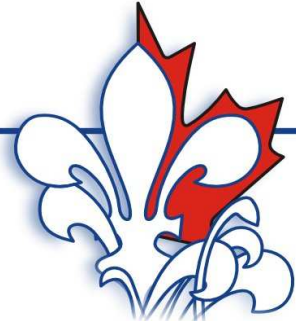


Regional Association of  
**West Quebecers**

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[www.westquebecers.ca](http://www.westquebecers.ca)



REGIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF  
WEST QUEBECERS

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2008-09

*"A healthy English-speaking community in a secure French-speaking Quebec.  
A strong Quebec in a united Canada."*



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**The Regional Association of West Quebecers**  
53 rue Principale, Gatineau (Aylmer) QC J9H 3L4  
Tel: 819.682.9602 Toll Free: 1.877.733.0177 Fax: 819.682.4033  
Email: [wq@westquebecers.ca](mailto:wq@westquebecers.ca) or [clco@westquebecers.ca](mailto:clco@westquebecers.ca)  
Web site: [westquebecers.ca](http://westquebecers.ca)



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Regional Association of West Quebecers Annual General Meeting, June 13, 2009**

**“RAWQ serves and supports the English-speaking population of the Outaouais  
by fostering an environment in which it can thrive.”**

**- West Quebecers Mission Statement**

The 2008 – 2009 year has been another amazing year for the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ). RAWQ's purpose is to serve and support the English-speaking community in many ways: by delivering programs and services, by fostering opportunities for the community to develop itself and achieve its own goals, by connecting people with existing opportunities, by partnering with other community groups, by being active in its parent organization, the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and by being a place, a person, an information centre, etc. for the English-speaking population (ESP) of the Outaouais.

Through the dedication, commitment and hard work of RAWQ's Board of Directors, Community Liaison and Communications Officer and its new Executive Director, RAWQ has not only continued to do all of the above but has become even stronger as a Regional Association. Everyone has not only done an exceptional job in maintaining RAWQ's viability as a not-for-profit organization representing the English-speaking population, but have also strengthened RAWQ's internal operations, renewed and established new partnerships and forged ahead on exciting and strategic projects.

However, this is not to say we can now sit idly by. We want to create even more partnerships, become the hub and the first source of information about our community and our region, develop and become part of more projects and create more successes to be proud of. We need to increase our membership, our volunteers, and our presence in the community in order to create real and lasting benefits and lead the English-speaking community so that it may realize its full potential.

As President for a second year I was pleased to lead a Board and manage staff that not only ensured RAWQ maintained its already existing programs and services, but also initiated new programs in its effort to achieve results that will bring us one step further to realizing our vision and mission.

Year three of a five year Strategic Plan has come to an end. This plan, which lays out the six priority goals listed below, directs and focuses us on our plan for the future of the English-speaking community and helps RAWQ's Board and Staff prioritize the work we do. These six goals are always front and centre in focussing the Board and Staff in their discussions, their decisions, their committee work and their priorities.

Our extremely successful Awards Banquet demonstrates goals 1 to 4, as does our newly designed web site. The hiring this year of an extremely dedicated and energetic Executive Director with a strong administrative background demonstrates all goals. Our involvement with the QCGN in the development and implementation of the Youth Project demonstrates goal 6 and our communication and connection with the City of Gatineau and the translation of by-laws demonstrates goal 5.



Throughout the year our newsletters, e-bulletins, press releases, news articles and the various committee and staff reports that follow, demonstrate how we are consistently working towards the achievement of these goals.

Our *Work Plan*, which is included in this *Annual Report*, is a tool developed by the Priorities Committee to assist us as well in reaching these goals.

**Goal #1:** To build and maintain RAWQ's organizational capacity

**Goal #2:** To increase RAWQ's visibility

**Goal #3:** To maintain RAWQ's support role for cultural activity

**Goal #4:** To maintain RAWQ's support role for health and social services

**Goal #5:** To inform, mobilize and advocate on behalf of the Community

**Goal #6:** Encourage youth to be active participants in The West Quebec community now and in the future

### **Moving Through 2009/10**

Our new Board of Directors will certainly have plenty of work to complete, but with the dedication, continual hard work and knowledge of the returning Board members, the knowledge and energy of new Board members, dedicated and enthused staff I am confident in saying that RAWQ's programs and services will continue and thrive. We sincerely hope that we can also count on continued support and ideas from our membership and our volunteers to keep this viable and important Association a leader in the English-speaking community.

A big thank you and hats off for this past year's Board who through their hard work and dedication and willingness to listen to me have directed RAWQ through this busy but successful year. All of the Board members have done tremendous work, putting in many hours, working together as a great team and supporting one another's ideas and vision.

