



## MY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

THE FIRST DAY of school can be a frightening experience for a fellow, especially when he's used to playing around the house with children he knows. So four-year-old David Allen took along younger brother Robbie, a veteran school attendee, sister Christine, as well as mother, Mrs. Fred Allen, when he started out for the Robert Little kindergarten Tuesday from his John St. home. It wasn't long until they were wending their way up the school hill, a path trod by Acton students for a century. Somewhere along the line David lost

sister Christine and he held on to mother's hand tightly when they reached the school. He observes that there are other boys in the same predicament, especially the falls holding onto his slippers. David made it inside where teacher Mrs. Sandra Rypma tags him and it isn't long until he's in the charmed circle with teacher Mrs. Gordon Rogvaldson guiding some classmates into the gaps. There are a few tears but one boy, Paul Nolan, has a big, cheery smile. By the end of the week it will be all smiles.—(Staff Photo)



# The Acton Free Press

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## Parents protest closing Osprunge kindergarten

Close to 50 concerned parents and kindergarten aged children staged an orderly protest demonstration outside Osprunge school, Tuesday morning.

The parents and children were protesting the Wellington County Board of Education's closing of the kindergarten class at Osprunge Public School.

The Board closed the Osprunge kindergarten and arranged for Osprunge area five-year-olds to be transported by bus to Brisbane School, near the village of Erin, and Ross R. MacKay school in Hillsburgh, claiming that the two schools were more centrally located.

As the situation stands now, some children living on the outskirts of the Osprunge School area may have to travel as much as 28 miles (18 miles to Osprunge School and another 10 miles to Ross R. MacKay school in Hillsburgh) to attend kindergarten.

Parents claim that road conditions in the area leave a lot to be desired in the winter time. Last year fathers helped to take children home through

impassable roads on snowmobiles, on three occasions. On two other occasions, school buses did not travel the roads on account of weather conditions and on another, children were sent home early.

Parents, headed by Mrs. J. C. Taylor of R.R. 1 Orton, first went to the board on June 23 to ask them not to send children such a distance. Nevertheless, the board passed a resolution to have the five-year-olds transported to Brisbane and Ross R. MacKay schools.

The group intends to go back to the board again at a meeting Monday, September 8.

"This time we'll have the facts and figures to back up our case,"

Mrs. Taylor told The Free Press. The group will recommend that:

(a) Osprunge have an additional portable classroom erected to accommodate the extra children being brought in from the Eramosa Township Town Line. (Osprunge now has two portables — the other two schools have three each. In addition, complete kindergarten equipment was purchased for Osprunge school for the school year 1968-69 and used only one year.)

(b) One teacher travel between Brisbane and Ross R. MacKay schools on alternate days. (This was done last year between Osprunge and Ross R. MacKay.) The second teacher

work half time on alternate days at Osprunge OR, since she is already hired full time, split the children into two groups and work full time at Osprunge.

A full time kindergarten teacher has been hired for each of the Brisbane and Ross R. MacKay schools.

The board were truly trying to save money by their move, but are of the opinion that the cost of transporting children by bus would equalize the cost of a portable.

"We as parents would be negligent to send our children such a distance," Mrs. Taylor stated.

Parents of kindergarten children at Brisbane, Ross R. MacKay and Erin Union schools, who are in sympathy with the Osprunge protesters, also took part in Tuesday morning's demonstration.

Charles M. Hammond of Guelph, a member of the Wellington County Board of Education, was present at the demonstration and talked with the protesters.

## Condition satisfactory

The condition of Daniel Harkley, 19 year old Acton youth who was badly hurt in a motorcycle-car collision on August 22, was described as "satisfactory" by nurses at Guelph General Hospital.

There have been no complications arising from the injuries.

