

# No change in enrollment size expected for new Acton middle school

While the opening of the McKenzie-Smith Middle School means a change in the type of education offered to

Acton youngsters it does not mean an increase in classroom space is available. McKenzie-Smith principal

Gary Dawkins says that taking the Grade 6, 7 and 8 students from M.Z. Bennett and Robert Little schools has allowed the school board to remove 10 portable classrooms at these schools. This means that they really haven't made any extra places for students.

"All they've done is catch up with the 300 to 400 students that have had to be housed in portables in the past few years," he says.

Mr. Dawkins expects 470 students on opening day but pointed out that the number can vary somewhat depending on who moves in or out of the community through the summer. Only about 50 of these proposed students will travel by bus.

While there may have been a certain amount of switching of teachers for various classes in the higher grades at both Acton public schools, Mr. Dawkins says that McKenzie-Smith students will go onto a semi-rotary system in September.

Each student will have a home room in which he will spend half his day. The other half of the day he will move from class to class. Mr. Dawkins feels that it is important that the students feel some sort

of identity with their class and a specific teacher and so the rotary schedule will only be used for part of each day.

School hours will vary slightly from what students had at the old schools. Mr. Dawkins says that McKenzie-Smith the day will begin at 8:50 a.m. and end at 3:20 p.m. The school will close down for lunch from 11:40 a.m. until 12:40 p.m. each day.

Staff for the McKenzie-Smith school has been drawn from the teachers at M.Z. Bennett and Robert Little except for vice-principal Carl Hymers and language arts and social science teacher Derek Humphries. Both men were at Centennial middle school in Georgetown last year.

This is the McKenzie-Smith staff and the areas in which they will teach: Dave Boycott - boy's P.E. and health, Lee Bradshaw - language arts,

social science and mathematics (Grade 6), Brad Fisher - language arts, soc. science (Grade 7), Catherine Kavanagh - library and resource centre, Ed Leatherland - math. (Grade 7), Gall McHugh - lang. arts and soc. science (Grade 8), Anne Usher - lang. arts and soc. science (Grade 8), Lorna Pennick - French, Rob Coleman - language arts and soc. science (Grade 8) and math (Grade 6), Ena Gibson - lan-

guage arts and soc. science (Gr. 8), Doug Hines - Industrial Arts, Paul Kirby - art, Dave Mashinter - music, Bob O'Driscoll - lang. arts and soc. science (Grade 7), Jeff Roche - girl's P.E., Kathy Sanford - match (Grade 8), Ron Turner - special education, Marjorie White - family studies, Helen Leouis will also teach French to a few classes. The rest of the time she will work in Brookville. Dave McKnight will be

the school caretaker. "It's kind of a unique situation," Mr. Dawkins chuckled when he was asked how he felt about coming back as principal of a school he saw open in his own student days.

"I never thought this would happen when I was here before," Mr. Dawkins as a Grade 11 student when the McKenzie-Smith school opened its doors as Acton high school in 1954. "The building has changed

dramatically since those days," he added.

Mr. Dawkins says that there will be room for a few more students over the coming year since none of the special classrooms (except art) will have to be used for home rooms this fall.

A staff committee is investigating what type of house league system the school will have and it will be set up in September, Mr. Dawkins said.



Rudy Spielvogel was the caretaker at Acton high school from 1954 until 1969.

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