

Regional Association of
West Quebecers

Supporting the English-speaking
community in West Quebec



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
THE REGIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF WEST QUEBECERS

Wednesday
June 8th, 2016

A Member of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN)

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The Regional Association of West Quebecers is funded by

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AGENDA OF RAWQ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2016

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President's Report

Summer brings renewal and new growth in spirit and in commitment; and, this is true of the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ). During the winter months, we had participated in significant dialogue with the seniors of our community and in a joint project with Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) and Connexions, we were able to establish a joint task force to plan for the future involvements of seniors in our community. Many thanks to Danielle Lanyi, Rose Regimbald, and Brian Rock who have agreed to provide the leadership for this project, which is an outcome of research provided by SAQ.

Numerous other activities will be captured in the Executive-Director's report.

I recently had the opportunity to present the RAWQ Brief on Bill 86 to the National Assembly of Quebec which you can access on this link. Our English school boards are a vital component in the survival of the English-speaking community. Thankfully, Bill 86 has been withdrawn.

This is a good time for RAWQ to renew its leadership team and to solicit your input on the Board of Directors. This is evident by the new slate of officers being presented, and I would like to thank them for coming forward. I would be pleased to meet with other individuals who might be interested in joining the organization. This is truly a volunteer Board which could use your input and support

I have had the opportunity to provide my volunteer contribution to RAWQ as we experienced new growth and our move to our new location in the Galeries Aylmer. The last two years have been most productive and visible in our community. We have dialogued with our local, provincial and national representatives, and they are well aware of our mission and of our challenges.

The Regional Association of West Quebecers is committed to working with the English-speaking community of the Outaouais in a vibrant and bilingual Quebec within Canada.

The RAWQ is a member of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) and is one of 48 community groups across Quebec. I recently served as vice-president of the QCGN. I have been elected to the position as president for the next two years. I look forward to this challenge and ensuring that our region is well represented at the provincial level as well as a Minority-language organization with the Government of Canada.

There is no question that as RAWQ is a member of QCGN, I will continue to exercise my involvement at the local level.

RAWQ's successes are due to the exemplary leadership of your Executive Director Brian Rock, your committed Board of Directors, and numerous volunteers who choose to operate efficiently under the radar.

We have secured core funding from the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage for the next year, and we continue to apply for project grants as they are consistent with our mission and will enhance the vitality of our community

I look forward to next year as I continue my commitment at the provincial and national levels.

Jim Shea, President

ANNUAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: 2015-2016

Since Annual General Meeting 2015, I have been involved with the following activities:

2015	
DATE	ACTIVITY
June-July-August	Member of the Elections Systems Study Panel chaired by Honourable Marlene Jennings as President of Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations
mid-June– July - mid August	Supervision of student hired through the Canada Summer Jobs 2015 Project working on “In Search of the Outaouais” bilingual history trivia board game
Monday, August 31	Hired as RAWQ Executive Director
Monday, September 14	Meeting with Mr. Francois Blais, Minister of Education and Higher Education, - in his Quebec City office as a Member of the Elections Systems Study Panel
Thursday, Sept. 24	Participated in the RAWQ Board of Directors’ Orientation Session at RAWQ
Thursday, Oct. 1	Participated in LEARN Quebec Meeting at Pontiac High School in Shawville
Thursday, October 8	Attended the Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Awards Banquet at the Saint James Club in Montreal
Wednesday, Oct 14	Helped Organize Founding Meeting of RAWQ Advisory Panel on Youth & Sports
Friday, October 16 Saturday, Oct. 17	Participated in the Fall Conference of the Quebec English School Boards Association at the Delta Hotel in Sherbrooke
Friday, October 23	Helped Organize the RAWQ Community Volunteers Awards Banquet at Aydelu
Friday, October 23 Saturday, Oct. 24	Participated in the Annual Conference of the Association for Canadian Studies and Canadian Ethnic Studies Association at the Conference Centre Lac-Leamy
Wednesday, Oct 28	Appeared before the Advisory Board on English Education in Montreal
Saturday, Nov. 7	Chaired Fall Conference of Quebec Federation of Home and School Assoc.
Wednesday, November 11	Participated in the Laying of the RAWQ Wreath at the Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Aylmer organized by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch
Saturday, Nov. 14	Participated in the AGM of the English Parents’ Committee Association in Mtl.
Monday, Nov. 16 Tuesday, Nov. 17	Participated in the Healthy Schools and Communities National Forum of Physical and Health Education Canada at the Convention Centre Lac-Leamy
Wednesday, November 18	Participated in the Meeting with Government Members of the National Assembly of Quebec at the Morrin Centre in Quebec City
Monday, November 23	Participated in the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Rights Support Group in the Desmarais Building of the University of Ottawa
Thursday, Nov. 26 Friday, Nov. 27	Participated in the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers’ Annual Convention at le Palais des congres de Montreal
Monday, Nov. 30	Participated in YES Quebec Employment Services Providers’ Conference / Mtl.
Sunday, Dec. 13	Attended Mayor of Gatineau’s Breakfasts at Convention Centre Lac-Leamy

