

Metcalfe torn over school site

Despite objections, a breakaway Christian school will definitely be built somewhere in Osgoode Township.

That's the promise from John Bouwers, vice-chairman Community Christian School Association, who was commenting on the aversion shown by some residents to the school being located on a three-acre site in Metcalfe.

The site, donated by Osgoode Reeve Albert Bouwers, is in a residential area and some neighbours feel it's the wrong place to put a school.

The school committee blames itself for some of the opposition that has built up against the concept, the vice-chairman said.

A lack of communication between the committee and local residents has led to misunderstanding of the school's objectives, he added. Co-op members are now trying to rectify the breakdown.

Objections will be aired during an Ontario Municipal Board hearing into an application to change local zoning to allow the school. The date has yet to be announced. Should the OMB reject the Metcalfe site, the school will be established somewhere else, John Bouwers said.

A spokesman for objectors said

Hit-and-run

A 21-year-old Embrun man has pleaded not guilty to 2 charges in connection with the hit-and-run death of 37-year-old Denise Bourbonnais of Embrun.

Jacques Bourdeau pleaded not guilty to a charge of leaving the scene of an accident and to a charge of criminal negligence. He will appear in court Feb. 7 for a preliminary hearing.

Mrs. Bourbonnais was struck by a car while jogging near Embrun Nov. 10.

the group is looking forward to the hearing to make its views known. He complained that no opportunity was provided to ratepayers in the initial stages to discuss the breakaway school.

The spokesman asked to remain unidentified to avoid causing any further ill will.

"This whole thing has caused a lot of bad feelings. Neighbours have stopped talking to neighbours and that's not like Metcalfe."

Residents surrounding the proposed school site are opposed because they feel traffic and noise problems would be created and property values would decline, he said.

"We're sure the school committee has very high motives, but why don't they build in that part of Metcalfe where there are already three schools?"

The spokesman said there's also concern that the breakaway group will undermine the traditional



Nancy Carscadden R.T. (R) recently graduated from the Eastern Ontario Regional School of X-Ray Technology at Kingston General Hospital. Nancy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carscadden of Russell is a former student of North Dundas District High School and is presently employed at the National Defence Medical Centre, Ottawa.

school system in removing their children. In these days of declining birth rates, every student possible is needed to maintain the viability of the public system, he said.

Tom Phillips, secretary of the school committee, said one false impression that has been left with some ratepayers is that they will have to help pay for the proposed school.

"The members alone will pay for it and we'll still have to continue supporting the public system although our children will no longer be enrolled," Mr. Phillips explained.

The committee secretary is hoping for a spring construction start. A four-room school is planned and an \$80,000 cost estimate has been received.

Initial enrolment will be about 40 children. At first, only two rooms will be used as classes with the other two set aside for storage and recreational activities.

The school will be inter-denominational and the essential difference between it and the public system is that it will emphasize Bible teachings, Mr. Phillips said.



Clancy, Cameron, and Ann

Cameron Winters, 13, was surprised to discover that a yellow balloon he found in Russell Village had travelled all the way from Corbin, Kentucky. An address was attached to the balloon and Cameron, who lives on Heritage Road, has become a pen-pal with Ann Helton of Corbin, also 13. Ann sent Cameron a newspaper clipping describing the balloon's flight to Canada. (Estelle Yaternick Photo.)

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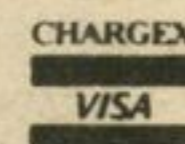
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Greely Grist

With Mel Tompkins

The library was officially opened on Nov. 24 by MLA Norman Sterling. Also present were MP Walter Baker, Reeve Albert Bouwers, all members of council, the chairman of the community centre — Anona Lowther — and the five library board members. Mel Tompkins represented the Senior Citizens.

Presented to the librarian were books donated by the Girl Guides, the Brownies and the Pathfinders. Mr. Baker will be presenting a book at a later date as his puppy, riding in the back of his car, thought that the book would make a good lunch.

Greely is very fortunate in having a library and this is due to the assistance of the Volunteer Firemen. Members gave their time freely and did all the finishing work inside the library, situated at the side of the firehall. I think that none of us appreciate how lucky we are, as people of the township, to have these men. The fact that they turn out day and night for fires, car accidents or any other problem that we may have. Let us now hope that we will see — at the library — small children and senior citizens alike, especially those who do not have the use of the school libraries. Thank you Osgoode Township Volunteer Firemen.

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