



# C.I.H.S. **BULLETIN** S.H.I.C

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- CIHS Directors meet:  
Jan. 18, 1996  
Feb. 15, 1996  
Mar. 21, 1996  
Apr. 18, 1996  
May 16, 1996  
June 20, 1996

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Good day everyone!

Those of us who work in the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, know full well that the only constant right now is that of change! There is a lot of excitement, anticipation and even a lot of fear over job loss, but there remains a great sense of innovation and improvement for our operations. Headquarter staff have begun to move out of the some fourteen buildings they currently are housed in, and by summer of 1996 we will all be housed in one area -the renovated Journal Towers in downtown Ottawa. A new NHQ organization has been implemented and we welcomed a new Deputy Minister, Janice Cochrane.

Our AGM was a great success, and we were pleased to have Raphael Girard, then Associate Deputy Minister for Renewal of the Department of

Citizenship and Immigration, and now ADM of Operations, was kind enough to speak to our members. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to hear and discuss immigration issues, past and present!

At the AGM we also elected a new Board of Directors, and our proud that Randy Orr agreed to take on the Presidency of the CIHS for the upcoming year. The AGM minutes are attached.

Personally, I'm ready to take on some different projects for the Society. Having taken on the assignment as Bulletin Editor for the past few years, and having worked on some 12 issues I've found that I've finally run out of steam and feel it's better that some new fresh blood takes on this Editorial function! So thanks to all of you for your ongoing support of the Bulletin. Of course, I'll still be an active part of the Society, and I look forward to continuing work on many of our other projects.

I am very pleased to hand things over to our resident gentleman and scholar, Bob Keyserlingk. I'm sure Bob will bring new ideas and content to to the Bulletin, but of course, we all hope that you, our members will continue to send us your articles, letters and other suggestions for each issue.

As always, your ideas, comments and assistance in any way, shape or form are always welcome.

Carrie Hunter (953-0923)

## **THE MILLIONTH POST-WAR IMMIGRANT**

by Bernard Brodie

Some time ago, one of our CIHS colleagues returned from a posting to London, and came around to my house for a drink one evening. He brought with him, for my interest and retention, a long-dead file from the London office which had accidentally fallen into his briefcase on his last day there. This file concerned the One Millionth Post War Immigrant.

The purpose of this article is to outline for you the contents of the file, and at the end of it I will be seeking answers and responses, especially from our older members, as to some developments that took place forty years ago of which they may have been aware. In short, there is something of a "mystery" about this issue and I would like to solicit the Society's assistance in clearing it up.

So, to the facts of the story. On November 9, 1953, Mr. C.E. Smith, Director of the Immigration Branch of Citizenship and Immigration in Ottawa, wrote a confidential memorandum to L.G. Cumming, the Superintendent of Canadian Immigration in London. As the memo is (in comparison to modern bureaucratic standards) a model of clarity and concision, I will quote it in full.

" The millionth post World War II immigrant to Canada will probably arrive some time during the month of May and

we are planning to publicize the arrival here.

As you can appreciate, to avoid situations which might later prove embarrassing, it is essential that the immigrant be pre-selected. We have been devoting a great deal of thought to this and it is our feeling that the ideal millionth immigrant should be a British boy of 14 to 16 years of age. He should be the son of a man who has a good employment record in the United Kingdom and whose background would indicate that he would have a minimum of difficulty becoming established in and adjusting to living in Canada. He can be coming forward either alone to join his parents, accompanied by a mother, or as part of a complete family unit. While we will probably take the family into our confidence at the time of the selection, or perhaps prior to sailing, will you keep this part of the program confidential until such time as you have received further instructions?

It is our plan to have the arrival publicized at the port of arrival and later bring the boy, and perhaps his family, to Ottawa where he will receive a certificate here from the Minister or the Prime Minister.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of these plans so that you may be on the lookout personally, and through officers at the other offices, for a likely subject who will be sailing during the month of May."

As I said, a model of concision. Clearly, considerable thought had been given by the policy-makers at Citizenship and Immigration to the image of immigration that they wished to convey to the Canadian people, and this as yet anonymous clean-limbed young Brit with his solid and reliable family was their ideal of that image.

One would have imagined that this memo would have provoked a flurry of instant activity, and yet on December 21, 1953, a perhaps somewhat peeved Mr. Smith sent Mr. Cumming a memorandum referring to his November 9th memorandum, politely asking why he had received no response.

"...As, no doubt, at this time you will be selecting those who will be sailing (during May) I am wondering what, if any, success you have had in this respect. Would you please let me have your report in order that I may keep the Deputy Minister advised."

This invocation of the spectre of the Deputy Minister soon elicited the required response. Only seven days later, on December 28, the Superintendent's reply was winging its way to Ottawa.

Mr. Cumming explained that it was still a little early, not least because of the duration of the medical clearances, and that it might be February or March before a final selection could be made, as with the propensity for sailing dates to change, he wanted to make .... "as firm a selection as is possible". He also went on to raise the question of whether Ottawa had any preference .... "as to the racial origin of the millionth immigrant?". Somewhat surprisingly for today's reader, it becomes clear in the body of the letter than he wanted to know not the colour of the young lad concerned, but whether Ottawa wanted him to be an Englishman, a Scotsman, or a Northern Irishman. (Perhaps not so surprising: my own landing records from 1967 show that I was asked my "ethnic origin" and indicated Scottish). He also wondered whether any specific shipping line might be part of Ottawa's plan. Mr. Cumming closed by assuring his superior than he anticipated .... "no difficulty in making a satisfactory selection" a phrase which he may have lived to regret.

The Director's reply of early January politely urged greater speed on this project because of the need for advance work and preparation within Canada. He confided that .... "some quite elaborate plans are being thought of which, of course, will take time to complete". He also displayed a broad-minded approach to the issue of the boy's racial origin, and was indifferent as to whether he was .... "English, Welsh, Irish (Northern Ireland) or Scotch (sic) as long as he is an immigrant from the United Kingdom." Similarly, he was indifferent as to the shipping line used so long as it was a .... "ship of British registry".

