

From the
**Foreign Service
Community Association**



FSCA President, Margaret Harman, receiving funding for an office manager from Jim Harris, ADM, Personnel.

The FSCA has had a busy and productive few months since January. Perhaps the most significant event took place on March 15 when the long awaited funding for an office manager finally came through. The occasion was marked by a small ceremony in the Posting Briefing Centre at which a delighted Margaret Harman, FSCA President, (see photo) received a cheque for \$10,000 from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Personnel, Jim Harris.

Also of interest was a Round Table Discussion which took place on April 3rd, in the Crush Lobby. This was an informal get-together of people interested in participating in one or more of the discussion topics which ranged from "Concerns of Wives of Heads of Post" through "Spousal Employment", "Career Foreign Service Women" to "Changing Role of Diplomacy and how this might affect the Foreign Service Spouse." There was a lively response and some valuable suggestions which will be passed on to our FSCA members in the *Bulletin* and to all appropriate levels of administration in the Department.

Finally, the FSCA has this year been brought into consultation and policy planning by the Department as never before — a slow and steady progression, we believe, of the recognition we have fought for, for so long. During the months of March and April the FSCA executive was asked to meet with the Posting Briefing Centre to comment on the proposed policy regarding the new Community Co-ordinators at posts and make suggestions before the policy was finalized. The same thing was done with respect to the *Spousal Employment Policy* which was ex-



amined by our very active Spousal Employment Committee. The present members of the executive believe these and several other moves being made by the Department in the direction of tapping the vast resources of the Foreign Service spouses, are very encouraging.

We will be losing our President of two years, Margaret Harman, who steps down in May and we would like to commend and congratulate her on the excellent job she has done and the sincerity she brought to the position.

Remember re-entry?

We are making an appeal to all members both at home and abroad to help us help each other. For those FSCA members or interested non-members who will be in Ottawa-Hull for the summer, we ask that you consider giving a little of your time to easing the burden of re-entry for returning employees and their families. In addition to providing new arrivals with practical, up-to-date information on doctors, dentists, services and so on, we would like to have lists of "contact people" or "buddies" organized according to neighbourhoods, and up-to-date lists of babysitters who can sit for families in hotels. We are also eager to help the single employees who often have even greater re-entry problems than families. Many of the functions can be "one-time" events such as a small informal get-together in your home. If you can help please phone the FSCA office at 593-5729 between 10:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 3:00.

Did you get my letter?

What a joy to receive news from friends . . . from dear ones . . . but where is that letter? Why didn't that document arrive? This is a typical scenario as one moves from post to post or back home — but it does not have to be. Have you informed the Mail Management Section (MGIM) of your change of address? The easiest way is to obtain form EXT 361 from your present post or from External, fill it in and send it to MGIM. Should you be going to a privileged post (one using the diplomatic courier) be sure that the five letter acronym is correct. For example Budapest, Hungary is now P.O. Box 500 (BPEST) External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

OTTAWA'S HOUSING MARKET IS "HOT" AND "SIZZLING"

If you're a home owner, you'll be delighted. If you're in the market for a home, you won't be. Prices for new houses in Ottawa jumped by an average 11.6% in 1983, making it the largest increase of any major city in Canada. (Calgary recorded the biggest drop at 10.9%). This spring, the housing market is quoted in *The Citizen* as being "hot" and "sizzling". It's a seller's market with lots of lookers and little being offered. Houses in some areas of the city have risen dramatically over the past five years, especially in the older, established areas. Manor Park houses have risen 143%, McKellar and Highland Park, 90% and Centretown (The Golden Triangle) 100%. The boom areas expected to take off in the next few years are Rothwell Heights, Heart's Desire, Arlington Woods, Hunt Club, and Qualicum. Still considered to be the prime residential areas are: Rockcliffe, followed closely by New Edinburgh, the Glebe, Alta Vista, Cedarhill Estates and Island Park Drive. (This, of course, is only according to articles in *The Ottawa Citizen*).

Je ne parle pas bien le français

Is that your problem? There is a solution. French classes are offered free of charge to spouses of employees to be posted abroad. Starting in late September 1984, classes will be held twice a week, Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 and from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. provided there is a minimum of 6 people per class. The classes will end in mid-June, with the possibility for summer classes should there be sufficient interest.

The emphasis is on improving oral expression plus comprehension of spoken and written French. A placement test will be given to determine the correct starting level. For further information contact the Official Languages Division (ADL) at 593-5428, or write: Nicole Coulombe, Official Languages Division, Lester B. Pearson Building, Ottawa K1A 0G2

Quotable Quotes

"We Canadians are a worthy, thrifty people, perfectly safe and constituting no problem to the countries in control of our destinies: we are therefore uninteresting..."
(A.R.M. Lower. Canadian Historical Review, March, 1941)