

Enrolment down at Centennial

by Barb Wynneck
Changes have taken place at Rockwood Centennial School to get the 1979-1980 academic year underway. The portable classrooms, no longer required, are gone from the school yard, and installed at St. Joseph's Separate School in Acton.

Principal Grant MacRae expects enrolment to be down about 20 pupils and he anticipates a total of about 450 students. Twenty teachers make up the staff. The school lost one teacher—Mr. John Jackson transferred to Kenilworth. His intermediate department position will not be replaced. Bill Couture left Rockwood to join the Aberfoyle teaching staff. One new teacher, Mrs. Mary Love joins the staff as special Education Resource person. Students will be withdrawn from the classroom on a one to one or small group basis. They will receive Mrs. Love's individual attention for 20-30 minutes each session. She will render special assistance and math skills and help them overcome the block of "I can't do it," explained principal MacRae. Special education students are now based to Guelph.

Mrs. Diana Young returns after maternity leave to a Grade four staff position. Mrs. Ellen Thomson will teach grade two until Christmas when Mrs. Judy Palmer returns from maternity leave. This year sees two full kindergarten classes. Grades one through four each number one and one half classes, necessitating split grades. Mr. MacRae said.

Guides, Brownies ready for season

by Barb Wynneck
Rockwood Girl Guide and Brownie registration is set for Tuesday, September 11, 7 to 8 p.m. at Rockwood United Church Hall. This season will see a change in the Brownie and Guide age limits. An additional group for older girls, Pathfinders, will be instituted. All changes are part of the new national guiding movement program, says District Commissioner Ellen Thomson. Brownies are now organized for six to nine year olds; Guides for nine to 12 year olds and Pathfinders for 12 to 15 year olds.

Grades five through seven each number two classes. There are three grade eight classes. Rockwood averages about 20 students per kindergarten classroom. About 25 students make up each grade two and three classroom. There are an average of 27 students in the grades five and six classrooms and about 30 students per class at the grade seven and eight level. Mr. MacRae said.

Brown Owl Kathy Jestin is anticipating enough Brownies to form two packs this fall. Leadership assistance is urgently needed. Please call her if you are able to lend a hand. Guide Captain Ellen Thomson expects the Guides and Pathfinders will hold their meetings on the same evening at different village locations. Brownies unable to attend the Tuesday registration are asked to telephone Mrs. Jestin at 856-9066. Guides and Pathfinders may contact Mrs. Thomson at 856-9953.



Teacher will do a double take when Kindergarten students Dougle (left) and David (right) Forbes arrive in the classroom. Neighbor Tammy Hargett safely delivers her charges. Rockwood Centennial enrolment declined this year, but not at the Kindergarten level.

Free Press Rockwood and district

Campers avoid park in changeable August

by Barb Wynneck
Only a few hearty souls, the average of ten campers per night, braved August's changeable temperature to pitch their tents in the Rockwood Conservation Area. "It was a good year up to the last of July," said assistant Park Supervisor Don Mochrie, "but everything is dead this month."

The campground offers 55 family camp sites and operates an overflow area, accommodating 50-55 additional sites when necessary. There are three group camping areas available to bona fide groups applying for space in advance. Twelve employees, ten working on a part time basis keep the park facilities running smoothly. Most campers hail from the Burlington, Hamilton, Kitchener, Cambridge area. "It's been a quiet year,

the usual number of campers with cuts and bruises." There were a couple of emergency calls. Mr. Mochrie said. "But everyone is alive to tell the tale."

There was no swimming program on the park waterfront this summer—"Too costly for the number of participants," said the assistant supervisor. Park gates close for the season Thanksgiving weekend. There is a possibility of the park authorities opening marked cross country ski trails, with a

cost structure involved. Mr. Mochrie said. In winters past, cross country skiers have cut their own trails through the beautiful, challenging varied terrain. Access to the park has been free.

Tennis
Season's Final Rockwood Tennis Club Tournament gets underway this weekend at the Courts. Junior and Senior singles, doubles and mixed doubles events are scheduled to run through to Sept. 15 and 16. Register at the courts.

Music program continues in fall

by Barb Wynneck
Rockwood children have an opportunity to participate in a new music program this season. The music group at Rockwood Presbyterian Church's vacation school was such a success, Rev. Carrie Doehring decided to carry on the program

this fall. The sessions get underway Sept. 16 and will be held every Thursday 3:45 to 5 p.m. at the church. The program is designed for youngsters age ten to 12 and will feature singing and rhythms. No formal instruments are used but you would be surprised what fine beats can be carried on a coffee tin! Children participating in the program do not have to be church members. For more information call Carrie Doehring at 856-9094.

Swan bid for geese

In the fowl market, it looks as if one swan is worth two snow geese. One of the male swans from Fairy Lake was taken to Kortright Waterfowl Park, Guelph, last week, permanently, for breeding purposes, says Acton Community Centre manager Harold Townsley. In return, the lake may get a pair of snow geese, he said.

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Kids enjoy their last carefree summer days at Rockwood Conservation Area. Carrie Barfoot (left) and Jackie Cooper (right) took full advantage of the weekend's warm temperatures. Park attendance greatly declined during the changeable month of August.

Village revves up for activity

A little bit of country with all the trimmings will make the fall Ginger Snap activity being held in Rockwood a popular annual event for outdoor excursionists, children and adults alike. September 22. Alternative rain date is September 29.

In a country fair setting on the Rockwood Village Greens there'll be craft displays with potters, artists, weavers and artisans of other skills on hand to give first-hand instruction. There'll be fun games; tantalizing home-made food; contests; music; Highland dancers; together with other touches of small town hospitality.

Groups wishing to sell their own wares may rent booth space at a minimal fee. Funds from the event are being set aside for St. John's church restoration.

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