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Walker family sets off on world wide adventure

By Wendy Long

A Georgetown family is doing what most people only fantasize about: a six month travelling bonanza across the world to various global destinations.

Chris and Judith Walker are secondary school teachers who have been dreaming of this trip for seven years. They chose to wait until their two daughters would be old enough to appreciate the adventure.

Now, Amy, 15, and Sarah, 14,

are more than ready to leave. But the high school students still have to wait a little while, the Walkers depart in December.

"We're still planning," said Judith. "We thought it would be a really good experience. It's an education in itself."

The Walkers have an itinerary that is based on an open ticket framework, as long as they keep travelling in the same direction.

The air tickets alone cost almost

\$15,000.

They will depart Canada for New Zealand, followed by Australia, and then on to Asia and Thailand, central Europe, England, and back to Canada for June.

In Europe, they will hop countries by train. The Walkers plan to experience Greece, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Austria and France, depending on how they feel as they explore.

"We had a democratic vote on destinations," explained Judith. "The tickets are extremely flexible."

"We've been reading a lot of travel books," said Amy with a smile.

The Walker family is excited about their journey but admit that it's "kind of a daunting proposition."

Until they depart, they must wrestle with what to take, how much, and who can carry what. They've decided on backpacks, one each. Anything they buy while travelling must be carried with them or shipped back home.

The Walkers are looking for different lifestyles on their travels, for different people and landscapes. They will do lots of outdoor things.

"We're not terribly oriented towards big cities," Judith said. "We're looking for the Georgetowns and Ballinafads of the world."

"Although of course we'll go to London and Paris," and the other big tourist cities, clarified Chris.

They plan to stay in hostels and scout out self-catering facilities. "The idea of eating out for six months is appalling," added Judith emphatically.

In particular, Amy can't wait to get to New Zealand, Sarah's waiting for Greece, Chris thinks he'll particularly enjoy New Zealand and Australia (he's planning to drag his family on a 64 hour train ride to go see Ayers Rock) while Judith just wants "a life without schedules."

For the Walker family, the trip promises to be the experience of a lifetime.



The Walker family will embark on a six month jaunt across the globe in mid-December.

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Protect your Home from Unwanted Intruders

Last summer, while on vacation, our home was burglarized. Although we took the standard method and asked a neighbour to keep a watchful eye on the premises, it obviously wasn't enough protection. A friend suggested we install a security system. At the moment, though, we simply cannot afford it. I would hate to cancel our annual camping excursion for fear of being robbed again. Can you offer any suggestions?

Sixty-six percent of all burglaries are home burglaries, and most occur while the homeowners are on vacation. A computerized security system backed by a central station is a sound investment and can offer adequate protection. A staff is always at hand to watch your home around the clock for such emergencies as break-ins, floods, and power loss. Seeing that most homeowners, like yourselves, do not have a security system, here are some tips for protecting property, especially during the winter vacation months.

- Don't broadcast your vacation plans. If you're traveling by car, don't load it the evening before and leave it in the driveway overnight.
- Get inexpensive timers that automatically turn lights on and off in several rooms of the house. A dark house or lamps burning for days tells burglars no one is home.
- Use timers for radios, too. Tune in an all-talk station. A burglar may think someone is home, even if no one answers the door bell.
- Have a second car? Park it halfway up the driveway to make it look like someone is home to prevent burglars from pulling a van close to the house.
- No second car? Ask a neighbour to park his or her car in your driveway. Traffic in and out makes your house look occupied.
- Make arrangements to have the grass cut or snow cleared during your vacation.
- Unless you have someone to collect mail, newspapers and other things delivered to your door, stop all deliveries.
- Ask a neighbour to use your trash cans on pick-up day.
- Leave drapes and blinds partially open.
- Store valuables in a safety deposit box or with a friend.
- Inform only those you trust and local police of vacation plans.

The basic rule of thumb is simple: Don't advertise an empty house!

For more information on this series of articles or help with your own real estate needs, please call Don Hearn Sales Rep at the office 877-5165 or at home 853-4244.*

From the kitchens of Weight Watchers

CALIFORNIA POTATO SALAD

MAKES 2 SERVINGS

- 1/2 pound cooked red potatoes, pared and diced
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 1/4 cup sliced scallions (green onions)
- 1/4 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/4 medium avocado (about 2 ounces), pared and diced
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh cilantro (Chinese parsley) or Italian (flat-leaf) parsley
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- Dash pepper

Using a rubber scraper, in medium mixing bowl combine all ingredients, stirring to coat.

EACH SERVING PROVIDES: 1 FAT; 1 VEGETABLE; 1 BREAD; 10 OPTIONAL CALORIES

PER SERVING: 147 CALORIES; 3 g PROTEIN; 4 g FAT; 27 g CARBOHYDRATE; 22 mg CALCIUM; 38 mg SODIUM; 0 mg CHOLESTEROL; 3 g DIETARY FIBER

Recipe from "Simply Light Cooking 250 Recipes from the Kitchens of Weight Watchers", ©1992 Weight Watchers International, Inc.

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