

# Teacher helps build school in Guatemala

## ROBERT LITTLE NEWS

BY TROY ETHIER & SAM MILLS

Three weeks ago Mr. Speed left for Guatemala to help build a school. When he returned he had lots of information to share.

We learned that Guatemala has 9.5 million people and out of this population, about 85 per cent are illiterate. They make, on the average, a low wage of \$40 a month.

The people in Guatemala speak Spanish and Quiche. They don't

have snow like we do, and they also don't have computers. They make most of their food from corn and cook over open fires. People carry things on their heads.

There were two groups of about 25 people helping to build the school. They slept in tents or in the neighbouring school.

The new school has seven rooms. The Guatemala school year starts in January and the locals should have the finishing touches done by then. Their new school will be called Canada School.

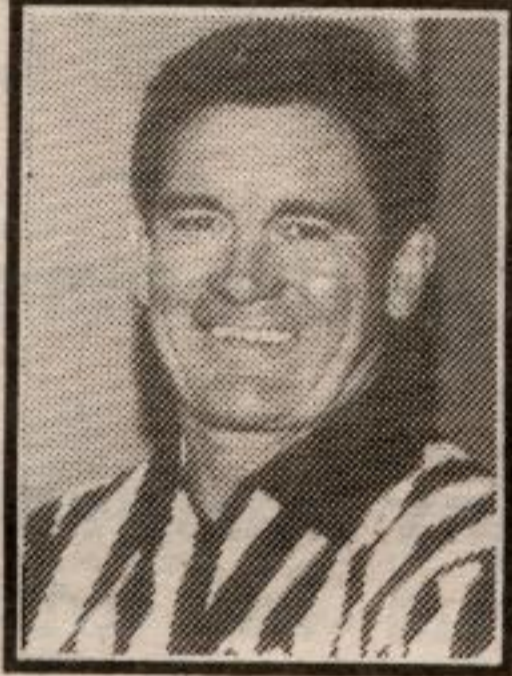


GEORGE AND SOGGY PISTONS? We caught them jamming at McKenzie-Smith Bennett's drop-in centre on Thursday. From left: Dave Schmuki, Bob McGinn on drums and vocalist Jay Mercer.

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SPENDING US\$ \$15 MILLION IN AN UPGRADE PROGRAM is the way the government-backed Hotel Corporation of the Bahamas and the owners of the RADISSON CABEL BEACH CASINO AND GOLF RESORT are showing their appreciation for past and future business. A 700-room property, the present lagoons and waterfalls will be refinished and a 10-METRE-WIDE RIVER AND MISTING POOL featured. Even the golf course will be getting a complete overhaul, including rebuilt greens. A popular location with good vacation value!

PASSPORTS - STILL A MUST-DO, EVEN THOUGH ... Yes, the cost of getting your passport just increased to \$60 (the passport is still \$35, but now there is a handling fee of \$25 added) during the past few days - reportedly to assist the government in building their network of offshore people to assist you in times of need. YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED HOW MANY PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE A PASSPORT and need to travel, or THEIRS IS OUT OF DATE - in either instance there is a lot of scrambling taking place TO GET IT DONE! The cost here in Canada is still less than in most other countries. See your local professional travel agency for assistance.

IT'S SKI TIME! So AIR CANADA VACATIONS has done something about it with their newest addition of VAIL and ASPEN in their extensive offering. This coincides with AIR CANADA'S NEW SCHEDULED SERVICE to DENVER. Their SKI PACKAGES include air travel (on a plane, not on skis!), accomodation, car rental and lift tickets. A NICE CHRISTMAS GIFT for that someone special, including yourself. There are many good ski packages available by many companies, including here in CANADA, where your \$\$\$ go furthest!

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## M-S-B drop-in centre opens

BY KAREN WETMORE  
The Acton Tanner

McKenzie-Smith Bennett kids from Grades 6 to 8 don't have to sit at home on Thursday nights watching *Friends* on TV anymore.

Instead, they can be with their friends, at the new drop-in centre open from 7 to 9 pm at the school. "We wanted to give the kids in Acton something to do during the

week that was free and that was constructive and not destructive," said Kevin Dorscht, the school counsellor who organized the centre.

The first night, last Thursday, brought in more than 100 kids. Some played video games, others tried out ping pong or joined in on a game of floor hockey in the gym. A room holding a jam session with *George and Soggy Pistons* was packed to the door with moshers and groupies.

"For this age group, it's hard for them to find things to do," Dorscht said. "I just figured, the school has the facilities, why not use them?"

"It's a good idea because everyone can have fun here," agreed Grade 7 student Holly Popp. "I'll probably come out every week."

Dorscht said he was happily surprised at the large turnout for the drop-in centre's first night. Parents have also been supportive of the centre and many have volunteered to spend their Thursday evenings supervising the activities.

"It's a place where they can have fun and stay out of trouble," said parent Tricia Schmuki, who was kept busy selling pop and chips throughout the evening. "I think it's a wonderful idea."

There have been no complaints of the drop-in centre being open on a school night, said Dorscht. It's staying open for a trial basis right now, with future plans of

craft-making, ping pong tournaments and even arm wrestling competitions. Eventually, the centre may open to include younger students as well.

Money raised through junk food sales (IGA provided the food to the school at cost) may go towards buying a drum set, sports equipment and more video games. This depends on whether the opening night's popularity carries over into the following weeks, Dorscht said. But the students seem to think it's as good an idea as their parents and teachers.

"I thought it would be fun and it was," said Kristy Haggett, a Grade 6 student.

## Feeding families

Christmas food hampers are available for families in need this holiday season. Applications for the hampers, being provided by the Lakeside Chapter of the IODE, Acton Rotary and St. Vincent de Paul, are at the Salvation Army office at 120 Mill St., open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am-12:30 pm and Saturday, Dec. 9 from 1-3 pm. The deadline for applications is Dec. 14.



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