I would also like to thank Cynthia Turpin, our Community Liaison and Communications Officer, for her continued dedication, commitment, flexibility and ability to keep a finger on the pulse of the English-speaking community of West Quebec. I thank Heather Stronach, our new Executive Director, who had no problem in diving in and putting her knowledge and enthusiasm to work in getting RAWQ up to date with all of its administrative items and reaching out to new and old partners. I would particularly like to thank all of the Directors who have agreed to remain on the Board. I especially want to thank my son Shaun Peppy, for his ten years of devotion and guidance to past and present Board members and staff. Although Shaun will no longer be a member of the Board he has agreed to keep his affiliation with RAWQ still strong with his leadership of the youth project. I am sure I have the Board members behind me when I wish him well in his other endeavours. I also wish to thank the committees, the membership, our partners, and our volunteers for a job well done.

I end with saying once again; RAWQ will continue to be an organization that strives to ensure the English-speaking population is not forgotten.

Nancy Peppy



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2008 - 2009



President - Nancy Peppy



Secretary - Noel Gates



Treasurer - Gilles Poirier



Meryl Scott



Bill Cameron



Shaun Peppy



Lori Roche-Leblanc



Mary Tessier

Vice-President – Vacant



Stephan Paape



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It has been an exciting, stimulating and challenging nine months!

I have discovered that RAWQ is a dynamic organization with an enthusiastic and dedicated Board of Directors, staff and volunteers.

My first six months at West Quebecers were spent becoming more familiar with the Association and bringing into balance those aspects that needed priority attention. I met with each Board member individually and received from them many worthwhile suggestions, recommendations and comments with respect to RAWQ's business. I welcomed consultation with our Canadian Heritage representative to bring me up to speed and appreciate their financial support as our major funder. I am grateful for the support I received from the Board, staff, members and community partners. As Executive Director, I am an ex-officio member on all of RAWQ's committees and I attend all scheduled meetings.



I have had the opportunity and pleasure to meet with Aylmer's City Councillor and other representatives from the City. This resulted in a much-appreciated \$2000 contribution to RAWQ's Annual Awards Banquet, a continuation of the translation of various sections of the City's web site, liaison with members of the City's Cultural Committee resulting in expressions of interest to collaborate with respect to future cultural opportunities.

RAWQ revamped its web site with the end result that the web site is more comprehensive and much easier to navigate. This is thanks to Cynthia, our Community Liaison and Communications Officer, and the consultants who designed and built the web site. The structure is such that it can incorporate RAWQ's Community Services Directory and the Business Services Directory along with links to a myriad of other relevant sites. The new web site was launched March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Press Gallery at Maison du Citoyen in Hull. I encourage you to visit the web site at [www.westquebecers.ca](http://www.westquebecers.ca).

Under the Treasurer's leadership, RAWQ modified the financial processes for ease of understanding and reporting.

RAWQ's Youth 'Committee' contributed to the understanding of youth's concerns in the Outaouais and in the province. In 2009-2010, West Quebecers would like to increase its focus on youth and their platforms.

For the third year, RAWQ provided administrative support to Heritage College for the McGill Nursing Retention Program and will continue to do so in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. This enhanced French language program has been successful in attracting nursing students who wish to stay in Quebec upon graduation.

I have met with my counterparts from all parts of the province where we have had opportunities to share ideas, network, and partner on projects and at the same time understand each area's unique opportunities and challenges. This helps each one of us realize that we are not working in isolation and it is only by working together throughout the province that the English-speaking communities have a strong, viable voice. These connections have led RAWQ to joint projects in the 2009-2010 year such as: Building Leadership in Rural Quebec and a seniors' project.

Locally, I have met with representatives from Outaouais Health and Social Services Network (OHSSN), English Network Resources in Community Health (ENRICH), Western Quebec Career Centre (WQCC) and the West Quebec School Board (WSQB) among others. We are in agreement that through mutual support and by working together, the English-speaking community will maintain a visible, vibrant and active presence in the Outaouais.



On the cultural front, RAWQ attended cultural meetings with the City. We continued our support of the Pontiac Artists' Studio Tour, ACT Company, Wakefield Theatre and other local artists with free publicity.

I would be remiss if I did not mention RAWQ's Annual Awards Banquet that was immensely successful in terms of participation, sense of community and revenue. The winners were inspirational in their dedication, accomplishments and longevity of service. Do join us for this year's Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – our 'premiere' event – not to be missed!!!

In this past year, RAWQ published quarterly newsletters, approximately 20 e-bulletins, many news releases and articles in local papers along with seminars on Old Age Security, entrepreneurship, etc. West Quebecers is most appreciative of the support received from the media, in particular, the various community newspapers in the Outaouais.

Although I have lived in Aylmer for more than 30 years, in the past nine months, I have learned so much about the communities we serve in the Outaouais and the strengths, possibilities and challenges. I encourage you to take this opportunity to join one of RAWQ's committees or even the Board of Directors – you will find it a mutually beneficial experience.

The door is always open!

*Heather Stronach*

## COMMUNITY LIAISON AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

In 2008, RAWQ hired a web site designer (Jim Turner), and a web site builder (Remi Goc from Ignite) to build a Content Management System (CMS). With such a system, dynamic features keep information current and reduce the amount of time updating content. It is easier and faster to post items to the site and capabilities allow the Business Directory and the Community Services Directory to be housed on the web site. News items, press releases, reports and events are posted to the web site to keep members and the general public current with respect to what is taking place at West Quebecers, throughout the Outaouais, and issues and events in the province. Users find the web site friendly, quicker, and offering broader access to information by means of links to other sites. Volunteers, Board Members, staff can be easily trained to post content. The web site is partially bilingual – static or tombstone information was translated into French earlier this year.

