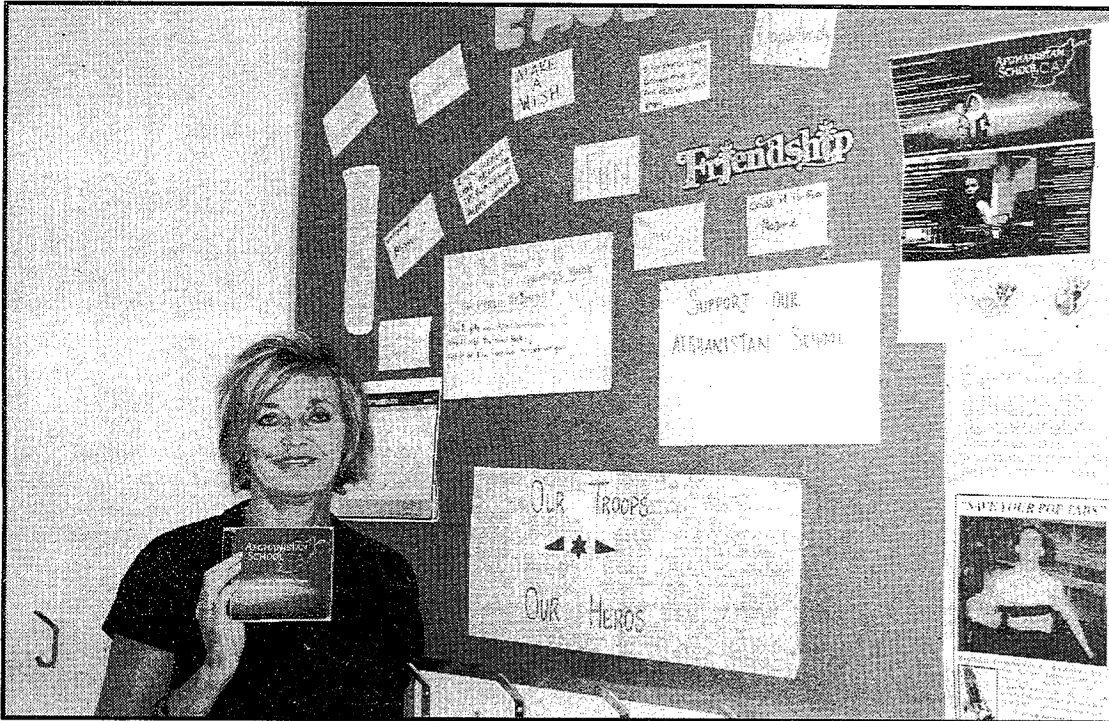


## EAST WILLIAMS MEMORIAL

**Support School In Afghanistan**

East Williams Memorial PS Principal Vivienne Bell-McKaig stands in front of the news board that shows some of the things that East Williams students are involved with in this school year. One of those programs is the adoption of a new school in Afghanistan. The school opened on Sunday September 26 and the students will take part in a letter writing program with the students in Afghanistan. They will also participate in a bracelet selling fundraiser to purchase and develop things like sports equipment, planting a vegetable garden and supplying sports equipment for the students.

*Photo by Terry Heffernan*

**By Terry Heffernan**

East Williams Memorial PS has gone international when they decided to adopt a school in Afghanistan this year. The school opened on September 26 and Principal Vivienne Bell-McKaig said the school will take part in a pen pal program to compare life in that war torn country with life in a rural setting in North Middlesex. Part of the program is an

attempt to set a Guinness record for the number of on-line comments and letters posted. The program is hoping for 1 million hits to set the record and Principal Bell-McKaig is looking at taking some of the letters sent from students and sending them on for the students in Afghanistan to read. East Williams will also participate in a fundraiser selling bracelets that will support programs like planting a vegetable garden, supplying sports equipment and day care program. The new school was built by the local Rotary Club in

Afghanistan and the funds to build it was supplied by the Canadian International Development Agency in partnership with the Rotary Club in Canada.

Dianne Twynstra, from the Canadian Rotary Collaboration for International Development (CRCID), said the funds were supplied by CIDA and administered by the Rotary Clubs across Canada. She added that the school "opened last week (September 26)" and the students, some of them for the first time ever, are in their

classrooms. Morgan Shortt, CRCID Program Officer, said the Grand Bend Rotary Club will be going out to talk to schools in the area about supporting the program. She said the project to build the school in Afghanistan had the community's approval, making it a safer environment to teach the youth in that war torn country. "Involving the community makes it safer." That is very important to the success of the new school and involving the local Rotary Club also helps keep the school safer. She said the bracelet fundraiser helps with things like day care, planting a garden for nutritional benefits and is used to supply sports equipment, all things that enhance the experience of the school. She said it is CIDA that provides school supplies and that allows funds raised by Rotary Clubs from across Canada to supply the extras that make life at the Afghanistan school a little better.

# CIDA and Rotary Club partner to build new school in Afghanistan



Classes started on September 26 at a newly built school in Afghanistan thanks to a partnership between Canadian International Development Agency and the Rotary Club of Canada. Recently, East Williams Memorial PS adopted the school and will be fundraising and corresponding between students.

*Photo Submitted*