Mr. Cumming swung into action. Neatly paraphrasing all of the above data, he sent memoranda to the Officers-in-Charge of London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Belfast, urging them to locate suitable candidates, but emphasizing that the final selection of the successful candidate would be made in Ottawa.

Glasgow reported in that while they had no candidate as yet, they had .... "absolutely no doubt that we could line up a Scottish boy, who conforms to the conditions, sometime next month". London were similarly certain. Liverpool showed a pleasing office spirit when they reported that .... "all officers have been warned to keep a sharp lookout for the right type and it is hoped it would be a Liverpool prospect".

In late January Ottawa indicated a slight change of heart. In a memorandum to Mr. Cumming, Mr. Smith indicated that .... "We have been doing a great deal of thinking about this here and have come to the conclusion, for the time being at least, that it would be unwise to inform this person in advance of the fact that he is scheduled to be the millionth".

By early February Mr. Cumming's memoranda were beginning to have a somewhat harassed air. He reminded his

Officers-in-Charge outside London that he had .... "not yet received the report I asked for on February 1st. Please let me have this at the earliest possible moment, even if it is a negative report, as I wish to forward to Ottawa those names already submitted to me". Mr. Casselman of the London Office had by this stage already submitted a candidate as respectable as a person could possibly be: the son of a clergyman destined for a parish in Ontario.

Glasgow and Liverpool had both so far come up blank. Again, a note of urgency creeps into Mr. Cumming's memoranda to his colleagues. By mid-February he is reminding them that he has so far only been able to forward one possible name to Ottawa and that it is .... "essential that as large a selection as possible be forwarded to the Director for his consideration". The Officers-in-Charge are urged to greater efforts.

Mr. Hight in Belfast responded with a .... "British subject of the Irish race", going forward to Canada with his mother and two brothers. The father and other family members were already established in Canada (there were eleven family members in all) and the mother and two children were the last to go, re-uniting the family at last after some years of separation. The young lad's particulars were duly sent to Mr. Smith in Ottawa.

Liverpool now fielded a possible contender, but had him rejected by Mr. Cumming, with the somewhat curt comment that the boy .... "hardly meets the specifications set by the Director". London identified a second candidate to add to the clergyman's son. Liverpool then threw in its hand and said it had no one to offer. Belfast indicated it had no

further names to offer, but once more stressed the desirability of their first choice and the "publicity value" angle of the re-unification of this large family.

The department then decided that it wanted to know more about the career and education of the clergyman's son, and indulged in a little rule-bending to find out. Mr. Cumming reported to Ottawa that .... "In order to avoid any inkling of the real reason of this inquiry becoming known, we have simply asked that Parts 1 and 2 of Form O.S.8. be completed for \_\_\_\_\_, on the grounds that he is over 16 years of age. I hope that this achieves your ends, and I will advise you as soon as the information is received". Shortly thereafter the suitability of the boy, who appeared to be something of a scholar, was established.

Mr. McKay in Liverpool then produced another candidate, but as the sixteen-year-old lad was already employed as a plumber's apprentice, and had therefore clearly not much higher education, Mr. Cumming had his doubts that this was the kind of individual we should be highlighting.

By March, certain "outsiders" were beginning to get interested in the "millionth immigrant" concept. Mr. Cumming reported to Mr. Smith that he had received a telephone call from the Agent-General for Ontario.... "asking me whether we could do anything to ensure that the millionth immigrant entering Canada is a British subject of a type that could stand publicising in this connection. He informed me that the Daily Telegraph proposes to make quite a feature out of this." Mr. Cumming does not seem to have been entirely frank with the Ontario representative, no doubt because of his

headquarters' clear instructions as to confidentiality, but he felt he should warn Mr. Smith that .... "attention is apparently being given here to Canada's post-war millionth immigrant arrival."

Late March must have been a difficult time for Mr. Cumming, for it was then he received a letter from Mr. Smith telling him that not only had the department as yet made no choice of a candidate, but that they were .... "not too happy with the three cases which have been forwarded", which as all current and retired public servants know, is pretty strong language in the bureaucracy. Mr. Smith proceeded to find specific fault with the three cases offered, and asked Mr. Cumming to .... "keep pressing all the United Kingdom offices for further recommendations." It was now clearly established that statistically the millionth immigrant would arrive quite early in May, and as Mr. Smith pointed out, .... "it has now become a matter of some urgency".

No doubt smarting a little from the memorandum, Mr. Cumming took the whip to the Officers-in-Charge once more and in a March 18 memorandum beseeched them to .... "submit without delay any further cases which you consider would meet the conditions outlined". Anyone reading the file cannot escape the feeling that by this stage Mr. Cumming and all the United Kingdom Officers-in-Charge were more than a little fed up and wishing they had never heard of the millionth immigrant concept at all.

London produced one more contender. Liverpool sent a rather sulky response, indicating in one brief and bureaucratic sentence that they were not interested in

playing this game any more. London, perhaps suffering from their proximity to the Superintendent, produced two more candidates in the next two days. Glasgow declined further participation with a one-liner. London produced yet another rabbit from its hat.

On April 8th, Mr. Smith is once more on Mr. Cumming's back, and introducing a wild-card to the deck. Not only is the millionth immigrant now expected possibly as early as late April, but .... "a further complicating factor has arisen in that the Netherlands authorities have scheduled the arrival of the 100,000th Dutch immigrant for May 19th and the arrival of the millionth immigrant in Canada, if it occurred after that date, would be anti-climatic." This development .... "rules out several of your suggested nominees". He then conveys the further devastating information that inquiries made within Canada (by, of, and regarding who is unspecified) have revealed that .... "the majority of the others (candidates) are not suitable". Ironically, the clergyman's son, the very first to be mooted, seems to be the only one standing up to inspection. Again, a strain of barely concealed impatience permeates the memorandum. There is little need to read between the lines. Mr. Smith indicates in his fourth paragraph that .... "the situation has now become extremely urgent" and in his final paragraph that ".... the selection of the candidate is now a matter of extreme urgency" requiring Mr. Cumming's personal attention. As a sop, Mr. Smith agrees that perhaps their requirements have heretofore been too rigid, and they are now prepared to consider anyone up to age twenty, male or female.

