

Regional Association of **West Quebecers**

Supporting the English-speaking Community in West Quebec



March 2017

Spring Newsletter



RAWQ & WQSB welcomed the regional representatives of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada to Outaouais



On Wednesday, March 1st, RAWQ, in co-operation with the Western Québec School Board, co-hosted a meeting with the five Regional Representatives of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada in the WQSB Board Room in Aylmer... *Continues on page 8*

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We are located in The Galleries Aylmer

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Board of Directors

Arthur Ayres *President* Patricia Cassidy *Vice-President*
Alain Guy *Secretary-Treasurer* Jim Shea *Immediate Past President (Ex officio)*

Directors:

Bryan Daly — Wayne Daly — Citlalli Elizalde
Julie Murray — Frank Therien — Judith O'Rourke

What We Do

The Regional Association of West Quebecers plays a significant role in initiatives that support the minority English-speaking community in the Outaouais by means of advocacy, networking, information, programs for youth & seniors and more.

Membership has its Privileges

Through emails you can receive the quarterly Newsletter and monthly eBulletins .

With a membership to West Quebecers, you can subscribe to the West Quebec Post (WQP) for an additional \$20 per year.

Newsletter, March Edition 2017

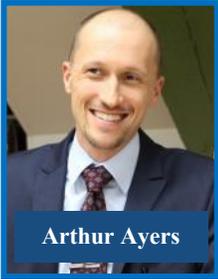
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President's Message



Arthur Ayers

As the fiscal year draws to a close and we prepare to announce the appointment of a new Executive Director, the Association continues to be active in the English-speaking community.

The Association held its annual "Quiz Night" and silent auction at the Knights of Columbus Hall, on Friday, March 10th. We are very grateful to all those who attended and donated items for auction, as well as our dedicated volunteers.

The Association was participating in the Metropolis Conference Pre-Forum on community engagement and the integration of English-speaking newcomers to Quebec on March 15th, in Montreal. The event is sponsored by our parent organization, the Quebec Community Groups Network and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

On Saturday, March 4th, the Association held its first of two community consultations in the northern reaches of the English-speaking

community, in Shawville, regrouping the communities and organizations of Shawville and Campbell's Bay.

We will also hosted a networking roundtable of English-speaking organizations in (Hull) Gatineau on Saturday March 25th at Heritage College.

We want to know what matters to you and invite you to come to our consultations to voice your concerns and opinions to us!

Patrimoine Canada(ian) Heritage recently renewed its annual grant to the Association, and we are pleased to announce that this will allow us to continue to serve the English-speaking community and provide the information, support and activities that have forged our place therein.

Many thanks to all for your devotion and efforts.

Arthur Ayers,
President



Next visit to the Outaouais:



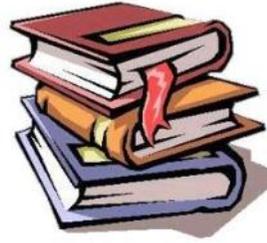
Wednesday, April 19th 2017

Call: (819) 682 9602



GETTING GOING AND MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM IS OFTEN THE HARDEST PART OF ANY BUSINESS. LET US ASSIST YOU!

Books and Bake Sale



BOOKS AND BAKE SALE

**Saturday, May 13th
9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
at the Galeries Aylmer kiosk**

Read any good books lately? Please consider passing them on to West Quebecers for our annual Books and Bake Sale. Just bring them to the RAWQ office in the Galeries Aylmer. **We also need baking!!** Bring it on Friday, May 12th or before 9:30 on Saturday May 13th, 2017.

We are also looking for volunteers for that day!! Let us know if you can come and help us selling baked goods and/or help us to sell books!

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811

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Executive Director's Message

Farewell, My Friends!



I have immensely enjoyed the last twenty months of employment as the Executive Director of the Regional Association of West Quebecers.

It has been a pleasure working with the President, the Executive Committee Members, the Board of Directors, and the many volunteers.

Ricardo, you have been the consummate professional, always supportive, ready to go that last mile to make things right. You have been the perfect accountant for our association. Thank you again!

Aldo, my comrade-in-arms, always there, King Tech. We have learned so many things together over the last year and a half. We have seen

RAWQ grow to be so much more. Keep growing!

Aldo and Ricardo, I look forward to continue to work with you both as a volunteer in the future.

I pledge my support to the new Executive Director and look forward to working with you during the transition period.

And to you, all my friends, we shall meet again on Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 at 6:30 p. m. at the Western Québec Career Centre for the RAWQ Annual General Meeting where we will continue to plan our future together in the West Québec region.