Four newsletters, 20 e-bulletins and 15 press releases were produced in 2008-2009. There was a greater variety of stories, layout, graphics and photos.

The Association is fortunate to have two volunteers who come in on a weekly or biweekly basis – one provides a 'clipping service' and the other does data entry. As well, West Quebecers partners with the West Quebec Career Centre and Heritage College from whom we receive students on 'work placement' who provide various services at different times of the year – accounting, book keeping, data entry, research, telephone survey, etc.

It has been a real pleasure to work with so many volunteers over the past year. This includes: Directors of RAWQ's Board (past and present), members of the community, and students on work placement from West Quebec Career Centre and Heritage College.



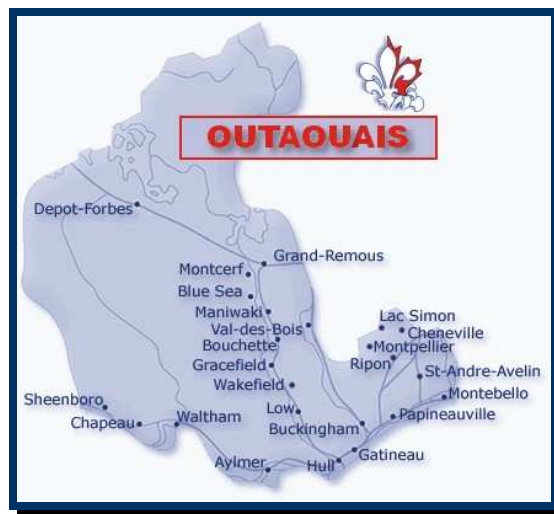


I take my hat off to the enthusiasm and the talent that students have brought to the office during their work placements. The office has been alive with the sound of cooperative energy. Their assistance has made more tasks possible to complete and their contributions are significant. Volunteers and students constantly helped RAWQ behind the scenes by helping me with many daily operational tasks and others more specific to communications. Thanks also to placement coordinators from the WQCC and Heritage College.

Over this past year, we have received many enthusiastic messages from members who appreciate being well informed on events, issues and where to find services in West Quebec. They let us know that we are making a difference in the lives of many English-speaking residents in the region.

The rest of 2009 looks very promising with interesting seminars and events lining up and more students and volunteers ready to put their skills and efforts together with those of the Board, Heather's and mine to help RAWQ attain its objectives.

*Cynthia Turpin*



## PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

The Priorities Committee met to develop the *Work Plan* for the year based on the Contribution Agreement and RAWQ's Strategic Plan. The *Work Plan* was adjusted during the year as activities and objectives were met.

The 2009-2010 *Work Plan* follows.

*Shaun Peppy*



## 2009-10 Regional Association of West Quebecers Work Plan

Update: May 19, 2009

Initiative	Description / Expected Results (WHAT)	Lead on Board	Lead Staff
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
<b>Communications Plan</b>	3 year RAWQ Communications Plan is expanded to include 2009-2010 goals and objectives	Communications Committee	CLCO
<b>Better access to English services from the City of Gatineau</b>	Campaign to implement an official linguistic services and practices policy with the City by means of active participation.	President	ED
<b>Increased Awareness of RAWQ Activities and ESC Concerns</b>	Collect and analyze information to understand the concerns of the community, AND Maintain/Increase sustainability of the Region's ESC	All Board Members	ED CLCO
<b>Media Coverage</b>	Broaden RAWQ's communication capabilities according to RAWQ's 3-year communications plan utilizing all media and advertising avenues.	President & Communications Committee	CLCO
<b>Community Services Directory</b>	Directory is updated and maintained		CLCO Student
<b>Business Services Directory</b>	Directory is updated and maintained		CLCO Student
<b>OUTREACH</b>			
<b>Community Recognition</b>	Organize and hold Awards Banquet:	FROM Committee	CLCO
<b>Fundraising activities</b>	3-year fundraising strategy	FROM Committee	ED & CLCO
<b>Youth Engagement</b>	An active RAWQ youth committee (ages 26-34) (3 members & 2 partners) is formed	President Shaun	ED CLCO
<b>Better access to English health and social services</b>	<b>Monitor implementation of the Access plan and lobby if necessary</b>	President & Bill	ED
<b>Nurse Retention Project</b>	Initiatives to increase number of Heritage College Nursing students participating in internships within regional health care institutions.	President	ED
<b>New Residents Program</b>	Update content, publicize and promote the program	Outreach Committee	CLCO
<b>Supporting cultural activity</b>	Awareness of cultural activities, events and capacity for the ESC's cultural and artistic industry in West Quebec is increased	Cultural Committee	CLCO
<b>Networking with other community organizations</b>	Identify, make contact and develop partnerships where possible and feasible with other community based organizations active in West Quebec	President	ED
<b>Education</b>	Access to English education is maintained Education priorities in the region are identified	Education Committee	ED
<b>Community Information Seminars</b>	RAWQ hosts at least 2 community consultation/information sessions on topics of interest to the ESC.	President, Communications Committee & FROM Committee	ED & CLCO
<b>Promote ESC participation in RAWQ</b>	Broaden RAWQ's Reach Beyond Gatineau	Board	ED
<b>RAWQ Membership</b>	Increase RAWQ membership	FROM Committee	CLCO