It is not known what kind of "Riot Act" was read by Mr. Cumming to the Officers-in-Charge after he received this memorandum, but the time-line suggests that it must have been by telephone.

Within days, in some cases perhaps hours, splendid responses are forthcoming. Liverpool rejoins the fray with no less than eight potential candidates. Belfast sends two, Glasgow one. By April 15th, which can only have been literally three or four days after receiving Mr. Smith's airmail letter, Mr. Cumming is sending Ottawa a memorandum with four solid candidates, three male and one female.

An almost James Bond-ian element then appears on the file: a telegram from Smith to Cumming at his home in Camberley, requesting him to meet him off BOAC flight 608 at 10:15 Sunday April 18th as he will have .... "ONLY A FEW MINUTES EN ROUTE GENEVA STOP WISH TO DISCUSS MILLIONTH STOP SMITH".

Whatever the content of that meeting may have been, on April 15 Mr. E.B. Reid, Chief of Information Services at the Department, had already written to Mr. Cumming stating that

.... "we are in a very serious jam in connection with the arrival of the millionth immigrant and in so far as selecting a candidate we are no farther forward than we were last November when the matter first came up. The scheduled arrival of the 100,000th Dutch immigrant on May 19 has ruled out all your suggestions of persons arriving after that date. Investigation of the others where relatives are established in Canada have ruled them out as possibilities."

The choice had now come down to only two ships, one sailing May 6 and one May 7. Mr. Reid assured Mr. Cumming he would be .... "deeply grateful if at the very earliest possible moment you could flood me with suggested names on these two boats, either male or female, and twenty years of age down to about eleven or twelve". He ended his memorandum with an observation that anyone reading it

would find entirely superfluous: .... "Frankly, I am a little bit desperate".

Mr. Cumming, who to date had been showing a saint-like forbearance, expressed to Mr. Reid in response frustrations he was perhaps unwilling or unable to convey to Mr. Smith.

"With reference to your letter of April 15, 1954, I too am more than a little desperate. To date I have sent you fourteen suggestions including the seven covered by my memo of April 15 which, of course, crossed your most recent letter". He goes on to list all the names submitted and their dates. He continues: .... "Since talking to the Director last Sunday at London Airport, I realized that certain restrictions must be observed that were not communicated to me originally. However, even on the basis of all these restrictions, it seems to be that possibly M\_\_\_ would probably be acceptable as also would B\_\_\_ . We have already skimmed the cream of all available sailings ". He felt that further action might .... "produce a few more recommendations", but made it very clear that .... "there is no possibility of the flood to which you refer". He stated in conclusion that his absolute final fallback position will be to .... "survey the passengers during my trip back to Canada and wire you from the ship". This is the first indication of any intention of Mr. Cumming to actually travel back with the fortunate family, and the image it invokes of a senior immigration official, prowling the decks in search of suitable material for publicity on arrival in Canada, indicates how desperate the situation had indeed become.

At heaven only knows what expense of time and effort, the United Kingdom officers make one last heroic effort. On April 21 Mr. Cumming reports to Mr. Reid in Ottawa that .... "we have searched through 1,500 files in our Central Registry, and I am enclosing it

those who could be selected for the millionth immigrant". Four persons are thereafter named, three male and one female, ranging in age from nine to twenty. Two days later, he forwards the names of five more from the Glasgow office. By my count, this means that during the entire course of this exercise, the United Kingdom offices had submitted no less than twenty-three candidates to Ottawa for consideration.

And with the memorandum transmitting those final five candidates from Glasgow, on April 23rd, 1954, the file comes to a complete and abrupt end.

My own research in the Ottawa Library of Canadian newspapers of the time revealed no story in May 1954 regarding the millionth immigrant, though I admit my research was rushed and incomplete. I did, however, find a magazine article of May 31, 1954. Sadly, I have no record of which magazine I photocopied it from, but I rather think from the Americanised spelling that it was the Canadian version of *Time*. Under the heading "Immigration: The First Million" the article reads inter alia :-

" When the Netherlands government liner the *Groote Beer* docked at Montreal last week, a pretty 19-year old Dutch girl, Jacoba Gerardina Bol, was the center of attention. Immigration Minister Walter Harris came from Ottawa to hand her a gift (a pen and pencil set). The Netherlands Ambassador Antonius Lovink was at the dockside to kiss her plump cheek (sic). Then Jacoba was guest of honor at a six-course dinner aboard the liner..... the 100,000th Dutch immigrant to move to Canada since World War II".

(It is clear that this was not a "surprise party", as Ms. Bol just happened to have about her person a beautifully decorated plate commemorating Holland's liberation by Canadian troops which she presented to Minister Harris, as shown in a Canadian Press photograph that accompanied the article).

Much of the rest of the article was a puff-piece about the value of immigration, how immigrants created jobs and did not take them, the value of the education and actual money they brought with them, and an accurate but predictable summary of the post-war "success story" of immigration. What is most interesting about the article, however, is the treatment it gives the "millionth immigrant" issue, after choosing that as the title of its story. It states:-

"While Jacoba Bol was welcomed, Canada's booming immigration program passed another important milestone. Unheralded and unidentified among the passengers coming off the *Groote Beer* and other immigrant ships was Canada's 1,000,000th post-War immigrant".

Which brings us, dear reader, to the questions I would like our older members to write in to the Society and solve for us.

- Was the millionth immigrant really "unheralded and unidentified"?
- Did the whole one-millionth concept just die, after all the time and money spent in Ottawa and overseas on this?
- Whatever happened to the British interest in this, as exemplified by the Daily Telegraph's involvement?

• Did having a Brit as the one-millionth suddenly become politically undesirable? Was there any need to hype the Dutch angle, given that relations between the Canadians and the Dutch were and remain as friendly as it is possible for two nations to be?

• What were the mysterious "restrictions" that were vouchsafed to Mr. Cumming in London Airport by Mr. Smith and which never appear in specific form anywhere in the paper trail?

There are no prizes for our readers and members for answering these questions, except the satisfaction of shedding light on one more fascinating aspect of Canadian immigration history. We await your letters.

