

Buslines gains support in appeal

Penetanguishene Midland Coach Lines Limited (PMCL) are quickly gaining public support in their bid to have an Ontario Highway Transport Board (OHTB) decision on their licence, making it illegal for the local company to carry passengers from parts of Simcoe County to Metropolitan Toronto, repealed.

According to General Manager and Vice-president Brian Dubeau, not only has the company gained the support of many of the municipalities along the Collingwood and Penetang/Midland routes to Toronto, but the company has received numerous letters of support from their riders that will be forwarded to Ontario Premier David Peterson.

The company has launched an appeal to the Management Board of Cabinet to have a reversal of a decision made by the Ministry of Transportation and Communication (MTC) over 12 years ago changed.

Before 1974, the local company could only carry airline passengers to and from the Toronto International Airport, but after a long court battle the Ministry's restrictions were lifted and the company won the right to carry other passengers as well.

When the Dubeaus received their new operating licence from the MTC this February, the same restrictions of 12 years before were in the document.

Dubeau said he has met with the local provincial government officials about the matter and he is confident his bid will be successful.

"I have faith in Mr. Peterson and his government that they will see the way clear to repeal the decision," said Dubeau, although he has not spoken to the Premier himself about the matter.

Simcoe Centre MPP Earl Rowe said he fully supports PMCL's efforts.

"I'm rather surprised that the decision by the board came down the way it did," said Rowe. "I will do everything I can to help and hopefully the company will be able to muster up a good campaign."

Rowe said he is supporting the local company not just for the owners of the company but his constituents as well.

"With what they are proposing, everyone is a

loser," said Rowe. "The only winner is the big guy."

With a monopoly of the routes, if the government

does not support PMCL's bid, Rowe said he feared the riders would once again be hit with outrageous fares.

Although the MPP could not say when the matter would be dealt with by the government, he added he hoped it would be before

the House recessed for the summer.

Until a decision is made the company will continue operating between Simcoe

County and Toronto, but Dubeau said the bottom line is that the service will have to be discontinued if they lose their battle.



PC. barbecue

It was a good time for all of those on hand at the second annual Earl Rowe Barbecue on Sunday afternoon. Area residents (from left to right) Gabe Brunelle, Ten Howard, Anita Dubeau were only a few from the

northern section of the Simcoe Centre riding that made their way to Newton Robinson for the members of the Simcoe Centre PC Association.

Mexican student will miss Penetang

by Laura Grabinski

Efren Rayo Torres, the 16-year-old Penetanguishene Rotary Club's sponsored Mexican exchange student will be leaving today.

Torres, who came to our small town last August from a city in Mexico with a population of 450,000 people, will be returning to his homeland and family.

The exchange student says he enjoys the way of life here, describing it as easier because it lacks the fast pace of a city. When Torres leaves today, he will miss his new friends that he made along the way.

Peculiarly, Torres will also miss the snow, something he had never seen before his stay in Penetang.

When Efren arrived in Canada, he couldn't speak any English, but with the help of his new found friends and teachers, "especially Mr. Quealey (an English teacher at ESPSS)", the language was easily conquered.

When he returns to Mexico, Torres will be in his first year of Preparatory School (a preparing school

for university). While visiting Penetang, Efren attended Ecole Secondaire Penetanguishene Secondary School and took classes in both grades 10 and 11.

Torres says the school systems are very different. With 60 students per class in his school in Mexico, Torres also notes there seems to be more attention paid to students in a small town.

"The teachers ride on you," says Torres.

He also points out that since the classes are so small, the competition is strong to get the highest marks.

But, school is not the main reason why Torres came to here: it was for the experience.

Torres has enjoyed his stay in Penetang and is hesitant about leaving. He overcame any homesick feelings with the help of four families he stayed with for ten weeks each.

He stayed with the Arbours, Laleys, Martins and spent the last part of the visit in the home of the Deacons.

When Efren leaves friends, a beautiful Penetang, he will take and Canadian style Tacos, home with him the which he adds are "better" memories of many good than Mexican ones.

PGH births

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Vaillancourt, 32 Robert Street East, Penetanguishene, June 12, weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Gibson, Champlain Road, Penetang, June 13, weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Andy Dorion, 751 Ontario Street, Midland, June 13, weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz.

A baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Les Gillespie, 25 Simcoe Street, Penetanguishene, June 16, weighing 9 lbs. 3 oz.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Moreau, Box 355, Penetanguishene, June 16, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz.

A baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Laurin, 58 Robert Street West, Penetanguishene, June 18, weighing 9 lbs. 10 oz.

A baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Dave Greston, R.R. 3, Elmvalle, June 18, weighing 8 lbs. 3 1/2 oz.

A baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Goetz, 7 Kerr Drive, Penetanguishene, June 20, weighing 9 lbs. 8 oz.

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