

COMMUNITY COORDINATORS (continued)

is only limited by enthusiasm and budget. I think the program will be extended to more posts and cover more areas of concern within posts.

• *Do you have any comments or anecdotes?*

V. Bryce: If anyone thinks they may be taking the job of CC at a Post then prepare for it while still here in Ottawa. Use the possibility to acquire more skills. Find out how you can arrange to pay CPP and/or contributions into an RRSP account while abroad. Contact the existing CC to see what is needed there. Join the F.S.C.A. if not already a member. Above all go to the CC workshops each spring given by the Posting Services Centre.

V. Judd: The success of the program in a large post depends to a great extent on the help of volunteers who support the coordinator. In a smaller post, the coordinator can provide more individual attention. One of the most important contributions of the program is the provision of an information service.

M. Mailloux: While I was CC, I published a newsletter directed to Canadian employees. By involving the LES, I acquired a lot of useful information which helped Canada-based staff to get to know the area better.

This is not a program to make CCs rich! You really have to be enthusiastic and be prepared to give of yourself — your time, your energy and some of your money! It was hard for me to find the time, being a mother of two preschool children and pregnant with a third, also being very involved in local church life, and the various associa-

tions, British Women, Canadian Women etc. However, it was worthwhile and a lot of fun and improved my self-esteem.

• *What instruments might the post or the Department provide to assist the community coordinators in their work?*

V. Bryce: When talking to the first generation of CCs last year it was apparent that a number of them had been working with a very minimum of equipment. Provision should be made for a quiet corner with at least a desk and a typewriter or word processor and free access to the photocopying machine. If the administration expects a professional job done then they must grant access to the facilities at the Post and treat the CC as a member of the team.

V. Judd: Headquarters might consider the establishment of a communication network between coordinators abroad. Perhaps a short written communiqué based, in part, on information and ideas received from the coor-

dinators could be sent to coordinators at posts. The Department might also make the community coordinator position permanent. Having contracts come up for renewal every year affects the continuity of service. Finally, providing a respectable salary for the position should be considered.

M. Mailloux: A bigger budget for salaries, equipment and related expenses. I did not claim anywhere near the amount of my expenses as I understood the program was just beginning and I believe in treading gently at first □



Margaret Mailloux