

## Opening exercises

# Schools will be quoting several religions

Next September, Halton public school children will be singing more than just O'Canada during opening exercises.

If the Halton Board of Education approves a resource document containing more than a thousand secular and religious quotes, schools will be adding excerpts to their opening exercises every morning.

In September, 1989, the education board responded to new regulations regarding opening exercises and initiated the development of new policy to include all represented religions.

A representative committee who organized the document included Dr. Ivan Morgan, Principal Emeritus at McMaster Divinity College, Bert Radford of Halton Elementary Principals' Association and committee chairperson

Judy Watson, a Halton school trustee.

Using input from Halton staff and community, the committee has put together a resource document from which principals can choose readings to tailor opening exercises to the religions of students. If approved, the document is scheduled to be implemented in schools next September.

The document, still in editing and copyright search stages, will

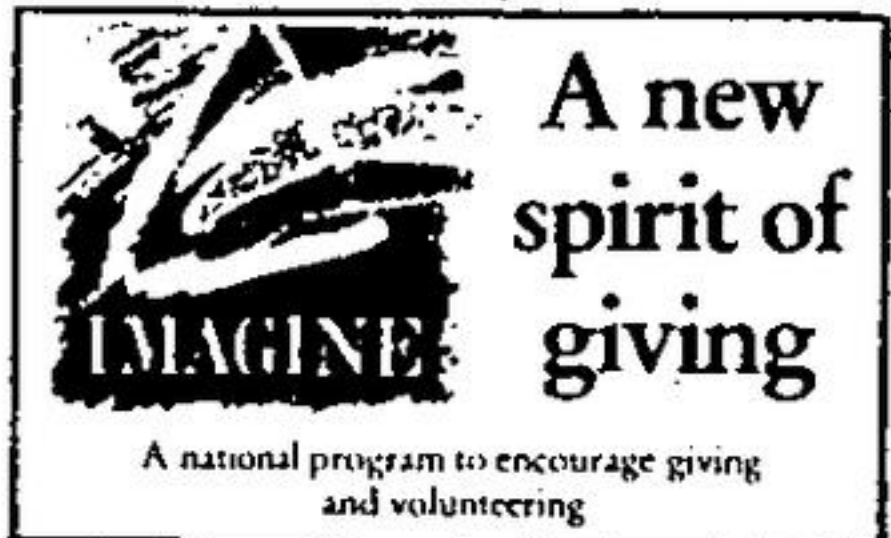
provide readings from everything from Aristotle, Lester B. Pearson, The Bible to Bryan Adams, said the board's communication officer, Brian Woodland, also a committee member.

Mr. Woodland said the document is dramatic but balanced fairly to compliment a substantial ethnic mix in Halton's public schools. He said presentations made during public meetings demanded, loud and clear, that opening exercises must reflect the different religions in Halton.

The resource document is a flexible living document, said Mr. Woodland, because the committee welcomes new additions to ensure no one is offended by the exclusion of certain material. But 1,000 entries is a good start, he said.

The committee's mandates include developing awareness and recognizing the various religions and cultures ensuring each student feels accepted. The committee also hopes to promote and celebrate the benefits of being Canadian.

Any parents to object to any part of the readings selected may apply to the principal to have their child exempted from the opening exercises.



## Graduate



Karen Leslie Pepper has graduated from the University of Western Ontario with an honors bachelor of arts degree in physical education. Karen, a graduate of Georgetown District High School, is the daughter of Earl and Margaret Pepper.

**'Steamer' arrives at the Herald Outlook**

The Herald is pleased to welcome Wheldon "Steamer" Emmerson as a contributing columnist to the weekend edition, Outlook.

Steamer Emmerson knows his way around Halton Hills, our Region, Peel, and Dufferin.

If anyone should know it must be him. He has lived in Georgetown (now Halton Hills) for sixty-five years.

To those of you who haven't met him, make it a point to do so. You'll find him easy to meet, full of interesting stories about his hometown and its citizens.

During World War II he enlisted in April, 1941, along with dozens of other Georgetown boys at the local ceremony when the 2nd Battalion of Lorne Scots mobilized. He was 15 and celebrated his sixteenth birthday in England a few weeks later.

His political years, 1966-1970, saw him rise from councillor to the mayors office with some important committees thrown in along the way.

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