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## REMINDER

-by Al Troy

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A review of membership records show that 35 of our annual members have not paid their annual dues of \$10.00 for the present financial year which commenced May 1, 1995 and ends April 30, 1996. With the year half over I thought a gentle reminder to be in order. You can readily establish your membership status by noting the figure in brackets after your name on the last piece of material sent to you which indicates the last digit of the year for which you were fully paid up i.e. (5) means April 30, 1995. You can also look at your membership card which is sent out automatically each time you make a dues payment. To keep the Society alive and flourishing it is essential

we keep our present membership in good standing and ask for your cooperation.

Thank you.

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## Lord Selkirk on Prince Edward Island

-by Fenton Crosman

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Among the most successful of the early settlements of immigrants in Canada were those sponsored and organized by Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk. He is, of course, best known as Lord Selkirk of Red River, for it was there that his largest group of settlers was established and where he encountered difficulties that proved to be the end of his otherwise remarkable career. Although perhaps less recognized in history, the settlement on Prince Edward Island, Selkirk's first attempt to alleviate the distress of the Highland Scots, was a most successful effort and, like the Red River Settlement, is a most outstanding landmark in the early settlement of people in Canada.

The interesting story of the Red River Settlement, of course can best be told by the many Canadians who have had the good fortune to live in Manitoba and to see the area at first hand. However, it is the story of this small group of pioneers on Prince Edward island that we wish to discuss this afternoon. But before doing so, it would be interesting to consider the principal actor in the drama, the aristocratic young Scot, the humanitarian pioneer who contributed to the building of Canada, and the lonely derelict who finally died and was buried in France.

Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk, was born in 1771 at Thresoe Castle, on St. Mary's Ile in the River Dee, a

stronghold of the Douglas Family for some 500 years. He was one of a large family of seven sons, two of whom died in infancy, and four daughters. The status of the Douglas family was such that all of the sons were expected to acquit themselves accordingly and follow a career in the law, politics, or in the military. It was understood that the family estate and responsibilities would pass to the son, Basil, who carried the title of Lord Daer. The young Thomas, a quiet, shy and delicate boy, seemed to be something of a problem, but at the age of fourteen, after a period at a progressive school, he registered at the University of Edinburgh for courses in so-called liberal arts and the law. However, while the rest of the family was growing up and spreading out, Thomas spent his summer vacations taking long hikes in the country, sketching old castles, or studying the local geological structure. Meanwhile, he was encouraged to interest himself in the arts and skills of a country gentleman, studying the crops and livestock, and learning the obligations of a laird to his tenants. Added to the young man's development was his association with friends and classmates, such as Walter (later Sir Walter) Scott, and his extensive travels throughout Scotland, as well as the inevitable Grand Tour of Europe.

Just at this time, however, about the year 1795, while Thomas was acquiring education and experience, the Douglas Family was subjected to a series of deaths and disasters - all of the other sons, including the heir to the family title and estate, lost their lives either from illness or accident. Thus, Thomas Douglas, youngest and last of seven sons, now acquired the title of Lord Daer and became his father's heir. But this was not the end of the family's misfortunes, for by the end of 1799, both parents, Lady Mary Douglas and the old Earl himself, had been claimed by death.

As a result of all this family misfortune, Thomas Douglas, the youngest and, one might say, the "lame duck" of the family, became the inheritor of both fortune and responsibility, at age 28. His education and experience, however, enabled him to cope with the problems related to agriculture and administration, for previous to his father's death he had taken the initiative to acquire a piece of land which he cultivated by putting himself behind the plough, similar to the other tenants, who must have been surprised to see the squire working as one of themselves.

In addition to being a farmer and land owner, and a member of the House of Lords, Thomas Douglas, now Lord Selkirk, also was both a humanitarian and a patriot. For some years the farmers in the Highlands of Scotland had been adversely affected by overpopulation and by oppression on the part of the landowners, to the extent that they sought relief by emigrating to North America. What could Selkirk do to help these unfortunate people and at the same time ensure that this flow of migrants be directed to British territory? Perhaps he had found a just cause to which he could devote his great energy and compassion. He began at once to make inquiries regarding the availability of suitable land for settlement in Canada and, after long and persistent representations, was assured by the Colonial Office that he could have suitable land on Prince Edward Island and in Upper Canada on quite reasonable terms.

Then began the confusion and uncertainties of confirming the grant of the lands, the recruiting of some 800 settlers from the Highlands, and of obtaining the ships, crews and supplies. Finally, in April 1803, three ships, the "Dykes", the "Polly" and the "Oughton" began the five week voyage to Canada. According to their agreement, Selkirk accompanied the settlers on one of the

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ships, the "Dykes", and to quote the author, John Morgan Grey, "he had locked himself up for five weeks with a shipload of the most loveable, disputatious and immovably stubborn people ever to land in North America". In any event, during August 1803, all three ships had safely arrived at Prince Edward Island and anchored in Orwell Bay, just east of Charlottetown and close to the land set aside for them. Unloading onto the beaches began at once, while Selkirk called on the Governor of the Island and attended to necessary formalities in Charlottetown.

There was much to be done: land must be surveyed and the settlers placed on suitable farms; land must be cleared; and small cabins must be built against the cold winter. Meanwhile, the people were sheltered in lean-tos made of evergreen boughs. However, the industrious settlers soon built adequate cabins with hand-sawn lumber and homemade nails, and then, being good Scottish Presbyterians, they soon gave their attention to the building of a church, using essentially the same building materials, hand-split and planed shingles and nails made by the local blacksmith. The church, which was finally completed in 1829, was designed and built by Robert Jones, one of the settlers who once had worked with the already famous architect, Sir Christopher Wren and it was not only a fine landmark but also a work of art. At the same time the community established the "Polly" Cemetery, named after the first of the ships to have arrived at the settlement.

Fortunately, Lord Selkirk had selected an area of Prince Edward Island where the soil and the location were so

favourable that on the year following arrival, grains and vegetables began to flourish. (Perhaps it was one of those areas on the Island where, according to legend, a stick would grow if pushed into the soil.)

