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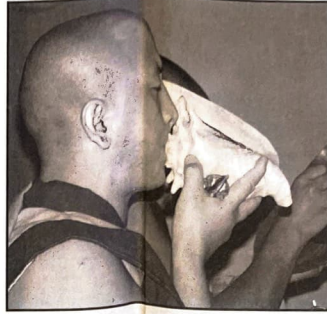
# Almaguin News

A Five Star Newspaper

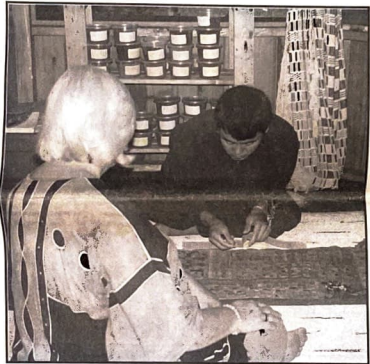
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Burk's Falls - Powassan, Ontario, Wednesday, July 31, 2002

## Tibetan monks' journey far from over



Photos and Story  
by Jeff Renaud



**SOUTH RIVER:** The eight Gaden Jangtse Tibetan Monks resting in South River last week have come and gone, but their journey is far from over.

The monks - who visited Northern Edge Almaguin from July 24th to 28th - are currently touring North America on an 18-month tour to spread their knowledge to all who want to experience Tibetan tradition and culture. The tour is also designed to generate donations which are used to help rebuild Tibetan Monasteries in India.

Since the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1959, all Tibetan Buddhist Temples have been virtually destroyed and the vast treasures of Tibetan heritage have been confiscated.

An exodus has been taking place since that time, as Tibetans flee persecution within their native land and seek sanctuary in India.

The Indian government has assisted in the rebuilding of the monasteries through donations of land. But the land is not enough, the Tibetans also need money, hence the fund-raising tour.

While at *The Edge*, the monks conducted seminars in mandala construction, chanting and meditations. *For those guests requesting a donation of \$25 was recommended.*

Todd Lucier - owner/operator of Northern Edge Almaguin - was happy to host his eight "friends" from the East. "The Tibetan Monks' visit was really wonderful because the intimate setting created a great opportunity for raising awareness of the Tibetans struggle with China, and it allowed for much cross-cultural sharing and exploring."

### Tibetan Struggle

Tenzin - a 19-year old monk, wise beyond his years - agrees with Lucier, but specifies that the struggle is with the Communist Chinese government, not all of China. "It is a government situation. The people of China are good. We are misunderstood by the Chinese government."

The young Tenzin has been a monk since he was 10-years-old and has not lost faith that he will see the day when the Tibetans can return home. "It will come soon, we hope. Tibet will be free. We hope."

In fact, Tenzin feels the change has already begun. "It is possible that we can return. In 1980, there was a beginning - a small, small beginning. The Chinese government allowed religion to be free. It is not exactly religion free, there are limits. What they (the Chinese government) say, we have to do, but they are beginning to understand."

Between 1960 and 1979, all religious activity in China was outlawed. In 1980, the Chinese government reinstated the policy of religious freedom.

### Trip to Canada

Many of these same monks visited Canada in 2000 but for Tenzin, this was his first trip to Canada. And so far, he likes what he sees. "I like Canada. Religion is free. And, I like the snow here (in South River). It is a good place for meditation."

When the monks return in 2004, it is the hope of both Lucier and the monks that a very special guest comes along as well. Lucier is hoping that the Dalai Lama - the Buddhist spiritual leader - will join the other monks.

To follow the Gaden Jangtse Tibetan Monks' tour or to make a donation, you can check out their website at [www.gaden-lsawu.org](http://www.gaden-lsawu.org).