This work plan recognizes that the Board of Directors holds accountability for all of the Association's activities and the responsibility to ensure that results are achieved. Likewise, it is understood that the Executive Director manages the RAWQ administrative functions of the association and the staff. Therefore, it is expected that all Board members and staff will contribute to implementing all of the above activities.



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee continues to implement the three year strategic communications plan by focusing on the re-design of the web site. The overall objective of this project is to make the web site the hub of relevant information of interest for the English Speaking population. Key considerations in developing the new web site were that the web site must be well designed; it must be easy to navigate, and information must be current, relevant, and well managed. Also, plans call for the web site to be a vehicle to obtain the opinion of our members on a wide range of issues which will help RAWQ develop policies and actions to best represent the wishes of the English population.

One key element of the web site is the business directory which has been readjusted under the new design. With this new approach businesses included in the directory are those which provide services in English. Our objective here is twofold. One is to provide information on where English services are available and second, to encourage our community to shop locally.



A second important feature is the survey capacity of the web site. As an example, we recently asked our members which by-laws they would like translated by the City of Gatineau. Following an analysis of the survey results, a letter was forwarded to the city highlighting the results of our survey and requesting a response. This is the type of pro-active action the Committee sees the re-designed web site helping to generate.

It is our view that we now have a very professional web site with unlimited potential to provide a wide range of information that our members will find of great interest. This redesign project was a major activity and it is important to note the important role played by our CLCO Cynthia Turpin and the contractor who supported her, Jim Turner as well as the expertise of Remi Goc and Mark Legault from the web-solutions company, Ignite.

A second project which is presently underway is the development of a new RAWQ information pamphlet. The pamphlet focuses on what RAWQ is and its major achievements, as well as encouraging the community to join us in a variety of activities.

In addition to the pamphlet, next year the Committee will be focusing on building partnerships with other English-speaking community groups, which will allow RAWQ and its partners to expand their reach to a greater number of our community.

*Bill Cameron*



## FROM COMMITTEE

### (Fund Raising Outreach Membership)

The Membership Committee has been amalgamated with the Fund Raising and Outreach Committee.

An ambitious events schedule was undertaken to comply with the *Contribution Agreement of Canadian Heritage*. They included the following activities: the Annual Awards Banquet, Open House, seminars.

The *5th Annual Awards Banquet* was held on October 24th at the Aydelu Centre in Aylmer and was a great success with a turnout of 132 guests. This year there were seven recipients of awards. There was a tie for one of the categories therefore both received awards. All winners loved the very classy clocks. The delicious buffet was catered by "Shep's Catering Service" and was enjoyed by all. Don't forget to mark your calendars for this year's Annual Awards Banquet, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Aydelu.

We also held a successful silent auction with a variety of items. The West Quebecers thank all sponsors who made the 5th Annual Awards Banquet a huge success. Special thanks go to our major sponsors, the Aylmer Bulletin, the West Quebec Post and of course, to all the volunteers who helped set up, decorate, take down and, collect a vast array of auction items.

RAWQ held an Open House on December 11th with a wine and munchies and chat event. It was attended by 16 persons.

RAWQ held several seminars in RAWQ's offices:

- Old Age Security facilitated by an expert from Service Canada who answered questions on OAS, Guaranteed Incomes and allowances for survivors.
- Entrepreneurship Information Sessions. These free sessions were offered to aspiring entrepreneurs explaining how to start a business. All sessions are financed by Emploi-Québec and coordinated with the collaboration of the Centre d'Entrepreneurship de l'Outaouais and the West Quebecers. There will be another session on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- The AGM was also on the 'to do' list for the Outreach Committee.

RAWQ proudly supports the Aylmer Community Theatre Company "ACT Company" by selling tickets at RAWQ's office and providing advertising. This year's production of the *Odd Couple* was a huge success.