And now, having satisfied himself that the colony at Belfast, Prince Edward Island, had been successfully launched, Selkirk packed his notebooks and belongings and embarked on a long devious route to visit lands reserved for him at Baldoon in Western Ontario and at Red River, Manitoba. It is enough to say that his attempt to establish a colony at Baldoon eventually failed because the land became flooded and ruined the crops. Meanwhile however, he had travelled extensively, surveying and making copious notes to be used in writing a book that contained details of all Selkirk had seen during his travels and that must have been a fine source of information for all later colonists.

This perambulating colonist then visited his original settlement on Prince Edward Island and next returned to England, where he remained for some time, participating in the activities of the House of Lords and also getting married to a fine young lady, Jean age 20, who later travelled with him to Canada. At the same time, regardless of the dangers of which he had been warned, Selkirk made elaborate preparations for the establishment of a colony at Red River, Manitoba.

The Red River story is the tragic closing chapter in the busy and productive life of Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk.

When he and his wife arrived in Manitoba in the year 1812 to join a group of settlers who had preceded them, they

met powerful opposition from the North West Company, who wanted no interference in the conduct of their fur trade; nor were they welcomed by the aboriginals and others already living there. As a result of this opposition, which involved bloodshed and prolonged lawsuits, Selkirk eventually returned to England, a broken man both physically and financially. Finally, in 1820, he died in France, where he had gone for the benefit of his failing health.

One might conclude from all this that Lord Selkirk and his settlers have since become forgotten failures, this is not so; the settlement of Prince Edward Island continued to flourish; Red River eventually became a success; plaques and monuments have been established in memory of those early settlements in both Prince Edward Island and Red River; books have been written about them; and the descendants of those brave pioneers have survived as loyal Canadians who have made a remarkable contribution to the development of our country.

Acknowledgements: John Morgan Grey, for his book "Lord Selkirk of Red River"; Evelyn Burbank for information and photographs obtained at Belfast, P.E.I.; and Ruby Crosman, for her assistance in editing.

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## **35 Years of Misspent Life in Government Service**

**Part 6**  
by Al Troy

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In the July 1992 issue #10 of the Bulletin I recounted how I was suckered into

going back to Belfast for a third time and briefly told of our interesting? life in that troubled land. Actually my story dealt with the installation of so-called bullet proof windows in our home. So now let us put a bit of flesh on to the bare bones of that story.

Before leaving Dallas for a bit of leave in Canada with our son, we had ordered a Volkswagon Westfalia camper from a firm called Shipline in New York and arranged to pick it up at Schipol Airport in Amsterdam, Holland. After the leave period we flew via KLM to Holland, got the vehicle and drove to Paris to spend a few days with our daughter and her family. We eventually arrived in Belfast. I had about three days with Lloyd Champoux, whom I was replacing, to get fitted into the picture regarding life and work in Northern Ireland. Lloyd had shipped his personal car to Canada and therefore needed the office vehicle for transport. It was necessary for me to use our Volkswagon for our transportation. As it only had Dutch transit plates this caused me a lot of problems with the British Military as Holland was a main supply source of weapons for the IRA and every time a military patrol checked out the hotel parking lot they sent a soldier to the reception desk to ask who owned the camper and would they please have the owner report to the parking area immediately. As it took us three weeks to find accommodation you can readily see what a nuisance this became. After Lloyd left I had the office Cortina Station wagon and driver to use and my camper never left hotel grounds. I finally phoned the British Military Headquarters in Lisburn and got in touch with the Adjutant of the regiment responsible for security of this area and explained my problem. I offered to attend a battalion muster parade so the whole regiment could see me and my suspect vehicle and save me the bother

of explaining who and what I was to each and every four man patrol as it would take a hell of a long time to get through the entire 600 men dealing with only four at a time. The Captain took all the camper particulars and said he would circulate this information to each of his company HQ and he was sure I would have no further bother. He was as good as his word and that was the end of my period as a suspected Dutch/IRA arms dealer. My U.K. diplomatic license plates arrived approximately one month later, making me a legitimate resident of N. Ireland.

The Consulate was situated in the City Centre which had been made into a sort of fortified zone by walling up streets and leaving only one entrance for vehicular traffic. This post was manned by British soldiers and the Royal Ulster Constabulary armed to the teeth. You had to show a special pass and undergo a vehicle and personal search each time you entered. You also had to use a special guarded car park to ensure no one planted a boobytrap in a parked vehicle. In any other part of the city you could not leave a vehicle unattended due to the danger of car bombs left in abandoned vehicles. This is why we had a driver on the Consulate staff. If the military spotted a car with no one in it they would clear the area of passers-by, smash the window with a rifle butt and toss a small explosive charge on the front seat which could blow open the hood and truck as well as disarm any large bomb if there happened to be one. Occasionally this practice would set off the bomb and cause a lot of damage but no loss of life because they had cleared the area.

The Rt. Hon. Paul Martin Sr. was Canadian High Commissioner in London during the 1975/78 period I was Consul in Belfast and I have nothing but the greatest respect for this man. He was most supportive and took a keen interest in what was going on in N. Ireland. He

would phone me at least once a week and usually twice simply to have a chat and always inquired about the health and morale of the Canadian and local staff. I was to call him any time day or night if I had a problem of any kind, both work or personal. He was getting on in years but he was sharp as a tack. He held monthly meetings in London with all the Consuls from the outside offices in the U.K. plus the Heads of the various sections at the High Commission. We were invited to speak our minds about any matter we were concerned about. You always got a most sympathetic hearing. He had the gift of making everyone feel that your best interests were the only thing that took his attention. He was very witty and I remember one time I was spouting off about a N. Ireland politician who was being awkward and that I had very little use for. Mr. Martin patiently listened to my tale and then said, "Why Mr. Troy I am surprised to hear this because the last time I was speaking to Mr. X he spoke very highly of you". What a put down, but in the nicest possible way.

