

Inuit students visiting in exchange program

It's northern exposure time, Milton. E.C. Drury School for the Deaf students will enjoy a generous serving of just that during a winter exchange program that began this past weekend.

Sixteen Inuit teens — together with three chaperones — made their way from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut for a week-long excursion that'll give them both a taste of local living and exposure to deaf culture.

In return, the visiting youths will share their own experiences and entertain their hosts with Native Inuit drum-playing and

dancing demonstrations during the school's annual winter carnival Thursday.

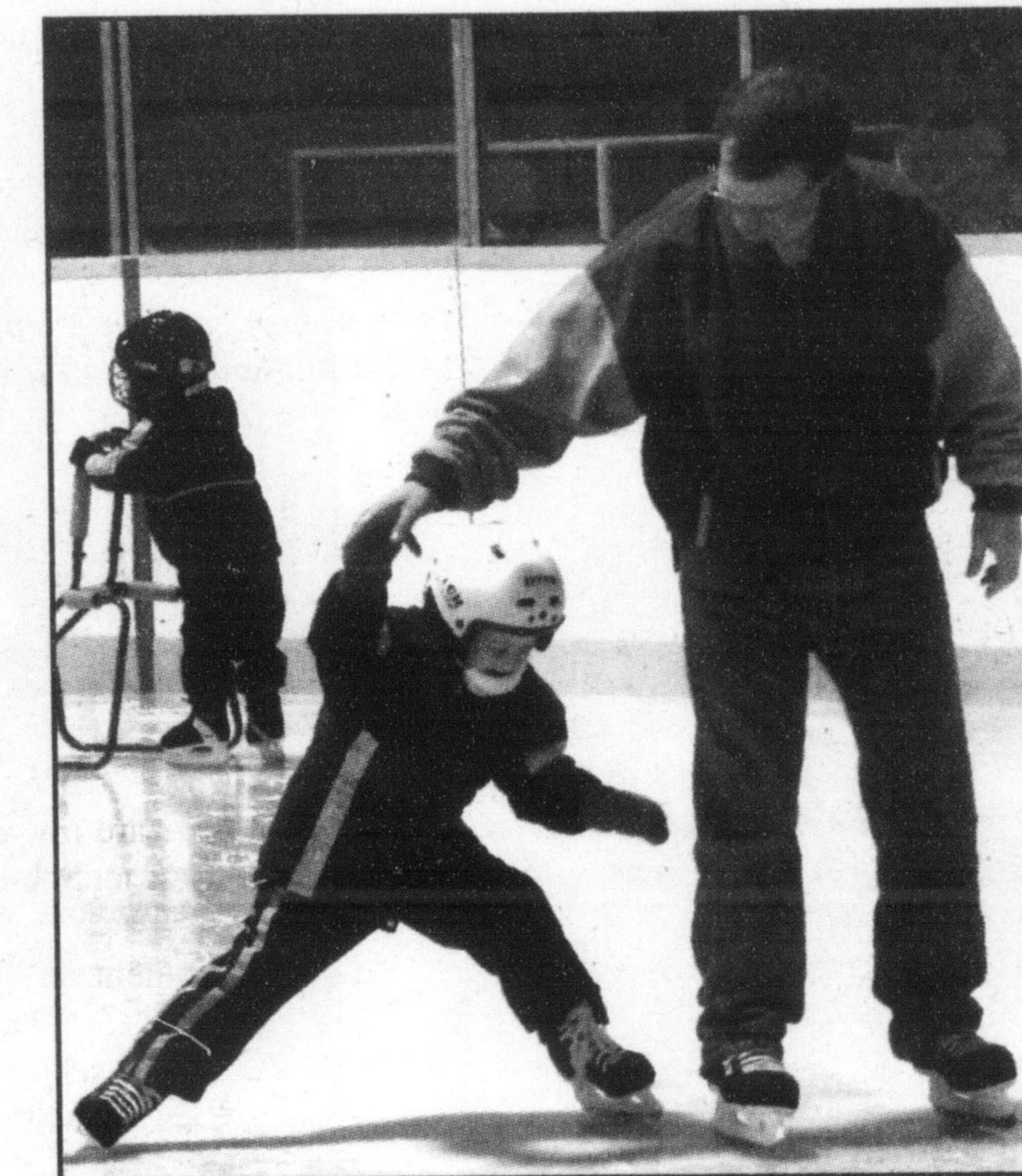
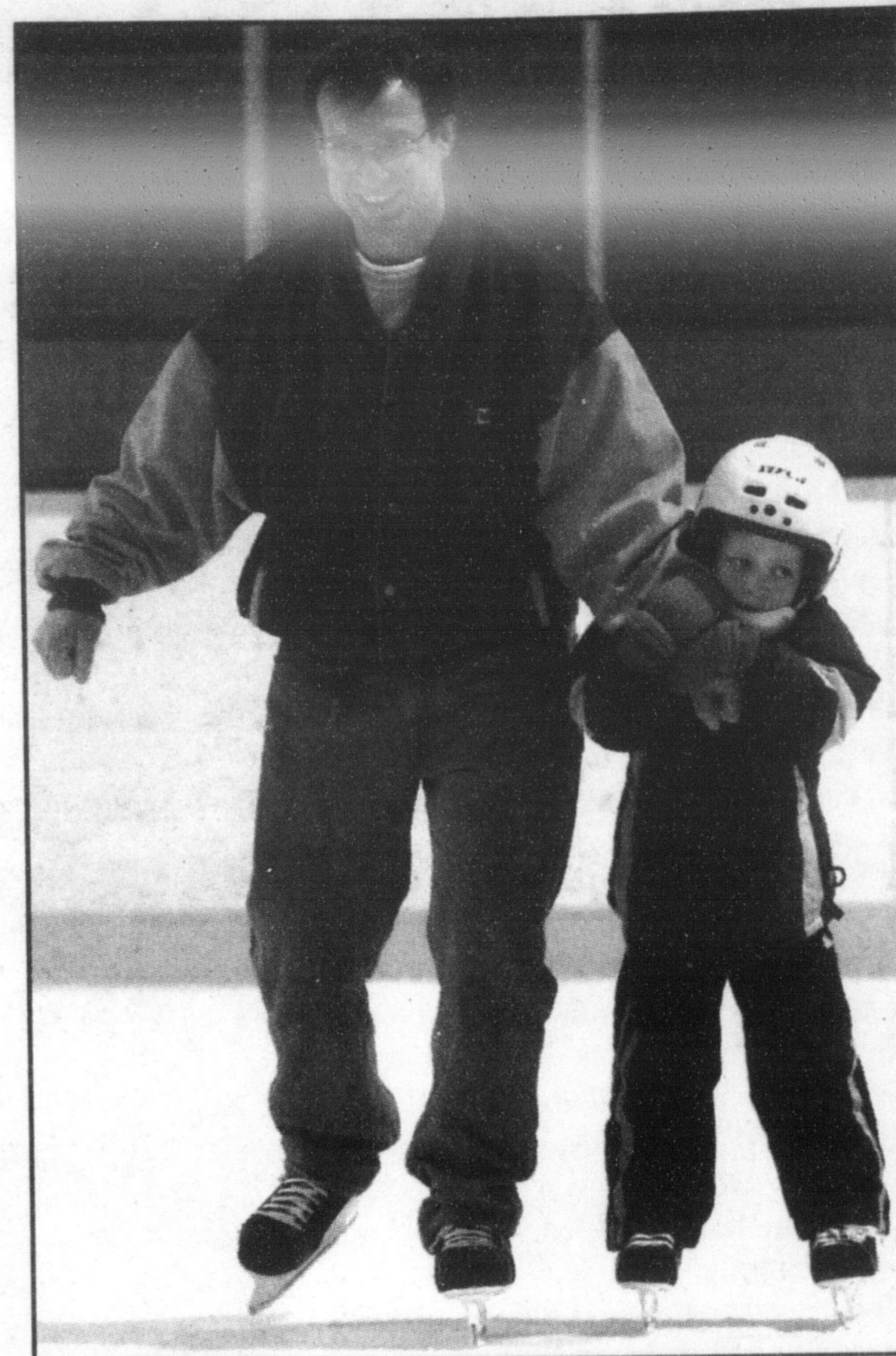
Then a month from now local teens and program coordinators will head north to build igloos, dog sled and ice fish in the frozen tundra of Rankin Inlet — a community of about 3,000 along the Hudson Bay.