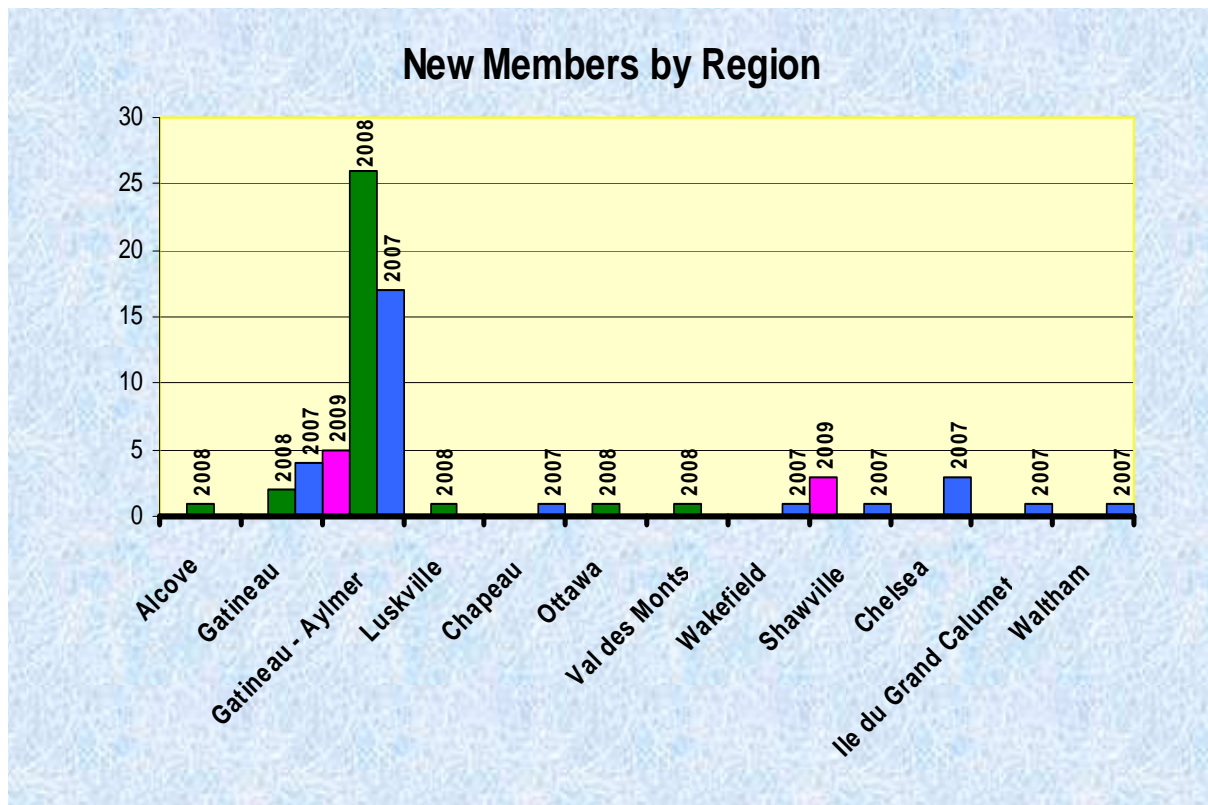
## Membership

Taking care of the membership is important to RAWQ. Following is a summary of new memberships in the last two fiscal years 2007 - 2009.

The graph shows that the majority of members reside in the Aylmer sector of Gatineau. It is West Quebecers' goal to increase membership in the outlying regions in the fiscal year 2009-2010.

## Membership Statistics

A.



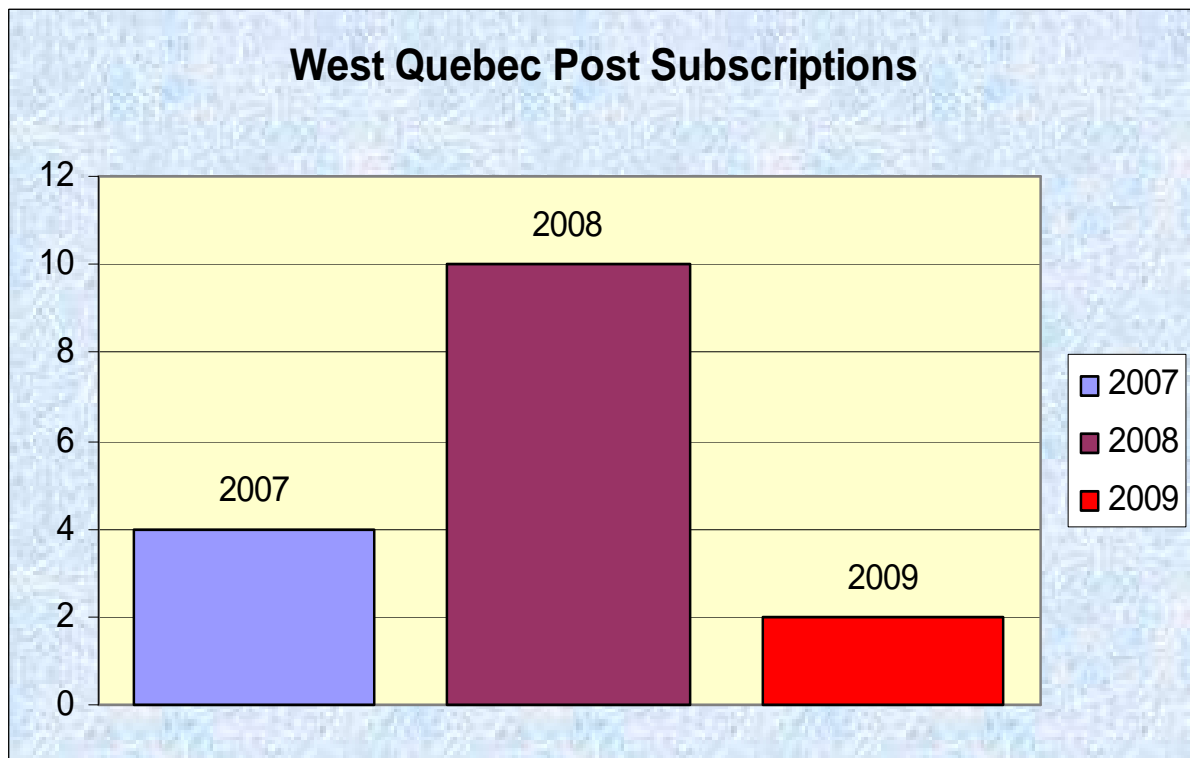
The number of new members per year is almost equal to the attrition rate. That rate is primarily due to people moving out of the area because of a lack of services available in English especially in regards to health and education.