He wanted to make a personal visit to N. Ireland and I kept putting him off saying it was too dangerous for a man in his position. Actually, I had discussed this with the Ulster Security and the R.U.C. and they said such a visit would present a lot of security problems for them and suggested that I continue discouraging Mr. Martin. The next time he brought this subject up I repeated my "too dangerous" response and he promptly came back with "Well Mr. Troy I've been thinking and decided if it is too dangerous for me to visit your office, it is much too dangerous for you and your family to be there and we must therefore give a lot of thought to closing the Belfast office as soon as possible." What could I say, except game, set and match to Mr. Martin. He came, saw everything he wanted to, had a ride through all the troubled areas in an armoured car, charmed the socks off all the Ulster



authorities he met and returned to London that evening happy as a king. Incidentally, he held up his flight from Aldergrove Airport so he could stop at my house and have a snack and a chat with my wife. In my eyes he was truly a wonderful person.

On October 13, 1977 Mr. Martin hosted a reception at his official residence for H.M. the Queen and H.R.H. Prince Phillip who were leaving the next day for an official visit to Canada. My wife and I were invited to attend. The Queen and Mr. Martin worked the guests on the ground floor while Prince Phillip and Mrs. Martin did likewise upstairs. They then changed places and during the upstairs visit Mr. Martin made a special effort to introduce us to the Queen and we had a good five minute chat about N. Ireland in a most informal way. What a moment for a couple from the boondocks of New Brunswick. He told me later that this was his way of showing his appreciation for the work we were doing in Belfast and for the stressful and dangerous conditions we were forced to live under.

I never kept a diary so I have to rely on a failing memory to dredge up bits and pieces of our life style in those days. Shortly after I arrived I was visited by a Sergeant from the R.U.C. who was responsible for the security of diplomatic personnel in N. Ireland. This included the U.S.A. Consul General, the French Consul and yours truly along with Jack Presant, my Counselling Officer. There were also several Honourary Consuls. This security specialist? said he couldn't understand why the IRA hadn't had a crack at some of us diplomatic folks as they had already kidnapped and murdered the Honourary West German

Consul the previous year. Now that's the kind of comment that really makes you feel good doesn't it?

I also had an embarrassing phone number. My home unlisted phone number was 660 228. Erica's Massage Parlour, a fairly notorious establishment (by appointment only) was 660 882, which more or less guaranteed we got a half dozen calls per week seeking an appointment. Guess who got their phone number changed!

We had a very complicated system of getting security checks on prospective immigrants which could take up to a month and drove you nuts when you were trying to expedite a particularly sensitive case. My secretary told me that a friend of hers told her that the daughter of the RUC guy in charge of issuing these security clearances was about to graduate from business college and was looking for her first job. As luck would have it, I had a vacancy to fill and arranged for the young lady to come in for an interview. She proved to be very bright so I hired her. From then on, whenever I had an emergency situation I would give her a slip with a name and address on it and suggest she ask her dad if this guy was o.k. I had the answer I needed in two days. In some cases my client was in Canada before the official clearance was received through channels. Incidentally I had the blessing and approval of the big M in London to my occasional corner-cutting arrangement.

Having lived in Belfast for nine years during two previous postings we found life quite nerve-racking. You were counting the days left in your posting and hoping that you were going to get away in one piece when that time came. There

was absolutely no social life as hotels, restaurants and theatres etc. were favourite targets for the bomb happy terrorists which incidentally came from both sectors of the warring society. You didn't invite anyone to your home in the evening because of the danger of being hi-jacked on the way home at an unofficial roadblock. All your office and personal mail, especially packages, were put through an x-ray machine to test for explosives. Each morning you got down on your knees and checked under your car to see if any device had been attached and then ran your hands around inside the tire wells to ensure no trip wires had ben attached there. You always took a deep breath when you turned on the ignition key to start the engine and let out a big sigh of relief when the car started and simply didn't go up in a ball of fire. You grew most uneasy when surrounded by other cars in heavy traffic and especially when a motorcycle would pull up beside you as this was a favourite means of shooting a targeted person. The rider on the pillion seat did the shooting and they would then tear off without a chance of being caught. If you saw a garbage can on the sidewalk you automatically crossed over to the other side of the street as there was always a possibility it contained a home-made bomb. You never dropped into a cafe or public house for a casual cup of coffee or a beer because rarely a day or two would pass without some sort of explosive device going off or being defused by the bomb squads. You had to pay close attention when you were driving around the city that you didn't stray into the Falls Roas area (IRA territory) or the Shankill Road area (Protestant UVF territory). Any stranger was taking his life in his hands by being there. I could go on and on but it only brings up

unhappy memories. In happier times, we found the Ulster folk very friendly, out-going and with a great sense of humour. Belfast was a great place to live and bring up your children. But once the trouble started up and circumstances forced both the Catholic and Protestant communities back into their own tribal society, there was no turning back from the atmosphere of pure hatred and senseless killing that has taken over 4000 lives up to approximately a year ago. I have a small trunk full of newspaper clippings from the three Belfast papers from May 1975 to May 1978. They deal only with reports of violence such as murder, attempted murder, knee-capping, assassination, attacks on police/military posts, ambush of police or military and so on. I didn't bother saving items on ordinary crime because they would have happened anyway. I have attached an Appendix "A" with a streetmap showing the sort of things I've mentioned that took place in December '75 and January '76 within a short distance of our office. Oh and yes I forgot to mention that the Department considered Belfast a hard-living post and we got the magnificent sum of \$89.90 a month as danger pay. Life is pretty cheap isn't it?

We did survive our three years and it was time to pack up and move to Stuttgart so till next time, take care and if you have a spare moment you might say a wee prayer that peace will come to Ulster because the poor souls that live there certainly deserve it!

