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Entertainment

SECTION A, THE HERALD, Wednesday, June 11, 1986 - Page 9

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Halton Hills Arts Council

'Brainstorming' response to arts forum meeting

As one of the Halton Hills Arts Council's constitutional aims is the promotion and fostering of the cultural arts in our community, the purpose of the Forum held April 23 at the Cultural Centre Gallery was to obtain community input on the status of this particular topic.

Was the condition of Halton Hills culture satisfactory, were there needs to be filled, should there be an official cultural policy for Halton Hills? What would such a policy do for our town - what might it cost or is it necessary at all?

We were gratified with the response to our invitation. Those participating represented education, arts groups, horticultural society, chamber of commerce, service clubs, business, youth, YMCA, Recreation and Parks, Municipal Council - a good cross-section of our community.

It should be pointed out that the summary which follows lists opinions and comments of individuals which are not to be regarded as conclusions based on consensus but rather spontaneous input as a result of the 'brainstorming' format. Attitudinal slant and concern as the individuals saw them were the aim of the Forum.

NEEDS: The following responses involve apparent needs and gaps in our cultural matrix:

- opportunity for public to be exposed to culture and to be aware of its presence or absence
- encouragement for artists to develop and contribute.
- a coordinator for the cultural arts to provide similar service such as Rec. and Parks does for sports and fitness.
- a central registry for artists and arts groups to focus needs, contacting artists, a reference point for business and industry.
- more emphasis on youth needs
- facilities for working, exhibiting - could use be made of schools which have been closed.
- town assistance in bridging gap between artist and business and public and aiding in obtaining volunteers through resultant higher profile.
- a facilities inventory would be useful.
- service clubs should be approached for help e.g. funding and interim provision of facilities.
- municipal representation on the Arts Council.
- relation between cultural arts and tourism.
- to increase awareness, events such as Art in the Park should be revived - we have ideal sites. Visiting professional artists should be brought in through efforts of a performing arts committee.
- arts in education should be supported and increased to offset recent cutbacks.
- historical heritage sites and objects should be preserved.

ARTS POLICY: Considerable time and attention was devoted to the topic of an Arts Policy. The following points sketch-in the main comments:

- what is an arts policy?
- how should it be achieved?
- who is going to benefit?
- is there a negative aspect?
- manipulation by politicians?
- what should an arts policy do?
- provide general appeal for all groups.
- should improve quality of life.
- enable people to accomplish in the arts.
- provide a framework for meeting of different groups.
- provide a coordinating body for those groups.
- provide an education component to raise awareness and standards.
- generally support culture.
- should be updated and re-evaluated regularly.
- should NOT involve direct funding - arts should remain self-supporting - look to private sector

- for support rather than government.
- should the document be called an Arts Policy? Does it cover the full spectrum - perhaps Cultural Policy would be more inclusive?
- policy should not be dictated by chosen few in community.
- policy should be general with as few specifics as possible.
- what's in it for Halton Hills?
- what would be the cost of establishing a policy? Too expensive?
- would business and labour give financial support?
- if the policy were adopted, would Rec. and Parks Dept. administer it?
- the policy should be independent of government but on the other hand should be acceptable to government in order to be the official policy.

-who should form the Arts Policy committee?
-representatives from a broad spectrum.

-not a special interest group only.
-must have government representative to provide liaison with town.

-must not be government appointed committee.

In conclusion, we feel that considerable benefit was derived from the Forum in gauging public opinion of the arts and as a means of two-way communication of ideas.

It is our intention now to fill-in some of the needs information by interview surveys with specific groups and organizations plus further random sampling of public opinion. Following these additional investigations, we hope to be able to present a fairly comprehensive picture by the end of June, 1986.

Again, may we express our thanks to Halton Hills' groups and citizens for an enthusiastic and useful participation in our Forum and to Linda Langston of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture for her invaluable help and leadership.

-Wendy Buykes
President

ARTISTIC NOTES
-Nominations for the Halton Hills Arts Council executive for the 1986-87 year are now being taken. Phone Wendy Buykes at 877-2514.
-Tickets are going quickly for Summerfest Theatre's production of The Saloonkeeper's Daughter. The show is playing June 19, 20 and 21. Tickets are \$10 for a light meal and a terrific night of musical entertainment. Call 877-4078.



Two young ladies wiggled onto a bench and waited for their dance rehearsal to start. Laura Kobza, 3, (left) and Jalme Cavalin, 3, were all primed and ready for their performance of "I'm a lady". The two are students of Sue Keith of Action School of Ballet and Dance. (Herald photo)

In the arts

Weaver's exhibit

The Heritage Handweavers and Georgetown Weavers will be hosting "Handwoven Treasures", an exhibition and sale of handwoven articles in the Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre Gallery July 2 to 12. There will be a raffle for a large handwoven tablecloth.

Art camp

The recreation department is offering a new program this summer. The Studio Art Camp will enable participants, seven years and older, to challenge and enhance their creative skills. The activities will involve the use of clay, paper, paint, puppets, dyes and more. The program will operate from McKenzie Smith Middle School in Acton during the week of July 28 and from Cedarvale Cottage in Georgetown during the week of August 18.

