

Board turns down delegation will not reopen Kindergarten

Wellington County Board of Education voted not to reconsider its previous decision to close the kindergarten at Osprings school in spite of a request for reconsideration by Ray Bernardi of Erin, spokesman for a delegation of close to 50 Osprings area parents, who attended the Board's meeting in Guelph, Monday night.

Trustee Jack Gilchrist, who represents Guelph township on the Board, moved the Board not to reconsider its decision to close the kindergarten at Osprings, but that appropriate officers of the Board examine the bus routes in the area with regard to instituting possible changes particularly for the five children who have the longest distance to travel. His motion was carried.

The Board had previously closed the Osprings kindergarten and made arrangements for Osprings area 5-year-olds to be bused to Brisbane school, near the village of Erin and Ross R. McKay School in Hillsburgh.



CLOSE TO 50 OSPRINGS AREA PARENTS attended the Wellington County Board of Education meeting in Guelph Monday night. The delegation asked the Board to reconsider their decision to close the kindergarten at Osprings school. The Board voted not to reconsider their decision but promised to examine more closely bus routes that are taking children to school in Hillsburgh.—(Staff Photo)

Mr. Bernardi pointed out that it would be possible for the Board to rent a portable classroom at the rate of \$3,000 a year, whereas the rental of a school bus for one route amounted to between \$25 and \$28 a day or a capital outlay of \$5,000 a year.

He also explained that the delegation felt that it would be far better to move one teacher than 28 children. There are 28 potential kindergarten students in the Osprings area.

He added that the Board already has a teacher travelling between schools in Hillsburgh and Erin.

On the subject of bus routes, Mr. Bernardi told the Board that there are seven children living above number 17 Sideroad in Erin township, who would have to travel to Osprings, across highway 24 to Brisbane school and back up to Ross R. McKay school in Hillsburgh, a total return route of 40 miles if the Board did not reconsider their original decision.

Mr. Bernardi told the Board that under the old boundaries the Osprings school area covered 30% of the township, and added that with the present and future increase in population in the Hillsburgh area, he didn't know how the Ross R. McKay school would be able to cope with

additional students from other parts of the township.

Mr. Bernardi asked the Board what effect they thought dissatisfied parents would have on their children, when they were not happy with the distance their children were travelling to school.

The Board also received a letter from the Conningsby Women's Institute supporting Osprings Parents' objections to the kindergarten closing.

Clifford Whitfield, an associate superintendent of schools, commended the delegation for their fine turnout and for the clarity of their brief, then went on to explain the reasons for the Board's original decision.

He pointed out that it was the Board's job to provide quality education for each of the 22,000 children under its jurisdiction.

Mr. Whitfield added that in striving for this, the Board "must keep in mind the ability of ratepayers to maintain quality education".

Mr. Whitfield told the

delegation that the potential enrollment of 84 kindergarten children in Erin township indicated to the Board they might either choose to have four classes of 21 each attending half-time or three classes of 28 each attending half-time.

The Board decided upon the four-class arrangement, thereby maintaining a fairly low teacher-pupil ratio of 21 to one.

Mr. Whitfield pointed out that from past experience the Board had found it very difficult to get a teacher to take charge of two different kindergartens in two different localities.

On the question of where to place the 84 children, Mr. Whitfield said that at the time of the Board's decision, transportation routes had not been established, but that the Board realized that the flow of school bus traffic in the past had always been along highway 24 towards the village of Erin.

When asked by one parent if he thought that having children travel such a long distance did

not have an effect on quality education, Mr. Whitfield replied that he was aware of no study that had shown this, added there were children in a neighbouring township travelling further to school even than those in the Osprings area.

In reply to Mr. Bernardi's request that the Board make an effort to give the delegation an answer before they left, Board chairman Dr. Taylor Evans asked the trustees their opinions.

After some discussion a motion that the matter be held over until the next meeting was defeated. Finally a motion by trustee Mike Bean that the Board discuss the matter later on in the evening was carried.

A motion by trustee Douglas Hogarth that the discussion be held "in camera" was subsequently defeated.

Several possible solutions to the problem were offered by Board members, when they took up the matter again later in the evening.

Mr. Bean suggested that the Board move a portable classroom from Brisbane school to Osprings since there was a greater concentration of children in the Osprings area.

Trustee Charles "Mac" Hammond wondered if it would be possible to transfer senior students from Osprings school, instead of the kindergarten children.

The possibility of combining two senior classes in Osprings school into one room, thereby leaving one room for a kindergarten was played down by Director of Education D. J. Wilson, who pointed out that such a move could prove harmful to the senior students involved. He added the Board would be far better to provide additional space than to jam students together in classrooms.

Osprings school principal Bruce Macpherson, who attended the meeting, concurred with Mr. Wilson, when asked his opinion.

Before making his motion, Mr. Gilchrist said, "I fail to see why we should be making such a fuss about moving children, five miles on a bus. I fail to see the significance of this," he added. Mr. Gilchrist noted that there have been plenty of incidents in the county where children have travelled this far.

Mr. Hammond stated that Mr. Gilchrist was correct in what he said, but added that other groups were doing it in larger numbers.

After Mr. Gilchrist's motion had been passed, Mr. Bean expressed the hope that parents would not keep their children out of school on account of the Board's decision.

One member of the delegation obviously unhappy with the Board's decision replied that he would not allow his children to attend school, as he left the room.

When contacted by the Free Press later, Mr. Bernardi said that parents were not satisfied with the Board's decision but had not yet decided whether or not to keep their children out of school.

