Since my installation as President, I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the celebration of our community volunteers at the Awards Banquet held in Aylmer on October 24th. From Wakefield to Chapeau and points in between, including Aylmer and Shawville, our citizens came together to celebrate one another’s accomplishments and to recognize the great contribution that our volunteers make to our community and communities.

As a community organization committed to energizing the English-speaking residents from our area, we must address the looming major changes coming to Quebec health and social services providers in what has now become known as Bill 10. The Regional Association of West Quebecers is committed to supporting the initiatives of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) in its opposition to the Bill.

On Oct. 30th, dozens of community and institutional leaders gathered to demand significant changes to Bill 10. More groups, including school boards and community associations, joined together to decry the proposed legislation. Supported by a petition that has been signed by more than 7,000 Quebecers, the groups said Health Minister Gaétan Barrette must take the time to look at all the potential side effects, including the major ones Bill 10 will have on the vitality and identity of Quebec’s English-speaking community. I had the opportunity to be part of a major presentation to members of the Liberal Caucus in Quebec City on November 5th to stress our concerns.

Minister Barrette, who has indicated that he will amend the proposed legislation to take into account the concerns of Quebec’s English-speaking community, plans to have his law adopted before the National Assembly breaks for Christmas in early December. We worry that the Minister has not given himself the time to get things right given the wide-ranging impacts this will have on our community. As a QCGN partner, we are more than willing to help him come up with the right solutions.

We are a great community and we must also take the time to celebrate our accomplishments. RAWQ is a member-driven organization that could use your support and your membership. At this festive time I would encourage you to give your community the gift of your commitment and consider joining us as a member of RAWQ. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jim Shea
President, RAWQ

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Executive Director’s Message

Seasons’ Greetings to All,

This has been a very busy year at RAWQ with changeover in the front office. However, by now, I am sure most of you have had a chance to connect with Aldo Jauregui, RAWQ’s new Administration and Communications Officer, by phone, email or in person at RAWQ's Annual Awards Banquet. We extend a warm welcome to Aldo.

Based on all accounts, this year’s Annual Awards Banquet was a resounding success. It was heartwarming to see from the photos (see below) so many winners present and well supported by the rest of the community for their innovative and continuous years of volunteerism. They enhance the communities of the Outaouais in which we live – this year, from Chapeau to Aylmer to Wakefield and places between. How fortunate our communities are to have such dedicated and outstanding volunteers to enrich our lives.

Once again, we were delighted to have Sylvie Goneau, Gatineau City Councillor, begin the evening by talking about the ways in which volunteerism enhances our communities, a subject dear to her heart. After a sumptuous dinner prepared by Byron of Sheps Catering and his staff, Michael Randall, Director General of CEGEP Heritage College, our keynote speaker, spoke about “Heritage College: anchored in the community for 25 years and moving forward in a changing world”.

Eight RAWQ awards were presented by James Shea, President of RAWQ, to individuals and teams of individuals for their exceptional volunteer contributions to communities in the Outaouais. In addition, Noel Gates, past President, received an Honorary Life Membership for his long and dedicated service to the Regional Association of West Quebecers.

The evening would not have been such a success without the dedicated work of the FROM Committee spearheaded by Mary Tessier and supported by Pat Cassidy, Nancy Peppy, and RAWQ staff. A big ‘thank you’ goes to Nancy Peppy and her sense of humour for once again acting as EMCEE, and to Sue and Barb who do a superb job of managing the bar each year.

The photos tell the story!!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Heather

Heather Stronach

More than 160 attendees.

For more photos of the evening, look us up on Facebook.
2014 Community Awards Banquet

Wilfred and Rhoda Scott

Nancy Peppy

Mary Tessier, chair, FROM Ctte.

Noel Gates & James Shea

Michael Randall, Keynote Speaker

Eveline McCormick, Family & Friends

Guests at the banquet table

Sylvie Goneau, Gatineau Councillor
Quiz Night

The Regional Association of West Quebecers is holding its fourth annual Quiz Night from 7-9 pm on Friday, March 20, 2015 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Aylmer. The evening resembles a ‘group trivial pursuit’ and is full of fun and laughter. It is an excellent opportunity for West Quebecers to bring together the community-at-large.

