

# Culture an integral part of a community's identity

By JOHN SOMMER  
Herald Special

This month we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Library-Theatre-Gallery complex, called "The Halton Hills Cultural Centre." The opening of this complex was a very important milestone in the history of our community, and it is now hard to imagine how we did without it.

I can tell you one thing: Before we had the Cultural Centre, culture was badly served in this community. Georgetown was not spoiled in cultural matters and we did not need much to make us happy. The opening of the Cultural Centre 10 years ago was such a quantum leap, that it seems to be highly unjust to complain. But I am afraid that complacency will get us nowhere. This is a time to celebrate, and it is a time to mourn. Let me tell you why.

Because of the recession, the Halton Hills public libraries had to endure a budget cut of \$50,000 in 1991. There is only one way to deal with such a tremendous cut - you have to cut staff, and the way things have been arranged at the Cultural Centre with regard to the Gallery, every shortage of staff at the library will mean the Gallery has to curtail whatever program it might have.

Maybe I should explain how the Gallery works.

Unlike any other community gallery I know, ours has neither a board nor a budget. Anybody who wants to hang some pictures in this fine, old space only has to get a date, pay the rent or a commission on sales, and for two or three or four weeks the place is yours.

In theory, an importer of mass-produced paintings from Hong Kong (buy one, get one free) can rent our Gallery and have a sale. We are lucky this hasn't happen-

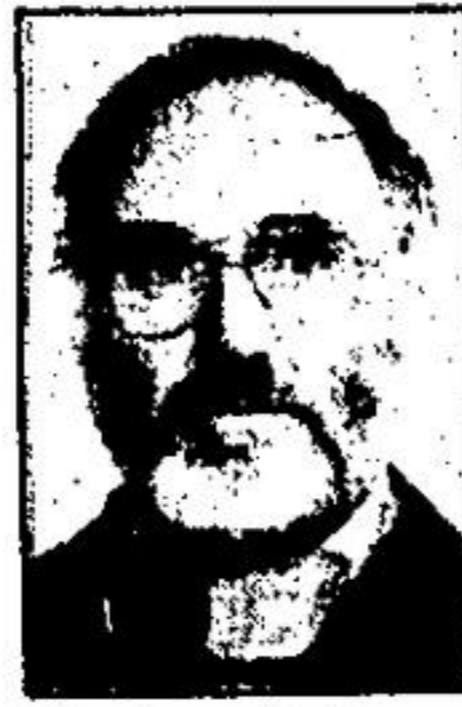
ed yet. And we were lucky there were some organizations in town that made it their business to bring quality art exhibitions to our Gallery.

Organizations like the Palette and Pencil Club, the Rug Hooking Club, the Halton Camera Club, and, in particular, the Friends of the Halton Hills Libraries.

This last group started with raffles to raise money for our two public libraries, here in Georgetown and Acton, but soon sponsored very special exhibitions, like the Bateman exhibition in 1984, the Danby exhibition in 1986, the Jack Reid exhibition in 1987, the Barbara Howard exhibition in 1988, the John Hall exhibition in 1989, the Frank C. Black exhibition in 1989, the Andreas Drengers exhibition in 1990 and the Harald Newman and Tony Meers exhibitions in 1991.

The Friends of the Halton Hills Libraries also sponsored the yearly juried exhibition called "Here and Now." Unfortunately, this important volunteer group never had a space where we could assemble an exhibition. This had to be done by the library staff on library time. When this year's budget cut came, the resulting loss of manpower put us in an unsurmountable dilemma. We had neither the space nor the people to assemble "Here and Now '91," the juried exhibition that was scheduled for November.

We had to cancel the exhibition, and, unless some miracle happens, we will have to cancel next year's summer exhibition too, and next year's "Here and Now" exhibition, and so forth. What this means is, that those glorious 10 years just past, will not be repeated in the next 10 years. We will have a much diminished and far less exciting gallery program in the future. Unless...?



Ideas and The Arts by John Sommer

What could be done to put the derailed train back onto the tracks again? The administration of the Cultural Centre has to put back into the Gallery the money that is earned through rentals and art exhibition sales. Whatever the amount, this sum should be the Gallery's budget, watched over by a newly-appointed Gallery Board.

This Gallery Board, or a specially appointed committee, should prepare a report how and where space could be found for volunteer activities like the running of a small gift shop for Canadian crafts, an art rental, a storage space for the assembling of art exhibitions, etc. These activities would all be designed to raise money for the Gallery.

