

Robert Little ROK-ers help solve student problems



ROKING AND ROLLING: ROK group members are April Caves, Peter Lemiski, Mike McIsaac, Ian Wallace, John Lang, David Wells, Nicky Savage, Kendall Brown, Jamie Crabtree, Samantha Dingwall, Ryan Weatherall, Chad Greenwood, Mitchell Moore, Alisha Watterson, Angela Song, coordinator Kevin Dorscht, Andrew Martin, Tammy Dickinson, Sarah Angell, Becky Chapman, Erin Linton, Devon Lambert, Jenna Grossman, Thomas Mahon, teacher Mary Lou Denny and Amanda Duffield (missing from photo). (Brad Hammond photo)

BY BRAD HAMMOND

The Acton Tanner

Robert Little's ROK group is a perfect example of students helping students.

The Reaching Other Kids program has been introduced to Robert Little, McKenzie-Smith and Brookville Public schools by guidance counsellor Kevin Dorscht, and it appears to be having a positive effect on local students.

"The program was started because we felt that kids are really good at helping each other. It is a good way to deal with some of the problems kids are going through, by training a group of kids to solve these problems effectively without fighting, while learning to talk about the situation instead," states

Dorscht.

Twenty-four Grade 5 students from Robert Little were chosen to be members of the ROK group. These students will be trained to be peer mediators and counsellors. The group will be presenting skits and discussions to classes and other schools on how to solve problems. They will also design posters, announcements and many other activities in and out of the school.

"One of the best things the ROK group learns is how to understand someone else's feelings and viewpoints. As kids they often don't think about where the other person is coming from; what they are trained to do is to look at both sides of the problem and understand what the other kid is feeling. They also develop social skills, as they learn how to interact with other students," Dorscht says.

Dorscht believes "a program like this should be run in all schools because it gives kids a chance to solve everyday problems around them."

The ROK group already has affected the school and students by designating Robert Little as a "fight-free zone."

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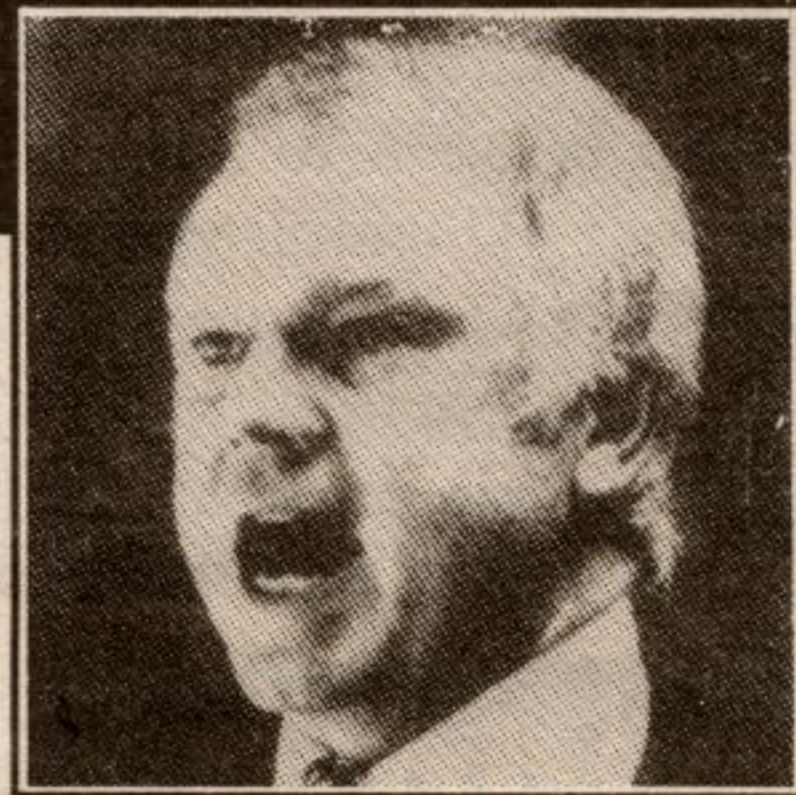
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The tales of the Broadstreet Bullies are endless. Here's a few more stories I have to tell.

Gary Dornhoefer was like a rock in front of the net and Hound Dog Kelly was always stirring things up. There was slick Rick MacLeish and Barry Ashbee making sure Bernie could see the puck by nailing anybody who stood in front of the Philly net.

Remember the two Watsons, Jimmy and Joe? They were solid back there. Perhaps the toughest defenceman in the whole league was Eddie Van Impe. Remember the number he did on the Russian? Sweet stuff.

There was Andre "Moose" Dupont, who backed down from nobody, and the most popular player Dave "The Hammer" Shultz.

There were a lot of tough guys, although one guy I thought never fit in with these honest boys was Don Saleski; a bit of a phoney. I remember one time Moose Dupont had a fight with Johnathan and was cut up pretty good, but he was in throwing them at the end.

Later in the game there was another fight in the corner between two other guys and our John Wensink was watching closely. Saleski comes up behind Wensink, turns around and guess who has to take him on? You guessed it, "The Moose."



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Acton's Wolf Cubs are on the prowl

BY BRAD HAMMOND
The Acton Tanner

Our town has a Boy Scout tradition dating back to 1920, so First Acton's Wolf Cub Pack has a proud history to uphold as they kick off another year of Scouting.

"We try to develop some values in the boys," says Dan Green, leader of the pack. "We also try to give them some skills they can carry on with them throughout their adult life. Fair play, a little discipline and life skills are taught. Hopefully these principles will remain with them as they grow."

"The program has changed since I was a Wolf Cub," reveals Green. "But there still are lots of things in common: the outdoors, conservation, knot-tying, camping and compass work are still parts of the program. There is now a lot of emphasis on today's and future technologies."

John DeBlauw, leader, states, "We play games that are fun yet with a purpose. The boys learn how to make decisions and accept the consequences for their decision. Along with respect for their community and others in it."

Funds for the program are provided by the boys, who pay 25 cents a week in dues, as well as fund-raising events such as Apple Day and Trees for Canada. Other funds are provided by local sponsors and the community.

To allow the pack to grow, more leaders are needed. "We're always looking for more uniform leaders and volunteers," states Green.

Anyone interested in getting involved with Acton's Scouting movement can drop by the Scout Hall, Monday to Thursday evenings, or call district commissioner Steve Thompson at 853-2620.