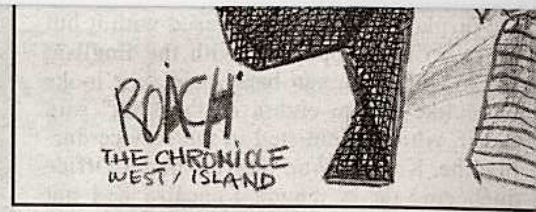


elect mayors who will have to deal with that person in the agglomeration council. One can only hope the province will come through with a reasonable set for this regional body. But since Quebec has botched everything before when it came to municipal mergers and de-mergers, that is unlikely. Considering Quebec doesn't have this council in place prior to the Nov. 6 elections

many voters who wanted de-mergers. The tables have turned and Tremblay may feel the backlash from voters in Ile Bizard, Pierrefonds and Roxboro, where a majority voted for de-mergers but missed the voter-turnout minimum set by the Charest government. Mind you, Bourque was seen as the godfather of the one island, one city concept in the 2001 election.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

* Change is OK

The renewed Canadian flag actually looks good and is bilingual (RE: George Springgate's column, 'One Nation, one flag,' *The Chronicle*, Oct. 12). Even the old Red Ensign that John Diefenbaker defended so fiercely went through revisions with time. Over the span of 97 years, the Ensign was altered 11 times and in 1870, Canada actually used a blue ensign.

**John Cartier
Dollard des Ormeaux**

* Wrong assumptions

George Springgate's column 'One nation, one flag' makes wrong assumptions with regards to the Canadian Duality Flag. He objects to the flag being seen at Ms. Jean's inauguration ceremony "...this marginal group...said its banner had a place because the new Governor General was French."

We made no such statements nor even talked to the media. He must be referring to the "Ask Us" clip on CTV News explaining the two blue strips on the Canadian flag and why it was seen at the GG's ceremony. They tried to contact us on Friday afternoon but didn't, so they made their own interpretation of the event. We did, however, find it ironic that Ms. Jean's motto "Briser les solitudes," sums up the purpose of the bilingual duality flag, namely, recognition and mutual respect.

The duality Flag has flown 40 to 50 times on Parliament Hill since 1994 to promote Canadian unity. It is present at most major events including Speeches from the Throne, opening/closing

of Parliament, Canada/Remembrance Day ceremonies... Without any sponsorship or political ties, over 250 duality flags and 30,000 cards/decals have been handed out gratuitously to individuals, unity groups and universities, promoting national unity. We agree that The Rocket, Claude Ryan and Pierre Trudeau were all proud of the Canadian flag, but the duality flag has only been in existence for 11 years, so this issue was never raised previously.

We are sure that Trudeau never saw any need for it, but when I met M. Trudeau, in the summer of 2000 just before he died, he neither condoned/condemned the flag, he just smiled. The flag has flown many times at Old-Timers games, in particular the day at the Molson Centre that The Rocket was named honorary coach. A year after his passing and at the unveiling of the Maurice Richard bronze statue in Hull, the very same duality flag that flew at his funeral, with the No. 9 in the centre of the Leaf, was offered to the Richard family. Maurice Richard Jr. accepted it graciously saying that his family thought that it was a very beautiful flag and they would really be pleased to have it. We met Ryan at a symposium of Anglican bishops at McGill several years ago with the duality flag outside. Ryan came over and said, "It would be a very good thing for Canada." The heart-wrenching Referendum of 1995 brought about some serious soul-searching on the part of Canadians.

The duality flag is no longer flying at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Father Schultz flew a Canadian flag for 30 years. He believed the Church had a duty to show its nationhood. Two years before retiring due to health, he agreed to fly the duality flag as an open gesture of rapprochement and mutual respect, like offering an olive branch from the English to the French

community. Father Calhoun, newly assigned from Ontario, asked that the duality flag be removed from the church. He decided that no flag would be flown from the Church, not even the Maple Leaf. Bastardized? Pearson wanted blue in the flag but Diefenbaker prevented him. Not since the Official Languages Act of 1969, nor official bilingualism in the Constitution of 1982, have we symbolized our linguistic duality. It's time that we evolve as a nation and make our National Emblem even more beautiful than it already is, all without losing our own identity. This inclusiveness will only strengthen national unity. For more information, check www.trcf.ca.

**Hank Gigandet
Pointe Claire**

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