

# French rights fight is going to Ont. Supreme Court, Dec. 5

by  
**MICHELE GOUETT**  
Testimony will begin Thursday morning in the Supreme Court of Ontario in a case which could set a precedent for all minority groups across the country.

The law suit is that of Jacques Marchand, a Lafontaine resident, versus the Simcoe County Board of Education and the Province of Ontario for equal rights of the French language students in the Town of Penetanguishene.

According to Marchand, the suit was instigated after a group of parents of the French language high school in Penetang, Le Caron, went to a number of government officials asking for help to upgrade the facilities of the school built in 1980, which they felt didn't satisfy the needs of the students or the hopes of the parents.

Unable to get any support for the construction of a gymnasium, cafeteria, or workshops for the school, the group started looking a little deeper into the problem.

The group thought the answer to their problem came in 1982 when the government enacted the new constitution which included the "The Charter of Rights and Freedoms" for all Canadians, but according to Marchand the charter could not provide tangible improvements to the situation.

He said they were told repeatedly by various federal ministers, "we gave you a constitution, use it", so after consulting with other groups in the province and their lawyers, they decided in the spring of 1983 to take the case to court.

Although Marchand

says the issue started out as a cry for more facilities for the school which, presently buses their students to Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School to use their facilities, the Lafontaine resident says it is now an issue of "are the french entitled to the same services in our own language and in our own facilities as the majority".

Marchand also added that the group is going right to the heart of the problem facing the education of francophones throughout the province and anywhere else outside of Quebec. As a result of the shared facilities with the other high school in the town, students do not receive the level of education required today and in the future, unless they become assimilated into the mainstream of the majority, according to

Marchand. Although the name on the lawsuit is Jacques Marchand, the management consultant, says there are a number of people and groups behind the fight which is questioning section 23 of the Charter which deals with the language rights in Canada. He adds his fight is on behalf of all french residents in Penetang and the surrounding areas who want to educate their children in French.

Support is also to come to help pay for the court case according to Marchand. "In December of '81, the Minister of Justice and the Secretary of State implemented a program to help those people in Canada bringing to court constitutional cases," said Marchand, "and in September of 1985, the present government revised the

scope and amount of funding given to administer such cases and we have been told the federal government will see that we get back the basic costs as a result of the case."

One of the major supports of Marchand's case against the province and the school

board will be a report released by the Council on Franco-Ontarian Education which called for the abolishment of all "mixed" high schools in the province.

According to Marchand, the report which describes a number of problems for the French speaking population in

Ontario in all facets of the educational system came at just the right time.

Marchand adds the report can do nothing but help the case that will open Thursday morning in Toronto because all it does is reinforce what the lawsuit is saying.

## Penetang Winterama Countdown

by  
**PAT FORGET**  
Penetanguishene Winterama Committee met on Tuesday Nov. 26 with new interested people in attendance. Huronia Quota Club

will be taking on the responsibility of the Souvenir Winterama Buttons and \$1,000 draw this year.

These buttons will be onsale within the next week in time for Christmas giving, at various outlets in Penetanguishene and area.

The advance early-bird draws will be held on Dec. 21, 1985 and Jan. 25, 1986 at 11 p.m. for \$100 each draw.

These winners will then return to the drum for the grand prize to be drawn Winterama weekend. So if you feel lucky, it pays to buy your Winterama button early and get in on all the draws for cash.

The Ice Sculpturing contest sponsored by Bart Brophy, Sharon Playne and Sharon Dion will be in super action for Winterama '86. This event will be held at the Waterfront Park with sculpting to be done on Friday evening and judging will take place on Saturday of the weekend. Further details on this spectacular event will be forthcoming.

The Winterama Committee has undertaken the sale of Winterama '86 souvenir hats again this year. Michelle Gouett is chairing this venture. These Winter Hats will be red in colour with white peaks and black logos. They will go on sale within the next month just in time for

Christmas giving for a price of \$5 each. Remember the hat collectors that are on your Christmas list.

These hats are a limited edition in commemoration of Winterama '86.

The Queen Contest Chairperson reports that they are in full swing, with prizes pouring in for the lucky winning contestants. This year, boasts an elimination night to be held on Feb. 5, 1986 with the Queen Contest Competition night planned for Friday, Feb. 14, 1986. Many other activities are planned for all contestants involved prior to the actual competition night.

Interested girls 18-25 years of age, please call Jeannette Tracey at 549-3070 from 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. or the Chamber of Commerce at 549-2232 and register NOW.

The craft show will be a great success as was last year. Entries may be registered with Isabel Leroux by calling 549-7297 in the evenings.

With many other activities still in the planning stages, look for continuous updates in the Winterama Countdowns of your local newspaper and plan for a bigger and better Winterama Weekend in 1986.