2016	
DATE	ACTIVITY
Thursday, Jan. 7	Helped Organize the RAWQ Focus Group for Seniors at Saint Mark's Parish Hall
Thursday, Jan. 21	Participated in Western Quebec School Board Town Hall Meeting at S. B. Office
Monday, Jan. 25	Participated in Western Quebec S. B. Town Hall Meeting at Wakefield School
Monday, Feb. 1	Attended Official Launch of Canadian Black History Toolkit at McGill University
Monday, Feb. 8	Helped Organize RAWQ Morning Chat on Education Bill 86 at RAWQ Office
Wednesday, Feb 10	Participated in QCGN Town Hall Meeting on Education Bill 86 by teleconference
Friday, Feb. 19	Attended the Funeral Service of Dr. Victor Goldbloom at Temple Emmanuel Mtl
Saturday, Feb. 20	Helped Organize RAWQ Strategic Planning and Priorities Session at S. B. Office
Friday, March 4	Helped Organize the RAWQ Quiz Night and Silent Auction at the K. of C. Hall
Tuesday, March 8	Presented before Commission on Culture and Education at National Assembly as Chair of the Coalition For the Future of English Education in Quebec in Q. C
Monday, March 21	Attended "An In-Depth Look at the Making of a Bully" Workshop in Dollard D-O
Tuesday, March 22	Attended Press Conference of Seniors Action Quebec re: Focus Groups in Mtl.
Tuesday, March 22	Attended Hearings before Commission on Culture and Education at National Assembly as President of Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations
Thursday, March 24	Attended Hearings before Commission on Culture and Education at National Assembly as RAWQ Executive Director with Mr. James Shea, RAWQ President
Thursday, March 24	Attended Hearings before Commission on Culture and Education at National Assembly as a Member Group of Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN)
Monday, March 28	Helped Establish Steering Committee for RAWQ/Connexions/SAQ-West Quebec
Tuesday, March 29	Helped Organize Focus Group Follow-up Session /Royal Canadian Legion Aylmer
Wednesday, Apr 27	Participated in the Annual General Meeting of the Aylmer Heritage Association
Saturday, May 14	Helped Organize Rawq Book and Bake Sale in the Kiosque of Galeries Aylmer
Thursday, May 19	Participated in the McGill University Symposium of English Community Leaders
Monday, May 30	Participated in Memorial Services of Former Parliamentarians in Senate - H of C
Thursday, June 2	Participated in the Annual General Meeting of Seniors Action Quebec in Mtl.
Friday, June 3	Participated in the A. G. M. of the Quebec Community Groups Network in Mtl.
Wednesday, June 8	Helped Organize the RAWQ Annual General Meeting at the W. Q. Career Centre
TO COME	SUMMER OF 2016
mid-June July mid-August	Supervision of two students hired through the Canada Summer Jobs 2016 Project completing the "In Search of the Outaouais" bilingual history trivia board game so as to be marketed in November of 2016

