

School must justify French course

A provincial commission has told the Simcoe County Public School Board to define the differences between the programs offered

at Penetanguishene Secondary School and Ecole Secondaire Le Caron. A policy will be presented to the full board

and its French Language Education Council for approval by the end of October. The preparation of the

document was required by the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario. It reported on complaints from the French

Language Education Council about the public school board's plan to introduce an intensive French course at Penetang Secondary School.

Keith Reilly, chairman of the committee, said FLEC was challenging "the morality of the board's action in introducing an intensive French as a second language program after FLEC had decided to phase out the French-language instructional unit at Penetang Secondary School."

"The contention is that the action is designed to jeopardize the growth of Ecole Le Caron, since these pupils are graduates of a French-language elementary school. Further, it is maintained that students are being misled as to the efficiency of the program."

Reilly notes that "many pupils attending St. Joseph's elementary school are really from English-speaking homes, although the policy of admitting students who do not qualify to attend this school has been discontinued. Also, in Ontario, it is not uncommon for some parents of French-speaking pupils to select an English-language secondary school such as Penetang Secondary School for their children at the end of Grade 8."

Reilly noted that "it would appear that a large number of parents wished that such a program be set up at Penetang Secondary School."

He appears to have given support to the continued existence of the program at Penetanguishene Secondary School. "It follows that once the need for the two programs has been articulated, we must recognize the board's right to establish a French as a first language program and

the right of enlightened parents and students to choose judiciously between these two programs."

The language commission chairman saw the introduction of the document as a means of bringing "about a settlement to this question to the benefit of parents and pupils."

School food to cost more

Students at Midland Secondary School and Penetanguishene Secondary School served by Jack Rice Caterers will be fed an average price increase of 4.8 per cent this coming school year.

Trustees of the public school board approved the price increase at their August meeting. Submissions for cafeteria food price increases must be made in the summer before the beginning of the next school year.

A letter from Restauronics Services, which operates the Jack Rice division said their price increase "is less than the projected Consumer Price Index increase for food and supplies of five per cent in 1989."

"In addition, we are holding the line on white milk even though the cost to us increased 8.4 per cent on May 1," the letter said.

All price increases are effective Sept. 6.

Better air for school in Penetang

Work has been undertaken recently on a local school to improve the environment for students.

Maintenance work will be done on the ventilation system at St. Joseph School in Penetanguishene.

The Healthy School Environment committee of the public school board is also considering the purchase of equipment measuring carbon dioxide levels in the board's buildings and is examining air quality in portables.



Restless feet

Twenty-nine year old Jim Bryant, seen here with some locals in Tibet on his 1986 trip, set out on Aug. 16 for

a year-long journey through Mexico, Central and South America.

Leitz worker will spend year in southern climes

by Laurie Holman-Ross Special

Not many people in this town can say that they've looked up to a pyramid in Egypt, looked down at a pygmy in Africa or looked into a Buddhist monastery in Tibet. But Jim Bryant can.

Bryant is a world traveller. He has visited 48 different countries on four continents and on Aug. 16 embarked on another year-long trek to visit a few more places: Mexico, Central America and South America.

An optical physicist at Ernst Leitz Canada in Midland for the past four years, Bryant gets his love of travel naturally. Both his parents are avid travellers and as youngsters, Jim and his older sister Heather (now a travel agent) travelled through Great Britain and Europe. He also inherited a desire to record his travel experiences through photography and has advanced over the years from a small Kodak to a Contax, a Yashica and five lenses.

His favourite countries (and he excludes Canada from the judging) include Israel, Kenya and Tibet. Israel, he says, is "steeped in history, religion and culture," bringing alive

familiar names like Masada, Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilea. Kenya has opposites: "You can be eating ice cream in downtown Nairobi and walk across to Woolworth's for anything western. A half hour north by taxi takes you to some of the most primitive tribes in the world; south and you are amongst game herds." In Tibet, Bryant was taken by the people, their culture and the "absolute devotedness" of the Tibetan monks.

Wherever he's been, his photography has always been a part of the pleasure of new places. Encouraged by the tour company he travelled with on his first African visit in 1984, Bryant submitted many of his shots for publication in their promotional brochures.

His photographs from his 1986 seven-month African trip and three-month China trip will be seen shortly in school libraries across Canada and the United States. Crabtree Publications, a Toronto-based firm, has a series of books on the lifestyles of people who live around the world, and Jim's photos are the basis of three books on peoples in China, one on life in the Himalayas, and several on peoples in

Africa. Bobbie Kalman, his publisher at Crabtree, loves his photos and has thoughts of producing a coffee table book filled with Bryant's lens magic. He also has sent his portfolio to Equinox and is a contributing photographer to the glossy magazine.

Taking photos on his upcoming trip will help finance the year-long exodus. His tour company through South America, Encounter Overland, has a loose deal to pay Bryant per slide for brochures and slide presentations. Crabtree has also financed him for a portion of the trip to concentrate photos on Peru and Bolivia for the series on the people of rainforests and other geographical regions. No wonder he is taking 100 rolls of 36 exposure film!

