

New chapters in Val d'Or and Rouyn-Noranda



Head Table at Rouyn-Noranda Information Meeting. Centre left: Anne Usher, Alliance Executive Committee Member; centre right: Deborah Roytenberg, Community Development Programme Assistant. Far left and right: Jennie Philbert and Ron Diotte, co-chairs of chapter Steering Committee.

At packed meetings in Noranda on February 7, and in Val d'Or on February 8, the English-speaking communities of these two centres decided to set up Alliance Quebec chapters.

"One of the main concerns in the Rouyn-Noranda area is finding adequate medical services in English, as well as ensuring schooling in English," says Clark Lawton, a member of the Rouyn-Noranda chapter Steering Committee.

Other members of the Rouyn-Noranda Steering Committee include: Mary Baker; Michael Iwanic; Nicola Lawton; Bob McDonald; John McLaughlin; and Elsie Sullivan.

In addition, committees have been struck in the following areas: Youth; Health and Social Services; Membership; Communications; and Local History.

Jenny Philbert, co-chair of the Val d'Or chapter Steering Committee, says, "Members of the English-speaking community here want to hold on to their schools; want increased access to services for youth and seniors at local CLSC's; and want to communicate better with their local municipal governments."

Other members of the Val d'Or chapter Steering Committee are: Dale Allan; Georges Cliche; Aline Collins; Ron Diotte (co-chair); Marnie Denison; Mike Henderson; Glen Morton; Yves Philbert; and Henry Walosik.

In Val d'Or, committees have been struck in the following areas: Education, Membership, Government Services, Communications, and Cultural Issues.

At both the Rouyn-Noranda and Val d'Or meetings, Alliance Executive Committee member Anne Usher and Assistant Director of Community Development Deborah Roytenberg were on hand to represent Alliance Quebec. Gilles Baril, M.N.A. for Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue, and Noranda Mayor Eugène Bédard attended the Noranda meeting. The M.N.A. for Abitibi-est, Raymond Savoie, attended the Val d'Or meeting.

Anne Usher gave an overview of the history, philosophy, goals and achievements of the Alliance, and fielded questions from the audience. Deborah Roytenberg discussed organizational requirements, such as election of chapter boards and member-

continued on page 2

Alliance goes back to Court on signs

The battle for the right to post bilingual signs continues.

Lawyers for the five merchants involved in the "Brown's Shoes" case organized and financed by Alliance Quebec, went before the Court of Appeal March 13.

The Quebec government appealed a judgement rendered in that case by Superior Court Judge Pierre Boudreault last December. Judge Boudreault struck down the unilingual signs provisions of Bill 101 as incompatible with guarantees of freedom of expression in the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The merchants involved in the Alliance Quebec case are: Brown's shoes in St-Laurent; National Cheese in Ville

LaSalle; Lainages du Petit Mouton in Pointe Claire; McKenna Flowers in Montreal and Masson Tailors and Cleaners in the East Island.

The lawyers acting for the five merchants are Alan Hilton and Harvey Yarosky. The basic thrust of their argument before the court is that to forbid merchants to use other languages in addition to French on their signs is a violation of freedom of expression as defined by the Quebec and Canadian Charters of Rights and Freedoms.

The Court of Appeal also heard the "Devine-Singer" case on March 12. In that case lawyers for Devine and Singer argued for the right to post unilingual English signs. Superior Court Judge Jac-

ques Dugas ruled in 1982 that the freedom of expression clauses in the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms did not cover the choice of language. Devine and Singer appealed that decision.

Because of the confusion between the two judgements, the new provincial liberal government decided to proceed with its appeal in the Brown's Shoes case. However, both Premier Bourassa and the Minister of Justice Herbert Marx have said they do not expect to carry the appeal to the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeal usually takes between three to six months to render a decision.

Working with the new government

One of the key roles that Alliance Quebec plays on behalf of English-speaking Quebecers is to brief government ministers and officials on the concerns of the community.

At no time is this more essential than when a new government comes to power. "We must ensure from the beginning of the new government's mandate that the concerns raised by our community are addressed in a comprehensive and positive way," said the Chairman of the Alliance, Casper Bloom.

One of the first such meetings held by the Alliance after the provincial election

was with Education Minister, Claude Ryan. A major issue that Alliance education committee members raised with Mr. Ryan was access to English schools. Notably, they pointed to problems experienced by parents who attended bilingual schools, in enrolling their children in English schools; parents who moved to Quebec and whose children received only kindergarten education in English in another province; and the refusal of the "Comission d'appel sur la langue d'enseignement" to render decisions in cases based on the Canada Clause.

The Alliance also stressed to Mr.

Ryan the need to find a just solution, for the so-called "illegal" students in the English school system, before the next academic year.

The Alliance also urged Mr. Ryan to reconsider the impact of implementing a universal access clause, which would allow English-speaking parents from anywhere in the world to send their children to English schools in Quebec. "It is Alliance Quebec's contention that the universal clause would not pose a linguistic threat to the French-speaking community and moreover, such a framework would help arrest the

continued on page 9

INSIDE

Heritage Campus in the Outaouais has been lobbying to achieve status as an independent CEGEP. For the story on the Heritage Autonomy Campaign, turn to page 4.

The Côte Nord Chapter has been successful in obtaining an English section in the local French-language CEGEP; turn to page 8.

There is a unique resource guide on the market for history of English-speaking Quebec. For a lively account on this new book, turn to Graeme Decarie's review on page 10.

Alliance Quebec has been lobbying for increased health and social services for English-speaking Quebecers, and for the maintenance of the institutions providing those services. Shawbridge Youth Centres is one such vital service to the community. See story on page 4.

Alliance Quebec is looking at ways to increase participation of members of the English-speaking community in the federal civil service within Quebec. The Alliance's Government Services Programme has formed an ad-hoc committee to study the problem. The committee consists of representatives from three federal government bodies. See interviews on page 5.

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Delegates look ahead at Provincial Seminar

Over 100 delegates from the Alliance's 23 chapters and regional associations attended a Community Development and Programmes Seminar in Montreal, March 7 and 8.

This is the first time since the provincial election that the Alliance has called together its leadership from across Quebec. This was also the first time that members of the English-speaking communities from Val d'Or and Rouyn-Noranda were represented (see story on page 1).

The event featured a variety of workshops focussing on local, provincial and federal issues of concern to members of the English-speaking community.

"Futuring"

One of the most popular sessions at the seminar took place on Saturday mor-

The process employed in the session, known as "futuring", is meant to serve as a model for chapters/associations in assessing needs and setting goals.

Health and Social Services

One of the key workshops centred on the participation of chapters and associations in the Rochon Commission hearings; in securing legislative guarantees for access to English-language health and social services, and for the maintenance of the institutions already serving our community.

Negotiations are underway to amend the Law Respecting Health and Social Services in order to ensure the right to services in English.

Alliance Quebec chapters and regional associations have been preparing briefs outlining how such services could best be provided at the local level.



Head Table at Constitutional Review Workshop. Left to right: Community Development Co-chair Gaby Ostro; Executive Director Vaughan Dowie; Alliance President Michael Goldbloom; Julie Lawson, Outaouais Alliance; and Craig Berger, board member and St. Laurent chapter chairperson.

ning when Gaby Ostro, Co-chair of the Community Development Committee, took the delegates through a brainstorming session on the future of our communities.

The session helped participants identify low points in the history of their community, such as the exodus of youth and head offices, as well as high points, such as increased bilingualism, and a renewed sense of unity.

New chapters form

continued from page 1

ship recruitment.

The meetings also served as a forum for identifying and reviewing community concerns.

It was not long before scores of participants signed up as members and volunteered to participate on a variety of committees.

Since the general information meetings held February 7 and 8, over 100 members have been signed up in Rouyn/Noranda, and over 80 in Val d'Or. And the tallies continue to rise.

The chapters will hold their first Annual General Meetings in April, and will be sending a maximum of six (6) delegates each to the Alliance Quebec Annual Convention to be held May 30-June 1 at John Abbott College in Ste. Anne de Bellevue. This is the first time that members of the English-speaking communities from the Abitibi region will be represented at Convention.

Alliance Quebec staff members and senior volunteers continue to travel to the region to consult with local representatives on issues and organizational

needs.

The Alliance looks forward to welcoming delegates from both new chapters at Convention '86 and to working closely with them in the coming year.



Gilles Baril, MNA for Rouyn/Noranda/Témiscamingue, addresses audience at Val d'Or information meeting.

workers who can provide service in English; and access to emergency services in English.

The Rochon Commission will begin touring the province in April. Alliance Quebec's participation in the hearings will ensure that the needs of English-speaking Quebecers will be well represented at the local level.

Finally, workshop participants were urged to submit nominations for representatives to the boards of local health and social service institutions. Nominations must be submitted to the Regional Councils by mid-April.

Education

A special workshop provided practical information to help chapters/associations prepare for their participation in the Estates General on the Quality of Education. This conference will bring together parents, teachers and administrators from across the province to discuss the future direction of education in Quebec.

Issues of particular concern to members of the English-speaking community, reviewed by workshop participants, include: declining enrollments, French immersion, and adult education and vocational training programs.

Off-Island Vice-President Royal Orr cited the critical role that our schools play in rural communities. He cited the double challenge of providing quality educational programs in the face of declining enrollments. He re-emphasized the commitment of the Alliance to these concerns.

Government Services

Alliance Quebec is an equal participant on an Ad-Hoc Committee to increase the level of participation of English-speaking Quebecers within the federal Public Service in Quebec (see feature on page 5).

As part of the Saturday program, the Ad-Hoc Committee held a workshop focussing on this issue.