Anyone wishing to help the Committee can call the Chamber or join in the Committee meetings.

## Principal at ESPSS excited

by  
**GILES CINQ-MARS**  
Principal of ESPSS  
A new look! A new sound! A new music director! All three of the above add up to a revival of the ESPSS music program and a great up-coming concert, scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the ESPSS auditorium.

Mr. Blake Smith, who comes to us from Goderich, Ont. has extensive experience as a music teacher and conductor. Under his care, Mr. Smith's stage and concert bands have participated in extensive tours across Ontario and two of his Stage Bands were chosen to represent Canada at the International Youth Music Festival in Harrogate, England. Our aim here at ESPSS is to rebuild our music program and provide our students with these kinds of experiences in the years to come.

The Band Parents' Association has been wonderful in its support and fund raising activities for the purchase of tuxedos for the band members. These should be on display at the Dec. 8 concert. You will find the look striking.

There are three bands at ESPSS this year: the Concert band, the Junior or Grade 9 band, and the Stage band. From these three groups you will hear every style of music: marches, pop tunes, musicals, waltzes, and rock, some old favourite dance charts and some driving big band jazz.

I encourage you to come out on Sunday and show these musicians that all their hard work is appreciated. They are a fine, dedicated group of students and we are proud of them.

**Junior Band**  
Julie Morrison, Liz

Duval, Andrew Herr, Tammy Buck, Nicole Robillard, Pauline Quesnelle, Fami Waters, Denise Deschamps, Lee-Anne Lockhart, Joanne Robillard, Pat Quealey, Greg Fournier, Kristine Finney, Rob Williams, Tom Delorme, Justin Bagnelle, Darryl Melvin, Derek Preston, Terry Bugg, Kathy Watson, Kristin Spearn, Kathryn Marchildon, Shelley Charlebois, Sheri Ansell, Julia Hamelin, Jeff Leduc, Bill Reburn, Cory Emery, Jason Sajan, Noel Lesperance, Jennifer Riley, Perry Quesnelle, Joanne Robitaille,

**Concert Band**  
Jeff Mason, Allan Limoges, Cheryl Marchand, Suzette DesRoches, Jeff Sherk, John Limoges, Gisele Desroches, Cathy Haarer, Dawn Lockhart, Mike Serafin, Mike Morrison, Danielle Dupuis, Jo-Anne Finney, Tawndee Gruber, Natalie Quealey, Cindy Wright, Noella Haskill.

**Stage Band**  
Allan Limoges, Jeff Sherk, Mike Morrison, Mike Serafin, Natalie Quealey, Gisele Desroches, John Limoges, Jeff Mason, Dawn Lockhart, Noel Lesperance, Jennifer D'Aoust, Kathryn Marchildon, Cindy Wright.

**SEMESTERING AT ESPSS**  
After studying the concept for the last two years, ESPSS is changing its organization from a traditional approach to a semestered format beginning in September 1986. By doing to ESPSS that joins approximately 60 percent of other secondary schools in Ontario which are already semestered, and becomes the 11th secondary school in

Simcoe County to adopt semestering. The others are: Alliston-Banting Memorial; Barrie-Eastview; Innisdale, North; Elmvale-Elmvale H.S.; Orillia-Park Street, Twin Lakes; Collingwood-Collingwood Collegiate; Stayner-Stayner D.H.S.; Penetanguishene-LeCaron

The principal reason that so many secondary schools in the province are semestering is to accommodate the intent and realities of the new Ministry of Education direction, namely Ontario Schools: Intermediate Senior (O.S.I.S.) In terms of credit requirements for graduation OSIS prescribes 30 credits and the integration of grade 13 into the fold.

As I have explained in our Program of Studies, 30 credits will mean of increase of 3 credits for students following a general level program, a decrease of three credits for students following an advanced level program.