159-home subdivision scheme

At Tuesday evening's meeting of Nassagaweya council, a by-law was passed which paved the way for a 159-home subdivision to be built near the village of Moffat.

The development, called Moffat Estates, will be built at the corner of the First Line and 15 Sideroad. The houses will be priced between \$25,000 and \$28,000 with construction expected to begin on the first 50 homes by next spring if final

approval is given by the Ontario Municipal Board.

Canadian Mitchell Associates of Bramalea is doing the engineering work for the project and they expect the work to be done in two or three phases with approximately 50 houses being built the first year.

Final costs of the whole subdivision have not been settled but an official of Canadian Mitchell said services and roads are expected to run around

\$230,000.

Canadian Mitchell Associates has done other work in the housing field with their most outstanding accomplishment to date being the engineering work done in establishing the satellite city of Bramalea.

Residents of the new subdivision are expected to come from the Guelph, Hamilton, Burlington and Metro Toronto areas if final approval is given to the project.

ACTON FAIR PARADE ENTRY FORM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20th

PARADE TO START AT 12:00 NOON

- ◇ BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL FLOAT
- ◇ SERVICE CLUB AND ORGANIZATION FLOAT
- ◇ NOVELTY FLOAT

No Entry FEE

Please check the space above for your entry

PRIZES FOR EACH SECTION

1st PRIZE-\$25.00 2nd PRIZE-\$15.00 3rd PRIZE-5.00

Mail Entries to: Chairman Parade Committee

Russell Murray,
36 Plymouth Court,
Guelph, Ontario.

Jack Marshall,
R.R. 2,
Acton, Ontario.

Ida Matthew,
R.R. 2,
Acton, Ontario.

ON/OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1969.

NOTE: Small children with buggies, bicycles, etc. join in parade at Knox Church.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Formal military parade will present Lieutenant-Governor to waiting crowd

In a formal, military section of the fall fair parade, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario will proceed to the park to officially open this year's edition of the fair.

Plans are being carefully laid for a suitable reception for the Honourable Ross Macdonald of Brantford.

The traditional formality introduced in the parade will continue in the park, where the Lieutenant-Governor will inspect his honor guard and then enter his special marquee at the south-east end of the park. The fair board will be inviting guests to come into the marquee to meet the Lieutenant-Governor and his aides. The guests will include fair board members, town, township and county officials.

At two o'clock he will proceed to the platform to officially open the fair, and speak to the crowd. Then it is likely he will be escorted around the fair grounds by the president, Wilmer Fryer.

It is anticipated a small reception will be held afterward

at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leatherland.

Officials concerned with the plans expect he will have at least two aides and perhaps one of his daughters will accompany him.

A special meeting was held Tuesday evening when detailed arrangements for his reception were again gone over by the fair board.

The parade will form up at the station at 12 noon, and the first section is being termed "The Lieutenant-Governor's parade".

First—the Lorne Scots pipe and drum band, followed by the official car or cars. Then the Lorne Scots honor guard of 100 men with the color party right in the centre (as is traditional in battle formation).

Then comes the Lorne Scots military band, followed by the Legion color party and then the Acton Legion.

The second part of the parade brings the entries familiar year after year—the Acton Citizens Band in front, the cars with heads of municipalities, county warden, Miss Acton Fair and attendants, Dairy Princess and the floats of various organizations or businesses. The Opti-Knights Band adds even more music to this year's outstanding parade.

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Council upset...

(Continued from Page One)

in the agreement.

"It's a privately owned lake and private land but public taxes are spent on it," insisted Mr. Marks, "and public money is our responsibility to look after at any time. That's what the board intended to say in their letter."

"It's rather late to make directions to us. It should be directed to the C.V.C.A. for their future guidance," Reeve F. Oakes said.

"If Councillor Marks is correct then why did they send copies of the letters to the press?" Councillor Coats asked. "To raise h— that's why."

"I agree with that," Mr. Marks said of the last remark.

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MONDAY, SEPT. 15th
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homes West of John Street
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17th
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JELLO ASSORTED FLAVOURS	4	1.00
JELLY DESSERTS	10	1.00
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FANCY PEACHES		

IGA CUT GREEN OR WALLO	7	1.00
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IGA	2	1.00
CHOICE PEAS	5	1.00
STRAWBERRY OR RASPBERRY		
IGA JAMS WITH PECTIN		
TOMATO		
HUNT'S CATSUP		
CRANBERRY		
IGA CHOICE CORN		

ALL BRANDS OR CAT BRAND	10	1.00
PET FOODS		
WALLO BRAND		
IGA COFFEE		
ORANGE BRAND	2	1.00
IGA TEA BAGS	2	1.00
WALLO BRAND	2	1.00
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WALLO BRAND	2	1.00
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ORANGE JUICE	5	1.00
Orange Juice		
WALLO BRAND	2	1.00
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WALLO BRAND	2	1.00
CHICKEN & CHIPS		

PRODUCE OF USA CANADA NO. 1 GRADE	4	1.00
Cantaloupes		
BANANAS	2	29¢
ORANGES	79¢	
LOCAL CARROTS	25¢	
LOCAL ONIONS	29¢	

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WALLO BRAND	3	1.00
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Dollar Days

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TABLET WENERS	1.00	
TABLET BOLONIA	1.00	
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TABLET BONELESS ROUND STEAK	89¢	
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4 TABLET TABLET COOKED MEATS	4	1.00
TABLET WENERS	1.00	
TABLET BOLONIA	1.00	
BY BRAND MEAT PIES (JAM)	3	1.00

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