A panel of government representatives heard from Alliance participants on such problems as: reception at Manpower Offices, training programmes and

continued on page 9

Alliance active at national level

During the past year, Alliance Quebec has become increasingly involved in expressing the consensus of linguistic minorities at a national level.

"In addition to our involvement with the issues affecting our community at the provincial level, we must be present to speak to issues which fall under federal jurisdiction. In many cases we find that the fundamental principles of our community are the same as the problems of the French-speaking communities outside of Quebec," said Alliance Quebec president, Michael Goldbloom.

Two issues have dominated the Alliance's discussions with federal officials this year: reform of federal bilingualism policies and the upcoming constitutional negotiations between Quebec and the rest of Canada.

Federal Official Languages Policy

Alliance Quebec executive members

met with Secretary of State, Benoit Bouchard in mid-January to discuss language reform questions and have since presented detailed proposals to the minister.

"This is the first time in fifteen years that the federal government has undertaken a review of official language policy, and it is crucial that organizations representing minority linguistic communities, such as the Fédération des Francophones hors Québec and Alliance Quebec, participate in that process," said Mr. Goldbloom.

Central to the Alliance's reform proposals is the establishment of an official languages secretariat within the Privy Council Office, reporting to the Prime Minister. The Alliance also recommends the creation of an Advisory Committee on Official Languages. The advisory

continued on page 9

Alliance at Rochon hearings

"There are English-speaking people in every region of the province. But social affairs planners have never been able to explain how these people are going to be assured of services in their own language," said Marylee Kelley, Chairperson of the Alliance's Health and Social Services Committee.

Mrs. Kelley was speaking to members of the Rochon Commission when it began hearings in Montreal on March 10.

The Rochon Commission has been mandated by the Quebec Government to study the functioning and financing of the health and social service system in the province.

Premier Robert Bourassa and Health Minister Thérèse Lavoie-Roux support

legislative guarantees for access to services and maintenance of the institutions serving English-speaking Quebecers, across the province. These are principles that the Alliance has been advocating for some time now.

However, "the challenge", says Alliance president Michael Goldbloom, "is to translate these principles into action."

The Rochon Commission will be holding public hearings throughout the province in the coming months. Alliance Quebec chapters/associations have been preparing briefs outlining regional concerns, and will be there to ensure that the voice of the English-speaking community is well heard at the local level.

Alliance staff move to gov't posts

In recent months, two senior members of the Alliance Quebec staff have moved on to senior positions in the federal and provincial governments.

Laurent Marcoux, former Alliance Quebec Director of Research and Legal Affairs, has taken a job with the Privy Council Office of the federal government, as a policy advisor on language and constitutional issues.

Jeff Polenz, former Director of Education for the Alliance, is now a political attaché to Quebec Education Minister, Claude Ryan.

"Both Laurent and Jeff played key roles in the Alliance and their skill and commitment will be missed. However, at the same time, we can be extremely proud and gratified that they have moved to positions where they will continue to play a significant role," said Executive Director, Vaughan Dowie.

"Over the past five years, Alliance Quebec has developed a reputation for attracting talented people in the areas of policy formulation and community development and service," said Mr. Dowie.

"Rita Karakas, a former Director of Health and Social Services with the Alliance, is now Vice-president of United Way of Canada. Former Director of Education, Doug McCall is now a policy advisor to the British Columbia School Trustees Association. Former Communications Director, Jocelyn Souloudre is now Manager of Public Relations for the Olympic coin program at the Royal Canadian Mint. John Parisella, our first Director of Business

and Employment, went on to become the Quebec regional representative for the Commissioner of Official Languages, and is now the Director General for the Provincial Liberal Party. John Parisella and Graham Weeks were both instrumental in setting up the chapter structure of the Alliance. Graham is now a Director of Youth Employment Programs with the Montreal YMCA," said the Executive Director of Alliance Quebec.

He also mentioned former Legal Affairs Director, Tom Mulcair, who is now in private practice and is very involved in supervising the translation of laws for the Manitoba government; Fran Riley, a former program assistant in education, is now the Executive Director of Auberge Transition, a shelter for battered women; Susan Schacter, who prepared the first inventory of English-language institutions for the Alliance, is now a policy advisor in the office of the Solicitor-General of Canada; Ludmilla Pergat, former animator for the Laval-North Shore chapter, is now political attaché to Cultural Affairs Minister, Lise Bacon; and Geoffrey Chambers, former Executive Director of the Alliance, is now Vice-President of the Toronto World Trade Centre.

"It sounds like a rather long and immodest list, but I think the Alliance can take some pride in the wide range of talent that we have attracted and the important and influential positions they now assume right across Canada," said Mr. Dowie.



John Abbott College — Herzberg Building

Convention 86 is coming

Alliance Quebec will celebrate its fifth birthday at Convention '86, May 30 — June 1. Once again, Convention will be held at John Abbott College in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue.

The convention is one of the highlights of the Alliance Quebec calendar. Some 500 delegates from across the province attend to decide policy for the upcoming year and to elect the provincial board and executive.

Some of the key note speakers in past years have included Pierre-Marc Johnson, Minister of Justice in the Parti Québécois government and now opposition leader; Premier Richard Hatfield of New Brunswick; Stephen Lewis, former leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party and now Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations and Claude Ryan, former leader of the Quebec Liberal Party and now Minister of Education. The Commissioner of Official Languages, D'Iberville Fortier and his predecessor, Max Yalden have also spoken to Alliance Quebec conventions, as has the former Secretary of State, Walter MacLean and the Minister of Mines, Robert Layton.

During Convention '85, at a special tribute dinner to author and civil liber-

tarian, Frank R. Scott key note speakers included former Canadian ambassador to France, Gérard Pelletier; author Hugh MacLennan; political activist, King Gordon and author Ronald Sutherland.

Convention '86 committee chairman, Hugh Mitchell says planning for this year's Convention is still in the preliminary stages, "but delegates can look forward to some interesting innovations on this year's agenda".

He mentioned a barbecue supper and party on the Friday night of Convention and the local history contest (SEE BOX) as examples. A special dinner will be held on the Saturday evening in Centennial Hall across the lawn at MacDonald campus.

"Our fifth anniversary is a time to celebrate our accomplishments, our ability to work together to solve problems and our self-reliance," said Mr. Mitchell, "but it is also a time to look at the job ahead."

"It's true that the political climate has softened somewhat, but it is now essential that we build on our successes and that we turn some of our attention to helping strengthen our community. In

continued on page 11



Alliance President Michael Goldbloom confers with former Premier Pierre-Marc Johnson at Convention '85.

SHAWBRIDGE: a tradition of community service

By Sam Allison

In the summer of 1907, 32 boys were transferred from a Sherbrooke jail, to a collection of cottages, on 250 acres in the rural setting of Shawbridge, Quebec.

These boys were the first participants in a novel social experiment to provide young lawbreakers with an alternative to jail, or the barrack-like environment of most reform schools.

These boys were the first "inmates" of the Shawbridge Boys Farm and Training School, a home for protestant juvenile delinquents operated by Montreal Boys' Homes and dependent largely on private funding.

Over the courses of the years, many changes were to occur. By the 1920s, the Shawbridge facility was able to accommodate as many as 100 boys at a time.

From 1921 to 1942, Edward Beatty of the CPR was President of the Board of Directors. Under his leadership, Shawbridge was successful in obtaining regular provincial government funding.

By the 1950s, the rise of government subsidized welfare programs enabled Shawbridge to take in battered children, runaways, even handicapped children, in addition to juvenile delinquents and young offenders.

By the 1960s and 1970s, group homes were opened, allowing gradual reintegration of youth into their families and the community-at-large.

Today, Shawbridge Boys Farm and Training School is known as Shawbridge Youth Centres — Les centres de jeunesse Shawbridge, and caters to both a male and female clientele.

Clients range in age from 12 to 18 years, and, according to Executive Director Joe Borgo, "come from every area and every segment of Quebec society. A high percentage come from single-parent families, are adopted or come from broken homes. They also come from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds."

Whereas in the past, most were young lawbreakers, today only one-third are referred under the Young Offenders Act; two-thirds are referred under the Youth Protection Act.

All of them have gone through the Juvenile Court system before being placed in Shawbridge. Many have gone through Ville Marie Social Service Centre, Youth Horizons or Douglas Hospital before being referred to Shawbridge.

Shawbridge operates two youth centres in the Laurentians, four group homes in the Greater Montreal area, and a special day treatment program for non-resident clients. Last year, Shawbridge treated some 300 youth, and an additional 200 under their "volage" program, a temporary residence program operated out of their centre in St-Jérôme.

"The purpose of Shawbridge is twofold," says Mr. Borgo. "We are there to provide support and care to both juveniles and their families in times of crisis. At the same time, Shawbridge is not there to substitute for parents, but to second them."

Shawbridge provides a full continuum of care, ranging from closed and open



In addition to his position as Executive Director of Shawbridge, Joe Borgo is also Co-chair of the Alliance Quebec Community Development Programme Committee and is a member of the Task Force on Social Services.

treatment units, special educational programmes, cultural and sports activities, supervision of youth (who are back with their parents, or are residing on their own), and family counselling services. The average treatment period is 12 months, and follow-up is conducted over an average two-and-one-half year period. Shawbridge employs a staff of

psychologists, health and child care workers, and stresses the importance of individualized programs.

For example, a special school program, run in cooperation with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, assists scholastically delinquent youth. In some cases, specially trained teachers have helped individuals four-and-one-half-years behind in schooling to progress two-and-one-half years in the course of a nine-month residential stay. These youth are then eligible to re-enter the school system at a higher level.

In yet another program, Shawbridge has set up a private, non-profit corporation enabling a number of youth to operate their own car wash. "For many, this is a first job experience which teaches them basic job skills and a sense of responsibility," says Mr. Borgo. "A couple of 'graduates' have gone on to secure full-time employment," he continues.

