's had so far from the town's parks and recreation staff.

Recreation Director Tom Sheppard said it would be hard for the town not to have any long range financial commitments if the arts policy becomes part of council's policy. He also pointed out that the policy was originally intended to show what the arts community could do for the town, but the perception now is, what can council do for the arts.

Coun. Sheldon said she had no objections to providing space and office assistance to the committee, but wanted to know why the current committee couldn't just diversify its membership under the auspices of the arts council.

Coun. Betty Fisher sald she was having difficulty with Mr. Page's demand as well. She said she didn't see why it was so important that the town stamp be on the committee and that the town should advertise and appoint the committee members.

"I don't want the arts policy to be seen as a brain child of the Credit Valley Artisans, the Choral Society etc., which it will be seen as, if the committee carried on under the auspices of the arts council," Mr. Page said. "I want it to be seen as a democratically arrived at policy,

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which is not only concerned with those artsy crafty types."

He said he had been advised by staff at the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and the Ontario Arts Council not to formulate an arts policy under the umbrella of the Arts Council because it would be seen as a small group's wishes, but to get the general public support for it.

Mayor Russ Miller didn't think the new committee would attract nonartsy people, and said he thought that those applying to be on it would be mostly the same people who were on the first arts policy committee.

"People not interested in the arts won't be applying for it," Mayor Miller

said. Coun. Sheldon asked that the policy be circulated to other arts groups once it's finished, for comments. "I think they will have a far better feel for it than us," she said.

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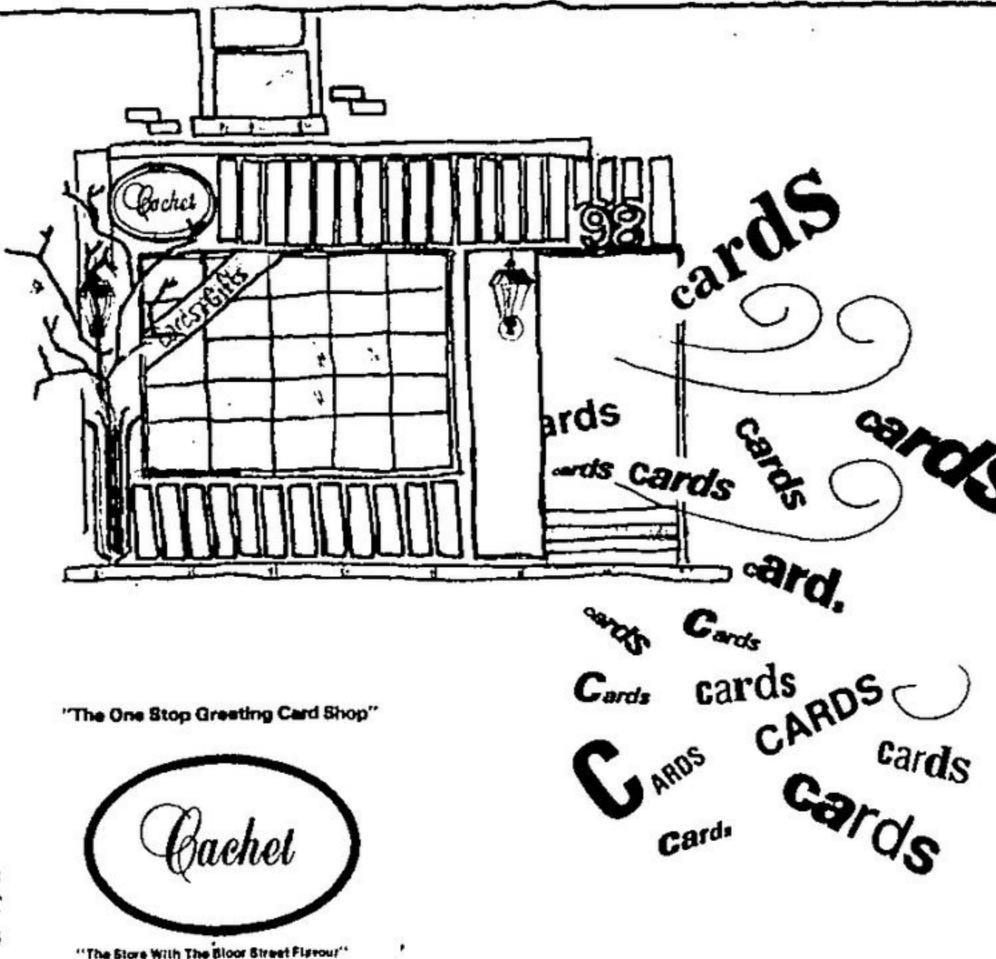
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