## Single accident during week

Only accident investigated by Acton O.P.P. during the past week occurred at the Mill-Main corner on Friday, August 29 at 2:30 p.m. Walter Brooks, R.R. 8, London, was driving a tractor trailer and had stopped at the corner when the rear right corner of his vehicle was struck by a car driven by Heather Reid of Kleinburg. Damage to the Reid car was about \$250.

## Driver of car dies Monday

The driver of a car involved in a fatal accident last week, Sandra Boyd, 18, of Fergus, passed away Monday in Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital. A passenger in the car, Judith Ann McDougall, 17, of R.R. 5, Rockwood, was killed in the accident.



## Neighbors protest increased activity at Ross Lake airstrip

A group of residents approached Esqueving township council Tuesday night, asking council to pass a resolution taying that the use of the Ross Lake airstrip was not appropriate and requesting the Department of Transport not to issue a license for the land to be used as an airport.

Alton Breckon, R.R. 3 Georgetown, spokesman for the group told council of an incident

recently, in which an aircraft overshot the end of the runway, crossed number 17 sideroad and went through a fence on his property. He added that it was fortunate there were no cars passing at the time and no one was hurt.

Mr. Breckon, who said that planes take off approximately 150 feet west of his home, told council that when he phoned township police about the accident they told him to see council.

Reeve George Currie stated that council certainly could not allow vehicles to cross township roads, but said that he would like to see council write the Department of Transport to find out who would have jurisdiction over the airstrip.

Reeve Currie said that he would be glad to call a special meeting to discuss the matter with a representative of the Department any time.

"We have to have somebody here to give us the definite facts," deputy-reeve Tom Hill contended.

Councillor Ken Marshall, who has had considerable flying experience himself, said that he had visited the airstrip and had come away with a better impression of the landing field than he had before.

He said that he thought it was up to the owner of the plane and his insurance company to make restitution for any damage done.

Another resident, Simon Frankroyter, who said he lives right beside the runway complained to council about the noise planes created.

He mentioned one instance in which noise from a plane larger than those which usually land at the strip, almost frightened his wife into taking refuge in the cellar of his home.

Council will wait to hear from the Department of Transport before taking any action.

## Assessor's death sudden

During a week's holiday, Acton's assessor William Erskine passed away suddenly Sunday night at the home of his brother Clifford in Meaford. Mr. and Mrs. Erskine had moved this summer to Markdale after living in Acton the past seven years.

Town officials and friends went to Markdale Tuesday evening and planned to attend the funeral in Markdale today (Wednesday) at 2 p.m.

The Erskines came to Acton from Toronto and lived on Westcott Road. They had moved to Markdale, in expectation of the province's takeover of assessing duties soon. However Mr. Erskine was continuing with his duties with the town of Acton and was completing the census.

He is survived by his wife Charlotta; a son Joe in Bramales and a young grandson.

## Three cross walks

Three overhead crosswalk signs were installed in town on the first day of school to provide safe locations for students and adults as well.

The three crosswalks are at the Mill-Willow corner by the Bank of Montreal; at the foot of the school lane for Robert Little students and at the corner of Acton Blvd. and Queen St. for M. Z. Bennett students and high school students.

The council has passed a by-law designating the three areas as crosswalks.

Expected any day are the approach signs for the crosswalks, which have been expected daily since the delivery date of August 15. They will be installed as soon as possible by the town workmen.

White lines indicating the walks are all newly painted.

## Save life

Don't let somebody die! That's the slogan for next Monday's blood donor clinic at

the Legion hall. Hours for donors are from 2 to 5 in the afternoon and 6.30 to 9 at night.



PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN in Erin joined Osprunge parents, Tuesday morning, as they staged a demonstration in front of Osprunge

public school to protest Wellington County Board of Education's closing of the kindergarten at the school.—(Staff Photo)



KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN from the Osprunge area picketed with their parents in front of Osprunge school, Tuesday morning, in protest of

the Wellington County Board of Education's decision to close the kindergarten at the school and transport children by bus to schools