Bye for now!

Brian Rock,
Executive Director

Annual General Meeting

2017



Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Western Quebec Career Centre

100 Frank Robinson Street

Gatineau QC (Aylmer) J9H 4A6

Youth Conference

RAWQ's Regional Youth Conference was held on Saturday, February 25th, 2017 at 10:00 a. m. at Cégep Heritage College. This Regional Youth Conference was meant for students in Secondary III, IV, V, and Cégep I, II, III. It was co-sponsored by the Department of Canadian Heritage of the Government of Canada, Mr. André Fortin, Member of the National Assembly of Québec for the riding of Pontiac, Ms. Maryse Gaudreault, Member of the National Assembly of Québec for the riding of Hull, Mr. Mike Duggan Councillor for the City of Gatineau, and the Youth Committee of the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ).

At the conference, we had the participation of the following panelists:

- André Fortin, MNA for Pontiac
- Caryl Green, Mayor of Chelsea
- Sylvie Goneau, Councillor of Gatineau for the District de Bellevue
- Audrey Bureau, Senior Advisor for MP William Amos
- Jim Shea, Chairman of the West Quebec School Board and QCGN President



The invited panelists spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the office they hold, the youth issues they deal with, and why they feel that it is so important for youth to become more involved in the political process, and to volunteer in their communities. This was followed by a question and answer forum.

After the Q & A forum, RAWQ gave away eleven Outstanding Youth Leadership Award Certificates and a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) cash bursary to each of the Award recipients to encourage them to stay active and participate in their communities.

Right after the Awards, the students participated in a Boot Camp on *How to participate in Meetings*, where they learned about recording Minutes, following and drafting an Agenda and Robert's Rules of Order.

All guests were invited to a complimentary lunch, then the students participated in the afternoon workshop of Young Quebecers Leading the Way, sponsored by the Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN).



Quiz Night

Many thanks to the volunteers, donors and participants who contributed to the success of the 6th Annual West Quebecers Quiz Night and Silent Auction. All of the Auction items were sold, there were lots of happy prize-winners and Quiz participants enjoyed the challenging questions.



A Moment with Councillor Sylvie Goneau



The Making of a Local Politician!

People often ask me who I am and where I come from. “What is your background and why did you become a politician?” Those are fair questions on the eve of another municipal election.

I am homegrown and my family has no political ties or expectations. My goals are not politically driven for a seat at the provincial or federal level. I am not retired, looking to keep myself busy with local politics or returning to my city after a long period away. No, my focus has been on our city since I can remember! I raised two children in Gatineau, and my husband of 25 years and I share the family house with my elderly father. I was born here and I’ve spent my whole life living and volunteering in our city. I am very proud to be a francophone, bilingual Canadian who lives in a Quebec city called Gatineau.

Just like you, I dream of a better city where we can all afford our taxes, where we all have access to clean water, and our politicians are allowed to do their jobs and debate on your behalf. We need to focus on building a strong local economy. We also need to spend our taxes wisely so you can keep more money in your pockets to do the things you want to do. I feel the city can improve the basic services you expect like snow removal, so you can get to work on time and also fix our roads so your car and our buses don’t break down. Security has always been of major importance for me even before becoming the volunteer Regional Director, first aid respondent and instructor for Saint-John’s Ambulance many years ago. Our children need to be safe when they are walking to school and to the park, like we did when we were kids. With our aging population, we also have to consider our elders’ wellbeing and safety. Families need good libraries and well maintained municipal infrastructure for their sporting and cultural needs. This has been my vision for the last eight years as a municipal councillor, and it is how I intend to keep making my decisions. What are the advantages of spending your whole life here? I know the issues and have grown up knowing the rivalry between sectors. This means we need to be particularly attentive to each other’s needs if we are going to build a united city. We have to ensure that every sector receives its fair share of services and infrastructures. For example, if we are to have a vibrant downtown, Hull will need, to name a few things, access to food, sporting and cultural facilities and municipal projects we can all be proud of.

Aylmer on the other hand, is a distinctive heritage community that should showcase its uniqueness including water sports. We have to pay special attention as to not let development drown out the existing architectural beauty of this sector and address the transportation issues. Those are some examples, but every place in Gatineau, whether it is Buckingham, Masson, or Gatineau sector, they are all as important and different.

