

Area residents praying for Americans

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The Halton Islamic Association plans to match the regular collection money raised this week and send the funds to an appropriate relief organization in New York City.

Tuesday's American tragedy was also noted Wednesday night at a Halton District School Board meeting. The board has lowered flags at its schools.

"We join many people with our thoughts and heartfelt sympathy towards those affected by the U.S. tragedy," said board chair Ethel Gardiner. "We can't begin to imagine the loss that's being felt."

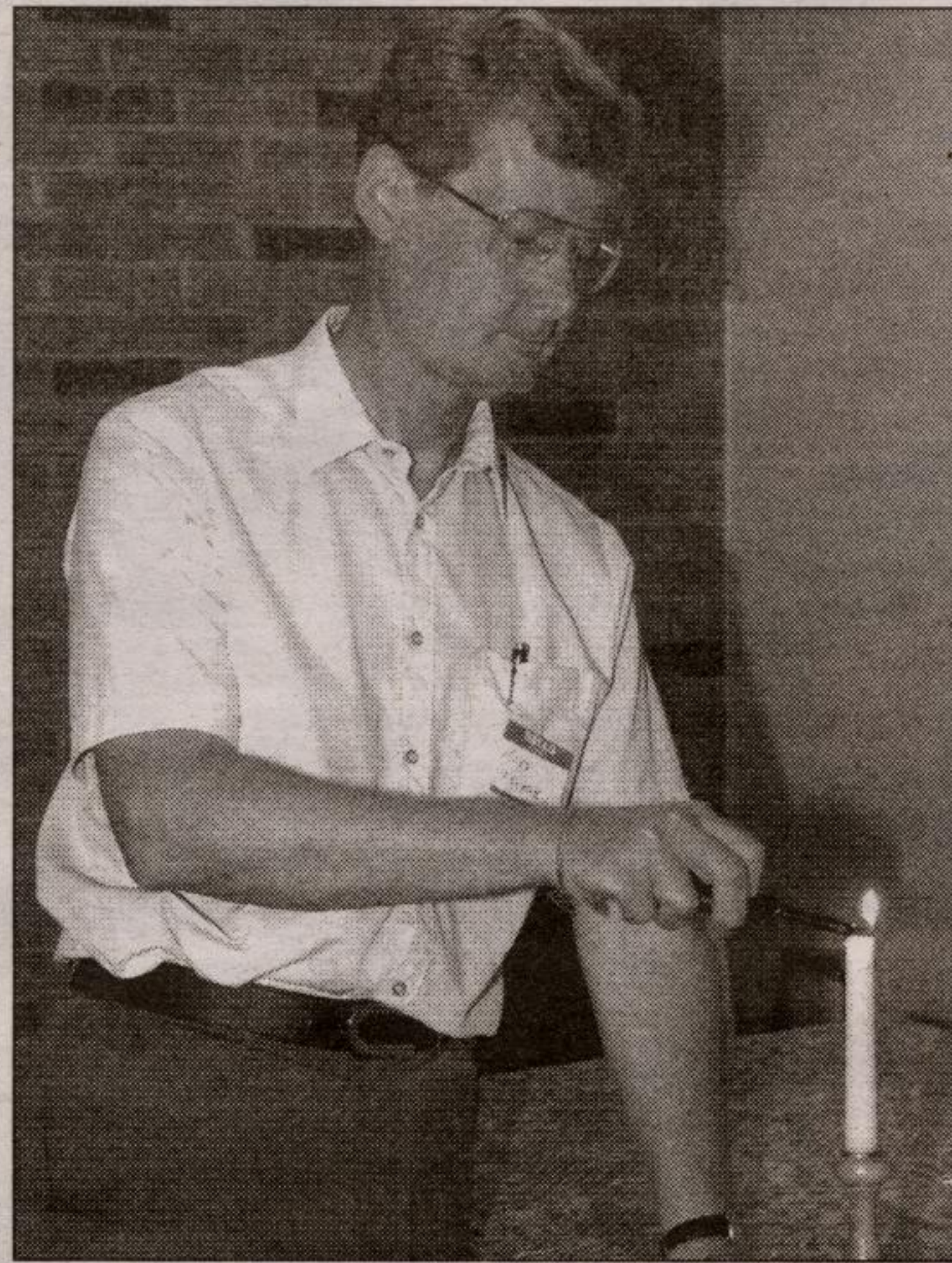
Both Halton boards have provided information to teachers on how to speak to students about the attacks in the U.S. and have their tragic events response team members at the ready to go into the schools if needed. The Halton District Board has also sent tips home to parents on how to explain Tuesday's events to their kids.