**THIS CONCLUDES THE TWENTY-SECOND ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN. WE CONTINUE TO LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU WITH YOUR COMMENTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ENCOURAGE**

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**EVERYONE WHO HAS SOME SPARE TIME AND ENERGY TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS. YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID.**

**HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL OF YOU, AS WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES HAVE A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON.**



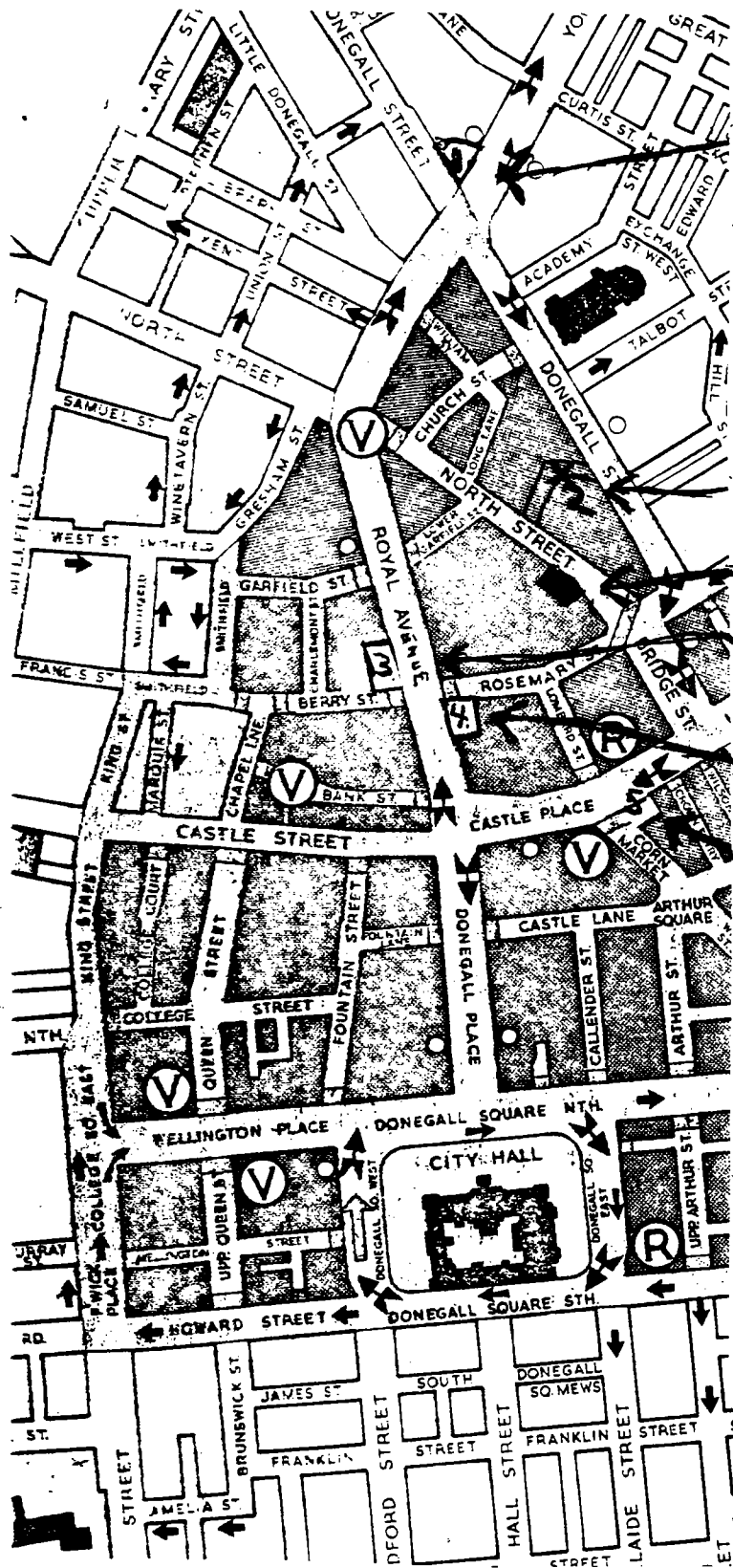


The Canadian Immigration Historical Society  
 La Société Historique De L'Immigration Canadienne

C.P. / P.O. Box 9502, Station T, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3V2 (613) 733-1074

APPENDIX " A "

Part of Al Troy's story re life in Northern Ireland 1975/78



1. Cavendish-Woodside Furniture, bombed & burnt Over \$3,000,000 damage. January 2, 1976 (4.30 pm)

2. Shopping Arcade bombed without warning 4 killed, 20 injured. January 13, 1976 (11.50 am)

Location of Canadian Consulate 22 North Street, Belfast

3. Army HQ-Grand Central Hotel. 500 lb car bomb in street outside. Extensive damage to all Royal Ave. Warning given, no injuries. December 11/75 (4.45 pm)

4. Royal Ave. Hotel. Bombed & gutted by fire. Warning given, no injuries January 24, 1976 (1.15 pm)

5. Woolworth Department Store. Bombed & gutted by fire. Warning given, no injuries. January 20, 1976 (12.20 pm)

All these incidents took place within approx 150 to 250 yards of our office.

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/SUBSCRIPTION/ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

(PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM MAY 1 TO APRIL 30 !!!)

Please enter/renew my membership in the Canadian Immigration Historical Society or note my new address:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ [PLEASE PRINT]

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS ONLY [ ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FEE ENCLOSED:                      Life - 100.00 [ ]                      or                      Annual - 10.00 [ ]

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHEQUE TO :

The Treasurer  
The Canadian Immigration Historical Society  
P.O. Box 9502, Station T  
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3V2

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## CANADIAN IMMIGRATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Report of the Annual General Meeting (1995)

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, October 21, in the Conference Room of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Considering that it was a cold and blustery late fall day, the turnout of members was excellent.

As usual, the morning began with an informal get-together in the Crush Lobby over coffee and cookies. Then shortly after 10:15 the President, Al Gunn, called the meeting to order in the Conference Room.

#### Opening of the Meeting

Al began by recognizing some of the distinguished members in the room, especially Roger St. Vincent who had come all the way from Slovenia for the meeting, and Jack Manion.

#### Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker this year was Raph Girard. Raph gave us an excellent retrospective on immigration "then and now": what has changed and what has remained the same. He dwelt humorously on the cycles in immigration, such as the fact that sewing-machine operators are now once more a high focus issue. He told us the saga of the removal of visas for citizens of Chile, and the repercussions of that action. He assured the retired and current immigration officers present that immigration remains the same interesting, exciting, and satisfying program that attracted them to the work in the first place.

Raph explained the basis of the Government's Program Review. This was a fundamental re-appraisal of how Government should be financed and programs delivered. The plan was to put Government in the context of the times. In the late 1980's, we were tied to a high immigration level while the economy was beginning to falter. We were also no longer bringing in the overall quality of immigrant as heretofore: people with fewer language skills, and more family members.