### West Quebec Post Subscriptions

The following graph illustrates the number of members who subscribed to WQP through their membership at the special rate. Note: The 2009 figures are until March 31, 2009 only.

B.



Mary Tessier and Cynthia Turpin

## YOUTH COMMITTEE

### Summary of Youth Activities

RAWQ consulted 118 young English-speakers to better understand their concerns and needs and tabulated the research results.

I sit on the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) Youth Standing Committee and, in that capacity, played an important role in the following:

- Organizing and attending the provincial Génération Youth Forum in September (This forum was a success with over 100 youth in attendance);





- Developing the QCGN report *Creating Spaces for Young Quebecers: Strategic Orientations for English-speaking Youth In Quebec* was released in January 2009 (Available online at: [http://qcggn.ca/files/QCGN/aqcggn\\_english\\_web.pdf](http://qcggn.ca/files/QCGN/aqcggn_english_web.pdf) ).
- Presenting in March on the status and needs of the province's and Outaouais' English-speaking youth to the Conseil permanent de la jeunesse, the Quebec government's youth advisory council;
- Presenting *Creating Spaces* on behalf of RAWQ, as well as the local research conducted for it, to key stakeholders in the Outaouais. To download the booklet please go to this link: [http://www.qcggn.com/files/QCGN/aqcggn\\_english\\_web.pdf](http://www.qcggn.com/files/QCGN/aqcggn_english_web.pdf)

Shaun Peppy

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee met to review and update the Personnel Policy.

Nancy Peppy

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee did not officially meet this year; however, the Executive Director met with the West Quebec School Board to listen to their perspective on English-language education in the Outaouais. Both organizations agreed that working together with other English-language organizations in the region will enhance the position of the English-language community in the region.

## CULTURAL COMMITTEE

This year I continued to ensure that artists and cultural events were promoted by RAWQ by keeping in touch with the cultural community in the region and forwarding the information to the CLCO. The ED met with Jacques Briand from the City to discuss funding for cultural activities.

Noel Gates



## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominations Committee, comprised of Donna Murphy-Gowling, Chair of the Nominations Committee, Shaun Peppy and Nancy Peppy met May 19, 2009.

Article 3.2 states “The Directors are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a period of two years, and are eligible for re-election.”

The Nominations Committee therefore recommends the election of the following candidates to the RAWQ Board of Directors:

### **New Candidates:**

- Barbara Charlebois
- Rick Henderson

### **Current Board members whose terms expire this year and who wish to seek re-election:**

- Bill Cameron
- Noel Gates
- Nancy Peppy
- Gilles Poirier
- Mary Tessier

### **Current Board members whose terms will expire in 2010 and wish to remain on the Board:**

- Stephan Paape
- Lori Roche
- Meryl Scott

### **Current Board members who do not wish to continue on the Board past the 2009 AGM:**

- Shaun Peppy

*Donna Murphy-Gowling*



## MINUTES FROM RAWQ AGM, JUNE 14, 2008

### REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WEST QUEBECERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

**Date:** Saturday, June 14, 2008

**Place:** The Pontiac High School, Shawville, Québec

**Attendance:**

#### **Members**

Atherton Jay, Birch-Jones Chris, Constantinou Patricia, DeLombard Marilee, Gates Ilse-Marie, Gates Noel, Gerbutt Laurie, Harder Zdena, Krchnakova Anna, Leblanc Marc, Newman Larry, Paape Stephan, Peppy Nancy, Peppy Shaun, Perry Phil, Poirier Gilles, Roche-Leblanc Lori, Scott Meryl, Tessier Mary, Trent John, Turpin Cynthia, Wilson Rebecca

#### **Proxies deposited at the RAWQ office:**

Bill Cameron, Donna Murphy-Gowling, Antonia Papadakou, André Renaud

#### **Guests**

Michael Dubeau, Monique Prins

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### **1. Opening of the Meeting and Welcome**

The meeting came to order at 10.15 am. The President, Nancy Peppy, welcomed the members and announced that a quorum of the membership was present.

### **2. Address by the Guest Speaker,**

Michael Dubeau, Assistant Director General, Western Quebec School Board.

The President introduced the guest speaker.