For more information call 877-5185 ext. 275.

Sounds of victory

There's one happy grandmother in Georgetown this week. Mrs. Wilfrid Mino watched as her granddaughter Rebecca Hass, 21, sang her way to a first place finish in the provincial finals of the Kiwanis Festival of Music.

The music student at Wilfrid Laurier University will go on to the national finals in British Columbia Aug. 23.

Now residing in Orillia when not at school, Miss Hass will receive her air fare to B.C. and \$100. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fraser Hass (nee Linda Mino).

Dance for seniors

The Halton Hills Community Workshop is holding a dance and a draw June 21 at the Gordon Alcott Arena. Monday night, they got town council blessing to apply for a special occasion liquor license for their event.

The Workshop hopes to raise money through the dance and car raffle to improve transportation systems for the town seniors. Secretary Steven Harlow says if enough money is made, a new mini-bus will be bought for the seniors, otherwise the money raised will go towards upgrading the current ActiVan.

Council requires the group to display anti-drinking and driving literature at their function.

Music 'n' chicken

The Acton Citizen's Band is hosting a chicken barbeque and band concert June 22 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The performance is at the Acton Band Hall and tickets for adults are \$8 and \$4 for children 12 and under.

For tickets, call 853-9838 or talk to a band member.

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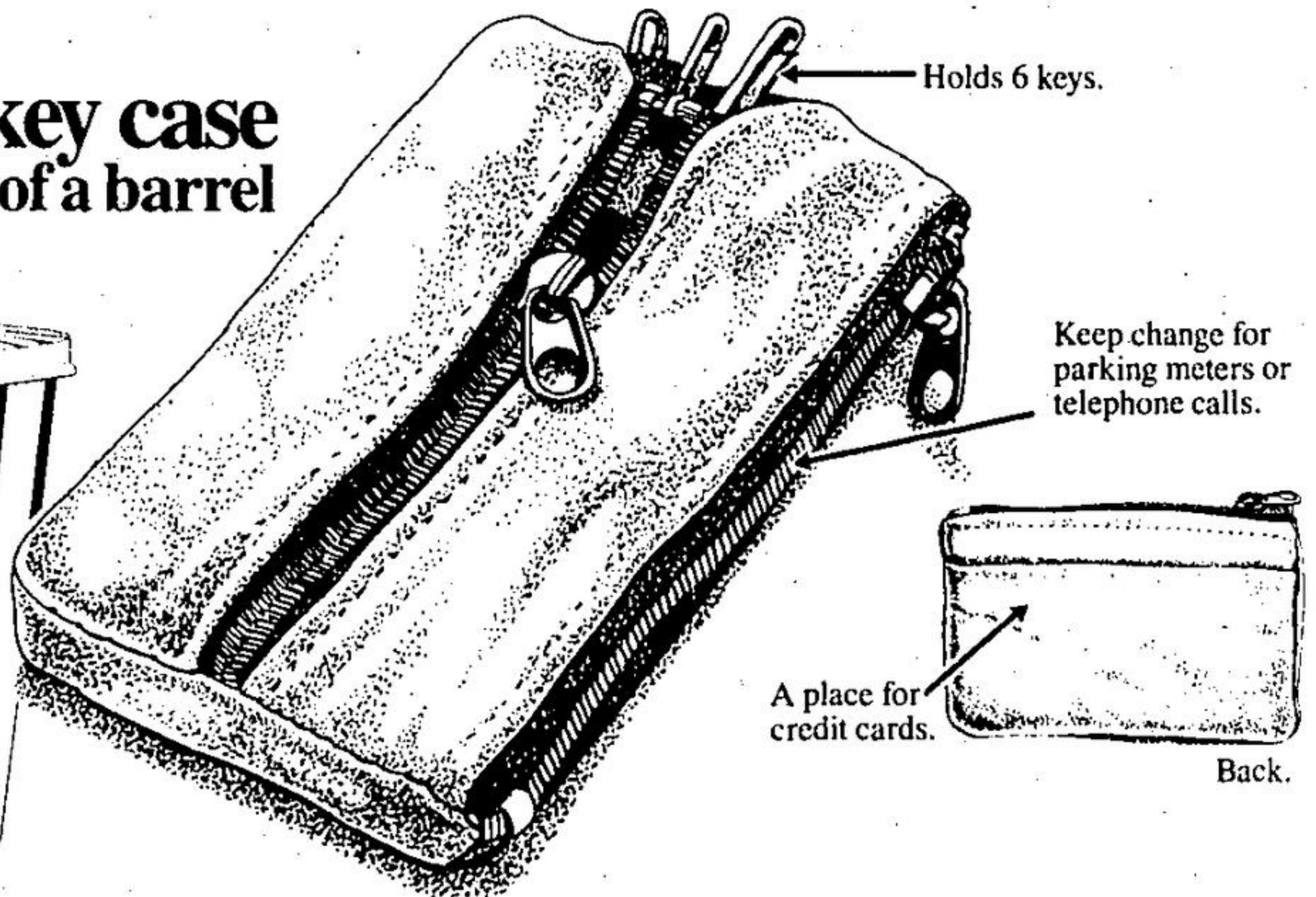
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