



From the  
**Foreign Service  
Community Association**

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

Since last spring some members of the executive have retired upon completion of their mandate or as a result of postings.

**Maree Sigurdson** — Maree is a long standing member and has served the FSCA industriously for many years. We will miss her experience, perspective and talents. We wish her the very best in Jamaica.

**Sylvia Brown** — Sylvia, as one of our vice presidents, was always the voice of reason at executive meetings. Her sound advice and willing hands will be missed. Our loss is Indonesia's gain.

**Gail Devlin** — Retiring as editor-in-chief of the *FSCA Bulletin* and newsletter, Gail has left a gap that will be hard to fill. Putting out a publication is time consuming and complicated. We extend our deep thanks for a difficult job well done.

Now that the hot, lazy days of summer have drifted by, the FSCA is busily gearing up for the fall and winter activities.

Notices of activities are sent to members in Ottawa and reported in the *Bulletin* which is sent to all members.

**To All Community Coordinators** — the FSCA is vitally interested in your activities and services. Please write us about your successes and your difficulties. Through the *Bulletin*, all coordinators can share their experiences and make the programme even better. If you do not have the time to write, perhaps another member of the community would like to do so. Others want to know what is happening at your post.

**REMEMBER  
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD  
CONTACT NETWORK  
993-5729**

**Parking Dilemma** — Trying to park your car at External is a nearly fruitless task unless you are one of the few with a permit, and even then you may be out of luck. If this overflow of permit holders parks in the visitors parking, where do the visitors park?

Parking at other locations and then walking, combined with the search for an empty space, can turn a short errand into an expedition. This is even more frustrating when you only have to drop off or collect a letter or form.

The FSCA must keep this in mind when organizing its activities, so you may find fewer daytime events planned at the External Affairs building. Evenings or weekends, and other venues will have to be considered for meetings.

**MEMBERS  
PLEASE NOTIFY US OF YOUR  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

On September 19, the Annual General Meeting will be held with Geoffrey Pearson, executive director of CIIPS (Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security) as guest speaker.

A tour of the Art Bank, the Firestone Collection, the Art Show, weekend workshops and a Christmas gathering, are some of the ideas under consideration for the months ahead.

FOREIGN SERVICE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION \* Membership Application  
125 Sussex Dr., Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0G2 \* Fee: \$12.00 per year

Tel.: (o) ..... (h) .....

Name of member: .....

Postal address: .....

Full name of employee: .....

Memberships are due in January of each year. Tel: (613)993-5729

**THE NEW SECONDARY  
SCHOOL SYSTEM**

As of this 1984-85 school year, all students in grade 9 were working on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. They, plus all those who will follow, will have to accumulate a minimum of 30 credits (16 compulsory and 14 elective) to graduate. (One course of 110 classroom hours = 1 credit.)

Courses are now available at three levels of difficulty — Basic, General and Advanced. Students planning on going to university are required to take six Ontario Academic Courses (OAC's) which are the provincially designated university-entrance courses. These may be taken after completion of the Diploma, or counted as credits towards it. In this way motivated students may earn university requirements in four years.

Grade 7 and 8 students, in order to be better prepared for secondary school, are now required to take a minimum of 20 hours in guidance programs. These are intended to give them more of an awareness of educational and career options that are open to them.

As early as next June 1986, the first students will graduate with the new OSSD.

**PARENTS ARE CAREFULLY  
WATCHING THE  
REORGANIZATION  
PROCESS**

A reorganization is underway at the Ottawa-Carleton Boards of Education. The public Boards will be closing some of their schools and redefining the boundaries. For students this is critical in that at some of the more popular schools strict limits are placed on the number of cross boundary transfers allowed. (Last year only 60 were allowed to Lisgar and none at all to Glebe.) By late August, the reorganization should be complete.

The Ottawa and Carleton Separate School Boards decided to extend their systems to include Grade 11, even if provincial funding was not granted. Meanwhile, new Ontario Premier David Petersen has just announced that the Government will extend public financing to Catholic high schools this fall by Cabinet decree, without waiting for approval from the Legislature. Thus, Catholic schools will be allowed to eliminate tuition fees and expand to offer a high school program up to Grade 11 in September 1985.

Everyone is watching the situation carefully — the teachers, concerning their jobs, the parents and students, concerning the quality of education, and the private schools, hoping that funding for them might follow.