

Décès d'un écolier

Un garçon de huit ans est décédé, hier, à l'école Central Public de Prescott. Selon les enquêteurs de la Police provinciale de l'Ontario, il s'agirait d'un accident survenu à l'intérieur de l'école, entre 13 h et 14 h. Retrouvée inconsciente, la victime a été transportée d'urgence à l'hôpital général de Brockville où son décès a été constaté. La police poursuit son

enquête et continue d'interroger des témoins.

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Ablett voted chair of Catholic board

Former vice-chair Kathy Ablett was voted chair of the Ottawa Catholic School Board on Tuesday Dec. 5.

Ablett, who represents Zone 9 (River and Capital Wards), has been a trustee for 15 years.

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Eight-year-old boy killed in accident at Prescott school

BY NECO COCKBURN
AND JAMES GORDON

PRESCOTT - An eight-year-old boy died yesterday after an accident at school.

The boy, identified by family as Jonathan Noonan, was a fun-loving child who enjoyed soccer and was a "natural" at hockey.

"Whatever he did, he did at 100 miles an hour," said his uncle, Joe Noonan.

OPP Sgt. Kristine Rae said police were called to Central Public School, at 490 Jessup St., in the early afternoon. Sgt. Rae would not provide details of what happened in the accident, saying police were still in-

involved in interviewing witnesses last night.

"At this point in time, it's not deemed suspicious by any means, but we still have an investigation to do," she said.

Mr. Noonan said the family had received few details about the incident, but a woman who lives near the school said she was told the boy was killed when a table fell on him.

Sgt. Rae said the accident happened inside the school, but outside of a classroom. She said children and adults witnessed the incident, but did not know if the adults were teachers.

The boy was taken to Brockville General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, she said. Sgt. Rae would not provide details of the boy's injuries.

School officials would not comment on the incident last night. A woman who answered a phone at the school said staff were in a meeting. She directed phone calls to a spokesman for the Upper Canada District School Board, who could not be reached.

Other officials at the school last night would not comment. A police officer at the scene said more details would be released later.

Two OPP cruisers and a forensic identification van were parked outside the school last night.

Neighbour Cheryl Brown said an ambulance sped off from the school at about 1:40 p.m. She said she spoke to one teacher who was "quite traumatized," adding the incident was especially tragic so close to Christmas.

"The poor family," she said, adding she understood that counsellors had been brought in to help people deal with their grief.

Ms. Brown was told that a table fell and crushed the child. Other neighbours said they had heard a table was involved in the incident.

Mr. Noonan said Jonathan was an energetic Grade 3 student. His parents had given him a challenge of scoring about 20 goals in his first season of hockey. If he did, he'd get a pro hockey stick.

Jonathan reached the goal last weekend, after scoring seven goals in a tournament. He played his first game with a new Sidney Crosby stick — scoring two goals — on Monday.

"It was kind of special," Mr. Noonan said.

Jonathan is survived by his mother and father, Sandy Noonan and Chris Phillips, and his older brothers, Josh and Skyler.

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Boy, 8, dies while at school in Prescott

The OPP is investigating the sudden death of an eight-year-old boy who died at Central Public School in Prescott yesterday afternoon.

Foul play is not suspected in an incident that happened in the school early in the afternoon, OPP Sgt. Kristine Rae said.

The boy, whose name was not released last night, was rushed to the Brockville General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Police were interviewing witnesses yesterday to what Rae called a "misadventure." The investigation continues.

— Sun staff