

COMMUNITY COORDINATORS (continued)

- *How does the program contribute to their stay at the post?*

V. Bryce: This really depends on the individuals concerned and whether they choose to take advantage of the services organised by the CC. An active CC could organise trips to places of local interest which would not be available to individuals or arrange for special day or evening classes. A post news bulletin will provide information on such things as travel, restaurants, local festivals and events. In making this type of information available to all the CC is encouraging and helping Canadians to enrich their knowledge and enjoyment of the Post.



Valerie Bryce

V. Judd: The community coordinator can best intervene in the initial few months of a posting. While it is unreasonable to expect that a move will be totally without inconvenience and difficulty, the individual and family should be allowed to expect that some of their needs and expectations have been anticipated. The community coordinator can be a source of continuous support and information throughout the posting.

M. Mailloux: The CC travel file is great for choosing a week-end get-away. It contains brochures, route maps, and information about sites to visit, local events, holidays, shopping hours, etc. Also the CC bulletin in which everyone, even children, can participate, can bring the post "family" closer together.

- *How can the CC assist the administrative officer?*

V. Bryce: Each CC establishes their responsibilities on a contract basis

with the administration at the post, according to the local needs and wishes of the people concerned, and then becomes a resource person who not only prepares for new arrivals, but helps them to get installed. Even though the administrative officer does not exercise a bureaucratic control over the CC, the two can form a sort of team in which the CC could take over some of the tasks of the administrative officer.

V. Judd: While the duties of the community coordinator and the administrative officer differ, some of their goals are similar. Providing assistance and information to individuals at post to facilitate their stay is a common aim. Questions which formerly would have been directed to post administration can now be handled, in part, by the community coordinator. The community coordinator who is in touch with the embassy community can relate the needs of that community to the administrative officer and together issues can be resolved.

M. Mailloux: The CC can deal with details and can smooth out many wrinkles before they become issues that must be taken up with an administrative officer. The CC is not meant to do the administrative officer's job or interfere with his work, nor is the administrative officer meant to interfere with the CC's job, but there are many common areas which the CC can deal with on a social level. A good relationship with the administrative officer is essential, and when this happens, the CC is a great asset to the officer.

- *Some people feel that the program was created to give spouses something to do. What do you think?*

V. Bryce: I think the spouses have always done a lot of the tasks that the CC now does. However, these tasks were done on an *ad hoc* basis and for no personal gain. They were therefore done on personal whim and also contributed to the officer/support staff