Program Review has generated a re-commitment to the immigration program as a federal-level concept, one which is largely led by economic factors. If we can assure a good quality, vibrant independent movement, then we can afford, in every sense of the word, the family class and our work and commitment to refugees. The plans set in November of 1994 indicate that the future will be a component-driven immigration program, spearheaded by the independent movement.

The issue becomes - how to achieve that? Without any fanfare, we have quietly got back into the promotion business, on a limited and selective scale. We are making sure that we

give selection officers a vision of what Canada wants and needs from its immigration movement: persons with solid work experience, a track-record of success in their native countries, and strong language skills.

Selection criteria designed to enhance this posture are still working their way through the system, with a planned implementation date of February 1996. We are, however, already getting the "tilt", and the composition of the program is already veering towards the movement desired: the kind of people who do well.

Raph felt that the moral is that we must be clear in our vision of what we want. The selection system is a blunt instrument: it cannot be made to do more than it was designed to do. Our assets in making it work are the high quality of the men and women who work in the movement. We need to supply them with firm leadership and an orientation towards the broad goals of the program.

Raph then turned to the matching of Immigration and Citizenship. He touched on the issues of eligibility, scrutiny, security, knowledge of Canada, and of Canadian languages. He stressed the importance of acquiring citizenship in the lives of immigrants, and the need to ensure the survival of formal ceremonies that would give the "mantle of dignity" appropriate to the occasion, while still finding room for efficiencies. He explained how the workload of applicants for the department's services are now to some extent being passed on to the applicant him or her self. Immigration applicants, for example, will now receive a kit, and will not be coming in to see the department until they have all the necessary medical and background material which they have gathered and collated themselves. A similar regime will apply to citizenship applicants. Their documents go to Sydney, where the application is processed and returned ready to go to the Citizenship Court. Raph also explained how every overseas office would henceforth serve both immigration and citizenship needs.

### **Questions Flowing from the Speech**

After this very interesting presentation, Raph fielded questions from the audience.

Mr. Manion stated that he was glad to see that the department now seemed to be running the program, and not the program running the department! He also pointed out that there seemed to be a failure to comprehend the fact that granting an individual *refugee* status doesn't have to mean also granting him *resident* status. In other countries, acquiring refuge does not start you on your way to citizenship. It just means that your presence there is tolerated until (hopefully) conditions in your native country improve to the point where you can return. Jack mentioned the extent to which Inadmissibles come from the refugee stream, and wondered whether our political masters really understood that Canada was not in line on these matters with most of the advanced countries of the western world in its so-called "humanitarian" response.

Bill Burton felt that the Society had a role in clarifying issues and correcting falsehoods.

Dr. Kaplansky asked what progress was being made on former proposals to have Citizenship Judges recruited from the ranks of persons such as holders of the Order of Canada and former Canadian Heads of Mission. He was told that this was still on track.

Al Gunn thanked Raph for a lively and illuminating contribution.

In an after-speech comment, Raph spoke of the great improvement in recent years in the numbers of those removed from Canada, now running at some 6,000 to 10,000 per year from a very inadequate 2,000 or so per year in past years.

### **The President's Report**

Al Gunn mentioned that much of the year had been spent in dealing with the products of the 1994 "Journey Into Hope" symposium on the Ugandan Asian movement. He mentioned the production of the two videos, one of one hour and one of twenty-two minutes, which were professionally edited down from a mass of recordings. He singled out for particular thanks members Bill Sinclair, John Hunter, Carrie Hunter, and Tony Gelasso.

The "social evening" held at the RCAF Officers Mess on Gloucester St. in June, co-hosted by the CIHS and PAFSO, was a great success and will become an annual event.

In closing, Al said that he felt the Society was progressing well and would be in good hands with Randy Orr as the incoming President.

### **The Treasurer's Report**

Al Troy indicated that our cash situation showed a net increase of \$266.25 over the previous year, all bills are paid, and there are no outstanding accounts. Our membership now stands at 183: 1 Corporate, 86 Life, 91 Annual, and our 5 Special.

Al suggested that Roger St. Vincent be given by a grateful Society the remaining eight copies of "Seven Crested Cranes", his book on the Ugandan movement. Roger's attempt to insist on paying for the volumes was quashed by general wish of the meeting, not least because of his commitment in coming so far for the AGM and the fact that he had attended the Journey Into Hope symposium at his own expense from his home in Slovenia and had refused all reimbursement from the Society for his expenses in Canada. Al's suggestion was universally endorsed.

Al mentioned that he had filed our Income Tax statement with the Charity Division of Revenue Canada on October 6, 1995. He thanked the auditors (Lloyd Dowswell, Bud Muise, and Bernard Brodie), and hoped that they would agree to serve in the same capacity next year.

## **The Election of Officers for 1995 - 1996**

Randy Orr was proposed for the Presidency (proposed by Vaudrey Pals, seconded by Brian Springgay) and was elected by acclamation.

Next came the Election of the Board of Directors, who were also appointed by acclamation. The names on the slate were in alphabetical order:-

Cal Best, Bernard Brodie, Jim Cross, Al Gunn, Carrie Hunter, Bob Keyserlingk, Ian Macdonald, Fran Psutka, Bill Sinclair, Al Troy, and George Varnai.

There were two nominations from the floor for membership on the Board of Directors. Bill Burton was proposed by Al Troy and seconded by Al Gunn, and Brian Springgay was proposed by Carrie Hunter and seconded by Al Troy. Both were appointed by acclamation.

## **The "Journey Into Hope" video**


The next item on the agenda was a viewing of the 22 minute "Journey Into Hope" video. The facilities in the conference room include a vast screen that takes up most of the end wall, and the overall effect was striking. The video, which remains moving even after several viewings, was warmly applauded.

## **New Business**

Bill Burton mentioned that he had heard from Bill Sinclair that the Pier 21 Society is actively working to develop plans for the preservation and on-going use of the Pier.

## **Closing of the Meeting**

Al Gunn adjourned the meeting with thanks to all who had participated and attended. Sylvia Manion rose to thank Al warmly for his hard work as President during a difficult year when he has not been enjoying the best of health.



Bernard Brodie  
Secretary  
CIHS