

# Students' visions of Canada recognized

*Youths showcase their creativity in annual Visions Canada contest*

By **Melanie Hennessey**  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Local students were honoured for their hard work on projects demonstrating the country's history, geography and culture at the annual Visions Canada awards ceremony last week.

The event, held at the Halton Region Museum in rural Milton, recognized dozens of pupils from across the region in Kindergarten to Grade 12.

The winning entries included everything from essays, scrapbooks and video reports to poetry, paintings and models, said Halton Manager of Heritage Services Nancy Field.

"Narrowing these down to the winning entries was a difficult task — there are so many talented young people in Halton," she said.

Among the winners was Grade 5 Milton student Alessia Galioto, who made a scrapbook that explains

all three levels of government — local, provincial and federal. She even delves into the differences between the 'first past the post' and 'mixed member proportional' electoral systems.

"It was interesting to do," said Alessia. "I learned a lot about (government in) Milton, Ontario and Canada and how it all works."

Fellow junior category winner Naman Shanishchara, a Grade 6 student from Burlington, created a graphic novel entitled 'The Adventures of the Ojibwa Brothers.'

The comic story tells of the brothers' journeys out into the world and their ultimate realization that there's no place like home.

"It was lots of fun to make," said Naman. "Our teacher gave us lots of opportunities to do whatever (style of project) we wanted for the final draft."

Meanwhile, a trio of Grade 7 girls from Oakville — Laura Steeves, Nikhita Singhal and Krysten Szatan — took home Visions Canada awards for the board game they crafted called 'The Great Canadian Race.'

The trivia game, aimed at 10 to 14-year-olds, is based on the landform regions of Canada.

"The main goal is to collect the biggest amount of maple leaves by the end of the game," explained Krysten.

And those who wanted to catch up on the news from 1867 could check out Holly MacKenzie-Sutter's winning submission, 'The Halifax Holler' newspaper.

The Grade 8 Halton Hills student created a front page that would've appeared after confederation in Halifax, where she said there were people both for and against the change.

"I wanted to have different people's perspectives," she said.

Locally, other winners included Prarthana Tirikollur, a Grade 7 student from Chris Hadfield Public School who submitted an essay and DVD on 'The Fall of New France,' and Grade 10 Bishop Reding student Jason McBride, who created a propaganda poster from the First World War.

The Visions Canada awards are presented each year by the Halton Region Museum and the two school boards.

A committee from each school board selected the award-winning projects. Assessment was based on clarity of expression, creativity, accuracy, depth of understanding and relevance to Canada.

Visions Canada was initiated in the 1970s when the late Catherine McMartin, a Halton teacher, left an endowment for Halton District School Board students. She also bequeathed a number of artifacts to the Halton Region Museum.