The trip is part of the YMCA's Exchange Canada program.

"We're really excited about the program. It'll give our students a chance to learn about a culture different from their own as well as develop their personal leadership and communication skills," said E.C. School for the Deaf vice-principal Diane Magee.

She added that the exchange should be as challenging as enlightening, since only one of the Inuit students is deaf while the others all speak their native language rather than English.

"There's certainly going to be a communication barrier, but we're looking to break that down," said Ms Magee.



Live and learn

Bill Woodcock gives son Gordon a steady hand while the five-year-old learns to skate. The pair were at John Tonelli Sports Centre for a public skate Saturday.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Culture mix focus of new TV special

Halton's cultural diversity is highlighted in a television special airing on Cogeco Cable.

The special, titled Travelling Through Diversity, spotlights the lives of Halton seniors, as interviewed by Milton District High School students.

Discussions focus on what life was like when the seniors were teenagers, including their experiences emigrating to Canada.

The project — for which students earned a full course credit — is a three-way partnership between Milton District High School, Cogeco Cable and the North Halton Cultural Awareness Council.

"We were concerned that many of our seniors were passing on and we were losing that vital part of Canadian history of why, how and when immigrants came," said Elizabeth Carmichael, North Halton Cultural Awareness Council chair.

Travelling Through Diversity can be seen on Cogeco today at noon, tomorrow at 8 p.m., Thursday at 1 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m. and Monday at noon.

A second special will air later in the year.

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