

# University housing and space shuffle

by D.G. Campbell

Dalhousie's "great housing sale" hasn't turned out to be the sale of the century, but it's not quite a bust either.

Dalhousie University has recently sold over \$1.1 million in property, and plans to sell more property and convert faculty houses into revenue-making student housing, said vice-president of Finance and Administration, Robbie Shaw.

John Graham, Director of University Services, said "The university would like to use the remaining revenues from these plans towards the retiring of the deficit problems as soon as possible."

However, there has been a slight delay in Dal's plan to enter into the real estate game. Shaw explained the university had budgeted to sell \$2 million worth of property holdings this year but as the bottom fell out of the market only \$1.1 million worth of holdings has been sold thus far.

Shaw said the university does not want to sell its real estate at "fire-sale prices" and they will probably wait until spring to liquidate further properties. He said they plan to sell \$2-\$3 million worth over the next couple of years.

The university recently commissioned a costly space study to uncover the most efficient use of its buildings. The completed study outlines a better use of space which includes five complete moves of departments, plus relocating faculty

offices from separate houses to the main buildings on campus. It is the university's desire to either sell the vacated buildings or convert them into revenue-generating student housing, says Graham.

Graham said implementation of the plan will take place in stages. However, at present all action has been halted because the provincial government unexpectedly cut Dalhousie's renovation budget in August.

Shaw said consultations are underway with faculty heads, Deans, and the provincial government. A decision will be made in the next few weeks on how they will act on the matter.

The first stage of the shift has already been made with the geology department moving from the Sir James Dunn Science Building into the Life Sciences Centre with the Biology department.

In the second stage, Mathematics and Computer Science will move into the Dunn Building from the Killam Library. To make room, the Engineers will be moved to the second and third floor of the Arts and Administration building. Engineering will in turn push the Dean of Arts and Science offices to the MacDonald Science Library, which will force the Science Library to move into the Killam Library.

The old Archives building will become the new Chemical building, after an addition is made to improve the facilities. This planned addition is still pending the raising

of money through a capital fund drive and provincial grants.

A major result of the decision to sell university property was the sale of Ardmore Hall, a women's residence situated at the corner of Oxford and North Streets.

Allison Edward said the building was sold for two reasons: because the university wants to confine its campus to a smaller area, and simply as "it is such a large building and worth a lot of money".

She said the university plans to

lease the building for two more years, with the option to renew the lease if necessary.

Edwards said the plans to create new student housing should adequately replace the space lost at Ardmore.

## La Fane brings Acadians together

by Esther Dykeman

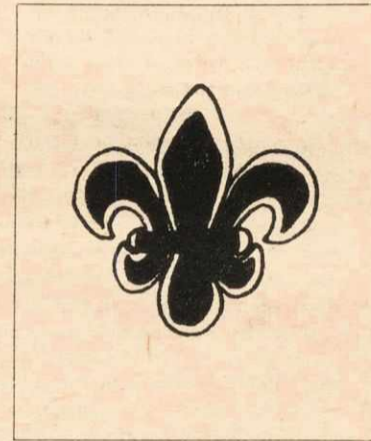
You may not know it, but there are 7870 French-speaking people in the Halifax metropolitan area. The interests of these francophones are promoted by the Halifax Regional Committee of the Fédération Acadienne de la Nouvelle-Ecosse (la Fane).

La Fane (formerly Fédération Francophone de la Nouvelle-Ecosse) was established in 1967 and is funded by the federal government. It was established to protect and preserve the Acadian language and culture in Nova Scotia and to unify the existing francophone associations and institutions.

The Halifax Regional Committee is comprised of fifty individuals and three associations. According to Bonita Landry, president of the Committee, the members range widely in age and occupation.

Landry herself is a student at Mount Saint Vincent. The oldest member, M. Frontain, is a Haligo-

nian who raised his (now adult) children in French. "He is a good example of someone who is trying to preserve his language," says Landry.



La Fane divides its services into six sectors: cultural, community development, educational, women, youth and communications.

The Committee's priority for this

year is to have a community centre in the Halifax area. "We'd like a place where we could have a theatre, a gym, bookstores..." Landry said. "The committee has no particular place to meet."

The annual meeting brings together members from the six recognized Acadian regions in Nova Scotia and representatives of the Provincial Youth Council. At the November 12-14 meeting this year the theme will be "the Economy".

The main cultural event supported by the Committee is the Annual Acadian Festival, slated for the first week in June. The Committee is presently planning a social evening in the near future.

When asked about the attitudes encountered by Acadians in the Halifax area, Landry pointed to the creation of French immersion schools in Metro. "People don't snicker at you anymore. People are more interested in learning French," she said.

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