Although Jim says he won't be able to give up his day job, he hopes to "have this trip break even, eventually." Not bad when one considers where the next year will find him: Mexico, Central America, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Venezuela, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands and the Easter Islands — to name a few choice spots. In the Easter Islands he will count his money, check his health and motivation and decide whether to continue to Indonesia and the Malaysian peninsula, or to return home.

Why does he travel? Jim says he enjoys the challenge of improvising, "using tools that I have, either mental or otherwise." Travel has taught him patience, respect and "appreciation for things I might otherwise take for granted."

Returning home, Bryant will end his year-long leave of absence at Leitz and begin life again as an everyday, ordinary person.

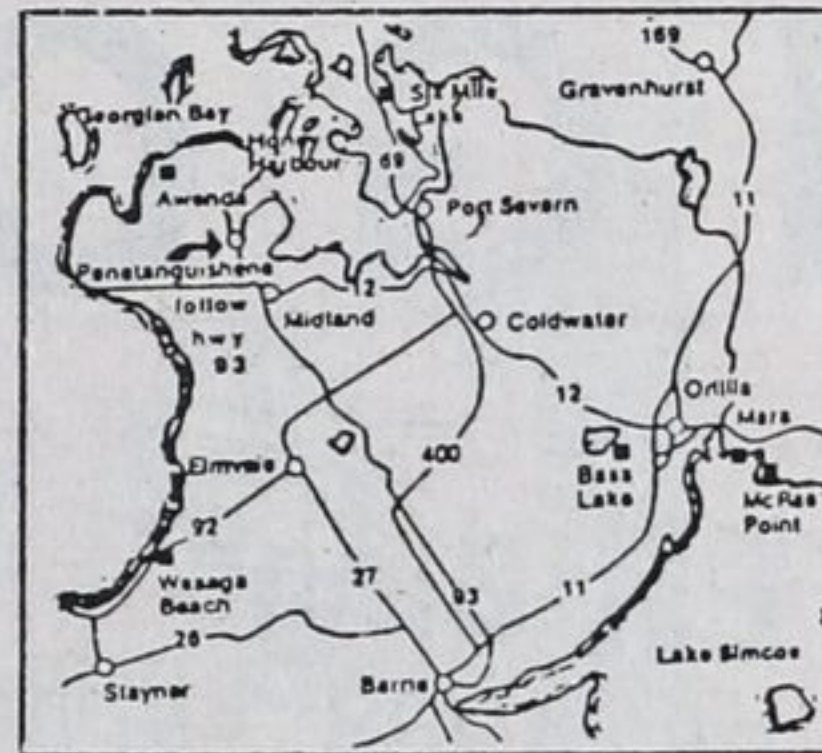
But he will always have the special eyes that can see what most will not, and will be able to share his eyes through his wonderful photographs.

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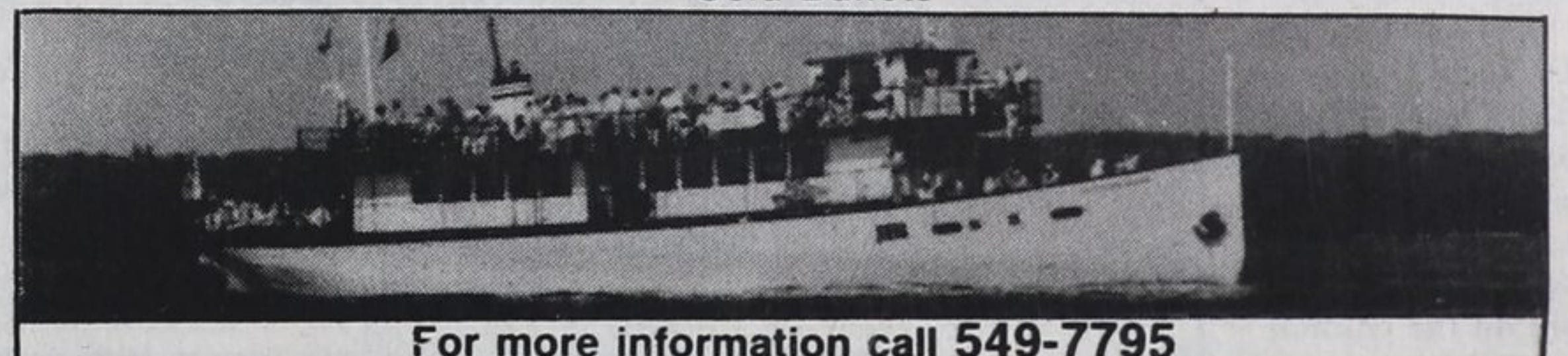


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Quarters gone after break-in

Thieves last week stole hundreds of dollars in rolled-up quarters — the product of hours of pinball and video games — from the Meredis Place restaurant.

The quarters were not locked up. Also stolen were eight bottles of booze and

several hundred dollars from the cash register.

No arrests were made. The thief or thieves used a crow bar to get in through a kitchen window sometime between 1:30 and 7 a.m. last Wednesday, causing about \$50 damage.

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