Respectfully submitted by Brian Rock, RAWQ Executive Director

Wednesday, June 8th, 2016

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

OF THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WEST QUEBECERS (RAWQ)

Held on Wednesday, June 3rd, 2015, commencing at 7:00 p. m.
in Room 213 of the Western Quebec Career Centre
100, Frank Robinson Road, Gatineau, (Aylmer), Quebec J9H 4A6

Present:

Board of Directors: James Shea (President), Arthur Ayers (Vice-President), Clinton McCrank (Treasurer), Patricia Cassidy, Bryan Daly, Noel Gates, Elaine Plummer, Brian Rock, and Mary Tessier.

Members: Merilee DeLondmbard, Mike Duggan (Municipal Councillor), Patricia Graham, Christina Greig, Muriel How, Neven Humphrey, Michael Keath, Jeannine Jacques, Mo Laidlaw, Joseph Mackevic, Maria-Teresa Mastrocola, Dorothea McCrank, Marina Moore, Judith O'Rourke, Nancy Peppy, Rose Regimbald, Lydia Richard, Frank Therien, and Heather Stronach (Executive Director),

Friends: William Amos, Richard M. Begin (Municipal Councillor), Boyd Drake, Pascaline Etter, Andreanna Orellana, Charles Taker (OCOL), Rickey Dumont (Auditor), Ricardo Barajas Zazueta, (RAWQ Accountant), Aldo Jauregui (RAWQ Staff), and Sophie Pon (RAWQ Staff).

Speaker: Dan Lamoureux (President, Quebec Community Groups Network)

Call to Order: The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p. m. by President James Shea.

Adoption of the Agenda: The agenda was adopted on a motion proposed by Neven Humphrey, seconded by Frank Therien, and carried.

Approval of the Minutes from the 2014 AGM: The minutes were approved on a motion proposed by Nancy Peppy, seconded by Clinton McCrank, and carried.

SPEAKER

- Dan Lamoureux, President of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) was the guest speaker. Mr. Lamoureux described QCGN as a not-for-profit organization that links 46 English-language community organizations across Quebec.
- **QCGN as a Network:** Mr. Lamoureux stressed that the QCGN is not focused just on community groups in Quebec, but also on different sectors in the province such as Health and Education. He outlined the following findings of their Priority Setting Steering Committee (PSSC) after surveying the English-speaking communities and organizations of Quebec:

The need for:

- 1) **Access to services in English**
 - 2) **Community building**
 - 3) **Economic prosperity:** For ourselves and our children so that they will remain in Quebec.
 - 4) **Identity and renewal:** Through our children to renew our English speaking community.
 - 5) **Leadership and representation:** Through development of policy for our English-speaking community
 - 6) **Strong Institutions:** Such as schools and health institutions for the English-speaking community
- Mr. Lamoureux addressed the role of advocacy in the last provincial election when QCGN became increasingly more involved when they opposed Bill 101 and the Charter of Values. He expressed the importance of supporting our seniors in Quebec and at the same time, foster our youth. Two initiatives have been adopted to do so:
 - a) The “Notre Home” Tour. This is a song which addresses the barriers young people face as English-speakers living in Quebec. Although it was produced over four years ago, in partnership with QCGN, it still remains relevant to this day. For more information visit www.notrehome.ca
 - b) Youth Leading the Way. This bilingual project oversees youth-led regional workshops and three annual provincial youth forums where participants aged from 15 to 25 come together from across the province to offer their views on the significance of youth engagement in shaping the future of their country.
 - President James Shea thanked Dan Lamoureux for reiterating issues relevant to the ESC.

