



## From the Foreign Service Community Association

125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa K1A 0G2 (613) 993-5729

At the time of year when we all take a deep breath after the holidays, and may actually have a few minutes to look ahead, perhaps coming 'home' assumes reality in many of our minds. After all, if we are to be posted to Ottawa in nineteen eighty-seven, that year is actually here. Painful as the process is, re-entry may be better handled if little bits of it are examined in advance. One of the reasons we have such difficulty is that while we have changed and developed through our experiences, so has the society we come back to, and we may not like what we see.

We all know the cost of living has risen (hasn't it affected our allowances abroad?), but intellectual acceptance is vastly different than confronting the fact that there is a lot of month left after the money has run out. That's one of the reasons to many of the one-income families we left behind are now scrambling to make it on two salaries and doing their best to fit in all the other aspects they value in their lives. Will we become part of that social and economic trend? Do we want to? Maybe now is the time to take a look at those implications, or, to use a current buzzword, to be pro-active rather than reactive. That's another thing...the language has changed too!

Reading the figures from Statistics Canada may affect us, but not as much as our personal realization when we see how many of our friends who were couples have changed their family configurations in our absence. One of our sons had a girlfriend last year who calmly informed us that we are an anachronism. I had not-so-secretly come to terms with that in our life overseas, but after all, here we were at home in Canada. She went on to explain, very patiently I thought, that since we are all living together, mother, father, three kids and a cat, we are very much in the minority, and may in fact be an endangered species. She and her mother make up their family. I then started to add up how many of our friends and our children's friends come from the majority. We're all living in a different world now, and the differences are very apparent when we first come home.

To all our friends, with us or far away, may this year of 1987 be one of hope and peace. If you are a member of the FSCA, let us know what your concerns are, or, if joining is one of your resolutions, send in the form below - we're here to support each other ☐

Nancy Fraser



## THE FSCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 11 was such a day as is the joy of a Canadian winter. For some 75 members and guests of the Foreign Service Community Association, it was an early gift of the season, because we had planned our Christmas Lunch for that day at the Rivermead Golf Club. We had clean white snow and brilliant blue skies to cheer us as we drove down the country road that seems much farther away from city congestion than it actually is.

We were sorry that some members who work in the Pearson Building were unable to get away at noon to join us. The Golf Club dining room provided a very cosy setting for lunch in the winter, with a fire glowing in the grate and windows giving onto rolling lawns and trees. Ample parking was also available.

We enjoyed a full course lunch and a glass of wine, but most of all, of course, the chance to chat with some of our friends whom we seldom see.

Our guest of honour was Miss Pamela McDougall, known to most of us as a former Canadian ambassador and Commissioner responsible for the Report on Conditions of Foreign Service, among other things. Pam regaled us with reminiscences of situations that we all recognized, and in the midst of more general comments paid particular tribute to the part played in her life as a single officer by the families she had known on post.

For all of us there, it was a particularly pleasant overture to the holiday season ☐

FOREIGN SERVICE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

- Membership Application
- Fee: \$12.00 per year

Telephone No.: Office ..... Home .....

Name of member: .....

Postal address: .....

Full name of employee: .....

Memberships are due in January of each year.

Tel.: (613) 993-5729