



From the Foreign Service Community Association

Spring at last. The snow is clinging only to the coolest, dark corners under the trees in the Gatineau. The crocuses and daffodils have bloomed and faded, and the feisty robins and black squirrels are wallowing in fecund domesticity.

Before we rush headlong into cottage life and poolside lolling, the winter's activities deserve a moment's remembrance.

Skating Party at Rideau Hall

In January, members and friends spent an exhilarating Sunday afternoon thanks to the courtesy of Rideau Hall. Many thanks to Maree Sigurdson and Jane Mace who provided hot, sweet cider; and, especially, to Marthe Béchard who arranged the invitation.

It was a fitting prelude to Winterlude.

The Art Show

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor hail, nor black-out will prevent the successful arts and crafts exhibition organized by the FSCA. More than 300 people admired the objects and pictures on display during the first afternoon, and left no doubt as to the success of the event. Next year we must remember to arrange for the "Great Blackout" to occur on another day.

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for September 19, 1985 in the auditorium of the Crush Lobby at the L.B. Pearson Building at 8:00 pm. Geoffrey Pearson, former ambassador to Moscow and current executive director of CIIPS (Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security), will be the guest speaker. It is hoped that the early fall meeting will overcome some of the difficulties experienced at other AGM's.



Papier-mâché, sculpture by Barbara Barker.

Conference '85

The first weekend conference was well attended and enthusiastically received. The most frequently expressed comment was for more of the same. The conference committee was encouraged by the positive attitude toward self-help and independent solutions to rotational difficulties experienced by foreign service personnel and spouses, that was evident throughout.

A complete report on the conference will be printed in the next issue of the *FSCA Bulletin*.

Pensions

The "Proposed Pension Scheme for Rotational Foreign Service Spouses" has been published and is being reviewed by the Department. For further information please contact the FSCA office. Call 993-5729.

THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

What exactly is it? What does it involve? Where is it offered?

The International Baccalaureate, which enables students to gain admission to universities around the world, was developed in Europe and now may be obtained in several major capitals.

Designed for students who are at least highly motivated, if not gifted, it emphasizes verbal and associated theoretical skills, but also *bilingualism* and *multi-disciplinary education*. It is offered only in the final two years of secondary school, although schools offering it must necessarily enrich their curriculum in the early years of secondary school so that the students may be better prepared.

Students must take six courses:

- a language course including studies in world literature in translation;
- a course on a second language that may be studied as if it were a first or a second language;
- a social science course;
- an experimental science course;
- a mathematics course;
- a course in a discipline chosen by the student or in a discipline already chosen.

Students must also follow a multi-disciplinary course on the theory of knowledge, write a major paper on one of the six subjects studied and complete a creative, artistic or social activity.

International Baccalaureate headquarters are located in Geneva. There are regional offices in Paris, London, New York and Southampton and representatives in Adelaide, Buenos Aires and Singapore.

An international panel of examiners directs the entire examination process. Three hundred examiners around the world are affiliated with this panel.

Most secondary schools offering this diploma are English speaking. Currently it may be obtained in 37 missions and the number grows every year. In Ottawa/Hull, only Ashbury and Elmwood prepare students for the I.B.

The diploma is similar to the Diploma of Collegial Studies in Quebec, except that it is demanding in all six subjects, whereas the DCS, which was originally multi-disciplinary, places greater emphasis on student specialization.

Due to the IB's high standards, many students will only pass a certain number of exams; a certificate will be delivered for each subject where exams were successfully completed.



FSCA Art Show. Portraits by Ana Iriondo de Bryson.