Asked about the general mission of Shawbridge in the community, Mr. Borgo comments:

"As a unique service for the English-speaking community, Shawbridge has a special role to play in providing an alternative to imprisonment or institutionalization for socially maladjusted youth. In this way, Shawbridge responds to the needs of an important segment of the English-speaking community."

(Sam Allison is a member of the Local History Committee of Alliance Quebec. He has also prepared a video on the history of English-language social service institutions.)

Autonomy campaign at Heritage continues

by Rob Henderson

In a small building, its latest home facing the Ottawa River, Heritage Campus, the English branch of the CEGEP de l'Outaouais, and the only English-language college north and west of Montreal, has been serving English-speaking West Quebec for the past 17 years. In that time, it has grown from a section of seven students to a college of over 700.

Lawrence Kolesar has been Director of the college since its inception. "The college is one of a kind. Students, faculty and administration all share a sense of loyalty and dedication, a school spirit that is disproportionate to its size. A student who graduates after attending Heritage for only two years usually knows every member of the faculty and administration by name and has made friends with most. This is a place that an alumnus enjoys revisiting for its dynamic atmosphere", says Mr. Kolesar.

With classes of approximately 15 students, Heritage emphasizes a close teacher-student working relationship. With such a tight-knit group of people, Heritage has graduated quality students and has created many worthwhile projects for both its students and the West Quebec community it serves.

In addition to a wide range of academic, vocational and adult education programs, the college boasts an extremely talented Jazz Dance club, competitive team sports, as well as a national class stage band. Heritage also played host recently to the second annual West Quebec Youth Career Festival, sponsored by Outaouais Alliance.



"Control of our own Educational Institutions is a Basic Right."

Amid all the business and activity at the heart of Heritage, there is an overriding goal: full autonomy as an English-language CEGEP in West Quebec.

For the past 15 years, Heritage Campus has been involved in a struggle to gain autonomy from the CEGEP de l'Outaouais.

The Quebec government made and then withdrew the recommendation that Heritage Campus affiliate with Champlain Regional College in 1981. The following year, the government set

up an advisory committee to further study the matter.

In June 1983, Heritage Campus formed its own Board of Governors. In January 1984, Heritage moved into its own building. In March of that same year, a wide range of local community groups and private citizens, spearheaded by the Heritage Autonomy Committee and Outaouais Alliance, publicly endorsed Heritage Autonomy.

All five Liberal MNA's in West Quebec have also publicly supported autonomy. The Heritage Board of

Governors met with Education Minister Claude Ryan, in late February, to make their case to the new Provincial government. The day of the meeting, Mr. Ryan held a press conference, citing two options under consideration: autonomy or affiliation with Champlain Regional College.

The campus administration, teachers, students and the community-at-large all strongly favour total autonomy. (The campus, with 750 students, is as large as many independent French CEGEPs.)

"An autonomous Heritage CEGEP would give the citizens of West Quebec a self-governing educational post-secondary institution, with full control over curricular programs and extra-curricular activities. Autonomy would also provide a foundation for the continued existence of a viable English-speaking community in West Quebec.", says Director Kolesar.

"Control of our own educational institutions is a basic right which is fundamental to our growth and prosperity as citizens of Quebec and Canada. To deny this right would be unjust and irresponsible on the part of any provincial government", he maintains. "If a healthy English-speaking community, in a secure francophone Quebec, is a realistic goal for all Quebecers, then the struggle for autonomy must end in victory", he concludes.

(19-year-old Rob Henderson was Valedictorian of the 1985 Heritage Graduating Class, is a second-year biology student at the University of Ottawa, and is a member of the Heritage Autonomy Committee.)

QUEBECER INTERVIEW:

Looks at job opportunities in Federal civil service



Marjorie Goodfellow, Vice-President, Alliance Quebec



Claude Sarrasin, Regional Director, OCOL



Francine Boivin, Regional Director, PSC



Jean-Guy Côté, Director, Human Resources, CEIC

In January of this year, Alliance Quebec established, on the recommendation of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages (OCOL), Quebec Region and in conjunction with the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Canada Employment and Immigration (CEIC), a special ad-Hoc Committee to seek out solutions to the problem of under-representation of English-speaking Quebecers in the federal civil service in Quebec.

The following is the text of a preliminary interview with Francine Boivin, Regional Director, Public Service Commission (PSC), and Claude Brouillard, Consultant, Canada Employment and Immigration (C.E.I.C.). (Mr. Brouillard was speaking on behalf of Jean-Guy Côté, Director of Human Resources for C.E.I.C.).

Introductory Remarks — Claude Sarrasin, Reg. Dir., O.C.O.L.

The principle of "Equitable Participation" of the anglophone and francophone communities within the federal civil service was accepted as government policy in the Parliamentary Resolution on Official Languages passed in June of 1973. This resolution symbolizes in very concrete terms the linguistic duality of Canada, and it is a primary means of ensuring that institutional bilingualism becomes a reality in our country's civil service.

"Since the adoption of this principle in 1973, the government of Canada in general, and specifically the Treasury Board, as the Civil Service employer, have created and applied the policies necessary to make significant progress in this area," says Mr. Sarrasin. "While the national statistics are encouraging, there are serious participation problems within particular regions, like Quebec," he said.

"The participation rate of English-speaking individuals within the federal civil service of the province is low," he

added.

The Regional Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages invited the Quebec offices of the Public Service Commission of Canada, Employment and Immigration Canada and Alliance Quebec to participate in an ad-hoc committee on equitable participation. "In the past two years," according to Mr. Sarrasin, "each of the regional government departments involved with this issue have undertaken many specific projects to deal with the issue of equitable participation. "What we did," he says, "was to suggest a more integrated approach to the problem."

"The mandate of the committee," says Mr. Sarrasin, "is to study new strategies to address the issue of equitable participation and to attempt to coordinate efforts in this regard."

Claude Sarrasin is optimistic about this new initiative, stating simply, "If we judge by the past and present commitment of the different government departments with regard to this issue, as well as by the active involvement of Alliance Quebec, the project should be very successful."

postings in Quebec, has tended to be low in relation to Francophone applications. At the same time, recent figures indicate that English-speaking Quebecers represent a low 5.6% of federal civil servants in the province of Quebec, excluding the National Capital Region.

The Three chief factors would appear to be that: 1) English-speaking federal civil servants in Quebec, who are on average older, are leaving at a faster rate; 2) English speakers have traditionally gravitated towards employment in Crown Corporations and the private sector; and 3) fewer and fewer posts are available.

However, Mme Boivin points out that a distinction has to be made as to levels of participation. For example, for the period January to September 1985, provincially anglophones represented 14.8% of appointments to officer level posts, but only 5.1% to support staff and operational posts. A similar gap be-

ween levels of participation in these areas is also reflected in the overall distribution of English-speaking Quebecers within the federal civil service across Quebec.

In an attempt to redress the imbalance, the PSC has set up a special "module" to determine areas where improvements need to be made in increasing participation rates of "under-represented" groups. The PSC has also increased the role of its own special Advisory Committee, involving Canada Employment and Immigration and various government departments.

Externally, the PSC has conducted public information and publicity campaigns (including participation in public events of Alliance Quebec and the Townshippers Association), information sessions with government departments and community groups, and outreach to university and CEGEP campuses.

Interview: Claude Brouillard, Consultant, C.E.I.C.

One of the mandates of Employment and Immigration Canada is to ensure that we are referring individuals to departments while respecting the principle of equitable participation," says Claude Brouillard.

The C.E.I.C. receives applications for supply and support staff as well as clerical positions. In this regard, Mr. Brouillard states: "We have been concerned about the low number of applications from Anglophones."

According to Mr. Brouillard, "The C.E.I.C. has not been able to clearly ascertain why this is the case, but it is our impression that Anglophones may gravitate to more professional positions in the PSC."

Measures have been undertaken to redress the low rate of anglophones applying to public service positions. "One of the methods that CEIC used was an advertising campaign in the Montreal area to increase the number of anglophone applications," says Mr. Brouillard.

"Statistics revealed an increase from 300 to 1800 on-file applications by Anglophones," says Mr. Brouillard. Consequently, "referrals rose in the Montreal area from 6% to 18% from the Anglophone community. Mr. George Grant, out-going Official Languages Consultant for C.E.I.C., deserves considerable credit for this successful initiative", mentions Mr.

The net result of this "politique de présence" is that about 30% of applicants in the job inventory are from English-speaking Quebecers, according to Mme Boivin. However, as previously stated, applications continue to be scarce in job categories where English-speaking Quebecers are traditionally under-represented.

Cuts in the federal civil service (4% this year, and 2% annually to 1991), and the hiring freeze are factors which will seriously reduce employment prospects for both English and French-speaking applicants.

Whereas, in 1985, real progress was made (Anglophones filled 8.9% of posts available to "external" candidates, compared to 5.6% in 1984), the hiring freeze will dramatically decrease actual participation rates for both language groups, concluded Mme. Boivin.

Brouillard.

The present hiring freeze has resulted in negative consequences for candidates applying to the CEIC", says Mr. Brouillard. He further states; "It is our job to send applicants to fill orders by the respective departments. However, if there are no vacancies, then we have no referrals to offer any candidate applying to us for a job."

However, Mr. Brouillard also points out: "When the present situation eventually eases off, temporary positions will be the first step out of the freeze". He also advises that "applying to temporary postings is the best means of getting your foot in the door and eventually finding a permanent position."

In his conclusion, Mr. Brouillard cited the importance of the CEIC's role in the Ad-Hoc Committee. "We can better understand the problems that English-speaking Quebecers face in applying to the public service in our discussions with the representatives from Alliance Quebec."