Using visual aids, Mr. Dubeau outlined the Western Quebec School Board's strategic plan, aimed at continuing improvement of individual achievement, promotion of staff development in a culture of best practices, and the maintenance of sustainable school learning communities. He described the steps taken to implement the plan, and referred to the significant improvement in the school's ranking in an annual survey of Canadian schools. Mr. Dubeau's presentation was warmly applauded by the meeting.



### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

It was agreed that two resolutions would be taken under item 10. (Varia).

It was moved by Jay Atherton, seconded by Mary Tessier, that the agenda, as amended, be adopted.

*Carried unanimously.*

### **4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2007**

It was moved by Gilles Poirier, seconded by Jay Atherton, that these Minutes be approved.

*Carried unanimously.*

### **5. Reports [attached]**

- a. The President directed the attention of the meeting to the Association's six strategic goals., noting that the year 2007-08 was the second year of the strategic plan. She referred to the activities of the Association during that time, remarking that it had been a good year, in which the RAWQ had maintained its viability. Her presentation was followed by a discussion of the six strategic goals.
- b. The Communications and Community Liaison Officer (CLCO) presented her report.
- c. Shaun Peppy presented the Work Plan for the year 2008-09. He outlined the Provincial Youth Initiative, and referred, in this connection, to two forthcoming consultations, to be held in Shawville and Aylmer respectively. He drew the attention of the meeting to the need for younger members.
- d. Mary Tessier presented the report of the Outreach Committee of the Board of Directors.

### **6. Resolutions considered under Varia (Item 10)**

With the consent of the meeting, John Trent and Jay Atherton introduced two resolutions, and, noting that they could not stay for the discussion, deposited proxies with the Secretary, Noel Gates. These proxies are attached.

The resolutions are as follows:

- a. Moved by John Trent, seconded by Jay Atherton, as follows:

We, representatives of English-speaking Quebecers, meeting in plenary session of the Annual Meeting of the Regional Association of West Quebecers, held on June 14, 2008 in the Pontiac High School in Shawville, Québec,

Call upon the English-speaking community of Russell, in the Province of Ontario, to cease their boycott of French-speaking businesses.

While all is still far from perfect in Québec, we very much appreciate it when we can be served in English in stores; when we get access to health and social services in English; when our children can go to their Anglophone schools and CEGEPs; and when the City of Gatineau offers to translate its bylaws into English for us.

We also appreciate our bilingual municipalities.



We therefore request the English-speaking community of Russell and of all Eastern Ontario not only to reverse their opposition to French signs and services but also to positively support the Francophone community, recognizing that it is always the minority group which must bear most of the burdens of living in an integrated country.

Moreover, it makes good economic sense to offer bilingual services so that all customers feel comfortable and are therefore attracted to the businesses, whose profits grow in consequence.

In Canada, mutual respect and tolerance are fundamental to minority rights which, in turn, are the basis of Canada's unity and of our country's reputation as a welcoming and open society. We encourage the Anglophones of Russell to support this tolerance and openness.

*Carried unanimously.*

To be entered in the record of resolutions as **AGM08-1**

b. Moved by Jay Atherton, seconded by John Trent, as follows:

The members of the Regional Association of West Quebecers, meeting in plenary session of their Annual Meeting, held on June 14, 2008 in the Pontiac High School in Shawville, Québec,

Noting that the Regional Association of West Quebecers is one of the original sponsors of the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield Steam Train,

Call upon the Mayors of Gatineau, Chelsea and La Pêche to take action immediately to arrange for the reestablishment of the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield steam train, with the support of provincial and federal politicians in the Outaouais region.

**The steam train has become a cornerstone of tourism in the Outaouais and consequently of the region's economic wellbeing.**

*Carried unanimously.* To be entered in the record of resolutions as **AGM08-2.**

## **7. Financial Statements for the year 2007-08**

The Treasurer, Gilles Poirier, explained that the audited statements were not ready. He therefore presented draft statements [attached] and informed the meeting that final statements would be e-mailed to members attending the meeting, for their consideration. Subject to this condition, the statements would be approved at the next Board meeting.

## **8. Appointment of Auditor**

It was moved by Shaun Peppy, seconded by Gilles Poirier, that the Board of Directors of the Regional Association of West Quebecers seek out and appoint a new Auditor for the fiscal year 2008-09.

*Carried unanimously.* To be entered in the record of resolutions as **AGM08-3.**

## **9. Election of Board of Directors** [report of the Nominations Committee is attached].

With the agreement of the Meeting, Phil Perry was appointed President of Elections.



**Phil Perry presented the report of the Nominations Committee.**

Following a call for nominations from the floor, it was moved by Phil Perry, seconded by Patricia Constantinou, that the list of names appearing in the report of the Nominations Committee be approved. Carried unanimously. To be entered in the record of resolutions as

**AGM08-4.**

**10. Constitutional Amendment Motions**

**a. number of Board members**

It was moved by Shaun Peppy, seconded by Larry Newman as follows:

Whereas attendance at the majority of Board Meetings has been fewer than 15;

Whereas regional representation has still been achieved with this fewer than 15 members in attendance;

Whereas with each year it is becoming increasingly more difficult to staff the Board;

That Article 3.0 of the Regional Association of West Quebecers' Constitution be amended to read "The affairs of the Association shall be administered by a Board of Directors consisting of 12 elected members."