Two local teens, Samuel and Alexis Palmiere, were unable to fly home from a Sunshine Dreams for Kids Dreamlift to Walt Disney World Tuesday as a result of the attacks.

They were expected to fly home yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.

Many area residents are eager to reach out and help their American neighbours in the aftermath of Tuesday's events, and there are several ways they can do that locally:

- No local blood clinics are scheduled before October but donations can be made sooner at clinics at Erin Mills Town Centre today (Friday) from 12 to 8 p.m., and tomorrow (Saturday) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Brampton clinics are set for Saturday, September 22 at Chinguacousy Wellness Centre, 995 Peter Robertson Blvd., and Monday, September 24 at Bramalea Baptist Church at 9050 Dixie Rd. For more information about clinics or to book an appointment to give blood call 416-974-9911 or 1-888-935-1666.
- Monetary donations to the Canadian Red Cross - U.S.A. Appeal can be made at branches of all major banks starting today (Friday) through October 15.
- Red Cross donations can also be made by calling the local Red Cross office in Milton at 905-875-1459. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the office, located at 100 Nipissing Rd., Unit 5, Milton, ON., L9T 5B2.
- Cash donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Salvation Army Thrift store at 82 Mill St. E., Georgetown, L7G 2C9. Call the Emergency Relief Donation Line at 1-888-321-3433 or divi-



Rev. Ross Leckie of St. Andrew's United Church lights a candle during the prayer vigil that was held at the church Wednesday. Photo by Ted Brown

sional headquarters at 416-425-2111.

- Cash donations to the United Way of America can be dropped off at the United Way of Halton Hills office Monday to Friday between 9 and 5 p.m. or mailed to United Way of Halton Hills, 115 Main St. S, P.O. Box 286, Halton Hills, ON, L7G 4Y5. Cheques should be made payable to United Way of Canada/America. Call 905-877-3066.
- Books are being collected for a book sale Saturday with proceeds going to the Red Cross. Anyone with books to donate should contact Hawley Denn at 905-873-6687 before 8 p.m. Friday. The book sale will be held Saturday at 8 a.m. at 58 Moore Park Crescent.
- The Georgetown Ministerial Association will be hosting Hands United in Peace, A Musical/Prayerful Response to America Under Attack, an ecumenical vigil Sunday night, at 7.30 pm. at Holy Cross Church on Maple Avenue. Taking part in the service will be Georgetown Choral Society and Georgetown Children's Chorus. For more information, call Dale Wood at 905-873-0101.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer, with files from Tim Whitnell, special

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HALTON REGION

AN INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE HALTON REGION DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

The Regional Municipality of Halton is inviting all Halton residents to provide input on the Region's new draft strategic plan.

Wednesday, September 19, 2001
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Halton Regional Centre
1151 Bronte Road, Oakville

The draft strategic plan is a working document that, when approved, will outline Council's goals over the next two and a half years. The draft plan includes specific actions to achieve Council's goals and activities are grouped under the following major themes:

- Smart Growth & Livability
- Mobility & Prosperity
- Services to People
- Accountable & Responsive Government
- Accessible & Resourceful Government

The draft strategic plan will be available on Halton's Web site - www.region.halton.on.ca - as of Monday, Sept. 17th.

For further information contact:
Arvin Prasad
Senior Policy Advisor, Halton Region
905-825-6000, ext. 7769
Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866), ext. 7769

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