Concluding Comments — Marjorie Goodfellow, Vice-president, Alliance Quebec

Marjorie Goodfellow, Vice-president of Alliance Quebec, and Chairperson of the Alliance's Government Services Committee, notes that the English-speaking community tends to perceive the federal civil service as being a difficult career avenue. "In particular off the island of Montreal, our community continued on page 9

Outaouais Alliance's Heritage Autonomy Committee has been conducting surveys over the past few months on the campaign to ensure the autonomy of Heritage campus, the English sector of the CEGEP de l'Outaouais. The results of polls canvassing students from area high schools, parents and members of the general public indicate strong community support for the issue. The Heritage issue is being coordinated by Susan Taylor of Chelsea, a former board member of Outaouais Alliance. (For more details of the Heritage Campus campaign, please refer to page 4 of this issue.)

On February 11, Outaouais Alliance sponsored, in conjunction with Heritage Campus and regional high schools, a West Quebec Youth Career Festival at Heritage Campus. The event provided some 600 high school and CEGEP students the opportunity to discuss career opportunities with representatives from 33 different vocational fields. A series of 24 displays also enabled high school students (and their parents), bussed in from across West Quebec, to tour the Heritage Campus facilities and to become better acquainted with the programs of study offered. Outaouais Alliance board member Karen Lockhead, Chairperson of the Festival Organizing Committee, is to be commended for the success of the event.

In other news, federal MP Sheila Copps, Deputy Liberal Critic on Social Services, will be the special guest speaker at Outaouais Alliance's Annual General Meeting to be held on April 29.

In staff news, Outaouais Alliance is pleased to welcome Carol Pritchard-Murtagh as Community Liaison Officer. Carol is not new to Outaouais Alliance, as a member of its first Board of Directors and as one of the founding members of the English Cultural Resource Centre.

...
St. Maurice Chapter's Education Committee has arranged a visit of the Shoestring Shakespeare Theatre Company, a children's theatre troupe from Montreal. The troupe will be presenting the classic, "The Wizard of Oz" (see feature in autumn '85 issue of "The Quebecer") to local English-speaking elementary students. The play will be staged in the auditorium of Three Rivers High School on May 20. The Committee is also encouraging participation from area schools in the Alliance Quebec Local History Contest. Committee volunteers will be accompanying classes of students this spring on a walking tour of historic sites in Trois-Rivières. Students will have as a resource tool copies of a Walking Tour Guide translated and printed by the chapter over the summer.

The Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee is in the process of translating its brief to the Rochon Commission. The brief outlines three key areas of concern: 1) the need for an English-speaking resource person in hospital emergency wards; 2) home and medical care in English for seniors; and 3) the need for social workers and nurses who can provide service in English to students in English-language schools.

In other news, the chapter has just mailed out the latest edition of its newsletter. In addition to chapter and Alliance news, this edition contains feature material of local interest not otherwise available in English.

...
South Shore Chapter's Health and Social Services Committee, under the direction of Jim Carter, has prepared a brief for submission to the Rochon

Commission. The brief was prepared in consultation with representatives from the West Island Chapter, the Townshipers Association, and the Châteauguay Valley English-speaking People's Association, and represents the interests of the 160,000 people living in Region 06-C. In other news, Committee members met recently with the Director of Services of the Kateri CLSC to plan a public information meeting for residents of Candiac and surrounding area.

Chapter representatives Jim Carter and Barbara Robyn are participating on a planning committee looking at expanding English-language programming on community television on the South Shore. The planning committee consists of representatives from a wide range of community groups and has been set up by South Shore Cable TV which is seeking community input into program planning. The committee's first project is the taping of a one-hour pilot programme on March 19 on local Cable TV. The format will be newsmagazine-style, with five-minute slots allotted to community groups (such as the local Alliance chapter) to voice issues of concern.

The Chapter's Government Services Committee is preparing a brief for presentation to the Commission on the future of Municipalities. The brief will be based on the results of surveys being conducted on the availability of services in the English language from 22 area municipalities.

In other news, André Bourbeau, MNA for Laprairie, and Minister of Municipal Affairs, will be the guest speaker at the chapter's Annual General Meeting to be held April 18.

...
Montreal Centre Chapter's Government Services Committee is focussing on employment opportunities for English-speaking Quebecers in the provincial civil service. As a first initiative, Committee members have met with representatives from McGill and Concordia Universities to discuss ways of improving student participation in civil service job competitions. Committee members are: Lawrence Jackson (recently nominated to the chapter board), Alicia Hugessen and Ross Clark.

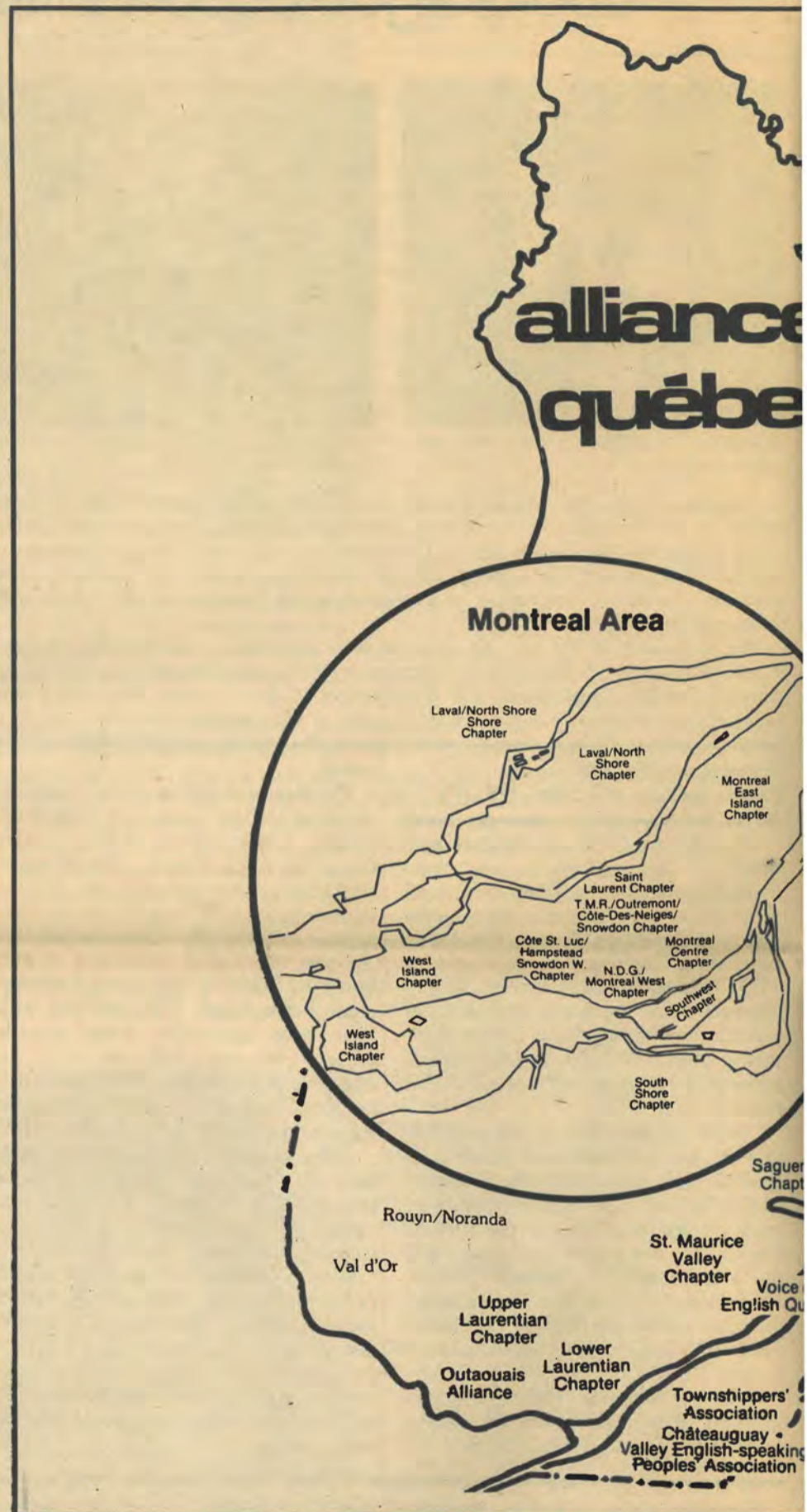
The chapter is compiling a list of community groups interested in obtaining information on adult vocational training offered through the provincial government's Commissions de formation professionnelle.

The chapter will be presenting a brief to the Commission on the Future of Municipalities. The focus of the chapter's submission will be on municipal services to minority groups.

In other news, chapter board member Ross Clark and animator Dominique McCaughey represented the chapter at the January conference of C.R.A.R.R., Centre for Research Action on Race Relations. The conference focussed on article 27, the "multiculturalism" clause, in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

...
C.V.E.S.P.A. (Châteauguay Valley English-speaking Peoples' Association) presented a brief February 18 to the Commission on the Future of Municipalities. The brief emphasized the need for access to services and representation for members of the English-

Chapter and As



speaking community at the municipal and regional levels.

CVESPA's Education Committee has held a series of panel discussions in area schools on French Second-Language training programs. The Committee is also holding public forums in preparation for the April conference of the Estates General on the quality of education in Quebec.

CVESPA continues to assist individuals having difficulty obtaining government documentation and services in English. CVESPA has also been meeting with local MNA's to discuss these concerns.

...
Baie-Comeau Chapter representatives have successfully lobbied officials at the Baie-Comeau municipal library to purchase English-language children's books. Statistics on use indicate that English-speaking area residents are

availing themselves of this new service.

The Youth Committee, chaired by Bonnie Goodfellow, has been busy promoting the Alliance Quebec Local History Contest. Secondary III, IV and V students from Baie-Comeau High School will be presenting a display on the history of the English-speaking community in the area as it relates to the development of local industry.

The Health and Social Services Committee, chaired by Shirley Belanger, is working with the Côte Nord chapter on preparing a brief for presentation to the Rochon Commission.

...
The T.M.R./Outremont/Côte-des-Neiges/Snowdon East Chapter has identified Government Services as one of its priorities this year, and has set up a com-

Association news



mittee, chaired by Maria Wichers. The first task of the Committee is to survey availability of municipal documentation and services in English in the chapter area.

Under the coordination of Edith Bauer, the chapter held a membership recruitment phone blitz on February 17 and 18. The membership drive, concentrated in the Côte-des-Neiges area, brought in 60 new members and over 100 requests for information and application forms.

In other news, Chapter Chairperson Peter Hechtman was present at the founding meeting, February 4, of the Côte-des-Neiges Community Council. The local Alliance chapter was among 60 community groups present at the meeting. The chapter has been invited to become a founding member of the Council when it ratifies its constitution

and by-laws in meetings to be held in March.

Chapter Animator Fred Anderson spoke recently before 60 members of the Goodwill Golden Age Club in the Côte-des-Neiges area. He spoke on the importance of the Alliance's representation to the Rochon Commission in assuring adequate health care and social services to English-speaking seniors and the community in general. He also spoke on the Alliance's campaign to lobby for translation of the Guide des Aînés, a provincial government guide for seniors.

The N.D.G./Montreal West Chapter will shortly publish a statistical profile of the N.D.G./Montreal West community. The project grew out of the chapter's desire to become better informed about its constituency and to

provide other community groups and organizations with an effective tool for planning and organizing. This study has been prepared by the Community Profiles Work Group, chaired by chapter chairperson Brian Webber, and consisting of members: Anne Usher, Myriam Greene, Paul Belshaw, Albert Bridgewater and Clarence Bayne.

The chapter will hold its A.G.M. Tuesday, April 22 at 7:30 pm at Rosedale United Church. In addition to chapter business, the event will feature a photographic exhibition on the architecture of N.D.G. (courtesy Fraser-Hickson Library) as well as a talk by historian Graeme Decarie on the history of the English-speaking community, with particular reference to N.D.G.

In other news, the Chapter has moved to new headquarters at Rosedale United Church, 6870 Terrebonne, in N.D.G.; Tel.: still 481-1774.

Townshippers Association has created an Economic Development Committee, chaired by John Sleeth and staffed by Coordinator Claude Boulanger. The Committee will present a brief at a symposium on promoting business in the Sherbrooke area, April 2 at the University of Sherbrooke. Committee members will also attend a conference on free trade March 20 at Bishop's University. The committee has also approached the Hyundai company to recruit at Bishop's University when it opens its plant in Bromont.

The Small Business Committee, chaired by Vladimir Odstrcil, sponsored a well attended "Entrepreneurship Day" February 11 at Alexander Galt Regional High School. In the planning stages are: a Future Millionaires' Club, a Speaker's Bureau of local business people, and a Symposium on Entrepreneurship.

Townshippers' newly formed Welcome Committee, staffed by Gail Clinck, is producing a brochure and regional directories outlining community resources to new employees transferred into the Townships and to potential investors. As well, welcome committees are being formed in a number of Townships communities.

Townshippers will present a brief to the Rochon Commission when it holds public hearings in Sherbrooke in mid-May. The brief will deal with problems of access to services in English; and will make a number of recommendations for changes in government policies and laws.

On February 20, the Heritage and Culture Committee launched the Second Annual Heritage Contest for local elementary and secondary schools. This year, students will be interviewing seniors on the topic, "Ghost Stories and Legends of the Townships."

In staff news, Townshippers bid a fond farewell in January to Ann Louise Carson, who has been with the Association for close to three years, first as Job Opportunities Coordinator, and then as Community Development Programme Coordinator. Staff and volunteers wish her all the best in her new role as press attaché to Provincial Agriculture Minister Michel Pagé.

St. Laurent Chapter representatives met January 17 with Robert Bourassa in his

St. Laurent riding office. The chapter delegation (consisting of Helen McLellan, chair; Craig Berger, vice-chair; and animator Deegan Stubbs) reviewed the history of the chapter and discussed issues of concern to English-speaking residents of St. Laurent. The chapter was honoured at this opportunity to meet with the Premier, who was most receptive to the chapter delegation.

In other news, Dorothy Seaman, of the Employment and Business Committee, has been busy informing local community groups of the availability of Adult Vocational Courses sponsored by the provincial government's Commissions de formation professionnelle.

The East-Island Chapter has been busy contacting over 100 schools, church groups and community organizations in the East Island informing them of chapter activities and encouraging modes of cooperation.

The chapter has been visiting local municipal libraries, conducting a survey on availability of English-language documentation. Follow-up will be conducted to inform chapter members of available resources and to make inquiries where gaps in service occur.

In other news, members of the Health and Social Services Committee have been surveying availability of English-language documentation in local institutions.

West Island Chapter members have responded well to the chapter's request to write letters to Communications Québec requesting English versions of various government guides. These include guides for seniors, women and youth.

Stuart Steventon, of the Business/Employment & Signs Committee, has been successful in a four-month campaign, lobbying municipal officials for bilingual warning signs at MUC blasting sites for public works projects.

In other news, the Business & Employment Committee is planning a career night for CEGEP and Secondary IV and V students.

The Voice of English Quebec (V.E.Q.) has recently completed editing 23 hours of videotaped interviews of English-speaking senior citizens in the Quebec City area. The tapes have been edited down to three one-half hour segments divided between reminiscences of city and country life from 1900 to 1950.

The project, entitled "Quebec as I Remember It", began as a Canada Summer Works project and ran from June 15 to November 15. Special thanks go to coordinator Marianna O'Gallagher, researcher-interviewer Meb Reisner, producer-technician Gilles Harvey, and film editor Scott Kingsland.

The first official screening of the videos was held Saturday, December 21 at the St. Lawrence Campus of Champlain Regional College. The videos were also recently broadcast on CKMI-TV, Channel 5, the English-language CBC affiliate in Quebec City. The videos are also available on loan by calling V.E.Q. at (418) 683-2366.

V.E.Q. hopes to secure funding to create four or five more half-hour programs from the remaining unedited materials. Topics for possible future reference include: the military presence in Quebec; the Tercentenary of 1908; the Great Depression, and Unions.

In other news, V.E.Q. is pleased to welcome Tom Reisner of Laval Univer-

Côte Nord chapter wins English CEGEP section

February 14 marked a special occasion for the Côte Nord chapter of Alliance Quebec. On that date, the chairperson of the chapter's education committee, Brenda Bond received word that the Provincial Ministry of Education would fund an English section at the CEGEP de Sept-Iles, starting this fall. Until now, English-speaking students have had to leave the region for their CEGEP education.

The Côte-Nord chapter, in particular Brenda Bond and Orion Haynes, have been working toward this goal for over a year.

The chapter invited Gary Briand, Associate Academic Dean, responsible for the English section at Collège de la Gaspésie, to one of their first meetings

with the administration of the Sept-Iles CEGEP. "Gary was able to provide us with a lot of useful information and the experience at the Gaspé CEGEP seemed to be a good model for our region," said Mrs. Bond.

The Director-General of the CEGEP de Sept-Iles, Octave Deraps was enthusiastic about the idea but he wanted to be sure that "this was really what the English-speaking community wanted," she said.

So the chapter conducted a survey of parents of all students in secondary III, IV and V classes in the region. They conducted a similar survey among the students.

Working with Linda Mackay, Principal of Queen Elizabeth High School,

Medric O'Brien of the Littoral School Board and the parents committee of Queen Elizabeth, the chapter followed up the survey with phone calls to interested parents. They concluded that between 40 and 50 students would enroll in the first year.

At the same time, the chapter's education committee also helped translate and distribute publicity material about the Sept-Iles CEGEP to the English-speaking community.

Convinced of the English-speaking community's interest by the survey results, Sept-Iles CEGEP Director-General Octave Deraps applied to the provincial government for funding for an English section.

The provincial education committee

of Alliance Quebec raised the issue with Education Minister Claude Ryan at a meeting December 30.

Now that funding has been approved, the chapter is working with CEGEP representatives to set up the curriculum for the English students. A pure and applied science program and a social sciences program will be offered.

Mr. Deraps estimates the CEGEP will be hiring three full-time teachers for the new section and some part-time teachers. Some courses will be taught by bilingual teachers from the French section.

To enroll or for further information, parents and students should contact Iza Di Pizza at the CEGEP de Sept-Iles, (418) 962-9848.

News, cont'd from page 7

sity to its Board of Directors. Mr. Reisner chairs the Heritage and Culture Committee.

In staff news, V.E.Q. welcomes Helen Meredith who began her duties this past fall as Programme Director of Community Animation and Development. Ms. Meredith is a native of Quebec City and has a degree in recreationology from the University of Ottawa.

...

Representatives of the **Laurentians**, Lower Laurentians and **Laval/North Shore** Chapters, who form the Health and Social Services Task Force for Region 06-B, have been busy over the past few months lobbying the CSSSLL, the local governing body for health and social services.

As a result of their lobbying efforts, the CSSSLL has included a section, stating that citizens are entitled to received services in their language, in the "Guide des droits des bénéficiaires", a guide to health and social services.

In cooperation with the CSSSLL, the Task Force has distributed a questionnaire on availability of English-language services to the 70 health and social service institutions in Region 06-B. The Task Force and the CSSSLL are in the process of setting up a "Comité provisoire" (Advisory Committee) which will include representation from various sectors of the community. The Task Force has also prepared a brief for presentation to the Rochon Commission.

...

The **Côte St. Luc/Hampstead/Outremont/Snowdon West Chapter** has been busy in outreach to community organizations. Chapter Chairperson Rosemarie Mavrokefalos was a guest speaker recently at the The Golden Age Club of the Kellert YM/YWHA, the Young Pioneer Women's Association, and the 'Friendly Club' of the Shaare Zion Synagogue.

In other news, the chapter welcomes new animator Nora Schwarz, a resident of Côte-St. Luc, who comes to us with eight years experience as an organizer with the Golden Age Association. She is also a teacher at Collège Marie Victorin. The chapter is delighted to welcome Nora to its team.

...

The **South-West Chapter** has been busy promoting its local history project in area schools and with senior citizens' groups. The project consists of local

youth tape-recording the recollections of senior citizens in the chapter area. The aim of the project is to paint an historical, anecdotal picture of life in the South-West chapter area. The goal is to publish the tapes in book form.

In other news, the chapter has taken on seven field placement students from Dawson College's Community Recreation and Leadership Training Program. These students will work on promoting the local history project, producing the chapter newsletter, as well as publicity for public meetings and in local newspapers. The students are: Karen Stocker, Anne Smith, Holly Bockus, Anne Marie Burke, Pauline Long, Louise Jauvin and Susan Irving. The chapter welcomes them to the Alliance!

C.A.S.A. (Committee for Anglophone Social Action in the Gaspé) is busy in a number of areas.

C.A.S.A.'s Health and Social Services Committee has applied for federal Canada Works funding to set up two training centres this spring, one in New Carlisle, and another in Gaspé, for mentally handicapped English-speaking area residents. The Committee has also drafted a brief for presentation to the Rochon Commission.

C.A.S.A.'s Heritage Committee is quizzing students on Gaspesian history and geography, landmarks and famous personalities, for the creation of a "Gaspé trivia game". Members of the Heritage Committee include: Cindy Patterson, Arthur Campbell, Gary Silvester, Margaret Day and Eleanor Hall. The Committee is also bringing in three touring theatre groups to area schools in the course of the year. These are: Geordie Productions (children's theatre from Montreal), Theatre New Brunswick (for elementary and secondary students), and Picardi Theatre (a marionette theatre from Montreal).

C.A.S.A.'s Youth Committee now broadcasts two hours of English-language programming weekends on the French-language station, Radio Gaspé. The broadcast's music and news format has been expanded to include interviews with prominent English-speaking Gaspésians.

C.A.S.A.'s Education Committee participated in the recent regional Estates General on the Quality of Education and will send delegates to the provincial conference in Montreal to be held April 2-5. The Committee has recently established a Scholarship Fund for local high school and CEGEP students. As well, the Committee is supporting the efforts of Canadian Parents for French to introduce French Immersion programmes in area schools.

Youth sub-committee seeks input

The Youth Sub-committee of the Community Development Programme Committee is looking at ways to increase youth involvement in the Alliance.

"It is important that we instill in our youth a sense of belonging within the community and within the Alliance," says Youth Sub-Committee chairman Jonathan Herman.

The Youth Sub-committee invites

members of Alliance Quebec chapters and regional associations to offer their suggestions for addressing youth concerns and for encouraging youth participation in the Alliance at the local level.

Please forward your comments to: Youth Sub-committee, Alliance Quebec, 1411 Crescent St., Suite 501, Montreal, Quebec — H3G 2B3.

The great South West debate: Dowie versus Dobie

by Paul Jones

"Quit while you're ahead!" was the message brought by Bob Dobie to the overflow crowd gathered at the Ville Marie Social Service Centre on the evening of December 10th, 1985.

The subject of the great debate, organized by the South West chapter of Alliance Quebec, between Bob Dobie, former member of the Alliance Board of Directors and Vaughan Dowie, Executive Director of Alliance Quebec, was: "Has Alliance Quebec got a future?" But after a short while, Dobie and Dowie seemed more threatened than the Alliance.

The crowd, plentifully supplied by an ever eager Susan Becker, South West chapter chairperson, with signs reading "Hiss", "Boo" and "Applaud", howled appreciatively as Dobie, having run through a list of Alliance's achievements, ended with an exhortation to wrap up the organization now that a friendly government had been installed in power.

Not so, countered Vaughan Dowie, to even more vigorous counter-applause;

the future of the English-speaking community could not be allowed to rest in the hands of politicians, however benevolent they might appear to be. Alliance Quebec, as a non-partisan organization, thundered Dowie, must remain neutral, but above all must remain.

Judiciously using a paddle, a life jacket, and a foghorn to enhance a speaking style unrivalled since the heyday of Demosthenes or Kermit, Dowie described the awful fate awaiting an English-speaking population bereft of the Alliance.

The Moderator, John Darant, was able to maintain order and a vote was eventually held. By a decisive margin, Vaughan Dowie and the Alliance triumphed!

After the loser, Bob Dobie, had been ceremoniously presented with a map of Toronto, Vaughan Dowie, suitably adorned with a laurel wreath worn stylishly askew, led the way to the wine and cheese, thus cheerily ending a successful and entertaining evening.



Alliance Executive Committee member Anne Usher (centre) flanked by Clark Lawton (left) member of Rouyn-Noranda chapter steering committee; and Noranda mayor Eugène Bédard (right).

Provincial scene

continued from page 1

dangerous decline in enrollment in English-language schools," said education committee co-chairman, Frank Tutino.

Other issues that were raised in the meeting with the education minister included school board reform, particularly the situation of the English-speaking Catholic minority within the predominantly French-speaking Catholic system; adult education opportunities for the English-speaking community; French second-language instruction; and the educational problems faced by English-speaking Quebecers in rural areas.

The Government Services Committee of Alliance Quebec met with Minister of Communications, Richard French in late January to discuss the availability of government documentation in English.

At a meeting with the Minister of Cultural Communities and Immigration, Louise Robic, members of the Alliance executive discussed in some detail, ways of stemming the decline of the English-speaking community in Quebec.

The Alliance also met with Justice Minister, Herbert Marx to discuss a broad range of issues, including the need for the Quebec government to proclaim, and to encourage other provinces to proclaim, section 14.1 of the Criminal Code, which provides for the right of the accused to a trial in English or in French, anywhere in Canada.

Members of the Health and Social Services Committee met with Thérèse Lavoie-Roux, Minister of Health and Social Services, in early February, to discuss the kinds of mechanisms necessary to implement legislative guarantees for English-language social services and recognition of the special mandate of English-language social service institutions. "It was reassuring that the Minister is committed to the principle of English-language services. Now we have to push to have these principles translated into reality as soon as possible," said the chairman of the Health and Social Services Committee, Mary Lee Kelly.

"We started the process of explaining the issues of concern to the English-speaking community, during the provincial election campaign, when the leadership of the chapters and regional associations met with local candidates," said Alliance Quebec president, Michael Goldbloom.

"The series of meetings we are now holding with Ministers, and the follow-up meetings with officials, represents the second step. We have moved beyond defining problems and have begun a dialogue with the government on practical, concrete solutions," he said.

Seminar report

continued from page 2

documentation in English, advertising of civil service jobs in English, and application of language testing.

This is the first time that members of the newly formed Ad-Hoc Committee met with community representatives. In the near future, Committee members will be reviewing the results of question-

naires distributed to members of the community on the issue of federal civil service employment.

Federal Issues

Going beyond the provincial to the federal perspective, participants in the federal issues workshop discussed proposals for ensuring the upcoming constitutional negotiations are an occasion for strengthening the rights of English and French-speaking minority communities across the country.

Other issues discussed were: improved federal co-ordination of language policies and programmes, second-language training and federal public service employment.

These discussions will provide a basis for follow-up meetings between Alliance representatives and their local M.P.s

Community Profile

Delegates also had occasion to share experiences and strategies on successful projects and campaigns at the local community level. At round-table luncheon discussions, special presentations focussed on such diverse topics as: setting up a local history project, organizing a youth career festival, lobbying for government documentation in English and providing local job opportunities for youth.

Also featured were workshops on constitutional and membership policy review, future organizational directions for the Alliance and the enhancement of "quality of life" for our communities at the local level.

Also, in the "Strengthening our Community" workshop, delegates discussed techniques for networking and building contacts within local communities.

Conclusion

The seminar served as a forum for reviewing community concerns and for refining strategies and approaches.

The spirit of the event is summed up well in the words of Community Development Programme Committee Co-Chair Joe Borgo: "One of the major priorities of the Alliance is to work with community groups and organizations to ensure that we are meeting the needs of English-speaking Quebecers."

Community representatives will meet again when 500 delegates from Alliance Quebec chapters and associations attend Convention '86, May 30-June 1 (See story page 3).

Goodfellow

continued from page 5

finds it difficult to gain access to such jobs," she says.

According to Ms. Goodfellow, current initiatives should be focussed on youth and their future career aspirations in the province. "If we are to encourage our young people to stay in Quebec and within their communities, we need to ensure that they have access to the widest possible spectrum of job opportunities," she says.

One of the problems pointed out by Ms. Goodfellow is that English-speaking youth are under the misconception that federal civil service jobs are not open to them. She highlighted the fact that our young people should be encouraged to

seek out jobs, not only in the private sector, but also in the public sector. "The Alliance and the government have a responsibility to educate our youth towards thinking in terms of job opportunities in the federal civil service, especially since the federal government is an employer which is present throughout the province", says Ms. Goodfellow.

Ms. Goodfellow also stated that if the federal government wishes to make services accessible to our community, it has a duty to dispel any lingering myths that the federal civil service is the domain of French-speaking Quebecers. "The government has made attempts to reach out to the English-speaking community, as Mme. Boivin points out, and we are encouraged by recent increases in the participation rate of members of our community. However, much remains to be done if English-speaking Quebecers are to be more fully represented at all levels of employment and in all regions of the province," she added.

Members of the English-speaking community should increasingly demonstrate their interest in civil service employment by applying into the widest possible range of positions, as they become available, recommends Ms. Goodfellow. "More and more English-speaking Quebecers should be applying for jobs as customs officers, postal workers, office clerks, and secretaries, in addition to jobs in the professional and technical fields."

"The Ad-Hoc Committee has an important role to play in bringing concerned parties together in achieving these goals. It will be a catalyst to sensitize government to the needs of the English-speaking community, and to heighten awareness, within the English-speaking community, of job opportunities in the federal government," she said.

Ms. Goodfellow stressed that English-speaking Quebecers must be persistent in demonstrating their interest in applying into federal civil service jobs in Quebec.

Alliance Quebec has a special role, according to Ms. Goodfellow, to represent the needs and concerns of English-speaking Quebecers to the government representatives of the Ad-Hoc Committee. "We can use this forum to work together with the PSC, C.E.I.C. and O.C.O.L. to reverse the trend of our under-representation."

She concludes that the process is only just beginning, but the creation of this new endeavour is a positive first step in the direction of change.

National scene

continued from page 3

committee would be made up of representatives from both the French-speaking and English-speaking minority communities and from the majority linguistic communities. "An advisory committee of this kind would serve as a catalyst to action; it would be public, visible and designed to counter the inevitable inertia of the government apparatus," said Mr. Goldbloom.

The Alliance also made recommendations on ways of enhancing federal-provincial co-operation on language issues, particularly to improve the availability of provincial government services in English and French across the country.

Constitutional negotiations

Both in a major Alliance Quebec brief

to the Standing Joint Committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons on Official Languages Policy and Programs in early February, and in the reform proposals to the Secretary of State, the Alliance has stressed the "unique opportunity" provided by the upcoming constitutional negotiations between Quebec and the rest of Canada.

"The constitutional negotiations are of crucial importance to the English-speaking community of Quebec and to the French-speaking communities in other provinces. Certain fundamental guarantees are already defined in the Constitution, but this new round of negotiations must be used to enhance minority linguistic rights," said Mr. Goldbloom.

Among the recommendations made by the Alliance for constitutional reform were:

- that the Preamble to the Constitution affirm the linguistic duality of the Canadian federation and recognize, within that context, the distinctive character of Quebec society ("Quebec is a focal point of Canada's linguistic duality, the home of the largest number of French-speaking Canadians and of Canada's only English-speaking minority. It is in this light that Quebec's distinctiveness must be understood," said Mr. Goldbloom.);

- amend section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to proscribe discrimination based on language. (At present, the only legislation in Canada which explicitly does so is the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms);

- modify section 23 of the Canadian Charter to affirm explicitly the principle of control and management by linguistic minorities of their own educational institutions;

- that a single, clear and comprehensive provision in the Constitution guarantee the right of access to justice in criminal matters in both official languages across the country;

- amend section 16(1) of the Canadian Charter so as to make linguistic duality a basic principle for the interpretation of the Constitution;

- ensure the right to use French and English in the legislative assemblies of all provinces and for the publishing of provincial legislation in both languages.

"These constitutional negotiations will be a unique opportunity for Quebec to reassume its leadership role as an advocate for linguistic equality and justice throughout the country," said the president of Alliance Quebec.

Mr. Goldbloom added that constitutional negotiations will be a major preoccupation for the Alliance over the next year.

The Alliance executive will be meeting with Quebec Intergovernmental Affairs Minister, Gilles Remillard in mid-March to discuss a framework for constitutional negotiations. Representatives of the regional associations and the Alliance have also met with the Minister of Mines, Robert Layton on this and other issues.

Convention 1986 — May 30 to June 1

continued from page 3

some smaller communities, an issue might be providing an English-language library service or expanding English-language cultural activities. In Montreal, an issue might be strengthening our volunteer sector, or finding ways of supporting a wide variety of English-language theatre," said the Convention chairman.

"Some of the issues that we will identify, are ones that we can solve together as a community and we have a long tradition of being able to do that. Other issues will require support from government," he added.

Five programme committees have indicated an interest in holding workshops: education, health and social services, government services, national issues, business and employment. "This could change depending on what we hear from the chapters, regional associations and organizational member

groups, but what will not change is the orientation in all the workshops toward strengthening our communities, and our ability to make concrete, practical proposals to government to meet the needs of English-speaking Quebecers," said Mr. Mitchell.

The fifth anniversary will also be an occasion to review the Alliance Constitution. The board of directors set up a constitutional review committee last fall, chaired by off-island vice-president, Royal Orr. The committee has received submissions from chapters, regional associations and individual members. A report was submitted to the community development seminar in March for consideration. The review will be part of the annual business meeting at Convention.

The Convention committee also wants to keep the agenda loose enough so that delegates will not feel rushed off their feet. "That is a major complaint about past Alliance conventions," said Mr. Mitchell.

"Convention is a unique opportunity

for our members to meet and get to know English-speaking Quebecers from other parts of the province. A lot gets accomplished in those informal discussions and we must make sure there is time for that to happen," he said.

Delegates are elected at the chapter annual meetings. The number of delegates sent by chapters and regional associations is based on membership strength. The minimum number of delegates for any local group last year was 12. In addition to regional representation, organizational member groups are entitled to send delegates. This year for the first time delegates from new chapters in Val d'Or and Rouyn/Noranda will be attending.

The pleasant semi-rural setting and the facilities of John Abbott are ideally suited to large events such as the Alliance Quebec Convention. Among the special features of the college are its Agora, a central informal meeting place and the adjoining terrace where the Friday night barbecue will be held.

Members of the Convention committee are: Sylvia Chesterman, Helen McLellan, Anne MacLaren, Catherine Duff-Caron, Miriam Green, Michael Sheldon and Maurice King.

For further details about Convention, contact your local chapter or regional association or call Deegan Stubbs at the Alliance Quebec Offices, (514) 849-9181.

Local History Contest

As part of Convention '86 activities, Alliance Quebec is sponsoring a history contest for elementary and secondary school classes.

The class projects will be montages of photographs, maps or sketches describing aspects of the history of our community.

All entries will be on display at Convention as a visual celebration of our history and a tribute to the creativity of our young people.

The entries received so far show a wide diversity of themes, ranging from a group of war veterans, to a history of a school.

The projects will be judged at Convention, and awards to winning classes will be presented at Sunday lunch on June 1. Concordia history professor and CBC commentator, Graeme Decarie who chairs the local history committee, says he wants the display to be a reminder to the Convention delegates and to visitors "...of the geographic and ethnic diversity of our community. I hope all our members will make sure there is participation from the schools in their area."

The deadline for contest entries is April 15 and the projects must be completed for the end of May. To enter, or for further information contact your local Alliance organization, or phone Frank Vetere at the provincial office (514) 849-9181.

CONVENTION 1986

DEADLINES

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| April 8 | Call for nominations to the Provincial Board and Executive of Alliance Quebec |
| April 25 | Deadline for receipt of Constitution and by-law amendments at the Alliance Quebec offices, 1411 Crescent, Ste. 501 - 5 PM. |
| May 9 | Deadline for receipt of Provincial Board and Executive nominations at Alliance Quebec Provincial Office - 5 PM.
Deadline for receipt of policy amendments at Alliance Quebec Provincial Office - 5 PM.
Deadline for registration and accommodation requests - 5 PM. |
| May 16 | Deadline for notifying all member groups of candidates for Provincial Board and Executive. |
| May 30-June 1 | Convention '86 at John Abbott College |



Claude Ryan addresses delegates at the 1984 Convention of Alliance Quebec.

Book review: New history does not tell full story

By Kevin O'Donnell

Every now and then, archeologists discover an ancient city buried under the dust of centuries, and, by laboriously sifting through the rubble, they are able to reconstruct the story of a long-forgotten people. If Ronald Rudin's book is any indication, piecing together the history of Quebec's English-speaking population, a group that seems to be forgotten though they are not yet gone, is an even more challenging task.

Of course, English-speaking Quebecers have not been *totally* left out of the history of this province or of the country as a whole. But usually, their achievements and even their existence have been overlooked by historians who, instead, focus narrowly on the "Anglo-Saxon merchant elite", a scurrious bunch by definition, it seems.

Rudin, an associate professor of history at Concordia University, offers a disturbing yet plausible explanation for this: "for English and French writers

alike, the interest in Quebec has come from the fact that it had a French majority and, beginning from this premise, the English could hardly emerge in any other context than that of the conspicuously wealthy businessmen who kept the French down."

The Forgotten Quebecers provides readers with other contexts in which to view this province's English-speaking population; yet, ironically, the only group to emerge from its pages with any vividness is — conspicuously wealthy businessmen who keep the French down. I think the problem with *The Other Quebecers* is that (to borrow an image from Lord Durham) it contains *two* books warring in the bosom of a single tome.

One book is a demographic profile of the diverse English-speaking community (or communities) which have lived here since the Conquest. This book bristles with charts, diagrams and tables of statistics. Whole chapters of *The*

Forgotten Quebecers are devoted to examining population trends, ethnic and religious cleavages, and so on. The figures tell an eloquent story. From the Conquest until about the time of Confederation, Quebec's English-speakers grew both in numbers and as a percentage of the total population, until they made up a quarter of the population. Two-thirds of them lived not in the cities, as the stereotype would have it, but in the rural areas; the Eastern Townships, in fact, contained the largest agglomeration of "English". The English "of course" were a varied lot, coming from the United States and the different countries of the British Isles, and divided by religion and class interests. An interesting statistical table on page 71 reveals that, in 1871, English-speakers of all backgrounds, as well as French-Canadians, occupied the various occupational categories, from farmers and merchants, to laborers and servants, in roughly similar proportions.

