







## New group plans to beautify Georgetown with art murals

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group of citizens wants to beautify downtown Georgetown by painting Loutdoor murals on walls.

The Historical Georgetown Art Advisory Committee (HGAAC) evolved from a citizens' forum on how to improve downtown Georgetown and to preserve its historical nature.

HGAAC's mandate is to prevent the total obscurity of the local identity, to enrich community spirit and to create a visual representation of the town's past, present and future.

"Our further intention is to create an awareness of the arts in our community and our community in the arts," HGAAC chair Lydia Zavitz explained at a recent meeting of Halton Hills council. "We forsee a process of stages from a public process of juried competition to the eventual completion of highly visible works of outdoor art. This will add a pleasing and unique attraction to the historic core of our burgeoning community."

Membership on the committee also includes downtown retailers Marcia Dye and Gayle Rutherford, artists Lori Levere and Sheri Tenaglia, Councillor John Day as well as community members, the Downtown Georgetown BIA and Heritage Halton Hills.

HGAAC has also developed a mentoring relationship with the Kitchener Downtown Mural Program and with Mural Routes, a program associated with the Scarborough Arts Council.

Karin Eaton, Mural Routes representative, said, "I'm been very impressed with the group in Georgetown. They've been extremely professional about doing their research and gathering the data they need just to get started."

Eaton noted there is a lot more to turning the economy of a town around than just by painting murals on a wall, but it's the murals that brings the people to the town.

The main idea is to give residents some memories or historical perspective of their town, but murals can also comment on the future as well, said Eaton. She said so far in Scarborough where there are numerous murals, vandalism has been minimal and easy to fix.

By next September, HGAAC hopes to begin selecting entries and hopes the first mural will be completed by August 2000, said Zavitz. There will be a strict criteria for artists, and the murals will be thoroughly researched, said Zavitz.

HGAAC is applying to the Millennium Arts Fund, a federal grant program, to help finance the venture. One 1,000 sq. ft. mural, for example, is expected to cost about \$19,000.

HGAAC is seeking help with fund-raising, clerical and computer skills, public speaking and promotion, transportation, photographic recording, office supplies and equipment, wall preparation materials, paint and brush, scaffolding and more. The group is also seeking financial donations and has applied for charitable status.

For more information call Councillor John Day, 873-3979.



## Comedy chaos

It seems stage hand Paul (Paul d'Entremont) and his old flame Rosalind (Cindy Murnaghan) got a little carried away in the heat of the moment in Georgetown Little Theatre's Moon Over Buffalo which opened Friday night at John Elliott Theatre. For tickets call the Box Office at 877-3700. Photo by Ted Brown