REPORTS

President’s Report—James Shea

- James Shea touched on important issues for RAWQ and the region’s ESC.
- **Education:** He spoke of the pending changes in the governance of education that will be a major challenge to the English community in Quebec and in our region. The government must respect the English community in Quebec and the constitutional right that we have to control and manage our educational institutions in the best interests of our community.
- **Health and Social Services:** Mr. Shea outlined the impact of the proposed Bill 10 legislation. He added that while we have succeeded in realizing a commitment for English representation on the governing bodies, we should not become complacent regarding the delivery of health and social services to our broader community.
- **Membership:** Growth in membership is critical to RAWQ’s advocacy. Jim encouraged those in attendance to renew their membership and to assist in our membership campaign.

Executive Director's Report—Heather Stronach

- Heather Stronach, Executive Director of RAWQ, began her overview by stating that RAWQ serves as a “hub” of information for the English-speaking community in the Outaouais.
- **Methods of Communication:** RAWQ aims to maintain contact with the English-speaking community through quarterly newsletters, bi-weekly ebulletins, facebook, press releases, and RAWQ’s website. These methods of communication bring important issues to the attention of the English-speaking community.
- **Youth:** RAWQ led a Youth Action Conference in March 2015 and conducted a six-month Youth Education program that targeted disadvantaged youth.
- **Seniors:** West Quebecers is represented on the Seniors Action Quebec Board of Directors through RAWQ’s ED. Rose Regimbald (RAWQ member) sits on the SAQ board, and Elaine Plummer (RAWQ director) attends meetings.

FROM Committee's Report—Chair: Mary Tessier

- **Awards Banquet:** The very successful Annual Awards Banquet was held October 24th, 2014. One hundred and sixty-one people attended, the greatest participation to date! Guest speaker was Michael Randall, Director General, CEGEP Heritage College; Nancy Peppy (former RAWQ President and Board Member) was Emcee. The banquet was held at AYDELU, Gatineau (Aylmer Sector) and a delicious buffet was catered by Byron of Sheps Catering. Mary also mentioned the need for nominations in the volunteer Youth category. Brian Rock suggested choosing from attendees at the Regional Youth Conference.
- **Quiz Night:** FROM held their 4th annual Quiz Night and Silent Auction in the Knights of Columbus’ Hall with 91 persons attending, including several youth; the highest turnout so far. It is always a fun-filled evening!
- **Book and Bake Sale:** This sale was a success with lots of baked goodies and books for the avid reader. This event was coupled with an open house at RAWQ’s new quarters in the Galeries Aylmer, across from the Cinema.
- **Membership:** Part of RAWQ’S mandate is to increase its membership. A special Membership Drive started on February 20, 2015 at Quiz Night and ended at the AGM on June 3, 2015. Mary stressed the importance of increasing membership. Christian Schmiedel was the winner of the draw for dinner for 2 at Mexicana 129.
- **Yard Sale:** The White Elephant, Book and Bake Sale, held on site at 13 rue Principale, offered a large assortment of items for sale and very popular baked goods. Given the amount of time and effort required, and no guarantees regarding weather, the committee will decide if this will be on the agenda next year.
- **New Residents Package:** This package includes information aimed at helping new residents access sources of information in English, government documents, and other information relevant to settling in the region. Contact RAWQ for additional information.

EYCSC Committee's Report—Chair: Brian Rock

- **Regional Youth Conference:** The Regional Youth Conference, held March 28th in City's Aylmer Council Chambers, was an opportunity for ten youth to meet with leaders in the community to discuss the aspirations and needs of youth. This was a powerful exchange amongst youth, community leaders and politicians. Each youth received an Outstanding Youth Leadership Award.
- **Summer Youth Project 2015:** RAWQ submitted a proposal to Employment and Social Development Canada for a Summer Youth Project 2015. The purpose of this project is to engage youth in the creation of a bilingual, history trivia, board game *In Search of the Outaouais* to be ready for the retail market on November 1, 2016, in time for the 150th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada and to celebrate Canada's rich bilingual history.