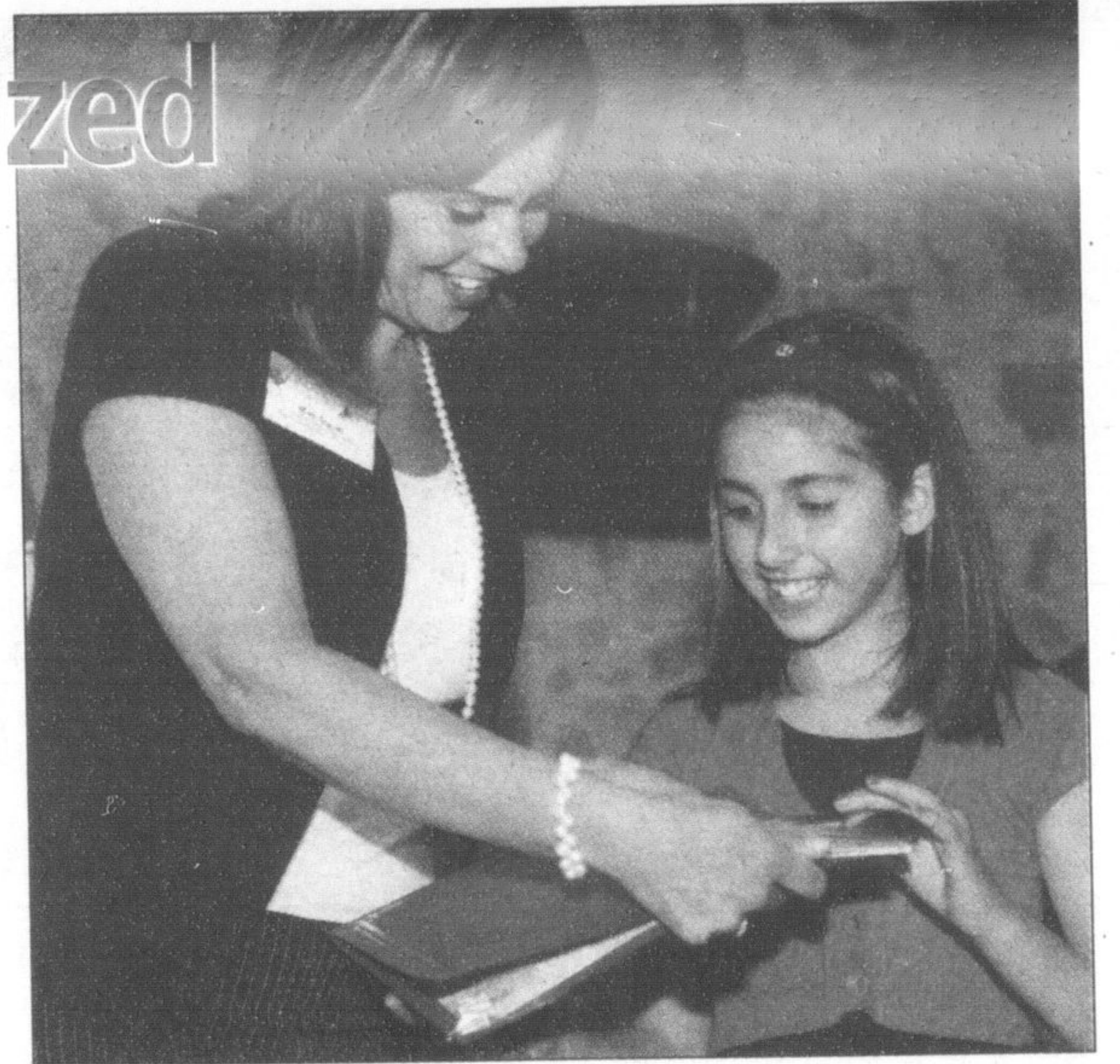
Awards to Halton Catholic District School Board students are given in honour of Robert O'Brien of Burlington, who has devoted his life to Catholic education as a school board trustee and chair.

For more information about Visions Canada visit [www.halton.ca/museum](http://www.halton.ca/museum).

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at [mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com](mailto:mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com).

**EARNING DISTINCTION:** At left, Chris Hadfield School student Prarthana Tirikollur receives her Visions Canada Award from Halton Catholic District School Board Director of Education Wayne Joudrie. At right, Halton Catholic District School Board Superintendent of Education Mary Tessari presents an award to Guardian Angels School student Alessia Galioto.

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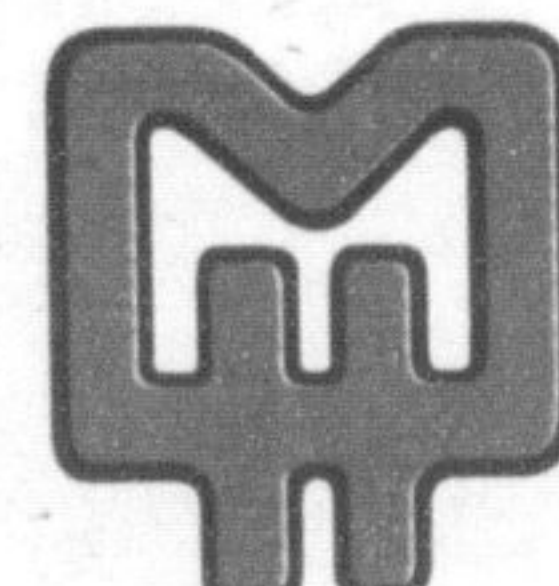
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