But one thing is true, no matter where you live in our great city, I see a future where we can adopt healthier lifestyles, spend more time with our families and socialize with our friends. We achieve this by better building our communities, with access to stores, schools, parks and restaurants. Did you know that in most of the countries where the bicycle is used as a primary mode of transportation, people have access to all these facilities within two kilometers of their homes? We need to start building our cities around what we need.

We can look forward to a brighter future together. I would love to meet with you and talk about your needs, your dreams and your future life in our city. Send me an e-mail at mmesylviegoneau@gatineau.ca You can even call me at 819-360-6659 (I am in town on weekends).

Let’s build a city we can all afford and be proud to call home.

RAWQ & WQSB welcomed the regional representatives of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada to Outaouais

by Brian Rock



the Québec Region, Madame Sylvie Paradis of Toronto for the Ontario Region, Madame Mylène Thériault of Moncton for the Atlantic Region, Mr. Guy Jourdain of Winnipeg for the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Region, and Madame Chantal Alarie of Edmonton for the Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut Region. Special thanks go out

to Mr. Charles Taker, the Liaison Officer of the Québec Region Office in Montréal for his exceptional organizing skills for making this meeting such a success.

On Wednesday, March 1st, RAWQ in co-operation with the Western Québec School Board, co-hosted a meeting with the five Regional Representatives of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada in the WQSB Board Room in Aylmer. Moderating the gathering was Jim Shea, the Chairman of the Western Québec School Board and Brian Rock, the RAWQ Executive Director. Jim Shea is also the President of the Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and Immediate Past President of RAWQ. Brian Rock also serves as the President of the Québec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) and writes a monthly political commentary column entitled **Between a Rock and a Hard Place** for *the West Québec Post*, *the Aylmer Bulletin*, and *the Pontiac Journal*. Greetings were brought by Arthur Ayers, the President of RAWQ.

Participating in this meeting were representatives from the Québec Community Newspapers' Association (QCNA), the Western Québec Literacy Council (WQLC), the Québec Farmers' Association (QFA), the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), the Québec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA), the Community Consultation Café of Aylmer, the Aylmer Bulletin, the Anglican Church, the Western Québec School Board (WQSB), the Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN), the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ), as well as community activists.

The special invited guests were the Commissioner's Representatives for the five Regional Offices accompanied by staff members. RAWQ & WQSB were so pleased to welcome for this important encounter: Mr. David O. Johnston of Montréal for

Many regional concerns were raised – both urban and rural – concerning official languages issues. A presentation on the role of the media was delivered. Interesting debates continued through the adjournment of the meeting. Thank you to all participants.



RAWQ Networking Roundtable Meeting of English Organizations

by Brian Rock

On Saturday, March 25th, the RAWQ Networking Roundtable Meeting of English Organizations was held in Room C-107 at the Cégep Heritage College on the Hull campus. Moderating the gathering for the Regional Association of West Quebecers was Brian Rock, who is the Executive Director of RAWQ, but also serves as the President of the Québec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) and writes a monthly political commentary column entitled **Between a Rock and a Hard Place** for *the West Québec Post*, *the Aylmer Bulletin*, and *the Pontiac Journal*.

Participants of the Networking Roundtable included representatives of the Western Québec School Board (WQSB), Connexions Resource Centre, the Québec Farmers' Association (QFA), the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), the Fairbairn House Heritage Centre, the Aylmer Theatre Company (ACT), the Community Consultation Café of Aylmer, the Anglican Church, the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ), and community activists from Shawville. Many community concerns were raised, and both rural and urban issues discussed. Interesting debates continued through the complimentary pizza lunch sponsored by Pizzeria Supreme (MacEwen Aylmer). Plans to meet with the regional caucus of Members of the National Assembly of Québec was the final topic of interest to all.

RAWQ Community Consultation Meeting in Shawville

by Brian Rock

On Saturday, March 4th, the Pontiac Region Community Consultation Meeting was held at Atkinson's on Highway 148 in Shawville. At the head table representing the Regional Association of West Quebecers were Jim Shea, Pat Cassidy, Brian Rock, and Aldo Jauregui. Jim Shea, the Immediate Past President of RAWQ, did an excellent job of chairing this opportunity for consulting the Pontiac region communities. Jim is also the President of the Québec Community Groups Network (QCGN) of which RAWQ is a member group, and Chairman of the Western Québec School Board. Brian Rock, is the Executive Director of RAWQ, Pat Cassidy is the Vice-President of RAWQ and the "guru" of events planning for the association. Aldo Jauregui is the Administration and Communications Officer of RAWQ.