Communication and City Liaison Committee's Report—Chair: Arthur Ayers, VP

- **Brochure:** Arthur Ayers presented the revised and updated RAWQ brochure to the AGM, with tremendous thanks to Pat Cassidy for making this happen.
- **RAWQ's Image:** This year has been one of planning and refining RAWQ's image and identity to respond to the demographic shift in the English-speaking community of the Outaouais. To this end, the Committee's principal contribution to RAWQ's activities has been formulating and refining RAWQ's tag line and information material. The current tag line is "A healthy English-speaking community in a secure French-speaking Quebec. A strong Quebec in a united Canada". Notable suggestions for a new tag line include: "For a Vibrant English-speaking Community" and "English Voice of the Outaouais".
- **City of Gatineau's 311 Information Number:** In the past year, there have been very few comments about the city's 311 service except to say that people were satisfied. The City website has changed substantially by providing more English language content, an option to use an electronic translation service, and visuals on which to click for more information.

Finance and Priorities Committee's Report—Chair: Clint McCrank, Treasurer

- Clint McCrank introduced Ricardo Barajas, RAWQ's bookkeeper who comes to the office weekly to take care of financials. Cash flow & budget vs. actual documents are prepared monthly.

Auditor's Report—Rick Dumont

- Rick Dumont, RAWQ's auditor, is partner in the firm Lévesque, Marchand and Welch. He represented the Financial Statements as of March 31, 2015. The auditor answered questions to provide clarification where requested.
- **Revenue:** RAWQ receives \$128,000 annually from the Department of Canadian Heritage as operational funding, and in 2014-15 received \$88,385 in project funding from Service Canada for RAWQ's special youth project.

Auditor Statement: Moved by Frank Therien. Seconded by Noel Gates that the financial review be approved as presented. Carried.

2014-2015 AGM MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Auditor's Review

Motion: Adoption of the Reviewed Audited Financial Statements 2014-2015

- It is moved by Frank Therien and seconded by Noel Gates that the Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year 2014-2015 be adopted as presented.

Motion: Appointment of Auditors for 2015-2016

- It is moved by Jim Shea and seconded by Clint McCrank that Ricky Dumont, partner with Levesque, Marchand and Welch, be appointed Auditor for the fiscal year 2015-2016.

RAWQ Constitution

Motion #1

- Moved by Arthur Ayers and seconded by Muriel How that the proposed changes to the Constitution be adopted by Association members in June.
- Before voting, Motion #2 was presented as an alternative to Motion #1.
- Moved by Brian Rock and seconded by Noel Gates that the proposed changes to the Constitution be adopted by Association members in September.
- Vote: On Motions #1 and #2 regarding timing
 - In favour of Motion #2—7 members
 - In favour of Motion #1—12 members
- Then, the meeting focused on Motion #1
- Jim Shea moved to vote on the constitution at the AGM
 - In favour—17
 - Against—4
- Jim Shea moved that the revised version of the Constitution be accepted
 - For—21
 - Against—4**

**Brian Rock wishes to have it acknowledged that he voted against this motion.

Injunction—Pontiac Journal

- The Regional Association of West Quebecers respectfully request the *Office Quebecois de la langue française* to review its interpretation of the Charter of the French Language with a view to ensuring that the Journal du Pontiac / Pontiac Journal is able to continue operating:
 - as a bilingual newspaper fully reflective of the interests of the community which it serves, and
 - in the manner which its experienced management has found, over a period of years, to be economically efficient
- Moved by Noel Gates. Seconded by Brian Rock.
- That the members of the Regional Association of West Quebecers, assembled in Gatineau at its Annual General Meeting of 2015, respectfully request the *Office Quebecois de la langue française* to review its interpretation of the Charter of the French Language with a view to ensure that the Journal du Pontiac / Pontiac Journal be able to continue operating as a bilingual newspaper fully reflective of the interests of the

community which it serves and in the manner which it has found, over a period of years, to be economically efficient. Carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT OF ELECTIONS

- Jim Shea asked Nancy Peppy if she would agree to be nominated as President of Elections. Nancy agreed.
- Nancy Peppy read the Nominations Report and explained adjustments to the report, and opened nominations from the floor.
- Mary Tessier nominated Joe Mackevic. Seconded by Clinton McCrank. Carried.
- Brian Rock nominated Frank Therien. Seconded by Noel Gates. Carried.