In addition, the board or committee should make recommendations with regard to our archives and the valuable history and art collections that are stored in the archives in very cramped conditions.

We need some long-range planning on what shall be done with these treasures. We have to store them properly and we have to find some space where at least a part of the collections can be exhibited on a permanent basis. A Halton Hills History and Art

Museum could one day become a reality.

Of the many questions you might want to ask your local candidates in this present election campaign, this one is of infinite

importance: Is the candidate aware that we have a historic and artistic heritage that needs to be defended and preserved, and is the candidate willing to do something about it?

## Autumn Art Festival

Members of the Palette and Pencil Club, an association of enthusiastic Halton Hills area artists, are busy preparing to present their annual "Autumn Art Festival", to be held at St. George's Church Hall, Guelph Street, Georgetown, on October 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Old and new friends are welcome, and admission is free.

In addition to a wide variety of paintings in watercolor, oils and

acrylics on view, there will be guest artists Mary-Ann and Lindy Martin showing their pottery.

An additional attraction will be a preview of the mural entitled "December is ..." This interesting work combines the talents of a dozen or so artists, and was created to be one of four prizes being offered at the Credit Valley Artisans' Christmas Fair at Cedar Vale Park Cottage on November 16.

## C.M.H.A. art auction

What could be more lovely than a pleasant fall afternoon spent perusing art and enjoying refreshments with friends and colleagues?

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Halton Region Branch, wants you to mark your calendar for just that kind of pleasant experience.

Art and More, CMHA's annual art auction, will be held Sunday, October 20 at Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville. Tickets are \$10 per person and include refreshments and a chance at an art door prize, Shirley Deauville's "Making Music". A raffle will also be held for Grant Hillman's "Bend in the River".

The preview starts at 1 p.m. with the auction getting underway at 2 p.m. Why not make a day of it and start out with Glen Abbey's sumptuous brunch?

Brunch at \$17.95 is served from 11:30 to 1:00. Call 844-1800 for reservations.

The auction will feature local, Canadian and international art and some non-art items. Participants can realize substantial savings as opening bids are often considerably lower than suggested gallery prices.

Art and More, CMHA's major fundraiser of the year, allows the branch to provide seven community-based mental health services throughout the region of Halton.

CMHA is especially grateful to those local artists who have donated their pieces of art to benefit the association.

Artists or corporations who wish to make donations to assist in the art auction effort, or individuals who wish to order tickets are asked to contact Margaret Howard at 845-5044.

**BRAMPTON'S CHEAPEST MATTRESS SALE**

PHONE ORDERS ACCEPTED

	SUGG. PRICE	SALE PRICE
Bed Frame (39-54) Limit 2 Per Customer	\$399	\$199
Single Mattress (Spring Construction)	\$159	\$79
<b>SINGLE SET</b>	<b>\$349</b>	<b>\$119</b>
Double Mattress (Spring Construction)	\$259	\$129
Queen Mattress	\$319	\$149
Queen Set	\$399	\$199
Orthopedic Twin Mattress Set	\$599	\$199
Double Set (25 Year Warranty)	\$699	\$259
Sealy Double Set Orthopedic (Limit 2 Per Customer)	\$647	\$299
Sealy Queen Set	\$735	\$349
Orthopedic King Set (20 Year Warranty)	\$1299	\$499
<b>QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC SET</b>	<b>\$1499</b>	<b>\$499</b>

**Serta** **FREE PILLOW** WITH PURCHASE OF MATT. & BOX SPRING **Sealy**

**MATTRESS CLEARANCE SALE!**

**COUNTRY MATTRESS SLEEP SHOP**

**452-0929**

190 HWY. 7 WEST, UNITS 53 TO 57  
BRAMPTON  
RICE BUSINESS CENTRE

The list of careerwear designers at **Sussman's for Her**.

reads like the Who's Who of the fashion industry!

The investment is sound.... the selection, superb!

Choose suits, coordinates, one- and two-piece dresses from Jones New York, Mr. Jax, Conrad C., Simon Chang, Mr. Leonard, Looks, Rouie, Louben, Allure, London Fog and many more in sizes 6 to 20. (For the smaller than average woman, an extraordinary selection of petite fashions for business, too, in sizes 4 to 14.)

Save 10%-20% Storewide!

While you're here be sure to visit Casually Yours...Sussman's, too! for all the latest junior fashions!

**Sussman's for Her**

**OPEN**  
Monday-Saturday 9-6  
Friday 9-9

**MAIN STREET, ARTHUR**  
(519) 848-3914