



Tim Inkster is proprietor of Erin's Porcupine's Quill.

'Porcupine's Quill'

Quality is key for literary press

By BOB HUTTER
Herald Special
To the visitor walking through the gleaming wooden doorway of the Porcupine's Quill in Erin, the aura of quality comes quickly from the visual clues.

A turn-of-the-century teller's cage sits in protection of the receptionist, almost, but not quite, intruding on the metal type, hand-operated proof press next to it.

The quiet of the office, despite the obvious activity, disguises the modern face of the \$250,000 a year printing and publishing business that employs six people full-time.

Porcupine's Quill is quality, owner Tim Inkster, 30, says. A small literary press, established about five years ago, Porcupine's Quill specializes in soft and hard-cover hand-bound books printed in editions of up to about 2,000.

"People bring their work here because they want to have their work printed by Porcupine's Quill. Either you

want to get it printed here or you don't," he said. "If you specialize enough, the market comes to you if you are good."

He will not enter comparative pricing of jobs and says his fees are competitive because of lower overhead.

Word-of-mouth advertising and a high standard of quality control has resulted in publication or binding of manuscripts by such well-known writers and poets as Irving Layton, Joe Rosenblatt and James Reaney.

The most unique edition published by Porcupine's Press was a single edition wedding present to Irving Layton from his son containing five love poems written for his bride.

Using offset printing techniques and a \$60,000 Heidelberg Press, it is the attention to detail and the smaller press runs that provide the positive reaction to his product, he believes.

Porcupine's Quill has earned recognition - including four Canadian awards - for its

work. Last week Mr. Inkster became one of two Canadians honored by the Art Directors' Club of New York City in the 59th annual North American industry awards.

A literary press "is a printer who concentrates by choice on presenting contemporary Canadian literature, novels, short stories, drama, criticism and occasionally children's or art books," he said.

Porcupine's Quill generally publishes about 70

commissioned works, including academic journals, and five in-house titles each year. Work is usually booked as far ahead as six months.

"What we are good at is the total package, from concept to manuscript to the binding stage," Mr. Inkster said.

The son of a Bell Canada executive and grandson of a Clipper ship captain, Mr. Inkster got into the printing trade by accident. He was on his way to becoming a univer-

sity English professor when he began editing three academic journals.

"I found I could become an English professor but it was too easy," he said. "But to set out to learn a trade is very difficult." He settled for a bachelor of arts degree and graduated from the University of Toronto.

"Both my family and my wife's family were quite surprised to see me go into a trade instead of a professional

career because I was very successful in university."

Tim Inkster considers himself a craftsman whose trade is rapidly making him a perfectionist.

"I am astounded by the complexity of the printing trade, the things that I can do or do to my standard - albeit high standards."

"Very rarely have we had an order sent back," he said. "But quite often we will reject it before it goes out the door."

Couple put on waiting list for Glen Taxi licence

The town's general committee passed a recommendation last week to put Mr. and Mrs. Allan McMillan on a waiting list for a taxi licence and that the licence fee be waived.

Jim Inglis, solicitor for 44598 Ontario Ltd., the company which the McMillans have formed in order to repossess Glen Taxi, said that existing bylaws prohibiting former owners from re-applying for a taxi licence for a minimum of three years after selling their business should not apply to the McMillans.

The partners to whom the McMillans sold their business in 1978 went into default in December, 1979, and unless they were allowed to repossess the company assets and set up their business again, they would lose everything they had worked to establish, Mr. Inglis said.

The McMillans will go on the waiting list and may be granted their licence at the next council meeting.

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Here's a stylish and compact home design which, although well-suited to the narrow-to-medium frontage and residential building lot, contains almost 1,300 square feet of finished floor area, for present use, and provides abundant space for future development to personal tastes and requirements in the full basement. The light-hearted, and easily-maintained exterior, finished in mixed horizontal and vertical channel siding, and with fieldstone veneer and heavy shake roof, maintains an air of casual insouciance more in keeping with a recreational or retirement home than the sophisticated urban residence which it is.

The porch-style entry leads into a wide reception foyer and outerwear storage area, from which traffic moves naturally forward into the large L-shape living dining room combination. The living room features wide sliding glass doors, in keeping with its rear view plan type, and a raised-hearth, energy-efficient fireplace for economy and conviviality. The dining area separates from the kitchen via convenient pocket door, for easy access when serving formal meals, while maintaining excellent separation of formal and casual meals.

The well-thought-out kitchen-dinette combination is an example of masterful planning. It contains a step-saving work triangle, generous countertop work surface and plentiful cupboard storage. The dinette area will accommodate standard-size dining room suites, but invites the custom installation of banquette style nook furnishings. Access to the basement is via stairwell from the kitchen-nook, bringing the back door around to the front of the home.

All three bedrooms are positioned in a wing well away from the main entertaining area for freedom from disturbance. Each has generous closet storage and good exposure for view and natural light. The master bedroom boasts three separate closets, a three-piece ensuite bathroom with shower tucked behind a pocket door, and sliding glass doors opening onto a large rear patio.

The design affords the smaller family convenience and practicality in a pleasing and economical package.

Plans for design No. 80-1265 may be purchased either by the single set, at a cost of \$85.00 for the first set and \$15.00 for each additional set, or by the package. A five-set plan package, including the first set, is economically priced at \$135.00 and an eight-set package, also including the first set, is only \$175.00.

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