The evening serves as a fundraiser for West Quebecers and includes a silent auction, trivia, 50-50 draw and prizes. RAWQ will also collect non-perishable food for the local food bank.

Community Services Directory

Find listings of community groups and institutions ready to serve the English-speaking community of West Quebec.

Listed are emergency contacts, community groups, public associations, health, governmental and educational institutions.

www.westquebecers.ca

Emploi Québec

In collaboration with Emploi Québec, Cégep Heritage College is offering a 500-hour French Second Language training program from January 12, 2015 to June 4, 2015. Please contact your local CLD (Centre local d'emploi) for a referral or contact us at 819 778-2270 ext. 1324.

HUNGER

Is NOT a Game!

Come and see the Christmas lights at 150 Maple Grove Road from 5 to 10 PM DEC. 1 to Jan 1. Non-perishable food for the Aylmer Food Centre most welcome.

eBulletin

West Quebecers’ eBulletin is released bi-weekly.

To have your event included in our eBulletins, please send an email to aco@westquebecers.ca at least one week prior to the event.
**Arts & Culture**

**CALLING ALL ARTISTS**

**2015 YES Art Expo**

Marking the 15th anniversary of our Business Skills for Creative Souls Artists’ Program, YES (a Montreal-based non-profit offering English-language services to artists, entrepreneurs and job seekers across Quebec) proudly presents the 5th annual YES Art Expo, a unique public showcase and sale of artworks created by emerging talent from Montreal and all corners of Quebec alike.

The YES Art Expo is open to artists, artisans and arts-entrepreneurs from all creative disciplines, including the performing arts.

Submission deadline:

**January 3, 2015—5:00pm**

For more information visit:

www.yesmontreal.ca

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**WAKEFIELD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

WIFF is taking submissions for youth-created documentaries to be presented at the festival in February. Entries must be under 10 minutes, but the rest is up to you!

The deadline to apply has been pushed back so you can work over the holiday break, and all films will now need to be entered before the **15th of January 2015**.

Submissions should be sent to:

WIFF, 10 Elmdale, Wakefield, Qc., J0X 3G0.

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**New Residents’ Package (NRP)**

West Quebecers offers a package which includes various types of information aimed at helping new English-speaking residents access English information from the Government of Quebec and Outaouais municipalities.

It also includes information about businesses, community associations, cultural activities and other events so that newcomers can plug into their new community more quickly.

Contact us at 819-682-9602 or send us an email to aco@westquebecers.ca

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**Winter 2015 Newsletter**

**Submissions Deadline**

**January 30, 2015**

Words per article: 350 (max.)

Photos: with credit and caption

For more information, contact

aco@westquebecers.ca

or at 819-682-9602

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**Seeking your Feedback**

Have you used the 311 services at the City of Gatineau recently? If so, would you let us know your experience?

aco@westquebecers.ca or 819-682-9602
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 (ESC) in the Outaouais.

Membership has its Privileges
Through emails you can receive the quarterly Newsletter in colour and bi-weekly eBulletins.

With a membership to West Quebecers, you can subscribe to the West Quebec Post (WQP) for an additional $20 per year, a saving of almost $14 annually with this special offer.

Our Coordinates:
13, rue Principale,
Gatineau (Aylmer) QC J9H 3K9
819 682-9602 or 1 877-733-0177
Fax: 819 682-4033
aco@westquebecers.ca
or ed@westquebecers.ca
www.westquebecers.ca

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 and support for youth & Seniors.

Holiday Hours
The Regional Association of West Quebecers headquarters will be closed from Monday December 22, 2014 To Friday January 2, 2015 We will be back in the office on Monday January 5, 2015

Heather Stronach
Executive Director
Aldo Jauregui
Administration & Communications Officer

Happy New Year!