



J. M. Denyes School choir was part of the entertainment which kicked off the Halton Board of Education's Education Focus at Halton Centennial Manor Monday afternoon.

Education Focus runs from April 27 to May 8, during which time the public is invited to attend events at local schools.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Education Week

Schools asking public to 'discover your future'

The Halton Board of Education is inviting the public to visit their local schools during Education Focus 1992.

With the theme "Discover your Future Today," the celebration of

education from April 27 to May 8 includes a variety of events at area schools.

E.C. Drury High School hosts the OFFSA Badminton Provincial Championships from April 30 to

May 2. More than 500 athletes, parents, and coaches from across Ontario will be on hand. Opening ceremonies will feature the Burlington Teen Tour Band and live television coverage.

Sam Sherratt School stages *Hansel and Gretel* May 5 and 7.

W.I. Dick Middle School's Grade 8 concert band, stage band, and several other acts will take the stage in a cabaret-style show May 6 at 7 p.m. The cost is \$1.

Robert Baldwin School presents musical *The Canada Goose* May 6 and 7. The production involves more than 100 junior students in staging a message of national pride and celebrating Canada's 125th birthday. Tickets cost \$2.

J.M. Denyes School will host Variety Night May 5 at 7 p.m. The school's choir will be showcased along with performances by both individuals and groups.

Milton's Grade 7 and 8 student bands will be featured at Milton District High School during a celebration of music May 12 at 7:15 p.m.

Martin Street Public School stages its own version of *The Canada Goose* May 27 in the afternoon and evening. The play, written by Judith and Margaret Drynan, celebrates Canada and unification.

Milton Mall is involved as well. A display featuring Milton students will be at the mall from May 5 to May 9.

Education Focus was kicked off at Halton Centennial Manor Monday when school children performed various acts to entertain seniors at the manor — providing a link between the young and old.

Demand for welfare slowly decreasing

By ROB KELLY
The Champion

The growth in Halton's welfare rolls has fallen to half the pace of a year ago, regional social services commissioner Bonnie Ewart said Monday. The rate was down to 12 per cent by early 1992, as opposed to 24 per cent for the beginning of 1991.

It is "a somewhat more optimistic picture," said a cautious-sounding Ms Ewart at the regional health and social services committee meeting. "We still have caseload growth. But

there's a distinctly slower pace."

One of the measuring tools used by regional officials to gauge welfare trends — the number of phone calls to the department — has shown a marked decrease. At the end of 1991 roughly 530 calls per day were streaming into Halton's welfare office. The total has fallen to approximately 400 a day.

However, the end result is still a consistent trend toward higher welfare rolls. In March, more people than ever were counting on the system. There were 3,452 cases in Halton. Each one can represent a family,

and the rule of thumb is that there are two people on welfare for every case.

Regional councillors had no strong reactions to the report. Such dismal news has been presented with numbing regularity, to the extent that the briefings, which were formerly presented monthly, are now only

see WELFARE on page 12

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