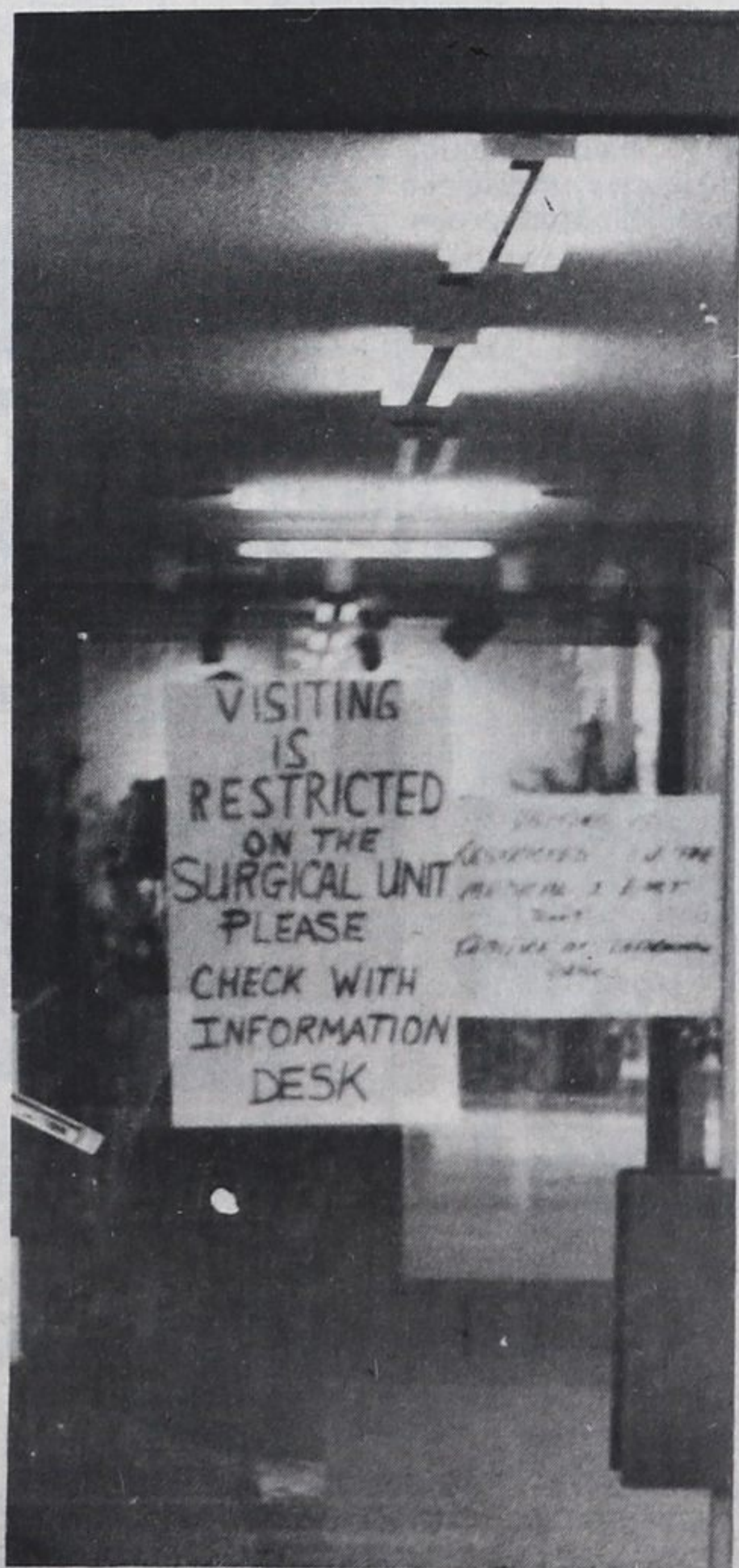
In either case, it appears likely that most students will be in a position, by June 1988 or 1989, to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) after 4½ years in high school. While we at ESPSS will never encourage a student to leave school with a minimum number of credits, we recognize that in reality, many will opt to do so, especially since several colleges and universities are moving to mid-year admission. Also the lure of work and wage-earning possibilities for a full term prior to post-secondary registration is attractive to senior students.

This note is simply an introduction to the idea. I will provide all parents

and students with much more detailed information as the year progresses. At this time, however, you should be aware that essentially a student in a semestered school will complete ½ his course selection by the end of January, therefore accumulating up to 4 credits to that point; then he will complete

the other half of his course selection by the end of June, accumulating another 4 credits for a total of up to eight credits for the year.

Please call me at ESPSS (549-7446) any time during work hours; I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.



**Sign tells the story**

This sign on the front door at HDH tells the story. It was placed after symptoms of a flu like bug was detected in the hospital and visiting was curtailed especially in the surgical wing. Yesterday, a hospital official said, things were starting to improve although what caused the illness has yet to be officially determined by health officials.

## A quiet (sorta) month for town law-makers

The month of December will be very quiet for Penetanguishene's Town Council with only three meetings to be held before the new year.

According to Clerk Yvon Gagne, because Mayor Ron Bellisle will not announce the new committee structures until the inaugural ceremony Monday night, the four Standing Committees of Council which usually meet during the first week of every month will not get together until January.

Heritage Penetanguishene will hold its regular monthly meeting tomorrow evening at 7:30 in the Town Hall.

The town's Planning Advisory Committee has also scheduled a regular meeting for Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The final meeting of the month will be held on Dec. 23, at 7:30 p.m. At this time the new council, elected last month, will get together officially for their first session.