Motion to Accept Nominees

- Moved by Judith O'Rourke. Seconded by Mary Tessier. Carried. Joe Mackevic and Frank Therien were welcomed to the Board of Directors.

Motion to accept the 2015/16 Slate of Board Members

- Moved by Noel Gates. Seconded by Councillor Mike Duggan. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

- President Jim Shea adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p. m..

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO THE RAWQ AGM 2016

Finance

R.A. W.Q.'s financial transactions are tracked and reported to the Executive Director and the Treasurer monthly by the bookkeeper. Thus, we are fully informed as to all financial activities.

Our auditor Ricky Dumont is a partner in Levesque, Marchand, and Welsh situated in Gatineau, prepared the financial review which is appropriate for a not-for-profit association such as West Quebecers.

Priorities

RAWQ's Contribution Agreement with Canadian Heritage which is our core funder, outlines RAWQ's commitment for the year. This document is restructured into RAWQ's Work Plan which serves as the association's working document with responsibilities assigned to the appropriate Committee, Board Member, or Office personnel. The Work Plan recognizes that the Board of Directors hold accountability for the Association's activities as well as the responsibility to ensure that results are achieved. It is also understood that the ED manages RAWQ's administrative functions and staff. It is expected that all Board Members and the Office Personnel will contribute to the implementation of the above activities.

Forward Look 2016-2017

Historically year end has experienced a shortfall of funding due to hold backs by Canadian Heritage which is only credited months later! Brian Rock our ED, and I, have discussed this situation and have concluded that additional fund raising is required over and above the projected expenditures of Canadian Heritage Core Agreement! Much to Brian Rock's credit (our ED), several interesting projects have been identified and are looking very promising!

The co-operation of the committees, board members and all membership will be greatly appreciated to make 2016/17 a most successful year.

Joseph Mackevic
Treasurer

PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

The mandate of the Priorities and Strategic Planning Committee is to:

- Study and make recommendations to the Board on matters relating to RAWQ's priorities and strategic planning.
- Periodically review and recommend updates to RAWQ's strategic goals;
- Monitor the implementation of RAWQ's priorities and strategic plan and make recommendations as required;
- Provide advice and support to the ED
- Ensure new strategic plan is developed when due

RAWQ Committees:

The first task the Priorities and Strategic Planning committee worked on was a review and update of RAWQ's committees. The structure and revisions to these committees can be found at the end of this report. RAWQ is constantly in need of volunteers to help on these committees, therefore should you see one that is of interest to you when reading about the committees, please contact Brian Rock, the Executive Director, to discuss your participation on the committee.

Strategic Planning:

RAWQ made a commitment to engage in a planning activity to evaluate its present position and set a course of direction for the next five years. The first step in this activity was a planning retreat held on February 20, 2016 with the Board of Directors, RAWQ members and partners. At this retreat an evaluation of RAWQ's present position, a review of the mission statement and the identification of priority goals that the Strategic Plan might embrace were carried out.

The Strategic Plan is based largely on the retreat discussions, but also takes into account recent needs assessment research recognizing that planning should reflect the community's needs. The Plan is a living document subject to ongoing adjustment in response to environmental dynamics. The elements set out by the Plan will be reviewed on a regular basis in order to evaluate performance and to keep the plan effective and relevant in serving the interests of the English-speaking community of West Quebec.

Nancy Peppy
Chair, Priorities and Strategic Planning Committee

FUND RAISING and EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE – “FREP” Committee

The mandate of the FREP Committee is to:

1. When in the process of providing community outreach and a need is identified for specific events the committee will seek opportunities to raise funds for these events as well as those supporting other community needs.
2. Plan the event which may mean handling any or all of the following tasks related to that event:
 - Conducting research
 - Creating an event design
 - Finding a site
 - Arranging for food, decor and entertainment
 - Planning transportation to and from the event
 - Sending invitations to attendees
 - Arranging any necessary accommodations for attendees
 - Coordinating the activities of event personnel
 - Supervising at the site
 - Conducting evaluations of the event

2015-2016 was another busy year for the FREP Committee. To effectively plan events such as the AGM, Awards Banquet, Quiz Night and other fund raising events the committee met frequently year round, sometimes as often as two to three times in a month, for major events. These events are important to RAWQ not only for the funds they raise and the visibility they bring but also because of the recognition and the opportunities for networking they bring to the English-Speaking community. They also allow RAWQ members to connect with other RAWQ members.

Annual Awards Banquet:

The very successful 12th Annual Awards Banquet was held on Friday, October 23, 2015 at the Aydelu Centre in the Aylmer sector of Gatineau. This event, attended by over a 100 people, was to celebrate outstanding community volunteers whose voluntary contributions have made a difference in the English-speaking community of the Outaouais and beyond. The guest speaker was Audrey Bureau who spoke about the Boucher Forest and the Foundation formed to protect it. For a third year the MC was Nancy Peppy. Once again the delicious buffet was catered by Byron of Sheps Catering.

Eleven awards were presented this year with one of the eleven being a new award. This new award is given to a business which has made a substantial contribution or has provided outstanding support to the English speaking community of the Outaouais. The recipients were as follows:

1. **Graham Greig Award for Outstanding Community Service**
Mary-Ann Latimer (Luskville)

- 2. J.D. Coulson Award for Outstanding Achievement**
Marc Cockburn (Wakefield)
- 3. Founders Award for Outstanding Leadership**
Nancy Peppy (Aylmer)
- 4. Community Service Award - Education**
The Nursing – ECCE Guatemala Project at Heritage College (Hull)
- 5. Community Service Award - Health and Social Services**
the Quebec Association for Independent Living, commonly known as QUAIL (Chelsea)
- 6. Community Service Award - Recreation and Liveable Communities**
Colinda Dubeau (Aylmer)
- 7. Community Service Award - Arts and Culture**
Mara McCallum (Wakefield)
- 8. Community Service Award - Community Spirit**
Rose Regimbald (Aylmer)
- 9. Youth Leadership Award**
Caitlin Grady (Chelsea)
- 10. Business Award**
Mountainview Turf Farm (Quyón)
- 11. The President's Award**
Charles Gutta (Aylmer)

Quiz Night and Silent Auction held Friday March 4, 2016:

The 5th annual Quiz Night was held once again in the Knights of Columbus's hall with close to ninety persons attending. The buzz of excitement in the hall was great, even the Quiz Master commented on it. This event is a major fundraiser for us; helping offset the cost of our other events and programs. As always, the Quiz Master entertained everyone with his humour, Trivial Pursuit style questions and music. Auction items and prizes were donated by local merchants and individuals. It was a fun evening enjoyed by all and many said that they plan to attend the next one; so watch the E Bulletins and News Letters for information for the next Quiz Night.

New Residents Package:

This year the New Resident's package was completely updated with the assistance of Nancy Peppy and Sophie Pon. The package includes information aimed at helping new English-speaking residents access English information from the Government of Quebec and the Outaouais municipalities.

The package also includes information about businesses, community associations, cultural activities and other events so that newcomers can easily plug into their new community. New residents are encouraged to drop in at the office and pick up a package. If you know of anyone who is new to the area and would like a package please have them contact the office.

Bake and Book Sale with Membership Drive Saturday May 14, 2016 held at the Aylmer Galleries:

This sale was successful with lots of wonderful baked goodies and excellent books. The sale was also an excellent opportunity for members to update or renew their membership.

Other Events:

On February 11, 2016 the play “Grandpa Is Not a Cash Cow and Grandma Won’t Take Any Bull” was held at Symmes/D’Arcy McGee High School theatre. This acclaimed play dealt with the troubling topic of elder abuse in an innovative way. It was staged by La Belle Gang, an amateur troop of Anglophone seniors.

On January 7, 2016 RAWQ sponsored a Seniors’ Focus Group. The invited guest speaker was Dr. Joanne Pocock, who was the lead researcher for the three-year SIRA Project (le programme Soutien aux initiatives visant le respect des Aînés) carried out by QCGN. This was a participatory evidence-based research project gathering data on English-speaking seniors in Quebec and their needs. Dr. Pocock presented some very interesting research data on the Outaouais region. In the afternoon the group was asked what they believe is the Number 1 priority in their community. This interactive focus group, facilitated by Dr. Joanne Pocock, provided the opportunity for participants to express their needs and vision that best supports them as an active and valued member of their community.

At this time I wish to thank the FREP Committee team and the volunteers for all of their wonderful support.

Nancy Peppy
Chair, FREP Committee

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: 2015-2016

At the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Association, a refreshed constitution was proposed to and adopted by the membership. The changes were primarily stylistic and grammatical in nature, however a “junior” membership category was added and regional representation was removed from the constitution.

This year marks continued minor changes in the constitutional text to reflect the Association’s current state and evolution. Although once again mostly lexicological, certain changes will be proposed to the membership at this year’s Annual General Meeting.

Related to these are the changes in the names and roles of the various committees of the association. Notable examples include:

1. The splitting of the former Communications and City Liaison Committee in two, to form the “Communications and Public Relations” and “Government Liaison” committees;
2. Emphasis on membership outreach in renaming the former FROM (Fundraising, Outreach and Membership) committee to “Community Action and Membership Outreach”;
3. Emphasis on recognizing outstanding members of the English-speaking community by adding the mandate of awards to the Nomination Committee and renaming it as “Nomination and Awards Selection Committee”.

Please look forward to continued efforts this year in reflecting the changing face of the Association.

REPORT OF RAWQ NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE OF WEDNESDAY,

MAY 18th, 2016

CANDIDATES FOR RAWQ BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017

TARGET = FULL BOARD OF TWELVE (12) DIRECTORS

+ IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT (*ex officio*)

The following individuals have agreed to allow their names to stand for election:

Cushman, Donna

Daly, Wayne

Guy, Alain

MacIntosh, Neil

Murray, Julie

O'Rourke, Judith

RAWQ BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Intentions?</i>
Shea, James	President	Will remain on as Immediate Past President (<i>ex officio</i>)
Ayers, Arthur	VicePresident	Will remain on
Mackevic, Joseph	Treasurer	Will remain on
Bureau, Audrey	Director	Will remain on
Cassidy, Patricia	Director	Will remain on
Daly, Bryan	Director	Will remain on
Therien, Frank	Director	Will remain on

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Intentions?</i>
McCrank, Clinton	Secretary	Leaving, but will serve on Finance and Audit Committee
Peppy, Nancy	Director	Leaving, as she is moving to Ontario
Plummer, Elaine	Director	Leaving, due to job commitments

Submitted by

Brian Rock, Executive Director, RAWQ

2015-2016 AGM MOTIONS FOR APPROVAL

Motion: Adoption of the Reviewed Audited Financial Statements 2015-2016

Regional Association of West Quebecers Annual General Meeting of Wednesday, June 8, 2016

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 2015-2016 be adopted as presented.

Motion: Appointment of Auditors for 2016-2017

Regional Association of West Quebecers Annual General Meeting of Wednesday, June 8, 2016

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

Mr. Ricky Dumont, partner with Levesque Marchand Welch be appointed Auditor for the fiscal year 2016-2017.

APPENDIX: AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2015-16

Complete audited financial statements available upon request.