

Paul Bigg Bk Harada-Lake, Jesse

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Students at two schools unite to honor memory of teacher

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By VIC MacBOURNIE
Staff Reporter

Jesse Harada-Lake will never know his mother, Janet. Pictures of the pretty Japanese woman, who died shortly after giving birth to her son, will be the only memory young Jesse will be able to keep.

But students at Thorn Lodge Public School and Munden Park School have made sure 1-year-old Jesse has a gift from his mother that will last a lifetime. Students at the school where his mother formerly taught donated \$1,480 toward an educational trust fund for Jesse.

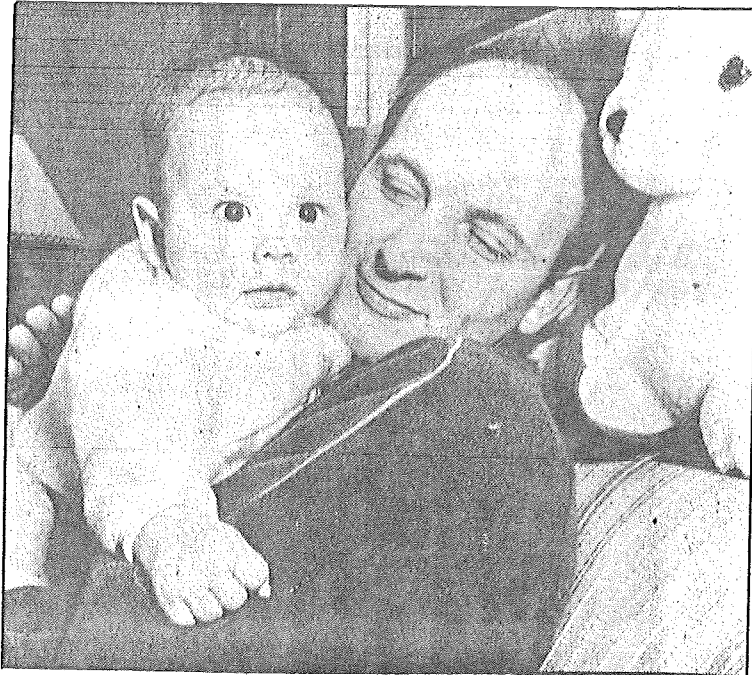
The money will be put in the bank and added to every year until the young boy is old enough for university, says his father, Roy.

Janet died at the young age of 27 as a result of a heart attack on September 22. Doctors still are not sure if the heart attack was brought on as a result of the birth of young Jesse.

Tears come to the eyes of Roy when he talks about the fund.

"It was really great. I didn't expect anything like this to happen.

"It's a very nice tribute to my wife. They were very nice to do this for us," said the soft-spoken father.



Staff photo by Rob Beintema

Roy Harada-Lake holds young Jesse at his modest Mississauga home. Roy has become father and mother to the young boy after his wife Janet died shortly after giving birth to her son. In her own way, the former school teacher left her son the greatest gift she could — a strong future.