

PAN NOTICES CONCERNING FAMILIES

Each week Personnel Administrative Notices (PAN) are circulated to employees of the Department. Some of the subjects are of particular interest to spouses and families so in this column each issue we will be reprinting them, or excerpts from them.

OHIP NUMBERS FOR EMPLOYEES RETURNING TO CANADA

(External Affairs Joint Council Meeting
November 21, 1984)

There is a wait of five months before OHIP numbers are provided to employees returning from a posting. The Department is fully aware of the time period and it has done all it can to obtain a reduction in time but to no avail.

The matter has been fully discussed with OHIP officials and a form letter has been prepared for employees to provide to doctors requesting them to delay billing until a number has been received.

The fact that the system is a shared responsibility i.e. employee, departmental pay section, Supply and Services Canada, and OHIP, accounts for the period of time required to process an application.

Since the introduction of the letters to doctors, the system has been working well; ABM (Compensation, Relocation and Travel Section) is not aware of difficulties. Any problem cases submitted to ABM will be investigated and if the investigation reveals a major deficiency the process will be reviewed again.

OHIP would be interested in knowing the name of any doctor who was not interested in following the procedure set up between OHIP and the Department.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONDITIONS OF FOREIGN SERVICE

(E.A. Joint Council Meeting,
November 21, 1984)

Since June 1983, the policy of providing diplomatic passports to all Canada-based employees serving on tours of duty at posts abroad, and if requested, to their spouses and their children individually regardless of nationality, ... has been fully implemented.

THE COMMUNITY COORDINATOR PROGRAM IS WELL UNDERWAY

In the February issue of *Liaison* we listed the Community Coordinators for the 1984-85 fiscal year.

A new fiscal year has just begun and to date the following people have been named:

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — Pearl Yetman,
Sharmani Poulin
Ankara, Turkey — Ericka Dunseath
Bangkok, Thailand — Barbara Ryan
Canberra, Australia — Joan Robinson
Colombo, Sri Lanka — Tiu May Noonan

Copenhagen, Denmark — Barbara Cullen
Geneva, Switzerland — Valerie Bryce
Hong Kong — Michelle Dion-Duchastel
Kinshasa, Zaire — Else Carvajal-Pichette
Lima, Peru — Marta Edmonds
New York, USA — Carolynne Hood, Carolyn
Winfield
Paris, France — Bonnie Ramsay
Prague, Czechoslovakia — Liani Bulloch
Rabat, Morocco — Linda Cloutier
Washington, D.C. — Marguerite McDermott,
Valerie Judd.

Bangkok: The home of the first Community Coordinator newsletter

Complete with illustrations, "Holiday Hints" "Did You Knows" from Ottawa, Toronto and Bangkok, information on aerobics classes, the Canadian Women's Club, contract work for spouses, the library that is being established, plus an invitation to all embassy children to "name the newsletter" (and in doing so win a Swatch Watch of 100 baht) — this publication by Barbara Ryan, the Community Coordinator in Bangkok, makes for enjoyable, informative reading and was, no doubt, well received by the Canadian families there.

Liaison would love to receive copies of any other newsletters that are being circulated at posts abroad so that interesting, relevant news and activities can be shared with our readers everywhere.

Please send them to the Community Liaison Section (*Liaison*), Posting Services Centre, Lester B. Pearson Building, External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Community Coordinator Program Comes to Washington

As we are highlighting the United States in this issue of Liaison, we asked the newly named Community Coordinators in Washington if they could tell us a little about the program they are presently setting up.

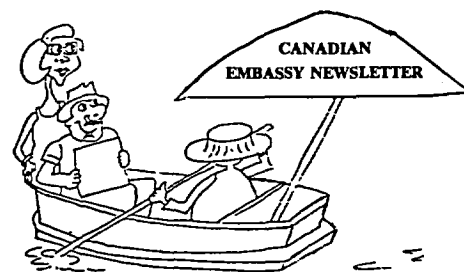
Some newcomers to the Washington area settle in with relative ease, while many others are surprised by the degree of difficulty even the most seasoned travellers experience in adjusting to life with our American neighbours. When one looks at the sheer number of people employed by our embassy and the incredible diversity of tasks to which they apply themselves, there is little wonder that newcomers often find themselves lost in the shuffle.

Reaction to the establishment of a Community Coordinator Office has met with

pockets of skepticism regarding the need, but we are happy to report that the overwhelming response has been positive. With an average influx of 45 employees per year, some with dependants, the need for such a service is very apparent.

Our office has an immediate goal — the accumulation of information which may be potentially useful to newcomers this summer. In addition, a sponsorship system between those at the post and new arrivals is being implemented. The two Community Liaison Co-ordinators, Marguerite McDermott and Valerie Judd can be reached at the Sheridan Chancery, telephone (202) 483-5505, extension 399, in Room 327.

We are eagerly awaiting your calls.



COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICE

HELLO! GREETINGS FROM THE COMMUNITY
LIAISON OFFICE OF THE CANADIAN EMBASSY

If you have no idea what this office is all about, read on. This is the first newsletter from the office and one of its main purposes is to provide information to embassy families about events happening here in Bangkok which are of interest to us all.



HOLIDAY HINTS

Have you been to any interesting places in Bangkok or Thailand?