

Local

'Sweetheart' bouncer buried

By Dennis Foley
Citizen staff writer

Many remember Gerry Barber as the mean-tempered, quick-fisted hired pacifier of West Quebec bars and beer-halls who had more guts than brains.

To his family and the scores of Lowertown friends who attended his funeral Wednesday, he is more kindly regarded as "a sweetheart of a guy."

His funeral cortege trailed back more than a kilometre and required several police escorts to ease it through downtown traffic to Notre Dame Cemetery.

Barber, 54, died early Sunday at the Institut Canadien Français on Dalhousie Street of heart failure after surviving attacks with baseball bats, knives, tire irons, bullets and a fire bomb during his career.

Wednesday was also the day Barber could have been elected president of the 130-year-old Institut. It would have been a singular distinction for a brawling Lower-

town Irishman not fully fluent in French. He was one of two candidates for the post.

Barber's 30-year reputation as barroom bouncer became his handicap. He was quick and undiplomatic when ejecting raucous patrons, male or female. Sometimes they came back, or to his home, to even the score.

And there were also those who wanted to challenge the beefy hulk with the tough-guy reputation.

It was Barber's trademark that he never gave these suckers an even break. He put them down so they wouldn't get up in a hurry to trouble him again.

Occasionally, he lost. But he never stayed down long. One anecdote has him on his feet wiping tables before the victor, an Ottawa Rough Rider, had reached the door.

At home and with friends, however, he was regarded as a gentle, warm-hearted family man.

"He was the best father I could have had," Gerry Jr.,

22, said at his father's graveside.

"He worked hard for all of us. Everything was for us," he added, referring to his three brothers and one sister.

"He had a hard life, worked hard for everything he had and we are going to see that his dreams are fulfilled. He can rest now."

One of those dreams was making a success of the Wendover marina Barber bought after the Rose Room at the Chaudiere Golf and Country Club closed last November. Barber had been waiter, bouncer and manager at "The Chaud" for most of his working life.

Paul Boucher, 72, a past-president of the 1,000-member Institut, said he was never troubled by Barber's reputation.

"He was a very generous, likeable man ... a sweetheart of a guy. That's why he was a candidate for president."

Ottawan to head francophone group

By Susan Hanna
Citizen staff writer

TORONTO — Gisèle Lalonde, who once resigned as government adviser on francophone education because of delays in expanding services, has been named chairman of the province's Council for Franco-Ontarien Affairs.

The council, comprised of 15 French-speaking Ontarians, advises cabinet ministers on all matters concerning francophones.

Lalonde, who lives in Ottawa, said Wednesday she hopes Ontario will be officially bilingual by the time her three-year term is up.

"I think bilingualism in Ontario is happening gradually, in stages," she said.

"The frustrating thing for francophones is that we never know exactly when it will happen."

However, Lalonde said she has received no assurances from Premier Davis, who announced her appointment, that the province will become officially bilingual.

"We haven't really had a conversation about my priorities yet."

In late 1982, Lalonde quit as adviser on francophone education to protest the government's slowness in granting francophones more

control over educational affairs.

She returned a few weeks later, after government officials promised more action.

The provincial government has since guaranteed minority-language educational rights in Ontario, and is working on a proposal to give francophones a voice on school boards.

Lalonde, 50, is a former chairman of the Ottawa Separate School Board and former president of the Ontario School Trustees Council and Ontario's francophone school board association.

She is also on the University of Ottawa's board of governors and the Royal Ottawa Hospital's board of directors.

Lalonde will leave her post as executive-director of Ottawa's centre franco-ontariens des ressources pédagogiques — a francophone learning materials centre — to start her new job July 1.

She replaces Roger E. Régimbal, who has been appointed to the Workers' Compensation Board.

Although part of the council's job is to establish links with Ontario's French-speaking community, Régimbal was unpopular with francophones during his term as chairman.

Nicole J. Lafrenière-Davis of L'Original was also appointed to the franco-ontarien affairs council Wednesday.

Lafrenière-Davis is also a member of the Eastern Ontario francophone advisory committee for the community and social services ministry.



Lalonde

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