*Carried unanimously.* To be entered in the record of resolutions as **AGM08-5.**

**b. Quorum for Board meetings**

It was moved by Mary Tessier, seconded by Phil Perry,

Whereas attendance at many of the Board Meetings has resulted in quorum not being established;

Whereas the business of the Association cannot be carried on when quorum is not met;

Whereas the number of Board Members has been changed to 12;

That Article 3.4 of the Regional Association of West Quebecers' Constitution be amended to read "The quorum for any meeting of the Board shall be seven."

*Carried unanimously.* To be entered in the record of resolutions as **AGM08-6.**

This concluded the business of the Annual General Meeting.

From the Chair, Nancy Peppy thanked the members for their attendance.

**11. Adjournment**

It was moved by Mary Tessier that the meeting do now adjourn.

Adjournment at 12.30 pm.



## 2009 AGM MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

### MOTIONS

1. It is recommended to the Annual General Meeting of 2009 to adjust the membership fees of the Association.

Whereas the Regional Association of West Quebecers has established a scale of fees for specified categories of its members

And whereas this scale of fees has remained constant for a period of several years

And whereas the costs associated with the activities of the Association have risen during that period

And whereas any change in the scale of fees requires the approval of the Annual General Meeting of the Association

It is moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

That the Board of Directors, at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Association, to be held on June 13, 2009, recommend the adoption by the Meeting of the following revised scale of fees, to become effective for the financial year 2009-2010 and all years following:

#### Revised scale of fees

Single Member..... \$15.00 per annum

Couple ..... \$25.00 per annum

Family ..... \$30.00 per annum

Seniors ..... \$10.00 per annum

Seniors Couple ..... \$20.00 per annum

### 2. Motion: Adoption of Adjusted Financial Statements 2007-2008

Regional Association of West Quebecers Annual General Meeting June 13, 2009

Whereas changes were made to the 2007-2008 Financial Statements in alignment with reporting exigencies from Canadian Heritage;

Whereas these changes pertain to one category of Revenue and a few Expense categories.

It is therefore moved by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
that the Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year 2007-2008 be adopted as adjusted.



**3. Motion: Adoption of Audited Financial Statements 2008-2009**

Regional Association of West Quebecers Annual General Meeting June 13, 2009

Whereas the accounting records and financial statements of the Association shall be examined by one or more external auditors appointed by the Board and, in accordance with the policies of the Department of Canadian Heritage, as soon as possible after the end of each fiscal year;

Whereas the financial statements that have been examined and signed by the external auditors are submitted to the membership for approval at the Annual General Meeting;

It is therefore moved by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year 2008-2009 be adopted as presented.

**4. Motion: Building a financial reserve**

Regional Association of West Quebecers Annual General Meeting June 13, 2009

Whereas RAWQ is on a solid financial footing;

Whereas it is prudent for RAWQ to establish a reserve for periods where funds from Canadian Heritage are delayed;

Whereas it is financially possible to build a reserve by investing a yearly amount into an interest bearing instrument;

It is therefore moved by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that RAWQ shall invest, when possible, an amount up to \$5,000 annually in an interest-bearing instrument in order to build a \$50,000 reserve.

**5. Motion: Appoint Auditors for 2008-2009**

Regional Association of West Quebecers Annual General Meeting June 13, 2009

Whereas the financial statements that have been examined and signed by the external auditors are submitted to the membership for approval at the Annual General Meeting;

It is therefore moved by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that Denis Gendron, CA, be appointed Auditor for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

**6. Motion: Appoint Auditors for 2009-2010**

Regional Association of West Quebecers Annual General Meeting June 13, 2009

Whereas the financial statements that have been examined and signed by the external auditors are submitted to the membership for approval at the Annual General Meeting;

It is therefore moved by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that Denis Gendron, CA, be appointed Auditor for the fiscal year 2009-2010.



## APPENDIX

# INCOME STATEMENT FOR 2008-2009

RAWQ  
INCOME STATEMENT  
for the period ending March 31, 2009

	RECEIPTS	REVENUES
Core funding	\$111,510	\$ 123,900
Membership	\$2,527	\$2,527
Donations	\$2,756	\$2,756
Rental Income	\$5,553	\$5,553
Fundraising	\$8,741	\$8,741
WQP Subscriptions	<u>\$1,470</u>	<u>\$1,470</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$132,557</u>	<u>\$144,947</u>

	DISBURSEMENTS	EXPENSES
Salaries	\$77,496	\$77,496
Operating costs	\$50,481	\$51,481
Honorarium	\$2,822	\$4,822
Publicity	\$720	\$720
Travel	\$1,050	\$1,050
Other	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
	<u>\$132,569</u>	<u>\$135,569</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$12</b>	<b>\$9,378</b>

Prepared by Gilles Poirier, Ph.D, CMA    Treasurer of RAWQ