The statistical and ethnic picture began to change around the Confederation era. From a high of 21%, the number of English-speakers dropped, until by 1980 only 11% of the population claimed English as their mother tongue. The late 19th century witnessed a sharp decline in the number of those who lived in Quebec's rural areas. British immigrants continued to enter Quebec, bringing their advanced skills to Montreal's expanding industrial sector — but these newcomers could not offset the even greater numbers of those of British Isles/American origin who left. However, beginning in the late 19th century, Jews and Italians and other ethnic groups assimilated into the English-speaking milieu. They applied something of a brake to the rate of decline of English-speakers. Nevertheless, during the second half of the 1970's, Rudin claims that "nothing could prevent the absolute decline in the

continued on page 11

Alliance helps launch new English Quebec history

Printed Sources for the Study of English-speaking Quebec, by Brendan O'Donnell, was launched at a reception Thursday, January 23, at Paragraph Books in Montreal. The launching was co-hosted by the President of Alliance Quebec, Michael Goldbloom, and the Director of the Eastern Townships Research Centre, Dr. Robin Burns.

Some 80 people attended the launching, including the Minister of Cultural Communities and Immigration, Louise Robic.

Following is a review of *Printed Sources* by historian Graeme Decarie. The review was first broadcast on the CBC radio programmes *Homerun* and *Breakaway*.)

By Graeme Decarie

The one nice thing about being a small, English-speaking kid growing up in a district of large, French-speaking kids was that I learned to enjoy reading. If it made me pale, it was still safer than going outside. When I had used up the supply of comic books and second-hand copies of Uncle Wiggly, there was always the blurbs on cereal boxes or the supply of old newspapers kept in the bathroom. I thought of that while looking through a new book from the Eastern Townships Research Centre at Bishop's University, *Printed Sources for the Study of English Quebec*, compiled by Brendan O'Donnell.

Well, no, it doesn't sound interesting. But here's where you can get on the track of Thomas Cream, an Eastern Townships boy who made good — sort of. Cream studied medicine at McGill, went to practice in England, and maybe, just maybe, caused quite a sensation there around the turn of the century. You see, there is a suspicion that Dr. Thomas Cream was also the man known as Jack the Ripper.

In all, this biography lists 2,698 books, articles and newspapers dealing with the history of English-speaking Quebec. There's the great pew case of the 1870's in which Mr. James Johnson sued the minister of St. Andrew's church over his pew rent. It went all the way to the Supreme Court before Mr. Johnson won.

There are some entries I hope I never have to read, not even if I run out of cereal boxes. Reverend William Cochrane, for example, wrote "The Canadian Album, Men of Canada: or Success by Example, in Religion, Patriotism, Business, Law, Medicine, Education and Agriculture, Containing

Portraits of Canada's Chief Businessmen, Statesmen, Farmers, Members of Learned Professions and other. Also an Authentic Sketch of their Lives." And that's just the title. Can you imagine sitting through one of Reverend Cochrane's sermons?"

There is a reminder that English Protestants and Catholics have, occasionally, felt a certain dislike for each other. The bibliography lists, among Protestant newspapers, "The Witness". When Catholics started their own newspaper, they called it, "The True Witness."

There is a large section on Montreal, as might be expected — but the many entries dealing with the Eastern Townships are reminders that this was one of the largest concentrations of English settlement in Quebec. Every part of the province is represented, including Hull, which was originally English, and Quebec City, which was 40% English-speaking at the time of Confederation.

Those who say that the English-speaking people of Quebec have no distinctive culture should pay close attention to the many entries dealing with voluntary associations such as choirs, dramatic groups, charitable organizations, and educational groups. If there is one old and distinctive cultural characteristic of the English-speaking people of Montreal and Mainland, of every group which has used the English language — English, Irish, Scots, Welsh, Jews, Germans, Italians, Greeks and Blacks — it is their tradition of looking after their needs through voluntary groups. French-speaking Quebecers, accustomed to accepting church leadership in such matters, felt only a limited change as the government assumed such church responsibilities in the 1960's. But to the English, govern-



Author Brendan O'Donnell looks on as Alliance president Michael Goldbloom quotes his favourite entry in *Printed Sources for the Study of English-speaking Quebec*. It was: "Fighting the flames! Or twenty-two years in the Montreal Fire Brigade: A record of prominent fires, thrilling and hair-breadth escapes", by William Orme McRobie (1881).

ment intervention was an alarming break with tradition. The Quiet Revolution, as it was called, substituted state leadership for church leadership in French culture, but, for the English, it forced an outside leadership on people who have been accustomed to providing their own.

English-speaking people settled in Quebec as long ago as the days of New France, often as soldiers in the French army. The Delahaye family, for example, was originally Leahy — from Ireland, of course. But those who continued to use the English language date from the Conquest of 1759 and, inevitably, their coming meant friction. Some of it has a familiar ring — as in the title of this pamphlet of 1859 — "Thoughts on the Position of the British Inhabitants Composing the Minority in Lower Canada brought about by the

Maladministration of Justice and the Tyranny of the Majority in that Province and the Remedy Thereof."

There is also some of the academic silliness that has been so common in recent years. It is well represented by an article which argues that, in 19th century Quebec, organized sports were a plot to anglicize and protestantize the French.

If you really want to know what was going on in the 19th century (and other centuries), look for an entry by Jean and Marcel Hamelin. It's all about corruption in Quebec politics since 1791. That, surely, must count as a bi-cultural entry.

At \$26, *Printed Sources for the Study of English Quebec* may seem on the pricey side, but it will be worth every penny for historical societies, schools, and people who just like to read about how we got here.

(*Printed Sources for the Study of English-speaking Quebec* is available at Paragraph, Double Hook and Argo bookstores in Montreal, at Books Canada in Ottawa, or by writing to: Eastern Townships Research Centre, Bishops University, Box 38, Lennoxville, Quebec — J1M 1Z7).

BOOK REVIEW:

English-speaking population."

As well as providing an important if somewhat depressing body count, Rudin offers a number of interesting insights into the realms of education, urban development and the political system. The book omits important areas such as the cultural life of English-speaking Quebecers, and their contributions to the North American technological revolution. But early in the book the author disclaims any intention of writing the definitive history.

He can be taken to task for the second book lurking within the covers of *The Forgotten Quebecers*, because ultimately it defeats the purpose of the whole work, to provide a broader caricature-free picture of English-speaking Quebecers.

Rudin has virtually nothing good to say about English-speaking Quebecers engaged in business. He smears the merchants who followed the British army into Quebec by calling them "camp followers", links as the years go by with the business elite (who carry out all kinds of nefarious schemes) and saddles the rest of the population up to the present day to this pariah group in a form

of guilt-by-association.

Whatever grains of truth there may be in any of this, Rudin's 1960's radical chic style analysis never goes beyond the kind of Good Guys/Bad Guys polemics made popular by the likes of Léandre Bergeron, author of the *Petit manuel d'histoire du Québec*.

I also think many will take issue with Rudin's downplay of the political pressures on English-speaking Quebec in recent years, especially since the mid-1970's. Surely, this is one of the most traumatic eras in our history. Yet the professor seems to go out of his way to downplay the effects of rising nationalism and language laws on many individuals' perceptions that they were no longer welcome here. In this book, columns of figures, not flesh and blood people inhabit this province, and these numbers simply "change columns when the economic environment dictates."

Unfortunately, columns of statistics are not enough to rescue the subject of this book, the forgotten Quebecers, from oblivion. Rudin fails to explain why they have been forgotten, or why anyone except for us should care.

Ronald Rudin

The Forgotten Quebecers

A History of English-Speaking Quebec
1759-1980

ALLIANCE QUEBEC: WHO NEEDS IT?

We do.

As English-speaking Quebecers we stood together through a difficult period in our history. Now we must ensure that our rights are secured so that they will never be threatened again.

The future is in our hands. No one will do it for us, but together:

We can obtain a system of health care and social services that guarantees the delivery of English-language services throughout the province.

We can ensure that the right to post bilingual signs is restored.

We can build a constitutionally protected English-language school system controlled and managed by all members of our community.

We can achieve a just solution for the so-called "illegals" in our schools.

We can ensure that all English-speaking people will be able to send their children to our schools.

We can obtain equitable representation within the federal, provincial and municipal public services in Quebec.

We can ensure that information and services are available in English from all levels of government.

We can ensure that the rights of English-speaking Quebecers are respected in the upcoming constitutional negotiations between Quebec and the rest of Canada.

We have a solid record of achievement on which to build. Our firm and fair representation of the concerns of our community has helped to foster a new sense of trust and respect between English and French-speaking Quebecers.

We helped win the right for parents educated in English anywhere in Canada to send their children to English schools. We have restored the right of merchants to distribute bilingual catalogues. We won the first round in a court battle to re-establish the right of merchants to post bilingual signs. We obtained amendments to Bill 101 which formally recognized the English-speaking community and its institutions. We won amendments abolishing French-language testing for Quebec high school graduates. And perhaps most importantly, we helped create a new climate of confidence in our future as Quebecers.

Now we must meet the challenges ahead. The solutions are within our grasp. Alliance Quebec has the experience and the sense of purpose to get the job done. We need your support to continue.

IF WE DON'T STAND UP FOR OURSELVES, WHO WILL?

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ALLIANCE QUEBEC AND RECEIVE THE QUEBECER. I AM ALREADY A MEMBER OF ALLIANCE QUEBEC. PLEASE SEND THE QUEBECER TO MY NEW ADDRESS.

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