



From the Foreign Service Community Association

A year end message from the president

A rewarding element has developed in the day to day working of the FSCA and that is the increasing frequency and scope of ongoing communication between the Department and the Association. We are pleased with the efforts of the Department to incorporate our ideas. To this end there are now regular meetings to ensure that everyone concerned is kept informed.

Accomplishments provide a base on which to continue to build and this might be a productive occasion to take a brief survey of ours. Many of these arose from our brief to the MacDougall Royal Commission. The following list includes both those functions carried out by the FSCA and those which have become part of the services of the Posting Services Centre: the Mobility Study and the accompanying bibliography, the Health Record booklet, the Education Report for Ottawa-Hull, education counselling services, paid tuition for lycée Claudel, the re-entry kit (now being updated), the "An Ottawa Posting" booklet, the Direct Communication with Spouses Policy, the Community Co-ordinator Program, the Employment for Spouses Policy, ongoing consultation on the FSD's of which one outcome was the reinstatement of the upper age limit for family reunion with children and the creation of a paid office coordinator position for the FSCA.



In November the FSCA said farewell and thank you to Claire Stapledon who has given us hundreds of hours of her time over the last nine years. Claire has spent this last year as our first office co-ordinator. We are grateful to her, and we will miss her expertise and experience. In an Association that is manned by rotational volunteers, she provided essential continuity. Fortunately, retirement is only taking her to Carp and we expect to see her frequently.

Our attention is still on those concerns exacerbated by mobility; more specifically, employment for dependants, pensions, preparation for retirement and recognition of service, financial security for dependants, coping with mobility and providing adequate support systems for the foreign service family.

On behalf of the Association I wish to extend New Year's greetings to you all.



Seen signing her contract is Dawn Jones, the new office co-ordinator; while Shirley Hadwen, president of the FSCA, looks on. Dawn has spent postings on four continents, returning this summer from Copenhagen. Born in Windsor and educated at Queen's University, she has worked variously as a clinical psychologist, an English teacher, secretary to the Canadian Women's Club in Port of Spain, and editor of the bulletin of the International Women's Club in Copenhagen. We are very pleased to have Dawn working for us and congratulate her on her successful application.

ADMISSION TO CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

Does a High School Diploma from a non-Canadian school grant you admission to a Canadian university?

The American 12th Grade Certificate, the Baccalauréat from a French school, the International Baccalauréat, and the British "A" Levels, are all recognized by Canadian universities. As a rule however, admission to a program varies with the students' marks, their last years of schooling, the program which the students wish to enroll in and the results of some placement tests (i.e. CEEB, SAAT).

As some programs have a limited enrollment, it is not unusual for a student to be denied admission to a program or faculty in spite of having obtained the minimum marks required. Some universities or programs place students directly in their first or second year, whereas others require an additional year or two at university first. For example, with a French Baccalauréat, a student may be accepted in the second year of some four year programs at the University of Ottawa, whereas an extra year at university is required in order to enter a three year science program at Laval. A student coming from the American system with outstanding high school marks is accepted in 1st year at Carleton University, but should he/she have average marks, a qualifying year at university is required first. The same student may be admitted into the first year of a four year program at McGill, whereas the University of Montreal requires two extra years at a CGEP first.

Each and every case is individual. Should you require assistance, please contact the Education Officer in the Posting Services Centre. Send us all the particulars — a description of the program presently being followed, past and future courses, university and program desired and any other pertinent details, and we would be pleased to assist you in every way possible.

DID YOU KNOW?

— that by the year 2000, Statistics Canada predicts a year's university education for a student living on campus will cost \$15 000, or a staggering \$60 000 for a four-year degree program, based on current inflation rates.

— that in Ottawa, almost one-third of the average family's food dollars are spent dining out. That's a higher proportion than in any other major Canadian city.