Participants in the audience included representatives of the Québec Farmers' Association (QFA), the West Québec Literacy Council (WQLC), the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC), the *ad hoc* Fifties Plus Committee of West Québec, *the Pontiac Journal*, *the Equity*, the Mayor of the Town of Shawville, and several community activists. Many community concerns were raised and rural issues discussed. Interesting debates continued through the complimentary lunch served. Several individuals mentioned interest in joining the RAWQ Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 at 6:30 p. m. at the Western Québec Career Centre in Aylmer.



Prepare Your Nominations for RAWQ's 2017 Awards

West Quebecers holds its annual Community Awards Ceremony each Fall, to celebrate people who invest in their communities and inspire others through their volunteer work. By contributing to the improvement of communities, these volunteers prove that they are an invaluable resource in supporting the vibrancy and strength of our region.

Nominated individuals (or groups of individuals) will be selected for awards. These nominations come from community organizations, association members and the community at large. At this event, we will be honouring some of our community's most noteworthy volunteers.

Graham Greig Award for Outstanding Community Service

This award is for a particular service or variety of services within the community that has broad outreach, depth and significantly measurable results.

J.D. Coulson Award for Outstanding Achievement

This award is for exceptional achievement by a person living in this community (the Outaouais) that surpasses expectations. The achievement has a broad outreach, depth and significantly measurable results but it does not necessarily need to have taken place in the Outaouais.

Founders Award for Outstanding Leadership

This award is for exceptional leadership that has far-reaching and long-term impact on the community and has bequeathed to it a potential set of values or has established a protocol for future creative work.

Community Services in:

Health and Social Services

The winner of this award will have participated in, contributed to or provided assistance to individuals or not-for-profit organizations in a health and social services capacity. The beneficiaries of such activity may include church groups, community organizations, individuals, schools, shut-ins, volunteer organizations, etc.

Recreation and Liveable Communities

This award is for engagement in creating opportunities for recreation and thereby enhancing the liveable community.

Education

This award is given to the person who has made the most substantial contribution to the development and enhancement of education

Arts and Culture

The award is granted to an individual/group for providing improvement, opportunity, support or exposure to the community in the area of arts and culture, and for contributing to the growth of artists and artistic and cultural organizations. The term Arts and Culture may include, but is not limited to, music, theatre, art, festivals, heritage, design, photography, etc.

Leadership for Youth

The winner of this award has demonstrated the ability to take a lead in improving understanding and access to experience for youth, and in creating opportunities for personal growth and advancement. This category is open to those between eighteen and thirty-four (18-34) years of age.

Community Spirit

This award recognizes outstanding service which is of such a nature that it does not fall into the award categories established previously.

Business

The winner of this award is a business which has made a substantial contribution or has provided outstanding support to the English speaking community of the Outaouais.



SPRING AUCTION

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

189 Archambault Street

(Hull Sector) Gatineau

Tuesday May 2nd, 2017

Viewing: 5:30 p.m. Auction: 6:30 p.m.

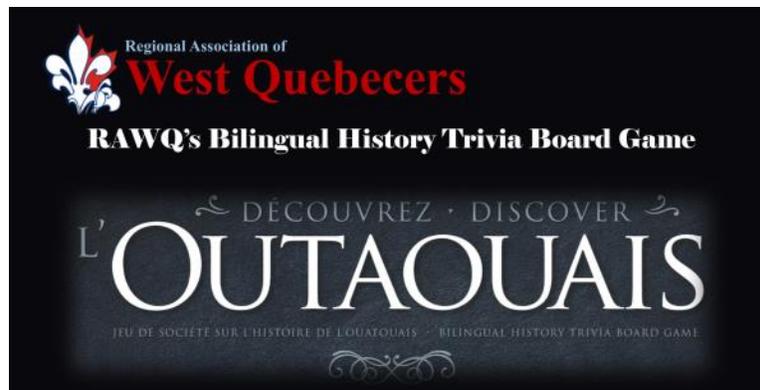
Admission \$2.00 ♦ Door Prizes

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Tel. 819-771-4613 or 819-777-8825

Pre-Order Discover The Outaouais



Pre-order your game now!

819 682 9602 or email aco@westquebecers.ca

Member News

We invite you to share your news in this new feature of your Newsletter.

Do you know a RAWQ member who is celebrating a special event (a milestone birthday, marriage, birth of a child, etc.) received a special honour, suffered a loss?

Send us the details. Photos welcome.

Who We Are

The Regional Association of West Quebecers is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to serving and supporting the minority English-speaking Community in the Outaouais.



The Regional Association of West Quebecers is funded by:

Canada

Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien